



MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS *The Hatch*

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, Inc.
<http://www.mlsff.org/>

February
2010

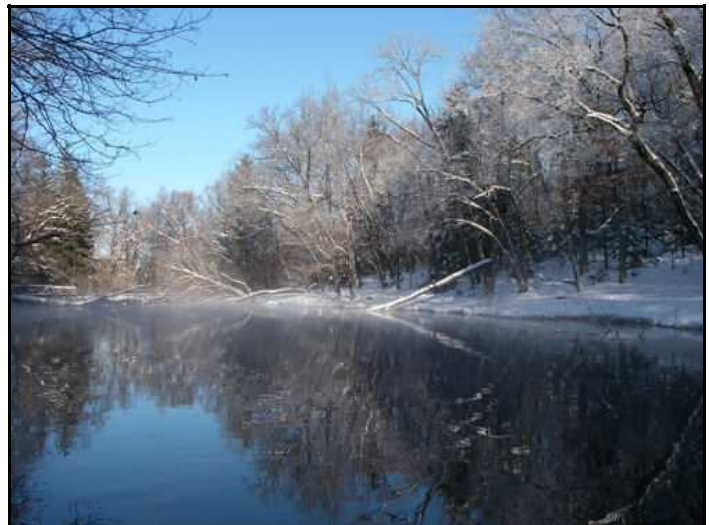
January Outing:

New Year Opener at Paradise Springs!

As you already know, Mother Nature and Jack Frost screwed up our plans to fish on New Years Day at Paradise Springs. Arctic cold air and brutal winds would have made it miserable to try to fish so the outing was moved to Jan. 9th!

Well, guess what?! It was still cold — maybe even COLDER — on that day than on the 1st!

Dick Dragiewicz teased some little brookies with a Pass Lake, and I still maintain I got a “nibble” on a midge pupa pattern. It’s just that when trying to strip in a bit of line to “strip-set” the hook, I only got about 1/2” of movement. Line was frozen in the guides!



After playing at the pond for a bit, we decided to take the after-fishing party over to the State Forest office just west of Eagle — which gave me an easy way to melt the ice covering the laces on my wading boots!



Left to right: Dick Dragiewicz prospecting on the stream portion and Greg Schick trying to find a fish near the spring house!



Left: Tracy, one of the Rangers who was in the office when Dick & I arrived, graciously allowed us to warm up and thaw our ice covered boots!

Above: We shared the cake and the cheese, sausage & crackers with the Rangers working that day. It seemed like the perfect thing to do!

Threat to Our Fishing:

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

Virulent Fish Virus Identified for First Time in Lake Superior. Virus poses threats to fisheries and aquaculture

Below is the latest press release on VHS in the Great Lakes region. It's yet to be seen what the overall impact will be in Superior, however, certainly something to be concerned about.

For the first time, the presence of an exceptionally virulent fish virus (viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus or VHSV) has been identified in fish from Lake Superior by researchers at the Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine and confirmed by scientists at the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center in Seattle.

The disease (VHS) caused by the virus can result in significant losses in populations of wild fish as well as in stocks of fish reared by aquaculture. It is of sufficient global concern to be one of only nine fish diseases that must be reported to the World Organization for Animal Health.

The virus was first identified in the Great Lakes in 2005 when it was recovered from fish experiencing massive die-offs. Over the last 5 years, one die-off in Lake Ontario resulted in the death of 40,000 freshwater drum in 4 days. The virus had been found in fish from all of the Great Lakes except Superior, as well as in the Niagara and St. Lawrence rivers, and inland lakes in New York, Michigan and Wisconsin. The disease causes internal bleeding in fish, and although in the family of viruses that includes rabies, is not harmful to humans.

Cornell investigators tested 874 fish collected last summer from seven sites in Lake Superior. Using a new genetic test developed at Cornell, fish from four of seven sites tested positive for the virus: Paradise, Mich., Skanee, Mich., St. Louis, Bay, Wisc., and Superior Bay, Wisc. The VHSV-positive species included yellow perch, white sucker, rock bass and bluegill. To confirm these findings, tissues from fish at one of the sites (Paradise) were sent to the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center where VHSV experts Drs. Gael Kurath and James Winton provided independent confirmation of the Cornell

findings.

“VHS is one of the most important diseases of finfish,” said Winton. “It not only affects the health and well-being of populations of several important native fish species, but it can also impact trade, and, should it spread into the U.S. aquaculture industry, could do substantial damage as happened in Europe and parts of Japan.”

Previous genetic research at the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center and by colleagues from Canada showed that this strain of the virus was probably introduced into the Great Lakes in the last 5 to 10 years, and that the fish die-offs occurring among different species and in different lakes should be considered as one large ongoing epidemic. Experts fear the disease could potentially spread from the Great Lakes into new populations of native fish in the 31 states of the Mississippi River basin.

Federal and State agencies had previously placed restrictions on movement of fish or fish products to slow the spread of the virus; however, the presence of a reportable pathogen in the Great Lakes States, large mortalities among wild species, potential impacts on commercial aquaculture and disruption of interstate and international trade have caused substantial concern among management agencies.

For more information, visit the USGS VHSV Web site.

2010 Fly Fishing Shows:

As of Feb 3rd, the Fox Valley TU “Cabin Fever Day” and the Chicago “Great Waters Expo” are done and in the books.

Of the two, I think the FVTU event was the best as it had two presentations by Ross Mueller that I know I’ll put to good use when fishing the Driftless areas.

The best thing about the Chicago “Great Waters Exp” was that our own Dick Dragiewicz was teaching fly tying lessons to our younger (future) generation of fly fishers! Way to go, Dick!!

Listed below are the remaining fly fishing shows on the 2010 calendar:

February 6, 2010: Spring Opener – Badger Fly Fishers

Location: Madison, WI at the Radisson Hotel (West)

Speaker: Mike Mercer from The Fly Shop in Redding , California

<http://www.badgerflyfishers.org/>

February 19-21, 2010: Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

Location: Cedar Rapids, IA at the Clarion Inn

Speakers: Craig Matthews Blue Ribbon Flies West Yellowstone, MT, Kevin Feenstra (Michigan steel-head guide) and Tim Landwehr (Wisconsin smallmouth bass fishing guru)

<http://www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com/>

February 27, 2010: Troutfest ‘10 – Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Location: Winneconne, WI at the Fin ‘N Feather

Speakers: 10 mini-seminars, fly tying, raffles, vendors

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

January Meeting:

Smallmouth Bass Fishing from a Kayak

By Dick Dragiewicz

The January club meeting featured a presentation by Bill Schultz, Milwaukee's renowned smallmouth bass fisherman. When Bill gave the club a presentation several years ago he told us he had caught over 2,000 bass the season before. That's a lot of fish catching and even more bookkeeping. At this meeting he told us that near the end of the 2009 fishing season he caught his 12,000th smallmouth bass. Believe this fish catching/record keeping was started in 1994. All this fishing/catching demonstrates that he knows how to catch and release smallmouth bass.

His topic was smallmouth bass fishing from a kayak in and around Door County. Presentation covered locations, access points, safety, time of year, techniques (albeit he fishes with a spinning rod/rig versus a fly rod), lures, etc. Bill said that fishing from a kayak is easy, safe, and it gives you access to places that wading and boat fishermen frequently can't access.

The Power Point presentation included maps of Door County that showed numerous places to launch a kayak near good fishing water. Location descriptions even covered how to avoid the wind by going to sheltered areas. This is obviously important for safety reasons. He didn't discuss how to handle or avoid the waves created by powerboats. Guess you should look for locations that have limited access by powerboats.

Bill's favorite spinning rod lures are the 4" Kalin Grub and the Rebel Teeny Weeny Crayfish. He uses both of these lures in the manufacturers' "smoky colors". Am sure we've got something in our fly boxes that could easily imitate these lures. And, if we don't have them now we can certainly find or create flies that would match these lures. For example, I'm working on developing a fly rod version of a Mepps Spinner. Current version is made with gold and silver Flashabou. Last summer I caught trout and bass with it. I was pleased with the results it produced. Using materials with less flash/sparkle and changing the color tones to a drab "smoky tone" should produce a fly that would match the Kalin Grub. Not sure how to make a curved wiggly tail for this pattern yet, but I'm working on it. Another pattern that I'm working on is the fly rod version of the Lazy Ike, which is similar to a Flatfish. On the club trip to Paradise Springs in January I tested this pattern by casting and retrieving it in the pond. Wanted to see how it moves in the water. Side to side movement was slow so I'm in the process of making versions with a skinnier body and with shorter/thinner tail. Might even add some extra weight to it, so it gets down to the bottom easier and faster. I think this might imitate his Rebel Teeny Weeny Crayfish.

I'll bring samples of these patterns to the February meeting. Maybe after you see them you'll have suggestions on how to get them to perform better then we can test out the new models. Bill uses several Wilderness Kayaks for his bass fishing. They are priced around \$1,000. For more information on kayak fishing you should go to Canoecopia. This is an annual marketing event sponsored by Rutabaga a paddler owned business located in Madison. It's scheduled for March 12-14, 2010 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. They'll have 100,000 square feet of kayak, canoe, and related products for your review, inspection, and purchase. Check out the website: <http://www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia/page.asp?pgid=1001>

Bill Schultz is scheduled to give a kayak fishing presentation at Canoecopia. He'll also be working at the Wilderness Kayak booth and will be available to discuss fishing from a kayak.

He provided a copy of his Power Point presentation to those that requested it. If you'd like to get a copy send an email request to Dick Dragiewicz (obiobiobi@ameritech.net) or Greg Schick (gaschick@wi.rr.com) and we'll forward it to you. Let the club know how you do on your kayak fishing.

February Meeting!

Fly and Knot Tying and White Elephant Sale!

Our February meeting will feature club fly tyers doing some of their favorite patterns, and a bit of knot tying expertise thrown in as well.

The following guys will be on hand to tie up their favorites and will show you how it's done, too:

Dick Dragiewicz -- knot tying

Herb Oechler -- a couple of patterns with snowshoe hare fur in them.

Greg Schick-- DOA Duns (a "cripple"), Iris Caddis, an emerger pattern or two

Joe Valkoun — tying with CDC

Barry Wichmann -- Thread midges

Ron Wojack -- Brassies, UV Midges, Poly Yarn Caddis dry fly.

Glenn Winston — favorite Beadhead patterns

Frank Stetzer will be there, and maybe even Warren Huck, but it's not known as yet what they'll be tying!

This will also be the chance to see if you can find a buyer for that used but not abused fly fishing gear that you no longer have any use for. There is no charge for you to bring your old(er) equipment and offer it for sale to other club members!

Tying & "trading" starts at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 9th! Come at 6:00 pm and have a burger & beer with the story tellers! See you at Yester Years Pub & Grill on W. Greenfield Ave.!!

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2010 CALENDAR

	February	March	April
Meeting	9th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill "Fly Tying & White Elephant (old stuff) Sale!	9th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill	13th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill

Fly Tying	10th and 24th	10th and 24th	14th and 28th
Special Event	Madison road trip to Badger Fly Fishers' "Spring Opener" 6th	Early Season Trout Outing Blue River 20th	Early Season Trout Outing Big Spring & Big Green 24th

Meeting:	September through April: 7 pm Yesteryears Pub & Grill 9427 W. Greenfield
Outing:	See Hatch for details. Sign-up sheets will be at meeting previous to outing date.
Fly Tying:	Gander Mountain, 27th St. & Rawson Ave, 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 at: <http://www.mlsff.org>

Send correspondence to:
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Submit contributions for **The Hatch** by the 20th of the month to:
Greg Schick, Editor
at: gaschick@wi.rr.com

"These brook trout will strike any fly you present, provided you don't get close enough to present it."
~ Dick Blalock

"If we carry purism to it's logical conclusion, to do it right 'fishing' you'd have to live naked in a cave, hit your trout on the head with rocks, and eat them raw. But, so as not to violate another essential element of the fly-fishing tradition, the rocks would have to be quarried in England and cost \$400 each."

~ John Gierach