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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

March 5, 2015

President's Message

It may not seem like it, but we are about to turn the corner on this winter and return to fishing season. The calendar rolls forward to March tomorrow as I write this, and although the temperature is still below freezing, there is a warm up coming. Are you ready for the season? Do you have enough flies, rods and reels in order, need new lines?

A big thank you to Marty Crimp for his presentation on fishing the River Test last month. We have a Michigan DNR Conservation Officer lined up for this month's meeting, so be sure to mark

your calendar to join us. Invite a friend, we encourage visitors to check us out.

Banquet tickets will be available at the meeting, as well we have raffle tickets for our Rod of choice raffle. We are working on our annual work project, banquet, end of year picnic, as well we will be asking for officer volunteers. Maybe it's time for you to take a turn and get more involved? If you feel too new, or too old, or maybe too busy, I can assure you, you will be surrounded by some very competent in-



dividuals who will make your job easy. Come join us on Tuesday night, March 10th, at the Natural Resources Building.

John R



**RED CEDAR
FLY FISHERS**

Ontonagon, 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

March Presentation

As John mentioned in his President's Message we will have a DNR Conservation Officer join us at this month's meeting. Plan on attending to see what he will be presenting and have any of your related questions answered. We will also have banquet tickets for sale as well as our year long raffle tickets for sale. We are still needing members to take a small pack of these to sell to their friends .

Take note, we have another Sunday Fly Tying Night sched-

uled for March 15th. These are always fun and a good way to make up some flies for the upcoming season.

Flies Needed!!

Our annual raffle has for a third prize a fly box with flies. Right now we have the fly box. We are asking members to bring to either of the next 2 meetings a few flies to help stuff this fly box. If you are coming to the next few Sunday tying sessions you can donate a couple of

By: Mark Johnson

those that you tie there also. We would just like to get it filled good for the third prize.

Fish Tales

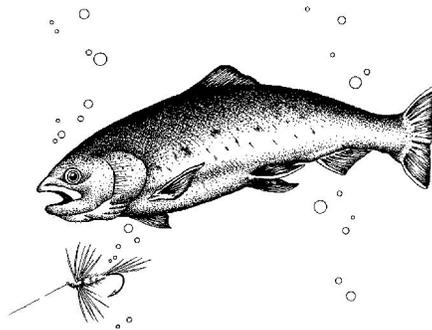
By: Mark Noel

The lake fishing up north had been particularly slow, but one fisherman always returned to the dock with his full limit of fish of various species. The local Conservation Officer got wind of this and asked him what the secret was to his success. So the fisherman told the CO that he would take him fishing the next day and show him his technique.

The next day they motored out to the middle of the lake and dropped anchor. Then the fisherman took out a stick of dynamite, lit it, and tossed it into the water. After the explosion, large numbers of stunned fish started floating up to the surface. Then the fisherman took out his net and started picking up his choice of fish.

"Hey!" said the CO. "That's illegal – you can't fish with explosives!"

The fisherman took out another stick of dynamite, lit it, and handed it to the CO. He then asked "Are you going to fish or talk?"



Boy Scout Fly Tying

By: Bob Bawden

Nine members of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers gave up their time on a cold Wednesday evening to help Boy Scouts from Dewitt experience fly tying. Tony Parks of the Red Cedars works with the Dewitt Scouts on merit badges and arranged for the tying night as an introduction to fly fishing for those scouts who might be interested in a fly fishing merit badge.



The Great Lakes Council provided vises and tools for the scouts to use and the members of the Red Cedars provided instruction and help to the scouts. The scouts were shown how to tie a wooly bugger and rubber legged spider. Because of the size of the scout group, one half of them worked on knot tying for fishing while the other half tied flies and then they switched places. As usual, some scouts took to the tying quickly while others struggled but the evening was successful as all of them finished two flies to take home.

As a retired teacher, I know how much patience it takes to work with middle school age kids and the Red Cedar members who helped the scouts demonstrated patience, understanding and knowledge and made the night successful for all.

I am always impressed when I watch the Red Cedars work on projects that reflect our mission statement of promoting fly fishing and conservation of our fishing resources. I have seen them cut and haul logs into rivers and jet and nail them in place for habitat improvement. I have seen them work with shocking programs and insect study to enhance knowledge of the environment. And I have seen them give of their time to instruct youth in fishing and tying skills to keep interest in fly fishing alive. We have many hard working, patient and genuinely friendly members. We should all be

proud to be part of our organization.



And of course, the evening ended with a bit of federating at the local watering hole!

Files From The Past

By: Bob Bawden

From the October 1980
Tapers, Tippets & Tales –
Ed. Daniel Cogan

NEXT MEETING: October 14, at 7:30 p.m. Socialize and tie flies until the business meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Please bring your FFF membership card so we can get the expiration date for the club records. Mike Kennedy will discuss how to dress, skin and tan various hides and animal skins for the program portion of the meeting.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Every year at this time the board of directors of this organization begins to rack their brains trying to come up with monthly programs that will be of interest to us all. So far this year, thanks mostly to Mike Kennedy, we have been able to come up with two very interesting programs. But now we begin to pull out our hair trying to keep everyone's interest. It's here that we all need to pitch in with our ideas. If any of you have any suggestions about a monthly program that you would like to see or would be willing to put on yourself, please contact Mike Kennedy or me. Remember, it's up to all of us to keep this organization improving and growing.

DECEMBER RAFFLE: As in the past our club will be having a family potluck dinner and raffle during our December meeting. In the past, these raffles have been good money makers for our club as well as a good time

for all who attend. Raffle prizes contributed by the club members, be it flies or tying materials always add a special touch to our raffle. But don't forget gifts which appeal to the wives and kids. As I recall last year some of the most eyed and marveled at prizes were items such as a jade plant, Christmas wreath and table centerpiece. Keep this in mind when selecting raffle prizes for this year. We will be having more details on the raffle and meal at our next club meeting in October. If you have any suggestions or comments on ways to improve our raffle, please let me know.

BOARD MEETING: Plans are already in progress for the Christmas buffet which will be December 9. Mike Kennedy is in charge of the raffle. Final preparation for the October 11-18 shocking of the Red Cedar was put into gear and if the river goes down all systems are go. Plans for the spring fly tying class were discussed. Plan to participate. More on this later.

HARRY'S HINTS: On a recent fishing trip, I (hopefully) relearned on of my earliest lessons. That is, a rising fish in late season can usually be taken on a good terrestrial pattern. On this particular trip the best ones were ants and beetles. The Letort or Crowe beetle was the pattern we used, but I was continually frustrated over their lack of durability. Some fall apart after only one fish and

others fall apart just casting. Each night I'd tie three or four and catch one or two fish on them the next day. One or two fish is better than none but I was looking for a better way to go. On the trip home I picked up the October issue of "Fly Fishing the West" and found what may be a good alternative to the deer hair construction of the Crowe beetle: polypropylene. It will certainly be more durable.

The tying is as follows:

1: Tie a piece of polypropylene yarn on the hook extending beyond the bend about an inch.

2: Dub a body of Fly Rite or similar material.

3: Take one or two turns of hackle about 1/4 of the way back from the hook eye.

4: Pull the yarn forward and tie it down at the eye. Trim the head in the manner of the

Crowe beetle. Generally the beetle is tied in sizes 12 - 16

RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

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Refrigerator Reminders

March

7th: Quiet Water Symposium
at MSU Pavilion. For more
information see:
www.quietwatersymposium.org

10th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,
6:30 P.M. Room 223, Natural
Resources Building at MSU

14th-15th: Midwest Fly Fishing
Expo in Warren, MI. For more
information see
www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com

15th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at
Piazzano's Restaurant in the
basement Banquet Room.
6:30pm to 8:30pm

29th: Sunday Fly Tying Night
at Piazzano's Restaurant in the
basement Banquet Room.
6:30pm to 8:30pm

April

14th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,
6:30 P.M. Room 223, Natural
Resources Building at MSU

19th: Sunday Fly Tying Night
at Piazzano's Restaurant in
the basement Banquet
Room. 6:30pm to 8:30pm

