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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - April 2017

If, as I started last month's column off by saying that, March is a "teaser" month, April is definitely the month we start getting busy. Winter is done (yeah, I know, it's still Michigan!), spring is here, and it's time to get to it. And your club is no exception!

Sunday, April 9th will be our final club fly tying session at Piazzano's. PLEASE come join us that evening to help tie flies for selling at the upcoming Birch Run Fly Fishing Garage Sale. (More about that below!)

Our April meeting on the 11th promises to be very exciting with a program on sailfish fishing in Malaysia with also an intro to billfish (who *doesn't* enjoy a BIG fish story?!?!). Seeing people catch big fish in the

movie is one thing, but hearing the details *behind* the story is even **better**! I'm *very much* looking forward to this program! We'll also be presenting our annual Graduate Fellowship prize to Andrew Carlson.

The Fly Fishing Garage Sale at Birch Run is the weekend following our meeting. Mark Johnson has procured a booth for the Red Cedars to sell donated items, raffle tickets, and fly boxes filled with the flies we'll be tying April 9th, to raise funds for our club. We could **definitely** use your donations, so look through your closet/storehouse/whatever, dig out that older or unused gear that's just gathering dust, and donate it to the club at our April meeting for us to sell at the Garage Sale. (Don't forget that the Red Cedars are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations may be tax deductible!)

And don't forget about our RAFFLE!!! We still have LOTS of tickets available to sell. This is our premiere fund-raising effort this year, so we need all of you to get some more tickets and tempt the fishing public with that sweet 5 weight set-up, Cabela's gift card, or filled fly box we're giving away.

Finally, April is also the time when we ask you to start thinking about the club elections in June. Being a member of one of the more noteworthy clubs in our sport is one thing, but getting

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1981 McKenzie Cup Winners

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

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

RED CEDAR FLY
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involved with the leadership is “a whole ‘nother level”! These past two years as Vice President then President of our humble organization has been quite an eye-opener for me, and I’ve made quite a few new acquaintances and friends in the process. From getting to know more of you, to being involved with the Au sable river clean-up, to learning more about the overall IFFF (now “FFI”(??)) organization, to meeting several of the people who help make and shape this sport we love, it has been a VERY enjoyable experience! I’ve learned a lot, and I’m grateful for the opportunities it has given me.

One of the nicest parts of this “job” has been the recognition of being part of one of the foremost fly fishing clubs around. The Red Cedars have QUITE the reputation among the fly fishing community, and I’m very pleased to hear the compliments our club has earned from all the things our club have done over the years! It’s an experience I think everyone of us should have at least once! So forget the stereotypes and the jokes about club leadership and think about some of the amazing things a group can do when you step up.

Before I sign off, did any of you happen to catch the article “Scientists puzzled by rise in mercury” in the March 26th issue of the Lansing State Journal about??? According to the article, mercury levels have slowly risen in certain fish at 8 of the 19 testing locations in the Great Lakes, specifically noting Grand Traverse Bay as the location for an upward trend for mercury levels in walleye and lake trout. It was very interesting to read that the timelines for the “explosion” of invasive zebra and quagga mussel population growth “as well as the round goby”, “rather neatly correlate with the reversal of declining mercury levels in sport fish”. Interestingly, carp in these locations are NOT showing any increase in mercury levels, indicating that bottom-feeders are not consuming food containing higher mercury levels, unlike the sport fish are. I wonder if one or more of our Graduate Fellowship contestants might be working on this upcoming trend in the very near future. Something we’ll have to keep tabs on.

Okay. Enough talk. Fish On!!!

Who Would Have Thought

So it’s spring and you’re chasing steelhead or trout in the river and stumble in over the top of your waders and just became the newest member of the RCFF’s “brown trout club”. And of course you forgot to wear your wader belt so the refreshing water pours in and takes your breath away. What to do now that it’s a long walk to the car and you’ve only started the day.

Well fear not bunky! You brought your backpack with some of **The Best Junk Food Fire Starters** on the market that you really planned to enjoy for lunch. *Field & Stream* just did a video on some of the best ones on the market and came up with their top three: #3 is a product called - Munchos while #2 - Pringles has been around a long time. The numero uno top producer is Funyuns! This product produces a hot, long burning fire and allows you to taste that onion flavor as well.

F & S also tested Fritos, Cheetos, and Doritos but they did not fare as well to the top three so you may want to save those for lunch and pack the others to save your life. By the way, toss in a Bic lighter or two as that bowstring method might take awhile to get a spark going!

Fly fishing experiment: Do no-knot fast snaps scare trout from biting?



Dave Orrick...Twin Cities Pioneer Press

Anglers can catch trout using those no-knot "fast snaps" -- or at least, I did on one recent fly fishing outing.

I always figured those [no-knot "fast snaps"](#) that allow you to snap lures or hooks on and off your line are too clumsy for finicky trout slurping flies.

The noble trout is too refined and too wary for a presentation of such proletariat pedigree.

Right?

Wrong.

That's my conclusion after a recent not-quite-scientific — but not worthless — experiment. The evening before, while fiddling with my tippetts, I discovered my eyes had, well, aged. So I grabbed an ice fishing tackle box and pulled out one of those clips.

For clarification, these are not snap swivels. Rather, these snaps ("clips," "fasteners," whatever — most common brand names seems to be Fas-Snaps) consist of a tiny piece of metal twisted to form an eyelet for the line and a larger eyelet for the lure. They can be a pain to use. You have to kind of jam the lure or hook on. But they're simpler than tying an improved clinch knot with numb fingers or eyes that can't focus.

I've used them for years while ice fishing for panfish, which are rarely accused of being line-shy. As far as fly fishing, I've always hated tying knots. On this day, not knowing what flies would work on the trout — but knowing it would be an early-season nymphing affair with Roth — I decided to give the snap a try. I've never found a reliable review of these things, and even though most fly shops stock them in some obscure corner, the few store workers I've asked (sheepishly) over the years had no insight, aside from general skepticism.

My theory was that if these fish will hit spoons and big ugly stonefly nymphs, they shouldn't be all that particular.

"Well, it's a theory," Roth said. He declined to use one, so my theory was immediately subjected to the rigors of an experiment: Roth would fish with the line attached directly to the fly, while I would fish with the low-brow snap. We both worked nearly identical flies.

Roth hooked more fish than me — perhaps 10 strikes — while I had four conclusive strikes. Since Roth is more skilled than me by orders of magnitude, I hesitate to attribute my slower action to the snap. But I caught fish. Here's my takeaway: I fly fished with a clumsy snap. And still tricked trout.

From the Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

DNR purchases part of Grant County's Spring Run for fly-only, no-kill trout fishing.

Division of Natural Resources officials are purchasing a 1-mile section of Grant County's Spring Run, a rainbow trout stream formerly under private ownership, and will open it to the public under fly fishing-only, catch-and-release regulations.

The stream has been popular with fly anglers since the early 1960s, when Harrison Shobe, the owner at the time, improved the existing habitat and began allowing anglers to fish provided they had his written permission. They caught brook, brown and rainbow trout, but bragging-sized rainbows were mainly what they came for.

The general consensus among observers was that environmental factors had changed the stream's ability to support larger fish. **Fish-waste discharges from the DNR's Spring Run Trout Hatchery, located a short distance upstream from Burke's property, polluted the stream.** Hatchery officials installed a discharge cleaning system in 2007, but Thorne said it's still too early to tell whether it has helped.

"There is some other [agricultural] effluent impacting the [fly-only section] that may slow the recovery," he added. "It is certainly something the DEP and I intend to continue monitoring."

Poaching also appears to have taken a toll on Spring Run's large fish, but now that the stream is coming under direct DNR management, law enforcement should be more consistent.

Club Raffle Ticket Sales & Fundraiser

We'd like additional club members to take a handful of raffle tickets to sell for our rod/reel/line, fly box, & gift certificate. We plan to pull the tickets at our June picnic so we only have a quarter of the year left to raise funds for the club treasury.

This is an important fund raiser and our only major one this year as there's no banquet planned this spring. We're a bit behind in our sales at this point so if you're coming to this month's meeting, please help the club out by selling a few tickets to your friends and associates.

Congratulations to Andrew Carlson who has been chosen as the Red Cedar Scholarship winner. Andrew is a Ph.D. student in the department of Fisheries and Wildlife. His major research interest is to investigate effects of anthropogenic stressors (e.g., climate change, land use alteration) in stream ecosystems and develop strategies for conservation. He's also teaching courses as part of his Ph.D. program. Hopefully we'll have the chance to award him the check at our April or May meeting.

Just when you thought it was safe to walk on a sidewalk!!!! These chalk guys are good .



**3RD ANNUAL FLY FISHING · KAYAK · CANOE
GARAGE SALE & SWAP MEET**
SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2017
10 AM UNTIL 3 PM

ADMISSION IS ONLY \$3.00
(KIDS 18 AND UNDER GET IN FREE)
TABLE RENTAL IS ONLY \$20 PER TABLE

1 PM DISTANCE CASTING COMPETITION - WIN \$20 CASH!



Birch Run Expo Center
Exit # 136, I-75 - Birch Run, MI

\$20 to rent a table or bring your own table at \$10 a table.
If you are looking to buy or sell fly fishing equipment,
fly rods, reel, waders, and boats, kayaks or canoes... then this is
the place to do! Plan to bring CASH as most people will not
be set up to do credit card sales.

To reserve a table, please contact
Jeff Johnson by phone at: 513-510-0628
or by email at: jeffjohnson@arguide.org/expo.com
Info at: Brookhaven-Lake.com

Don't forget that we're still accepting donations for the club table at this event on the 15th. Bring them to the meeting if you can and we can always use flies to sell if you can tie some up.

All fishing (fly and hardware) can be donated as well as camping and outdoor items. Just no firearms.

Plan to join us on April 9th at the last club tying night at Piazzano's to tie up flies for the swap meet.

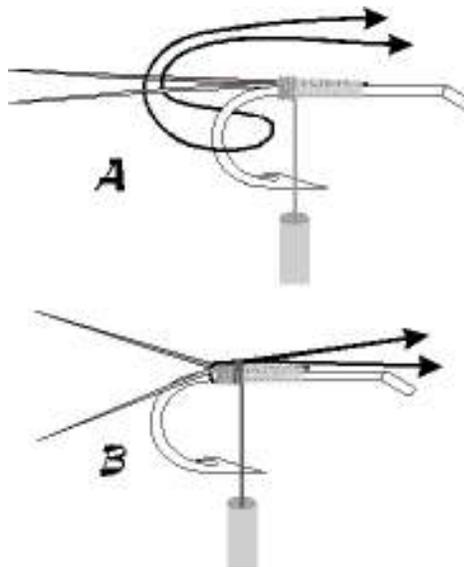
- Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy. – Benjamin Franklin
- You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline. It helps if you have Some kind of football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at the very least you need a beer. -- Frank Zappa
- Beer will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no beer. -- Freddie Freak (*sic*)
- Beer has food value, but food has no beer value. -- J. R. Robertson
- Beer drinking doesn't do half the harm of lovemaking. -- Eden Philpotts
- "Best before" dates are nonsense. Most beers can only go downhill from the moment they leave the brewery. There are, though, important exceptions: the minority of beers that are designed to mature in the bottle. "Best before" dates do not do justice to them, either. -- Michael Jackson (She should know). Actually, this Michael Jackson is "The Beer Hunter", dead ten years, now - RMK
- In Vino Veritas, in Cervesio Felicitas. (In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is joy.) – March Polo
- He was a wise man who invented beer. – Plato
- Alright brain, I don't like you and you don't like me – so let's just get this over with so I can go back to killing you with beer. – Homer Simpson (the one on TV, not the other one)
- Life is too short to drink cheap beer. – Arnold Schwarzenegger
- I like beer. On occasion, I will even drink beer to celebrate a major event such as the fall of communism or the fact that the refrigerator is still working. – Dave Barry
- If God had intended us to drink beer, he would have given us stomachs. – David Daye Huh?
- Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza. – Dave Barry
- Show me a nation whose national beverage is beer, and I'll show you an advanced toilet technology. – Mark Hawkins
- Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer. – Henry Lawson
- God made yeast, as well as dough, and loves fermentation just as dearly as he loves vegetation. – Ralph Waldo Emerson
- I drink when I have occasion, and sometimes when I have no occasion. – Miguel de Cervantes, speaking as Don Quixote
- An ihm is Hopfen und Malz verloren. – German saying meaning a person doesn't understand well: Hops and malt are lost on him
- Good ale will make a cat speak. – Old English proverb
- Life ain't all beer and skittles, and more's the pity. – George DuMaeier
- All my fame for a pot of Ale. – Shakespeare, Henry V (or, as we say in The States, Hank the fifth)
- Let no man thirst for lack of Real Ale. – Commonwealth Brewing Co., motto
- No soldier can fight unless he is properly fed on beef and beer. – Duke of Marlborough
- I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy. – Tom Waits

Bottoms up!

Bob K

Forking Tails with Scrap Thread

Wayne Luallen



When initially applying thread to the hook, make sure to save the waste piece of thread trimmed after the “Jam Hitch” is secure. This piece should be about ten centimeters (4”) long. Proceed with the fly as usual. When applying the fibers of material making up the tail, wind the thread over them from the direction of the hook eye toward the hook bend.

Once the tail material is anchored in the correct position, wind back toward the hook eye a very few (2-4) wraps. (Be sure that all thread wraps over and under the tailing material are flat and smooth. A rough surface of twisted and/or randomly placed thread may not allow the tails to separate evenly.) Take the piece of waste thread and loop it around the inside of the hook bend (see drawing “A.”) Separate the tail fibers right and left with your

fingers just enough to make an opening that will accept the two strands of thread. (Marvin Nolte suggests pressing down on the tails with a fingernail to separate them. The pressure of the nail against the bend causes the fibers to separate.)

Lift the thread strands up between the tails and lay them on top of the hook shank toward the hook eye. Secure the strands in place with two snug (not tight) wraps of thread (see drawing “B.”) Now pull each of the thread ends toward the hook eye. As the pressure of the thread loop pulls up between the tails, the fibers will begin to separate. The degree of split can be adjusted by the amount of pull on the thread ends. Once the proper amount of split is achieved, secure the waste ends with firm wraps of thread winding toward the hook eye before trimming the waste. This method works equally well with 3 tails. The difference being simply that the middle tail has a thread on either side of it. As the thread ends are pulled toward the hook eye, the middle tail is not effected.

Materials of choice for using this method of tailing include any hard material(i.e., Microfibetts, spade hackle barbs, guard hairs, etc.) Softer materials (i.e., duck body feathers, neck hackle barbs from a hen or cock, etc.) are a poor choice for tailing on dry flies. They do not have the strength to function properly when the thread ends are pulled to the hook eye. If intended to support the fly on the water, they lack the rigidity necessary to do the job.



Now You Know

Nick Offerman, better known as Ron Swanson from the Parks and Recreation TV Series, is a professional boat builder and has a side business as a wood craftsman. In 2008, he even released an instructional DVD - "Fine Woodstrip Canoe Building with Nick Offerman," offering instructions on how to make a your own canoe. He stated in an interview with Wood Magazine in 2010, "When I got into acting in the theater, I was really terrible in the beginning. But because I could build things, they put me in their shows when I agreed to build things for the set. Then in Chicago, in the mid-90s, I made a living building scenery."



Fish are primarily white meat due to the fact that they don't ever need their muscles to support themselves and thus need much less myoglobin or sometimes none at all. In a few cases they float so their muscle usage is much less than say a 1000 lb. cow who walks around a lot and must deal with gravity. Typically, the only red meat you'll find on a fish is around their fins and tail, which are used almost constantly.

1. A little known shark fact is that they have an acute sense of hearing. Some sharks can hear prey from up to 3,000 feet away.
2. Measuring only seven inches long, the dwarf lantern shark is the smallest shark in existence.
3. The whale shark is the world's largest shark. It can grow to be 50 feet long and weigh more than 40,000 pounds.
4. The Moses sole is one of the rare fish sharks cannot eat. When a shark bites into one, the fish releases a chemical that causes the shark release it. Scientists are currently attempting to recreate this chemical so they can use it to repel sharks from humans. (call the editor if it works!)
5. Bull sharks can live in both salt and fresh water by regulating the substances in their blood.
6. A Great White shark weighing 2,664 pounds and measuring almost 17 feet in length was the largest fish ever caught with a rod and reel.
7. Despite the fact that an almost equal amount of men and women swim in the ocean, men account for nearly 90 percent of shark attack victims.
8. The first tiger shark pup to hatch inside its mother's womb devours its unborn siblings until only two pups remain, one on each side of the womb.
9. The average shark has 40-45 teeth and can have up to seven rows of replacement teeth. Because sharks lose a lot of teeth and grow them back quickly, they often go through more than 30,000 teeth in a lifetime.
10. Sharks do not have a single bone in their bodies. Their skeletons are made of cartilage. The few places they need somewhat stronger support structures such as their jaws, skulls, and spine, are fortified with calcium salts.

Camp Liberty Fly Tying Class

On Saturday March 18th, five of us traveled to Camp Liberty near Brooklyn to run a fly tying class for eight veterans who were in Michigan for a six weeks welding class. The welding class is sponsored by the UAW and Ford motor company. The goal is to give the veterans a skill that will help them land jobs.

The veterans were from as far away as Houston, Tennessee and Orlando with most from the Midwest, including Detroit and Chicago. The vets are staying locally for the six weeks of class. Major Briggs, from Camp Liberty, arranged for the class hoping that it would be a chance for the veterans to have a break from the welding class and possibly get them interested in in our sport.

Terry Greiner and Mark Johnson demonstrated the tying of a wooly bugger, mickey finn, and a foam spider and the veterans were given the materials to then tie two or three of each fly on their own. The rest of us helped out when needed as they tied.

This is the third tying class the Red Cedars have run for Camp Liberty and all have been highly successful. This group of students was very impressive with their skill development but what impressed me most was their appreciation for us sharing with them. I know that the popular thing to do now days is thank a member of the military for their service but I believe that giving of your time and yourself means more to them than just a "thank you". I am really glad that the Red Cedar Fly Fishers have been an active part of Camp Liberty.

As we were getting ready to leave, one of our members remarked how great the activities and mission of Camp Liberty are. Check out the Camp Liberty website to learn more about their activities at: <https://camp-liberty.org>



Fly Fishing Quiz

1. What does CDC stand for, in English?
A. Duck's butt C. Chicken's butt
B. Turkey's butt D. Pheasant's butt
2. True or false: The most recent American fly-casting phenom is a 12-year-old boy?
A. True B. False
3. Which of these rivers is NOT a tributary of the Missouri?
A. Madison river C. Jefferson river
B. Bitterroot river D. Yellowstone river
4. The steeple cast allows an angler to. . .
A. Avoid obstacles behind him/her
B. Quickly change the direction of the line
C. Make a direct-downstream cast
D. All of the above
5. What saltwater species is also known as Róbaló?
A. Bonefish C. Snook
B. Tarpon D. Permit
6. What river flows out of Jackson Lake Dam?
A. Gros Ventre river C. Henry's Fork river
B. Lewis river D. Snake river
7. True or False: The world-record tarpon was caught in Africa?
A. True B. False
8. Which Western state was the first to stop stocking trout in any of its waters?
A. Idaho C. Montana
B. Wyoming D. New Mexico
9. What do you call the small ridges or beads on the drag knob of a reel that improve your grip?
A. Anodes C. Knurls
B. Feet D. Pawls
10. Who first tied the the Usual dry fly?
A. Art Flick C. Dick Talleur
B. Walt Dette D. Fran Betters
11. Where would you find the Texas Hole?
A. San Juan river C. Dolores river
B. Colorado river D. Guadalupe river
12. Which of these is NOT a well known brown-trout destination?
A. Tasmania C. Kamchatka
B. Iceland D. Chile

13. The snake roll cast allows an angler to. . .
A. Get a longer dry-fly drift
B. Quickly change the direction of the line
C. More easily cast double-nymph rigs
D. All of the above
14. What species is commonly called a "papermouth"?
A. Crappie C. Pumpkinseed
B. Snook D. Sheefish
15. True or False: Grayling were given genus name Thymallus because the flesh has a faint smell of the herb thyme
A. True B. False
16. Which Midwestern state was the first to attempt to introduce steelhead?
A. Illinois C. Indiana
B. Michigan D. Wisconsin
17. What do you call the part of a rod guide that lies along the blank and is covered by thread wraps?
A. Base C. Finger
B. Foot D. Heel
18. Who first tied the Zug Bug nymph?
A. Cliff Zug C. Doug Prince
B. John Barr D. Gary LaFontaine
19. True or false: The world record brook trout was caught more than 100 years ago.
A. True B. False
20. What do you call a female Atlantic salmon still full of mature eggs?
A. Baggot C. Grilse
B. Kelt D. Humpy
21. The roll-cast pickup allows an angler to. . .
A. Bring the line to the surface before casting
B. Get the line in the air more quickly
C. More easily cast sinking lines
D. All of the above
22. Which of these is NOT a nickname for largemouth bass?
A. Mossback C. Bronzeback
B. Black bass D. Bucketmouth
23. Who wrote "The View from Rat Lake"?
A. Harry Middleton C. John Gierach
B. Ted Leeson D. Jim Babb
24. Where is the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians?
A. Helen, GA C. Cherokee, NC
B. Johnson City, TN D. Blacksburg, VA

.....From Phil Monahan's Fly-Fishing Trivia Challenge

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www.redcedarflyfishers.org

Field Notes:

- May 18 - Looking for volunteers to help with a 4th grade class at Dimondale Elementary school from 9:00 to 3:00. They would like to do some tying along with fishing the Grand River from the bank in town. Let John Ross know if you're available to help so he can coordinate the schedule with the teacher. John's email is: jeross262@gmail.com and cell - 517-896-2100
- The 'King of Beers' brand prepares to expand its reign to the Red Planet. [Budweiser](#) announced the "**Bud On Mars**" initiative. The "King of Beers" brand will partner with the International Space Station (ISS) and the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) to conduct experiments on how to take and brew beer in space and on Mars.
- Here's a great video on stripping peacock quills for dry fly, nymph, and emerger bodies: <https://vimeo.com/channels/patterns/87579398>
- **Rich Knoles** will be our speaker for the April meeting and will present a program on: Malaysia on the Fly with an intro to Billfishing. Rich is from the Detroit area and has fished around the world. He recently spent a few days on the Muskegon successfully chasing steelhead with the spey rod.

Refrigerator Reminders

April

1st - NEW license needed for 2017

9th - RCFF tying night at Piazzano's from 6:00-8:00.

11th - RCFF club meeting Giltner Hall

15th - Garage sale & swap meet.
Birch Run expo center 10:00 - 3:00

May

9th - RCFF club meeting Giltner Hall

Quiz answers:

1. Duck, 2. False, 3. Bitterroot, 4. Avoid obstacles, 5. Snook, 6. Snake, 7. True
8. Montana, 9. Knurls 10. Fran Betters, 11. San Juan, 12. Kamchatka, 13. Change direction of line
14. Crappie, 15. True, 16. Michigan, 17. Foot, 18. Cliff Zug, 19. True, 20. Baggot, 21. All of the
above, 22. Bronzeback, 23. John Gierach, 24. Cherokee, NC