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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

September 2, 2024

President's Message

Welcome back to another year of Red Cedar Fly Fishers club meetings. I hope everyone had a good summer and had many opportunities to get out and fish these past few months. We are looking forward to a good year of meetings and hope you will all join us for these in person events.

Just a reminder that we pay our club dues in September of each year. More details on that inside this newsletter.

I have a couple requests of everyone to start the year. First of all, If you are on Facebook, please search out the Red Cedar Fly Fishers Facebook page and "Like" or "Follow" our page. Then as posts come across your feed, please share or like our posts as this helps spread our posts to others and promote the club as we try and grow our membership. Secondly, We are always looking for donations of new or gently used fly fishing equipment to be used for club fundraising purposes. Smaller items can go in our monthly club raffles and larger items can be used in our online auctions to raise funds for the clubs obligations. Our Terry Greiner donations are almost gone now having used those over the past two years. So keep the club in mind as you go through your gear in the fall to put it away for next season.

Hope to see everyone at Coral Gables on the 10th!

Mark



RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

Okemos, Michigan

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

September's Meeting By: Mark Johnson

September's meeting will be in person at Coral Gables Restaurant in East Lansing on September 10th starting at 6:30pm. We will be having a Zoom presentation that night by Debbie Hanson, Freshwater Fishing Guide in Fort Meyers, Florida.

"Freshwater Fishing in SW Florida."

Her website is www.shefishes2.com



Time to Pay Dues Again By: Mark Johnson

It's that time of year again, the start of our club meeting year and that means club dues are due again. Bring your dues, cash or check for \$15.00 to the first meeting in September or you can mail them to the P.O. Box address listed on the last page of the newsletter. Our annual dues are just a small part of our financial picture but still very important for the financial health of the club. Don't forget to pay your FFI dues also when those come due. We are a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International which means all our club members must be FFI members also. Thanks for your prompt payment of dues!

Au Sable River Cleanup By: Mark Johnson

Just another reminder that the Au Sable River Cleanup will be September 7th. Bob Kren is once again coordinating our clubs efforts so let Bob know if you will be attending this year. We will be cleaning the Highbanks to Lower Highbanks stretch of the South Branch again this year. We will meet at Gates Lodge at 9:45am for instructions and pick up gear and then head out to the river to begin the cleanup. Afterwards we meet back at the lodge for lunch. Some of us will be staying on that day to do some fishing in the area.

Outers Recreation Magazine

April 1922

Reverse Dry Flies for Downstream Fishing

By Louis H. Rhead

TROUT are not so easy to capture after the middle of June as they are at early season for the reason that insects are scarcer on warm days, coming out more thick at night. To overcome some of the difficulties of hot weather fishing I have spent much time in study and experiments of the various minor adjuncts in the finer art of surface fishing with flies that I hope will prove valuable to anglers.

The many pools of rough water that form conflicting currents invariably contain more, and larger, trout very often defy our best efforts because it is hard to make successful casts to the exact location of the fish. In some parts the water is too deep to wade, or too rough for the fly to ride well cocked, or swift cross currents instantly drag the fly away from the spot where fish lie. After numerous trials I found out it would be a simple matter to tie a reverse fly, in contrast to the English-made dry-fly method, by fishing a more practical way suited to our own streams by working the artificial fly downstream, cocked in a natural manner, jauntily floating down the runways exactly like the natural insect with little or no casting. It was obviously impossible to do so with the regulation dry-fly as now tied, which would, of course, float tail first, or backwards, downstream. I conceived the idea to tie a "reverse" floating dry-fly—that is, with the head over the bent shank of the hook instead of being tied with the head at the hook eye, so that neither angler nor fish tell the difference from the regular dry-fly, except that it floats downstream head first exactly like the natural insect, which the dry-fly does not when cast upstream.

Because of the prolonged period of its rise—April to June—I chose to dress the female shad fly as best suited for a successful test, in addition to the fact of it



Artificial fly natural size, but reduced one-half in this cut.

being the best floater of all my "nature flies" described in the book, "Trout Stream Insects."

With new ideas many tests are required to be conclusive, in addition to water and weather conditions being favorable, so I waited my chance in a favorite pool and with the shad fly tied at the end of a long, fine leader, I gently dropped it in a runway to go where it willed over any trout and chub that might take it. Before the fly had a chance to float over a distance of ten yards, it was snapped under time and again so that by noon I had captured in that one runway a number of trout and fine chub. From June 16 to 20 I captured nine trout of thirteen inches up, on the shad fly in that same pool by just letting it float twenty feet and following a short distance.

It might be imagined the "reverse" fly wings would get displaced when lifting off and drying, but it worked extremely well, as I tied the wings more compactly to lie snugly over the body. It is not advisable to cast this fly a long distance. Indeed, it is not necessary. It may be dropped lightly on the water, then let out sufficient line to enable it to float free along the water flow, carefully guiding it over where trout are visibly feeding, or supposed to be. The success of the shad fly was so good. I tied several other patterns getting a quan-

tity made ready for Spring fishing of the Cowdung, Yellow Sally and Brown Drake, all four being highly praised as splendid killers. At early season when the water is more often above normal, with hard, heavy wading I anticipate much more favorable results, and certainly easier fishing.

I would earnestly beg of the conservative dry-fly expert who may at first be doubtful of this new theory—upstream-reverse fly—to tie several himself and make a trial under the conditions here suggested. He will find the method good, and probably he will in the practice of it find something even more effective in the finer art of dry-fly work, when it is hardly possible to get a rise from trout while casting upstream in heavy water or in deep places. I do not intend or advise to discard entirely the regular dry-fly for reverse, but suggest its use as an improved method in certain difficult situations.

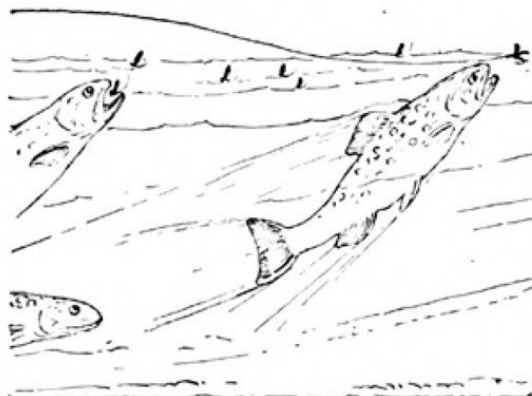
One such situation is in wet fishing downstream. While wading you see an abundant rise of insects floating down by you on the surface of rippling or perhaps rough water. The wet-fly cast should be immediately discarded and replaced with a single reverse fly and allowed to float down over the surface in front for a distance, then whipped off and recast—working it to places where you see trout sucking in the natural insects.

Another situation arises when after failure with wet and also dry-flies on those pools quite deep at one side, you can often fish the reverse from top of pool to get much better results because of a longer floating fly is made possible.

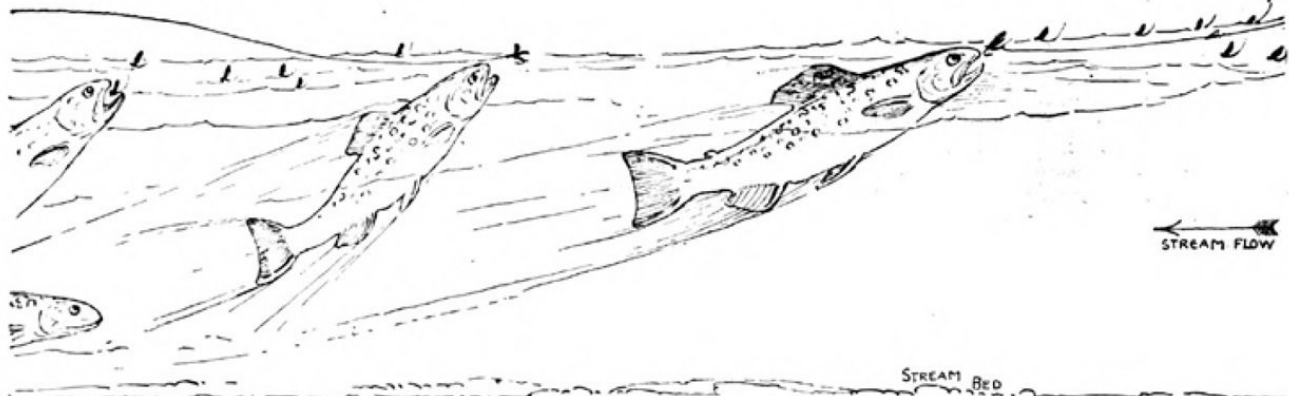
During a day's fishing many situations occur that are most difficult to overcome with present methods but can be turned to success with a reverse dry-fly. Tackle dealers do not yet carry this fly, but when

...continued below illustration

Diagram showing how trout rise to dry-fly cast upstream to hit gut leader and strike fly upside.



How trout take the reverse dry fly floating downstream along with natural insects.



they become known, as think they soon will, the fly bound to be in demand. It simple matter for those anglers who tie flies to fashion reverse of any favorite fly they choose. The four I have a tied are quite sufficient for early season, and possibly may be used the entire season, especially at sunset during midsummer.

For those wet anglers not practiced in dry casting, the reverse will be found a sort of stepping-stone to it. The skill required to manipulate nothing as compared to the time required and the practice needed to cock and keep cocked dry-fly on the surface.

More thoughts on Reverse Dry Flies....



Pictured herein.. *Adams Family*- Reverse and Traditional tied flies.

Lee Wulff, no beginner, certainly felt that he'd invented the reverse-hackled dry fly when he wrote "Shift Your Dry Flies Into Reverse" for the 1979 Edition of Sports Afield Fishing Secrets [Ed: Sully probably still owns a copy of this issue]. One of fly fishing's true innovators listed three merits of the design:

- The weight of the hook is concentrated near the bend. Turn the fly around, put the load where the flotation is and you have a fly that's better balanced for floating.
- The bend of the hook, at the tail of a conventional dry fly, has a very distinctive shape. Just as the vertical silhouette of a man becomes a danger signal to a deer, the hanging bend camouflaged, and typical of all dry flies, can be readily recognized and will turn a smart trout away. Hiding the bend of the hook in the hackles makes that solid, unmoving circle of metal a lot harder to distinguish. It makes the backward dry fly look a lot more like a natural insect.
- The tail can be split, half going on either side of the eye of the hook, which makes an even more natural tail for most insects than a single tail unit.

The three decades since that article have seen a lot of changes occur in the art of fly tying.

The split tails Lee advocated then are now common on many traditionally hackled and no-hackle patterns, and we've become fixated on imitating emergers and adults with infirmities; insects that sit in the film rather than ride on top of the meniscus.

And sadly, unless their dry fly is holding up a beadhead, many of today's production oriented anglers see the dry fly as an anachronism. Many people are born body counters. Some would-be heroes won't take to the water without at least a scale or tape measure – a camera crew is even better.

But there is a strong contingent of fly fishermen that quietly thrive on figuring out various hatches, difficult fish and complicated situations. Reverse-tied flies can provide a very useful angle in that endlessly intriguing pursuit.

The above article courtesy of Bob McKeon of the Desert Fly Casters



Clam River Fish Survey

By: Mark Johnson

In early August I participated in a DNR fish survey of the Clam River below Falmouth. It was coordinated by Mark Tonello, Fisheries Management Biologist out of Cadillac. The two areas we surveyed hadn't been surveyed in years and since they were both Brown Trout stocking locations they wanted to get some current information on fish species. My job for the morning was to pull the floating barge up and down the river as the DNR technicians worked the shocking probes. At the break for lunch I found out we had recorded 16 species of fish! In addition to the Brown Trout and Brook Trout that were found, different species of suckers, many species of minnows, Chestnut Lamprey and surprising to me, Burbot. The afternoon survey was further downstream and then I mostly was a net person transferring shocked fish from the technicians to Mark to measure, record the species and even take scales samples from some of the larger fish. It was a hot day, and a lot of work but a lot of fun also.



Meridian on the Fly

By: Mark Johnson

MERIDIAN ON THE FLY | A FLY FISHING INSTRUCTIONAL AND EXHIBITION

A Must Attend Event for the Novice to Advanced Fisherman of Any Age.

Meridian Township Historical Village

Friday, September 20; 3PM - 7PM

If you have an interest in learning about, or improving your fly casting and tying skills, then you will want to attend Meridian on the Fly on Friday, September 20. MSU Rotaract in partnership with Red Cedar Fly Fishers will be putting on a fly-fishing casting and tying exhibition at Meridian Township's Historical Village.

This fly-fishing exhibition and on-hand instructions will quickly get you past that initial worry or doubt, or have you take your skill to the next level or two. For those who wish to have introductory casting lessons on a traditional spin casting rod and reel, no worries. Red Cedar Fly Fishers will gladly assist with that too.

The setting for this fly fishing instructional and exhibition is at Meridian Township's famed Historical Village at Central Park located behind Meridian Township Municipal Building. This picturesque village is part of Meridian's 279-acre Central Park where historic buildings have been carefully restored and placed in a large open park setting.

This lovely park with its fish stocked pond, three miles of hiking trails, and wetlands teeming with wildlife, makes for a great recreation destination all year long. Whether you come alone, bring a friend or your entire family, you will certainly have a great time at our first Meridian on the Fly event.

All equipment needed, along with bottled water and snacks, will be provided. See you there!

MERIDIAN ON THE FLY

Presenting Partners: MSU Rotaract and Red Cedar Fly Fishers

Event Sponsors: Michigan Waterways Stewards and Meridian Township Parks and Recreation

This is a special event that we are honored and thrilled to be a part of. The event developed by the Michigan Waterways Stewards showcases the Red Cedar Flyfishers. It's a unique and important event that can help us increase our awareness in the community and result in new membership. If you are on Facebook, please like, comment, or share this information. This will increase the algorithm score, and Facebook will show our post across more newsfeeds.



• **Flyfishing, and the All-seeing All-knowing IRS's Audit**

By Bob Kren, RCFFer, Mr Flyfishersonguy, and fellow nail-biter come April 15

37 April, 2025

Dear Mr (or Ms or Sir or You or They) R. Michael Kren, a.k.a. 555-55-5555.2:

We have gone over the recent electronic filing of your 2024 Income Tax Return Form 1099-FF, and have a few questions about deductions you have claimed, totaling \$35,354.22, which you itemized in a rather bizarre and confusing manner. We shall defer your refund until such time as you have clarified the following:

- You have claimed as medical expenses such items as travel, dependent cats, a variety of "apparatus," prescription sunglasses, a drumful of sunscreen, tick repellent, leech repellent, and some "donations;"
- You have claimed capital losses, gambling losses, depreciation of vehicles and various "equipment," loss of property, and "guide fees and tips;"
- You have listed OID's and a considerable amount of money, but didn't show what those OID's were;
- You have claimed travel expenses, rentals, building materials, and business expenses, along with loan interest, sales taxes, and legal fees;
- Your charitable contributions and physical losses, and disaster distributions, are hard to read, but seem to involve backcasts and trees;
- And finally, your standard deduction includes theft.

We at the IRS take our duties seriously, but your return is what we call "wacky." Please respond.

08 May, 2025

Dear IRSirs:

I appreciate your zeal in seeking out wrong-doers, but I am certainly NOT among that nefarious group. ALL my deductions – even those not listed below -- are related to my chronic addiction to flyfishing. The only known treatment for this marvelous malady is practice. And more practice. Without compulsive flyfishing as an outlet, my activities might range from the malicious to the murderous, from naughty to nefarious, from . . . well, you get the picture. Flyfishing keeps me in check, and prevents my being a criminal mastermind. That, in itself, is a HUGE!! savings of taxpayers money, trust me, I know.

In full knowledge that it is my SOLE INTENTION IN FLYFISHING IS TO SAVE OODLES OF TAXPAYERS MONEY, let's get a few things out in the open:

- In order to flyfish, you have to GET AWAY! That means travel, LOTS of travel! And equipment, what we call "stuff." Do I have to fly first class? It's that, or get all nervous and disruptive. Does my flyrod have to be gold fibers? Must my hooks be plated in plutonium? Those things make me happy, and the whole world is spared my wrath!;
- Then there're the dangers of the outdoors! All creatures, great and small, seem drawn to us flyfishers. And that makes us have to buy bear repellent, mosquito/wasp/tick repellent, piranha/leech repellent, penguin repellent – there's a plethora of predators, all deadly, all dangerous, and all must be repelled. Sunshine itself is dangerous, not only to the pursuit of fishes, but as an endangerment to our skins. Sunscreen, anyone?;
- There are always local customs that must be respected, and followed! When you arrive at a new place to flyfish, it is mandatory that you hire a native "guide," whose life depends on tips, and usurious rates;
- Where does one draw the line on "equipment?" I have to house and clothe myself and my stuff, and drive to nearby and faraway places with strange sounding names, like "Montana," or "Arkansas." My car is an absolute necessity, and the wear-and-tear on it is unimaginable. I have to buy a new one every odd-numbered year! By the way, all of these vehicles are MADE IN AMERICA.
- Flyfishing may be solitary in practice, but in order to preserve the sport for upcoming generations, national organizations, most notably TUFFI (pronounced "toughy" must be supported generously and persistently, if only to stop them from assailing me daily with demands for money. And as to my regularly missing equipment, it can only be due to criminal elements,

Hope this helps. Looking forward to my full refund. R. Michael Kren, a.k.a. 555-55-555.2

p.s.: As to my cats, somebody has to take care of the ungrateful critters while I'm onstream, and besides, their fur and fuzz make some mighty fine flies. Plus, they guard my home while I'm at flyfishing therapy.

When You're Out to Get ALL that is
New and Better . . .



See the *New*

OLDSMOBILE

1935

A BIGGER, roomier, more powerful and more economical car is this year's style and value leader in the low-price field. It is the 1935 Oldsmobile—rugged, easy riding, and swift—with every fine-car feature that a car must have to be modern . . . New solid-steel "Turret-Top" Body by Fisher, with Fisher No Draft Ventilation. Built-in Knee-Action, with Ride Stabilizer and Center-Control Steering. Bigger Super-Hydraulic Brakes. Syncro-Mesh All-Silent Gears . . . The new Oldsmobile is the kind of quality car that will take you

wherever you want to go, most comfortably, in attractive new streamline style, and with real economy (for example, the Six delivers 18 miles per gallon at 50 miles per hour). With all its desirable features, and all its thorough-going Oldsmobile quality, the new low-priced Oldsmobile is well and truly named—"The Car That Has Everything!"

Over \$275 and up . . . Eight \$350 and up, list prices at factory, subject to change without notice. Bumpers with guards, spare tire, and rear spring covers built into all cars at the factory at extra cost. Contains O. M. & C. time payment plan.

\$ **675**

GENERAL MOTORS VALUE

"The car that has everything"

Lemme see here...Got fly rods that cost that much...Oh!!...Maybe a couple of new reels for that price....Ahhh new kick boat....yeah that's the ticket...
A new kick boat!...with a compartment for some beer, lunch, laptop....
Yeah, somepen better than what I've got right now...that's it...cool!

A mid-August day of fishing the Grand River near Portland, MI with John Ross and Mark Johnson.



RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 129
Okemos, MI 48805

www.redcedarflyfishers.com

Fish Pictures



Not a fish picture, but I thought this would be appropriate here. I went out for awhile fishing late this afternoon at a little river near my cottage. Just a great day, sunny, no wind and 70 degrees. I had been working all day to get the summer lake toys put away and decided to go for an hour or two. About halfway through I sat on a log for a little break and as I lay my rod across my lap, this little TG label caught my eye. It stands for Terry Greiner, a club member and close friend that passed away two years ago. I bought a couple of Terrys rods on our auctions and used a label printer to put his initials on the rods and reels that were his. It made me think of the many fun times in the past with Terry, including those fishing this very river with him. I had this newsletter done and ready to send this morning but didn't do it for some reason. I guess it was needing this one last picture to be complete.

Mark, 5:56PM, 9/2/24



Refrigerator Reminders

September

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.

20th: Meridian on the Fly. Details in this newsletter.

28th: Muskegon River Spey Fest, Henning Park in Newaygo, MI.

October

8th: 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.