



The Fly

A Charter Club of the



Federation of Fly Fishers

GRFT Newsletter

March 2006

President's Quill

- *Wolf Schrey* -

"The World is Flat"

Thomas L. Friedman explains in his excellent book, "The World is flat", how modern technology in communication allows us to connect and network with the whole world - as long as the other parties have at least access to computers. We see the results with e-mails, websites, the Internet, etc. on a daily basis. Why then do we not collaborate more with other clubs and flyfishers? Why do we not use our potential to communicate with other like-minded people? Just imagine how we could further our common goals in conservation, in fly expos or in the political arena. Are we not under attack by such misinformed and hypocritical organizations as, for instance, PETA? How many people know that most of the cats and dogs that PETA handles are killed? Would it not be fun to collaborate with other clubs to arrange meetings and outings? Your doctor may have your x-rays diagnosed in Bangalore, India, overnight. But we cannot communicate and work with other clubs? In this age of globalization the world is flat - whether we like it or not. Our club just had a wonderful example of collaboration between many flytiers. Dennis Potter announced an invitation to a tying open house at his home. Through collaboration with other tiers and organizations we could make this event into a huge success. Lets work closer together and communicate and collaborate. WE WILL ALL WIN. Give it some thought. The title of this article was taken from Thomas L. Friedmans excellent book: "THE WORLD IS FLAT".

1st Annual FFF International Fly Tying Competition

As a fund raising event in support of its many conservation and education projects, the Federation of Fly Fishers is sponsoring an international fly tying Competition. The Competition will run from February 1, 2006, until midnight April 30, 2006. There are 39 separate categories within which to enter a fly. Judges include such famous fly tyers as David Whitlock of bass fishing fame, Ron Alcott of traditional salmon pattern fame, Bill Blackstone, the master of the "realistic" patterns, Bob Clouser, creator of the famous Clouser Minnow, Stu Apte the saltwater fly fishing legend, and Bob Jacklin, the famous instructor/guide of West Yellowstone, Montana, to name a few. All of the information can be found on the following web page <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/members/ftcomp/flycomp.php>. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Cordes at troutbeck@ida.net

Grand River Fly Tyers

2141 Deer Hollow S. E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Fly of the Month

Little Black Stonefly Dry



Tyer: Mike Sorrenson
Hook: 14, 2x long Dry Fly
Thread: Black
Weight: N/A
Tail: Moose Hair
Rib: N/A
Collar: N/A
Body: Black Dubbing
Hackle: Black
Eyes/Head: Moose hair Antennae

Outstanding Talent

- by Wolf Schrey -

Our club secretary, Christopher Soule, entered the Fly Tyer's Forum 2005 Fly Tyer of the Year Competition. He submitted a mosquito tied on a size 32 hook. Yes, a # 32 size hook! This competition, run for only the 3rd time, and is open to tyers from all parts of the globe. Christopher's entry won his category. What an accomplishment in a world competition from one of the many talented tyers in Michigan. Congratulations Christopher!



Christopher Soule's Size 32 Mosquito Fly, Mozzie 1

Club Member Articles

"Double-Up!"

- by Keith P. Skilton -

We've all learned that two flies can be better than one. To steelheaders, this means a nymph and egg fly combination separated by 24 inches of fluorocarbon. To trout fisherman, this means a "hopper-dropper" rig where the flies are separated by 18 inches of a lower diameter of monofilament. Too many times, we are just following these "standards" and forget to ask ourselves what we are trying to achieve with the tandem rig? Most answers I hear are to determine what the fish are taking or what I call the trial and error approach. This approach may lead to learning something new for the arsenal but all too many times we just accept that trial and error is good enough which in-turn leads to losing effective fishing time. I'm a big believer in thinking through the approach so then we know the "why" and "how" and just need to apply it to the appropriate "when".

Even though conditions will always dictate the setup, I've learned a few tricks that'll help the two flies interact together to improve the presentation. First, let's look at what to do when the fish are surface feeding on very small midges. For me, it can be very difficult to identify the midge species, especially in low light conditions. In most situations, the caddis or mayfly hatch is about to begin, so what I do is use a two dry fly set-up. The first fly will be say a size 16 Goddard caddis followed by a size 22 Para-midge. As in all surface-subsurface arrangements, the Goddard pattern will act as a strike indicator but will also be taken by the opportunist feeders. I try to pick the front pattern to be larger and very buoyant. Getting the proper drift will depend on the length of separation between the two flies. Always start longer, say 30 inches, and shorten up as necessary.

Secondly, let's look at the dry fly and emerger combination. The fish are mainly feeding right below the surface with the occasional adult fly being seen taken. Fish tend to pick a spot in the water column to pick off the emerging insect and generally get the insect when it gets caught in the surface film. The trick here is to use an *Indicator Parachute* style first fly that rides in the surface film and place the dropper at or just above where the fish are holding. It's a very "in your face" approach and is highly effective. The separation between the two flies can only be accurately determined by seeing where the fish is in the water column but it is generally short (6-12 inches). Experience will aid in judging distances underwater.

Thirdly, let's examine the famous of all tandem rigs, the dry/nymph combination. Here the two patterns used will be of the same fly but in different stages and the water depth/flow will dictate the length of separation. Commonly, you are not able to see the fish lower in the water column; hence you're targeting fish at or near the bottom. It's no secret to use a "hang down" technique at the end of the cast to allow the bottom fly to imitate a swimming nymph, but be cautious of when you do this. I have found it's better to dead drift the rig beyond all the feeding fish, then transition to a swing and hold it. Messing with the top fly above the known fish may turn them off. Since fish have now learned to move around there will likely be fish downstream of the risers, waiting lower in the water column for their turn in the active feeding lane.

The fourth combination to look at is the nymph/nymph rig. Here again we must consider how the two flies will interact together and I've found the most effective display will be to use a larger weighted pattern as the first fly and a smaller, more buoyant, pattern as the second. The larger pattern gets the second fly down faster and could be a better alternative than loading up the leader with split shot. Twitching the rod tip will also help the second fly rise and dive more naturally. The separation will vary but as a general rule keep them close together for fishing deep and further apart for a more searching approach.

The fifth option is the nymph/streamer combination, which is used to emulate a baitfish going after a nymph. The theory here is that bigger fish will go after the larger patterns and I've seen this countless times in nature where I have a smaller fish on the line and a bigger fish shows itself either by a curious follow or an outright attack. I haven't been able to say for sure that this set-up is a sure thing. Whenever I fish for bigger fish using streamers, I only use one fly. I have heard that in lakes or slow rivers that the nymph/streamer set-up is valuable because the larger pattern will first get a fish's attention, in turn, will then take the nymph. Again, I think this is more of a trial and error approach.

Lastly, doubling up on streamers has its place but for me but it has only been in salt water applications where I was casting into large pods of blitzing baitfish. Structure, for the most part, should always be targeted when fishing streamers and losing flies is part of the program. My streamers tend to be somewhat more elaborate patterns and losing two at a time can be frustrating.

Fishing two patterns at once, in theory, will always better your odds. The key is to use your knowledge of fish behavior and reading the water to make your fishing more productive. Beginners will always have the trial and error period of learning, but once experience is gained they will be able to know when the right time is to double-up. This is a dynamic approach and always requires re-evaluation of the rig. Everything is always changing underwater and to be as successful as you can, it'll necessitate for you to change as well. This is the key to being a good fisherman!

Club Member Articles (cont'd)

"The \$1,000.00 Salmon"

- by Wolf Schrey -

Inge and I took 4 friends from Illinois for 4 days Salmon fishing on the PM on September of 2005. As always, we stayed at the Cannon River Ranch and had 3 guide friends and their drift boats. The first 2 days we worked hard for our Salmon. There were just not enough fish in the river. The water was very low and too warm. In a good year we would count 45 - 50 fish below our deck per hour moving up river. This time we counted 5 - 7 fish. Well, we have all done this before and we hooked several fish per day and landed a few. On the third day we fished in pouring rain for hours and hardly caught any fish. Around 2 PM it cleared and the sun even appeared. It did not take long and I was into a good Salmon. Inge fished just 50 feet upstream and our guide, Rod, was further upstream on the bank looking for holding fish. I had my middle finger over the line when the Salmon, angry over the sting of the hook, bolted upstream like a torpedo. The line cut and burned my finger and, surprised, I reacted without thinking and let go of my rod, which promptly moved upstream. Inge who had heard my "fish on" yell was already reeling in when she saw my rod and reel swimming by while ever so slowly sinking. She tried to lift it to the surface but misjudged the depth. Meanwhile, I galloped in 3 1/2 feet of water with the grace of a Hippo after my gear. Each time I tried to grab it I was about 6" short - nothing new there!. After several attempts Inge was able to get her rod under the reel while Rod jumped into the river and took charge of the situation. With his net handle Rod could lift the rod enough for me to get a hold of it. Immediately I fully opened the drag to slow down the Salmon, which obliged almost at once. I now could move upstream, slowly reeling in my line. The Salmon had moved over 200 feet in just a wink of an eye. As I got closer I realized the fish was hiding under a submerged log and swam out the other side. Between Rod and myself we could slip the line out from under the log and after I tightened up on the fish the battle was back on. This time the Salmon shot downstream with me in hot pursuit - the hippo again. This time there was no log to hide under and we could land the 18 pound male, take a picture and release him. He sure earned his freedom. I was real happy to have my expensive Scott rod and my Able reel back - an outfit that had set me back a cool \$ 1,000.00 when I purchased it.

"Fly Tying at the River God's Open House"

- by Wolf Schrey -

This was the 2nd time that Dennis Potter opened his home to approx. 23 tyers. The fun started at 10:00 a.m. on Sat., 1-28-06. Everybody tied whatever he or she wanted. We had snacks, munchies and refreshments. Many "lies" were told as could be expected in a gathering of flyfishers. We even had clubmember Donna Smith and her husband PJ come all the way from Naperville, Illinois. We all enjoyed each others company, traded flies and many of us made plans for fishing outings come spring. All levels of expertise were to be found, tying materials were traded, the tied creations compared and critiqued. All had a grand time. At 4 PM this wonderful event came to a close. We all hope that next year Dennis, the "River God", will again open the gates to his tying haven. This open house was just the right medicine against cabin fever.



The Crew - Bryon Anderson (Foreground), Donna Smith, PJ Smith, Inge Schrey and Kathy Smart (Rear L to R).



The Tough Guys - Dennis Potter & Chris Soule (Front), Matt Erny, John Ridderbos, and Bob Barber (Rear L to R).

Welcome New Members!

Troy P. Allen, Bryon Anderson, Wayne Hanshue, and Joe Mitidieri

Board Members:

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Upcoming 2006 Events

1. **Mar. 16-19:** Grand Rapids Hunting, Fishing and RV Show. GRFT is tying for the entire show in co-operation with the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Co.
2. **Mar. 18,19:** Midwest Flyfishing Expo (formerly the Warren Rod Show or Southfield Show). One of the biggest and best flyshows in the country.
3. **June 16-18:** Roscommon - FFF Great Lakes Council (GLC) Conclave. A great way to introduce kids to the art of fly-fishing, classes for beginners and advanced flyfishers and tyers.
4. **Sept. 18-22:** Salmon Outing on the Pere Marquette (PM). We are taking a group of anglers from Illinois to hunt for big King Salmon.
5. **Oct. 20-22:** GLC/FFF Steelhead Outing in Wellston. 2 nights lodging at Ray Schmidt's place with great Steelhead fishing just a short distance away (Manistee, Little Manistee, Pere Marquette, etc.). Cost for each person: \$150.

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