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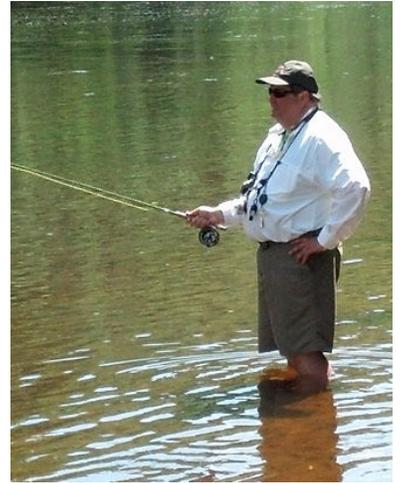
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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

March 1, 2014

President's Message



Many of you know by now that I discovered first-hand that it's NOT Always Sunny in Philadelphia. For one of the longest stretches of no snow in mid-Michigan this winter, the east coast got hammered twice. Once upon my arrival Sunday evening where a 30-mile drive from the airport took about 2 hours. And, the following Wednesday evening brought an even larger accumulation. So, within 4 days, I got to enjoy about 20 inches of what skiers call "fresh powder." A lesson learned: if you live in a snowy area DO NOT purchase (or rent) a 2-wheel drive Toyota Highlander. Way too much fun!!

I was very disappointed that I couldn't attend the February meeting with the DNR Fisheries Director, Jim Dexter. I have been told that it was worthwhile – for both the members and for Jim. And, I'm glad to know that you actually did allow him to leave before breakfast. Thanks to all and to John Ross for stepping in and up. Hope we can have Jim visit us again.

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**RED CEDAR
FLY FISHERS**
Oshtemo, Michigan

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

President's Message Continued

Now, it's fishing-prep season. Time to get the new licenses with the new fees. Here's a list:

License Type	2013 Price	2014 Price
Fish 24-hour	\$7.00	\$10.00
Fish 72-hour	\$21.00	\$30.00
Fish All-Species Nonresident Annual	\$42.00	\$76.00
Fish All-Species Resident Annual	\$28.00	\$26.00
Fish All-Species Res Senior Annual (65+)	\$11.20	\$11.00
Hunt/Fish Combo Nonresident	\$266.00	
Hunt/Fish Combo Resident	\$76.00	

The changes are the first since 1997. And, as stated on the DNR site, "The number of fishing license types has been reduced and simplified. Revenue generated will create improved fishing opportunities through better habitat, increased fish stocking, and better outreach with anglers." Let's hope the money goes where it's supposed to go. I did check the DNR website for current information, but some of the information still references 2013. The E-license link (<http://www.mdnr-elicense.com/Welcome/Default.aspx>) lists last year's fees, but I assume that you will be charged the new rates. There was a proposed fee change in 2006 or 2007 but never made it through the political maze (for you Ann Arbor spell-checkers this is the correct spelling.) Some folks had questions about the changes so I thought I'd do some comparison shopping. One web site reports that Michigan fishing licenses rank as 26th most expensive in the US. Here are some favorites (all are "resident"):

Montana	\$26.00	Colorado	\$36.00	Ohio	\$30.00 (Incl 1-day lake charter)
Arizona	\$37.00	Montana	\$26.00	Illinois	\$27.00
Indiana	\$27.00				
Florida	\$32.50 (Fresh & Saltwater – why not)				
Wisconsin	\$40.00 – includes trout and 1 lake charter (this state's rates are really confusing)				

It's odd that Ohio and Wisconsin have separate fees for going out on a charter. It may be that these fees are included in the cost that one would pay for the charter.

How's your Shanty?

Have a shanty somewhere? Does it matter that we are back again with our popular Polar Vortex? Not really – which makes me pause and chuckle since the rules for shanty removal are designed for normal winters. Here's a synopsis: Upper Peninsula has until midnight of Mar. 31. Over by Wisconsin - Mar. 15. Most of the Upper-Lower is also Mar 15. Lower-Lower by (oh yeah!) LAST SATURDAY! Most guys I've talked to are still drilling through 20+ inches of ice. Oh well. Rules are rules. Up to a \$500.00 fine if they aren't removed.

Inland Lakes Convention – May 1 thru May 3, Boyne Mountain Resort

The convention sessions will cover a wide variety of topics including aquatic invasive species management and control; natural shoreline management; Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program training; the latest in lake research, riparian rights and water law; and much more.

Registration for the convention opened January 13. For more information, including how to register, visit www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu.

A little advertising

The Recreation Passport has replaced the vehicle window sticker for entry into state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and non-motorized trail head and boat launch parking, and it's good until the next license plate renewal date. This adds only \$11.00 to the cost of your license plate renewal and I'm a big supporter. Colorado had a similar program that added a few \$\$ to a hunting or fishing license and nearly every person I knew who bought a license, also supported the program. Again, I hope the money is used for the purpose it's collected for. So, next time you renew your plate(s), if you don't already include this, give it some thought.

President's Message Continued

History of Michigan Fisheries Division

Since we had the Fisheries Director at the last meeting, and I've been reading a lot about loss of reproductive habitat for fish in the Great Lakes and on the west coast of the US, I thought I'd check on the history and need of the agency/division. And, from reading several articles (one by Jim Dexter in 2004), it looks like "big business" was the primary culprit or reason for establishing the division along with its regulations and guidelines.

The loss of many fish populations by 1870 throughout North America led to the establishment of many fisheries agencies including the Michigan Fish Commission in 1873, the predecessor to the current DNR Fisheries Division. Replenishing lost and establishing new fish populations using fish production was one of their primary functions. By 1870, fish populations in the Great Lakes and inland waters were rapidly depleted because of habitat destruction, dam construction (blocking fish movement), pollution (even then!) and over-fishing. The common thread throughout was "Big Business." The commercial interests in the state had little interest or knowledge about preserving both the habitat and the fisheries stock. Logging from 1860 to 1900 contributed much to the destruction of Michigan's streams during the transport of logs to the saw mills. And no controls or regulations were placed on commercial fishermen which led to over-harvesting and the complete collapse of several once-abundant populations of fish. By 1926, Lake Erie saw the last of its herring stock.

Hatcheries were found to be the only technique available to sustain and reverse the loss of both recreational and commercial fishery populations but the lack of political support had nearly no effect to stop the decline. During the "Johnny Fishseed Era", from 1873 to 1929 hatcheries primarily supported only food fish (commercial whitefish) or planting or moving non-native species to new locations within the state. This introduced some of our now, more popular recreational fish such as rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout (not native to most of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan) along with the spreading of largemouth and smallmouth bass and a host of other species to new waters. Most of the first hatchery fish stocked were fry which severely limited the survival rate.

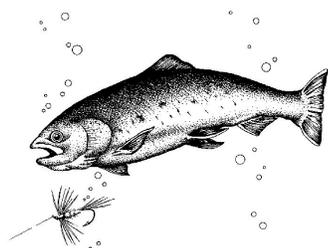
Around the start of the Great Depression, recreational - sportfishing - became well established. The hatcheries started to focus more on these sport fish. Brown, rainbow and brook trout were the most popular. Warm-water fish were also planted, but these proved to become well-established and stocking of bass & other species was mostly abandoned. Around WWII, hatcheries improved production methods and move to stock fingerlings and larger. After a period of raising and stocking larger, legal-size fish proved to be expensive and hazardous (truck chasing), new policies were initiated. 1960s hatchery production also needed to change to keep up with the public attitude on pollution, fishing pressure on the Great Lakes and the control of invasive species.

With the environmental movement came changes in Fisheries Management. Many of these same practices are still being used, and have had proven success. Hatchery fish are now considered one of the important tools for habitat protection, regulation and (even!) an actual return on the investment. Now, cold-water (trout & salmon) and cool-water (walleye, muskellunge) are being stocked in a range of sizes to restore once depleted fish populations in both inland waters and the Great Lakes. About 40% of recreational fishing in Michigan involves planted fish. This includes the vast majority of Great Lakes trout and salmon. The Michigan DNR Fisheries division is responsible for maintaining hatchery facilities and for developing program to keep Michigan's fishing resources one of the best (if not the best) on the Great Lakes.

FYI - In 2013, the largest single stocking of any fish by the DNR was in Houghton County on/in Portage Lake when 1.5 million Walleye fry were planted on June 3. The smallest fish planting was on the Kalamazoo River near New Richmond when 2 (that's two), tagged 3-inch Lake Sturgeon were placed June 26th.

Long-winded Herb

(I should reference all of the articles from which I gleaned this information, but my keyboard is over-heating)



You Are Invited

MSU's Environmental Science and Policy Program is hosting "THE FATE OF THE EARTH INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM" on April 3, 2014 at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus. The symposium explores the challenges and opportunities we face in enhancing human well-being while protecting the environment. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bonnie McCay, professor, School of Environmental and Biological Science (specializing in fisheries), Rutgers University. She will be

speaking on "Changing Climates for Adaptations". Dennis Dimick, executive editor of The National Geographic, will speak at a session. More information can be found at: <http://www.espp.msu.edu/fateoftheearth.php> The public is invited. Lunch will be served and admission is free. However, registration is required at: environment.msu.edu/fateoftheearth.php Again, this symposium and lunch are free. Red Cedar Fly Fishers may find this interesting

and informative. Please register if you plan to attend.

Quote of the Month

By: Mark Noel

"The reason that all other kinds of fishermen look up to the dry fly purist is not that he catches more fish than they; on the contrary, it is because he catches fewer. His is the sport in its purest, most impractical, least material form."

-- William Humphrey

Gear for the Fly Fishing Mind

By: Bob Bawden

I have admitted to being a gear head and fly fishing is an activity tailor made for the likes of me. I recently realized that my passion for fly fishing gear includes something that seldom appears in list of essential gear but has become very important to me. That would be fly fishing literature.

I can't remember a time when I couldn't read. It's not that I read at a very early age, it's more a function of my advancing age causing memories to fade. I do remember lying on the floor in front of the warm air register on cold winter evenings and getting lost in a

good book. It seems that books have always been able to transport me to other places rather easily and that is one reason I still like to read. I am currently visiting many famous trout streams in the east as I read through "The Founding Flies", a book recommended by Chris Helm. It contains short biographies of 43 American tiers and their signature patterns. A real trip to the Letort or Beaverkill may actually take place this season.

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Gear for the Fly Fishing Mind Continued By: Bob Bawden

My first exposure to fly fishing literature was a borrowed copy of Norman Maclean's "A River Runs Through It" followed closely by Robert Traver's "Trout Madness". I was smitten by the romance of these stories about fishing, camping in the wilderness and the mystique of fly fishing. Of course I searched out many "how to" books in my effort to become a fly fisher, fly tier and leader builder. Some of these books were way too technical of course but many provided me with the knowledge to progress and actually gain a little more proficiency.

I have found some good mystery novels that revolve around fly fishing and some that are even set in places I know well. One series takes place in a town that is remarkably like Grayling and even has a local bar called "Spikes", a place I stop in often. Among the many authors that I have read and collected, my favorite is John Gierach, the self-proclaimed Trout Bum. I have most of his books that are collections of his short essays and articles. I like his straight forward style, his humor and his slant on life in general. I was notified by Amazon.com

that he has a new book coming out this month. I guess they know I'm a sucker for his work and will preorder a copy. This winter has afforded me more opportunities to read than most and I must confess that I have been able to take advantage of many of those times. I do hope that all you who love to read have made the time to. It helps keep the mind active and alert between trips out to shovel the drive.

From the IFFF

The Fly Fisher Magazine is looking for candidates for the magazine. See below:

Hello all, I wanted to honor my commitment to the Fly Fisher magazine editors and forward to you the information on the member profile page. With each edition there is a section called "I am a Member." This is a page for us as council presi-

dents to highlight a member of our council or regional clubs. The editors, Bill Toone and Al Beatty tell me that it has been like pulling teeth to get submissions for that section. But I think we can keep it alive by identifying which councils will pursue a member profile in advance of each edition of the Fly Fisher. In the Autumn 2013 edition we had two

members profiled. Soooo, who would like to get info to Bill Toone for the upcoming issue. Please let me know. Attached is the "I am a member." template. Bill's email for submissions is: btoone@3riversdbs.net. Thanks and let me know if you have any questions.

Todd Heggstad
Upper Midwest Council



"I am a Member" Format Template

Member name:

Residence:

Council:

Member since: (years they've belonged to the FFF)

Home waters: (Favorite rivers, lakes, beaches where they fish. OR, we could ask "Favorite fish")

Most memorable fishing experience: (Collect a 25 - to 50-word anecdote -- could be anything from the biggest fish they've caught to the one that got away to the day they spent with a mentor or even the day they spent rolling rocks in a stream restoration project)

Reason for being a member of FFF:

What others say: (Around 25-50 words by someone else such as Council President, etc., about this person and what they bring to the FFF)

RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

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www.redcedarflyfishers.org

Refrigerator Reminders

March

1st: Quiet Water Symposium at the MSU Pavilion. See 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 for more information

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

April

8th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30p.m. Room 152 in the Natural Resources Building at MSU.

13th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at Piazzano's Restaurant on Grand River Ave. 6:30pm to 8:30pm

27th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at Piazzano's Restaurant on Grand River Ave. 6:30pm to 8:30pm

