



December Outing:

Holiday Brunch

Five couples attended the Champagne Brunch on the 16th and had a enjoyed a scrumptious meal surrounded by the holiday decorations at the Seven Seas Restaurant! If anyone went home hungry it was their own fault!

Right: from left to right— *Marlene & Ron Wojack, Ken and Jo Zielinski.*

Bottom rt: *Captain's dining room at Seven Seas*

Below: from left to right— *Violet and Glenn Winston, Kathy Schick*



Basically Bugs - Part Two

By John Gantner

CADDISFLIES

The life-cycle of the caddisfly differs from the mayfly, having two underwater stages after the egg and only one adult stage, and includes egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The eggs are deposited in the water and eventually morph into a worm (larva) that may or may not build a case, depending on the species. When full grown, the larva makes a cocoon in which it changes into a pupa. The mayfly has no equivalent to the pupa stage and due to its susceptibility, the caddis pupa is very important to the angler. When mature, the pupa frees itself from the cocoon and migrates to the surface of the water or, less frequently, crawls out of the water. At some point in this process, either under the surface, on the surface, or on land, the pupal shuck splits and the adult caddis comes free, dries its wings, and flies off to the nearby bushes to rest. After mating, the female returns to the stream to deposit her eggs. Sometimes she daps them on the surface, sometimes she dives underwater, and occasionally she deposits them on streamside foliage.

Identifying the Caddis Larva and Pupa

Caddis larva fall roughly into three large groups: one group builds a case or house, the second group are free-ranging scavengers, and the third includes the net-spinners. In all three groups, the larva looks like a little worm, as opposed to the robust appearing mayfly nymph. All three groups are important to the angler. The dominant genus of free-living caddisflies includes *Rhyacophila* (commonly known as green rock worms). Easy to identify by their dark olive to bright green bodies, which are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ - inch long (at maturity), the green rock worms form nests on sand and gravel where they pupate in preparation for emergence to the surface. (See the photo titled (Caddis Green Rock Worm).



A free-living worm-like caddis larva common to many trout streams.



The emergent form between larva and adult, the caddis pupa is important to fish and anglers alike

The case building caddis larva constructs a "home" of gravel and stream-bottom detritus, and can be roughly broken into two types. First there are the tiny turtle-cased caddis which are often overlooked by anglers. The larvae of this group are very small, imitated by size 18 to 22 flies. These larvae build small dome-shaped cases of gravel that blend into their background, often difficult to notice. The second and larger group of caddis (the true cased caddisflies) builds tubular, sometimes tapered, cylinders which the larvae carry with them like camper shells. You will often note the larva's legs protruding from the case.

The net-spinners are often the most abundant caddis in our trout streams. Their behavior makes them readily susceptible to foraging trout. Like the free-living caddis, they do not construct true portable cases. The net-spinners use their silk producing glands to lay nets on the surface of stream rocks, which, like spider-webs, collect drifting food.

Although trout feed on the larvae of caddisflies and larvae imitations effective at certain times, it remains the pupal stage that becomes even more important to the angler. Once leaving their homes on

the stream bottom, the caddis pupa surface, molt into the adult, and fly away. It is this free-floating emergence that is often the time of greatest susceptibility to feeding trout. Determining the size and color of emerging pupae is best accomplished by netting them while they dangle in the subsurface. Another means is to find sealed cases on the rocks and gently open the cases to reveal the pupa inside.

Identifying the Adult Caddisfly

Caddisflies carry four hairy wings on their back in an inverted V, or tent, extending well beyond the rear edge of the body. They have long antennae and most commonly imitated with size 14 to size 20. They have no tails and look rather moth-like in appearance. Again, knowing the species name of the multitude of different caddisflies isn't our goal. It is enough to identify the caddis, be aware of the seven main body colors – tan, gray, black, olive, yellow, cream, and dark brown – and carry reasonable color identification cannot be accurately made by observing the insect in flight; they must be brought to hand. This can be difficult with wary and spooky insects like the Caddisfly, and in the evening, porch lights or headlights near the water provide good opportunities to capture specimens.



The moth-like caddis adult is distinguished by the wings "tented" over its back

MIDGES (Chironomids)

Midges are tiny mosquito-like insects (without the probing proboscis) that may appear in almost any water type, and are typically imitated with size 14 to 24 flies. Trout feed heavily on these tiny appetizers and can become quite selective at these times. Midges have the same life cycle as the caddis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Many of the larvae form mud tubes and remain on the bottom of their watery world or cloistered in thick aquatic growth, hence the larvae are generally unavailable to foraging trout and unimportant to anglers. Some free-roaming larvae entice trout predation. The pupal stage brings the insect to the surface where it hangs vertically – head up, tail down – with the cluster of hairy gills that surround the head protruding into the surface film. It often takes up to several minutes for the pupa to break through the surface tension, and the trout take full advantage of this long struggle. Although midge adult pupa patterns are sometimes effective, it's the midge pupa upon which anglers need to concentrate. Midge hatches can occur at any time of the year, mid-winter to hot August.



The wings of the mosquito-like midge adult are shorter than their bodies, and lie flat along the body.

Identifying the Midge Larva and Pupa

It is the midge pupa that attracts trout and interest anglers. Black, olive, tan, red, gray, and cream are the most common colors. Midge pupa, while wiggling their way to the surface, move up the water-column quite slowly, often stopping to hang vertically suspended. This is their time of greatest peril, and selecting the proper midge pupa pattern can insure angling success. Stomach sampling suggests upwards of 90% of midges consumed by trout are from the advanced emergent pupal stage. Midge pupa can generally be distinguished from caddis pupa by their skinnier profile, bulbous thorax and stark white hairy gills atop the thorax.

Identifying the Adult Midge

Midge wings lie tight along and shorter than their bodies. They possess no tails. Most are very small, sizes 20 to 26, or smaller, though some lake species are fairly large, 12 to 18. Midges thrive in almost all slow moving waters and lakes. Although diverse in color, black, olive and red are common. Hook size selection becomes extremely important. A discrepancy of one hook size can relate to an error of 25 or 30% of the tiny insect's actual body size. A discrepancy easily perceived by a selective trout.

STONEFLIES

Stoneflies inhabit fast, cool, well-oxygenated, turbulent rocky streams, and are not found in slow moving or overly polluted waters. Often the largest and most exiting of insects, they provide spectacular fishing opportunities. Their life-cycle is an abbreviated egg, nymph, and adult. Many species (but not all) crawl out on land to break free of their nymphal shuck and attain their adult stage, leaving only two stages for the angler to imitate: nymph and adult.

Identifying the Stonefly Nymph

Stonefly nymphs are generally flatfish, with two short tails, strong antennae, and two equal wing cases. Although found as small as size 20, many of the stoneflies are among the largest nymphs in the river, with some species reaching over three inches in length. Stonefly nymphs are distinguished from mayfly nymphs by their double wing cases. Since most stonefly nymphs crawl to land to molt, and possess no intermediate or pupal state, much can be learned from observing empty shucks left on streamside rocks and foliage.



The stonefly nymph has two equal wing cases and two short tails

Identifying the Adult Stonefly

Stonefly adults have four long wings: hard, shiny and heavily veined. When at rest, the wings lay flat and overlapped on top of the body appearing as one wing. Their wings extend as much as 10 to 20% beyond the body, rounded at the end. They have antennae and two short tails (cerci), and come in a wide array of sizes from 2 to 20. Often recognizable in the air by their slow, erratic flight, the largest models are down-right aeronautically challenged.

Stonefly colors are varied; however, shades of yellow, green, brown and black are most common. Stonefly adults differ from caddis in the flat position of the wings and by their two tails.

PRACTICAL USE OF BASIC ENTOMOLOGY

Time to Pick a Fly and Catch a Fish

Now that you have all this bugology firmly in mind, let's see how the practical application of this knowledge translates to angling success. Picture yourself in your favorite trout stream. Bugs are flitting over the water, and fish rising all around you. How do you make a proper fly selection? Are you sure which bugs are being eaten? Do the trout's rise-patterns assure which life stage to imitate? This is the crux or nitty-gritty of this discussion; how to select the right fly that will take fish when trout are feeding selectively on naturals.

First, you need to capture bugs, both in the air and in the water, and identify the order and life phase of the insect being eaten; the fact that you see flying insects does not necessarily mean the fish are keying on the adult phase. Once you have the specimens in hand, the order (mayfly, caddis, stonefly, or midge) and the life stage (as mayfly nymph, dun, or spinner) of the insect is easily determined. Also note whether the fish seem to be taking adults on the surface, emergers in the film, or ascending nymphs in the water column? Using your collected sample insects, determine size, color and shape.

Now you have the information necessary to make a logical fly selection that will imitate the insect type upon which the trout are keying. Success is now just a cast away. Of course, making these selections during the heat of a hatch requires some calm dedication and conviction.

The unhappy alternative, often born of excitement caused by rising fish, includes taking a wild guess at the fly pattern, flogging the water, and ending up exhausted, frustrated, and fishless.

In the pursuit of practicality (and brevity), I have taken short cuts in this analyses, ignored exceptions to the data presented, and abridged the science (without losing the usefulness); all this is done in the name of simplifying the study to offer the angler a practical means to begin his or her journey into angling bugology. These disclaimers aside, this analysis will provide a workable tool to differentiate between the four basic orders of insects: mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and midges; then determine the life phase of the insect being eaten. Using this information will put you light years ahead of most fly anglers and increase your success rate. I guarantee it.

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

The Zen of Fly Fishing

Found by Dick Dragiewicz

- Bring a camera and you won't catch anything worth a picture.
- Bring a net and you won't catch anything big enough to warrant its use.
- Bring both and you guarantee a skunking.
- Ever notice that when wearing waders, it is always very easy for them to leak, but not you?
- Why is it that the urge to urinate occurs only after zipping, snapping and pulling everything on?
- Your casting will be flawless until you spot the fish of a lifetime, rising steadily.
- The fishing was always better the week before you arrive.
- The fishing will always improve the day after you leave.
- No matter how many fly boxes stuffed in your vest, no matter how many flies stuffed in each box, you will never be able to match the hatch.
- Anyone who thinks trees cannot move, has never seen a branch reach out and snag a backcast.
- If all the flies in your boxes, save one, has had their barbs crushed down, guess which one you'll stick in your thumb.
- If all the flies in your boxes, save one, has had their barbs crushed down, guess which one will be on your tippet when the Conservation Officer selects you for the enforcement of the barbless regulation.
- Why is it that despite a lifetime of collecting fly tying materials, you're always short one item for a recipe?
- Ever notice that the fly that caught so many fish for some guy last week, never works for you this week?
- Right after you're finally able to scrape enough cash together to buy the rod of your dreams, the manufacturer will be replace it with an even nicer model.
- Never forget the Goldilocks rule of buying Spey lines – you will always buy one that's too heavy, then one that's too light, before buying the one that's just right.
- Your vest is always short one pocket.
- Wind knots are Nature's way of teaching you to slow down.
- Tangles are Nature's way of teaching you patience.
- Lost fish are Nature's way of teaching you perseverance.
- Don't you wish Nature would find someone else to pester . . . I mean "teach"?
- Anyone who brings a cellphone on the water, deserves to drop it.
- The best fish of the day always hits in mid-mend.
- The quality of one's casting is inversely proportional to the number of people watching.
- Bring a guest you wish to impress to the "can't miss" hole, and it will.
- After tying and then fishing dozens of wonderful Atlantic salmon flies, you'll finally hook your first salmon on an ESL.

. . . . and lastly

- Remember that one's fishing can always be improved by buying another fishing rod.

January Meeting:

Fishing along the Milwaukee River

Finding and catching more river smallmouth bass is Bill Schultz's topic in January. Bill reports catching more than 2,000 river smallies during the 2007 season. Yes that's correct 2,000+ smallies. Bill has given this and other presentations to the Wisconsin and Illinois Smallmouth Alliances, at the Milwaukee Sports Show, at the Bass Pro Shop; he's also written bass fishing articles for several publications. He is on the Pro Staffs and is sponsored by numerous fishing tackle companies. Bill uses a spinning rod/lures for his river bass fishing. Am sure that his techniques and approaches are applicable to the fly rod. Join us for a great presentation on river bass fishing.

Join us on **Tuesday, January 8th** 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!

February Outing:

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo In Chicago!

For our February outing we will be doing a daytrip carpool / caravan adventure to the Great Waters Fly Show at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center ,1551 N. Thoreau Dr. Schaumburg, IL (I-90 & HWY. 53)

In a revolutionary departure from the traditional booth-and-breakout room show scenario, both 2008 Great Waters Expos will feature Learning Stations strategically located on the show floor where guests can learn about entomology, fly tying and materials, tackle (how to choose the right fly rod, line and reel and how they "fit" together) knot tying and "rigging", Midwest fish species and where to find them, fly fishing ethics (the right way to release fish and when and why you should).

At each Learning Station, you will able to ask questions and get straight answers from patient and knowledgeable members of the Midwest fly fishing community.

GREAT WATERS FLY FISHING EXPO guests will be able to choose from a variety of non-stop educational programming in three basic areas

- 1) Fly fishing techniques and tactics: entomology, how to "read" water and recognize where fish live, emphasis on strategies and flies that take the fish you're after
- 2) Fly fishing travel and adventure.
- 3) Environmental education. Threats to our Midwest fly fishing waters and grass-roots efforts to combat them

At the January meeting we'll have a signup sheet out for those who want to go and we'll start working on carpool arrangements and such from that list.



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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS 2008 CALENDAR

	January	February	March
Meeting	8th	12th	11th
Outing	1st * Paradise Springs "Opener"	9th * Great Waters Expo	22nd
Fly Tying	9th and 23rd	13th and 27th	12th and 26th
Notes	*Annual Paradise Springs Wine & Cheese Fest	* Daytrip to Chicago! Carpool or Caravan!	

	April	May	June
Meeting	8th	Casting Clinic 13th	Meeting on the Water 10th
Outing	19th	24th	21st
Fly Tying	9th and 23rd	14th and 28th	None — It time to fish!
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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