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# Tippets, Tapers & Tales

## President's Message - April 2020

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy. It is amazing how things can change so quickly. If you have not heard by now, our April membership meeting has been cancelled. Future meetings, fly tying and other events will be scheduled and announced when we get an okay from the Governor.



Your board of directors did meet last Thursday by conference call to discuss workings of the club during this shutdown. Remember we do have our Annual Raffle Fund Raiser going on and when the "Stay in Place" order expires we can work out a way to get tickets to anyone that needs them then. We are also looking for individuals that may be interested in serving on the Red Cedar Board of Directors. If you are interested in doing so or would like more information of what is involved in doing so, please let me or another Board Member know. We will be voting on Board Members at the June Picnic.

We did discuss last Thursday night other club events, work projects, and our summer WAWASUM outing but will wait to be more specific on those events until the Coronavirus dissipates. Keep checking your email, the club website and the Red Cedar Facebook page for any updates.

For the time being.....Stay inside and tie flies!

Mark



1981 McKenzie Cup Winners

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International.

It's purpose is to promote fly-fishing through Education, Restoration and Conservation

## April Program - Hopefully we'll have him at a future meeting:

Nathan Beelman is one of our newest conservation officers. He'll provide an overview of his office, update us on some of the newest laws, fishing issues and challenges while on the job, etc.

Here's more from Nate: "I am excited to be in Eaton County to learn a new area, meet new people and new communities," said Conservation Officer Nathan Beelman. "I am from a different part of the state and I'm excited to learn about the outdoor opportunities that there are in Eaton County and help make sure those opportunities are preserved to be enjoyed by future generations."



### More about the DNR

The duties of the Michigan DNR have expanded over time. "Our mission is to protect the natural resources and those who enjoy them," Burton said. "Today, this includes search and rescue, marine, off-road vehicle, snowmobile, parks, forests, environmental protection – in general, all outdoor recreation and protection, in addition to duties inherent to law enforcement officers."

### Historical developments

In 1907, the game warden's mission expanded from "game and fish" to "game, fish and forestry."

In 1921, the Michigan Legislature created the Michigan Department of Conservation –the precursor to the Michigan DNR. That same year, the Conservation Commission, a citizen body appointed by the governor, was established to provide policy direction for department activities.



By 1924, there were 115 conservation officers in Michigan, who were paid \$2.50 a day and each patrolled 841 square miles of land. There were more than 300 unpaid deputies who assisted.

Four years later, uniforms were issued to the 140 officers who then each patrolled just over 690 square miles of land, earning \$5.50 per day. In 1931, a field administration section was formed to include wildland firefighting and law enforcement.

In 1932, due to the Great Depression, the division was reduced to about 120 officers. In 1933, radios with an AM-only signal were issued to officers to report forest fires.



Four years after that, the state's 122 officers were issued department handguns for the first time. Previously, they had to provide their own firearms. In 1941, conservation officers received their first FM radios. In 1948, the division acquired two new commercial fishing patrol boats, uniforms and two planes.

With the Baby Boom after World War II, the 1960s signaled a new era in conservation as more demands were placed on natural resources by a growing population. In 1968, the Department of Conservation was renamed the Department of Natural Resources to address broader responsibilities.

## Salmon in the Classroom Program in Michigan

Nearly 300 Michigan schools, and 30,000 students, are raising Chinook salmon in their classrooms. From November through May, students watch salmon eggs hatch and grow through several life stages while monitoring their aquarium habitat. In the spring, before the school year ends, students travel to local watersheds to release their surviving fish. Kids from nearly all grade levels not only take delight in raising a “wild” species in their classroom but learn Great Lakes ecology throughout the year. Applications for the fall of 2020 will be available at [Michigan.gov/SIC](https://Michigan.gov/SIC) after Jan. 1.



## New Fishing Area for Michigan Anglers

.....[thefishingwire.com](http://thefishingwire.com)

Outdoor enthusiasts know that the rugged, 108,000-acre expanse of Michigan’s Pigeon River Country State Forest is one of the state’s premier destinations to connect with nature. Three world-class trout streams ramble through forests and wetlands at the heart of the state’s elk range.

A Department of Natural Resources land deal valued at more than \$2 million finalized last month adds the Elk Forest at Black River, a stunning, 597-acre parcel in Montmorency County, to Michigan’s public lands. This ecologically important area is surrounded on three sides by existing state-managed land and will become part of the Pigeon River Country State Forest, known to many as “the Big Wild.”

This stretch of the Black River is supported by DNR Type I trout regulations where the minimum brook trout size limit is 7 inches, all tackle types are allowed, and the daily bag limit is five fish. Trout fishing season begins the last Saturday in April and ends Sept. 30. Walled Lake fishing regulations will be identical to those of neighboring South and North Blue lakes: catch and immediate release only, and artificial lures only.



## GerTent 4-Season Tent

The GerTent launched on Kickstarter in February. What is it, you might be wondering? It’s a portable, four-season tent that can sleep up to eight people.

Inspired by the Mongolian gers, the [GerTent](https://www.gertent.com) has all the functions and perks of a **yurt** with the added (relative) ease of transport. It can be set up in just 15 minutes, has telescoping poles, a floor sheet, a rooftop stove vent, and a front porch tent add-on. It’d be a little much to carry in just for a weekend, but we like the appeal of a yurt for a longer group camping adventure or hunting base camp.



*Could this be just the thing the club needs to set up close to a river up north for members to use during the season? Buy some property, build a deck and...voila, almost a yurt!*

## T-Shirt Ideas for Club:



## The world's first active shark deterrent band.

Designed for beachgoers, swimmers and surfers, Sharkbanz use patented magnetic technology developed by marine biologists to deter predatory shark species. [www.sharkbanz.com](http://www.sharkbanz.com)

**EFFECTIVE** - Technology based on proven science, published research and testing verified by an independent third party analysis group.

**SIMPLE** - No batteries, no charging; always on

**AFFORDABLE** - Safety for everyone

**STYLISH** - Ergonomic design and premium materials for enhanced comfort

**Worn** on ankle or foot

**Magnetic** Shielded Box for Safe Storage

**Weight:** 3 oz.



Who, besides your editor, wants to be the first RCFF member to test drive this?



## Cold Water Safety: Surviving a Cold-Water Accident

When preparing for a boating trip, the easiest but most dangerous thing to overlook is maintaining your body's temperature. Water cooler than the normal body temperature of 98.6 degrees can cause heat loss. Cold water will cool a body 25 times faster than cold air of the same temperature.

Falling into cold water triggers the body's cold water immersion responses, beginning with an uncontrollable gasping reflex. A well-fitted lifejacket will keep the airway out of the water -- which is most important when the gasping reflex begins. Heart rate and blood pressure increase dramatically, increasing the risk for cardiac arrest. The victim may hyperventilate and find it difficult to get air into the lungs.

Any water less than 59 degrees will trigger the physical response to cold water, but some studies suggest that the water can be as warm as 68 degrees. The colder the water, the more severe the response. Total immersion in cold water is very painful and the disoriented victim can quickly panic. With these combined reactions, the victim may drown quickly. The best prevention for this danger is to wear a lifejacket.

The colder the water, the greater the risk to the unprepared person. If the water temperature is under 50 degrees, the window of opportunity for rescue is only a few minutes if the involved person is not dressed for the water conditions. Nearly 90% of boating fatalities are due to drowning and nearly half of those are attributed to the effects of immersion in cold water.

Should an immersion occur, try to get out of the water as quickly as possible. Do not try to remove clothing or shoes. Air trapped between layers of clothing will help keep a person afloat and also protect from direct exposure to cold water.

Should you manage to keep your head above water and stay afloat, the following chart provides a general idea of survival times in water of varying temperatures. Factors that may alter these estimates include clothing or protective gear, the individual's health condition, and water conditions.

Survival Time		
Water Temperature	Exhaustion	Death
32.5	Under 15 min.	15 min. or less
32.5-40	15-30 min.	30-90 min
40-50	30-60 min.	1-3 hrs.
50-60	1-2 hrs.	1-6 hrs.
60-70	2-7 hrs.	2-40 hrs.
70-80	3-12 hrs.	3 hrs.-indefinite

## National Fly Rod Building Competition for Disabled Vets Underway

In 2008, Andy Anderson, a paraplegic Vietnam veteran who had recently joined the Long Beach PHWFF program, said he wanted to learn to build a fly rod and he wanted us to teach him. At the time, the few PHWFF programs that existed did not teach rod building so we first got approval from Founder Ed Nicholson before setting up a series of rod building classes. It was so well received by all the veterans in the Long Beach program that, with prodding from Andy, we suggested to John Colburn, VP of PHWFF, that something similar be offered to all programs nationwide. The Long Beach PL worked with John to create the rules and timeline of what is now the National Rod Building Program and Contest that started in 2009.



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### Who would you most liked to have fish with? Thanks to those who sent in names.

Keith Groty - Lee Wulff

Mark Johnston - Joan Wulff

Terry Greiner - Ted Williams

Dave Peterson - Lefty Kreh

Bob Ceru - John Harris

Mark Johnson - Matt Johnson

Mike Grinwis - Henry Winkler

Rick Lewandowski - John Voekler

Bob Bawden - John Gierach

## Hilarious Posters Illustrate Terrible National Park Reviews

"Subpar Parks is a snarky love letter to the National Parks System," wrote Share. "When I discovered that there were one-star reviews for every one of the 62 national parks, I set out to illustrate each."

Check out her site for some of her work: <https://www.ambersharedesign.com>, and also follow her on instagram [@subparparks](https://www.instagram.com/subparparks) as she posts her parks' artwork each week.

**"No cell service."** **"Somewhat bland."** Artist Amber Share took creativity to a whole new level when she decided to illustrate our national parks' funniest one-star reviews. Yes, apparently many of our country's most beautiful landscapes don't deliver on the wow factor for some visitors.



## Invasive carp eDNA sampling results cause retesting on three Michigan inland lakes:

Environmental DNA (eDNA) testing by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revealed no evidence of genetic material from bighead and silver carp – two species of invasive Asian carp – in Houghton Lake in Roscommon County, Long Lake in Hillsdale County or Cass Lake in Oakland County. The retesting, which occurred from October to December 2019, was in response to results of similar surveys previously conducted as part of an aquatic invasive species early detection project conducted collaboratively by the DNR and Michigan State University.

However, the MSU results indicated that one sample each from Houghton, Long and Cass lakes contained DNA from the *Hypophthalmichthys* genus, which includes invasive bighead and silver carp. The lab analyzed 37 samples from Long Lake, 48 samples from Houghton Lake and 40 samples from Cass Lake.

The three positive samples from MSU were retested at the USFWS Whitney Genetics Lab in La Crosse, Wisconsin, the testing facility used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those results confirmed the genetic sequence was for bighead carp in the Long and Cass lake samples and silver carp in the Houghton Lake sample.

“While a positive eDNA sample does not necessarily represent the presence of live fish, we use the eDNA results as one piece of information to determine the best response to the potential threat of an invasive species,” said Seth Herbst, DNR aquatic species and regulatory affairs unit manager. Confirmation by the Whitney lab prompted the DNR and USFWS to undertake repeat sampling on all three lakes. Follow-up sampling of Long and Houghton lakes in 2019 found no silver or bighead carp eDNA in the 40 samples taken at Long Lake and the 430 samples taken from Houghton Lake.

If you like to tie flies and ever use CDC, pine squirrel or rabbit hair, here's a tip from *Fly Tyer Magazine*.

Similar in use to the Magic Tool but see the notes at the bottom of the article with feather quills.



## Easy prey: The largest bears in the world use small streams to fatten up on salmon

CORVALLIS, Ore. - It's a familiar scene to anyone who's watched footage of brown bears catching sockeye salmon in Alaska: They're standing knee-deep in a rushing river, usually near a waterfall, and grabbing passing fish with their paws or jaws. But a new study published in the journal *Conservation Letters* reveals a different picture of how and when bears eat salmon. Most of these bears, also known as grizzlies, are dipping into small streams to capture their iconic prey.

Using a foraging model based on the Wood River basin in southwest Alaska, a study team led by Oregon State University determined that while small-stream habitats have only about 20% of the available salmon in the watershed, they provide 50% of bear consumption of salmon. "This tells us that populations of sockeye salmon that spawn in little streams are disproportionately important to bears," said study lead author Jonny Armstrong, an ecologist at Oregon State University. "Bears profit from these small streams because they offer salmon at unique times of the season. To capitalize on plentiful salmon runs, bears need them to be spread across time."

Small streams typically have cold water, which leads to populations of salmon that spawn much earlier in the season when no other populations are available to predators such as bears. These results have potential consequences for how environmental impact assessments are conducted and evaluated for large projects such as the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay.

These reports typically focus on how the project will affect the abundance of salmon in lakes and rivers, but they usually overlook smaller habitats, Armstrong said. "When people want to build a large mine, they think these streams don't matter because they represent a small fraction a watershed, in terms of area or salmon abundance. In conservation and management, we generally place value on the largest runs of salmon at the expense of the smallest ones," Armstrong said. "If we pose a different question and ask which habitats are important for the ecosystem, then small streams become particularly relevant."

The researchers developed a mathematical model that explores how watershed development and commercial fisheries affect how many sockeye salmon are available to grizzlies. The model simulated different patterns of development and explored how they affected the number of salmon bears consumed. Protecting large salmon runs at the expense of smaller ones turned out to be bad for bears. "This causes the bears' total salmon consumption to drop off faster compared to strategies that protected small salmon runs and the early feeding opportunities they offer to bears," Armstrong said. "If you impair these areas, you may only reduce the total number of salmon by a little, but the number of salmon that end up in bear's stomachs - you could reduce that a lot."

According to the study authors, there are two significant reasons why the largest bears in the world are drawn to small streams to eat salmon. First, the fish in these streams are easy to catch for adult and juvenile grizzlies. And second, because the water is colder than in lakes and rivers, salmon spawn in them earlier - probably to give their eggs more time to incubate, the authors said. So, the fish are plentiful by the first week of July - making them the first places bears fish after they emerge from hibernation.

"When they come out of hibernation, the bears are just scraping by and barely making it," Armstrong said. "Having these streams means they can start eating salmon in early July, which is about six weeks before the river- and lake-salmon populations start spawning and become available to bears. It's an incredible foraging opportunity for bears." Armstrong added, "I'm sure that native Alaskans who subsisted on salmon were keenly aware of this, too."

Armstrong is an assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences. [https://eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2019-12/osu-ept121919.php](https://eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-12/osu-ept121919.php)





## Low-cost Fishing Trips, by Bob Kren, RCFFer and sometimes Mr Flyfisherpersonguy

My wife, Sandra, and I recently took a trip on Spirit Airlines. Spirit has a reputation for “no-frills” travel for the “Free Spirit.” As you probably know, on Spirit, nothing is “Free.” Of course, the other carriers have imitated this business model, except they give you peanuts and soda pop, and don’t charge for them. I have no complaints whatsoever about Spirit Airlines: the seats were not uncomfortable, the flights to-and-from DTW were on time, the planes had two wings, our fellow passengers did not smell too much like goats -- what more can you hope for? Truly, I’d fly with them again.

I got to thinking (cue ominous music, “Russia Under the Mongolian Yoke” comes to mind) what a budget fly fishing trip might look like. You’ve always wanted to flyfish in some exotic setting, so let’s see how “À la Carte” Tours might fulfil your dreams. Or nightmares, depending. Imagine the script for such an adventurous outing.

Agent, at arrival kiosk: We’re happy, happy to see you’ve chosen a trip to PataZealaguay, the gem of South America. Very good choice! Enjoy! We here at AICT, “Serving ‘Travelers’ since 1945,” take all credit cards.

Traveler: Good, I’ve got quite a few.

Agent: Maybe you didn’t understand. You’ve got to give me all your credit cards.

Traveler: But, I . . .

Agent: NOW, SCHWEINHUND!!! Thank you, sir. That way, you don’t have to worry about finding a card at a particularly exciting fish-catching moment. To continue, you originally chose to fish our exclusive waters on the Whopper River. I’m afraid to say, that particular stream is under repair, to fix a, um, biological mishap, but we . . . Traveler: What kind of “mishap?”

Agent: Let’s just say that not all sewage treatment plants are created equal. However, we do have a much better experience, on an even more pristine river, for a slight upcharge. We’re sure you’ll be . . .

Traveler: Upcharge? How much?

Agent: All charges are in the local currency, the zotzlMark, which varies considerably in exchange rate on an hourly basis, so we’ll just pool all your charges at the end of the trip, and go from there. (Right about now, Traveler is sighing deeply, and trembling, slightly.) That even more wonderful river requires an airplane flight on one of our ME-109’s, at a relatively tiny fee, plus you pay for the fuel. Both ways, up front.

Traveler: Both ways?

Agent: Up front. Here at AICT we’re busy!, busy! busy!, with all of our flyfishers a month, so you must understand that ferrying both of them to and fro is a major part of our business model, not so?

Traveler: Um, I guess, but what about . . .

*con’t on next page*

Mr. Fisherguy....cont'd

Agent: No more need be said, we've anticipated your every need and every weakness. As soon as you arrive at Stalag 3, you'll be greeted with a native feast, of various grubs and mosses, unless you're constitution is more used to "American" food (snicker!), in which case there'll be a small charge for that upgrade. And, speaking of upgrades, you'll be given a choice of guides: a trainee; an experienced guide at a small additional charge; and a guide experienced in fishing, which'll really cost ya, but by now, who's counting, am I right? Maybe our Founder's great-grandson, Herr Himmler IV, will accompany you! Wow! As to your luxurious accommodations, there are various levels of "luxury": mosquitoes, chiggers, bedbugs, and ticks; just mosquitoes and the occasional hornet; or completish comfort, that features a mattress and a pillow, at no extra charge. Beyond the upgrade for sheets, and another charge for blankets, that is.

Traveler: I have a headache.

Agent: You probably have one of those things going around. Cancellation at this late date is not an option, regardless of reason. Besides, can't you imagine fishing for the fish in the brochure? Just wait 'til you and your favorite flyrod . . .

Traveler: Wait up! I was led to believe that all gear is provided. What's this?

Agent: Yes, it is, by you. Oh, well, mistakes will be made, but unfortunately you're the one who made the mistake. Fishing rods, or "poles" as the natives call them, are sturdy, and castable, if the casting is dapping. Of course, small fee, blahblah you know the routine by now. Lines, reels, flies, all for a . .

Traveler: But I brought all my favorite flies, many boxesful.

Agent: Achtung! Security, immediately confiscate all these plastic boxes! You see, sir, chicken feathers, fur, fuzz, hooks, anything artificial – all are considered contraband, and are seized, because chickens are an endangered species here in PataZealaguay, and so are synthetics. Lucky nobody went through your luggage, other than that guy over there. He really likes your underwear, that's probably why he's keeping it. Besides, your clumsy attempts at making a fly that will survive the local fish is both pathetic and . . .

Traveler: What kind of fish can destroy a fly? Or should I have asked?

Agent: Piranha, sir, piranha. Don't worry, though, you can rent steel waders, though the electric eels occasionally . . .

Traveler: Oh, God!, just charge it all, get me there, and get me home, please.

Agent: That's the Spirit, sir, that's the Spirit. Oh, and getting you home safely requires an upgrade.

(Roll credits, fade to black.)





Michigan Fishing License Buttons  
"Check your grandparent's attic"

In 1953, a fishing license cost you \$1.50 if you were a Michigan resident, and another dollar got you a trout stamp. Twenty years earlier, a bright yellow badge with a registration number and an image of a leaping fish indicated you were a licensed resident angler.





## New T-Shirt from Oregon



One of our members, Dave Peterson on vacation in Florida with a couple of sea trout.

His guide is all "catch & release" as well. Here's a view of a Pine Island sunset around the area where these were caught.





Spotted in Florida by one of our members who sent this photo.

A gentleman fabricated this "shark" onto his motorized vehicle and uses it to travel around town.

Now with a lift kit and larger wheels, this could be the new fishing vehicle of your dreams. Goes really fast.







Hunter Lyle with just under a 30lb. salmon from the Betsie River. I had fished for about 36 hours straight at that point I ended up fishing 42 hours without moving from my spot that weekend and I caught or helped land about 40 + fish.

The River was usually a zoo during the day and well into the night. But between 1 am and 7am the river was almost empty and it seemed like the giants came out of their holes and started hitting UV flies and beads. I was drifting a run over and over and it tailed out into a deeper hole as the fly would dip down the side of the hole and that is usually when the hit came. The hit was usually pretty light but the fight was always amazing. Just below the hole was a tree that ran all the way across the river and up onto the bank on either side and a ways below that was the friend I came out with. I knew the fish was enormous when I set the hook and it took off screaming up the river taking me almost to the end of my backing in seconds.

After a few minutes of feeling my reel knob spin into my knuckles run after run the fish decided to turn around and head straight under the downed tree. I could feel him still fighting as my line rubbed against the trees branches under the water and my friend down river saw the fish flash past him and ran to the tree to see if he could help. I pushed the rod underwater to my neck and under the tree until he could grab the end and clambered over the tree. As he handed the rod back he confirmed that yes it was still on and still running. After another exhausting 3 or 4 minutes I could feel the fish starting to tire out. Finally I guided it over to my buddy who scooped it into the net and ended the epic fight.

<h3>Hook Removal Instructions</h3> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wrap a string such as a fishing line around the bend of the hook. Get a good grip on the string</li> <li>2. Stabilize the area on a flat surface if possible. While pushing down on the eye of the hook, apply a firm quick jerk to the string, parallel to the shank. Sterilize and bandage.</li> </ol>	A diagram titled "FISH HOOK REMOVAL String Yank Technique" showing two steps. Step 1 shows a hand holding a string wrapped around a hook embedded in a finger. Step 2 shows the hand applying a downward pressure on the hook's eye while pulling the string away, which removes the hook. The website "www.netknots.com" is visible in the background of the diagram.
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Not that anyone in our club has ever had this problem! I carry a heavy duty boot shoelace in my best or boat bag as you never know when someone's life has to be saved.

## Michigan: Talk Fisheries at DNR "Conversation & Coffee" Events

The DNR hosts these outings to give people an opportunity to meet with state fisheries managers and biologists, discuss local issues and management activities and ask questions. To encourage conversation, the meetings are very informal; at many, no formal presentations are planned. Refreshments will be provided.

These forums also are great opportunities to catch up on local and statewide fishing regulation changes that affect anglers. The schedule includes the following dates and locations: April 2 (Munising), April 6 (Sault Ste. Marie), April 14 (Ironwood), April 15 (Grandville and Ishpeming) and April 16 (Coldwater and Houghton), plus a May 7 virtual meeting covering the northern and southern Lake Huron management units.

For more detailed information about the meetings or other questions, visit [Michigan.gov/Fishing](http://Michigan.gov/Fishing) or contact [Suzanne Stone](#) at 517-284-6162.

## Field Notes:

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Yes, you CAN have your vehicles and haul/drive it to your fly fishing destinations! All it takes is a little ingenuity. Money doesn't hurt either.

- "Learn from the mistakes of others... you won't live long enough to make them all yourself!"

- Good film on the arctic grayling reintroduction initiative in Michigan:  
<https://arcticgraylingdocumentary.weebly.com/the-film.html?fbclid=IwAR1Edhsp0kBJfe7vyZUdWMY8rycGZmig-DlvqNxH8teuziR8PstrjsJkhVw>

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What fly shops need most right now is continued cash flow. Without such, the challenges of meeting payroll, rent, servicing debt and other essentials can quickly become overwhelming, resulting in layoffs or, even worse, shop closures. Consider buying gift cards.

## Refrigerator Reminders

### April

**3rd** - National walk to work day - or how one usually gets to their favorite river



**14th** - Club meeting, 6:30 Hospitality, 7:00 meeting. Program by Nate Beelman, Eaton County conservation officer has been **cancelled** unfortunately.

**30th** - National Honesty day - or.... exactly how long was that trout you landed.....c'mon now, fess up.

**00** - Don't forget your 2019 license expired in March.

### May

**2nd** - Bill Earl youth fishing program  
 ~ Cancelled for all three Saturdays

**12th** - Club meeting, 6:30 hospitality, 7:00 meeting. Additional info on the program based on the current situation with the C-virus. Will keep everyone posted.

**17th** - National 'pack rat day'....or what your vest feels like when you load it down and then can't find exactly what you're looking for.