



*The Evening*

# Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

July 2008

## *Take me to your leader:* **John Long offers 3 recipes to master**

*(Editor's Note: Long-time MFFC member and director John Long, a bamboo rod artisan of some renown, shared his insight into leader design and assembly at the June 11 meeting. The following captures many of the perspectives he shared.)*

by John N. Long

I use the following three leaders for just about all of my fishing and I use Maxima Chameleon - the brown stuff. Ultra-Green is less stiff but I do use it when bonefishing because it is less visible. I use RIO tippet material. Leaders are a very important part of your tackle system but it is easy to get carried away and make the whole leader issue too complicated. Remember the K.I.S.S. principle. Here are the three leaders I use regularly and have found them good performers....they are certainly better than any knotless leader I have ever purchased.

The first leader is what I call the "Turnover," or "windy dry fly leader." I learned this one from a superb Western guide. It will turn over just about any fly. **An important note about dry fly leaders: A dry fly leader should turn over at the end of a cast but it should not straighten out.**



*Undeterred by surgery, John Long demonstrates a knot-tying technique.*

A dry fly leader that straightens out will give you drag, especially micro-drag, but in windy conditions, especially on big Western rivers, you need this leader. It is easy to remember because it is all "sixes."

### **The Turnover**

If you want to shorten this leader, shorten the butt section!

- 6 feet 20#
- 6 inches 15#
- 6 inches 12#
- 6 inches 10#
- 6 inches 8#
- 6 inches 6# - (Cut this section to

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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**



*Dan Keifer*

### **July 9**

#### **Speaker: Dan Keifer, Clinton River Watershed Council**

The Clinton, Paint Creek and the Clinton River Watershed Council Northville Senior Center, 7:30 p.m.

### **July 17-21**

#### **Family/Couples Outing**

WaWaSum Lodge, Grayling  
Contact: Dale Ross, 734-420-2233

### **August 3**

#### **Family Day & Pig Roast**

Multi-Lakes Conservation Club  
3860 Newton Road, Commerce Twp.  
Contact: Jeff Parker, 248-330-0824



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## Take me to your leader: John Long offers 3 recipes to master

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give the net length 6 inches, including a perfection loop at the end. I usually start by looping on a 4X tippet and then add, with a surgeon's knot, a piece of 5X or 6X depending on fly size. Divide your hook size by three to get tippet size.)

- 18-24 inches overall tippet.

The second leader comes from Gary Borger and I use it for most of my dry fly work. He calls it the 4-1-4 leader. It is discussed in his book, "Presentation." It is a great book and should be in your fly fishing library.

### The 4-1-4

This leader turns over but does not straighten, thus eliminating a lot of drag and microdrag.

- 4 feet .020
- 1 foot .012 (can be + or - .001 or more)
- 4 feet .010
- 2 feet tippet.

The third leader I use is for general practice casting, panfish, bass fishing, streamer fishing and bonefish. It turns over very well and does straighten. I sometimes use Ultra-Green or fluorocarbon for the final section if the fish might be sensitive to the darker Chameleon, i.e. bonefish. This leader is easy to make any desired length and is only three pieces. The length of each section is 50 percent of the previous section.

For a seven-foot bass, panfish or whatever leader, use the following:

### The General

- 4 feet 25# or 20# (depending on line size)
- 2 feet 15# or 12#
- 1 foot 10#, 8# or 6#.

### General Advice

I use only blood knots for the leader sections and surgeon's knots for tippets.

Trim all knots *absolutely flush* then put Zap-a-Gap super glue on the knots. This smoothes them out so they won't catch weeds and debris. If you get a wind knot in your tippet or another part of the leader that is too tight to untie but hasn't yet compromised the strength, a drop of Zap-a-Gap will prevent further slipping of the knot so you can keep on fishing with 100 percent strength.

When blood knotting sections that vary more than .003 of an inch in size, use four turns on the heavier and six turns on the lighter sections.

With fluorocarbon, use seven or eight turns for the knots and the clinch knot to connect the tippet to the hook.

For the heavier sections (25#, 20# and 15#) three turns is sufficient for the blood knots. (Don't believe all you read about blood knots having to have five turns. That's simply not so.) Just remember to lubricate the knot you are tying with some saliva and pull it tight *slowly*.

## Annual Family/Couples Outing set for July 17-21 at WaWaSum

WaWaSum is a turn-of-the-century (20<sup>th</sup> Century, that is) log lodge overlooking the Au Sable's "Holy Water." Club members, family and friends participate in numerous activities, including fly fishing, canoeing, swimming, tubing, float trips and shopping. It's a group effort; everyone pitches in to have a great time.

On Saturday morning, there is a beginner's fly fishing school. It covers basic casting and other tips and techniques. Then we proceed to the river for a study on presentation and the local insect population. It's great fun for all ages and genders.

The fees are \$30 per person, per night, and \$25 per person chip-in for food on Saturday. Guests are required to bring their own bedding and towels. Attendees are on their own for meals Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Available at additional cost are fly fishing float trips and guided trips on either the Au Sable or Upper Manistee. You must RSVP prior to arrival to book the trips. For more information contact Dale Ross at 734-420-2233 or via email at [fishnflyz@netscape.net](mailto:fishnflyz@netscape.net).



*Club members spread out across a portion of Eagle Bay hoping to pick off smallmouth bass among its many pockets.*

## ***Smallmouth Outing 2008: Wind-whipped and fog-shrouded amid Eagle Bay whitecaps***

*by Todd A. Schotts*

Hurricane-like winds. Lightning. Hail. A soupy fog. Double-digit swings in water temperature. They all have something in common with the 2008 MFFC Smallmouth Outing, May 30-June 1.

As was the case with most of this spring, you never really knew what kind of weather you would encounter when heading out fishing.

As MFFC members started arriving at the outing's HQ, Port Crescent State Park, we noticed it was cloudy with a slight breeze. No problem; or we hoped. We were discussing color of flies and what we should bring. Most threw in a lot of Chartreuse Clousers. They worked in the past, but we may have overthought that whole color scheme. More on that later. We arrived at Eagle Bay around 2:30 p.m. As we were getting geared up, Jim Holly inquired where the water was. As you look out at the bay from the parking lot, all you can see is a field with rocks, dirt, and grass. The water is about 150 yards from the parking lot.

Out we trekked. Once in the water, we began slinging streamers and nymphs, hoping to tempt those pesky bronzebacks. The wind was out of the southwest and whipping around pretty good. Good thing I brought out the 6-

weight, I thought. As we fished, the rain started to fall and fall and fall. It was a real good soaking. But thanks to a combination of raincoats and waders, you can stay pretty dry. Did I mention wind? We had high winds and whitecaps dancing across the bay. Very unusual. The undertow picked up, too, as you got out to the end of the point. We all were catching fish – eight- to 17-inch smallies. Much to our surprise they weren't hitting on the Chartreuse Clousers. Instead it was small dark flies – size 8 and 10 -- with purple/blue in them. We ended our fishing around 7:30 p.m. and headed back to the Sun and Sand Motel for some vegetarian chili – it's in the MFFC's "Nobody's Died Yet (That We Know Of)" cookbook.

On Saturday, we were woken early – 4 a.m. – by northwest winds that picked up a tad ... and hail ... and lightning ... and lots of rain. It's a good thing I wasn't in a tent or camper. So we were pretty happy when things improved to partly cloudy and windy. It was more tolerable. The rain had passed. We checked the water temp – 58 degrees. A little cool to trigger spawning mode; 60 degrees or slightly warmer is best. We discovered that the males were in the shallows and the females were skulking in the bay's deep pockets. I estimate we were a week early this year. It didn't stop us from having a blast. Barney Wong nailed a 22-incher fishing in a pocket I had left.

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*Fog rolled across the bay on a northeast breeze making for an eerie scene and challenging fishing.*

## ***Smallmouth Outing 2008:*** **Wind-whipped and fog-shrouded amid Eagle Bay whitecaps**

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We broke for lunch – grilled herb-and-garlic-marinated chicken breasts, beer brauts, grilled yellow squash, zucchini, eggplant, baked beans (compliments of Mel and Karen), cookies (compliments of Brent).

Some of us headed back out late in the afternoon, around 5:30. As we headed out to the bay, I noticed the fog was starting to roll in. Within seconds, the bay was in a whiteout of fog with a gusty northeast wind. What was

weird, the water temp went from 58 degrees to 68 degrees. The wind shifted abruptly, again blowing from the northwest. That started the fog dissipating. The water temperature dropped back to 58 degrees. With whitecaps streaming across the surface, we decided that the drastic shift in water temperature wasn't going



to be any good for fishing. Most of us called it a day.

I want to thank everyone for coming up to the 2008 MFFC Smallmouth Outing. I hope everyone who attended – our turnout doubled from last year – had a great time. I know I totally enjoyed hosting the event again. I believe the two people that caught the most fish would have to be Karen and Jim Holly. Congrats and tight lines.

*Left: Barney Wong proudly displays this Eagle Bay behemoth, a 22-inch smallmouth pulled from a pocket recently vacated by the author.*

## **Montana II: Big Sky Country is calling**

Several spots remain for the special second MFFC trip to Yellowstone country August 16-23 at the Slash E Ranch near West Yellowstone, MT. That's a week of fishing some of the finest trout waters in North America. The Madison, Yellowstone, Gallatin, Gardiner, and Henry's Fork are all an easy drive from the Slash E. Estimated costs are \$750 for airfare and car rental (if you split the car rental fee with another club member) and \$300 for food and lodging at the Slash E. Breakfasts, lunches, fishing license fees, guide trips are extra. For more information, contact Dale Ross via phone at 734- 420-2233 or via email at [fishnflyz@netscape.net](mailto:fishnflyz@netscape.net).

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