



November Meeting:

Wader Care and Repair

Notes by Dick Dragiewicz

At the November club meeting Joseph Meyer gave us a presentation on "Wader Care and Repair". It was a great explanation of how to buy waders, how to maintain them, and how to repair them after our encounters with barbed wire fences, tree branches or sharp rocks. I'm certain that we all learned a lot about waders and how to take care of them.

For the club members that weren't able to attend the meeting and as a reminder for the rest of us here is a summary of Joseph Meyer's presentation.

How Waders Should Fit

When purchasing waders make sure they fit properly. They need to have enough room to allow us to easily climb over fences and stiles, get in and out of drift boats/cars/trucks, etc. The best way to find waders that fit correctly is to go a dealer or two and try on models from various manufacturers. When trying them on you should wear your normal fishing clothes, socks and jackets. Then be sure to simulate the movements you do when fishing, that is, walk, bend, stretch, just like you do when you are fishing. By doing this you'll know the waders fit and you'll be comfortable when fishing. It's also a good idea to shop at stores that offer personal service versus going to the internet or to those big box stores that may not be able to help you select the correct waders.

Waders with straight legs are more likely to develop leaky seams than waders with articulated legs. The straight leg models don't seem to provide enough room for you to move around.

Waders aren't designed to be entered into form fitting fashion shows. They are designed to keep us



Joseph Meyer, owner and operator of the One More Cast fly shop

dry and comfortable while we are wading. So they need to have enough room to allow us to move around.

When putting them on or taking them off be careful not to pull or stretch them. Stretching and pulling might cause the seams to start separating and that will create an uncomfortable leaky spot.

Walking around in stocking foot waders without having the boots on will cause the foot areas to wear out prematurely. And, they might get torn on rocks, concrete, etc.

Breathable waders are much more comfortable and warmer than waders made of other materials. To stay warm in cold weather wear several layers of clothes made of synthetic materials that breathe. Avoid wearing clothing made of cotton, such as jeans, when wearing your waders. These natural materials don't breathe and get damp from the accumulated perspiration. It's when your clothes get damp that you start to get cold.

Thoroughly inspect the waders you are considering purchasing. Make sure they have been properly designed. One example of poor design is having seams located on the bottom of the stocking foot versus along the sides. Seams in this location won't allow your feet to be comfortable.

Read the warranty/guarantee that comes with the waders. You might learn that you are entitled to some free or inexpensive repairs in the future or you might not get anything from the manufacturer.

Wader Maintenance

Periodically wash your waders. Stocking foot waders can be cleaned in a washing machine with regular laundry soap. If using liquid soap don't forget to rinse the waders twice. Hang the waders up to dry.

If you have boot foot waders don't put them into the washing machine. Those boots just don't dry out after being soaked in a washing machine. You'll have to scrub them by hand and then hang them up to dry.

After a fishing trip hang the waders up to dry before putting them in storage. Mold and mildew don't grow on dry waders.

Wader Repairs

To find a leak in your waders there seems to be several easy methods. For waders made with Gore Tex materials spread some household rubbing alcohol on the inside of the waders around the suspected leaky area. The leaks will appear as blackish green spots/marks. Place some Aquaseal, straight from the tube, on the leaky spots you found on the inside of the waders.

For waders made of other materials you'll need a little bit of soapy water. Inflate the waders with air near the suspected leaky area and then spread some of the soapy water solution on the area. When you see air bubbles you'll know where to apply the Aquaseal to the inside of the waders. This is the same way we find leaks in bicycle tubes/tires.

Don't fill waders with water to find leaks. This puts too much pressure on the seams and frequently creates new leaks.

Another way to find leaks is to place a bright flashlight into the waders. Obviously this needs to be done in a very dark room. Apply Aquaseal to the leaky areas.

November Outing:

Fishing the Root River by Greg Schick

Well, it seems like it was a case of “the best laid plans” all over again! Five ML&SFF members, **Peter Alba**, **Ralph Antczak**, **Ron Wojack**, **Ken Zielinski**, and I, met up at Colonial Park the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Seems the fish met up there ON Thanksgiving Day. We talked with a father and his two sons who were up from Chicago for the day and found out that there were a lot more fish in the water on Thursday than we saw on Saturday morning.

The only fish I saw that morning was a sucker that Peter Alba coerced into taking his black Girdle Bug. Actually, that one was the second fish Peter caught. He got a nice Coho on that same fly on his third cast of the morning!

The only other one of the five of us that hooked a fish was Ralph, and I’m betting it was the fly now dubbed the “Ralphie”.

Regardless of whether or not we all saw or hooked any fish, the day was lovely and not too chilly!

Maybe next year we’ll have to go earlier to catch the salmon in the river before Turkey Day!



Top: Ron Wojack, Ken Zielinski— working an undercut — and Peter Alba

Bottom: Peter working a nice little hole across river from his position.



Basically Bugs

By John Gantner

As fly anglers, must we study entomology? Become Latin scholars? Will a bit of basic entomology help us to catch more fish? The answers to these questions are yes, no, and absolutely. Trout don't care what we call their latest meal. However we do need to determine size, shape, color, and behavior of the insect that the fish are eating to select a fly and presentation that will imitate the bugs and fool the fish. An understanding of basic "bugology" will help you catch more and larger trout and becomes imperative for success during a hatch. Knowing basic identification, hatch phases, and egg-laying characteristics of aquatic insects allows successful selection of fly patterns that closely resemble the naturals being consumed by the trout. Does this mean we should forego our precious fishing time to learn that the Golden Stonefly we once studied as *Acroneuria californica* is now known as *Calineuria californica*? And the reason for the change is – "just because". Absolutely not! Too much information for many anglers. For many this condensed version may be as deep as curiosity leads. For others of us, amateur bugology offers a level of attraction akin to fly fishing or fly tying.

My early introduction to fly fishing came some forty years ago, and was administered by an old-timer with some unique and inflexible notions. The study of insects and their importance in fooling fish simply did not apply to this man's pursuit of trout. Yet, he did pursue trout very effectively, as the many frozen fish in his freezer attested; catch and release ethics not yet reaching him. Fred used a six-foot fly rod, a six-foot leader and a size 10 Grey-Hackle Yellow fly. If the trout seemed especially wary, he would reluctantly adjust to a seven-foot leader and size 12 Grey-Hackle Yellow. This was as far and fine as he needed to go. The Grey-Hackle Yellow was the only fly I ever saw him use, probably the only pattern he owned. Fred lived in a time when trout were wild and plentiful, and in a remote area loaded with unsophisticated fish. There trout had never seen an artificial fly. Only edible insects, local flora, and Fred's Grey-Hackle Yellow fell to their waters. His fly looked like an insect; it looked edible. Fish ate it with abandon.

My later examination of these waters showed why Fred's choice of the Grey-Hackle Yellow fly proved such a singular success. Golden stoneflies, PMD's, yellowish caddis, and hoppers all graced the tables of Fred's trout, and the fly offered a marginal imitation of all of these insects. It proved adequate for that time and place.

Fred would flounder in today's conditions. What was adequate impersonation forty years ago simply won't fool the educated fish of today. Today's anglers need better fly selection to succeed, and a little study aids this selection. The study need not be extensive; embrace entomology just as far as your individual interest leads you. However, angling success requires certain facts must be learned and committed to memory. Every angler should know enough to identify a stonefly, mayfly, caddis fly, midge, and the basic terrestrials. Since grasshoppers, beetles, and ants are familiar to most of us, we will ignore the terrestrials, and other fish food sources, and study the four basic orders of aquatic insects.

All true insects are lumped under the scientific "Class" of Insecta. The next sub-classification is the "Order". This classification sorts all mayflies into the order Ephemeroptera, all caddis flies into the order Trichoptera, and all stoneflies into the order Plecoptera, and all midges into the order Diptera. Okay, enough of the Latinesque! You don't need to know these names, only know that these four orders of insects can be studied as individual groups, and you must develop the ability to identify and differentiate mayflies from midges, caddis flies from stoneflies, in each of their life-cycle phases. And how do we accomplish this easily and while afield? Through observation. For identifying nymphs we use different keys to sort them into their proper taxonomic order than we do for adult insects. In either case, collection and close observation prove necessary. Now, let's breakdown these four major orders of insects to provide enough understanding to facilitate your observations in the field

MAYFLIES

Mayflies live a basic life cycle: egg, nymph, dun, spinner. Their eggs mature into the underwater life-form called a nymph. Although ranging from two months to two years, many mayfly nymphs remain in the nymphal form for almost a year. When full grown, most mayfly nymphs swim to the surface and, like superman in the phone booth, change their appearance into the adult dun form. This upward migration through the water column, known as the emergence, leaves the surfacing insect susceptible to feeding fish. The adult (or dun) rests on the surface, drying its wings (and luring hungry trout), then flits off to nearby trees or bushes to concentrate on attracting a mate. This entire process is commonly referred to as “the hatch.” After a brief period – a few hours to a few days – the adult undergoes a final molt into a spinner. These two stages of adulthood are unique to the mayfly. The spinners return to the river, mate, and after egg-laying, fall spent onto the water. Mayfly duns have colored and veined wings; spinners typically have translucent wings.

Identifying the Mayfly Nymph

Mayfly nymph identification requires observation of four characteristics: tails, gills, body shape, and wing case. This is best accomplished by collecting specimens using a simple nymph net and by kicking rocks. Many mayfly nymphs appear a dirty tan to brown in color with a lighter underside, but they can vary from cream to olive to black. They have three tails (rarely two) and hair-like or paddle-like gills on their abdomen. A single large wing case differentiates the mayfly nymph from the caddis, stonefly, or midge nymphs. The nymphs grow and molt until reaching full size. Their shape varies greatly depending on the water conditions they have adapted to, and whether they belong to the burrower, rock clinger, or more free-roamer varieties. Matching your fly to the size, shape, and color of the predominate mayfly nymph forms encountered will go a long way toward angling success.



Blue Wing Olive (BWO) nymph

Identifying the Mayfly Adult

Adult mayflies can generally be identified by observing wings, tails, antennae and posture on the water. Mayflies possess two large, upright wings (plus two small insignificant wings), two or three tails and appear as little sailboats when on the water.



Blue Wing Olive dun (adult)

They are the only trout-stream insect with prominent upright wings. They range in size from about size 22, like the tiny *Trichorythodes* (commonly called Trico), up to about size 8 or 10, such as the huge *Hexagenia* (commonly called Hex).

Here again, knowing and identifying the Genus and species of the many different mayflies is not absolutely necessary (although very helpful), simply identifying the insect as a mayfly and then noting body color, wing color, and body size (as it relates to hook size) is a must for fishing success. Remember, if the mayfly adult has colored wings, you are probably witnessing a hatch.

If it has clear transparent wings, then you are

probably witnessing a spinner fall. Both adult stages can be very important to the angler.

Next Month — Part 2:

Caddis, Midges and Stoneflies



Blue Wing Olive spinner

December Meeting:

Fishing along the Milwaukee River

Will Wawrzyn is with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Milwaukee office). One of his tasks at the WDNR is to oversee the Milwaukee River Basin. Will is going to tell us about the Milwaukee River and the fishing opportunities it offers with an emphasis on smallmouth bass fishing. At a recent public presentation Will discussed the Milwaukee River and the numerous challenges it faces due to the high population density that lives in and around the river. He'll also share with us smallmouth bass fishing information that we can use next season.

Join us on **Tuesday, December 11th** at **YesterYears Pub**, 9427 W. Greenfield.
The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Or, get there at 6:00 pm for a burger, a beer and some fish stories!

December Outing:

Holiday Brunch!

For our December outing on Sunday, the 16th, we will be enjoying a Sunday brunch at the Seven Seas Restaurant. Our reservations are for 11:00 a.m., so if you're planning on attending please plan accordingly!

Cost is \$24.00 per person, and that includes tax and tip. Make out your check to ML&SFF, and mail to

Ken Zielinski at 10154 Whitnall Edge Dr., Unit G, Franklin, WI 53132 before Dec. 9th.

"Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. Teach a man to flyfish and you will keep him constantly busy, broke, and looking for new tying materials."

2008 Fly Fishing Show Schedule

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited "Ice Breaker"

(<http://swtu.org/icebreaker.html>)

January 19, 2008 – Fitchburg, WI — Tom Rosenbauer (Orvis) guest speaker

Tom Helgeson's Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

(<http://www.greatwatersflyfishingexpo.com>)

February 8 -10, 2008 – Chicago, IL — Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center

Gary Borger and Jason Borger guest speakers

Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener

(<http://badgerflyfishers.org/>)

February 16, 2008 – Madison, WI

Gary Borger guest speaker

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Trout Fest

(<http://cwtu.org/events/index.html>)

February 23, 2008 - Winneconne, WI

2008 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

(<http://www.mffc.org>)

March 8 – 9, 2008 Warren, MI

Charlie Meck, Steve Rajeff, Rick Kustich, Jerry Kustich,

Jerry Regan, and Chris Helm are guest speakers

This is the biggest and best fly fishing show in the Midwest. This show is more than 25 years old.

Tom Helgeson's Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo (<http://www.greatwatersflyfishingexpo.com>)

Minneapolis – March 14 - 16, 2008 – Minneapolis, MN

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel Minneapolis South

Gary Borger and Jason Borger guest speakers

Blue Winged Olive CDC Emerger

CDC (Cul de canard, or "butt of duck") is a magical feather whose floatation properties derive from its structure. The tiny (almost microscopic) barbules of CDC feathers trap air bubbles and will float dry flies remarkably well. *Never put any liquid or paste floatant of any kind on CDC feathers.* If you do, they will mat down and lose their floatation properties. "Frog's Fanny" or other fine dry desiccant will rejuvenate CDC once it is wet. When buying CDC, look for feathers having thin stems and long fluffy barbs. CDC "puffs" are excellent for small flies (#16 or smaller).

This simple CDC emerger is tied similar to the Klinkhamer emerger, except that it is floated with CDC rather than an upright post and parachute hackle. It can be tied in sizes and colors of almost any emerging mayfly. Fish it in the film during and after a mayfly hatch.



Hook: Tiemco 2487, or equiv., #16-24
Thread: Olive dun, 8/0
Tail: Z-lon or Antron fibers, olive/brown
Ribbing: A single strand of very fine reflective Mylar, e.g.. Angel Hair)
Wing: CDC fibers, natural dun
Abdomen: Med/dark olive fine dubbing, e.g.. beaver, muskrat, Fine-and-Dry
Thorax: Dark olive coarse dubbing



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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS 2007-08 CALENDAR

	December	January	February
Meeting	11th	8th	12th
Outing	16th Holiday Brunch *	1st Paradise Springs "Opener"	10th Great Waters Expo
Fly Tying	12th Only	9th and 23rd	13th and 27th
Notes	* Seven Seas Restaurant on Lake Nagawicka	Annual Paradise Springs Wine & Cheese Fest	Daytrip to Chicago! Carpool or Caravan!

	March	April	May
Meeting	11th	8th	13th
Outing	22nd	19th	24th
Fly Tying	12th and 26th	9th and 23rd	14th and 28th
Notes			

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:	Sportsmen's Warehouse (I-43 & Mooreland Rd.) from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

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

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

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