

RCFF Board

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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

October 1, 2012

President's Message

We are off and running and changes are coming. There was good attendance at the first meeting with several new members signing up. Thanks to the members who have provided some very good suggestions. If you don't experience some of your suggestions happening right away don't get discouraged we are working on them. Of course some may not get implemented simply because we can't or don't have the manpower right now or several other members wanted something completely different. Be assured that the board will be trying to keep the most people happy.

I also thank those of you who participated in the Au Sable River clean up. There is always concern that we won't have enough workers because of the timing of the event. However, our Clean-Up Czar, Bob Kren came through again. I hope I am not leaving anyone out, but the following members helped in

some way even if it was just providing moral support: Bob Bawden, Terry Greiner, Don Sawyer, Terry Lyons, Neil Gross and Neil's wife Kathleen. If I left you out, I apologize. For once I did not take a dunk, though Kren did a beautiful pirouette in the middle of the river for which he received and average score of 9.5 He did not take a dunk. That would have landed him a perfect score of 10.

As of this newsletter we have confirmed our first three meetings at Chippewa Middle School. The Board is exploring sites for the rest of our meetings. Okemos and Haslett Libraries may take up the slack for additional meeting space. Terry Lyons is presenting a program about environmental legal issues. A better summary of his program will follow in the newsletter. At least three or four members have expressed that they would like to have a more social kind of meeting. So, we



are exploring the possibility of having our December meeting at the Blue Gill Grill. Perhaps we might even get our local Orvis people to talk about the latest equipment in time for Christmas. Let me know what you think. Coming up with new and different programs continues to be a challenge. I enjoy almost every presentation, but I am thinking that in-between we need some other activities. One suggestion is that we have a program on building bamboo fly rods. What do you think? Is there interest in having a representative from DNR make a presentation? If so, on what specific topic would you like to hear them speak?

As you can see this should be an interesting year. JB



1981 McKenzie Cup Winners

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
It's purpose is to promote fly-fishing through Education, Restoration and Conservation

October's Presentation

By: Mark Noel

This month's presentation will be performed by long-time RCFF member and former president Terry Lyons. As most of you know, Terry is also a very active member of the Anglers of the Au Sable and of the FFF-Great Lakes Council. He is a board member of both organizations, and works tirelessly on spearheading a multitude of conservation issues.

Terry will be discussing the current status of some of the key conservation issues that

have been taking place in our state. Of particular interest will be the story behind the recent decision by Savoy Energy to withdraw their application for slant-drilling for oil and gas under the Mason Tract. This victory comes after a 9-year battle with the Anglers of the Au Sable and other conservation agencies. Terry will also pass out handouts and discuss the processes of oil and gas exploration and development - including the very controversial process of "fracking".

In addition to sharing this important information, Terry will be discussing various opportunities for our club to get more involved in Michigan's conservation issues. He will also answer any questions that you may have after his presentation.

It's important for all of us to be as informed as we can be regarding today's conservation issues, and Terry's presentation will go a long way towards achieving that objective.

Classified Section

By: Mark Noel

For Sale: Orvis Zero Gravity Fly Rod. 10' 7wt., Tip Flex. The perfect length and weight for Michigan Steelhead! The Zero Gravity was Orvis' top-of-the-line rod before the Helios, and it sold new for \$675. Like new. \$250. Call Mark Noel at (517) 648-9556.



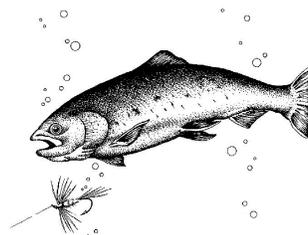
Quote of the Month

By: Mark Noel

"Eight hundred and forty-seven casts . . . Nine rises . . . Five takes . . . Two trout landed.

God, I hope the fishing tomorrow is as good as it was today."

-- Anonymous



Time to Pay Membership Dues Again

By: Mark Johnson

It's that time again, the beginning of a new year when we need to pay our membership dues to the club again. The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a 100% club, meaning everyone that is considered a member has paid their national FFF dues as well as the local club dues.

to Red Cedar Fly Fishers and mail it to P.O. Box 129, Okemos, MI 48805.

If you cannot attend the October meeting and would like to continue to be a member of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers, please send your \$10.00 dues payment in a check made out



Confessions of a Clean Up Rookie By: Bob Bawden

It's 4:15 pm on Saturday and I'm reclining in front of the TV watching the football game and sipping on an adult beverage. I've downed a couple of Advil and am going over in my mind the past 9 hours. I am no way a veteran of the yearly Au Sable River clean up. I plan on doing it again next year but hope I will remember some lessons learned this year. We were supposed to meet others at 9:45 a.m. I had heard that there would be a lot of people and parking at Gates Lodge was a problem so my "gotta get there early" gene was working overtime. I planned to arrive early, get parked near or at the lodge and eat breakfast at the lodge, then read a book in my car until other Red Cedars arrived. I decided to leave the cabin about 7:30, drive the 30 minutes to the lodge and be ready to start the day. The weather report said mid 40's in the morning then mostly sunny and low 60's for Saturday and no rain until later in the day. After packing my waders I headed out on time and was

feeling pretty good about my plan. But about 10 minutes down the road, I realized I had forgotten my fleece jacket, my rain jacket and my book. My "early" gene told me to not turn around or I would not get a parking place, the restaurant would be crowded and it wasn't going to rain. So I listened and kept going. I got to park close to the fly shop, went into a fairly empty restaurant, had a good breakfast then had a lot of time on my hands, enough time to visit the fly shop and spend way too much money. As I waited the weather turned and the sky clouded over and rain started falling. Before long the sun reappeared for a bit then the clouds rolled in again, a pattern that would continue through our time on the river. Our group finally got together and headed for Chase bridge, our ending spot for our clean up assignment. After a small mix up, we were finally ready to start up river from the bridge. Getting ready to don my waders, I realized that I had left my thick, comfortable

socks back in my car at the lodge. I had to make do with my short, thin anklets that left a lot of room in boots that were about a size too large for me. As we stepped into the river, the rain began again and really came down on us. Of course, my rain jacket was back at the cabin so I ended up wearing the garbage bag I was carrying to collect trash much to the delight of my fellow clean-up crew members. When the sky cleared, I took off the garbage bag but within five minutes, it started to rain again so back on it went. Within minutes the rain stopped but I was told to keep it on so it would keep the rain from coming back. I did and it didn't. We had a nice stretch of river to wade and clean and the company was great. I got to know Bob, Jim and Neil better and their companionship was worth the long wade. You can learn a lot about fishing, people and life in general as you wade, trash pick and converse, even if you are wearing a black plastic garbage bag. I rode back to the lodge with

Bob while the others went back to the access to get the other car. I got back to the lodge and realized my shoes were in the other car so I had to stay in my waders until my shoes arrived. Too bad I didn't find some flip flops on the river like a couple of the other guys did. By the time they got back I had eaten and was really ready to shed my waders. I enjoyed spending time with the other members of our club and am glad I finally made the effort to join the clean-up. I am already planning on doing it again next year and correcting all the mistakes I made this year. Of course I will be a year older and just may forget some things again. But that's OK. I gave back to a river that has given pleasure to me and I spent time with good people who have become good friends. Join us next year.

20 Years

By: John Ross

20 Years, that's how long it has been since "The Movie" made its mark on the Fly Fishing World. By "The Movie" you know, of course, I mean the Norman Maclean novel, "A River Runs through it", adapted to the Big Screen, and Directed by Robert Redford. So I thought a look back at the last twenty years and the impact of the movie on the fly fishing world may be in order.

My fly fishing journey began just before the movie was released in the early 90's. And so, I have been able to observe and be a part of the sport at the same time. The movie is a story about two brothers and their fly fishing life, their relationship with each other, and their father and mother. Their father, a Preacher, is rigid and demanding and teaches about a connection between a proper life and the right way to angle with a rod. He was always sticking to his ideals of acceptable casting and presentation techniques, as well as acceptable paths through life.

The older brother, Norman has less difficulty accepting his Father's teachings. The younger son, Paul, is a wild spirit who prefers to find his own path through life and fishing.

As the movie progresses we see the two boys grow up together, and grow apart from each other and the influence of their parents. In the end Norman follows his Parents dreams and succeeds as an English Professor out east and Paul takes a lesser path, becomes a writer for a local paper, gets involved with the wrong crowd, and dies a tragic death as a result.

So what does all this have to do with fly fishing? Well, before the release of the movie, the fly fishing world was a little known side bar to most folks. A sport practiced by Cigar smoking, Tweed wearing, Philosophy quoting, older gentlemen, who seemed to spend more time talking about fishing than actually wetting a line. Because of the scenes of beautiful clean clear rivers, snow capped mountains, and of course large beautifully colored trout. The masses joined the fly fishing community in droves. It was as if the theater let out to the local fly fishing tackle shop, and you were required to purchase waders and rod and reel to be allowed into society ever again.

The resulting boon to the industry created hundreds of new fly shops, manufacturers with all kinds of new must have gadgets, and seasoned anglers all crowding to take their place among the storied rivers of folklore. We all crowded into a space not much larger than the width of a man's shoulders to get our own piece of solitude where we could imagine ourselves casting to our own "rhythm" as though we were the reincarnation of Paul Maclean, Ghost casting our magnificently tied offering to a wise old trout.

Not all was well with the fly fishing community though. Some more seasoned anglers resented the crowds on the previously quiet rivers they had been accustomed to. Many people gave up on careers, homes, and even family's to pursue a mistress that always seemed to lead to new, lesser crowded, more wild and adven-

turous waters.

In the years that have followed we have seen numerous shops close up, many tackle manufacturers fold, and previously wild waters become overrun with traffic and litter. Ironically many of those who resented sharing their waters with the masses, are members of organizations that promote the sport as a way of expanding membership.

The numbers of new fly fishers has waned, the rivers have become less crowded, and the tackle industry has settled, sort of. I for one am a lover and defender of the movie. My impression of the movie was that of a movie about relationships. I could see a little of all of us in the characters that made up the story. I didn't come to fly fishing because of the movie, but it most certainly has had an impact on the fly fishing world. What if Norman's Dad had taught them how to golf, or play tennis? How might our world as fly fishers been different? I can see many positives and negatives as a result of the work of Norman Maclean. I guess that makes him a success as a writer, he has had an impact on a large number of people as a result of his work. Millions of writers would love to be able to make that claim. This is my take on "The Movie". Whether you like it or resent it, it has been a part of our fly fishing world for the past twenty years. If you haven't seen the movie, get out from under that rock. Rent the movie if for no other reason than it is a good story. You decide, a movie about fly fishing, or relationships, or both?

**RED CEDAR FLY
FISHERS**

P.O. Box 129
Okemos, MI 48805

www.redcedarflyfishers.org

Refrigerator Reminders

October

9th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,
Social 6:30pm, Business
7:00pm, Large Group Room,
Chippewa Middle School

14th: Sunday Tying Night at
Piazzano's on Grand River in
the Downstairs Banquet Room
from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

28th: Sunday Tying Night at
Piazzano's on Grand River in
the Downstairs Banquet Room
from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

November

13th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,
Social 6:30pm, Business
7:00pm, Large Group Room,
Chippewa Middle School

18th: Sunday Tying Night at
Piazzano's on Grand River in the
Downstairs Banquet Room from
6:30pm to 8:30pm.

