



December Meeting:

Our December meeting is fast becoming the “All I Want For Christmas” favorite in a lot of households. Eric Helm, from Laacke & Joy was on hand to tell us what’s in the works for 2006 from the rod and reel manufacturers and fly fishing suppliers.

New rods from makers such as Sage, St. Croix, Temple Fork, and Echo₂ will be making their appearance in shops in 2006, as well new offerings from the reel manufacturers.

He also offered some valuable tips on cold weather fishing, such as layering your clothing, and how to protect your investment in items such as breathable waders.

Did you know that one of the potentially most damaging things to wear under breathable waders is denim jeans? The jeans can be very abrasive to the taped seams in your breathable waders and could drastically shorten the life of them.

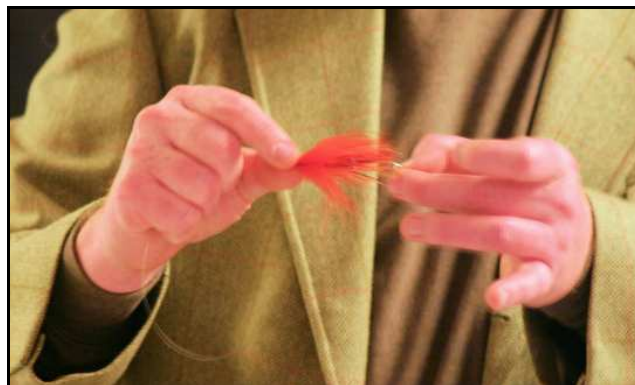
Eric also highlighted new leaders — how about a complete “sink-tip” designed right into your leader and tippet? He also talked fly tying materials, as well as talking about the growing use of tube flies among trout fisherman. Lots of new things are available to make our fly fishing hobby more fun and easier for all of us. Stop down and see him at the store anytime you have fly fishing questions!

Eric says that’s what he’s there for, and he’s always happy to help!



Eric Helm, telling of us about using tube flies and “sink-tip” leaders for trout.

Tube flies tied in nymph and streamer patterns are simple to attach to your leader, provide you with a slightly different way of presenting a fly.



December Event:

Our club event for December was our annual Brunch at the Golden Mast Restaurant on Lake Okauchee. We had a nice gathering of fifteen folks that were there for the socializing and good food.

Seems most of the women gathered around the fireplace while we waiting to be seated, whereas the men were nearer the windows to watch the ice-fishermen on the bay. The guys all discussed various ways of ice flyfishing, but the consensus was that it was 1) too difficult to cut that long narrow slot in the ice to cast your line to, or 2) it was REALLY hard trying to hit that 12-inch diameter hole from an ice auger with a fly cast from ten feet!

Below are some pictures of the folks who attended the brunch.



January Outing & Event:

New Years Day at Paradise Springs

We will again be making the trek out to the pond at Paradise Springs to tease the trout on the only inland water in the area with open trout fishing on January 1st.

Weather permitting, we should have a fine time seeing what offering they might find appealing this year. We've heard that the park rangers are aware of the "Cheerio fly" and using one in their presence might not be the best thing to do.

Regardless of the fishing success, we've always had a fun time telling stories and sampling wine and cheese in the parking lot afterwards.

We do hope you'll join us on that Sunday morning. At the moment the plans call for arriving at a somewhat civilized time of 9:00 am. What else were you planning on doing that day — watching the football bowl games, or some gawd-awful pro team from the northeastern part of our state??

January Meeting at Yester Years:

Our next meeting will be one that you don't want to miss!! The January 10, 2006 meeting will feature Ross A. Mueller. You've probably read his articles in fly fishing magazines and may have read his books on Midwest trout fishing. Now you'll get a chance to meet him in person when he gives us his presentation on "Tactics for Large Trout in the Midwest".

Ross is a Wisconsin native with 40+ years of fishing experience. During this time he has successfully caught fish throughout Wisconsin and across the United States. He will have copies of his two books available for purchase at the meeting.

Meeting will be Jan. 10th, and starts at 7:00 pm at **Yester Years Pub & Grill**, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI.

Arrive a little early and have a burger and a beer and swap some stories with others at bar before the meeting starts!

Rod Building Class!

Have you always wanted to try to build your own fly rod? Now is your chance to build that new rod that you've been dreaming of, and to learn how to do it from a master!

Frank Stetzer will be giving a rod making workshop again this winter for Club members. The first meeting will be Tuesday Jan 17th (One week after the January Membership meeting). The first meeting will be the information and planning part of the project. After that there will be two rod building meetings, Jan 31 & Feb 7.

People can call Frank for more information at 414-481-8935.

MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHING 2006 CALENDAR

	January	February	March
Meeting	10	14	14
Outing	1*	TBA	TBA
Fly Tying	11 & 25	15th only	15 & 29
Event	1*		

* New Years Day at Paradise Springs

	April	May	June
Meeting	11	9th**	On the Water
Outing	TBA	TBA	TBA
Fly Tying	12 & 26th	15 & 29	Let's Fish!
Event		**Casting Clinic	

Meeting:	7 pm Yesteryears Pub & Grill 9427 W. Greenfield
Outing:	Meet at 6:30 am at Park & Rides lots. See Hatch for details.
Fly Tying:	New Location! Sportsmen's Warehouse (I-43 & Mooreland Rd.) from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
Event:	As indicated

The Hatch is the monthly newsletter of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, an incorporated nonprofit organization affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers meets the **2nd Tuesday** of each month at **7 p.m.** at **Yester-Years Pub & Grill, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI**

Meetings **May through August** are on the water. Read **The Hatch** for locations or go to our website

Send correspondence to:
Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers,
P.O. Box 370668
Milwaukee, WI 53237

Submit contributions for **The Hatch** by the 20th of the month to:

Greg Schick, Editor
 at: gaschick@wi.rr.com

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

At the **February 14th** meeting club members will be showing us how to tie some of their favorite fly patterns, others will teach us how to tie and use correct knots for our fishing trips, and this year we are asking members to tell us about the places they like to go fishing. Everyone is invited to participate in the fly tying, knots, and stream locations.

On **March 14th** Frank Stetzer and Dick Dragiewicz will talk about some of their smallmouth bass fishing techniques. Frank will use his recent trip to the Menominee River area as the basis of his presentation. Dick will give us information on Tim Holschlag's smallmouth bass fishing school that he attended this past summer. Lou Gauen will give us some details on the 2006 summer trip to the Menominee River.

In **March** you should also anticipate our first "road-trip" of the new year to the fish the spring creeks again. The destination is as yet undetermined, but it won't matter much since we'll all be suffering from fly fishing withdrawal by that time, anyhow!

April 11th will feature Tom Andersen. Tom is the Midwest Sales Representative for Sage, Simms, Umpqua, etc. He is also a fly fishing guide and fly fishing teacher with over 40 years of experience. His presentation is "How to be a Predator". This show is about what fish eat and how to effectively imitate these food sources with flies. There will be lots of ideas on new flies and techniques designed to fool all species of fish with a fly rod. Whether it is bass, trout, or pike start your 2006 season with a new bag of tricks from Tom Andersen. we'll all become better fishermen.

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THE CHALLENGE OF FLY ORGANIZATION

What flies do you carry? How are they organized?

From Jim Abbs

The fly fishing magazines are full of me-and-Joe went fishing stories where the author saves the day by having just the right fly for an unexpected hatch. Because these experiences are not uncommon, many---if not most---fly fishers are obsessive about carrying every possible fly known to humankind.

This obsession is not limited to fly fishers. Have you ever looked into the tackle box of a well-equipped (and well-heeled) bass angler? The difference is that we must carry our entire inventory on our backs. So how many flies does the successful fly fisher carry? I counted the flies in my trout-fishing vest and came up with just over 1,100. This count reflects every distinct pattern I carry, including duplicates. So for the Adams, I have 3 duplicates each of the upright, spent-wing and parachute styles in sizes 12-18, yielding a total of 36 flies. Is 1,100 a high number?

Dave Whitlock, in his famous book, Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods, provides a list of his fly boxes. He carries 4 or 5 boxes, organized as follows: (1) General Utility Box (general flies/attractors), (2) Match the Hatch Box (mayflies, caddis, damselflies, dragonflies and midges), (3) Streamers, (4) Terrestrials and Summer Midges, (5) Large Dry Flies (Hoppers, stoneflies) and (6) Skaters, Spiders and Variants. His total count is over 780 distinct flies, which includes several different sizes of the same pattern. He says he carries between 2 and 3 duplicates, yielding a total of over 1,900 flies!

Somehow, I am not surprised that I carry fewer flies than Dave Whitlock does. All these flies create certain problems. First, whatever happened to the idea that fly fishing was a minimalist sport? Second, carrying five fly boxes is about tops, depending upon vest capacity and how strong your back is. Finally, all these flies begin to tax your organizational skills. If you are like me, there comes a time when you have trouble remembering where each of the 300-400 patterns is located.

Unlike Dave Whitlock, I started out with a fly box for each basic aquatic insect: three fairly full boxes, one each for caddisflies, stoneflies and mayflies. Very soon, I needed a fourth box for terrestrials and yet a fifth box for streamers. Soon after that, I added another box of the so-called attractor flies, the Wulffs, Trudes and Stimulators.

With this organization, I had six fly boxes. Of course, I do not carry all of them at once and I have added new ones. Some boxes I carry only at certain times. For example, I carry attractors or stoneflies out west, but only rarely in my home state, Wisconsin. Likewise, I have separated mayflies into summer and winter, with the smaller patterns for winter fishing and also added a separate box for midges. Because this is a universal challenge, there are undoubtedly some brilliant solutions out there.

Medical science tells us that as we add years, good organization will help us remember those little things in life, like our anniversary, or the big things, like where we put the # 22 black caddis.



It's that time of the year again! Membership dues for 2006 are unchanged and can be sent to the club post office box listed below.

In order to make our record keeping easier — and to prevent your name from inadvertently being missed on the list — please fill out the form below and send it along with your check.

It's very important that the information be legible and complete on this form! Last year one of our members only put his house number down without listing his street on the form . We all like to think we're well-known, but I doubt if many of us are so well known that the Post Office knows where we live without us stating it!

In order to keep our costs down we will again use email notification, for those of you who have it, for the posting of the latest issue of "**The Hatch**", and for various informational notes and memos.

Please ensure that you list your email address correctly, too!

Thanks for being a member! We're looking forward to another great year in 2006!

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers

New Member Application & Renewal Form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(This is very important! Please write your email address legibly!)

Membership Type: Single ___ \$25.00 Family ___ \$35.00

Please indicate whether New ___ or Renewal___

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