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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - May 2020

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy. Unfortunately, due to the stay at home extension we will be cancelling our **in person** meeting for May. However, I have arranged with Brian Bielecki's help to schedule a Zoom meeting for the club on May 12th at 7:00pm.



The meeting ID and password are as follows:

Meeting ID: **995 4414 2050**

Password: **966677**

Plan on joining us that evening as we will give updates on many club activities, the Picnic, The Annual Raffle, Club Elections, The summer WAWASUM outing, as well as hopefully a fishing report and hatch report. We are going forward with our Annual Raffle drawing as scheduled for June whether we have the picnic the same night or not. I know it has been difficult with meeting cancellations for members to get tickets and turn in money. If you need tickets let me know and we will find a way to safely get you tickets. We need to make sure to have all money and ticket stubs returned before the drawing is held.

I hope members are getting out and doing a little fishing now that spring seems to have arrived. I have gotten out once so far and hope to get out again next week.

See all of you at the Zoom meeting on the 12th.
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

Some Favorite Phlies by Bob Kren, RCFFer and occasionally Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

If you saw the movie “Vice,” for which Christian Bale won an Oscar by portraying Vice President Dick Shady, and you stuck around for the credits – which are on YouTube -- you saw several flies tied to look like plot points: an oil-derrick dry, and suchlike. I have to admit that I didn’t recognize some of the references, but most of the ties were hilarious and original. So here’s a list of flies you all will recognize, even though none of us is Brad Pitt (semiobscure reference to “that movie”).

- **The Raggedy-Ass** This is the one tied with materials you bought because you were convinced that the flies tied would be cool, and killer. But they weren’t. The thread color is odd, the dubbing wiry and flashy, yet somehow soft and muted. Sometimes called “The Mess,” which is usually defined by “I don’t have x, but y will do nicely.” Sure it will.
- **The Bullett** Do NOT! buy Taylor Streit’s “Instinctive Fly Fishing.” On page 77, in reference to crowded waters, we find “If you are ‘packin’, be sure to show him your heat.” On page 79, there’s “Taylor Streit note: ‘Packing a sidearm’ helps here.” Other gems include “surely if you are packin’ heavy, you will get a long hunk of the best water,” and “the size of your pistola.” One has to assume that his personal pistola is sadly lacking, and requires considerable augmentation. The Bullett looks like a .50 caliber machine gun, with a size 12 hook for a sight. In fact, it IS a .50 caliber machine gun. Take that, Taylor!
- **The Conker** This fly is ridiculously heavy, looks like an anvil, casts like an anvil, and may well be an anvil. You have to cast this one with an oval cast, because a straight overhead cast will kill either you or your rod. Deadly in shallow water, especially when your target fish doesn’t see it coming. Arnold Schwarzeneger casting a telephone pole, with a hawser for a 40-weight line, comes to mind.
- **The Rich Guy** A fly that is expensive, garish, easily recognized onstream as belonging to somebody with more money than brains. If you don’t notice the fly, TRG will holler out to you, from a safe distance, what it is, who tied it, where and on what famous waters he uses it, where he bought it, and how much it cost. Then, he will tell his minions to remove you from his property. Unless you’re packin’ a Bullett (see above).
- **The Too Small**, a fly that even in a size 12 it looks like a speck. This is a celebration of every fly you couldn’t manage to pull out of a flybox, or tie onto a 13x tippet. You hear references to the “30-30” club, whose members have caught a 30” trout on a size 30 midge. I don’t believe it, either.
- **The Woody Booger** Not to be mistaken for its more famous brother, the Royal Coachman, the Woody Booger is the fly you don’t mind hanging up in a tree or a bush, it’s that ugly. The defining material that makes the WB the WB is a, um, naturally occurring substance, which comes in a variety of colors: green, yellow, sallow, sordid, and bloody. Some “purists” decry the use of such a super-natural substance in any fly, claiming that its scent is what attracts the prey. To them, I say “Hey! Why do you hate carp and chub?”
- **The Engagement Ring** Gaudy, gaudy, gaudy. This is the fly you sincerely regret, that never seems able to get lost, even when you try! It’s full of promise, but is bound to get you in deep trouble. The outcome of its use is unpredictable, a mix of joy and sorrow, braininess and stupidity. It seems to make the quarry happy, but that’s just for a while. Who gets hooked most often? You.
- **The Commemorative** This is your favorite fly, the go-to one, the one that brings a manly tear and at least one memory of a day where the fish were taking just the one pattern, with abandon. Subsequently, abandon becomes a verb, defining your targets’ willingness to respond. This, being your most precious fly, has the greatest affinity for climbing into trees, or unravelling your tippet knot, disappearing under a huge snag, or otherwise getting lost.
- **The Chernobyl Muddler Raw Bat** is everybody’s worst nightmares, tied into one. It has a refined ability to spread havoc among fish like a plague, infecting every one of them with cleverness, keener eyesight, extreme pickiness, and lockjaw. As often as you tie on a Commemorative, you’ll use a CMRB – the one works occasionally but never as good as your memories would indicate, and the CMRB never works, turns off every fish in your stretch of river, and beyond. It’s worst feature is that it can change form, and what worked yesterday is today’s CMRB.
- **The Illegal Alien** is the fly that hides out in your flybox, and you can never find. You know it’s there, probably with its many children, but it has a way of blending in with all the other flies, rendering your picking it out a vain effort. Your wasting time looking for it takes work away from good American flies, that you overlook in your attempts to find it. Nobody’s home. Sorry.

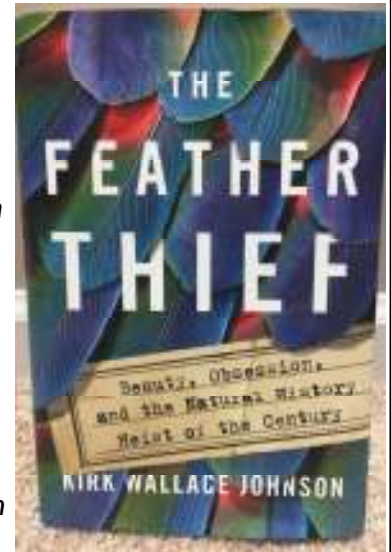
And that’s it for my list. You gotta recognize some of these, and have lots of your own “faves.”

Book review by Steven Arnoczky:

On the recommendation of a friend, my wife gave me the book, **The Feather Thief** for Christmas and I finally got around to reading it on a recent trip. It is a great book by Kirk Wallace Johnson who is also a devoted fly fisherman. The book chronicles the true story of the theft of rare bird specimens from a branch of the British Museum of Natural History in the small English town of Tring in June of 2009.

The thief, Edwin Rist, was an American concert musician who was studying in London and had become obsessed with the Victorian art of tying salmon flies. The book follows Edwin's introduction to fly tying and his rise to being one of the premier tiers of Victorian inspired salmon flies in the world. As Edwin's obsession to tie these flies to the exacting standards described in the archives of salmon flies grew, so did his frustration in not being able to afford, or even find, the rare feathers required to duplicate these works of art.

Thus was the motivation for one of most bizarre and intriguing crimes ever committed. The author does an amazing job of detailing the crime and its reverberations through the salmon fly-tying community. This is a well written book that I am sure any person who every tied a fly, salmon or otherwise, will enjoy. It is an easy read and a perfect elixir for the cabin fever I am sure we are all dealing with. Enjoy!!!



More Covid 19
Thoughts →



America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2020

American Rivers has released it's list of the top 10 endangered rivers in the country. Here's the link and note #6 on Michigan & Wisconsin's Menominee River. Click on each river to learn more about the issues facing each one and who the partners are that support these efforts.

<https://endangeredrivers.americanrivers.org/>



America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2020

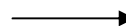
- 01: UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
- 02: LOWER MISSOURI RIVER
- 03: BIG SUNFLOWER RIVER
- 04: PUYALLUP RIVER
- 05: SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER
- 06: MENOMINEE RIVER
- 07: RAPID CREEK
- 08: OKEFENOKEE SWAMP & ST MARYS RIVER
- 09: OCKLAWAHA RIVER
- 10: LOWER YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER



Sign posted on a canal around Miami. Not sure if someone "saw" a gator, or the officers found them not social distancing enough and fined them with a citation. Spell check anyone?



New sticker for the car or truck

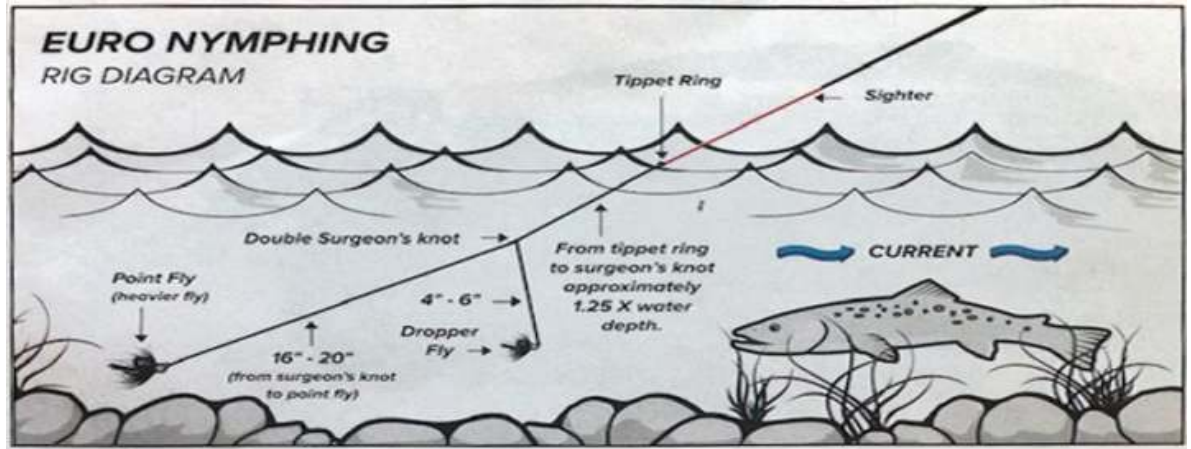


With the May meeting cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions, we're hoping that the June picnic will still go on as scheduled and will keep everyone posted.

In the meantime, tickets still available for our major club raffle. We'll pull the winners at the picnic so if you'd still like to get in on the drawings, **send a check** to: Red Cedar Fly Fishers, PO Box 129, Okemos, MI 48805. Tickets will also be sold at the picnic as well but we'll need all of them need to be in by June 9th in order for them to be counted. The raffle is open only to residents of Michigan per the MI. Lottery Dept.



Euro Nymphing - Thinking of trying out this method of fly fishing this year? There's a ton of resources online and in print for rods, lines, flies, etc., and the pic below shows how a typical rig is setup. Several Youtube videos offer help on how to get started along with the best type of water to start with.



Federal Stimulus Bill Includes Resources for the Fly Fishing Industry

We are in uncharted waters on so many fronts because of the current COVID-19 situation. From protecting our families to protecting our livelihoods, every member of our industry is being affected. We want you to know that AFFTA is doing everything possible to ensure the fly fishing industry is represented and accounted for in the relief measures that will come with the recently passed *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*.

The most relevant provisions to the fly fishing industry in the CARES Act include:

- A temporary case-by-case suspension of tariff payments
- Payroll tax relief measures
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) through the SBA for small business
- An additional \$300 million "to provide direct financial assistance to all manner of fishers, fishery participants, and communities that have been affected by coronavirus."

Right now, all of the details about application and distribution haven't been made available. But our finger is on the pulse of this and we will share everything we learn as soon as we hear.



Another creative fishing vehicle for you to "get away" and camp by the river.

Inspiration came from the great grandparents crossing the prairie on the Oregon Trail in 1862....August 3rd -7th to be exact.

We can manufacture a nylon tippet in size 0.5X or 0.2667 mm, but the Chinese can't do it with silk. They have to have at least .0001 of an inch between each size-step...

This comes from the days of the old SILK leaders. A straight "bundle" of silk fibers made of many silk strands. Note: a silk worm produces two filaments at a time which spiral together as they pass through a gland which produces a natural adhesive which binds the two filaments.

The filaments are wound into a cocoon (by the silk worm). The cocoons are boiled to remove the natural adhesives. The individual filaments are twisted into threads. The threads are twisted into a bundle (heavier thread) which had an approximate diameter of .0011 of an inch.

This was rated as a zero or 0x.

Therefore 0x = .0011. The 0 X thread was then passed through a diamond aperture (hole). One pass = 1x, 2 passes = 2x, 3 passes = 3x and so forth.

The diameter of a 5x line would be equal to .0011 - .0005 (reduced by .0001 per pass. Or 5 times (5x) This would give you a diameter of .0006. Each pass would reduce the diameter by .0001 as the thread went through ever decreasing apertures.

I've been told they could not shave off a large amount at a time because the silk thread would catch or bind and break off. So it had to be done in ever decreasing sizes of .0001 of an inch.

This also gave them quality control if each pass reduced the thread by the same amount (.0001 of an inch). Therefore a pass was marked as an x meaning "times" 0x meant never passed through. 6x meant passed through 6 gates (apertures or holes) or 6 times or 6X.



Check out some of the other fly fishing clubs' websites in the area as well as our own.

ausableanglers.org ~ Anglers of the Ausable
redcedarflyfishers.org ~ Red Cedar Fly Fishers
mffc.org ~Michigan Fly Fishing Club
sjrvff.com ~ St. Joe River Valley Fly Fishers



Want to see how one manufacturer produces their high quality fly tying vises and another their reels?

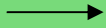
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phnGANTSZNM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JK0GxwrNIA>



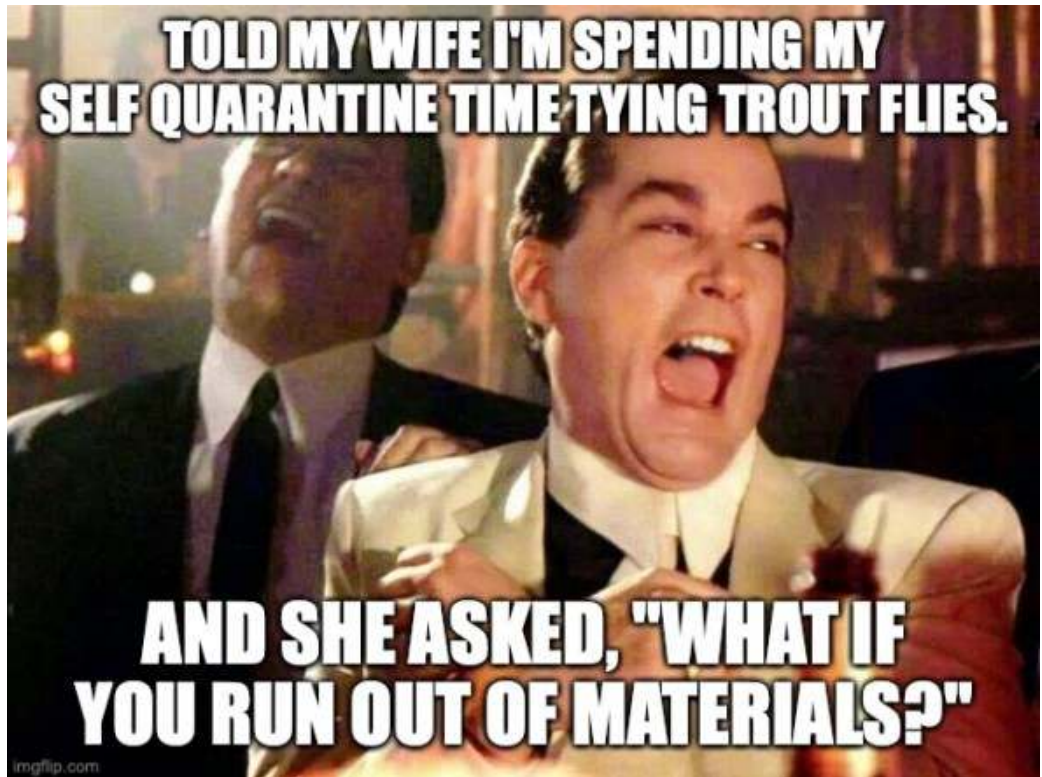
Social

Distancing



Stay safe

out there

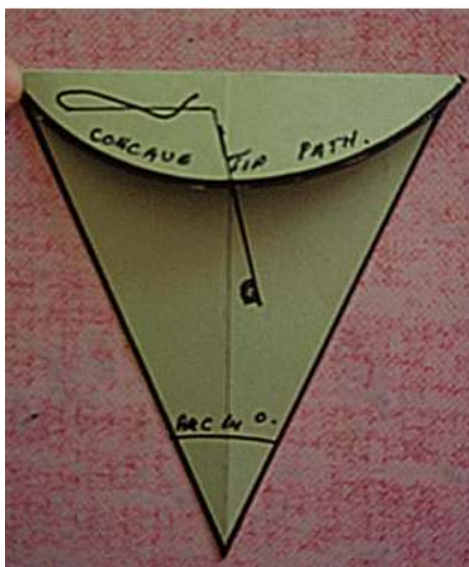
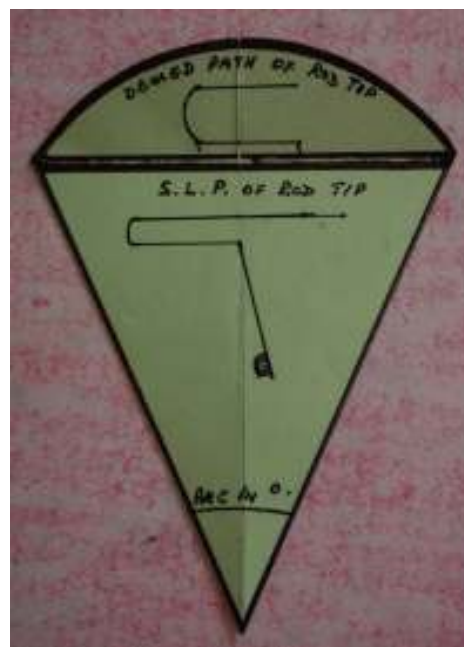


A Pocket (casting) Tool

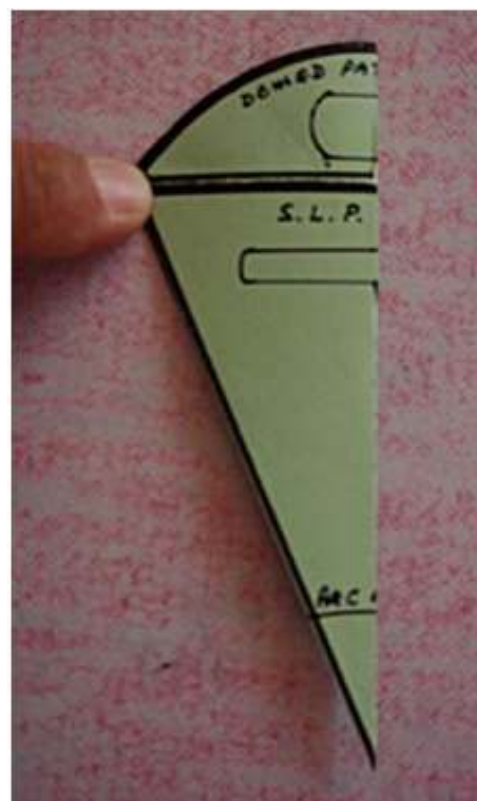
If you follow the domed path at the top, you get a wide or domed loop. The path of the rod tip as well as the wide loop is shown in the diagram.

If you follow the straight line - it represents the straight line path (SLP) of the rod tip which gives you a narrow loop. The diagram of the rod below shows a good loop.

At the bottom of the 'v' - you will see the rod arc which can be measured in degrees.



Straight line path of the rod tip at the top of the tool. Concave tip path when you fold down the top and the result is a tailing loop.



Fold the tool in half lengthwise and you get a reduced rod arc which can lead to??



Mayfly hatches are signs of healthy waters, good fly fishing:

from - www.The Spokesman-Review

If you've ever wondered about the water quality in a stream, river or lake you are fishing, just ask a mayfly.

Mayflies are winged insects that spend the early stages of their life underwater before swimming to the surface, shedding their skin and taking flight to mate. Because of their aquatic youth, the insects are sensitive to changes in water temperature and water quality.



"They have gills on the outside of their body," said Dave Stagliano, an aquatic biologist at Montana Biological Survey in Helena. "They need clean water to not foul up their gills."

Low oxygen levels, silt, chemicals, heavy metals and other pollutants can kill or reduce the number of mayflies.

Nowhere is water quality's effect on mayfly populations more evident than near **Lake Erie**, the fourth largest of our five Great Lakes, covering almost 10,000 square miles. Lake Erie is home to the burrowing mayfly, one of about 2,500 mayflies known worldwide.

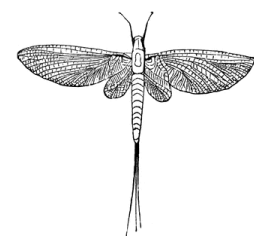
The burrowing mayflies are well-known to Lake Erie-area residents because they hatch all at once in summer swarms – estimated at 88 billion insects – that can be seen on radar. Between 2015 and 2019, scientists saw an 84% decrease in the number of burrowing mayflies hatching.

This decline has an effect on other species like birds, fish and bats that eat those mayflies – an estimated 3,000 tons of food – as well as to the soil that the dead insects fertilize. Some birds even hatch their eggs to coincide with the mayflies, ensuring they have ample food for their hatchlings.

"Multiple stressors in these waterways attributed to human activity could be a reason for the reduction in mayfly populations," according to a recently published study written by Virginia Tech researchers. "A warming climate puts more stress on certain aquatic environments, leading to decreased oxygen levels, which can result in fewer mayflies coming out of the water. Runoff from rivers into the warmer surface waters of Lake Erie, for instance, can cause algae blooms, which release toxins that these mayflies are especially susceptible to."

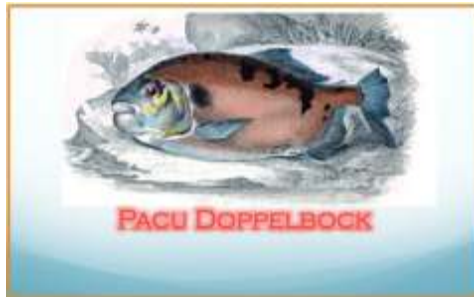
Pesticides applied to crops, especially those containing chemicals similar to nicotine called neonicotinoids, also find their way into the water and can kill or hamper the development of mayflies.

Anglers should take note of the decline of these burrowing mayflies, even though far from their home waters, because of the implications. "It highlights the growing problem of insect decline and the cascading effects that has on ecosystems around the world," according to the Virginia Tech researchers.



Beers – Muskellunge Brewing Company

<http://muskellungebrewingcompany.com/>



Bored at home watching the same re-runs & movies, westerns, soap operas, stock market going up one day and down the next, puzzles, etc..... Well Bunky, here are a few websites to help up your tying game with up close shots of techniques and patterns:

<https://nomad anglers.com/blogs/fly-tying-patterns?page=1>

<https://www.bestvalueflytying.com/>

<https://www.slideinn.com/fly-tying-videos/>

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Tying/Educational-Resources/Fly-Tying-Video-Library>

<https://thefeatherbender.com/>

<https://globalflyfisher.com/video>

<https://www.flyfishfood.com/>

Youtube ~ tightlinevideo



Storvagun from Zagreb, Croatia found a novel way to build a rod wrapping system out of his kid's lego blocks. He stacked them to the correct height for the turning motor along with the blank support system to then coat the guides.

So the next time you're stumped and looking for a creative idea to solve a problem, check the fly fishing internet links to see what others have come up with.

Bob Kren's wife Sandy sewed up this face mask for Bob on his next fishing outing. Hopefully none of us will need these for ours.....but just in case!



The coronavirus pandemic has upended the U.S. food system. Shuttered restaurants are forcing farmers to leave produce rotting in fields and dumping out perfectly good milk. It's a terrible waste in a time when millions of Americans are losing their jobs and resorting to food banks. But officials are also concerned that all that milk could have disastrous ecological consequences.



Wisconsin's agriculture and natural resources departments have warned that if raw, unpasteurized milk gets into waterways, it could lower oxygen levels and result in fish kills. Streams already deal with heavy fertilizer and feedlot runoff, but the milk could actually be worse.

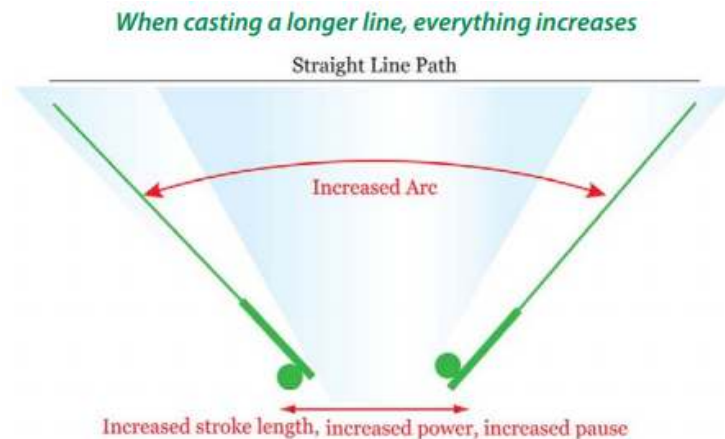
"Milk contains higher concentrations of nutrients than manure and has high biochemical oxygen demand which can cause a detrimental impact to surface water including fish kills," they said.

.....from Gizmodo

LAPPS - For Efficient Casting

Here's a really easy acronym to remember. To cast efficiently, as any one of the below increases or decreases, so must the rest.

L - Line
A- Arc
P - Pause
P - Power
S - Stroke



FFI's "The Loop" March 2018

For example – a longer line requires a wider arc, a longer pause, more power and a longer casting stroke. When we shorten the line the opposite is needed.



Kingsley's Adams Fly Festival is a celebration of not only the Adams Fly, made by Len Halladay and an original is housed at the Kingsley Branch Library, but a celebration of all things fly fishing. The Festival is held the first Saturday in June each year in the Village of Kingsley's Brownson Park. Festivities include fly tying demonstrations, casting instruction, river boat display, fly fishing art, fly fishing merchandise, live and silent auctions, fly history, Adams Fly swag, live music and a micro brew tent filled with Northern Michigan brews.

.....Lets hope it goes off as scheduled. Check it on their website.

From the Michigan DNR Fisheries Website, a List of Possible Diseases in our state:

Bacterial Gill Disease (BGD)	Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)
Black Spot (Black Grub)	Coldwater Disease
Columnaris	Fungus
Furunculosis	Heterosporis Factsheet
Muskie Pox (Piscirickettsia)	Red Worm
Tail Rot (Peduncle Disease)	Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)
Yellow Grub	

Here's the link to the DNR website with the links to an explanation of each disease.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79236_80246---00.html

Were you bummed because you weren't able to travel to your cottage, or drive to your favorite river up north to chase trout or steelhead, well here's a comment from a gentleman in Minneapolis (as well as a guide) who kind of puts it all in perspective: (mprnews.org/story/2020/04/07/stay-at-home-order-encourages-getting-outside)

Fly-fisher Scott Thorpe is used to fishing 200 days of the year. This spring, he's given up his trip to the Brule, and he's also forgoing his annual journey to Duluth, up the North Shore, and into Canada, fishing for steelhead in the many rivers that pour into Lake Superior.

But Thorpe is also an avid reader of World War II history. His father was wounded in Germany where he fought as a combat infantryman. And he wasn't able to hunt or fish from 1943 through 1946.

So what he's giving up "is not that big of a sacrifice," Thorpe said. "It's just fishing."



FFI Provides Grant to Pere Marquette Watershed Council

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FFI and its Great Lakes Council help restore railroad embankment along the Pere Marquette River.



The restoration of the eroding railroad right of way bank will prevent the possible derailment of the Genesee and Wyoming freight train which carries caustic chemicals on a daily basis across the mainstream of the Pere Marquette River.

The Pere Marquette River is a designated Blue Ribbon Trout Stream that flows through the Manistee National Forest in Newaygo, Lake and Mason

Counties. It is also a designated Wild and Scenic River according to the US Forest Service. As such, this rare and valuable resource warrants protection and restoration. Like most rivers in Michigan, interactions between the river and infrastructure pose resource management challenges. In this case, the Pere Marquette's natural channel movement has encroached on a railroad embankment owned by Marquette Rail – Genesee & Wyoming. This interface has exposed highly erodible sediments on the railroad embankment and presented a slope stability concern. The goals of this project are to stabilize the slope of the railroad embankment, minimize sediment loading to the river, and maintain or enhance fish habitat within the project site.

The partners in this project have selected a restoration option that fills in the toe of the embankment where the embankment has eroded and armors the toe of the embankment with large riprap and plantings. Riprap and plantings will be extended upstream and downstream of the site to prevent future erosion. To compensate for filling on the outside bend, the channel will be excavated on the inside bend, effectively shifting the channel away from the failing embankment. The preliminary engineering study with graphics is attached for review. Also, a picture of the eroding bank is included. The following groups have been involved in development of this project: Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Conservation Resource Alliance, Great Lakes Council of FFI, PM Trout Unlimited, and the United States Forest Service.

FFI and its Great Lakes Council are providing \$4,000 in funding for the project.

Field Notes:

- Have a tying bobbin holder that has a “nick” at the top of the tube, if so try this trick to remove it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjhhkpkF0M&app=desktop>
- “The finest gift you can give any fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows if the fish you caught isn’t someone else’s gift to you?” -Lee Wulff
- When men are bored:
<https://m.facebook.com/groups/760747247417804/permalink/875084852650709/>



Rick Lewandowski and his backyard bass this past month

- Maybe we should place a log across all the small streams in Michigan:
<https://www.adventure-journal.com/2020/03/an-astonishing-variety-of-wildlife-uses-thispennsylvania-log-bridge/>

- Here’s a method to paint the eyes on barbells: place in a comb or drilled wood block



Refrigerator Reminders

May

5th - National Teachers Day - If you’re reading this, thank your teacher.

10th - Clean up your room day - especially your fly tying room if it looks like your editor’s!

12th - ZOOM meeting at 7:00. General meeting with several topics. We are also working on a program for the meeting as well and will let everyone know as soon as it’s confirmed.

Hoping for the picnic in June so stay tuned.

June

9th - Picnic at Vahalla Park in Holt. Details to follow

18th - National ‘Go Fishing’ day

19th - National ‘Take a Road Trip’ day ~ use in conjunction with the 18th day above.