RCFF Board

President Mark Johnson dataplex@acd.net

Vice President Greg Carr gregg.carr@gmail.com

Secretary Bob Bawden goghiti@yahoo.com

Treasurer Mike Grinwis mgpro I @yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor Terry Greiner tlgreiner I 2@gmail.com

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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

President's Message - September 2020

Greetings Red Cedar Fly Fishers:

I hope everyone has been able to get a lot of fishing in this summer. If not, there is still plenty of time to get out this fall. Speaking of fall, your RCFF Board met virtually last week to start planning the years meetings and activities.



The fact that the Covid-19 virus is still present in the area means we will again be meeting By Zoom computer conference at least for the September meeting and then we will have to see what happens month to month. Since we are not meeting, we ask that you mail in your membership dues to the club P.O. Box. See details about that in this newsletter.

We also discussed options for a fundraiser for the year and again, with uncertainty about when or how much we will get together this year makes it a little challenging to plan that. We will take a look at how things are improving in the next few months and go from there. If anyone has any creative ideas on fundraising for the club, please let me or a board member know.

We are finalizing the details on September's meeting topic and will let everyone know the meeting ID and password when it is set. Hope to see everyone in attendance on my computer screen.



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

Do the name 'Ruby Begonia' mean anythin' to ya?, and if it does, you're really old, like me.

By Bob Kren, member of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers, and, occasionally, Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy My TV addiction started with a b&w set that had an aluminum foil strip on the antenna wire, for fine adjustment, and the Star Spangled Banner at 11 p.m., followed by a test pattern until 8 a.m. the next day. Lotsa shows have been broadcast to alpha–Centauri since then. Here's a recollection of some of the best, if little-known, programs, all of which were based on flyfishing themes. They are arranged in chronological order, so ask your great-grandma about the ones you don't recognize.

How'd He Do It? Classic kids' show, featuring Buffalo Robert Smith, the ever-androgynous Clarabell(e?), a totally trope Indian* Chief Thundermug, Princess SummerFallWinterSpring/Fourth of July (yowza!, mama!), Phineas T. Huckster, and the Flub-a-Dubbing (A combination of eight animals: he/she/it had a duck's cul de sac, a cat's whiskers, a spaniel's ear hairs, a giraffe's mane, a deer's body, a seal's fur, a pig's tail, and an elephant's hackles.) They run a coöp flyshop in Winne-mucca, Nevada. All their flies are tied with, and by, the Flub-a-dubbing. The funniest parts of the show were old movies featuring the Keystone Landing Kops. In fact, those movies were the only funny stuff. We were kids, we'd laugh at any-thing. Almost. * "Indigenous peoples" were discovered early in the 21-st century, by a team of large archaeologists from Michigan State U.

Water, Texas Ranger Water, played ineptly by Jack Blach, pursues perpetrators* onstream by using a variety of ruses, and ordnance just short of heavy artillery. Water was not above imitating a flyfishing drag queen – at least once per show, which kinda makes me wonder – a city slicker out for a hot time, a worm-drowner, a high-kicking chorus girl (see above) whose kicking included mostly derrieres of catch-and-keepers, and a fighter pilot (a smidgen of strafing has a way of discouraging poachers). Water was often called in to pursue wrongdoers in states other than his beloved Texas, and he even appeared in an episode involving bodies in the Saginaw River, where he appeared in drag waders, dragging for bodies. *In those days, the word "alleged" had not been invented. Every bad guy was bad, from birth.

Merry Tyer Moore Merry and her colleagues work for a big city television channel, producing/directing/ starringin an outdoors show that somehow always was able to have something to do with flyfishing for rainbow trout, despite the fact that, or maybe because, the "big city" was New Orleans. Poach yourself a 'gator? Amazing what a fantastic fly Merry could tie using only 'gator toes and teeth. Squoosh an armadillo with your pickup truck? Merry would slap on the old hazmat suit – armadillos carry leprosy, you know -- and tie a perfect size 26 Parachute Adams, using only roadkill armadillo parts. Rhonda Morgenstem (eagerly played by Jack Blach, see above), provided Brooklyn-ese quips, and Louie Granite and Fred Baxter bumbled through the set, making random funny comments. Murray Slaughter designed flies, and lusted after Merry, but that's another story.

Blunder Mifflin This spinoff may have lasted only one agonizing season, but it had its loyalists, who were just me and somebody named Charlie Manson. Hilarity always seemed to ensue, despite nobody's laughing – maybe a soundtrack would've helped, but probably not. The whole show was about cluelessness – not knowing what was right or wrong, always focusing on popularity and not consequences, always casting about without hauling or reading the water or bothering to tie on a fly. The locale was Bozo, Montana, and much of the blundering was on streams we mortals only dream about. Many of the "actors" went on to fame and glory, like Steve Careful, who voiced kids' movies like, um, I forget, and Ed Hell, who starred in "Cedar Rapids," and, um, I forget the names and faces of the other actors.

Grey's Entomology All the doctors in this series were out to eliminate, after measuring and naming and cataloging and counting legs, bugs that puzzle people. The scenes in the field, in the bushes, are especially steamy, if you like faux sex, and bushes. Speaking of which, Jack Blach makes appearances both as Dr. Hunky and as Nurse Hotty, who, I'm thankful, are never back in the bushes at the same time. Every week at least three strange bugs are involved in heated controversy, over a seemingly incurable disease, or a plague of vegetation-devouring insects, or a weird rash in an intimate place, or something like "where the @^*% did all the caddis go?" The site of the series is the Big Bug Building on the campus of MSU, and one episode centers on the cancellation of The Big Game because of an infestation of football-eating six-legged vermin, smuggled in from Thee U of M. The dastards!

Grayling PD Blue There's a constant conflict between the locals of Grayling and the "Down-Staters," who know what's best for the area and its fisheries, because they visit there six weeks out of the year. The Graylingoids are led by Geraldo Regan, played by his identical twin brother, Jon Hamm; the outsiders' leader is Mr. Mysterioso, played by Meryl Streep. Situations are resolved, but never by compromise, sometimes by fistfights, arson, and/or murder, but always by the Chief of Police, Parry Mason-Griffith, played by Keegan-Michael Keye. In a typically internecine scenario, helicopters are used by the D-Sers to drop trained killer whales into the "Hole-y Waters," to eat anybody in the water who isn't a landowner or friend of Mr. Mysterioso. The Graylingoids respond with pitchforks and torches, and ride the whales' carcasses downstream while mooning the landowners. Keegan-Michael just looks the other way, and cusses, as usual.

My current TV sentence involves binge-watching. How bad is my addiction? Have you ever known anybody else who's almost run out of shows on Netflix? Even as I type, I'm in the middle of watching a bunch of Korean kung-fu epics. Only twenty to go - I can do it! Today! -- Bob K

Add movement to mimic subsurface insects ~ by Jim Strogen

We all know the value of matching the hatch, but often that thinking seems more focused on dry fly fishing.

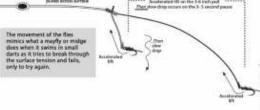
I prefer to fish under the surface. I know that the "bugs" are in front of the fish in their aquatic stages much longer, sometimes a year or more, than during their relatively brief winged phases. As a wet fly fisher, I also try to match the size, shape, and color of the aquatic insects that I am trying to mimic. These bugs are either actively swimming through the water column, or struggling in the drift. This movement facet of imitation is often missing from a fly fisher's bag of tricks.

Many of us turn over rocks in the riffles to get a sense of the types of bugs in the stream. If you are unfamiliar with how these insects move, a white dishpan is a handy tool.

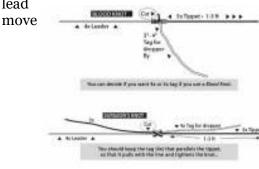
I will put a pair of pantyhose that I've cut to fit over my landing net to help me capture a sample of insects from rocks that I have kicked just upstream of the net in the riffle. Then I position the net, bug side down, over the dishpan and pour a jug of water through the net. The insects in the dishpan reveal details about their movement that I can then include in my presentation.

If you try this, you will see that mayflies move quite differently than caddisflies. Crane fly larvae and damselflies are quite distinctive in their movements as well. Now that you have a sense of how insect types move differently from one another, the next step is to mimic this in your presenta-

Use movement to imitate the movements of natural nymphs. Robert McKeon illustration.



I almost always use two flies when I fish, which is legal in Arizona where I do most of my fishing. While many fly fishers using two flies tie their trailer fly to the bend of their lead fly, I want my dropper and trailer fly to



fly, I want my dropper and trailer fly to independently.

How to rig a double-nymph setup without tying tippet to the bend of the lead fly's hook. Robert McKeon illustration.



To do this, just cut one tag end off of either a blood knot or surgeon's knot when you tie on the tippet. I often fish with a bead-head as my dropper fly under an

Balancing a Fly Rod by Rob Fightmaster - Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers

Every year, it seems every fly rod company comes out with a new rod that is not only supposed to cast itself, but is substantially lighter than its predecessor. As a matter of fact, the average graphite rod today is probably about 1/3 the weight of the average graphite rod of 30 years ago. And that difference is far more substantial when you start comparing the weight of today's graphite rods to the bamboo and fiberglass rods that your father or grandfather may have used. But none of this matters if your rod is not properly balanced by your reel.



It's a phenomenon called "levered weight." If you carry two 20lb. buckets of water, one in each hand, it will feel more comfortable than carrying just one 20lb. bucket of water in one hand. One side balances out the other. The same concept applies if you have the lightest fly rod on the market but have a reel on it that is too heavy. It will feel heavier in your hand than a heavier rod that is properly balanced by its reel.

When it comes to trout fishing and really, most freshwater in general, your reel does not play a very significant role. Unless, you just have to have "the best," it is not necessary to sink a lot of money into a reel. However, just because it may not be the most important piece of equipment, doesn't mean you shouldn't put some consideration into things like its size. It needs to be big enough to comfortably hold the fly line and appropriate amount of backing, and it needs to balance the rod. In most cases, a rod and reel are balanced if it will self-balance when you set it on one finger positioned near the tip of the cork grip.

In the picture above, the reel is just a little too heavy for the rod. I prefer the balance point to be just a little closer to the tip of the cork. But it's close enough to not feel uncomfortable.

Most companies will designate specific reel sizes for specific line and rod sizes. If a reel is for 4 - 6 weight lines, it not only means it has the capacity to store those line sizes, but it should balance most 4 - 6 weight rods. Of course, things like the material from which the rod is made and the length of the rod can determine if it actually falls in the "balance range" of that particular reel. If your rod is a short, super light 4-weight, you may want to bump down to the next smaller size. On the other hand, if your rod is a 6-weight bamboo, you may want to bump up to the next larger reel size.

The design of the reel seat on the rod will also be a factor. Almost all modern graphite rods have an uplocking reel seat, which positions the reel just behind the cork grip. Some bamboo rods may have a downlocking reel seat, which puts the reel almost right at the butt of the rod. The latter can help when trying to balance a heavier rod.



As reels become lighter and lighter, it has become far more difficult to find appropriate size reels to balance bamboo rods. However, one reel manufacturer, Ursus, has designed a reel that has removable brass plates on the interior. The weight of the brass plates help to balance heavier bamboo rods. When using the reel on a lighter graphite rod, the plates can be removed. Pretty cool.

In any case, no matter what rod you fish with, keep this in mind when selecting your reel. It will greatly reduce casting fatigue and result in much more enjoyable days on the water!

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The Ultimate Fly Fisher



'Vampire fish' gorged on Great Lakes trout until the invasive species was subdued

A sea lamprey has no jaw, no proper teeth and no bones. Yet this predator can attach like a suction cup to a fish 100 times its size, use its tongue to burrow a hole



into its side, liquefy its tissues and eat it.

<u>A single lamprey can kill up to 20 kilograms of fish in just two years</u>. On this fishy, bloody diet, a young lamprey weighing five grams will grow 40 to 50 times larger by the time it becomes an adult. And there are thousands of these vampire fish in the Great Lakes.

For the complete article in The Conversation, paste the following link in your browser:

Invasive Self-Cloning Marbled Crayfish Now Prohibited in Michigan

Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Eichinger approved the addition of <u>marbled</u> <u>crayfish (Procambarus virginalis)</u> to Michigan's list of prohibited species at yesterday's meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. <u>Invasive Species Order Amendment No. 1 of</u> 2020 was presented to the NRC at its April 16 meeting.



Marbled crayfish, also known as marmorkrebs and crayfish, are increasing in popularity in the Aquarium trade due to their unique ability to reproduce by cloning. All known specimens are genetically identical females that can produce up to 700 eggs per reproductive cycle without the need for fertilization.

Adding marbled crayfish to the state's list of prohibited invasive species aligns Michigan with the <u>Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers</u>' list of "least wanted" aquatic invasive species, those that pose a serious threat to the environment and economy in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region.

So you've floated across the lake, or downstream to chase the fish and you need to get back to the launch or upstream to your vehicle and trailer. Well Bunky, here's just the New Product to solve your problem:







The Yujet Surfer Electric Jetboard at \$9,999 is just what you've been looking for all this time. Paste this link in your browser for more info and a video of it in action: <u>https://www.yujetusa.com/products/yujet-jetboard</u>

Slow down as you pass others on the water so the wake doesn't swamp them!

The Shortest Rivers in The World

Tamborasi River - The Tamborasi River in Tamborasi, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, has a length of only 20 meters. The river rises from a fountain located in a rocky hill, crosses the narrow beach and empties into the Gulf of Boni.

Reprua River - The Reprua River, located on the outskirts of Gagra, in Abkhazia, Georgia, is slightly longer at 27 meters. The source of the Reprua River are springs in Krubera Cave, the second-deepest-known cave on Earth. The river flows in the Black Sea.

Ombla River - The Ombla river, near Dubrovnik, Croatia, is only 30 meters long but has many characteristics of a true river. The river rises as a karst spring fed by groundwater inside a large cave at the foot of a 400-meter massif. The watercourse then flows for approximately 30 meters before reaching a weir across which the Ombla discharges into the Adriatic Sea. Despite having a short route, the Ombla river has a huge drainage basin of at least 600 square kilometers

and up to 900 square kilometers between the Adriatic Sea coast in the area of Dubrovnik and Popovo Polje. More than 50,000 people live in this region.

Roe River - The Roe River near Great Falls, Montana, is the shortest river in the United States. The Roe River runs from Giant Springs to the Missouri River—a distance of just 61 meters. For a while, the Guinness World Records recognized Roe as the world's shortest river. But it no longer does so.

D River - The D River in Lincoln City, Oregon, United States, flows from Devils Lake and into the Pacific Ocean. The course is just 130 meters.













Page 8	I. Which of these men is/was NOT a well-known fly-fishing writer?		
	a. Nick Lyons c. Jack O'Connor		
	2. Where was the Crazy Charley invented?		
	a. Mexico c. Florida	b The Bahamas d. Belize	
	3. What famous fly fishing river flows out of Yellowstone Lake?		
	a. Madison River c. Firehole River	b. Lamar River d. Yellowstone River	
	 4. Which of these angling destinations does NOT belong? a. Snake River b. Missouri River c. North Platte River d. Wind River 5. True or false: Rainbow trout are native to Canada. 		
	a. True	b. False	
	6. Which cast works best for achieving maximum line speed?		
	a. Double Haul Cast c. Underhand Cast		
	7. What species of trout can you catch in Great Smoky Mountains National Park?		
	a. Brook Trout c. Rainbow Trout	b Brown Trout d. All of the Above	
	8. In what country would you find Turneffe Atoll?		
	a. Belize c. Mexico	b. Cuba d. The Bahamas	
	9. What do you call a striped bass-white bass hybrid?		
	a. Wiper c. Tiger Bass	b. Sunshine Bass d. Strite Bass	
	10. The Manbearpig is what kind of fly?		
	a. Dry c. Emerger	b. Nymph d. Streamer	

Orvis ~ Phil Monahan fly fishing trivia.....answers on page 15

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If you're old enough to remember this Field & Stream centerfold, then you're old!





The FishPass Project

Dams and barriers are often considered positive landscape features because they can generate power, provide recreational opportunities, block invasive species, and prevent contaminant and disease transfer upstream in an aquatic system. The flip side of that coin is that barriers can also reduce ecosystem function by reducing species richness, fragmenting habitats, impairing animal movements, impounding water, increasing temperature, and altering sediment transport. Many native species require connectivity between lakes and tributary habitat to complete their lifecycle.

Addressing the tension between improving aquatic connectivity for fishery restoration versus using dams and barriers for invasive species management is one of the biggest issues facing the Great Lakes. Besides labor intensive trap-and-sort operations where desirable fishes are manually separated from non-desirable fishes, a solution to remove invasive fishes and provide upstream access for desirable fishes remains elusive. A major question is can we connect lakes and tributaries to benefit desired species in a way that prevents unacceptable risks from detrimental species, such as the <u>sea lamprey</u>, which can kill up to 40lbs of fish? FishPass is being designed to address this question.

FishPass will be the capstone of a ~20y restoration project on the <u>Boardman</u> (<u>Ottaway</u>) <u>River</u>, <u>Traverse City</u>, <u>Michigan</u>, re-connecting the Boardman River with Lake Michigan. The mission of FishPass is to provide up- and down-stream passage of desirable fishes while simultaneously blocking and /or removing undesirable fishes. FishPass will replace the deteriorating Union Street Dam in downtown Traverse City, Michigan with an improved barrier featuring a fish-sorting channel and a nature-like river channel. Once constructed, scientists will optimize various sorting technologies and techniques below the barrier to maximize efficiency of passing desirable fishes and removing invasive fishes. For example, water velocity barriers, light guidance, video shape recognition, and eel ladder style traps are just some technologies that could be integrated at the facility to sort fish and effectively pass or



remove animals. The result will be a world-class technology and research center in a park-like setting.

http://www.glfc.org/fishpass.php

<u>tures</u>

Airlines lose stuff. Always carry your fishing tackle — rods, reels, lines and flies — as well as two pairs of polarized sunglasses with different lens colors (to cover a variety of light conditions) and a days worth of fishing clothes. At least.

Check your line before the trip. An old dirty fly line can affect your casting. Better yet, buy a new one. A new fly line will be well worth the investment when you're on the water.

Consider getting a known traveler number. TSA Pre-Check or Global Entry are two options. It's a small investment in advance, but can be a huge time saver when you're traveling, especially with a bunch of gear.

Don't waste good fishing time. Show up prepared: study your species, practice your casting, and double-check your gear. And break in wading boots beforehand.

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

We have a new record for the Ocqueoc River! The hoist at the Ocqueoc River sea lamprey trap met its match last week when Hammond Bay Biological Station (HBBS) technicians, Trisha Searcy and Tyler Bruning (pictured), discovered a record number of adult sea lamprey in a single Ocqueoc River trap – 2,363! The trap was so full that the hoist couldn't lift the slimy load from the water, so Tyler and Trisha dipped the sea lamprey out one writhing net-full at a time.



The Ocqueoc River is stream in Presque Isle County in the northeastern part of the lower peninsula in the U.S. state of Michigan.

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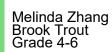
https://www.wildlifeforever.org/home/state-fish-art/winners/lst-place-statewinners-2020/

Michigan Winners

Nikita Fishman Atlantic Sailfish Grade K-3







Angelina Kou Brook Trout Grade 7-9

Dorothy Yin Brook Trout Grade 10-12





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In light of the Covid 19 virus, here's a novel idea to enjoy a beer while keeping the face mask in place, with you and the waiters safe!



Product review: I ordered online a couple of items from a company who had planned for a booth at the Midwest Fly Fishing Show this past March. Along with the items I requested, they asked me if I was willing to test a new type of furled leader they've developed. I agreed as I've used these types of leaders in the past and still own several from different companies including my own.

<u>Pristine Products Ltd.</u> Is a company in Akron, Ohio that manufacturers several

different styles of furled leaders from silk to mono to fluorocarbon. I gave mine a test on a float on the upper Manistee earlier this year with a 5 weight and was very impressed in that I didn't have to treat the leader beforehand or at all during the day vs. the conventional furled leaders. I checked with the company after the float and the leader never needs to be treated.

Needless to say I was impressed from the first cast. The flies turned over extremely well and landed very softly. If you're considering a furled leader for your fishing, I'd highly recommend checking this company out. They'll cost a but more than the current offerings, but are made in a different manner than the standard models.

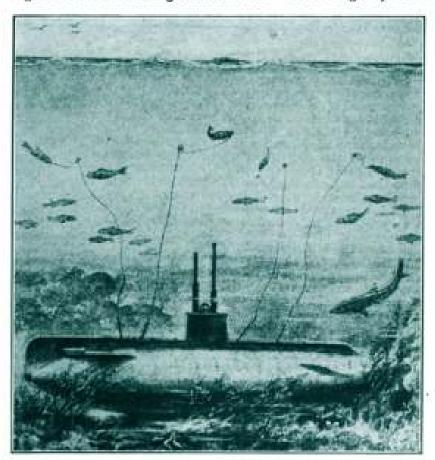
The editor:

Website: www.pristineprod.com

THE LATEST METHOD

The American submarine is the latest to be inducted into the angler's service. Crews operating between Los Angeles and Catalina Island have adopted this new form of fishing with good results, using an inverted line placed on the decks. So informs John Edwin Hogg, writing in Popular Mechanics. The article follows:

"The boats make frequent practise trips between Los Angeles and Santa Catalina Island. The water in this area averages about ninety feet in depth, and is one of the finest fishing-grounds of the Pacific coast. Frequently the boats dive to the bottom, and lie there with their motors shut off while practising submarine signaling, torpedo-tube routine, and the like. The upside-down fishing is done in a very simple manner. Prior to making a dive the men arrange their lines on the deck rails of the submarine. The hooks are baited, and are strung out on the decks to be carried upward when the boat dives by a float attached near the hook. Since any fish that takes the bait cannot be removed until the boat comes to the surface, the lines are fastened to the deck rail by coil springs. This practically eliminates the chance of losing the fish by its breaking the line or tearing the hook out of its mouth. Thus the baited hooks 'dangle upward' when the subma-



rine is resting on the sea-bottom - then along comes a fish, swallows the bait, and snags himself. This method of submarine fishing was given a try-out recently by an electrician aboard the submarine H-5. He baited four lines prior to making a dive. and when the boat came to the surface he had three yellowtail, weighing twentyfour, twentyeight, and thirty-two pounds respectively. A fourth fish had taken the bait, but got away."

-

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 Double vision? Steven with two nice smallmouth from the Muskegon with guide Matt Zudwig.

 When going fishing, take an Action

 Figure with you... it will make your

 catch look amazing!!

 MORE

 PICS

 NEEDED

 HERE



John Ross with a smallmouth & largemouth from the Grand River. He also caught several nice bluegills and a hammer handle pike on the float trip.

Vaughn Snook one of our members from a long time ago passed along these pics from streams in southeast MN in their Driftless region. He's the Asst. fisheries director for that region in MN.



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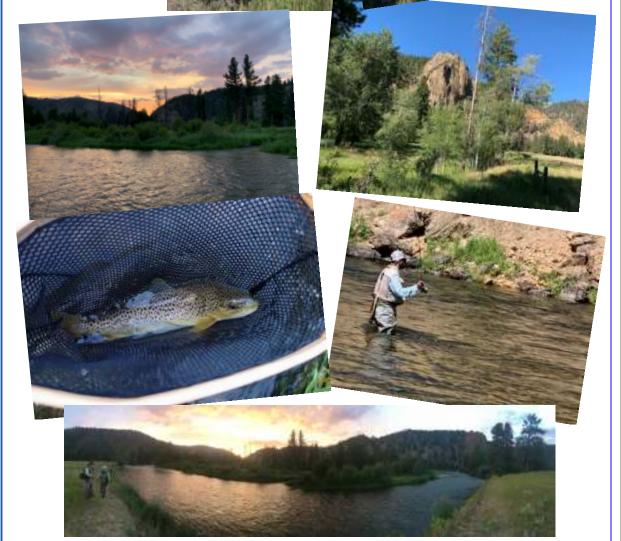
Congrats to Dave Peterson, a member of both the West Michigan Hacklers and the Red Cedar Fly Fishers, who's the new FFI chairman of the board replacing re-



cently retired Tom Logan in this position. Dave will continue in his position as the Great Lakes Council conservation director. He was also FFI's national conservation chair.

Dave and some friends On a recent trip in August to the Rock Creek section of Montana. Nice place to wet a line.





Field Notes:

- "Fishing does what poet Tom Crawford said about bird watching: It removes the weight of what we're not." ~ Jim Harrison
- Quiz answers: I ~ C; 2 ~ B; 3 ~ D; 4 ~ B; 5 ~ A; 6 ~ A; 7 ~ D 8 ~ A; 9 ~ A; 10 ~ D
- The climbing gouramis or "perches" of India can move small distances across land because of a structure in their head which allows it to breathe atmospheric oxygen.



- "One is not always happy when one is good; but one is always good when one is happy" ~ Oscar Wilde
- Josh at Gate's Lodge did a podcast back in June. Check it out with this link: <u>https://destinationangler.libsyn.com/website/fishing-the-au-sable-river-with-josh-greenberg</u>
- Went to the dentist after he opened back up post-covid shutdown for a root canal. He said due to the medical supply shortage, there wasn't any novocaine available and that he'd have to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle. (It was one of those ether/oar situations.)
- Michigan (State of the Great Lakes 2019 Report) ~ <u>https://www.michigan.gov/</u> documents/ogl/2019_State_of_the_Great_Lakes_Michigan_699223_7.pdf

Refrigerator Reminders

September

Sept. - Dues are do this month -Please mail your \$15 to the club PO Box 129, Okemos, MI 48864

8th - Red Cedar meeting: Josh Jenkins on the left, R&D manager of Scientific Anglers will present a program on: Know Your Lines—This Is Not A Movie Script. He'll discuss fly line tapers/construction, the process of improving fly lines as in coatings, and how the marketplace demand determines SA's direction.

12th - AuSable river cleanup - Gate's Lodge 10:00 start time. No picnic this year. <u>Email Bob Kren if you plan</u> to attend: rmkren@umich.edu

October

13th - Red Cedar meeting night. Topic coming.

24th - National Bologna Day - Try packing a different sandwich for this fishing trip. Don't forget the mustard & pickles.

I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.



www.redcedarflyfishers.org

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