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# Tippets, Tapers & Tales

November 5, 2024

## President's Message

The month's seem to be moving by quickly. Here we are in November already so that means the snow can't be far behind. Hopefully it holds off a little while longer, I have a Steelhead trip planned for the end of this month.

Remember to send me your fishing photos and I will put them in the newsletter.

We are meeting again in person at Coral Gables in East Lansing this month on the 12th at 6:30pm. The presentation should be a good one. Remember to pay your dues this meeting if you have not done so already.

In addition to our main presenter this month, Gary Lindquist, we will have another guest in attendance. Tim Guilfoile, member of the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers and new member of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers will be at the meeting to give an update to RCFF members on a project he is working on here in Michigan. Hope all of you can be there to hear what he has to say.

See you on the 12th.

Mark



1981 McKenzie Cup Winners

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International.

It's purpose is to promote fly-fishing through Education, Restoration and Conservation

## November's Presentation

By: Mark Johnson

For November we will have Gary Lindquist from the Grand Valley Fly Fishers to speak to us about building fly rods. Currently not sure if Gary will be in person at our meeting, Yes, we will be meeting at Coral Gables again in the front Sun Room, or if Gary will be joining us by Zoom. Either way come out and join us for a good presentation on the 12th.

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## WILX TV10 Fly Fishing Promo Video By: Mark Johnson

For those that haven't seen this video on our Facebook page, I wanted to post this here in the newsletter. This is an excellent video that gives our club and the sport of Fly-Fishing some great promotion. Thanks to club members Bob Ceru, Rick Lewandowski, Michael Seremjian and Sophronia Scott for their help with this video. I apologize if I missed a club member that was also involved. For those of you on Facebook, please go to the Red Cedar Fly Fishers Facebook page and like or share the video. It helps our club get more exposure on Facebook. Thanks also to WILX TV10 for do this video. Link is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BCHG-gtglY>



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## Spring Online Auction

By: Mark Johnson

The Board of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers decided at their October board meeting to go forth with another Spring Online Fundraising Auction. We have had these in the past with success and since we continue to need to have a source of fundraising decided that this would be a good option to pursue again this year. Look for it to be probably in April again, so bring any donations for the auction to a club meeting or get them to a board member.



Article is from the Fall issue of  
*Michigan Trout Magazine* • 2015

*Between guiding and taking friends out, I've spent more time on the oars than fishing over the past few years, which has enabled me to do a lot of observing.* While doing so, I've noticed that there are some common casting and presentation problems that plague everyone from novices to veterans--stuff I haven't noticed in the past when focused on putting my own fish in the net.

As they say, presentation, presentation, presentation. And a good presentation starts with a good cast. Getting a fish to take your fly is the final step in a chain reaction that starts before your line has even hit the water. I wanted to share a few common observations, as I think they're probably problems most anglers are dealing with when it comes to making a good presentation, maybe even you.

**Most people false cast too much.** Try to get your fly where it needs to be within two or three false casts, tops. One is ideal. If it takes you more than three casts, and even three sometimes, reposition yourself so you can make the cast with fewer false casts. Just because you can cast 90 feet after false casting 18 times doesn't mean you should. By excessively false casting and making casts beyond your comfort zone, you're either putting fish down or making them more wary. In the dark, not so much, unless you're in a boat and sending waves as you shift your weight with each false cast.

The other issue here is you're not going to get a drag free drift, or very long of one, if you've got a ton of line out. The more line you have on the water, the more you're fighting drag, which leads to my next observation.

**Most people don't recognize drag.**

Everyone can recognize drag when their fly is skating sideways across the current or when it starts to skate downstream. But it's critically important to learn to recognize subtle drag on your fly that is less obvious. The issue here is if you can't recognize subtle drag. You think you're getting a good drift when you're actually not. This leads to the trout getting inside your head and you think the fish won't eat because you've got the wrong fly, the tippet size is wrong, or maybe that Saturn is aligned with Uranus. Assuming you can perform the basic fly cast, the first step towards a drag-free drift is how and where you're positioned in relation to the fish.

When possible, I get myself and clients as close as possible from the side of the river that offers the easiest approach, then anywhere from a rods length upstream or downstream from the fish. When you're casting to a fish even or downstream from your position, it's generally easier to get a drag free drift if the end of your fly line is upstream of the fly. The second step towards a drag free drift is using a reach cast, which leads to my next observation.

**You don't know what a reach cast is.** Well, maybe you do, but three out of four people in my boat don't, even guys with lots of experience. With a good reach cast, you often won't need to mend. If you do need to mend, you'll be amazed at how much easier it is to do when set up first by a good reach cast. Unless the fish is rising directly downstream, you should always reach cast, even when casting directly upstream as you can use the reach cast to avoid "lining" the fish.

**You cast too far upstream or to the rise.** If your fly lands where you saw the rise, you're actually fishing downstream of the fish's feeding window. As a general rule, when dry fly fishing cast at least four or five feet upstream of the rise. If you need to mend, cast a little further up so your fly is drifting drag free when it reaches that four or five foot mark upstream of the fish. On the flip side of that, many people cast too far upstream so their fly is starting to subtly drag when it reaches the fish's feeding window. Only cast as far upstream as absolutely necessary.

Going back to casting to the rise for a second, many anglers cast straight to the water, usually splatting their line and fly down, spooking fish in the process. It's usually caused by them pointing the rod directly at the spot they're aiming for after stopping the rod on the forward cast. There needs to be a split second pause after the stop before you bring your rod tip down. This pause will stop your line up above the water and let it float down instead of crashing down into it. Which leads to my next point.

**The stop casts the line, not the forward/back stroke.** I'm surprised how many people don't realize this. The forward and back strokes serve to load the rod and tell the line which way to go. The stop lets the rod unload, sending your line forward/backward. It's not like throwing a baseball, it's more like throwing a lacrosse ball with one of those net thingies on a stick they use (what the heck are those things called, anyway? You can tell I grew up in the Midwest). A good indicator that your stop isn't solid enough, or that you're not accelerating fast enough into it, is that the fly on the end of your nine-foot leader lands two-feet from the end of your fly line.

**You pick up the fly too soon.**

This is more of an issue when night fishing, where I see it often, even by myself, but also during daylight fishing. Picking up the fly over the top of the fish can put fish down, or worse, when you pick up during that split second before the fish was trying to eat your fly. Don't pick the fly up to recast until it is a few feet downstream of the fish. That's easier said than done when it's pitch black out, but try to listen for your fly coming off the water's surface on the pickup, or better yet, look for the little white spot of water splashing when your fly comes off the water. Once you've done that, you can adjust accordingly on the next drift.

**You splat the water a lot on your backcast.** This is very common amongst anglers of all skill levels. The root cause is simple. On the backcast, your body tells your hand, which tells the rod, which tells the line, which tells the leader, which tells the fly to go down at the water. The fix isn't just to tell your casting stroke to redirect the fly more upward. It starts in your back muscles/posture while backcasting. Most of us bend at the waist sideways during casting, which inherently directs the line downward. The center point between your shoulder blades is basically moving in an arc as you bend. It's tough to articulate, but think of that center point between your shoulder blades. On the backcast, that center point should move towards your right shoulder (RH caster) to remove that arc in your torso, which will follow through to your shoulder and your casting stroke, sending the line upward.

Thank you:

Joe Barker, Michigan Trout-Editor • [www.michigantou.org](http://www.michigantou.org)  
Alex Cerveniak, Author/Guide • <http://northernmichiganflyfishing.com>

**Izaak Walton's (IW's) Google searches, from 1635 – 1644 (and AI's\* responses)**  
**By Bob Kren, RCFFer, Mr. Flyfishersonguy, and (very)Amateur GoogleMeister**

**IW:** Google, what is the best available material for making something to sell as a fishing rod? **AI:** Willow switches are all the rave, and Amazin' has them for sale, cheap. I can connect you to their website.

**IW:** Nope. What career should I choose -- Priest, pantaloon maker, willow switch designer, nightclub bouncer?

**AI:** You seem to have an extensive vocabulary, and knowledge of a nascent sport, flyfishing. You could write a book about it, or a compleat "guide," although pantaloon maker may be fun, whatever a "pantaloon" is.

**IW:** Can you get me to some Trout Porn? Not that either of my wives isn't sufficient, oh no! And don't tell Dame Julianna! **IA:** It'll cost ya, and some of the stuff on those sites is, um, not for somebody who might want to be a priest. BTW, "Salmo" is HOT!

**IW:** How can I be sure to get up early enough to catch fish, before every wormdunker beats me to it? **AI:** Never go to sleep, or try fishing at night! Sure, that sounds stupid and dangerous, but life's an adventure!

**IW:** What is this toe-back-koh people keep talking about? **AI:** It's a New World invention, designed to take the place of rum and Coca-Cola©, and give you emphysema instead of double vision.

**IW:** When I'm out flyfishing, should I wear pantaloons or long stockings with my old shoes that have nails sticking out the bottoms? **IA:** Still with the pantaloons, eh? I'd google "pantaloons," but I'm Google, already. You'll just have to ask Sir Walter Raleigh or somebody else who's a fashion maven. "Pantaloons," indeed!

**IW:** I just may write a compleat guide to flyfishing, like you suggested, Google. Is there one already? What about this new-fangled "magazine" thing, which seems to be a monthly journal? Worth a shot? Do I need a *nom de plume*, like "Lefty Kren," or something? **AI:** "Lefty Horseradish?" Stick with your own name, Ike. There'll NEVER be a market for any magazine about flyfishing, so forget it.

**IW:** Is it bad luck to maintain eye contact with fishes? **IA:** They have no eyelids, they'll unblinkingly stare you down, every time. Ever heard of "giving it the old fish-eye?" Apparently not.

**IW:** What is this "catch and release" thing? Fish are delicious. Flyfishing isn't about humility, or some vague sense of "sport," it's about today's lunch. And supper. **IA:** Ever heard of "conservation," Ikey? Kill enough, and there will be no more.

**IW:** What will the future of flyfishing be like? **IA:** More and more, it'll look like an obsession, maybe even a cult: organizations will form; books will be written; marginally-useful items, known as "stuff," will proliferate, for considerable profit and at an alarming rate; thy name shall become sacred, along with Borger, and Nemeš, and Humphreys, and too many others to remember. Oh, and Ann Miller, bless her!

**IW:** I like to wear a long plume in all of my hats. Do plumes have other uses? **AI:** Until somebody invents chenille, plumes, along with silk threads, will be a material of choice for tying flies. Jury is still out on chicken feathers. Sadly, I'm not paid enough to solve all your problems and answer all your questions. Sheesh!

**IW:** The floating flies in common usage are pretty limited in pattern. What else might we be using? **AI:** There'll be people who will invent the "streamer," and the "soft hackle" and the "nymph," and the "wet." All of those patterns will catch trout, but none of them will be used by a "purist," like you. Not a "Puritan," btw.

**IW:** Why do you talk so funny? Why are you now changing "compleat" to "complete?" Are you and your kind taking over? Is that why my spellchecker always try to correct "compleat?" **AI:** It's a spellchequer, which shows your lack of technological oomph.

**IW:** What is this new fish, the "German Brown?" Krauttrout? **AI:** That bunch of illegal alien fishes should have been stopped at The Border. We need a bigger, better English Channel. But, now that they're here, fish for them without mercy. They taste good, too. Technically, they're trespassing, so you can do as you please.

**IW:** If, as you seem to imply, I'll be famous long-term, so what about some of my friends, like Henry Wotton, and Richard Hooker? **AI:** Wotton, maybe, as an ancestor, but Hooker? Did you just make that up? Too easy.

**IW:** Sailors have tattoos. Should flyfishers? **AI:** Yes. On their thighs, a fancy ring of tattooed thorns at a height they shouldn't wade deeper than. "Ten and One" on their casting hands. And the steps for tying knots, tattooed on their arms. The Lord's Prayer mightn't hurt, either.

**IW:** Who is this "Bob Kren" bozo? Is he a threat to the integrity of the sport? **AI:** He's the guy who dreamed you up, and me, too. Face it, in our era, a candle is high tech.

– Bob K

\*,"**AI**" is "Artificial Izaak." For some obscure references, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izaak\\_Walton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izaak_Walton)



**Ernest Hemingway  
fishing at Walloon  
Lake (MI) 1916**

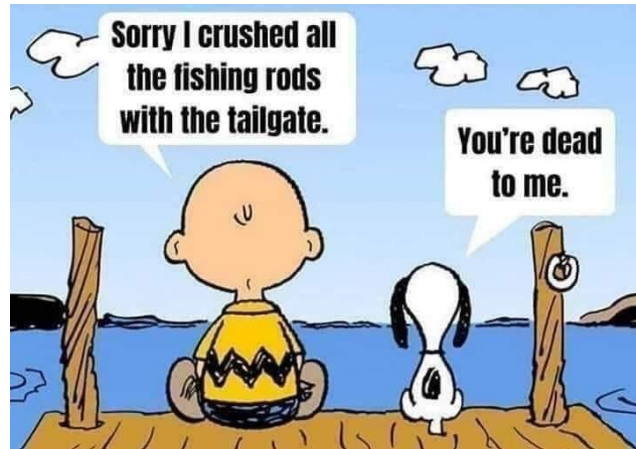


**5 year old Hemingway  
fishing for Brook trout  
at Horton Creek (MI)**

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“Life is too short to either fish with people you don’t like or to not fish with people you do.”

John Gierach

### Refrigerator Reminders

#### November

12th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M. At Coral Gables in East Lansing.

This month’s meeting will take place in the Sun Room in the front of the restaurant.

#### December

10th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M. At Coral Gables in East Lansing.

This month’s meeting will take place in the Sun Room in the front of the restaurant.

