

## RCFF Board

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# Tippets, Tapers & Tales

## President's Message

I don't know about you, but I find it fascinating to learn that you share something in common with a celebrity or personal hero. Such was the case when I happened to catch a CBS Sunday Morning interview of Henry Winkler, "the Fonz", in which part of the interview takes place **fly fishing** in a guided drift boat on the Snake River in Idaho. Of course He caught several NICE fish in the process! But it was also surprising to learn that this award-winning actor, director, producer, and co-author of over 300 books is so dyslexic that he admits to being in the bottom 3% of the literacy group! He confessed that he did not read his first

February 2017



book till he was 31. The biggest surprise was his and his wife's admission that the one thing that turned his life around after not working for 8 years following the end of the "Happy Days" series in 1983 was FLY FISHING! He cited the concentration and focus of the sport while in such beautiful, relaxing surroundings helped him gain focus and incite into his own life and craft, which has helped him be successful ever since. He has been in at least one movie and/or tv series every year since! And as an added bonus, both he and his wife fly fish! So there, fellow Red Cedars, we have a kindred spirit with the Fonz! Aa! Fish on!

Speaking about creativity and imagination, it hasn't escaped your Board's attention that we have quite a few pretty creative and imaginative people amongst our own membership! And I'm talking about more than the flies you tie. Many of you have tools, gadgets, or techniques you've developed, dreamt up, or modified from something else that have caught one or more of our attentions! So we are asking you to share these tools, gadgets, tips, tricks, and/or techniques at our April meeting. Let myself or any one of your Board members know, and we'll make sure you get a chance to show off your



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

Cont. from page 1.....creation. We're looking forward to seeing these!

We're also looking forward to our February meeting program! Bryan Burroughs will be speaking to us February 21st (Note that! The **3rd** Tuesday in Feb., not the 14th) on a group of topics from updates on dam removals to his latest Trout Unlimited article on proper cleaning of waders and gear to prevent river contamination. Bryan is always interesting, and his latest material promises to be right up there. As a teaser, In March, we've tentatively lined up Dennis Klein from Mystic Fly Rods to tell us about their latest offerings and what we should be doing to care for our own gear.

And before I forget, Quiet Waters is coming up March 4th at the MSU Pavilion, and this year presents us with a major opportunity! With the disbandment of the Frontier City (Charlotte) club, the Red Cedars have the opportunity to expand our presence at Quiet Waters from fly tying and talking about the Red Cedars to also providing the fly casting demonstrations our former Frontier City colleagues performed. This means we will need more volunteers this year to fill the tying, talking, and casting duties. So start getting your gear ready, and sign up at the meeting! This is a big opportunity for us!

Tight lines!

Mike

Tampa, Florida sunset



Steven Arnoczky working on his tan along with a great catch



### West Michigan Fly Show

With over 500 attendees and 442 taking in the five seminars, the show was a huge success. There were over 40 vendors displaying rods, apparel, boats, reels, waders, etc. for those who needed a jump start to the new season. The fly casting area was busy all day long as well.

Thanks to all the Red Cedars who volunteered in some capacity throughout the day in the show or the club booth: Don Sawyer (chair), Mark Johnson, Dennis O'Brien, Mark Johnston, Steve Arnoczky, Terry Greiner, Jim Buscetta, Mike Grinwis, Bob Ceru, John Ross, Bob Bawden, Mark Noel, Tony Parks, Bob Kren & Joe Francis.

Looking forward to 2018's show!



Seminar attendees



Kid's tying area



Tier's table



One tier's output



Flygirls booth



One vendor row early in day



Healing Waters booth



Glen Blackwood - auctioneer



Great Lakes Council booth



Paul & a fly water tester



Mike & Steven in the Red Cedar booth



Fly casting area

## Famous "Fishing" Quotes

"Never leave fish to find fish." ~ *Moses 1200 BC*

"If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago." ~ *Zane Grey*

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take." ~ *Wayne Gretzky*

".....for all men are equal before fish." ~ *Herbert Hoover*

"The man who coined the phrase "Money can't buy happiness", never bought himself a good fly rod!" ~ *Reg Baird*

"When you're going through hell, keep going." ~ *Art Walker*

"I might be wrong, but I doubt it." ~ *Charles Barkley*

"The difference between fly fishers and worm dunkers is the quality of their excuses." ~ *Anonymous*

"Creeps and idiots cannot conceal themselves for long on a fishing trip." ~ *John Gierach*

"Fly-fishing may be a very pleasant amusement; but angling or float fishing I can only compare to a stick and a string, with a worm at one end and a fool at the other." ~ *Samuel Johnson*

"If people concentrated on the really important things of life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles." ~ *Doug Larson*

"Calling Fly-Fishing a hobby is like calling Brain Surgery a job." ~ *Paul Schullery*

"There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot."  
~ *Steven Wright*

"Fly-fishing is the most fun you can have standing up." ~ *Arnold Gingrich*

"Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley." ~ *Author Unknown*

"There is no greater fan of fly-fishing than the worm." ~ *Patrick F. McManus*

"I have fished through fishless days that I remember happily without regret." ~ *Roderick Haig-Brown*

"Fishing is boring, unless you catch an actual fish, and then it is disgusting." ~ *Dave Barry*

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day." ~ *George Carlin*

"The best time to go fishing is when you can." ~ *Ed Zern*

## The Go Boat

You're not in the market for a drift boat as the price is not in the budget. A pontoon boat would be nice but you can't find a color that suits you and you have to bend over to pump the 'toons up. A float tube is just a bit too slow on the water for your needs and you can't locate your fins.

Well the problem is solved. From the manufacturer website:

- Provides hours of fun for both kids and adults
- Navigate hard to reach or shallow areas
- Quiet operation
- Fishing, sight seeing, recreation
- Plus, it makes a great bumper boat

Trolling motor & battery not included.



Check out: [thegoat.com](http://thegoat.com) and watch the videos for all the opportunities this product has to offer.

## Favorite Flies

Ten favorite flies, eh? Well, it's daunting, because there's just too many choices. Here, alphabetically, are mine. These will change over time, probably before I finish this note\*. Most of the flies listed are pretty standard, just not the way I tie them: count them all as "variant, "deviant," even.

1. Copperhead. Some guy was stripmining big 'bows on the White, down Arkansas way, just casting and then retrieving slowly. After he got tired of his success, he came over and gave me this fly, which is simple to tie, and works well in Michigan.

2. Crackleback. Another Arkansas discovery, similarly handed to me by a much more adroit flyfisher. It's designed for warm-water fishing, but works great on trout, too. My "technique" and lack of fish seems to inspire pity in Southerners.

3. Krenzilla. Think of the ugliest possible Chernobyl Ant, then multiply ugly by twenty. Big (4, or 6) long-shank hook, marabou tail, long rubber legs, cheap yarn with cheap hackle palmered over it, thick (3mm) and wide (10 mm) foam (from JoAnn's) tied in at the bend and pulled over to the hookey, long rubber legs up front. The idea is to create a hubbub and big silhouette on the surface and, since you'll fish this for browns at night, color choice makes no difference. The biggest fish I never caught – thought I had snagged a beaver, or hooked into a pike, before it broke my leader – was on one of these. As was my biggest brown – 25" – ever.

4. La Fontaine chartreuse. Got this off the TV, way back when you could record fly-fishing shows – and there were lots of them -- with a vcr. Bead head, short-shank streamer hook, marabou/flash tail, shaggy dubbing body ribbed with flash, calftail underwing, bucktail wing, peacock herl over wing, grizzly hackle. Designed for smallies but works on brown trout in the daytime. Am tying this,

5. Muddler Minnow. Enough said. Only the Woolly Bugger is ubiquitous and adaptable.

6. Partridge and green, or orange, or yellow. Or substitute fine copper wire for the entire body. The best performers have a dubbing collar right behind the feather. Cast quartering downstream, let drift, swing, let trail directly downstream for a bit: repeat. I like to fish these tandem, with about a foot between flies. Trout love them, and the next one, below.

7. "Partridge" and pheasant tail. This is a little different, more a wet fly, because you leave a tail on it, from the pheasant. Again, a small dubbing collar behind the feather. Other soft feathers can be substituted for partridge. Reverse rib the pheasant tail with fine copper wire. Fish as above.

8. Prince nymph, b/h or not. Great on bright days, fish as the top fly in a tandem rig, with a soft-hackle as the point fly. It seems, to my unseasoned eye, that browns like the Prince and brookies like the point fly.

9. Hare's Ear Nymph, b/h or not, with squashed body. That means that you use beading wire, 32 gauge, from JoAnn's or wherever, as the ribbing on a standard tie. Then, when you're finished, squeeze the abdomen with pliers: the beading wire is stiff, and bends to form a flattened profile. Hey! most mayfly nymphs are flat, not so? And trout like mayflies! I think this is one of Joe Humphrey's suggestions for flat-bodied nymph patterns, so it's definitely not my own invention.

10. Schotts Sparkle Grubber. This is Todd Schotts' version of the Sparkle Grub, using a tail of various rubber-legging instead of marabou. My best bet for smallies, especially in pink, orange, and sparkle white. Weighted, or not.

Bob K



Spaceship, kayak with cover, new marsh duck boat.....Not even close. This is the newest CreekKooler floating cooler to be pulled behind your drift boat, kayak, canoe, pontoon boat to keep your drinks & sandwiches cold and save space in the boat. It might go airborne behind a jet boat on the Muskegon but one could test that theory out. Check it out their website: [kanoolerproducts.com](http://kanoolerproducts.com)

Here are the specs:

- 30 qt. capacity - (30) 12 oz cans and 20 lbs of ice
- 4 drink holders located on deck
- Dual wall blow molded construction
- Foamed insulation
- 40" L x 21" W x 12" H
- Great for dry storage also

Bob Ceru sent in this pic of a bass and bluegill caught on one cast with two nymphs.

When you get the chance, ask him how he rigs his system up to keep his flies from tangling and which nymphs he prefers to use for this method.





# ANGLERS OF THE AU SABLE

An affiliated member of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Organization Headquarters

P.O. Box 200  
Grayling, Michigan 49738

9/19/2016

Red Cedar Fly Fishers  
PO Box 129  
Meridian charter Township, MI 48805

Dear Red Cedar Fly Fishers,

Thank you for your \$500.00 contribution to our opposition of the permit for a large-scale fish farm on the Au Sable River. This permit does little to protect the river. In fact, according to a preponderance of expert opinion, it is a dangerous threat to the world-renowned trout fishery just downstream. Your contribution will greatly aid our efforts in stopping this threat.

At times, an entire river community is drawn together to join a common cause other than catching a trout. In this case, so much is needed from so many, we urge you to consider asking friends and family to join you in being a contributor toward our case.

We have assembled an excellent team of experts and lawyers. Our own board has worked tirelessly in a full-scale and multifaceted opposition to this permit. We can't thank you enough for your help.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors

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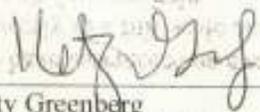
### **Anglers of the Au Sable Acknowledgement of Contribution**

The Anglers of the Au Sable are a 501(c)(3) Organization

9/19/2016

Red Cedar Fly Fishers  
PO Box 129  
Meridian charter Township, MI 48805

I attest that \$500.00 was received from the person named above as a contribution and that neither goods nor services were received by the person in return for the contribution.

  
Katy Greenberg  
Anglers of the Au Sable, PO Box 200, Grayling, MI 49738

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*Dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the Au Sable River System for future generations of fly fishers.*

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## Tracking an advancing invasion: Zebra Mussels in Lake Mendota, Wisconsin

Last fall, students in a UW-Madison undergraduate limnology lab found invasive zebra mussels living in Lake Mendota for the first time. Later that year, when we pulled the Hasler Lab pier out of the water for the winter, we only found two, maybe three, mussels per leg of each pier section. While the mussels were undoubtedly in the lake, no one would refer to it as an "invasion."

The prime habitat for zebra mussels is medium-sized rocks with nooks and crannies that let them escape predation and that are sitting in one meter of water, or pretty much as shallow as it can be without freezing over and, "In July [of 2016]," Spear says, "densities of adult zebra mussels in those spots were about 10 to 20 individuals per square meter, which by standards of the Great Lakes region, is extremely low – about as low as you'll find them in systems where they're known to exist."

That was four months ago. Now, Spear says, his team is finding zebra mussels everywhere and congregated in much larger numbers. "We saw a very strong recruitment event in mid August," Spear says, "which boosted densities to upwards of 200 per square meter in some places. If any decent proportion of these young mussels are left by reproduction time next year, I think we will definitely be seeing continued exponential growth of the population."

Zebra mussels need hard surfaces like rock, cobble and piers to attach to to grow, Vander Zanden says. The fact that the bottom of Madison's lakes are primarily covered with silt and other soft sediments means that it's possible there's not enough available habitat for the mussels to reach numbers that will dramatically impact our lakes. However, he warns, it's not wise to underestimate one of the most successful invasive species to ever work its way into the Great Lakes. Since the species was first discovered in the Great Lakes in 1988, zebra mussels have spread to lakes and rivers throughout all five Great Lakes and as far away as Louisiana and California.

The main effect a zebra mussel invasion has on an ecosystem is a restructuring of the food web – moving production from the open waters of a lake down to the bottom. Zebra mussels are amazingly effective filter feeders and they essentially suck all of the phytoplankton and algae (or tiny plants) out of the water column. These tiny plants are important food for zooplankton (tiny crustaceans) that are, in turn, crucial to the diet of a lot of little fish. Which, of course, are then eaten by bigger fish.

According to Vander Zanden's 2010 report in *Ecological Monographs*, zebra mussel invasions can lead to a nearly 80% reduction in the amount of both phytoplankton and zooplankton living in an invaded ecosystem. This reduction in plankton leads to dramatic changes in water quality.

By pulling food down to the bottom and excreting waste, zebra mussels concentrate nutrients at the bottom of a lake. And, since the water is then clearer, sunlight filters down further. This leads to an explosion of algae and aquatic plant growth – a 170% increase, according to the study.

While these are the primary impacts of a zebra mussel invasion, other changes may also be in our future. Populations of species of fish, like yellow perch, that eat zooplankton in their younger years, may suffer as that food source goes away. Swimmers or beach walkers may find that bare feet and zebra mussel shells don't mix. Whatever happens, changes are in store.

Boaters should look for stowaways on their boat hulls, motors, anchors and trailers and remove them by scraping or using a pressure washer. Also, zebra mussel larvae can sneak into any water aboard your boat, so boaters need to be sure to drain the water from motors, boat bilges, live wells and bait wells, and clean the weeds from the boat, motor and trailer before leaving the boat ramp.



While they prefer hard substrate and hiding places, the hitchhikers on this dragonfly nymph are proof that zebra mussels will grow wherever they're able to attach!



Zebra mussels encrust sections of the UW Hoofers sailing pier pulled out of Lake Mendota in early November, 2016.

## Tying Night with MSU Flygals

Thanks to Bob Bawden, Terry Greiner Bob Ceru, Tony Parks, Mike Grinwis for their assistance with the vises & tools. Steven Arnoczky & Dennis O'Brien joined us to tie a few flies on this night as well.



Three Flygals from MSU with some fellow club members at the beginning of the session. How does this fly fit in the vise?

Mark assisting Sue O'Brien with a tying technique.



Bob helping two club members with tools and completing the head of the fly.



Terry trying to keep the fly in focus with the camera and screen.

RED CEDAR FLY  
FISHERS

www.redcedarflyfishers.org

Find us on 

- From National Geographic: A dramatic scene was caught on camera in Washington's Olympic National Park. (Paste in your browser)  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/12/bobcat-catches-giant-salmon-olympic-national-park-washington/>



You've got a trip planned into the back-country and space is a premium in your vehicle. Here's a novel idea for your happy hour before heading out to the stream.

This guy takes junked old jerry cans and turns them into amazing portable bar sets. You can even purchase it stocked. \$150

- **Note: Meeting is the 3rd Tuesday in February due to Valentine's Day**
- Want to improve your casting? Check out this video from Trout Unlimited on tips: Paste in the browser to view.=  
<http://www.tu.org/blog-posts/trout-tips-can-you-see-your-thumb>
- Finally, when running a boat on the water, make sure you either go slow, or wear your life vest. Watch the video on the University of Florida bass team heading out to fish: <http://www.moldychum.com/university-florida-bass-team-boating-accident/>

## Refrigerator Reminders

### February

**12th** - Club tying night at Piazzano's 6:00 - 8:00

**14th** - Valentine's Day, or (DTI day per Dave Ames), That's "Domestic Tranquility Index day which means flowers, candy, back massages, etc. to increase ones fishing opportunities.

**21st** - Red Cedar club meeting - room 273 - Giltner Hall - Bryan Burroughs from TU will do a Q&A and also talk about his recent article on cleaning waders.

**27th** - MSU Flygals tying night at Giltner Hall on campus. 6:30 to 8:00ish

### March

**4th** - Quiet Waters Symposium - MSU Pavilion 9:00 - 5:30

**14th** - Red Cedar club meeting - room 273 Giltner Hall

**18th** - Fly tying with the veterans - more details to follow. Jackson, MI at Camp Liberty