



January Meeting:

River Smallmouth Bass Fishing

Notes by Dick Dragiewicz

At our January meeting, Bill Schultz, told us how he fishes for smallmouth bass in many of Wisconsin's rivers. He reports catching more than 2,000 smallmouth bass during the 2007 season. Based on the number of days/hours he fished this 2,000+ total equates to catching one fish every four minutes. That's a lot of catching.

He fishes with light and medium light action St. Croix spinning rods equipped with Shimano and Daiwa reels and a select number of lures. Details of his equipment were provided in the handout he provided at the meeting. If you want one of the handouts give me a call and I'll get you a copy.

The places Bill fishes include: the Fever River, Platte River, Menominee River, Mink River, Fox River, Grant River, Milwaukee River, Waupaca River, Wisconsin River, Sheboygan River, Sugar River, Peshtigo River, Oconto River, Pecos River, Turtle Creek, St. Croix River, and the Rock River. Occasionally he fishes Little Sturgeon Bay and small lakes west of Milwaukee.



Bill Schultz (Photo by Barb Jakopac)

He said there is public access to all of the rivers he fishes. For obvious reasons he didn't provide details on these locations. So it will take some research and investigation to find access points and places that hold bass. This searching is part of the challenge of finding and catching lots of fish.

When on the water he generally fishes downstream of rocks, boulders, tree stumps/roots, islands, sandbars, bridge abutments. Looks for deep holes, places with shade, even fishing behind feeding carp will produce hungry bass. Finding those great spots with lots of bass is part of the enjoyment of fishing. Be careful when sharing these locations with others, you don't want everyone showing up at your favorite spot.

When water levels are low it's a good time to explore rivers. With low water you'll be able to find the places that the bass will generally be holding when the water levels are up. Makes fishing easier

when you know these locations. Making notes on these places will help you find these spots in the future.

If you are interested, Bill Schultz will be giving bass fishing presentations at several locations in February and March. He will be at the Madison Fishing Expo on February 23 and 24, at the Bass Pro Shop in Gurnee on March 1, and at the Journal Sentinel Sport show on March 16. Be sure to check each event for the time of the presentations.

January Outing: **New Year's Day at Paradise Spring**

Why is it that the coldest outing of the year draws the most people? It must be the winter blahs... the effects of cabin fever... the need to socialize after being away from the streams and lakes...



No. I'm putting my money on the idea that it's more fun to drink wine and cheese at a parking lot party even if it's under the guise of trying to catch fish on Opening Day at Paradise Springs.



We had thirteen club members in attendance on that chilly morning, and over half of them fished!

The fishermen included **Ralph Antczak, Dick Dragiewicz, Dave Gonzales, Don Putning, Greg Schick, Don Steudemann, Ron Wojack, and Ken Zielinski**. In addition to Dave's girlfriend **Marchelle, Toni Buck, Barb Jakopac, Dale Koniecki, and Joe Valkoun** came out to lend moral support. Actually, Joe probably would have fished had it not been for the "walking cast" on his left ankle. He just couldn't figure how to get that thing inside his waders!

We were fortunate this year to have an honored guest at our outing, Paul Smith, the new Out-



doors columnist for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. Paul's great story and photos were in his January 6th column. Paul is a past-ML&SFF member, and was also a member of the now disbanded Racine club, Traditional Anglers of Wisconsin. His knowledge of fly fishing comes from first-hand experience, too!

The weather was chilly and a bit windy in the parking lot when the group started to arrive around 8:30 a.m., but it was more pleasant up by the pond. Getting out of the direct path of the wind had a lot to do with that!



After about an hour or so of fishing, we retired to the parking lot to partake of the snacks that Ken, Marchelle, and others brought to the party.

As Ron set up his camp stove and mulled some wine, I cracked a bottles of wine to pass around to the group.

It was almost more fun spearing a cheese cube than it was teasing the trout!



If you missed the party this year, you really should think about attending next year! What else are you going to do on New Years Day? Watch football?

February Meeting:

Ray Larson will be the guest speaker at the February 12, 2008 meeting of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers. He's going to talk about "Lake Run Fish" that enter the numerous rivers and streams that flow into Lake Michigan. Lake Run Fish include salmon (chinook & coho), steelhead (rainbow trout), brown trout, coaster brook trout, pike, smallmouth bass, carp, and walleye. Ray will tell us what time of year these fish enter and leave Lake Michigan tributaries, explain fishing techniques, and show us fly patterns that he uses to catch these fish.

Join us February 12, 2008 for Ray Larson's presentation on Wisconsin's "Lake Run Fish" at 7:00 p.m.

Come early and have a great Yester Years burger and a beer (or two) before the meeting. There's always a bunch of fish-stories being passed around, too!



February Outing:

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo!

For our February outing on Saturday, the 9th, 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)

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

If you want to carpool or caravan with us and you haven’t told us yet, contact Greg Schick via email (gaschick@wi.rr.com) or by phone at 262-635-0522 no later than Feb. 6th.

2008 Fly Fishing Show Schedule

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

Fishing in Other Places

While we're shoveling our driveways and counting the number of days until the early trout season opens (29 as of Feb. 1st, by the way), Don Putning and his wife are enjoying a nice summer season of fishing and vacationing... in New Zealand.

Don writes: "**First week of fishing:** We are in Gore the "Brown Trout Capital" of the world on the Mataura River. The Mataura is a freestone river 150 miles long, and at Gore it runs at about 200 cfs and quite clear. I looked up a Tasmanian that I met down here last year. He showed me a couple access areas and helped me a lot sight fishing with nymphs and dries.

"The fish I'm holding was the first fish of the trip a 21" 3 lb on a parachute Adams. I've had the best luck on pheasant tail nymphs and parachute Adams, size 16 & 18. I took a 21" 2 3/4 lb on a PS Special aka "Ralphie" excellent tie, Ralph, thanks. It is pictured with the net and rod. I fished 6 mornings about 30 hours landing 10 fish all between 2 to 3 lbs, 18 to 21". I've lost 20 fish to broken tippets (5X) and thrown hooks. I've also spooked dozens. The fishing is excellent but different and challenging.

"Tight lines, Don "



Just a Reminder! Membership Renewal for 2008 is Now Underway!

If you haven't already renewed your 2008 membership in the club, now is the time to do it! Fill out a renewal form — available on the club website — and send it today to the club mail box.

Or, bring your form and check with you to the February meeting and give to the Dave Gonzales, the 2008 Membership Chairman!

What To Do With A Pheasant Skin

by Jack Gartside

Some of you might recognize this article. It first appeared in the Blue Ribbon Flies catalog in the 1982/1983 catalog! It remains as useful today as it was 20 years ago.

There's probably not a bird that flies that has more uses for the fly tyer than the ringneck pheasant. From the top of its head to the tip of its tail, there's hardly a feather on a pheasant that can't be used to some good purpose. Whether it's hackle you need or tailing fibers, winging material or body material, shoulders or cheeks--whatever--it's all there.

While both the cock and the hen are extremely interesting and useful material sources for the practical and imaginative flytyer, I will consider in this article only the cock pheasant, since this is generally the more useful of the two. One cock pheasant of just average size will provide the resourceful flytyer with enough material to tie thousands of flies.

The Top of the Head

These mottled olive-brown feathers with a greenish cast (which interestingly enough often mirror the symmetry and coloration of the lower back feathers) can be used most effectively as hackle for soft hackle or for traditional wet flies whenever a mottled hackle is called for. They also work well as wing cases for nymphs or for the short wings on an emerging mayfly imitation.

The Iridescent Blue/Green and Back Neck Feathers

These feathers, when dipped in spar varnish and stroked to shape, make attractive and durable wings for patterns like the Letort Cricket or for beetles. The feathers can also be used to great advantage as hackle on such traditional wet fly patterns such as the Black Gnat or Butcher or on any fly where black hackle is called for. They can also be used as wing cases on nymphs and for mayfly emergers (e.g. paraleptophlebia). One of my favorite soft hackle wet flies that uses this feather is the very simple Ringneck Soft Hackle Wet Fly.

The White Band (or ring) Feather

This lovely little feather can be used most obviously in tying small fanwings (e.g. the Fanwing Royal Coachman) or you can varnish, shape and color them with a yellow or green marking pen to fashion excellent leaf hopper or aphid wings.

Almond Hearts

These reddish/brown feathers are found just below the ring on both the back and breast and can be varnished and stroked to shape beautiful caddis wings for dark dry caddis patterns. One of my favorite dressings using almond hearts is the Gartside Pheasant Caddis.

Church Windows

Just below the almond hearts there are larger, rather square reddish brown feathers with a cream mottled center. These feathers cover an area roughly halfway down the back and extend right and left onto each shoulder of the pheasant. I use these feathers for shoulders and cheeks on streamer patterns, as well as for wings on some streamer patterns (usually tying them matuka-style over different colored yarns or other body materials and adding a hackle collar of a deer hair head and collar). These feathers have many other uses as well for the inventive tyer.

A good example of a fly using church window feathers (as a cheek) is the Darkside, a New England-style streamer, that I first tied in 1972.

Lower Back Feathers.

These feathers have a greenish/olive to brown or red/brown cast to them, with much mottling in the center. Some pheasants (especially those raised for game farms) may have a bluish cast; these are

definitely inferior to the more naturally-colored pheasants that feed in the wild.

Two of my favorite and most successful fly patterns are tied with this feather: the Gartside Pheasant Hopper and the Sparrow.

Rump feathers

These feathers are found, as you might suspect, in the rump area and are extremely useful when tying streamers, large Sparrows, as "spey" hackle, or (for those familiar with my pattern, the Stray Cat) for interesting "one-hackle" flies. These feathers are often mottled in various shades of brown with very attractive and durable barbs which can vary wildly in length from very short to very long; hence, their usefulness for many different types of flies and patterns. One of my favorite tarpon flies, the Tarpon Spey, is tied with this feather. In it I use this feather as a ribbing in much the same way salmon tyers use heron or other hackle to hackle their traditional salmon spey-style flies.

Rump and or Leg-area marabou-like downy feathers

These generally brownish-red or grayish (sometimes even blackish) feathers have dozens of uses. Use them to tie very soft soft-hackle wet flies, tails for Sparrows, wingcases on mayfly nymphs, or--when long--as tails on Woolly Buggers. If long enough and wide enough you can--as I did when I first came up with the idea of the Soft Hackle Streamer--use them to tie some darker-hued Soft Hackle Streamers. If you do, use a pheasant rump hackle for the collar; it makes a most attractive streamer.

The Aftershaft

Underneath just about every body feather we've considered, you'll find another feather, a downy, usually grayish and very soft feather. This is the aftershaft feather (hypor hachis) or insulating feather. This feather is sometimes misidentified as a "philo" or "filo" feather or plume. There is such a feather as the "filoplume," but believe me this is NOT it. True filoplumes are those hair-like (filo means hair in Greek) single-strands with a tuft (or plume) on them. Filoplumes are visible only when you've plucked the skin almost bare and are of little use to the practical flytyer.

The aftershaft feather has many uses: as very soft hackle for tying soft hackle flies or traditional wet flies, as wing cases on nymphs, as bodies (when wound on) for dragonfly nymphs, or for collars on my Sparrow nymph. One of my favorite aftershaft-bodied flies is the Wet Mouse, which can also be fished as a dragonfly nymph.

Wings (Primary and Secondary)

The wing feathers of the pheasant are useful for, among other things, tying quill wings on traditional wet flies, wingcases, tails, and legs on nymphs, and matuka-style streamers.

Tail Feathers

The tail feathers on a cock pheasant are long, thick-barbed, and barred with brown, olive and black tones. The barbs of these feathers are used largely as tailing material for nymphs and wet flies, sometimes for legs and also for bodies on small nymphs. Perhaps the most well-known fly using pheasant tail feathers is Frank Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph, in which the whole nymph is constructed from wound-on pheasant tail barbs overlaid with a ribbing of gold wire.

From

**Blue Ribbon Flies
West Yellowstone, MT**

<http://www.blueribbonflies.com/index.shtml>



"Ed, you're the best fly tying instructor I've ever met,
but maybe you shouldn't refer to
upright wings as Viagra Style."

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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS 2008 CALENDAR

	February	March	April
Meeting	12th	11th	8th
Outing	9th * Great Waters Expo	Spring Steelhead? Date TBA	19th
Fly Tying	13th and 27th	12th and 26th	9th and 23rd
Notes	* Daytrip to Chicago! Carpool or Caravan!		

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

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

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