

RCFF Board

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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - February 2018

I hope you're staying warm, Red Cedars!!!

First off, I want to thank Bob Bawden for taking over for me at January's meeting. I'm sure you all enjoyed the change of pace (and better punch lines!). Thanks Bob!

I also want to say Thank You to Andrew Carlson for his presentation at the January meeting. I understand it was pretty technical. His application for our Fellowship Grant last year was also pretty technical, but it was also part of the reason he was our winner. His focus on our Michigan waters and fisheries and attention to the detailed effort it will take to sustain them is what we and our succeeding generations need to make sure we all get to enjoy the sport we love for many seasons to come. Thanks again, Andrew, and keep up the *GREAT* work!

February's presentation is going to focus more on the fishing perspective. Thanks to Steven Arnoczky, Todd Gignilliat will be here to talk to us about Dry Fly Pontoon Boats. If you've ever wanted to know more about drifting some prime water from a pontoon float system (and who hasn't?!?), here's your chance. Hey, I *have* a fishing kayak, and I'm going to be checking this out! See you there!

And if you're looking for another way to break up the February winter doldrums, how about tying a few flies with friends?! Mark Noel has graciously arranged another set of fly tying nights for the club at Piazzano's Restaurant, 1825 N. Grand River, across from Capital City International Trucks. "Mark" your calendars for February 11th, 18th, March 4th and 18th, from 6:30 to "8-ish" PM. Then grab your vice, tools, and materials and join us for an evening of tying, tips, and more than a few "fish tales". Isn't that during the dinner hour, you ask? Piazzano's has great food and/or beverages. Even if you've never tied, but want to learn, "*COME ON DOWN!*" There's plenty of room, and you'll have a wealth of knowledge to tap into.

Speaking of tying, the Board is asking for your help on a special project. Last year, Mark Johnson represented the Red Cedars at the spring "Fishing Garage Sale" up at Birch Run. Using items donated by you, our members, he raised \$350.00 for the club!



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

Cont'd from page 1

Pretty good for a weekend event! This year, we're asking for volunteers to help tie up a bunch of flies which we will be selling in two different sized boxes at the next Garage Sale. This is considered a club event, so we'll provide the hooks. It doesn't matter what you tie, or if you tie on your own or at our tying nights at Piazzano's, as long as you can make several and get them to Terry or Mark Johnson by the March 13th meeting. We think these will be a hot item along with another way to get our club noticed and potentially raise even more funds for the club.

It was a busy night for your Board at our January 23rd meeting at Leo's Outpost in Lansing. If you couldn't tell by the recent update of our club's By-Laws, over the past few months we've been taking a long overdue look at our organization; it's structure, formation, funding, operation, and continuance. With all the news about various organizations having problems due to failure to do one thing or another, or not doing what they're supposed to do, the last thing we want is our club to have a similar situation.

One factor that has been a growing concern is funding. It's not an issue of not having money in our account. It's the recognition that the way we used to raise funds to support our club's activities, our Fellowship Grant, donations, etc., are just not as effective as they used to be. In recognition of this, the Board has come up with a couple of ideas we want to try.

The first one you've already read about above, the selling of full fly boxes. How many times have you gone to a show and looked at a full box of flies wishing you could take them out on the river for your next trip, but it wasn't for sale? We have quite a few very talented fly tiers in this club, with a lot of experience in crafting flies that catch fish, so there are better than even odds we can sell those boxes!

Another idea is a variation from our annual raffle. Instead of having a raffle, we are having a sale! We don't have a brand-new rod and reel combo. What we **do** have is a brand-new Mystic "Reaper" 8 foot, 6 inch, 4 weight, 4 piece fly rod donated to our club by the former president of Mystic Rod Company following his presentation last March. We are offering this brand-new rod, which retails for \$279.00, to our *members only* for the price of \$225.00! First come, first walks away with it. One of you gets one of the nicer fly rods out there, and the club benefits.

The next idea is to ask you, our membership, to consider raising our dues to \$15.00 a year starting next September. The club has not had an increase in dues in many years, and we're not asking for a major jump. The \$5.00 increase per person for twenty-six members will result in an annual increase of only \$130.00 a year for the club. It's not a lot, but it's easier than selling raffle tickets. We ask that you not only consider the raise, but also consider the positive effects this will have.

Okay, enough of the soap box items. Time to warm up the coffee and put another hook in the vice!

Tight lines!

Mike





*"You catch me, you throw me back.
You catch me, you throw me back.
Dude, get a life!"*

Bonnie with a nice redfish from Texas. Warm weather, sunshine, and no sharks at the moment. But you know they're lurking nearby just out of the pic!



Fly Fishing Targets Women as a Source for Growth

They are the fastest growing demographic in fly fishing, but have to fine proper gear, navigate social media, and plan self-defense in the outdoors.

Industry leaders say women are the only growing demographic in the sport, which is why they are so crucial to cultivate. Women make up about 31 percent of the 6.5 million Americans who fly-fish, according to the most recent study by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. In 2016, more than two million women participated in the sport, an increase of about 142,000 from the previous year.

A new initiative, begun over the summer and led by the equipment and apparel company Orvis, in partnership with Simms, Costa and Yeti, has among its objectives [the goal of an even gender split](#) in fly-fishing by 2020. Next spring, the program will expand to offer outreach events to educate women on gear choices, selection and function; plan classes to build skills and confidence on the water; and arrange mentoring opportunities for future female guides, shop employees and industry leaders.

It's completely crazy that fly-fishing has been identified as a man's sport," said Kate Taylor, a fly-fishing guide who recently returned from leading a group of six women in Bristol Bay, Alaska. "It takes so much patience and nurturing," she added. "It deepens our connection to natural rhythms, and that brings humility and the understanding that you are part of something that's much larger than our own personal self." "There's something about getting out on the river and catching a fish on your own that makes you stronger," she said.

Camille Egdorf, a guide with Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures in Bozeman, said women working as guides — and women hiring their services — were becoming more common. Sometimes, she said, those trips can prove the most rewarding. Egdorf gave as an example a guided fishing trip with a veteran angler husband and his wife, a novice. She gave tips on ways to fish the river and to slow down the back cast. The husband ignored Egdorf, but the wife listened and had a more productive day, catching five fish for every one he caught. "He had a pretty rough day because he didn't listen," she said. "It happens all the time: The wife outfishes the husband, and it drives the husband nuts."

More women in the sport has led manufacturers and suppliers to tailor equipment to them. In 2012, the Patagonia fishing director, Bart Bonime, reached out to Brannock for help redesigning one of his company's wading jackets. Brannock also helped design waders for women, and Patagonia started a full line for women in 2015.

Egdorf said: "Women that feel they need to show a lot of skin in order to get a following is frustrating. It sends the wrong message. But people see through that pretty quickly — the girl holding up a fish in her bikini with her nails all done and makeup on and her hair perfect. People see what's authentic and what's not."

She has had positive experiences with more traditional social media efforts. Egdorf was recently featured in a video for Yeti titled "[Odd Man Out](#)." The video describes her upbringing at her parents' fishing guide service in Alaska, her workout routine and her experiences as a guide.

A few young girls started corresponding with Egdorf after seeing the video, she said. One started a fly-fishing club in her hometown. "It's a pretty incredible feeling that I honestly wasn't expecting," Egdorf said.

Caption Needed.....send responses to editor for this pic 



This is the most dangerous animal in the world. It is responsible for MILLIONS of deaths every year. By its side, a great white shark swims peacefully.



Polish Yer Beads - Rejuvenate a fly's tarnished bead or conehead

Dull metalheads mess with my confidence. I fish with copper, gold or silver beadheads and coneheads because they're shiny. And when picking out my next fly, I avoid ones with a metalhead that's lost its luster. Weather, water and time tarnishes the finish on both tungsten and brass beads. But you can easily get that shiny new finish back with a simple DIY solution.

You can use Brasso or something similar. I've done it. But you'll never get rid of the scent, once it's absorbed into the fly. Likewise, harsh chemicals can pull the dye from certain fly materials, changing the color of the fly. That's no good either.

Instead, keep it natural. Put a little flour in a small bowl. Add the same amount of salt. Then add enough white vinegar to make a paste. You won't need much, even if you're cleaning dozens of flies. Use a small rag to apply paste to the bead or conehead, covering it completely. It's perfectly fine for the paste to spread over to the front of the fly as well — it doesn't damage or discolor the materials. Cover the metalhead of each fly, then simply rinse the paste off with water, while rubbing with the rag. It requires very little pressure. You don't have to scrub, because the vinegar and salt do all the work.



From www.troutbitten.com

Some quality fly tying material will be **FOR SALE** at the club meeting to raise funds for the club. Prices will be listed on these items so check them out along with our additional items in the monthly raffle.



Lots more beer info on page 7

Beer Facts & Relationship to Flyfishing

- The first reference to beer dates to 6000 BC.
- George Washington had his own Brewhouse on his estate at Mt. Vernon.
- To get rid of the foam “head” at the top of a beer, stick your fingers in it.
- In the Middle Ages, monks brewing beer were allowed to drink five quarts of beer a day.
- Medicinally, beer helps prevent kidney stones.
- To keep your beer glass or mug from sticking to bar napkins, sprinkle a little salt on the napkin before you set your glass down.
- Beer was first sold in bottles in 1850. It wasn't until 1935, that beer was sold in cans..
- If you collect beer bottles you're a labeorphilist.
- The very first documented recipe for beer was on a 4,000-year-old Sumerian tablet containing the Hymn to Ninkasi, a prayer to the goddess of brewing. It is the oldest known documented recipe of any kind!
- A beer lover or enthusiast is called a cerevisaphile.
- Abraham Lincoln held a liquor license and operated several taverns.
- Before thermometers were invented, brewers would dip a thumb or finger into the beer mix, to determine the right temperature to add yeast. Too cold, and the yeast wouldn't grow. Too hot, would kill the yeast. This thumb test became known as the "rule of thumb".
- English pubs sell ale by pints and quarts. When customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at patrons to mind their own pints and quarts, and to calm down. Over time Bartenders shortened this expression to "mind your P's and Q's".
- British men have been found twice as likely to know the price of their beer as their partner's bra size.
- There are two basic categories of beer: lager and ale.
- Hops add bitterness to beer.
- Methyphobia is the fear of alcohol.
- Cenosillacaphobia is the fear of an empty beer glass...heaven forbid!!

Feel free to toss any of these facts out when you're having a celebration beer after a day of fishing on your favorite river or lake!

Brand-new Zodiac Signs, and a Permanent Horoscope for Flyfishers

By Bob Kren, Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy, and Astrologer*

Hey!, all you superstition addicts, the Zodiac has changed since it was dreamed up over thirty centuries ago. Mr. Sun and Ms. Earth have conspired, through mean old Mr. Gravity and a process called “precession,” plus internet dating, to change the apparent position of the Sun against its background of stars (which you can’t see in the glare of daylight, but it’s there) to produce a new!, improved! set of signs and dates for the Zodiac. You can be the first on your block to impress your friends, and especially your enemies, with your newfound knowledge of the nonsense of Astrology. Hang onto your shorts, it’s gonna be a bumpy ride.

First, you’ll notice that ALL THE DATES HAVE CHANGED: for instance, I used to be a Scorpio, but now I’m Virgo. Which is oddly dissatisfying, but that’s the feeling all us newly-minted Virgos have. Also, SOME DATES OVERLAP**. So, if you were born on March 11, you have a choice, I guess, of living under either one or another sign (or both, and in this case that would make you what, an “Aquariscus,” or a “Piscarius?”). Real live astrologers get around this by insisting that you buy a new horoscope every year. Save your money, and spend it on gear.

Capricorn: January 20 - February 16 (formerly Dec. 22 - Jan. 19). Your thinking and actions are guided by the cold weather, Goats. You dress warmly even in Summer. Get somebody to buy you a set of Patagonia pj’s, to go with your other snuggies, for your b’day.

Aquarius: February 16 - March 11 (formerly Jan 20 – Feb 18). The worst part of winter. Tie!, tie!, tie! And tie some more. Special indications for tying lots of flies to give away, especially to a certain Virgo, who will go nameless (see above hint hint).

Pisces: March 11 - April 18 (formerly Feb 19 – March 20). You’d think that being born a Fish would give you an advantage. You know better. You may occasionally smell like a fish, but that’s where it ends. Cure the hurt by letting a loved one buy you something outlandishly expensive but marginally useful, like a bamboo flyrod.

Aries: April 18 - May 13 (formerly March 21 – April 19). You Rams are now noted for stability. persistence, and logic, and staying true to traditions, while you express yourself in a sometimes clumsy way. Buy yourself a wading staff. Better make that two.

Taurus: May 13 - June 21 (formerly April 20 – May 20). Enough with the “Bull” jokes! Tauri are no worse in a china shop than, say, a t. Rex or a 747. Buy yourself a nice leather hat, and hope it’s not a relative, or at least not a close one.

Gemini: June 21 - July 20 (formerly May21 – June 21). Ah, that split personality, that allows half of you to be sensitive, impulsive and sometimes unrestrained, while the other half can defend the weak with courtesy, all the while being impressionable and vulnerable. A straitjacket fishing vest with lots of pocketsful of neat but unreachable stuff sounds reasonable as a birthday present.

Cancer: July 20 - August 10 (formerly June 22 – July 22). Well, Crab, you believe your strong armor will protect you from the cruelty and hypocrisy of the world. Good luck on that. Just keep running sideways, and try not to bash into things. Wearing radial-ply tires as onstream bumpers may help.

.....Continued on page 9

Leo: August 10 - September 16 (formerly July 23 – August 22). Along with high social position you are a font of good reputation, decency and outspokenness, and you shine and make a strong presence wherever you go. You probably give unwanted and unnecessary advice during a good hatch. Take some casting lessons from John van Dalen – that’ll make you humble.

Virgo: September 16 - October 30 (formerly Aug 23 – Sept 22). You’re just like me, you poor soul. We know more than the other zodiac signs what to avoid and what is to be achieved in order to fulfill our aspirations. We are first to perceive any imbalance, and with skill and courage, when possible, we move to restore balance. Have somebody buy you a good pair of studded wading boots.

Libra: October 30 - November 23 (formerly Sept 23 – Oct 23). Librans are selective and leery in clarifying what they take and what they leave in life. “Catch and release” is their mantra, except with perch and walleye. Treat yourself to a good fish supper, tilapia maybe.

Scorpio: November 23 – November 29 (formerly Oct 24 – Nov 21). Only seven days! Short, short, short, poor Scorpios, ebullient and extroverted. You are free spirits and will give your opinion even if hurts your fellows. You are velvet Rebels who show insensitivity to what happens next to you. I’m glad I’m not one of you !@@holes anymore. Go away! You don’t deserve a gift!

Ophiuchus: November 29 - December 17. (Yep, this one is new, and it’s a hefty baby. Means “serpent bearer.”) Ever fish a serpent fly? Easy to tie, effective after dark, slithered over water, like a swimming baby snake: diamond-shaped foam head over hackle beard, thin 6-inch leather tail.***. Ophiuchians have an inclination towards complication rather than simplification of situations. You fit the role of the therapist and the analyzer of difficult psychological circumstances. So go over to Brian’s and buy yourself something extravagant, because there’s no rule that says that your own “difficult psychological circumstances” won’t respond well to shopping.

Sagittarius: December 17-January 20 (formerly Nov 22 – Dec 21).. You are not afraid of the consequences of large doses of your own ambition, and dollops of impulsivity. Both conformism and formalism spoil the image of the pioneer person you wish to be. Go fishing in South America? – do it! It’s the right time of year, and impulsiveness rules!

And there you have the latest mumbo-jumbo hiding behind a bunch of numbers, trying to look legitimate. My advice, not from the stars but from common sense, is “Stay healthy and have fun,” every one of you. Except maybe the new Scorpios.

* I taught a course “Beyond the Solar System” at UM-Flint for six years. Honest, I did.

** There ain’t no arguing with the Stars and Planets. Go figure. Stars don’t lie. People do.

*** Caught a fairly large ‘bow after dark on one of these. Not a lie.



How To Deal With Ice In Your Guides - from postflybox.com

This is a common plague for those of us who love fly fishing in the winter, or any of the year's cooler months. Ice in the guides is a giant pain in the ass, but luckily, there are a few things you can do to either mitigate it or avoid it completely.



Chapstick - Just rub the chapstick across your line guides before getting on the water and you'll see a *noticeable* difference in how quickly ice forms in your guides. This tip won't completely eliminate ice buildup, but if you just need to keep the ice at bay for the first cold hours of the morning, this will do the trick.

Cooking Spray - Just make sure your guides are as dry as possible before applying the cooking spray, and you should see less ice forming on your guides throughout the day. Again, cooking spray won't eliminate ice buildup. From everything I've heard, though, it works much better than chapstick.

Dunk the Rod - On those days you only get a cast or two in before the ice builds up. At that point, simply dunking your rod in the water and letting the water (which is warmer than the air) melt the ice is a great, pain-free way to go in getting rid of ice.

Leave the Guides Alone - The problem is that ripping ice out of your guides by hand a) makes your hands colder that much quicker and b) really does a number on your guides. Broken guides don't spell the end of a fly rod like they used to, but they'll put a quick end to an otherwise good day on the water.



Jim Reed and one of his deer hair creations. This one looks like it could up and scamper away.

He tied this at the West Michigan Fly Show last month

Hot New Products on the market

With a float tube like this one can really sneak up on the fish at Wakely Lake! And you may find you have the lake to yourself as well.

This should be in your favorite fly shop in time for the June 15 lake opener.



Powerdolphin Marine Drone



The PowerDolphin Marine Drone by PowerVision is one of those revolutionary technologies that can do so much.

For starters, you get a futuristic-looking marine drone with a 4K HD camera paired with 1080P high res live video stream – both with a 1000 meter remote control range. The camera has a 215° dual-joint rotation camera so you can capture above and under-water shooting easily.

Not only can it keep up with whatever water sport you're participating in, but it can also keep up with the fish you're trying to catch. You can hook bait to the drone and drop it at your desired location or secure it in the bait container then watch the whole situation unfold.

Another surprising feature is the ability to hook things to the tow line like life jackets or supplies – really, a well thought out feature. And finally, you can upgrade your marine drone with a sonar. A \$750 price tag doesn't seem too bad here.

Editor...Forget hooking bait to this drone, but think of the possibilities of finding fish on our lakes and rivers. No more straining through sun glasses, swinging flies, or tossing streamers hoping to locate just one willing taker to the fly. Perhaps the club should invest in one of these to "rent" out to members from time to time.



John & Joe manning the club booth at the West Michigan Fly Show

Dr. Arno tying at the club booth





Mark Johnson helping out at the silent auction/bucket raffle tables



Anglers of the Au Sable booth

2017 Year-End Review

By: Mark Noel

In 2017 the Red Cedar Fly Fishers once again demonstrated why we are one of the best – if not THE best – fly fishing club in the state. Through our fundraising efforts, we were able to continue to make generous donations to many of the worthy organizations that we support annually. And thanks to the efforts of many of our volunteers at numerous events, we were able to achieve the FFI objective of being strong advocates for the great sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration, and Education programs.

Major donations that we made in 2017 were:

- MSU Scholarship (Fisheries and Wildlife Program): \$1,000
- Anglers of the Au Sable: \$250
- Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program: \$250
- MSU – Project Fish: \$100

Various programs/events that our club members participated in:

- GLC West Michigan Fly Show (Grand Rapids)
- Quiet Waters Symposium (MSU)
- Fly Fishing Swap Meet (Birch Run)
- Veteran fishing event in Genesee County
- Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program (3 occasions)
- Reeling and Healing
- Midwest Fly Fishing Expo (Warren)
- GLC Fly Fishing School & Conclave (Grayling)
- Trout Unlimited / RCFF Annual Conservation Outing (Grayling)
- RCFF Rod & Reel Fundraiser Raffle
- RCFF Annual Club Picnic
- Au Sable River Cleanup
- Fly Casting & Fishing with Kids (Dimondale Elementary School)
- Fly Tying Instruction to MSU Fly Gals
- Fly Tying Instruction to Veterans (2 occasions – Camp Liberty, Jackson)
- Fly Tying Instruction to Occupational Therapists (Origami Brain Injury Center)
- Fly Tying Instruction to Docents & Guests (Michigan Historical Museum)
- Fly Casting Instruction to Veterans (Camp Liberty Open House, Jackson)
- Club Fishing Outings for Members and Guests
- Monthly General Meetings for Members and Guests (September – May)
- Bi-Monthly Fly Tying Sessions for Members and Guests (December – April)

A very special **THANK YOU** to all of you who contributed your time and service in achieving our club accomplishments for the year. Without your efforts, our club would not be the great club that it is!





Field Notes:

- **Important:** 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.



So be on your best behavior when out fly fishing

- Check out the following link for some interesting flies and how this Australian tier crafts them: <http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns-tie-better/meades-crazy-flies>
- *"Put backing on your line, even if you never use it. It helps you dream."*
~ Jimmy D Moore

Refrigerator Reminders

February

9th - National Pizza Day

11th - Club fly tying night at Piazzano's restaurant. 6:00-8:00

13th - Red Cedar club meeting at Giltner Hall, room 273. Hospitality 6:30, meeting 7:00. Program by Todd Gignilliat on his new company Dry Fly Pontoon boats.

18th - Club fly tying night at Piazzano's restaurant. 6:00-8:00

March

3rd - Quiet Water Symposium at MSU Pavilion. For more info go to www.quietwatersociety.org Phil Stevens is looking for volunteers to tie flies. Contact him for sign up times.

4th - Club fly tying night at Piazzano's restaurant. 6:00-8:00

13th - Red Cedar club meeting at Giltner Hall, room 273. Hospitality 6:30, meeting 7:00. Program by Steve Arnoczky on fly fishing the private trout clubs of northwest Ohio.

18th - Club fly tying night at Piazzano's. 6:00-8:00

31st - 4th Annual fly-fishing, kayak, canoe garage sale: 10:00-3:00