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# Tippetts, Tapers & Tales

February 2, 2016

## President's Message

Groundhog Day. I don't really believe the groundhog day forecasting but I do usually start judging how the winter has been and thinking that spring might really be coming. This winter has been mild, especially compared to last winter and the ongoing "polar vortex". My snow blower has only been started once and the shovel has been off the wall only sporadically. My thoughts have been turning towards mild days on a trout stream or small-mouth fishing from a canoe in a nearby lake.

But I'm not crazy enough to think that we don't still have some winter left, despite what Punxsutawney Phil has predicted. So there will still be time to build leaders (some with tippet rings on them for the first time), tie flies for the GLC, my own fly box and for the TU youth camp participants. And there is still time to try to tie some of those new flies I

have never tried yet. Going over rods and reels and fly lines, sorting my equipment duffle bag and checking waders and boots for leaks can be put off for a few more weeks.

Of course your board will use this time to continue planning for our May 10<sup>th</sup> banquet at Eagle Eye and our June 14<sup>th</sup> picnic at Hawk Island Park. Details for these events will be in future newsletters but please put these dates on your calendars and plan to attend. Remember, guests are welcome.

Presentations for the next two club meetings are set. Member Bob Ceru will be talking about his work with Reeling & Healing, teaching basics of fly fishing to women who are battling cancer or have survived cancer. I first heard about his work with this organization when we spent time at Wa Wa Sum this past summer. As the purpose of our clubs is to



"promote fly fishing through education, restoration and conservation", I believe that this is a program worth hearing about and supporting.

Our March presenter will be member Bear Andrews, who will be sharing his presentation about carp fishing in Michigan. You may recall that Bear was going to present this a season or two ago but a technical glitch required a quick change of topics.

Continued on Page 2

**RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS**  
Okemos, 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

## President's Message Continued By: Bob Bawden

Our thanks to Dr. Bryan Burroughs, executive director of MITU, for an interesting and informative presentation about dam removals on the Boardman and Pigeon rivers and the pen raising of fish in the great lakes and fish farms in Michigan. These issues are important to us as sportspeople and I hope you all will stay informed on these issues.

Finally, Dick Augustine has asked the Red Cedar Fly Fishers for their help in providing flies for the fly boxes

that are given to the youngsters who attend the MITU youth trout camp. Please see the article in this newsletter to see what flies they need and join me in helping this worthy cause. If they can use my amateurishly tied flies, I'm sure they will welcome your expertly tied flies.

Support your local fly shop, keep your stick on the ice and get involved.

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## February's Presentation

By: Mark Johnson

Here is a little background information Bob sent that I wanted to publish here prior to his presentation.

Reeling & Healing Midwest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is 100% donor-supported with a 100% volunteer staff, that champions fly-fishing wellness retreats for women battling and surviving cancer.

The mission of Reeling & Healing Midwest is to provide participants with a one-of-a-kind experience, on and off the river, which renews their spirit and hope through the elements of fly fishing, nature, peer coaching, positive camaraderie and support.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, RCFF member Bob Ceru will be our guest speaker and present a program

on Reeling & Healing Midwest with an emphasis on his experience as a volunteer for the organization.

Please check out the website, [http://www.reelingandhealingmidwest.org/about\\_us.php](http://www.reelingandhealingmidwest.org/about_us.php), before or after the presentation for information on Reeling & Healing Midwest.

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## Sunday Fly Tying

By: Mark Johnson

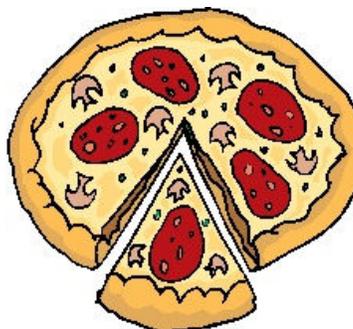
Our Sunday fly tying nights at Piazzanos have been well attended with usually 8-10 of us there tying flies. In fact we have done well enough that we have already turned in over 100 flies to Terry Greiner for use by the Great Lakes Council as new member give away incentives. We can now shift our focus to filling our own fly boxes or tying some up for Dick Augustine's request ( See article in this newsletter). One other change in the schedule-

We had a fly tying night planned for Sunday, Feb. 21st. But the restaurant has an opportunity to host a banquet that night so we will move our tying night to the 28th. We will not have one the 7th (Super Bowl) or the 14th (Valentines Day) so we will have a few weeks break here in February. Keep watching the "Reminders" on the last page for future dates for the tying nights.

## Fundraiser at Tony Sacco's By: Mark Johnson

For those of you in our area that may be interested in going, The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock-Michigan Chapter is having a fundraiser on Saturday, February 27th, from 4:00pm to 8:30pm at Tony Sacco's Pizza in Eastwood Town Center. I should know more details on this in the near future and can send an

email out to everyone once I know more, but wanted to make everyone aware of it right now.



## Flies Needed

By: Mark Johnson

If you are tying flies this winter and can tie a few extra, Dick Augustine has made a request for some flies to give out at the Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp. See Dick's request below and you can bring flies to any meeting between now and the end of the year and we will be collecting them.

If any of the Red Cedars are interested in helping out with the Michigan TU Youth Trout Camp, we could use some help

with some flies. Each youngster is given a box of various flies @ camp. In the past we have used some of the below "bugs".

Size 14-16 blue wing olives, patriot., and tan and brown caddis.  
 Size 14-18 Adams  
 Size 24 tricos  
 Size 18 Griffiths gnats  
 Hoppers and stimulators  
 Size 12-16 nymphs and soft hackles  
 Various streamers

Camp will take place from June 28 – July 2. We try to fish all 3 branches of the Au Sable. Any flies that are appropriate for the time & place is appreciated.

Thanks much,

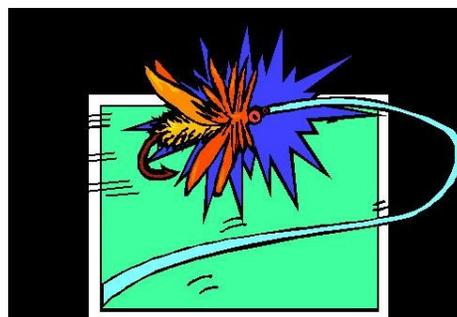
Dick Augustine

## Celebration of Fly Tying

By: Mark Johnson

The 8th Annual Celebration of Fly Tying will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 5830 Clyde Park Ave. SW in Wyoming, MI 49509. Presentations by some of the best tyers in the Great Lakes region. Hours are 9am to 4pm and admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for 12-17 years, 11 and under are free.

WWW.grandriverflytyers.club



## Website Reviews

[www.hooked4life.com](http://www.hooked4life.com) – This one is run by a certified casting instructor from southern Ontario and is “primarily” a spey casting, fishing, tying website. He does a nice job on fly tying with several up close videos as other sites offer but also gives tips on why he ties them in this style. Check out the fly line welding portion on his site which one can use for not only making loops on spey lines but also for repairing conventional fly lines and making sink tips. Finally click on his blog portion and just scroll down for an assortment of articles including one where he says every fly fisher should own a spinning rod. Interesting

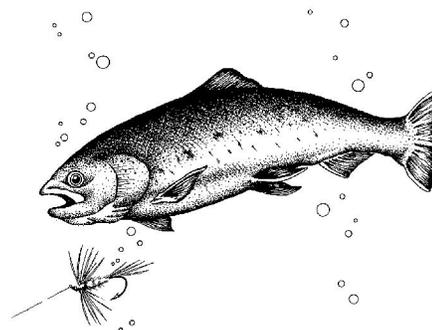
reading throughout his site and I just found a new video on how to fish emergers for trout which is worth viewing.

[www.fiberglassflyrodders.com](http://www.fiberglassflyrodders.com)

– Fishing with fiberglass fly rods is growing in popularity and here’s another site with a menu of categories to peruse from: fishing with fiberglass rods, classic reels, rod building, tying and several more. These are all forums so you don’t have to register to read the posts, but I’ve found that when you do, you can pose questions or comments to not only everyone in general, but also send private messages to an individual. The vast majority of everyone who

By: Terry Greiner

posts on sites out there are very happy to offer and receive information and respond accordingly and this one is no exception. The fly tying section is very good and obviously not just for those with glass rods.



## Newspaper Article Summary By: Mike Grinwis

With the growing concerns and discussions about aquaculture affecting the Au Sable and the Great Lakes, it was somewhat refreshing to read Bob Gross’ reprint of his Port Huron Time Herald article in the Lansing State Journal on December 27, 2015 on fish habitat improvement projects in the St. Clair River.

Mr. Gross reported that a recent report by the U.S. Geological Survey’s Great Lakes Science Center stated that preliminary results of the nine fish habitat improvement projects in the St. Clair River between Port Huron and Harsens Island

appear to be making a positive difference. The surveys of lake whitefish, lake trout, and sturgeon egg and larvae populations have been increasing at all checkpoints. Observations of baitfish, shiners, and sportfish are also encouraging.

These projects, along with several other habitat restoration projects, are all part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and involve the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan DNR, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Michigan Sea Grant. The goal of the Initiative is the restoring func-

tional spawning habitat and removal of “beneficial use impairments”, which include restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, restrictions on drinking water consumption, beach closings, bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

According to the article, 2016 will be the last year for intensive study of the St. Clair River.

Tight lines!  
Mike Grinwis

## Advice, I am Giving ( Continued) By: Bob Kren

Excuse me, but pee I must. Eight hundred years old am I, with enlarged trospate.

Back from taking pee I am, old Padawan. To my notes I refer. Did you look at them (mumbles “flies in trees, places, shows, . . .”) while gone I was? Probably not clever enough, but a strange feeling about it, I have. Continue I do.

Not enough it is to pick a slick and dangerous place to fish. At this place you must seek spots where fish may lurk. “Foam is home,” old Padawan, unless base of waterfall. Look for line of bubbles, but not below Flint’s sewage treatment plant. Fish will on either right or left side of string of bubbles reside, but never above. Sometimes surprise you they will, rubbing your ankles like hungry cats: prepared you must be, every advantage to take! Worst are sleeping fish, rocks into water you must throw, their naps to interrupt. Stumbling and cursing also their attention will get. Mostly, fish will “hit” your fly when least expected, so iPad frequently check while casting.

Best place to curdle your interest is a fly fishing “Show.” Famous people will there be, selling their books, schmoozing with the hoi polloi, making it sound and look easy. Nod knowingly, dress nicely, attend every session, ask no questions but take many notes, make many drawings. Take many business cards, promise to

“get back” to their donors. All such cards, recycle; all such promises, ignore. All about lying fishing is, best early you get started. Hone your skills.

Different fish reside on different planets, some species dangerous are. Best to fish on planet of your birth. Hopeful am I that seasons there are, relieving boredom of nice weather, and giving time to hang out at shops and buy more Stuff. Some fishing places famous will be, some not. Ask others their secret spots, then go elsewhere. Pretty pictures in books never tell truth, only good weather and clear water they show. A “guide” may be of use, but habit-forming will be. Easy, they make it seem, so when you fail by yourself, their eager bosoms again await. Your retirement, easily they will drain. Worth it.

Fly fishing a “fly” involves – a tiny hook with a boundless number of boundless components it is. You can make your own, involving at least as much money as you have spent before on Stuff. Many hours in tying, ahead of you can lie. DO IT NOT! Back to Noma D’Anglers go, and count on spending an afternoon of spending. Many are the types of flies they will sell you, some of which you will use. Best to buy several of each, to match with the trees where they will finally expire. Every fly lost will be in a lowly tree or bush, or stately redwood, whichever vegetable enemy nearby is. Much pride there is, in show-

ing nonchalance when a fly is lost, out-of-reach, but close enough to show off to admirers how expensive it was.

The fly is “tied” to a tiny nylon rope with a knot. To tie this knot, step up to fly, grasp firmly, insert rope, twist back, bring forward, loop through, again and again, pull tight, short end cut\*. Never will come loose. Maybe.

The fly a bug represents. Bugs are easy to understand, hard to imitate. Most underwater live, only sometimes come into the air. This change a “hatch” is called. Exciting it is, for fish and fisher. Itty-bitty things, called “nymphs,” float along happily, except for dying in fishes’ jaws, then burst free from the bondage of Wall Street and, um, well, another story that is. Easier to catch fish with nymph than with flying insect, despite most impressions of flyfishing. Do not be tricked by pretty pictures of fish jumping!

I grow tired of you, old Padawan. Never once did you put down your smarty-pants ‘phone. As we say, “good luck, and break your rod.” Dumkopf!

\* In my semi-extensive research for this piece, I came across a description of how to tie an improved clinch knot – no pictures, no drawings, just words. Not too helpful.

## RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 129  
Okemos, MI 48805

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

### Refrigerator Reminders

#### February

9th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,  
6:30 P.M. Room 152, Natural  
Resources Building at MSU

27th: Celebration of Fly Tying.  
Details inside this newsletter

28th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at  
Piazzano's on N. Grand River  
in Lansing. 6-8PM

#### March

5th: Quiet Water Symposium at  
the MSU Pavilion. Details at  
[www.quietwatersymposium.org](http://www.quietwatersymposium.org)

6th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at  
Piazzano's on N. Grand River in  
Lansing. 6-8PM

8th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30  
P.M. Room 152, Natural Re-  
sources Building at MSU

12th-13th Midwest Fly Fishing  
Expo. See  
[www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com](http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com)  
for details.

20th: Sunday Fly Tying Night at  
Piazzano's on N. Grand River in  
Lansing. 6-8PM

