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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - November 2017

Greetings Red Cedars,

I hope you were able to attend the October meeting. Mark Noel gave an excellent presentation on taking more than your run-of-the-mill "grin and shoot" photographs. He not only covered common and not so common mistakes, but also showed us specific examples with pictures from his many fishing adventures. (I'm surprised you haven't given us a presentation on a couple of these trips!) Thank you SO MUCH, Mark, for all those tips (not to mention those pictures)!!! Now where did I bury that Pentax manual .



By the way, I hope you were able to do like Mark, and get out on the water during those last extended weeks of warm weather. Several of Mark's photo examples were from the Au Sable river just two weeks before our October meeting. He reported he had the river practically to himself, and the pictures were a wonderful reminder of the beauty and serenity that our sport offers when you get out to wet a line. It just reinforces Phil Stevens closing comment in wrapping up his September presentation on fishing in Alaska, "just get out there!"

And as excellent as Phil and Mark's presentations have been, I am REALLY excited about our November meeting! We've all been reading and hearing about the impact invasive species are having on our lakes and rivers, not only in Michigan, but around the country. So we are very lucky to get Dr. Jo Latimore, Aquatic Ecologist and Outreach Specialist from MSU's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to talk to us about aquatic invasive species and what we need to know about them. After all the media hype and handed-down info, it will be very refreshing to get the real scoop on what they are, how they impact our fisheries, and what we can do to help improve the situation. I urge you to clear your calendars and make it a point to make it to this meeting! It WILL be well worth it!

Tight Lines!



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

The Next James Bond



Check out the audition by one of our own club members and his new ride: Talk about a quick way to get to the river when you're in a hurry. Way to go Mr. Augustine. Paste this one in your browser for Dick's new fishin' vehicle.

<http://www.jaguartheaudition.com/Detroit/17387158>

Tying Tip #647.5

When you feel a sneeze coming-

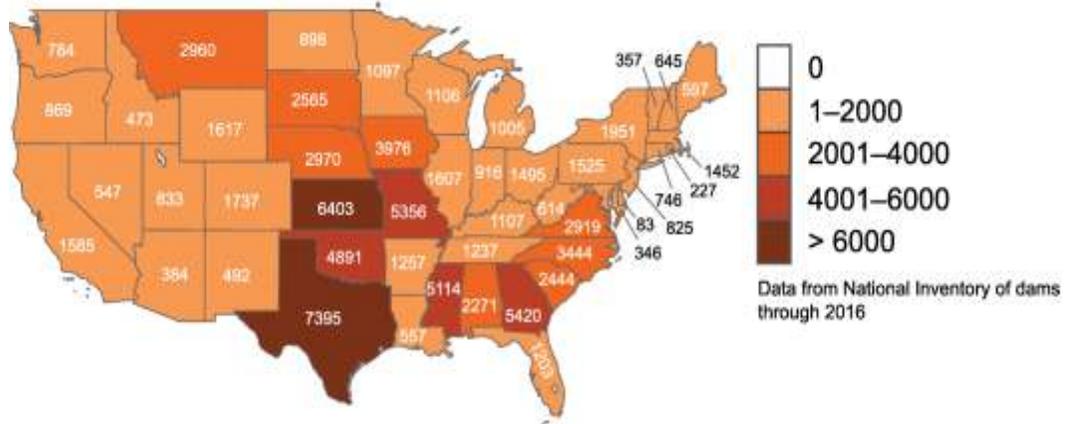
Remember to turn your head!



Water Resource Research (an AGU Journal)

Study: Rivers Recover Faster Than Expected After Dam Removal

A. Number of dams



B. Dams removed



C. Dams removed with published research or monitoring



From: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2017WR020457/full>



Steven and Terry training the two therapists Jessica and Mackenzie at Origami Rehab on beginning tying. The goal is to have them can work with their patients to develop and improve fine motor skills as part of their recovery.



State administrative judge recommends permit changes

But the permit is still a disaster for the Au Sable

We've won some changes to the proposed state pollution discharge permit for the Harrietta-Grayling fish farm, but they don't go nearly far enough to ensure the farm operates in a way that doesn't pose great danger to the Au Sable.

We are still opposed to the permit, and hope that Department of Environmental Quality Director Heidi Grether will reject it.

Just a little background: The state Department of Environmental Quality issued a permit for Dan Vogler's use of the former state hatchery on the East Branch of the Au Sable, allowing him to use the antiquated flow-through facility essentially as his open sewer for the fish he raises. Anglers has vociferously opposed this permit, since it would allow pollutants, disease and escaped fish to enter the Au Sable. Based on past experiences around the nation, these fish farms on blue ribbon trout streams have a high likelihood of creating big problems.

We challenged the permit and went through a long hearing. The Administrative Law Judge ended up recommending the director approve the permit with a few changes. Director Grether reviewed the revised permit and our challenge, and said we were right when we said the state had the authority to also address whirling disease in the permit (which the ALJ had omitted).

So this week we received the "Proposal for Decision on Remand from the Director." This is Judge Daniel Pulter's proposal for decision as relates to Whirling Disease. The permit now calls for annual testing of fish in the farm (before the spring runoff). If the fish show whirling disease, all fish in the farm have to be discarded.

In addition, Vogler has to test downstream from the farm to see if tubifex worms are increasing. They are an intermediate host for whirling disease.

This marks the first time the permit has included a provision for testing outside of the farm's boundaries, which is a big step.

But the bottom line is this permit still fails miserably in protecting the river.

Meanwhile, we are also in Crawford County Circuit Court, attacking the permit and the fish farm from that venue.

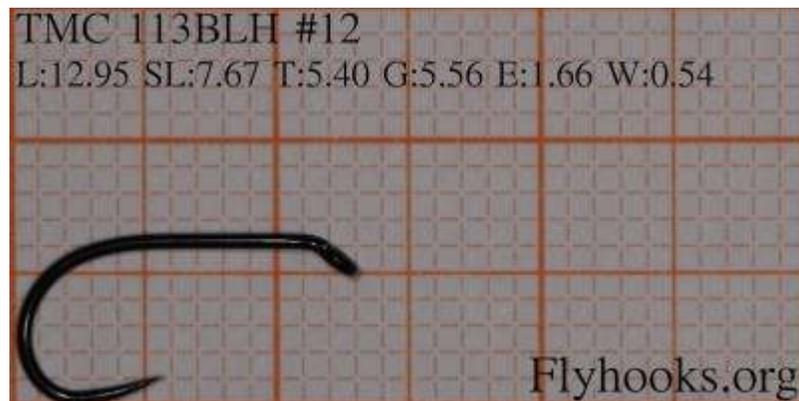
Our position has not changed: Any fish farm at this location should not be polluting the Au Sable. We don't oppose a fish farm, as long as it uses the right protections for the river, the kind of technology used at the state's own Platte River hatchery. The river's protection needs to be the state's top priority. That's smart for fish, anglers, the river economy and property owners.

And I'd like to make my first request to you as new president for a contribution today. These legal battles cost money, for lawyers and experts. If you can, please visit www.ausableanglers.com and make a contribution today. Your river needs you.

Joe Hemming
President

Ever wonder how many hook manufactures there are?

A Jensen	Ahrex	Akita
Alec Jackson	Allcock	Allen
Blue Heron	Caleri	Claw
Dai-Riki	Daiichi	Demmon
Devaux	Dohiku	Ellipse
Fulling Mill	Gaelic Supreme	Gamakatsu
Grip	Hanak	Hends
Herter's	Kamasan	Ken Sawada
Knapek	Midgar	Mustad
Ouchless	Owner	Partridge
Sealey	Talon	Tiemco
Varivas	VMC	Firehole



Every hook has the following numbers:

- **L:** Length of hook
- **SL:** Shank length
- **T:** Throat length
- **G:** Gape height
- **E:** Eye width
- **W:** Wire thickness

Trout fishing the fall: Tackling low water

If you're intent on chasing trout, you need to hunt your fish, more so than in any other condition. If you don't already wear camouflage or otherwise drab clothing, do so. Examine the water you intend to fish from a high bank or rock if you can without hulking over the pool. Low-powered binoculars may be helpful. When approaching the water, stay low, walk slowly, mind your shadow, and try to avoid crunching on rocks and gravel. Stay out of the water if at all possible, as wakes and vibrations are much more obvious in slow moving water and will spook fish.

This is, in my opinion, crucial, and often overlooked. Check your local hunting regulations before heading into public land that gets heavy hunting pressure dressed in camouflage or drab. If hunters are required to wear blaze orange on that date, so should you. Your safety outweighs stealth.

FISH COVER Submerged logs, boulders—fish it if you've got it. However, often times when water drops significantly, traditional cover, often found on the edges of rivers, becomes exposed. Thus, elements like shadows, riffles, and rock edges become the best cover available—anything that might hide a fish from above.

Furthermore, as water drops, oxygenating mechanisms like plunge pools and heavy riffles are subdued. Water is also generally warmer than it would be during the spring, late-fall, or winter. Thus oxygen can become low, and fish will be drawn to high-oxygen, thermal refuges, like the heads of prominent pools, springheads, and the mouths of heavily shaded tributaries.

FISH LOW LIGHT Low water is almost always exceptionally clear. Fish become very spooky in clear water, and, if you have brown trout, they may become nocturnal or particularly crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk). So fish when the light is low—early and late in the day, or during periods of poor weather.

LIGHTEN YOUR RIG With glassy, slow water, it may pay to go light. Start with your typical rig, and lighten or lengthen your tippet if you get consistent refusals or aren't catching fish. If your fly line hitting the water spooks fish excessively, consider underlining if you fish a rod with an action that will allow it. Try to avoid fishing a smaller rod, as this will only prolong the fight, increasing the possibility that the fish will not recover.

OUTCOMPETE THE LEAF HATCH Defoliating times differ, but, generally, by the end of September or early October, fallen leaves and other organic matter will begin to clutter the water. It's my theory that the "leaf hatch" can hide some offerings from the trout, minimizing your chances of hooking one. To combat this, consider upsizing your nymphs a size, fishing dark colors, or fishing streamers. If dead-drifting isn't earning takes, impart small twitches, even to your nymphs and dry flies. It might be all it takes to distinguish it from drifting debris.

SCOUT Maybe the most beneficial thing you can do for your fall fishing season is scouting for fall spawning sites when the water is low in September. Both brook and brown trout are fall spawners, and the spawning period represents the greatest opportunity to tangle with a large specimen of the latter. Spend a day walking several miles of big brown trout water, keeping an eye out for stretches of river with the ideal pea-gravel bottom, as well as overhead cover, shade, and flow (oxygen). When the full moon in October rolls around, you'll be able to target the holding water near these spots to catch big browns on the move. Never target redds or actively spawning fish. They are in the midst of an activity too critical to the future of fishing to be interrupted.

DON'T In many locations that only marginally support trout, water temperatures in September and early October can be on the warm extreme of the species' tolerance range. Part of being a responsible angler is knowing when to leave sensitive fish alone. Take water temperatures where you fish to ensure that the environment is suitable for fish to recover after a fight.

When the air turns crisp and the mountains catch fire with the dying embers of a long summer, but the streamflows are still bottomed out, consider these tips in making the most of low water, and begin your journey in conquering what is probably the most difficult and discouraging of fishing conditions.

So you're out on the lake or river and it's very hot with temps in the high 90's. Usually it's suntan lotion, wide hat, buff, hoodie, chapstick, etc. to solve the sun problem. Here's another new item to check out when you're headed to your campsite in the wilderness.



TRAFI offers a line of hybrid tent/packcraft/sleep systems that let you sleep in your packraft. A tent mounts on the raft to protect paddlers from sun and wind. Pull it on shore and snooze in comfort. There's also a retrofit kit to add a tent and sleep system to an existing raft. Offered in 96" and 102" models, these hit the market starting at \$900.



Just in case you're looking for that perfect Christmas gift for a certain newsletter editor.

Here's the new Marc Petitjean limited edition fly tying vise complete with all of the accessories that does everything but thread the bobbin.

For more info head over to his website at:

www.petitjean.com

Perfect color & a price that should be no problem!

Ike and Julie

by Bob Kren, Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy and RCFFer

He: Whoa! You startled me! Didn't see you standing there.

She: Just watching you fish, just watching your form, as it were.

He: Thanks, I think.

She: You come here often?

He: Oh, yes, all these places for miles and miles around here are my favorites.

She: Mine, too.

He: You look familiar.

She: So do you. I've heard of you, at least I've seen your pictures and read your book. You sure could use Spell-checker, Ike.

He: Right back atcha. You're Dame Juliana Berners, not so?

She: That's me. Call me Julie. And you're Izaak Walton, or I never cast to a rising trout.

He: One and the same. Pleased to meet you. Call me Ike. But then again, you already have.

She: I notice you're using the latest flyrod, casting a pretty long line, there.

He: I gave up worms and dapping years ago -- seems like centuries. Strictly flies, no-kill, and catch-and-release.

She: Always was that way with me, but for the "no kill" and "release" parts. Weren't Tonkin rods a blessing, and I really appreciated it when silk lines were repealed! -- all that dressing and cleaning.

He: And leaders, soaking catgut for days. How'd they get that gut out of those cats?

She: Now you're just being silly. I simply can't get enough of this new stuff, new things, new goodies. What's a girl to do?

He: But I still like to wear the old clothes.

She: Me, too. Got all these patches on them.

He: Yeah, I noticed. You sure do belong to a lot of clubs, and you've been to plenty of shows and Conclaves.

She: In spirit, if you know what I mean. Strange I didn't see you at any.

He: I wasn't looking to be seen. I work in the background, giving inspiration now and again, but letting the people in the clubs and organizations do the real work. Isn't it amazing how well they do?

She: River cleanups, youth fishing programs, and it seems like only in the last few years.

He: . . . tying lessons. Oop! Fish on! See you in a couple of minutes.

She: I'll be here. (Time passes.)

She: Well, you're back. No fish, I see. Lose him? Break off? Release it?

He: Release. Like I said, haven't kept a fish in years. Just the fun of catching 'em, seeing 'em, touching 'em, and putting 'em back. Learned that from Joe Brooks and Ray Ovington the other day. And Lee Wulff.

She: It's getting on toward lunch. How's about joining me? I've got a picnic basket up in my truck. Tunafish sandwiches.

He: I've got a hamperful of food back at my campsite, too. That'd be fun.

She: You know, it's strange that we'd meet in a place like this, so nice and all.

He: You're right. It's almost as though we'd died and gone to

She: Yeah. Michigan.

Geezer truths.....absolutely nothing to do with fly fishing

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
4. Map Quest or Google Maps really need to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
5. Bad decisions make good stories.
6. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
7. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection... again.
8. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
9. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
10. I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Light than Kay.
11. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
12. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.
14. The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

FOUR RULES TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:

1. Money cannot buy happiness - but it's far more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy - but remember the asshole's name.
3. If you help someone when they're in trouble - they will remember you when they're in trouble again.
4. Alcohol does not solve any problems - but then, neither does milk.



Don Sawyer with a very large October chinook from the Manistee



Ask Dennis O'Brien where this is in Montana from his August trip

Timeless Tips Lancing Fish Without a Net

The ability to “tail” a fish, that is, the ability to land fish safely and effectively without a net is a skill every angler should possess. After all, we’ve all been on a trip where the net didn’t make it in the back of the vehicle. Regardless, the old adage reigns true; if you want to catch the biggest trout of your life, leave the net and camera at home.

Many steelhead and salmon anglers actually prefer to fish without a net. A net worthy of landing large anadromous species, particularly those that are few and far between, can be a bit cumbersome while wading and some would argue that they’re also worse on the fish.

Regardless of what you fish for, tailing fish is a worth while skill and the following tips will help you land more fish, safely release more fish, and protect your gear in the process.

- 1. The Honorable Foot.** The old days of “beaching” fish are gone. If keeping fish is your prerogative, then playing fish into inches of water is surely a quick and effective method of landing them. However, if your goal is to release fish, beaching them is a sure-fire way to increase the chance of mortality upon release. So if you plan on releasing your fish, please land it in at least a foot of water. We call this the Honorable Foot and it’s a solid rule to fish by.
- 2. Get the Fish Upstream.** A common mistake made when tailing fish is grabbing at the leader with the fish directly below the angler. Doing so allows the current to put maximum strain on the leader and fly usually ending in an unexpected head shake causing the fly to slip, the hook to bend out, or the leader to break. Instead try not to grab the leader until you’ve coaxed the fish to a position directly in front or upstream of you. This results in less strain on the leader and a better angle between your leader and fly as you make your approach.
- 3. Let is Slip.** Whether fishing a single hand or two handed rod, any 9 to 15 foot rod doesn’t make grabbing the leader particularly easy on a fish. However, the easiest method for getting a hold of the leader before tailing a fish is as follows. Once you’ve tired out, not exhausted, your fish and have brought it to within a rod’s length away from you, pinch your line against the cork with your rod hand and use your line hand to strip excess line off the reel. Once you’re comfortable with your position of the fish, raise your rod high and slightly behind you while allowing the excess line to slip through the guides. This will cause the line to fall close in front of you, allowing you to grab the fly line. Then simply hand over hand the line as you approach to tail your quarry. Many steelhead anglers utilize the minimal drag of classic click-pawl reels to create a similar effect by allowing the reel to free spool in order to grab the line as well.
- 4. Keep Your Leader Out of the Guides.** A simple but common mistake made when performing the tip above is reeling past the leader-fly line connection. Be cautious that the loop to loop or nail knot between your leader and fly line is not in the guides when performing “the slip” as the subtle catch of the connection in the guides could cause enough force for a break off.
- 5. Make the Grab Count.** In attempts to be gentle to a prized fish, some anglers attempt to grab the wrist of the caudal softly. We understand that there are good intentions here, but this usually results in a sudden burst of energy, causing the fish to slip free of the grasp and prolong the fight further. Time is the biggest threat to the well being of a fish, so make your grab count in order to send the fish on its way as quickly as possible. Still having trouble holding on? Consider a landing glove for a quicker, safer, and more effective grip.
- 6. Lay Your Rod Downstream.** Once you have control of the leader and/or the tail of the fish, make sure your rod is pointing downstream. Many anglers when caught up in the excitement of a well fought battle, drop their rod in the most convenient direction of the moment they get their hands on their fish. However, laying the rod down pointed upstream often causes the fly line to wrap around the rod tip. Should the fish slip free with an unexpected burst of energy, this all too often results in a broken rod tip. Make sure your rod tip is pointed downstream and the current will aid in straightening out the fly line while you tend to your fish, greatly reducing the chance of a broken rod.

Along with Mark Noel's October program, here's an additional tip from Louis Cahill.

Tell the Story With Fewer Photos

From Gink & Gasoline. For the complete article check out his Oct. 12, 2017 article.

One of the first things I learned as a photographer was that the best way to take a good photo is to take a lot of photos. That doesn't mean that you show a lot of photos. Each photo of any given event creates its own unique reality for that event. That's the nature of freezing a moment in time. Every moment is unique. Since the photographer, whether they realize it or not, always has their own interpretation of that event it is generally best represented by one, or at most, a few images.

It's a common flaw in new photographers to be enamored with the process and want to share every image with anyone who will take the time to look.

What the photographer doesn't realize is that they are eroding the image of the event, and even their own skill. The greater the number of images you show, the less special they are. One perfect image can spark the imagination, while a handful can spoil the illusion.

Be a merciless editor.

Better to show one great image from a trip than a hundred so-so images. I'm generally brutal in my first edit, producing only a handful of images from a trip. After a while, maybe a year or two, I'll go back and I usually find something I didn't see the first time around. An added benefit to this approach is that you will become more thoughtful in your approach as you spend more time analyzing your images during editing.



Field Notes:

- Interesting method in tying:
<https://truttatblog//.com/2016/09/13/reverse-flies-upside-down-and-the-other-way-around/>
- 2nd - Interesting website in fly tying: check it out
<http://flytyingnewandold.blogspot.com/>
- Have a truck with a cap and also sliding glass windows in between the cabin and back end then this is the rod transporter for you:
(<https://www.anglingtrade.com/2017/10/02/rod-mounts-unveils-rod-up-interior-rod-rack/>)
- For those saltwater fisher-people.....<http://www.saltyflytying.com>
- Looking to buy or sell fly fishing gear? Don't forget that we offer a free classified section in the newsletter for our members.
- "Maybe your stature as a fly fisherman isn't determined by how big a trout you can catch, but by how small a trout you can catch without being disappointed." — John Gierach



Refrigerator Reminders

November

11th - 12th - International Fly Tying Symposium - Lancaster, PA

14th - Red Cedar club meeting at Giltner Hall, MSU campus room 273. Hospitality 6:30, meeting at 7:00. Dr. Jo Latimore, MSU's Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife program on invasive species

December

3rd - RCFF fly tying night - Piazano's restaurant - 6:30 - 8:30

12th - Red Cedar club meeting at a location to be determined. Hospitality 6:30, meeting at 7:00

17th - RCFF fly tying night - Piazano's restaurant - 6:30 - 8:30