

RCFF Board

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Inside this issue:

President's message	1&2
The "Holy" water of the Au Sable	3
Make sunglasses last forever	4
Two new products on the market	5
One more new item & welcome Mike	6
Not it's not a yurt & Merry Christmas	7
Private water	8
Bumper sticker & poster	9
Stop loss	10
FF Workshop & Member fish pic	11
Cleaning & decon your waders	12
For "sale"	13
Fridge notes & reminders	14

Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - December 2017

Happy Holidays Red Cedars!

It's hard to believe that 2017 is coming to a close in only four weeks. Hopefully, you're *not* like me and have already gotten most of your Christmas shopping completed! (Or at least let that special someone know what new piece of fly gear or tying supplies you would love to see under the tree!) I don't think the extended period without snow has helped prepare me for the season. Oh well . . .



For those of you who missed it, November's meeting was **EXCELLENT!!!** Dr. Jo Latimore from MSU's Department of Natural Resources presented a wealth of information about invasive species, both plant *and* animal, along with a bunch of freebie hand-outs and reference material. Dr. Latimore is **THE** person in the know on this subject we've all been concerned about!!! Her presentation sparked a lot of *great* discussion throughout the evening, and I believe we all came away with a much better understanding of what invasive species are, and what we need to do to be better prepared to deal with these. This *will* be an on-going conversation as we go forward, and you can bet your *fanwort* we're going to be inviting Dr. Latimore back to update us on what's going on with this crucial subject in the future! **THANK YOU**, Dr. Latimore!!!

(P.S. — Dr. Latimore graciously left us some extra copies of her hand-outs, which we will have at the December meeting, so you Harry Potter fans won't have to fly to Hogwarts to learn what fanwort is.)



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

Speaking of current topics, your Board is wrapping up its review and update of our club's By-Laws. We took on this task because some questions have come up in the past year regarding our club's expanding activities that the Board was not sure were addressed in the By-Laws. Our concerns were further supported by the fact that the By-Laws had not been reviewed or updated in quite some time. While this may not seem significant, being a 501(c)(3) organization and also part of a "global" organization, the FFI, the Board determined that it was in the club's best interests that we make sure the By-Laws were up-to-date with our organization's current status and situation. The process now comes to you, our members, as we will be emailing a copy of the updated By-Laws to all our members for your review and approval. We ask that when you receive them, you take a moment to look them over and let us know if there are any questions or concerns you have with them. The Board plans to have the membership vote on final approval here in the near future.

Another matter the Board is working on is identifying and verifying the location of all of the equipment, material, and supplies the club owns. One of the downsides to not having a facility or location of our own is the fact that equipment and supplies we do own have to be stored between several member's homes, or, in the case of our tying vices and tools, at Nomad, who uses them in support of their educational activities. And since we're not always using this equipment and/or supplies, we need to periodically account for where they are. So, if you have one or more of the club's vices, tools, rods, reels, or other piece of equipment, please let one of your Board members know, so we can make sure it's properly accounted for. We want to have *our* gear ready and available for the upcoming tying nights and other activities once the weather gets warmer.

Speaking of tying, we had our first tying night this past Sunday, December 3rd. Since Piazzano's has booked their basement location out for parties this month, we're meeting in our regular meeting location of 273 Giltner Hall, on the campus of Michigan State University. We didn't have any visitors or interested observers, but it was fun seeing what our members are tying in preparation for their next outing. Might just surprise you what patterns are being tied. You should join us and find out!

And don't forget that this month we meet at the Blue Gill Grill for some mouth-watering food, drink, and teasing new gear presented by Nomad Anglers. It will be a fun night, so mark it down on your calendar and put a note on the 'frig.

Tight Lines!

Mike G.



It's nice to know that our cleanup efforts in the "Holy Water" of the au Sable are in keeping with the "Holy" aspect of the sites. Bob K

Editor's side note: Does the Pope know about this?



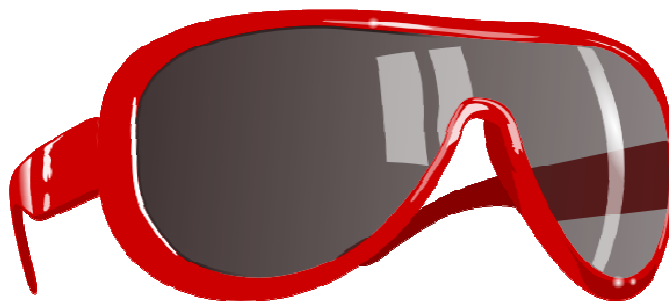
Here's a pic of Rich Knoles 300 lb. black marlin from his October fly fishing trip to Malaysia. Said they had a great time and did very well that week. Rich provided a program to the club last year on opportunities for fly fishing in this area of the world.



Sunglasses Care

- Treat your Smith fishing sunglasses like a fine piece of equipment.
- Do not leave your sunglasses in intense heat, such as the dashboard of your car. This can cause delamination of any laminated product or frame damage and disfiguring.
- Any chemicals found in common products like sunscreen and insect repellent can damage glasses frames and lens. Use care when applying these products and avoid contact with glasses.
- Avoid full submersion of your sunglasses in water, especially saltwater. If your glasses do get wet, always try to dry them thoroughly. Extra effort should be made to ensure dryness around the edges of the lenses.
- Keep your sunglasses in their protective case or micro fiber bag when not in use.
- The seat of your car is a perfect place for your sunglasses to be sat upon. Sunglasses are not crush proof.
- Clean your sunglasses with an optical cleaning solution or the Smith Optics lens cleaning solution. Dry the lenses thoroughly with a soft clean cloth. Do not use tissue or paper towels for lens cleaning. Never use an abrasive cleansing agent (such as Comet) or one containing ammonia or alcohol (such as Windex).
- Avoid leaving the lenses face down on any hard surface. Even glass lenses riding face down in a vehicle will end up with scratches on them.
- Remove your sunglasses straight forward off of your face. Sideways removal can cause some frame stress or hinge damage.
- An eyeglass retainer is always a good idea for prevention of loss or dropping of your sunglasses, especially around water.
- Treat your sunglasses as though your vision depends upon them!

..... From Gink & Gasoline blog 10/22/17



Three New Products

Shoal Tent

\$1,499

So you're out floating Wakely Lake for the day, or you're floating down the Au Sable south branch and you realize it's getting late. You planned on camping on the designated sites but found they were all full.

Fear not bunky....here's where you set up the tent on the SmithFly raft and anchor right there on the water. For more details check out the following link:

<https://www.smithfly.net/collections/watercraft/products/shoal-tent>



Just In.....One of the important food groups from Stockholm, Sweden sold at their 7-Eleven stores. This could be a nutritious new way to "fill you up" if you toss these in the boat or backpack for a day on the water.

Couldn't tell if they come complete with buns or not, or if they're fully cooked ready to eat cold or just heat them in the can.

Price looks reasonable!!!!!!



Own a boat and motor that requires a fire extinguisher to be carried on board? Forgot to pack the bear spray in your belt holster? Need to put out that forest fire on the way to your nearest river? Check this new product out:

Element's radical new fire extinguisher is 80 percent smaller and ten times lighter than a traditional five-pound bottle extinguisher, but it sprays five times longer. Because it works through a chemical reaction, the E50 requires no pressurization, which means it isn't sensitive to temperature or elevation, and it requires no refills or maintenance. A single unit fights all major types of fire. All those benefits together make it perfect for keeping in your truck or even at home. Three sizes.

www.elementfire.com

New Member Mike Knag

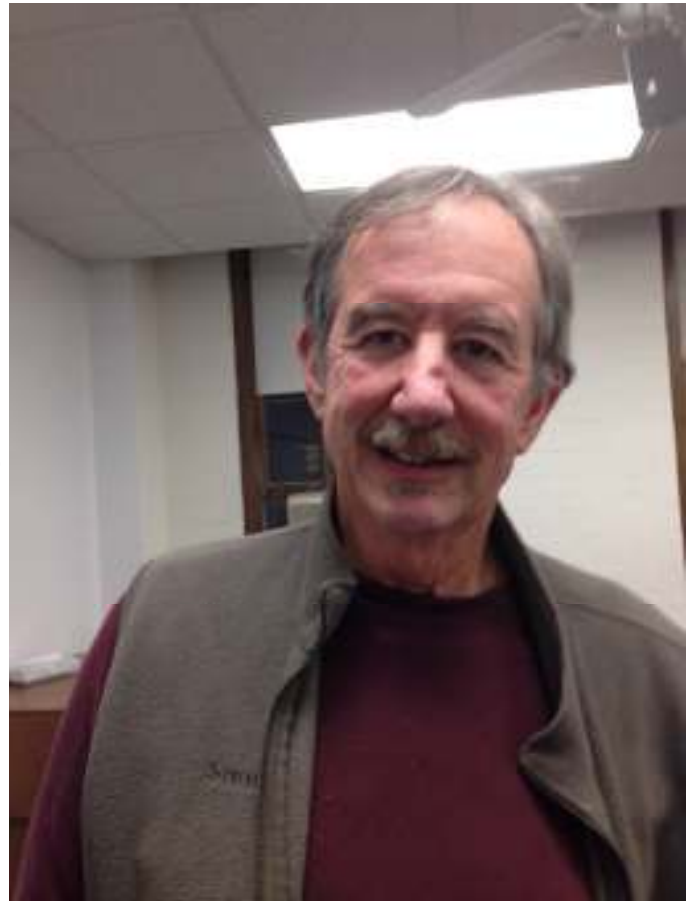
Hometown - Grand Blanc

Fly fished for 20 years

Favorite river in Michigan -
Pere Marquette

Fishes the Catskills region
quite a bit

Catch up with Mike to welcome
him to our club & if you're think-
ing of visiting this area of New
York



Ok, So It's Not a Yurt!

"Here's another option for a club meeting place, but we might have to raise the dues a bit"....and move to Colorado to hold our club meetings

Page 7



Magnificant Seven Retreat For a paltry **\$4,500,000.32**

The ranch is 160 acres in holding (surrounded by national forest). It has an 8,000 square foot home, and a 1,000 foot apartment with connecting breezeway and dock. The ranch has 7 lakes and ponds, (the largest 7 acre lake shapes around the house for stunning views, great fishing, comfortable dock sitting/ fishing and a swimming area). There are many connecting streams and over a mile of the North Fork of the Michigan river runs through it.. Both the house and apartment have spectacular views of the Craigs, Never Summer Mountain range and an eastern view of the Rocky Mountain National Forest.



Merry Christmas
to one an all!

Why Private Water is Bad For Fly Fishing

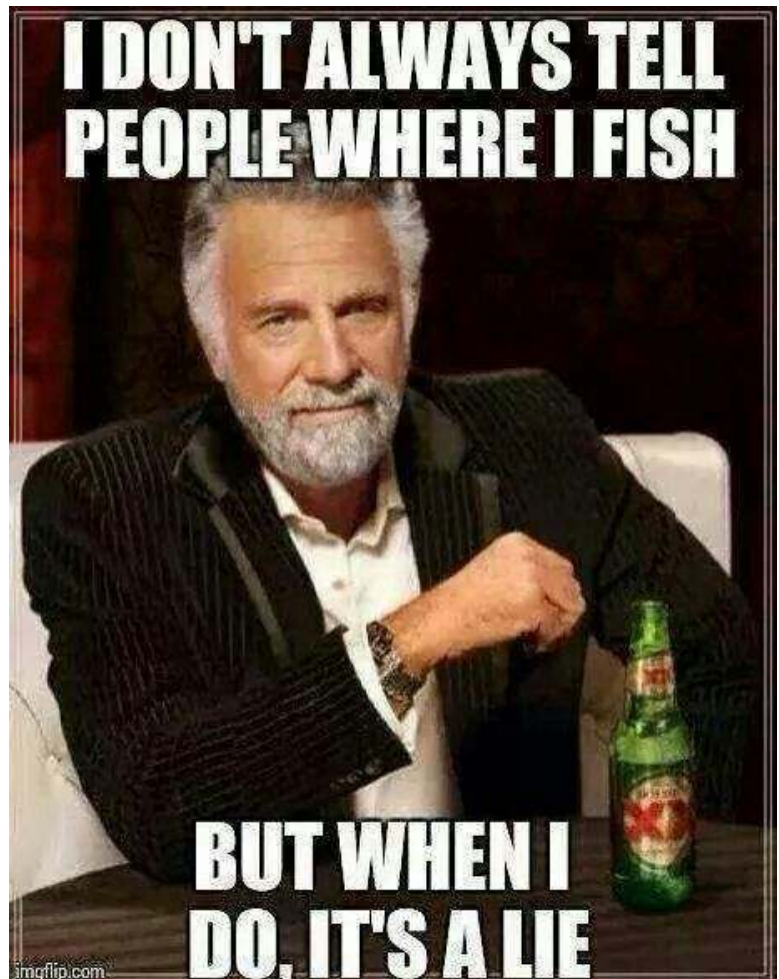
1. It undermines support for public lands and wild fish. Both are under attack like never before in the US. Politicians want to take our public lands and waters and sell them off to the highest bidder. Most of this is to facilitate exploitation by extraction industries, but developers are waiting in the wings too. They know how much you spend on Disney, and if they can turn public lands into a theme park they will. They'll steal your public lands for a song and sell them back to you in experiences. Fly fishing will be another carnival ride. Like the private waters in the southeast, when sports don't see or catch the numbers of fish they expect, they'll stock the waters and feed the fish to meet the demand.
2. It engenders false expectations concerning fish numbers and size that aren't sustainable naturally. Private water operators are able to stock as many fish as they care to buy and put in the water. With supplemental feed they can maintain a very visible, catchable number of large fish. Wild fish populations and size are determined by the abundance of naturally occurring food sources, many of which fluctuate or are seasonal. This limits the distribution, number, and size of fish. Studies in the northeast of large brook trout have shown that almost all of their annual weight gain is achieved in the month of June. If an angler's first or only experience is on the unnatural conditions of private water, it can be very disappointing to go to a natural stream and environment and fish more challenging conditions. Their response is often to demand that the state stock more fish, rather than learn how to catch wild fish on their own terms.
3. It erodes support for conservation efforts ongoing and future. A USFWS biologist I talked to said that when they go to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and talk to anglers about restoring native Coaster brook trout, you can see their eyes glaze over and they ask "when are you going to stock more salmon." Too much of angling is self-interested, to the detriment of wild fish and native species. Conservation battles are being waged right now across the US in efforts to protect and preserve wild fish and fisheries. Scientific evidence continues to mount that hatchery fish and stocking are detrimental to wild fish stocks. One of the factors that judges and fisheries managers weigh is public opinion and support. Societal values matter. We can't fight in court for wild fish, and in public say that stocked fed fish on private water are just as good as wild fish. Not only is it hypocritical, but there are plenty of our opponents in court and in politics saying the same things. Politicians who want your public land and support extractive industries for instance, or proponents of hatcheries in the west and elsewhere. It will be a sad day when a federal judge reads our own words back to us as part of a decision that overturns or denies protections for wild brook trout, cutthroat trout, steelhead, or salmon.
4. It undermines the notion of fair chase which is the bedrock of sporting traditions and ethics. One thing I miss about hunting is the lack of ambiguity. When you squeeze the trigger or release an arrow, there is no doubt about what is about to happen. You can't pull your arrow out of a deer and let it go. In hunting, fair chase is essential for important legal and ethical reasons. There's a reason the Pope and Young, and Boone and Crockett clubs do not allow animals from high fence private operations in their record books. Believe me, the high fence operators have tried. The principles and ethics of fair chase are the bedrock of hunting and fishing.
5. It reduces fish to being another commodity to be monetized and capitalized. Capitalism is a great system for creating and distributing wealth, especially when pursued under a fair set of rules that apply to everyone. Some proponents think that everything should be privatized so that market forces can prevail and benefit everyone. At some point we have to step back from human valuations on wild things, whether it be monetary, recreational or otherwise, and recognize the right of wild creatures and places to exist and be protected from us. This is their home too.

From Fontinalis Rising February 28, 2017.....<http://www.fontinalisrising.com>.....and to read the complete article.

Saw an interesting bumper sticker the other day!



Along with a poster



Break Freefrom American Angler

One of the worst things about losing a fly is losing time you could be fishing to attach another one. To help you maximize your time on the water, and keep more bugs in your boxes, here are a few quick streamside tips to reduce lost patterns.

Knotty business

Break-offs should occur at the most terminal end of your rig. If you're breaking above your flies, you are either tying bad knots or not checking your tippet frequently enough.

Adjust your indicator

Try a new style, like the Airflo Airlock, which adjusts with a simple twist of a screw, and allows you to change your depth fast and easy to avoid hang-ups.

Go fluoro

If you're fishing around line-shredding structure like coral reefs or riprap, use fluorocarbon to reduce the risk of break-offs resulting from line abrasion.

Snag time

Walk down- or upstream of a snag to free it before you start yanking hard. You'll usually get it unstuck with a few light tugs.

Swing it

If your streamer lands across a tree limb, learn the timing of the swing as your fly pendulums beneath the branch and pull it up and over when it's on the leeward side.

Examining data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 33.1 million fresh- and saltwater anglers age 16 and older fished for a total of 553.8 million days in the United States in 2011. The report noted 13 percent of those 33.1 million anglers are fly fishermen, so 13 percent of 553.8 million angling days equates to 71.9 million fly fishing days. Making a conservative assumption that each of those anglers lost just two flies per day (which is less than the estimates of the aforementioned guides), and doing some back-of-the-envelope math, that's 143.9 million flies lost per year in U.S. waters.

Now let's have some real fun. Making another assumption that each of those flies was equivalent in weight to a size 16 Pheasant Tail Nymph, we find that each .2 gram per fly multiplied by 143.9 million flies. That's a lot of grams—tons, actually. Over 30 tons of lost, discarded, and abandoned flies. More easily understood, it's about equivalent in weight to roughly 2 million empty beer cans. I wasn't kidding when I said fly anglers lose tons of flies.

.....also from American Angler

Kentucky park offering fly fishing workshop



Notice anything unusual about the **caption** and **pic** posted above by the Associated Press? In case you would like to attend.....Pine Mountain State Resort Park in eastern Kentucky is planning at two-day workshop for people wanting to learn about fly fishing. Nov. 11 & 12.

Dennis with a nice one from the Manistee a few weeks ago.

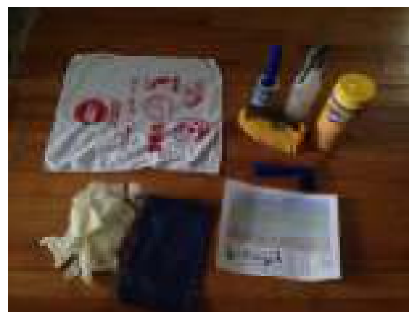


Info from Dr. Jo Latimore - MSU Fisheries & Wildlife
 latimorj@msu.edu 517-432-1491

- mism.msu.edu - Midwest Invasive Species Information Network
- www.michigan.gov/invasives, also check out: Youtube: Michigan DEQ Invasive Species
- CISMAs - Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas
 (http://www.michiganinvasives.org/docs/2017_Michigan_CISMAs.pdf)
- Decontamination video <https://youtu.be/ESnj2SI25Mo>
- Our Mobile Boat Wash project: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/Boat_wash_flyer_2017_554286_7.pdf
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MobileBoatWash/>



State of Mich. decontamination kits



- 2 gal bucket
- Bucket lid
- Scrub brush
- Sticky rollers (seed removal)
- Chlorox wipes
- 16 oz spray bottle
- PPE gloves, safety glasses, eyewash, apron
- Boot brush/pick

For Sale

Sage 14'1" Graphite IV Spey Rod
Model: 9141-4; Line 9



Ross Canyon Big Game 7 reel and Rio 650 gr Skagit Line



All in excellent condition. Over \$1000 value new.

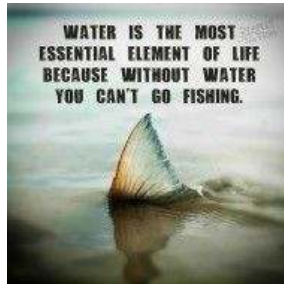
\$750 for everything

Call: Steven @ 517-655-5207

Williamston, MI

Field Notes:

- Left out from Oct. issue - thanks to Tony Parks, Bob Kren, Dennis O'Brien, and Dick Augustine for their help at the veterans fishing day in Flushing.
- **Brown Trout Belly Rub** - <http://mountainjournal.org/story-180>
It might surprise most fly fishers that it's almost easier to catch a big fish with your bare hands than it is with a fly.



- Check the newest method of fishing....<http://microfishing.com/>
- **Note:** Please bring any fishing related items to the club meetings to donate for our March garage sale in Birch Run. Last year's event raised over \$300 dollars for the club.

Refrigerator Reminders

December

12th - Red Cedar club meeting at the Blue Gill Grill - Program: Brian Bielecki with new items & equipment to check out for Christmas and the upcoming season. Hospitality 6:00, dinner 6:30

17th - RCFF fly tying night - Giltner Hall, room 273 - MSU - 6:30 - 8:30

17th & 18th - Tampa Bay fishing club In shore Grouper workshop, Tampa, FL

January

9th - Red Cedar club meeting at Giltner Hall, MSU campus room 273. Hospitality 6:30, meeting at 7:00. Andrew Carlson our scholarship winner program on his research project.

13th-14th - West Michigan Fly Show at East Kentwood High School, Grand Rapids - more info: www.fffglc.org

14th - RCFF fly tying night - Piazano's restaurant - 6:30 - 8:30

28th - RCFF fly tying night - Piazano's restaurant - 6:30 - 8:30