



*The Evening*

# Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

October 2007

## ***Christmas in September: This wasn't an island of or for misfits***

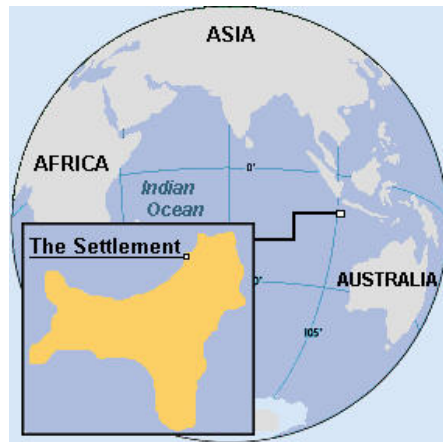
by Todd A. Schotts

Last month's speaker, our very own Peter Albertson, showed us why September's definitely not too early to be talking about Christmas ... Christmas Island, that is.

A dot in the Indian Ocean, located 1,615 miles northwest of Australia, it's no land of misfits. But it is an opportunity for unique fly fishing along pristine Pacific Ocean flats. Peter spun a tale of bugs, the island's male dogs, plenty of beer, the pursuit of bonefish and trevally and a plane that only comes once a week. Needless to say, once you're there, you are there for the week.

Some advice: make sure you have a zinc oxide-based sun block, a good flats hat with a neck guard and long-sleeve shirts. The sun's rays are nasty down there, mate. And, because you're encountering lots of coral, you'll want to have a durable pair of flats wading boots. That way you won't get cut.

As for lodgings for the week-long trip, you would have noticed they weren't the 4-star that some of us would prefer. Peter highlighted the lack of electricity and no hot water. For most of us, that would be the time to throw in the



*Christmas Island: Can you say remote?*

towel. But there was also the ample opportunity to get up close and personal with the island's healthy insect population.

As for gear, if you are going for bonefish, you'll want to use 8- or 9-weight rods. But if you're intent on trevally, you're going to want to beef up the rods -- a 10-weight, minimum, but preferably a 12-weight.

As for flies, Christmas Island bonefish flies are very sparse. The popular patterns include Crazy Charlies, Clousers, Gotcha, Deceivers and the Christmas Island Specials. The bones here favor yellow and orange.

Bottom line, if you're looking for an awesome adventure and a remote destination, try Christmas Island.

Special thanks to Peter Albertson, for bringing this adventure to us.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**



**October 3**

**Speaker: Chris Helm**

**Topic:** Caring for Fur and Feathers  
Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.

**October 10**

**Board Meeting**

Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.

**October 17**

**Activity Meeting**

**Featured Tyer: Ray Geitka**

Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.



**November 7**

**Speaker: Jeff "Bear" Andrews**

**Topic:**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 14, Board meeting**

**Nov. 28, Activity meeting**

**December 5**

**Speaker: Glen Blackwood, Topic:**  
"Reading the Water"  
Clarenceville Mid. Schl. 7:30 p.m.



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## Are you internet savvy? If so, your club needs you

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is looking for a web-savvy member to take on the role of webmaster. The void, of course, was created when Dan Gasparotto passed away.

The webmaster is responsible for the content, look and tone of our site.

For more information or to express an interest, contact President Joe Sprys.

## Oct. Featured Tyer: Ray Geitka

by Todd A. Schotts

Our Featured Tyer, for our October 17 meeting will be the one and only Ray Geitka.

Ray is a long time member of MFFC. He joined in 1980 after attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> MFFC Bamboo Rod Revival Expo.

He is a past president of the Paul H. Young Trout Unlimited Chapter, a past director for the MFFC, and has served on the MFFC Conservation Grants Committee. Not only is he active in the MFFC and a TU Life Member, he also belongs to the Anglers of the Au Sable, the NRA, and National Parks Conservation Association. He also may be the only person who can say he has the complete collection of MFFC Expo Show and Worker pins. Now, that is really amazing.

If you're not aware of Ray's tying abilities, you're in for a treat. He studied tying under Hollis Haliday and has taught Royal Oak and Birmingham Adult Education fly tying classes and has instructed at local fly shops.

Ray hopes to focus on two patterns -- the "U.P. Hillbilly" (sometimes called "Pinto's Folly") and, if he has time, the "Washington Nymph."

### U.P. Hillbilly (Pinto's Folly)

**Hook:** Dry fly, sizes 16-8

**Thread:** Brown

**Egg Sac:** Yellow, dubbed or ultra chenille

**Body:** Gold Tinsel

**Wing:** Woodchuck, tied Trude style

**Hackle:** Brown

Can imitate caddis, stoneflies or, in larger sizes, hoppers.

### Washington Nymph

**Hook:** Wet fly, sizes 18-8

**Thread:** Black

**Body:** 3-4 strands of peacock herl

**Ribbing:** Monofilament or gold, silver or copper wire

**Wing:** Spun, pheasant rump feather.



*Deer hair tying specialist Chris Helm will share his insights about caring for one's tying materials at the club's October 3 meeting.*

## Chris Helm on tap for October; caring for your fur & feathers

Do you hunt or have hunter friends who give you pelts, tails, and feathers?

Have you ever tried to dry these items and had no luck with it? Or are you simply looking to give it a try?

Well, hold on to your tails and don't ruffle your feathers, October's speaker will be an expert in the field, Chris Helm.

With 30+ years' experience in tying and knowledge of fly tying materials, Chris is known throughout the U.S and Europe. He is also the recipient of the Federation of Fly Fishers' 2004 Buz Buszek Award for significant contributions to the art of fly tying.

Chris started processing his own deer hides 25 years ago and now averages roughly 60 hides a year.

Chris is going to show us the ins and outs for preserving and caring for the pelts, tails and feathers that may be coming our way later this autumn.

# MFFC Board Meeting Minutes

## May 19, 2007

**Present:** P. Brazzil, C. Center, E. Center, S. Freeburg, K. Lipp, J. Parker, B. Shannon

**Visitors:** Dale Ross, Dave Oakley, Todd Schotts, Lew Cantor

Dale Ross asked the status of the MFFC internal audit of the books. The Board thanked him for his reminder, and will speak with J. Sprys to set up the procedure.

VP Brazzil called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of the April 18, 2007 Board meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes as presented made by J. Parker and seconded by P. Brazzil. Motion carried.

### Officer Reports

**President:** No report.

**Treasurer:** B. Shannon presented his report. Discussion followed on the responsibility of the Board member signing a check request form to review the latest financial statement to determine if the account is within budget. K. Lipp agreed to lay out a process, shifting the payment decisions from the Treasurer to the Board. Motion to accept the report made by S. Freeburg and seconded by E. Center. Motion carried.

**Corresponding Secretary:** No report. Todd Schotts reported, as the incoming Corresponding Secretary, that in June, Captain Brian Meszaros, Great Lakes Fly Fishing LLC, will speak on "Fly Fishing Lake St. Clair & Lake Erie"; in July, Scott Bowerman, Your Fly Guys, will speak on "Smallmouth & Trout on the Muskegon River"; and in August, Kathy and Darryl Nowacki, Vintner's Cellar Canton Winery, will talk about their winery and have a taste testing.

**Membership:** No report.

### Events and Outings

**Boy Scout School:** The Board welcomed Dale Ross, and expressed appreciation for all he has done over

the years to make the school so much of a success that the National Boy Scouts sent a photographer to capture pictures for their use. Dale expressed disappointment that his expenses for transporting trout for the event had not been paid yet. A lengthy discussion followed, largely having to do with the need for greater communication between the Board, who approves the events; the President, who appoints the Event Chairs; the Education Committee Chair; the Event Chairs; and the individuals who assist in all capacities. The Board agreed that Dale's expenses should be reimbursed, and was pleased when Dave Oakley reported that the total expenses for the school were \$300 under budget.

**Youth School:** J. Parker reported that the school was a great success, with 25 students and 12 instructors, and thanked the Board for its support.

### New Business

**Dennis Potter Tying Clinic:** C. Center sought the approval from the Board for Randy Park to arrange a fly tying techniques clinic at the home of Dennis Potter in October 2007. The Board gave full support for the self-funded event.

**Public Library in Grayling:** B. Shannon reported that after communicating with the library director, the MFFC can have an area of the library to display its history, awards, etc. The Board gave its full support to begin planning, with the hope that the area could be dedicated as early as Opening Day 2008.

**Wayne County Fishing Derby:** P. Brazzil reported that the Middle Branch of the Rouge River will be stocked with trout for the annual children's contest to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2007. He will be there representing the MFFC, and invited others to join him at 6 Mile and Northville Road.

**Ann Arbor TU Dinner:** J. Parker distributed a letter from Mike Duchin expressing his disappointment after winning an all inclusive fishing trip to Montana at the dinner, to find out that only 80 % of the air fare will be paid.

After discussion, K. Lipp agreed to call the President of Ann Arbor TU to discuss the matter.

**2007-2008 MFFC Board:** Doyle Letson was thanked for his work as Corresponding Secretary, and Todd Schotts was welcomed to that position. Eric Center and Paul DeJohn were welcomed to their newly reversed positions.

**Membership Renewal Form:** E. Center distributed a revised renewal form and sought suggestions and/or approval from the Board.

**ATM Card:** In order to make deposits in a timely manner, with the approval of J. Sprys, B. Shannon obtained a MFFC ATM card. A motion was made by B. Shannon, seconded by C. Center that the Treasurer be authorized to use the card. That motion was withdrawn when J. Parker made a motion that the Treasurer be authorized to use the ATM card for deposits only. This motion was seconded by B. Shannon and carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by C. Center at 9:45 p.m., seconded by K. Lipp.

## Green River fish passage project kicks off

The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) in August began work on a step-pool structure on the Green River in Antrim County to allow fish to migrate to above the Weber Dam, which was built in the 1950s.

CRA Project Manager Mark Johnson said he expected most of the work completed by the end of September.

A second phase of the project involves the replacement of an upstream road crossing at Green River Road. That portion of the project is currently being designed by the Antrim County Road Commission. The road crossing project is being paid for by a diverse group of local, state and federal funding sources.

## Fly Fishing Hall of Fame unveils its 2007 inductees

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum will be inducting its 2007 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame class later this month. Enshrined Oct. 20 will be:

**Julia Freeman Fairchild**, co-founder in 1932 and first president of the Woman Flyfishers Club, the world's first organization of female fly fishers. Julia Fairchild is quoted, "I think there is an equality of sexes in fishing that is entirely different from any other sport. We never had the slightest feeling with any of our fishing men that we weren't just as good as they were. In fact, it never occurred to any of us that we were men or women: we were fishermen." She served as Woman Flyfishers Club president for 47 years.

**Preston Jennings**, whose 1935 "A Book of Trout Flies" set the standard of excellence that has measured all subsequent work on fly fishing entomology. His experiments on how light refracts off of an insect's wings and how the trout perceives such light on the water surface resulted in fly

patterns which are still popular with trout and fly fishers. Two of these historic fly imitations are the American March Brown and the Grey Fox. Jennings was equally at home on the trout stream as he was in the lab.

**Lou Tabory**, considered a pioneer in saltwater fly fishing, especially along the northeastern Atlantic coast. Lou provided the fly fishing community with the much needed information and techniques on how to succeed in catching striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and other species on flies cast from shore. "No one I know," says Lefty Kreh in his foreword to Tabory's path-breaking book, "understands the intricacies of successful fly fishing along the northern Atlantic coast better than Lou Tabory."

**Martin J. Keane** is recognized as the nation's leading rod authority. His book, "Classic Rods and Rodmakers," first published in 1976, provided the fly fishing community with the first historical compilation of the rodmakers, their rods, and how to recognize them. This book initiated a new appreciation for the craft of rod making, a starting point for further

investigation and discovery, and is an indispensable tool for every collector.

**Norman Maclean**, author of the classic 1976 novella, "A River Runs Through It." Maclean leads the reader on a path of discovery of a Montana family surrounded in the beauty and appreciation of nature and life through fly fishing. Maclean's opening line is one with which many fly fishers can identify: "In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing."

**Robert Redford**, who in 1992 brought Maclean's novella to the big screen. Arguably, Redford's film adaptation of "A River Runs Through It" exposed more people to the art and beauty of fly fishing than any other single individual or event in the history of the sport. This movie encouraged people to give it a try and ultimately, birthed a new generation of fly fishers.

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is located midway between Roscoe and Livingston Manor in the heart of the Catskill Mountains of New York State, where American dry fly fishing reportedly was born.

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