



February Meeting:

Impromptu Speaking

Well, for the second time in recent months, Mother Nature messed with our meeting night. Blowing snow and high winds kept not only our speaker from making it to the meeting, but most of our membership as well.

Eleven hardy folks did make to Yester Years that evening, and their journey didn't go unrewarded.

Ralph Antczak put on a masterful impromptu seminar on steelhead fishing for those in attendance! It got such rave reviews from Peter Alba and Ken Zielinski that we've decided that our March outing will be for steelhead!

Ken said he didn't take any notes but he did remember Ralph saying that you want to fish for active fish. They get active at when the water is 43 degrees and up. If they're not active they'll be lying on the bottom where you can try for them with weighted flies. You'll get a few but you lose a lot of flies on rocks.

Ralph also said to fish where the water widens just after a riffle and at the end of the pool just before the next riffle. Fish on the sides in the seam where there is less current. Active fish will not be on the bottom. They will be in the middle of the water column. They like to hold in 3 feet of water at about 1 1/2 feet. He said to try using 5mm eggs in yellow chartreuse and orange or a small brown stonefly dead drifted. He also said to try his favorite mohair leech (weighted) in olive.

The "Ralphie" can be tied in size 8 on a 3XL streamer hook, weighted with about 10-12 turns of lead-free wire that's about the same diameter as the hook shank. It's tail is olive marabou tied thick, and the body is olive mohair



February Outing:

Great Waters Expo

For our February outing we departed from "normal practices a bit and did an indoor event down in Schaumburg, IL.

During the first quarter of every New Year there are a lot of fly fishing shows for us to attend and enjoy. The shows generally start in January and run through March or maybe April. They all offer lots of fly fishing education, entertainment, and shopping opportunities. These shows provide us with fishing related activities while we pace around waiting for this season's fishing trips. Its good to have these

opportunities while we wait for the opening day of the early trout season, or for the steelhead rivers to open up, or maybe for pike to start spawning after ice out, or your other favorite fly fishing trips.

The Midwest has three multi-day fly fishing shows each spring. This year's shows include the **2008 Great Waters Shows in Chicago and Minneapolis** and the granddaddy of shows the **2008 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo** which takes place in a northern suburb of Detroit. There are also plenty of one day events/shows for the fly fisher to attend. All of these shows feature a celebrity or two to attract visitors. A list of this year's shows was included in an earlier edition of the Hatch.

The **2008 Great Waters Show in Chicago** featured Gary and Jason Borger as the primary guest speakers. Gary and Jason gave presentations on "reading water, nymph fishing, fly tying, and fly casting techniques. In addition to the Borgers this show had presentations by Tim Holschlag on bass fishing, Kevin Feenstra talked about steelhead, Robert Tomes and Brad Bohlen told the audience about muskie fishing, Craig Amacker discussed trout fishing in Southern Wisconsin, Pat Ehlers was there with his great collection of Alaskan pike fishing and saltwater photos and stories, Dennis Potter (The River God) demonstrated his fly tying skills, and Dave Barron was there to tell the audience about trout fishing in the coulee region.

This show had many more speakers and guests, including Joseph Meyers and Paul Melchior. Joseph Meyer talked about trout fishing in Argentina. Joseph recently gave the club a presentation on "Wader Care and Repair". Another earlier club speaker, Paul Melchior ("How to plan and pack for a fishing trip") was working at the Reeling and Healing booth. Reeling and Healing is a charitable organization that takes female cancer patients on fly fishing retreats. If you were at this show I hope you made a generous donation to this great charitable organization.

There were also a great number of really good fly tyers, and it was really easy to walk around, picking up new tips or patterns as they worked.

Club members attending this show included Peter Alba, Barry Wichmann, Zak Fowler, Greg Schick, Joe Valkoun, Al Dalphonso, Warren Huck, Herb Oechler, Ralph Antczak, Dave Pinczkowski, Dave Gonzales, Marchelle D'Anna and Dick Dragiewicz. You might want to talk to them about this show and the benefits of attending a big show, so you can plan on going next year.

2008 Fly Fishing Show Schedule

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

March Meeting: Photography...how to take great pictures with your digital camera

Bill Meyers is coming to the March club meeting to show us how to take great photographs. Bill is a professional photographer with lots of experience and skill in composing and taking photographs, editing them, and showing them to clients and friends. To see a sample of Bill's photographic skills go to his website. <http://billphoto.com/index.html>

Bring a friend to the meeting.

We'll see you at Yester Years Pub & Grill on Tuesday, March 11th.

The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Get there early if you can and have a burger and a beer with other club members and exchange some fishing stories before the meeting.

March Outing: Spring Steelhead on the Root

Our March outing will be held on the 29th. We'll start our fishing on the Root in Colonial Park in Racine. (That's downstream about one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the Quarry.)

Carpool and caravan plans will be announced before the outing. Or, talk to Ken Zielinski at the membership meeting on the 11th and see what arrangements you can make with him.

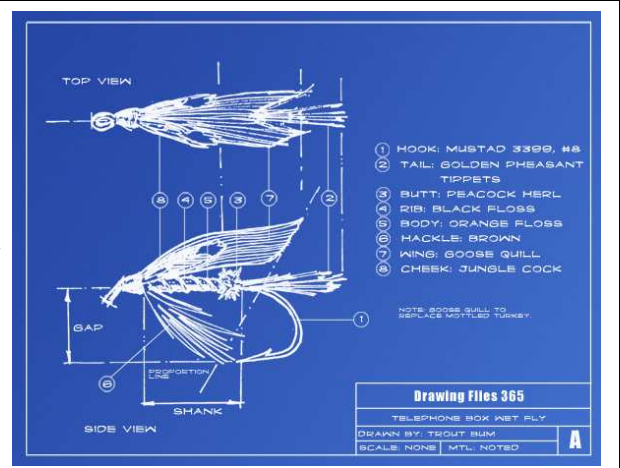
Fly tying Art —

Here's an interesting web site for you to visit! An Illinois artist, who also happens to be an avid fly tyer, has a web "blog" where he posts his daily fly painting.

You can also sign up with your email address to have a new fly drawing sent to you each day.

My personal favorite so far is the "blue print" fly seen here. Check out the site yourself at...

<http://drawingflies365.blogspot.com/>



Maverick idea spawns success

By Charlie Meyers
of the Denver Post

The signal event in the 14 years that the Whirling Disease Symposium has been held came with a whimper rather than a bang.

In 2002, before a packed conference at a Denver hotel, a small man with a pronounced accent described the discovery of a rainbow trout strain resistant to the malady fatal to North American trout.

Few cheered. In fact, many scientists in attendance rushed the podium to attack Mansour El-Matbouli as if he were peddling the aquatic equivalent of biological snake oil.

One who did embrace the finding was Eric Hughes, then head of the Colorado Division of Wildlife

hatchery system, soon to be the state aquatic chief. Hughes was mired in a staggering eight-figure cleanup of Colorado's entire hatchery network. Thing was, even when the costly project had been completed, when nearly all units were free of whirling disease, the result would do nothing to restore wild, stream-bred rainbow trout.

Years later, the initiative Hughes launched from the inspiration of that earlier conference seems likely to revolutionize the way fish managers confront the almost universal threat of whirling disease.

More precisely, Colorado's extensive cross-breeding experiment has produced the first WD-resistant rainbow progeny born in the wild. Trials conducted last fall in the lower Gunnison River and a private pond near the Frying Pan River produced surviving fry genetically linked to hybrid trout stocked two years earlier.



A helicopter-assisted stocking program in the Gunnison Gorge resulted in reproduction and survival of a hybrid rainbow trout that is resistant to whirling disease. (Special to The Denver Post)

"The gene is clearly there," said Barry Nehring, thrilled at this breakthrough following 15 years as the project leader of DOW's thrust to recover from a long, dark tunnel of rainbow deprivation. Finally, the Colorado agency has a rainbow trout that can survive and reproduce naturally in the wild.

Nehring said DOW soon will have two to three million eggs in its hatchery system from resistant fish to plant at various places in the wild. In the not-so-distant future, surely less than a decade, rainbow trout again can thrive in Colorado streams.

When the Whirling Disease Symposium returns to Denver on Monday and Tuesday for its final formal gathering, Nehring will give three separate talks on his findings. George Schisler, the DOW researcher who directed the successful hybrid tests that produced these wild offspring, will deliver another.

Presumably, the reception will be considerably different than El-Matbouli received when he presented that landmark finding here in 2002. A native of Egypt performing research at the University of Munich, he discovered a WD-resistant rainbow strain in a Bavarian hatchery. This so-called Hofer strain subsequently was imported to the U.S. and now forms the centerpiece in the cross-breeding process that produced this recent Colorado success.

The WD-resistant fry recovered from the lower Gunnison, a place ravaged by whirling disease, demonstrated better health than expected.

"They were among the biggest rainbow fry we've ever discovered, with no clinical signs of the disease," Nehring said.

The biologist found similar resistance in fry from the Frying Pan pond.

The two-day symposium at the downtown Grand Hyatt will, alas, be the final such formal event for a foundation that last autumn was merged with National Trout Unlimited. Instead, meetings will be held in conjunction with other gatherings of North American fisheries officials. Dave Kumlien, executive director of the Bozeman, Mont.-based foundation, emphasized that the rainbow revival in no way means that the threat of whirling disease is diminished.

Kumlien pointed to an alarming spread of the disease in Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat and the

peril to other native trout species — a worry that Nehring also holds for DOW's effort to recover three cutthroat subspecies at many locations in the Colorado high country.

"The threat is as severe as it always has been," Kumlien declared of a cutthroat condition that cannot be cured by hybridization.

Meanwhile, some 50 scientists will gather near the site where the winning rainbow strategy was born. El-Matbouli will be among them to hear these latest developments in the quiet transformation he launched six years ago.

Those in attendance all should shake his hand. Some also should apologize.

Fishing in Other Places

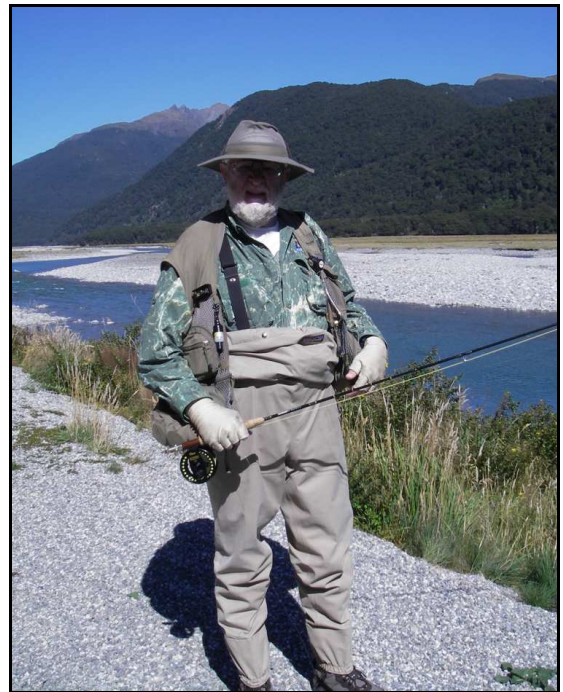
Don Putning writes, "We are at the end of our stay in the Lake Wanaka area. I have been fishing the Makaroa River (500 cfs) above Lake Wanaka in south west NZ.

I've caught a few Rainbows here. The one pictured below was the largest at 22 inches.

I was fishing the fast water with larger dries Cicada and Humpies in size 10.

This morning I just missed the Mayfly hatch at the Lake Wanaka outlet, the fish were rising all around but stopped by the time I was ready.

Oh well there are plenty more chances ahead. "



(Don doesn't return to the U.S. until the end of March — Ed.)





Put up one hell of a fight!

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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS

2008 CALENDAR

	March	April	May
Meeting	11th	8th	13th Casting Clinic
Outing	29th Spring Steelhead!	19th Black Earth Creek	24th Panfish outing
Fly Tying	12th and 26th	9th and 23rd	14th and 28th
Notes	Root River, Racine		L. Waubesa or L. Monona

	June	July	August
Meeting	Meeting on the Water 10th	Meeting on the Water 8th	Meeting on the Water 12th
Outing	21st Castle Rock Creek	19th	23rd
Fly Tying	None — It time to fish!	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

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