

## RCFF Board

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# Tippets, Tapers & Tales

## President's Message - January 2019

Happy New Year! I trust you all had a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or whatever holiday your family chooses?

Not much new to report during this time of the year. The weather has made it difficult to do much outdoors, not enough snow to enjoy skiing, no ice for skating, too cold for fishing.

We have some great programs lined up for the next couple of meetings, so make sure you set your calendars. Mark Noel has some fly tying dates set beginning this month. Bring your tying gear, or a pad and pencil to take notes, or just come on out to enjoy some good company, and reasonably good jokes compliments of our own TG. *(Editor...these are GREAT jokes, way above reasonable).*

The RCFF Board has been working hard to put together a raffle for raising funds for our Club. Funds to be used to sponsor a Grad Student, assist with youth fishing opportunities, help when called on to protect delicate fisheries from misuse.

We will be asking all of our members to assist in this fund raiser by selling tickets to your families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and complete strangers.

Unfortunately it seems the Fly Fishing Show, set for Grand Rapids in February has been cancelled. But many other opportunities are coming this late winter, and early spring to help out in the promoting of our mission.

If you have a chance, let Bob Bawdin know you are thinking of him. He is doing well after his hip replacement surgery according to Marcy. Hopefully he will feel well enough to make our January meeting.

Well, that's all for now. See you on Tuesday the 8th, regular time, regular place.

John R.



### 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

**Most of the Useful Stuff I Know About Flyfishing I Learned from my Cat An homage, by Bob Kren, RCFFer and occasionally Mr. Flyfishersonguy**

No, it's not Tom(cat) Rosenbauer I'm writing about, it's Attila the Hon (2002? – 02December, 2018), a stray, probably a Norwegian Forest cat but who knows? Anyway, as mysterious as cats are alleged to be, you can observe a lot just by looking at one. Or watching one closely, in Attila's case.

First, you've really got to want to fish, urgently want to fish, like Attila's running outside every time I'd open the door. There's no use thinking "well, there's always tomorrow" about it, you've got to be ready to go, have somewhere in mind, and go! Save explanations for later, unless your lady holds the keys to your car, in which case she's probably in possession of other, more vital, items. Take back the, um, items, and take off!

You have to be observant, know where to fish and when – in Attila's case, where the chipmunks and squirrels and other critters hung out. Don't just stride into the water, but rather, look at things, see whether there are fish where you're going to wade, take mental notes, keep a journal. Fish conceal themselves from us and other predators, so find where they're feeding, and watch their escape routes on the occasions when you disturb them. Attila had a way of intercepting fugitives, and you might want to watch where your fleeing quarry goes, so you can fish there, later.

Be patient – Attila could lie for long periods in one place, as low as possible, waiting to see one wrong move, one foolish foray. You've spotted a good lie, you've gotten into position with as little disturbance as possible, and maybe you've even spotted fish – which isn't as easy as it sounds. The first cast is the most effective one, so make it good: Attila didn't get second chances once he'd made his move, and you might not, either. Then again, whereas persistently throwing a streamer to the same spot and expecting action after many casts – which is foolish, after three casts with a streamer, move on – changing a dry fly, or a nymph, anything that dead-drifts, or changing technique, maybe to a dry/dropper, or a cast of wet flies, can often rouse inert prey hanging technique, maybe to a dry/dropper, or a cast of wet flies, can often rouse inert prey.

Alertness, especially using your peripheral vision, and being ready to react to an unexpected rise or a flash of color, is useful onstream as well as in traffic. I swear that AtH could see behind himself, and it's said that a fish's vision includes all directions except a lens-shaped volume behind it: most of that piscine vision is 2-dimensional, again with the exception of a lens-shaped volume in front, above and below. Get da fly in da fish's face, and you have a chance of raising it, dead-drift, but a little motion imparted with your fly off to one side can spur curiosity, too, unless it's too extreme a movement.

Stealth – the slow, low, intense creep of a cat with prey in its sights – is always valuable onstream, and especially in still water. Don't bash the side of your craft with a paddle, or stomp along in a stream, even on gravel: often, fish aren't where you expect them to be, and you're crashing through good water in pursuit of ideal water. There are times of day when even the most sterile-looking stretches contain worthwhile fish.

And there's always humility, the frequent days when Attila didn't bring a dead somethingorother to the door to frighten my wife. You will go fishless, sometimes for quite a while. You will fall down, usually in full view of an appreciative audience. You'll tie a fly that looks like an oil derrick, or a fragment of a meteor, but sometimes the less a fly looks like the picture in the book or the video, the more effective it is. You're out to enjoy yourself, not to impress the other cats, so get over the bad times and revel in the good.

Yes, I own a dog, Sasha Delilah Fierce, who shares few of Attila's characteristics, other than breathing and eating. She's a delight, but certainly no role model for flyfishing, with all her crashing around and swimming and barking and general lack of sophistication. Move like the cat, and you'll do fine.

## What Does A River (or Fish) Owe You? ...*Josh Mills, The Daily Drake*

This year anglers are staring down the barrel of sacrifice. The worst run of summer steelhead headed up the Columbia River and its tributaries in generations is here.

The numbers paint a bleak portrait. Using the 5-year average, we typically see around 215,000 steelhead cross over Bonneville Dam, and of that number more than 100,000 are bound for the Snake River and its tributaries. This year only 95,000 hatchery and wild fish have entered the system. And less than 46,000 steelhead have crossed the last dam at Lower Granite on the Snake.

The story of Idaho's steelhead stock is scarier. Just three years ago more than 40,000 wild fish graced the waters of the Clearwater, Salmon, and the state's other salmonid streams. This year the pace is less than 10,000.

Now a major conflict has erupted between a coalition of six conservation organizations and Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG). As a result IDFG will shutter their season on December 7 in an effort to avoid a lawsuit. The backstory is long and deep. Fingers are pointing everywhere and anywhere. And all this begs the question: What does the river or the fish owe you?

Think about all the time you've given it. All the money you've willfully sacrificed to the obsession. All the flies you've tied. The reels spooled. Spoons constructed. The painstaking detail in which you've arranged your driftboat, sled, or raft. So much care given to so much. Here's the thing, though - none of the aforementioned qualifiers matters.

Guide or obsessed angler, layman or sport... there's nothing you can bank on within the realm of fish or river. There's no tipping scale of fortune that you can influence. Take a week off and drive 20 hours to steelhead Shangri-La only to find a blown out river. Tough shit. Add weather to the list of things you can't control. Wake up at 4 a.m. and someone is already in your spot? Too bad, it's a public resource. Just because you bought a license somewhere doesn't mean you've laid claim to limitless opportunity. If a season needs to close, it needs to close.

Step on a guide boat and think it means you deserve to catch a specific amount of fish because you paid for it? There's a special place in hell for sports like that. Decide to make guiding your career? You better be ready to deal with the good and the bad. The epic returns and bottom of the barrel-scraping years. No matter what your choice to feed your family is, you must be ready to accept when a fishery needs protection. Keep fishing when you shouldn't and you're shooting your own kneecaps off.

And if you're a guide who brags about a boat that catches dozens of salmon or steelhead a day, you're part of the problem. Wouldn't it be better to share the experience than emphasize a meat quest? They'll never remember the special experience that is each fish. And there's nothing special about your fifteenth steelhead in one day.

With salmon and steelhead, we're facing another serious example of a tragedy of the commons. Here we have stakeholders on all sides screaming at each other, for big and petty problems alike. They're not one state's fish. They're not one group's resource. We don't own them.

What we do owe them, however, is constant vigilance and stewardship. No user group above another. We owe them collaboration with a constant eye on the best available science. They deserve anglers to practice conservation anywhere they can, anglers capable of exercising restraint when it's needed.

The sport has given us so much. The rivers and fish are woven into the fabric of our lives. But the minute these fish are gone - they're gone. Atlantic salmon fishers on the East Coast can speak to that. Or ask the dedicated anglers of the Thompson River in B.C. what it's like. A gutted feeling is the common theme.

Finger pointing gets us nowhere. It doesn't matter how you fish, or what you fish with. It doesn't matter how many years you've guided, or how many hours you've driven. Rivers don't care where you're from. They don't care about your family history. Fish do not give a tail flip about your social media following, your movie, or your business. The river owes you nothing. Salmon and steelhead owe you nothing.

**We owe them everything.**

# Make Your Own Lanyard

## *What You'll Need:*

- Parachute or Accessory Cord of Choice
- Weed Whacker Line
- 2 Snap Hook Clasps of Choice (found at any hardware store)
- Shrink Tubing
- Duct Tape

## *Instructions:*

1. Remove nylon core from a length of parachute or accessory cord, leaving just the outer coating. Length depends on what you want the maximum reach of the lanyard to be.
2. Thread weed whacker line through the parachute cord coating.
3. Wrap the cord/weed wacker line tightly around a pencil in touching turns. Tape each end of the cord to the pencil to keep from unraveling.
4. Place the coiled line and pencil into a pot of boiling water for five minutes.
5. Remove from boiling water, and place in freezer or ice water to cool.
6. Once cooled, remove the cord from the pencil and slide a short piece of shrink tubing onto each side.
7. Attach snap hook clasps to each end of the lanyard by doubling over, inserting the end of cord into the shrink tubing, and heating until tight.



Don't forget to keep sending pics to your newsletter editor



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Remember Those New Year's Resolutions You Made on  
January 1st.?

**I Thought The Dryer Made My  
Clothes Shrink.  
Turns Out It Was The  
Refrigerator.**

## The Fishing Obsessive with 250,000 Hooks in His Garage

**THIRTY YEARS AGO, CHRIS REEVES** broke his leg, which is why today he has a double garage full of about 250,000 fishing hooks and 10,000 pounds of animal pelts, feathers, thread and other doodads. A friend thought he'd enjoy making a fishing rod while he was laid up, and he did. He took up the sport and started making flies, the colorful lures that bob from the end of a fisherman's line.

"The first thing I thought was that flies were very expensive so I ought to learn to tie my own," says Reeves. "That turned out to be a huge mistake." Reeves is now a [professional fly tier](#), teaches classes in fly tying and is the general secretary of the Fly Dressers Guild in the United Kingdom where he lives. The guild, which holds meetings, classes, auctions and competitions, now has about 1,500 members and 38 branches devoted to the craft of fly tying.

Tying has morphed into an art of its own; there are makers who craft outrageous flies with butterfly wings, pheasant feathers, Arctic fox hair, exotic bird feathers and lurex, the synthetic material that once made disco pants shiny. Basic flies cost a couple dollars or less, but art flies can cost hundreds and are not destined for a trout's mouth but proudly displayed by collectors.

.....from Atlas Obscura



## New fly-fishing brand aimed at women, designed by Northern Michigan native

When Cara Smith was a teenager growing up in the Traverse City region, she often spent time at her grandparents' house on the Boardman River, sewing fishing rod bags with her grandmother and helping her grandfather tie thread around fly rods.

Smith's grandfather, Bob Summers, isn't your everyday fisherman, though. Summers is a legend in the world of fly fishing -- the angler and craftsman behind the R.W. Summers company, maker of specialty bamboo fly rods.

So earlier this month, when Smith launched [Summers & Co.](#) -- a line of fly fishing apparel designed specifically for women -- the move was more than a natural outgrowth of memorable days spent along the river with her grandparents. It was a continuation of her family's heritage.



"My love for this brand and this idea all started when I moved away to college; I would come home and miss my family, everyone was growing older," Smith says. "You get curious about your grandparents' lives and so that kind of just sparked this whole idea to carry on my grandfather's legacy and brand."

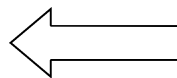


So for her thesis project, Smith developed the Summers & Co. brand: A line of outdoors wear for female anglers. The brand's first conceptual products? Fishing vests, inspired by her grandfather's original request and her own frustration with what was -- or, more pointedly, wasn't -- out there for women.

"[If you] walk into a fly fishing store and ask for a fly fishing vest for women, they always bring you into some back corner and say 'There's this one,' and it's maybe a men's extra-small and still not visually appealing in any way," Smith says.

She envisioned creating clothing that was attractive, practical and lacking the bulk of most men's fishing gear, figuring that might be a way to make the sport more appealing to women. "Having clothing that's more fitted and sleek -- you're more comfortable so therefore you're more confident and you're enjoying what you're doing for longer," she says.

*For the complete article: <https://www.mlive.com/expo/life-and-culture/erry-2018/11/8e5e3596822828/new-flyfishing-brand-aimed-at.html>. Or click on the link for their website to view their product info.*

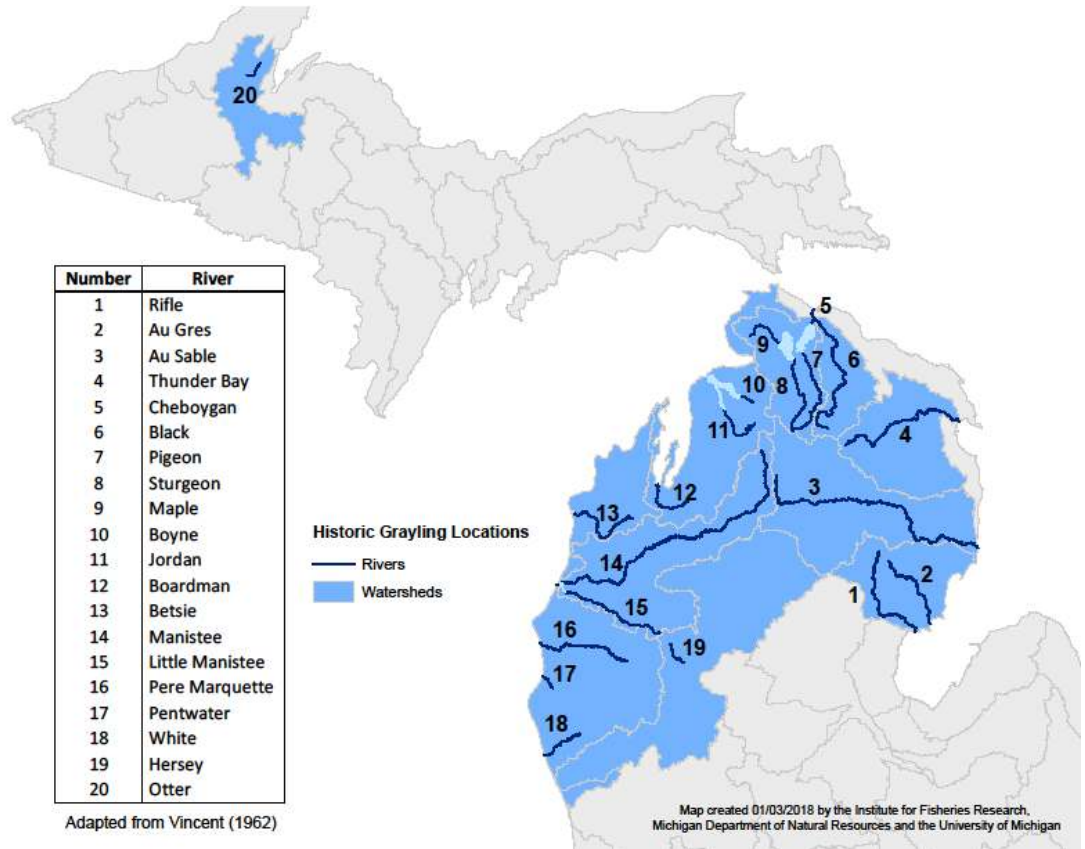


Check out the first club member to model the new shirt. Steven wore this when he was recently in the Panama region.

You may also see a nice size peacock bass in the picture as well caught on a fly.

Catch up with him at an upcoming meeting to get all the details of the trip.

## Grayling Rivers in Michigan



The Arctic Grayling, *Thymallus arcticus*, (Grayling) was historically found in many coldwater streams throughout the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and in one Upper Peninsula stream. Large populations of Grayling flourished in the Manistee and Au Sable Rivers, commanding such importance that one community adopted and bears its namesake. Over a few decades in the late 1800s, the Grayling played a prominent role as both a commercial food fish and as an attractive game fish, and the species is recognized as an important part of Michigan’s history. However, habitat destruction, unregulated harvest, and predation/competition with introduced trout species led to the demise of one of Michigan’s iconic stream salmonids, resulting in Grayling being extirpated from Michigan by 1936.

For more information visit: [www.migrayling.org](http://www.migrayling.org)

Note: The 6th annual fly fishing, kayak, used gear sale will be held April 13th at the Okemos High School. More details to follow but please start now to save/donate your unused items to the Red Cedars to sell as a club fundraiser. Last year we raised over \$500 thanks to your generosity.



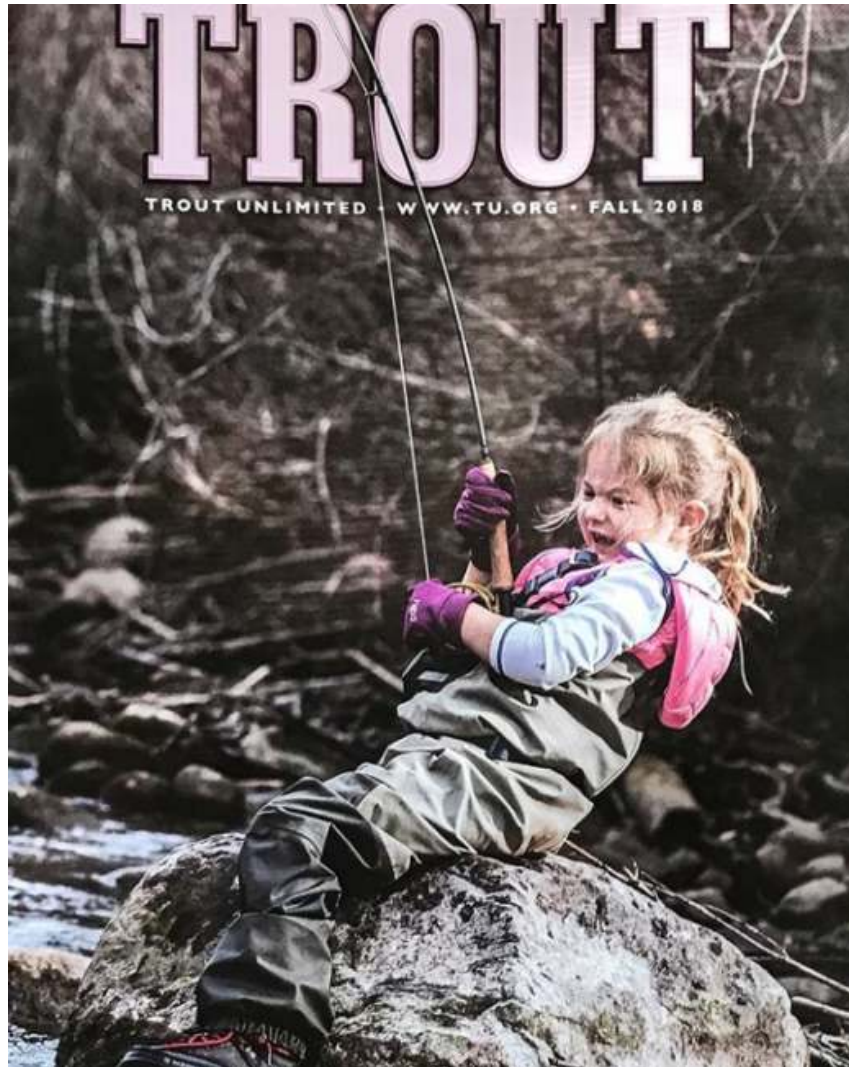
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## Quiz Time

1. What is the state fish of Washington:
  - a. Steelhead
  - b. King Salmon
  - c. Sturgeon
  - d. Silver salmon
2. What is the state fish of Idaho:
  - a. Cutthroat trout
  - b. Rainbow trout
  - c. Brown trout
  - d. Bull trout
3. What is the state fish of Pennsylvania:
  - a. Smallmouth bass
  - b. American shad
  - c. Brook trout
  - d. Brown trout
4. What is the state fish of Colorado:
  - a. Yellowfin cutthroat trout
  - b. Rio Grand cutthroat trout
  - c. Colorado river cutthroat trout
  - d. Greenback cutthroat trout
5. What is the state fish of Oregon:
  - a. Steelhead
  - b. Chinook salmon
  - c. Coho salmon
  - d. Redband rainbow trout
6. What is the state fish of Hawaii:
  - a. Nuu Faaola
  - b. Humuhumunukunukuapua'a
  - c. Oio
  - d. Humunuhumunuh
7. What are the state fish of Virginia:
  - a. False albacore and brown trout
  - b. Smallmouth bass and brook trout
  - c. Largemouth bass and brown trout
  - d. Striped bass and brook trout
8. What is the state fish of Texas:
  - a. Largemouth bass
  - b. Spotted seatrout
  - c. Guadalupe bass
  - d. Tarpon
9. What are the state fish of Vermont:
  - a. Brook trout & walleye
  - b. Brook trout & Atlantic salmon
  - c. Brook trout & Atlantic shad
  - d. Brook trout & northern pike
10. What is the state fish of Connecticut:
  - a. Striped bass
  - b. American shad
  - c. Bluefish
  - d. Alewife
11. What is the state fish of Montana:
  - a. Artic grayling
  - b. Bulltrout
  - c. Mountain whitefish
  - d. Cutthroat trout
12. What is the state fish of Maine:
  - a. Landlocked salmon
  - b. Smallmouth bass
  - c. Brook trout
  - d. Striped bass
13. What is the state fish of Michigan:
  - a. Brook trout
  - b. Northern pike
  - c. Brown trout
  - d. Coho salmon
14. What is the state fish of Wisconsin:
  - a. Muskellunge
  - b. Walleye
  - c. Northern pike
  - d. Brook trout
15. What is the state fish of Wyoming:
  - a. Rainbow trout
  - b. Mountain whitefish
  - c. Cutthroat trout
  - d. Flannelmouth sucker
16. What is the state fish of Alaska:
  - a. King salmon
  - b. Artic grayling
  - c. Red salmon
  - d. Rainbow trout



Remember the camera shot from December and the fly-line box? You never know who may use it down the road?

Here's a 7 year old fighting and landing an 18" brown that made the fall cover of TU's magazine.

She had to ask her Dad which way to wind the reel when the trout hit the fly and didn't want a pic as she needed to get it back in the water quickly.

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### Four Major Dam-Removal Projects To Keep an Eye on in the Coming Year

In the past 30 years, 1,275 dams have been [torn down](#), according to the nonprofit American Rivers, which works on dam-removal and river-restoration projects. Why remove dams? Some are simply old and unsafe—the average age of U.S. dams is 56 years. It would cost American taxpayers almost \$45 billion to repair our aging, high-hazard dams, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. In some cases it's simply cheaper to remove them.

Klamath River, California and Oregon

Patapsco River, Maryland

Middle Fork Nooksack River, Washington

Grand River, Michigan



6th Street dam, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Removal of this and other small dams on the Grand River will increase rapids for whitewater fans. To read the article paste the link below in your browser:

<https://www.adventure-journal.com/2018/11/four-major-dam-removal-projects-to-keep-an-eye-on-in-the-coming-year/>

## Fly Fishing Vehicles



## More Fishing Terms Explained

**Catch & Release** - A conservation motion that happens most often right before the local Fish and Game officer pulls over a boat that has caught over its limit.

**Hook** - 1. A curved piece of metal used to catch fish. 2. A clever advertisement to entice a fisherman to spend his life savings on a new rod and reel. 3. The punch administered by said fisherman's wife after he spends their life savings, (see also, Right Hook, Left Hook).

**Line** - Something you give your co-workers when they ask on Monday how your fishing went the past weekend.

**Lure** - An object that is semi-enticing to fish, but will drive an angler into such a frenzy that he will charge his credit card to the limit before exiting the tackle shop.

**Reel** - A weighted object that causes a rod to sink quickly when dropped overboard.

**Rod** - An attractively painted length of fiberglass that keeps an angler from ever getting too close to a fish.

**School** - A grouping in which fish are taught to avoid your \$29.99 lures and hold out for Spam instead.

**Tackle** - What your last catch did to you as you reeled him in, but just before he wrestled free and jumped back overboard.

**Tackle Box** - A box shaped alarmingly like your comprehensive 'first aid kit'. Only a tackle box contains many sharp objects, so that when you reach in the wrong box blindly to get a Band Aid, you soon find that you need more than one.

**Test** - 1. The amount of strength a fishing line affords an angler when fighting fish in a specific weight range. 2. A measure of your creativity in blaming "that darn line" for once again losing the fish.

### DIY Fly Drying Patch



#### What You'll Need:

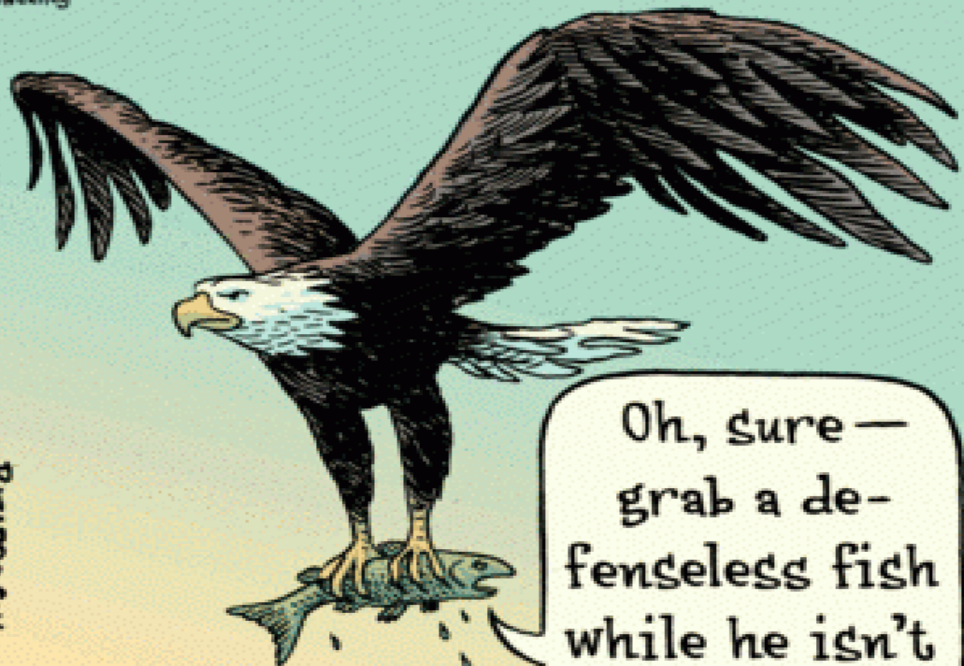
- 1/4" Craft foam (color of your choice)
- Some old credit cards, club cards, or other rigid plastic cut to size
- X-Acto knife
- Ruler or straight edge
- 1.5" bar pins and/or Velcro
- Pinking shears
- Adhesive such as 5-minute epoxy, 3M #77, Aquaseal, or Loctite Vinyl Fabric & Plastic (for Velcro only)

Paste this link in your browser for the instructions: <https://tenkaratalk.com/2018/11/a-diy-fly-drying-patch/>

MAYBE IF WE TELL PEOPLE THE BRAIN IS AN APP, THEY'LL START USING IT.



© Bizarro 12-16-08  
W/ Cawenry

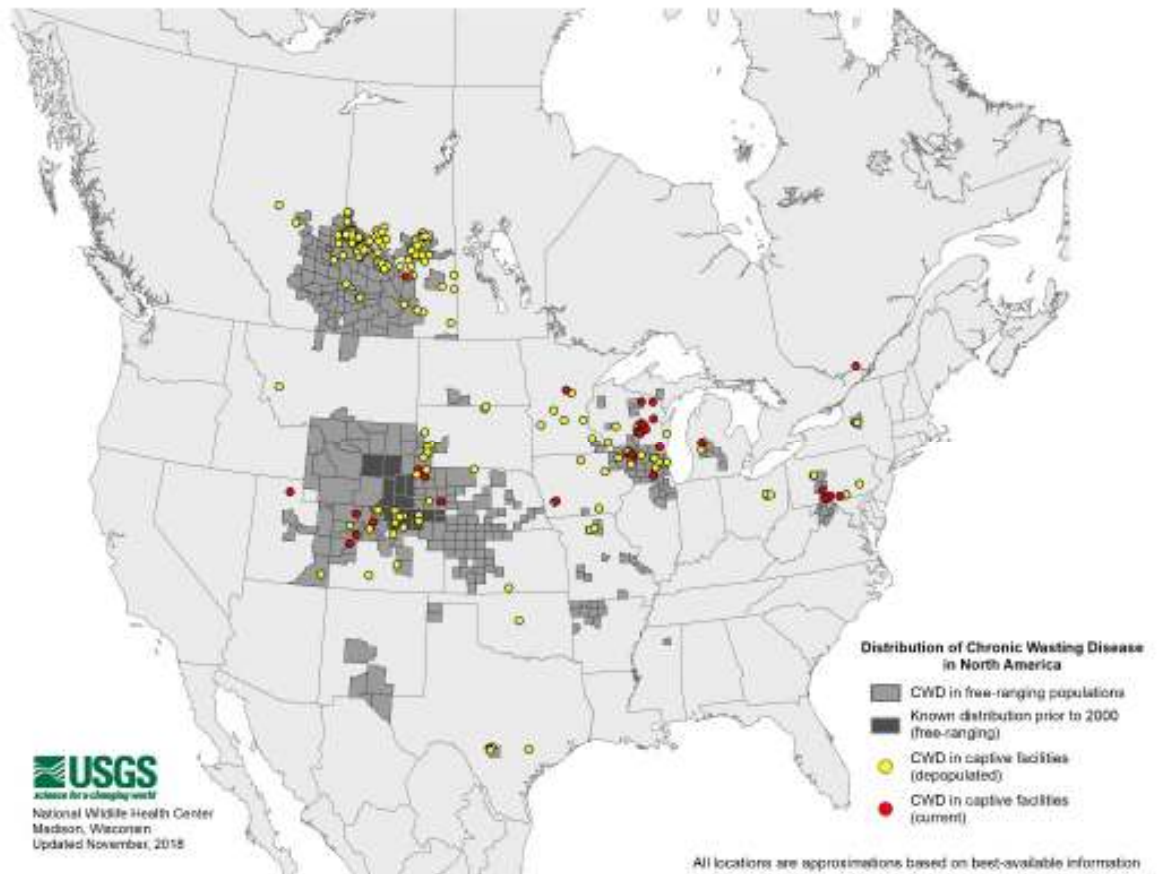


Oh, sure —  
grab a de-  
fenseless fish  
while he isn't  
looking. Big,  
tough guy!

BIZARRO.COM  
Pict. by King Features

TO MOCK A KILLINGBIRD

**Not fishing but we do have several members who go deer waiting.**  
 Chronic Wasting Disease Hits Mule Deer In Grand Teton National Park



“We need to immediately end the artificial feeding of elk,” Dorsey said. “And along with it, we need to conserve wolves, bears, coyotes and mountain lions that are the best natural tools we have to hopefully slow the progression of this terrible disease.” *For more info paste this into your browser:*

<https://mountainjournal.org/dreaded-wildlife-disease-arrives-in-grand-teton-national-park>

**Notice: Citizen Science Participation Opportunity**

Phoebe Aron, a doctoral student at the University of Michigan, is involved in a study of oxygen isotopes in surface waters that can offer insights into hydrological cycles, climate and paleoclimatic conditions. Here’s a brief summary of the research project:

Phoebe’s collecting crowdsourced water samples in order to generate a dataset of triple oxygen isotopes in the hydrosphere. Over 70 people have collected more than 600 water samples from 5 continents and 27 countries. Sample collection is still ongoing and she’s recruiting people to collect waters from North American rivers.

She’s interested particularly in obtaining water samples from streams in Kalamazoo County, the central & eastern Lower Peninsula, and in the Upper Peninsula.

Please contact Phoebe directly at: [paron@umich.edu](mailto:paron@umich.edu) for more info and to let her know if you, or the club would be interested in assisting in data collection.

### Field Notes:

- **Quiz:** 1 - a, 2 - a, 3 - c, 4 - d, 5 - b, 6 - b, 7 - d, 8 - c, 9 - a, 10 - b, 11 - d, 12 - a, 13 - a, 14 - a, 15 - c, 16 - a
- “The difference between genius and stupidity is genius has it’s limits” ~ Albert Einstein



One more fishing vehicle: Pinzgauer

[www.redcedarflyfishers.org](http://www.redcedarflyfishers.org)

- 25th Annual Fishing Line Cleanup Results in partnership with Audubon Florida. Volunteers removed 394 pieces of fishing line totaling 12,578 feet, while also removing 196 hooks around Tampa Bay’s nesting islands.
- “There are a lot of advantages to being self-taught. Quality of instruction is not one of them.” ~ Ted Leeson
- Interesting article by researchers at **Michigan State University:** <https://psmag.com/environment/the-heavy-costs-of-hydroelectric-dams>

### Refrigerator Reminders

#### January

- 1st** - Yep, once again you have to remember to put the 2019 on the checks you write
- 8th** - Red Cedar club meeting, Giltner Hall, MSU, 6:30 hospitality, 7:00 meeting: Phil Stevens will offer a program on his Iceland trip
- 13th** - Club fly tying night at Piazzano’s 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
- 21st** - Squirrel appreciation day - the tails especially!
- 27th** - Club fly tying night at Piazzano’s 6:00 - 8:00 pm

#### February

- 2nd** - Ground Hog day, also known as more fly tying material day
- 10th** - Club fly tying night at Piazzano’s 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 12th** - Red Cedar club meeting, Giltner Hall, MSU, 6:30 hospitality, 7:00 meeting: Jerry Regan, tier extraordinaire, will provide a power point presentation on classic AuSable flies along with tying a few of these patterns.
- 24th** - Club fly tying night at Piazzano’s 6:00 - 8:00 pm

