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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - February 2020

What a great meeting we had in January with Drew Rosema from Feenstra Guide Service joining us for his presentation on the Muskegon River. We have another great one planned for this month as Josh Greenberg from Gates AuSable Lodge will be joining us for a presentation on the 11 th .



Just a reminder - February's meeting will be at Coral Gables in East Lansing as that will have a little more room to accommodate what we anticipate to be a big crowd.

Our fly tying nights in January have been well attended. If you haven't made it out yet to join us, plan on attending one of our nights in February. We will still be tying flies to donate to the Reel Recovery Project. Vices and tools will be available to use.

Our annual raffle is moving along. If you have not picked up tickets to sell yet, please do so at the February meeting. I will have plenty of them there. This is our main fundraiser for the year and we are asking for all members to help out by selling or buying tickets. The money raised goes back to the club to help fund our many worthwhile projects.

See you at the February meeting

Mark



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

February Program:

We're pleased to welcome Josh Greenberg owner of Gate's Lodge in Grayling. He'll provide a two part program on the fish farm/hatchery, state of the Au Sable river and large woody debris.

Included will be a discussion on new techniques as in: small streamers in the summer, yarn vs bubble indicators, tippet length vs drift length for tricky dry fly fish, and some thoughts on contact nymphing.

Mark your calendar for the second Tuesday in the month for Josh's program. Location - back room at Coral Gables.



GETTING OLD SUCKS



2009



2019

5 Things You Should Know Before You Try Fly Fishingby Jen Ripple of Dun Magazine

IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

During fly tying classes I would watch people out the window casting fly rods in the parking lot. I loved to watch that line in the air, see that beautiful loop. But there was no way I was going to try that. I just knew I'd make a fool of myself if I tried. The thought of casting a fly rod was intimidating! It looked so perfect, so elegant, and so HARD. And then I tried it. Was my loop tight? Nope. Did I get tangled up in my line? Yep. I still do. It's called being a fly angler. But guess what, it's a lot easier than it looks. And it's SO MUCH FUN. Trust me, that saying "If I can do it, you can do it" has never been truer than now. With just a little instruction you can make a 40' cast in a matter of minutes. It may not be a Brad Pitt/Jason Borger cast, but it will definitely catch fish. And it's absolutely OK to make a bad cast. I make them all the time, and I'm a pro.

IT'S FOR EVERYONE

When I was growing up, fly fishing was the sport that my executive grandfather and his friends did once a year. It consisted of flying to Alaska, taking a puddle jumper to some remote location, fishing, then smoking cigars and drinking bourbon in the lodge at night. While it certainly can still be that at times, the vast landscape of the sport has changed. In as recently as the last five years, it has taken a shift to a much more young, vibrant, and diverse culture. Today, it is the norm to see women working in a fly shop or as a guide, and to see young people from all walks of life on the water. That's a change in the right direction if you ask me.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS

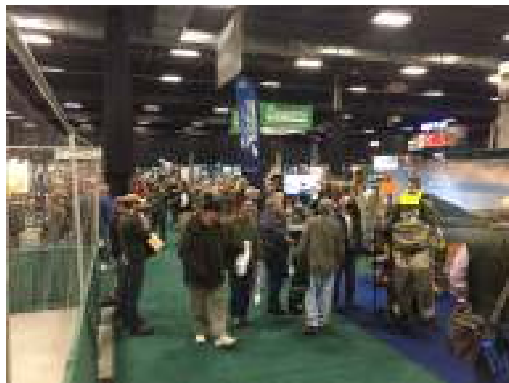
If you have a problem with commitment and can't decide what rod you want to buy next, or just need gear for that once a year trip, you're in luck! You can rent everything from a rod to full packages including your camping gear in one place with Big Sky. They will even ship it to your destination, so you don't have to worry about carrying it with you. And when you're done with it, just stop by the UPS on the way to the airport and drop it in the mail. No mess, no worry, and most of all, no commitment. And, if you're still stuck on number one above (the casting lesson), you can rent a fly rod and have them deliver it to your home, watch some YouTube videos, and practice in the comfort of your backyard.

IT'S FOR ANY SPECIES

Five years ago I was walking through Chicago's O'Hare Airport with my rod case slung over my shoulder when I was approached by a gentleman in a very nice suit. "Are you an architect?" "No", I answered not sure where this was going. "Are those pool cues?" Now I knew what he was talking about. "Do I look like I play pool?" I asked in reply. "Ok, I give up, what is that?" I explained that they were fly rods. He looked at me like I was crazy. "There's no trout here. Don't you fish for trout with a fly rod?" Unfortunately, I'm asked this all the time. While trout are a great species to target with a fly rod, today's fly anglers fish anywhere there's water and it's legal to fish — that means anything from bluegill to shark, and everything in between. In fact, I think one of the best ways to learn to fly fish is on the bluegill at your local pond. They love to eat flies, they are abundant, and they fight like crazy when you hook them. They'll teach you everything you need to know about hooking a fish, fighting a fish and landing a fish. So if you live nowhere near trout water, that's A-ok. There's no need to travel far to fish with a fly rod.

IT'S A COMMUNITY

Today's fly fishing community is vast and accepting. You can get online and find a local club in your area or hop on sites like United Women on the Fly and find anglers who are in the area you want to fish and eager to help. The face of fly fishing today is all about growing our sport, increasing diversity, and making fly fishing what it's supposed to be ... a great time on the water for everyone.



Steven Arnoczky attended the Fly Fishing Show in Edison, NJ recently and sent these pics.

The show provided 260 exhibitors along with 56 tiers specializing in saltwater, coldwater, and warmwater patterns.

The two crawling nymphs on the left showcase just some of the talents they offered to attendees.

Over 40 celebrities and several authors were there to add to the list of presentations for all three days.

Michigan: Brook Trout Limit Lowered in U.P. Streams

An experimental regulation that allowed for 33 streams in the Upper Peninsula to have a 10-fish daily possession limit for brook trout is no longer in effect. During its regular meeting today in Lansing, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission voted to return the five-fish daily limit to those streams, effectively immediately.

The regulation expired Oct. 1, 2019, and the [commission then voted in November to extend it](#).

Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists had recommended against re-instituting the 10-brook trout daily possession limit on the select streams because of concerns based on biological and social science.

The newly approved regulation means all Type 1 streams, which are designated trout streams, in the Upper Peninsula are back to having a five-fish daily possession limit for brook trout. The streams with previously higher daily possession limit represented about 8% of the total mileage for Type 1 streams in the U.P.

The 2020 season on Type 1 trout streams will open April 25.

..... michigan.gov/dnr

THE FILSON JOURNAL

Use the link below to check out Filson's: *Profiles, How to, Food, and Field Notes*. They have 463 stories on the blog that range from: How to cook the perfect cast iron steak, the history of the upland shotgun, dogs with jobs, rebisoning the American west, to the history of the cowboy hat.



Most are short reads from 3 - 11 minutes so about the time it takes to tie an adams or a grasshopper.

<https://www.filson.com/blog/>

Swim back in time with Michigan shipwrecks



https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,9075,7-361-89431_89432---,00.html?utm_source=govdelivery

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a7910b2eaa04450aaff93fa9de4821b8?utm_source=govdelivery

<http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/> - With a separate link to waterways that may lead you to additional fishing opportunities in the state.

Here's a great knot to use when fishing streamers, mice, or any fly you want to move freely in the water. Extremely strong and you can make the loop large or small.

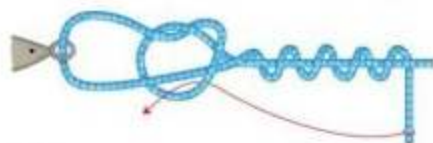
Non-Slip Loop Knot Instructions



1 Pass the tag end through a rope loop, the eye & the loop again



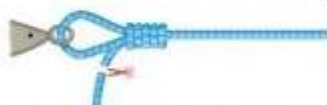
2 Wrap it 5 times around the standing part



3 Pass it through the initial loop



4 Pull both the ends to tighten



5 Trim off excess tag end



6 The knot is made

101KNOTS

- Lighter than 10 pound test = 6 turns
- 12 pound test = 5 turns
- 15-30 pound test = 4 turns
- 30-60 pound test = 3 turns
- Greater than 60 pound test = 2 turns
- Wire = 1 or 2 turns



Nine year old Owen and his dad joined us at the recent Sunday night tying table at Coral Gables. Several wooly buggers and foam spiders were produced in his vise.



5 Tips For Over Hand Casting A Heavy Sink Tip

.....from Deneki Outdoors

- Slow down! Sink tips are heavy. Imagine all the weight that is in your sink tip and your fly. Take that total weight and picture a small rock that weighs the same amount. If you are trying to cast that rock with a fly rod, you can't just snap it back and forth like a weightless dry fly. You have to slow everything down and almost *swing* it.
- Cast more side armed. Following up on our previous point, you want to almost swing the fly and sink tip. Start your cast low, curl upwards. Your backcast especially should be in a side armed and curved direction. You don't want super tight loops with this style of casting.
- Minimize false casts. This will save you a ton of energy throughout your day. Usually when fishing a situation where you are using a sink tip to cover water you are going to be casting a lot. Don't destroy your shoulder with unnecessary false casts.
- When letting the fly go, you want your final forward cast to be at a slightly upwards trajectory. Launching the fly at this angle will give you some extra distance on your cast.
- Do not try and pick up a lot of line off the water and go straight into your next cast. You'll want to strip the fly almost all the way in, or at least until you get part of the sink tip out of the water. Casting this set up is much different than fishing a floating line where the line remains on the surface. If the tip is sunk below the surface, it will be very difficult to pick up and go straight into your next cast. Strip that fly all the way in first.

Mitchell State Park - Fly Fishing Clinic

The Outdoor Skills Academy pro-staff will present the basics of fly fishing, including demonstrations and instruction for various fly casts and instruction on fly selection based on target species. May 23, 2020 10:00 - 4:00



The classroom session will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and then we will move outside to the canal for hands-on portion of the class.

This class is part of the Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Skills Academy, which offers in-depth, expert instruction, gear and hands-on learning for a range of outdoor activities at locations around the state. Learn more at [Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135_79219_81143-513938--,00.html).

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135_79219_81143-513938--,00.html

Florida Python Bowl results: Like to win stuff? Want to help the environment? Heading to Florida next January and want to do more than play golf, walk the beach, & play in the pool? Well here's your opportunity to sign up for the 2020 python challenge.

Participants removed 80 pythons from the Everglades. The longest was just over 12 1/2' and the heaviest was 62 lbs. Winners received a Tracker Off Road ATV and cash prizes up to \$2,000.

Want to help next year.....more info at: FLPythonChallenge.org.

The Usual Ten Commandments of Flyfishing, as Explained by a Lawyer

and by Bob Kren, RCFFer and occasionally Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

Here we are, sports fans, on the water for another day of catch and release. Well, maybe C&R. A foulhooked trout is still released, with full knowledge that it probably won't do too well. Should we have kept it, or killed it and returned it to the briny with a few words? Decisions, decisions -- what to do? How to deal with a chub, or a pike, or a muskrat? Which brings us to rules, the biblically most known of which are The Big Ten. Of course, there was fine print and footnotes to each of those Ten, on the back of Moses' tablets. Rules, along with watching too much of the recent political event, brings us to (shudder!) lawyers, who have their own unique interpretations of exceptions to rules. Below are the Flyfishing Big Ten, with a lawyerly spin.

- You shall have no other sports before Me. The "Me" in question, and in quotation marks, is The Sport, flyfishing. We really have to look at the Founders intentions, on this one. Bernard "Lefty" Kreh would put attending shows and exhibitions ahead of actually doing any fishing. Lord Gary Borger, he of the bluff and bluster, would put buying his books ahead of sport itself. Dame Juliana Berners had praying at the top of her list. For the rest of us, though, this one is easy -- fish!, dammit!, without shame, without prejudice.
- You shall make no idols. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, consider that the whole of the sport is a matter of idolization. From the first, when civilized humans gave up worshipping spears, and then, after the invention of the hook, forsook worms and carrion, we have made idols of the rods and flies we construct. We decorate our personcaves with pictures and memorabilia. Idols are at the very center of the endeavor, if not the Universe.
- You shall not take the name of The Sport in vain. Come, come now. How are you supposed to find fellow followers if you don't mention that you flyfish? We perform our actions pretty much away from others, for the sake of solitude -- another slippery word -- so engaging people in parking lots, pubs, and sporting goods stores, keeps us in touch, and allows for new friends. Never mistake pride for idle conversation. ☐ Keep the Sabbath day holy, seven days a week. And on which day might we rest? How totally unnatural is inactivity? What if the weather, or hatch, or water depth is just right? A spate of anticipation can only be answered with action! Who among us is so tradition- and rule-bound as never to have gone out, regardless? Vacations last only so long. Do it!
- Honor your father and your mother, who, after all, put up with your learning to double-haul, your thoughtlessly purchasing stuff more expensive than you were worthy of, or could afford, your sneaking off to wet a line when there were tasks to be done "around the house." But if our parents happen to prefer glitter boats to silence, must we remain unmoved, and unrebelling? They are polluting the air, both with emissions and noise. Test your limits, on a regular basis, and become your own person! Tossing them a grandkid every now and then is enough with the honoring, already.
- You shall not murder. The exceptions, of course, are for the sinners who wade in front of you, or anywhere near you, for that matter. Or for those who run a Rapala or a Mepps through a deep hold, exciting primal fishian instincts not based on pure predatory nature, but on irritation. Who among us has not lashed out in fury, given sufficient motive? Justifiable homicide was invented onstream, provoked by oafs in boats violating our property rights on waters we had staked out. Murder most foul? Nay, murder most fair.
- You shall not commit adultery. Damn! When one flyfishes, one is part of nature, and Nature dictates emotions and urges. Are we so elevated from fishes that we cannot appreciate their innate desires to reproduce, or at least monkey around? Shame on us for having such feelings of repression and superiority, and yielding to urges.
- You shall not steal. Envy is a powerful motivator. The Founding Mothers recognized this, and looked the other way when we liberated items for experimental purposes. History is bound to repeat itself, and who are we to resist?
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor, or your fishing buddy, or your FFI club. Your own estimates of the length, girth, and mass of a fish is based on semiobjective evidence, the time of day, the relative success of other flyfishers, the force of gravity in that spot. Have you never caught a fellow addict in a fib? Fibbing, but not lying, comes with The Sport, itself. This does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense! ☐ You shall not covet. Aw, c'mon! When every rodmaker, equipment supplier, and clothing manufacturer is telling you that only the latest! best! stuff is good enough for you? We're victims, victims of the beauty of the stream and the stuff we use.

I was sore tempted to add another one, just to find out whether you were counting, but I didn't. Bob K

**THAT
AWKWARD
MOMENT...
WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU
TO CHOOSE BETWEEN
THEM OR...
FISHING.**

TheFunnyBeaver.Com

**Go down to the dock
they said. Try real fishing
they said. It will be
fun they said.**

**Damn
fish
pulled
me
in.**





FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Membership/Membership-Overview>

Since 1964, Fly Fishers International has been an organized voice for fly fishers. We represent all aspects of fly fishing – from the art of fly tying and casting instruction, to the protection of and access to fisheries around the world. A 501c3 non-profit organization formally known as The International Federation of Fly Fishers, FFI is driven by three fundamental pillars: Conservation, Education, and Community. Together, these pillars provide the foundation for our vision of the future of fly fishing — a future in which anglers have access to prime waters and fish can thrive in healthy, protected habitats; in which learning never stops and artistry is not forgotten; and that recognizes the true value of camaraderie. If we want this legacy to be experienced by future generations, we have to work to make that happen.

WHO WE ARE

- An international non-profit organization
- Fly fishers, fly casters, and fly tiers
- Conservationists of all fish in all waters
- Educators of all things fly fishing
- Supporters of the fly fishing community

WHAT WE DO

- Help to protect and enhance fish and fisheries worldwide
- Provide top-quality fly casting and tying instruction
- Cultivate and strengthen the fly fishing community
- Curate and preserve fly fishing artifacts, art, and literature
- Pass on the legacy of fly fishing

WHAT MEMBERS GET

- Access to an unmatched repository of knowledge (Learning Center)
- Special offers and discounts
- Recognition for special skills or achievements
- Access to a network of like-minded outdoor enthusiasts
- A chance to help make a positive impact on the sport



Club member Fay Rogers sent pics from his recent trip to Junin de Los Andes in western Argentina Alumine, Collon Cura, & Chimewin rivers Lago Tromen lake. 10 days fishing, 2 days travel each way. Float trips every day. Mostly dries w/ droppers, some streamer fishing. Most days 20-30 fish to hand; 16-22", 90 -95% rainbows, 5- 10% browns. The brook trout ranged from 3 - 3 1/2lbs.



Longtime club member Keith Groty with a very nice bonefish.

He stayed at the El Pescador Lodge on Ambergris Caye in Belize and mentioned this trip was on his bucket list.

Looks a bit warmer than Michigan at the moment at both locations.

Mayfly numbers drop by half since 2012, threatening food chain

Every summer mayflies burst forth from lakes and river, taking to the skies of North America. These insects, which are particularly abundant in the northern Mississippi River Basin and Great Lakes, live in the water as nymphs before transforming into flying adults. They synchronize their emergence to form huge swarms of up to 80 billion individuals - so massive that, in waterside towns, they are sometimes scooped up with snowplows.

These insect explosions provide food for a wide variety of animals, from perch and other commercially important freshwater fish to birds and bats. But new research shows that mayflies are in decline. Since 2012, mayfly populations have declined by more than 50 percent throughout the northern Mississippi and Lake Erie. Likely due to pollution and algal blooms, according to a study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

In the paper, Stepanian and colleagues used radar to estimate mayfly populations, validating the method by comparing it with numbers of mayfly nymphs found in the sediments at the bottoms of rivers and lakes. The study revealed that between 2015 to 2019, populations of burrowing mayflies in the genus *Hexagenia* declined by an incredible 84 percent in western Lake Erie. In the nearby northern Mississippi River Basin, from 2012 to 2019.

These dropping populations are significant because the insects are an important link in the food chain, serving as prey for a variety of predators. They also transfer tons of nutrients from the water to the land, a valuable ecological service. There are several possible reasons for the decline. First, levels of neonicotinoid pesticides have risen in recent years in Lake Erie and many freshwater systems in the Midwest. The chemicals, which are toxic to many insects, have been measured in Great Lakes tributaries at levels 40 times greater than protective levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Aquatic Life Benchmark, according to a 2018 study.

Second, Lake Erie especially is beset by algae blooms, which are caused by excess runoff of fertilizers and other nutrient-laden pollutants. These blooms can result in oxygen-depleted "dead zones," which are toxic for bottom-dwelling creatures like mayfly nymphs. Third water temperatures are warming as the climate changes, potentially interfering with the animal's life cycle and possibly decreasing circulation of oxygen in the lake.

Mayflies serve as an overall indicator of water quality, says Kenneth Krieger, emeritus director of the National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg University, who's studied Lake Erie mayflies for many years. That's why their decline is a reason for concern, he says. "It is likely that other aquatic insect species may be undergoing the same declines for the same reasons," adds Francisco Sanchez-Bayo, an ecologist at the University of Sydney in Australia. "The inevitable consequence is the decline of populations of insect-eating birds, frogs, bats, and fish in those regions," he says.

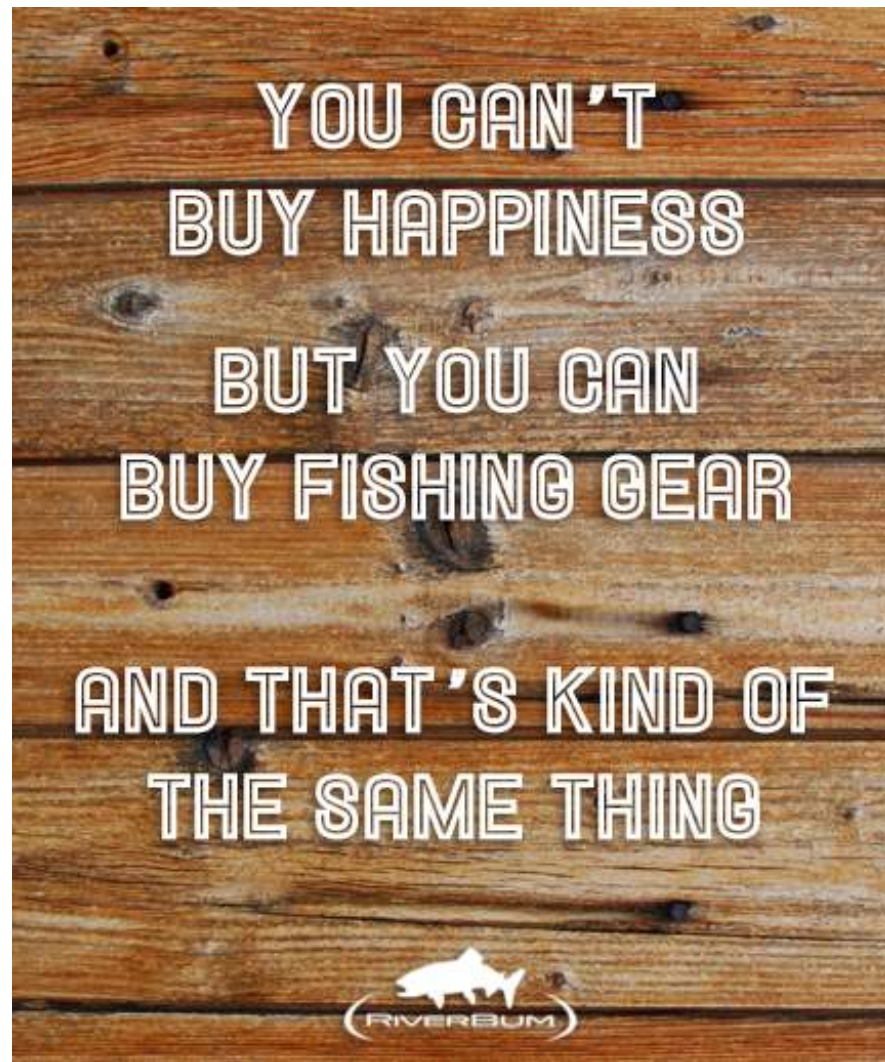
Insect Apocalypse

Unfortunately, they're not alone: Studies around the world have shown alarming declines of a wide variety of insects. A study published in the journal *Biological Conservation* in April suggested that 40 percent of all insect species are in decline and could die out in the coming decades.

Neonicotinoids are notorious for their toxicity to aquatic insects, and mayflies appear to be particularly susceptible to them, according to the paper. Another recent study found that [neonicotinoid use in a Japanese lake](#) led to the decline of water-dwelling invertebrates, and a subsequent collapse in populations of two commercially important fish species that fed upon them.

Mayfly populations have dropped in decades prior and then recovered, but the consistent and continued decline in these last few years is troubling, Hoverman says.

"This research adds to the growing list of studies that show substantial declines in insect populations," he says.



Ever Wonder About The Life Cycle of Plastic


Plastic bag: 20 years
Coffee cup: 30 years
Plastic straw: 200 years
6-pack plastic rings: 400 years
Plastic water bottle: 450 years
Coffee pod: 500 years
Plastic cup: 450 years
Disposable diaper: 500 years
Plastic toothbrush: 500 years

Source: World Wildlife Fund



Save the date: The club has secured MSU's WaWaSum lodge on the banks of the AuSable river for the weekend of July 31st to Aug. 2nd. More info to come but it's prime time for terrestrial season on the rivers along with warmwater fishing on Wakely Lake.

Field Notes

- 
- Could your Jim Beam price go higher? Jim Beam was fined \$600,000 by Kentucky's environmental agency in December for a July warehouse fire that caused bourbon to spill into the Kentucky River. The fire, started by a lightning strike, caused the warehouse to collapse and an unknown amount of bourbon from 40,000 destroyed barrels poured into Glenn's Creek and eventually the Kentucky River. *Rumor is the officials are investigating to see if Glenn was siphoning off the bourbon as it was draining into his creek!*
- Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley. ~Author Unknown
- Millions of Pounds of Salmon to be Raised . . . in Homestead, Florida?
<https://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/american-dream-within-reach-for-atlantic-sapphire-2000/>

Refrigerator Reminders

February - Note location change & time

11th - Club meeting at **Coral Gables Restaurant**, 2838 Grand River Ave, East Lansing. Entrance in the back and down the hallway to the meeting room. Hospitality 6:00, Meeting 6:30. Program by Josh Greenberg of Gate's Lodge.

9th - Sunday night tying session at Coral Gables front "Sunroom" from 6:00-8:00. Vises & materials are provided if you would like to learn how to tie.

23rd - Sunday night tying session at Coral Gables back room from 6:00-8:00

29th - Quiet Adventures Symposium 9:00-5:30 MSU Pavilion <https://quietwatersociety.org/>

March - Note Date Change & time

12th - Thursday Club meeting at Coral Gables for this month also. 6:00-8:00 meeting. Program by Brad Petzke of Rivers North Guide Service in the Upper Peninsula. Joint RCFF and TU chapters for Brad's presentation.

17th -

