

RCFF Board

President  
Herb Drake

Past President  
Jim Buscetta

President Elect  
John Ross

Secretary  
Dennis O'Brien

Treasurer  
Bob Bawden

Education Chair  
John Ross

Banquet Chair  
Vacant

Conservation Chair  
John Ross

Librarian  
Phil Stevens

Newsletter Editor  
Mark Johnson

Membership  
Mark Noel

**Inside this issue:**

- President's Message 1
- Christmas Presents 2
- Quote of the Month 3
- Winter Ramblings 3
- Reminders 5

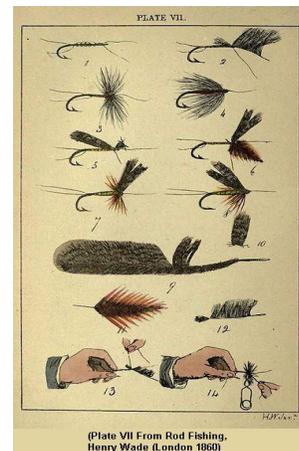
# Tippetts, Tapers & Tales

February 1, 2014

## President's Message

Let's just think Spring. I'm through with thinking about Winter. I have moved more snow this year than in any previous year I can think of. I guess I got spoiled by last year's lack of the white, fluffy stuff. You all get a reprieve this month as I'll be in Philadelphia for a week of some work-related training. And, I won't have to move snow for five or six days. John Ross will be presiding along with the Michigan DNR Fisheries Director, Jim Dexter. For those of you who did the AuSable River clean-up, he was in the lead of our group with Bruce Pregler of the Anglers of the AuSable. Speaking of which, many of you may already know that at the Dec. 12 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission, it was announced that there will be no oil or gas exploration around the Holy Waters in the near future. Keep alert for any changes or efforts to protect more of our fishery resources. My fly-tying has been slowly on-

going. I hope to be at the next session on the 16th and learn some stuff and do a bit more serious tying. May get some additional tying done at the QWS at MSU March 1. In the physically unable to perform category, I stepped off a curb and into a parking lot pot-hole a couple weeks ago and tore up some structure in my ankle. No broken bones and what I thought would heal in a week or two has been estimated to take up to 8 weeks. This means that my indoor Winter bike and running training won't happen. I was looking forward to "completing" my first-ever 5K in April. I may still attend, but more so in the walking category. This also affects my bike riding to prepare for the DALMAC, Lansing to Mackinaw bike ride around Labor Day. Hopefully, all will be well so I can get in the miles outdoors. I was really hoping to get a lot of response about the proposed club fishing trip this coming season. I've gotten a few re-



sponses and a couple ideas. I think this would be a great opportunity to just do some fishing and some adult-centered relaxation away from the worries of the "big city." Hopefully, John will drum up some additional interest and some ideas. Please give this some consideration. Finally, I've sent out the notice to MSU that the RCFF will award an educational grant this year. We will award \$1000.00 for the winning essay. See you either at Piazano's or in March. Herb

**RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS**  
Ontonagon, Michigan

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

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

## Christmas Presents

I'm sure you have read or heard others try to explain their love of fishing, particularly fly fishing, to folks who are curious or just don't get it. Often they are loaded questions asked by people who have an agenda and are trying to bait the author into the conversation they want to have. "How can you justify the torture of poor defenseless creatures for your amusement?" "Aren't you the least bit concerned about the pain you are inflicting on these fish?"

These articles got me thinking about my own love of fishing and why I enjoy it so much. What is it about wading, casting, hooking and landing fish that I enjoy? What is so thrilling about racing out after work to get in a couple hours of "relaxation"? Who would think getting up at O-dark-thirty to drive two or three hours for six, eight, or even twelve more hours of hard work and frustration, trying to locate and coax a Steelhead into taking your best tied offering?

Mosquitoes, black flies, sunburn, frozen toes and fingers, frequent dunkings after a misstep, and yet I cannot stay away, nor do I want to.

I know a lot of folks, mostly guys, who like to fish from boats, particularly in the "big water" and reel in Salmon from a charter. This holds no interest to me. I like a boat ride as much as the next guy, but I like to be more involved in the process. Fishing is like hunting the way I do it. Stealth, finding, and fooling a fish, especially with my own fly, is the heart of it for me. Wading gives me the feeling of being connected to the water and the fishes environment. I have to be moving at all times. One or two casts is all they get. Take it or leave it, hungry fish will eat if an appetizing meal presents itself. Much like myself when you wave a cheeseburger in front of me. So what does all this have to do with Christmas presents? I like fishing because each cast is like a wrapped

**By: John Ross**

gift. Every time I lay a fly on the water I can be surprised and delighted, or perhaps I get socks. There is an anticipation that goes with every presentation. I could look at my Christmas presents for months and be satisfied with anticipation. Some folks cannot stand to let them be, they have to poke, prod, and shake them to see if they can guess the contents. Not knowing if I am going to receive a new fly rod, or a lump of coal. Is this cast going to get me a 20 incher, or a chub? Watching your fly disappear into a silvery green flash of teeth and attitude from a pike, or the sound of a popper being sucked into the bucket like mouth of a smallie, to be followed by a bull dog fight. These are Christmas presents to me. Full of anticipation, not knowing, eagerly anticipating what might be? I love these things.

## Quote of the Month

By: Mark Noel

These brook trout will strike any fly you present, provided you don't get close enough to present it."

-- Dick Blalock

## February's Presentation

By: Mark Johnson

As Herb mentioned in his president's message, this month we will have DNR Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter as our presenter. This meeting has no specific topic but will be more of an open format to ask questions and have discussions related to Michigan fisheries. This is a great opportunity to have a chance to get answers to questions you may have so plan on attending this month's meeting. We will also have our usual monthly raffle and we will be discussing other items of im-

portance to the club. Coming up in a few weeks is the Quiet Water Symposium out at the MSU Pavilion and we usually have a club presence there to tie flies and talk about the club. Phil Stevens is coordinating our efforts out there and I am sure he would like some others to come out and help out and tie flies for the day. This has been a good venue for the club in the past as we have picked up several new members as a result of being there.

## Winter Ramblings

By: Bob Bawden

I've been looking out the window at the fresh 4 to 5 inches of new snow and thinking about fishing to try to warm up after cleaning out the driveway for the second time today. My mind has been rambling a lot about fly fishing, fly fishing gear and our club lately. I'm sure this has been caused by our harsh winter, a fly tying Sunday at Piazzano's, filling out our year end reports for IFFF(not my favorite activity and looking over some pictures from last summer. So just to keep from going crazy with cabin fever, I

decided to put some my disjointed thoughts into words and share with you. Take them as you will.

I have been trying to learn to be proficient with Photoshop elements over the past month or so, specifically trying to get prints of summer river fishing to look as vibrant as the scenes I see in my mind. So far, I have been only marginally successful. But I have been looking over some pictures I took while fishing with friends and while on my first guided trip. The

trip was a full day float down the Manistee with guide Hugh Witham. Actually we didn't spend the whole day on the river as I still consider myself a novice in fly fishing and was glad to take advantage of Hugh's offer for some instruction before we left. All in all, the trip was well worth the money. We enjoyed the weather, the float, the lunch, the instruction and Hugh's company. And we went in September and had the river pretty much to ourselves.

**Continued on Page 4.**

## Winter Ramblings Continued

By: Bob Bawden

Our esteemed club president recently wondered about what flies to learn (or relearn) to tie. That question created an interesting discussion at the last tying night. Of course no one could agree on a list of ten but we all had thoughts about it. I personally check Gates Lodge's web site for Josh's fortnightly fly list and tying instruction. If you haven't checked it out, you might want to give it a quick look. I also have wondered if many members got interesting new

gear for Christmas. I got an Omnispool Switchbox for cleaning and managing line. Looks interesting and will be very useful should I ever start acquiring line like I do other gear.

A few final thoughts/questions before I have to shovel again: Is there a perfect fly box? How do you use the little loop on a fishing shirt or vest to hold a rod without it sliding out and landing in the river? Can anyone really tie a size 22 trico?

Spinning and trimming deer hair is hard to do and extremely messy. Is it possible to make a computer station/desk double as a tying desk? (I think not)?



## RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 129  
Okemos, MI 48805

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

### Refrigerator Reminders

#### February

11th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,  
6:30p.m. Room 152 in the  
Natural Resources Building at  
MSU.

16th: Sunday Fly Tying Night  
at Piazzano's Restaurant on  
Grand River Ave. 6:30pm to  
8:30pm

22nd: Celebration of Fly Tying  
See  
[www.grandriverflytyers.com](http://www.grandriverflytyers.com)  
for more information

#### March

1st: Quiet Water Symposium  
at the MSU Pavilion. See  
[www.quietwatersymposium.org](http://www.quietwatersymposium.org)  
for more information.

2nd: Sunday Fly Tying Night at  
Piazzano's Restaurant on Grand  
River Ave. 6:30pm to 8:30pm

8th-9th: Midwest Fly Fishing  
Expo at Macomb Community  
College. See  
[www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com](http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com)  
for more information

11th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,  
6:30p.m. Room 152 in the Nat-  
ural Resources Building at MSU.

16th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at  
Piazzano's Restaurant on Grand  
River Ave. 6:30pm to 8:30pm

