



MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS *The Hatch*

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

April
2010

March Outing

Blue River Success

The Blue really fished well on Saturday, although casting into the breeze most of the time with my 4-wt was a bit challenging. I could have solved easily that little problem, but I was too lazy to go back to the car to get my 6-wt out. Who knows... I might have had an even grander day if I had!

Everybody I talked to either put fish in the net and/or had some on the hook! There were lots of little ones rising to midges; I put 30-35" of fish into my net on the portion upstream of Snow Bottom Rd.! One 10" and five 5" browns, all on variations of the Pheasant Tail. I sort of forgot my box of Shop Vacs at home so I had to use something other than my favorite fly this time. I had a bunch of Takahashi's Go2 Pheasant Tails with me (kind of a Shop Vac with a tail and a hackle collar!) so I figured I'd be okay.

Others were catching fish on Pink Squirrels and assorted nymphs. Nobody mentioned getting anything on top even though the smaller fish were actively rising. Yup, the restored section of the Blue is coming along nicely!

Sunday morning after a late breakfast in Fennimore I started out just downstream of the Catch & Release area on Castle Rock Creek. In a couple of months that section will have streamside weeds over six feet tall so I decided now was the time to fish that stretch – and since it was directly on my drive back to the Blue I figured I couldn't pass it up.

The winds were a bit stronger than they were on Saturday and the sky was overcast. I figured it was going to be a better day in that I was less likely to be casting heavy shadows over the water as I walked along, and maybe the day might even produce some BWO's. The water was still cold, in the low to mid-40's range, and the takes by the fish were slower and more subtle than during warmer times – but they were definitely still feeding.



Go2 Pheasant Tail

Hook:	TMC 3761, size 14-16
Bead:	Gold, sized to fit hook
Thread:	Brown, 8/0
Tail:	Pheasant Tail Fibers
Rib:	Red wire, small
Abdomen:	Pheasant tail fibers
Hackle:	Whiting brown saddle hackle
Wing:	White Zelon
Thorax:	Peacock Ice Dub

While Saturday was the day of the Pheasant Tail nymph, Sunday was the day of the midge pupa / emerger. In addition to the four the smaller (4-6") browns I was able to bring to hand on Castle Rock, I

also caught a nice 11-12" brown. All of them were on a UV Jujube Midge

(The UV Jujube is my "creative combination" of Charlie Craven's Jujube Midge with a UV Midge. You take the abdomen of the Jujube and mix it with the thorax and wing of the UV Midge.)

A bit later I went over to the Blue and fished just downstream of Bluff Rd. I caught another three of those small 4-6" browns before I ran into a "DNR Surprise": a nice 12-13" BROOKIE! All four of those fish were on that same UV Jujube pattern.

The color on the back of the brook trout was darker with somewhat indistinct markings, and it had a bit more silver in the sides and not as brightly colored spots as one would expect. All of which led me to believe it might have been a hatchery fish. The fins had the very distinctive white tips, though, so I was fairly certain it was a brookie. I'd show you what it looked like but I, uh, kind of left my cameras home with the Shop Vacs so there were no pictures...

Later while talking with another guy as I was readying to head home, we surmised that the DNR must have decided to stick that one in there as a "bonus". They've been known to dump old brood stock in at some of the bridges on many of our streams, so something like this isn't out of the question, either. It certainly makes exploring new areas a lot of fun many times!



Jujube Midge

Hook: TMC 2488, #18-24
Thread: White, 12/0 (colored black for head).
Body: Super Hair, two black strands and one white, wound simultaneously.
Wing: Fluorofiber, white
Thorax: Black tying thread or white thread colored black.

You can make a UV Jujube out of this one by substituting UV Krystal Flash strands in place of the Fluorofiber. No "legs" are necessary. Black Superfine dubbing can be used for the thorax, too.

Southeastern Wisconsin Hunting & Fishing Expo

Hello fellow club members. I just wanted to take this time to thank the different people who volunteered to work at the Southeastern Wisconsin Expo Sport Show, held March 5 through 7, 2010. Thanks to: Peter Alba, Ralph Antczak, Dick Dragiewicz, Warren Huck, Jim Johnson, Steve Krakow, Chris Rees, Glen Winston, Ron Wojack and Greg Schick. I believe our club was well represented by these fellow club members. During the times that I worked the club booth, I witnessed many different people coming up to the table and asking questions about fly fishing in general and questions about the club. We passed out many fliers about the club, so hopefully into the future we will generate more new members.

I also would like to thank the many members who took the time and expense to tie flies for the "Youth Grab Bag". Chuck Smalley, the show director, was very thankful to the club for the 300 flies that were donated by you members. Hopefully some time this summer a young person will tie on your fly, catch a fish, and start them on a path to fly fishing. In the end, this is what being a member of a Fly Fishing club it is all about.

Once again thanks for all of your support. I look forward to doing this show, with your help, again next year.

Thanks and Tight Lines!
Barry Wichmann,
Expo Chairperson



Barry Wichmann setting up the ML&SFF booth at the show



Dick Dragiewicz and Glenn Winston hard at work

April Meeting:

New Zealand trout fishing and traveling

Club member Don Putning will share his New Zealand trout fishing and sightseeing adventures with us at the April 13th meeting. Join us for an exciting presentation Tuesday, April 8th, at 7 p.m. at Yesterday's Pub & Grill, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave. Need a burger and a beer before the meeting? Join a bunch of us for dinner at 6:00 pm!



Fished Moteuka and nearby rivers. In 15 days of fishing I managed to catch 5 fish. A couple of good fish, 20"-3.5# and 25"-5.5# on CDC emergers.

In one place I tried casting everything to a pod of risers, no luck. Another fisherman pointed out immature Passion vine hoppers, about 0.125" long. That night I tied 6 with #22 scud hooks and foam. The next day I found another frustrated fisherman in the same place. On to Australia for 2 weeks of touring. See you in April.

Spring Steelheading



Chris Rees found the waters were being kind to him on a recent trip to the Milwaukee and Menominee Rivers.

Have You Ever Considered...



Trico Sprout:

Hook: TMC 2487 #18-26
Thread: Black 8/0
Hackle: Black Hackle
Post: Rainy's Round Foam, 1/16" diameter
Body: Black Ostrich Herl
Thorax: Black Superfine
Shuck: Black Z-Ion



Baetis Sprout:

Hook: TMC 2487, #16-26
Thread: Olive 8/0
Hackle: Light Blue Dun Hackle
Post: Rainy's Round Foam, 1/16" diameter
Body: Olive Turkey Biot
Thorax: Superfine Dubbing
Shuck: Olive Brown Z-Ion

The **Brook's Sprout**... Developed by Bob Brooks while Riverkeeper of Hot Creek, near Mammoth, CA. Bob is currently guiding for Mike Lawson's Henry's Fork Outfitters in the Yellowstone area of Montana. His Sprout flies have a white foam thorax that allows for excellent visibility since the rest of the fly is under the surface film. Color patterns can vary to resemble Baetis, Callibaetis, PMD, Trico's, and Midges. While they may have been developed with Western fishing in mind, they can easily be adapted to imitate any mayfly you'll see in the Midwest, too.

The Sprout flies are relatively easy to tie and are very attractive to the trout, too!

Where To Fish A Hatch

By Al Campbell

It's early morning and you see some mayflies floating down the stream. Where will your chances for success be best? It's mid morning and caddisflies are hopping off the water in clouds. What is the best approach to this situation? It's late afternoon and caddisflies are returning to the water to lay their eggs. What can you do to maximize your chances for success?

Those are common questions I get asked in one form or another all summer long. The new guy is using the right fly, he's on the right stream, he's wearing the right clothes, but he can't buy a strike. The guy a few hundred feet upstream is catching one fish after another while this poor soul is doomed to watch the show and go fish-less for his efforts. Why does that happen?

I think we can find an answer in the habits of insects and the fish that eat them. Certain insects act in certain ways, and the fish react to those insects in predictable ways. If you understand the insects and how fish react to them, you can profit from that understanding with more fish on the end of your line. Let's look at the four major groups of aquatic insects, how they hatch, how they lay their eggs, and how the fish react to them; and then see if it helps us understand better how to use that information to our advantage.

Mayflies

Mayflies, like all aquatic insects, have a bunch of sub-families and each family has a few differences in how they act. However, there are a few generalizations that can be helpful in our quest for fish. When mayfly nymphs reach the level of maturity to move to the surface to morph into their first stage of adulthood, many of those nymphs make that move by swimming to the surface. This movement puts the nymphs in harm's way as they travel through the dining area of the fish. Fortunately, the nymphs have a trick or two to minimize the threat.

Mayflies in moving water tend to migrate to faster and shallower water to make their move to the surface. This results in a shorter trip and less surface tension they have to deal with. The unlucky nymphs who happen to make the trip in deeper water with a calm surface (lakes and deep pools in moving water) find the trip more perilous and the surface tension much harder to break. As a result, the sub-species that hatch in slower water are usually better swimmers. They also tend to have more stillborn casualties (flies that didn't succeed in busting the surface tension) than mayflies who emerge in fast water.

Fish react to these differences in different ways. When a hatch is getting ready to start, fish in moving water start seeing nymphs drifting in the water after they were dislodged while moving into fast and shallow water to prepare for emergence. The fish move up into that thin water to feed on the nymphs that are drifting near the bottom. As the hatch starts, the focus of the fish shifts to looking for movement toward the surface. Then, as more adults emerge and ride the surface of the water, fish start looking for adults on the surface to feed on. In most cases, the feeding habits overlap as the hatch progresses.

In calm water, mayfly nymphs are usually swimming sub-species designed to travel the longer distances from the bottom of the water to the top. Fish first key in on a hatch by noticing the swimming ascent to the surface being made by growing numbers of nymphs. In this case, motion is a key factor in fish feeding behavior. Movement upward and jerky movements just under the surface signal to the fish that insects are ascending to the surface and trying to break through the surface. As more insects are successful in this migration, fish eventually turn more attention to the mayflies riding the surface, but for the most part, the fish are more attuned to the jerky movements just under the surface.

When a hatch is just starting in moving water, a dead-drifted beadhead or weighted nymph of the right size and color can be your best bet if you concentrate your fishing on the faster and shallow water of the riffles and rapids. As the hatch progresses, an upward lift applied to the nymph can often result in more strikes. When significant numbers of adults can be seen on the surface, match the insect with a dry fly and concentrate your efforts on the areas where the riffles lead into pools. The majority of the fish will be in these areas feeding on insects that are acting this way.

After mayflies mate, they return to the water upstream from where they emerged and lay their eggs in pools of calm water. The eggs drift to the bottom to restart the cycle and the adults die on the water's surface. Fish will be feeding near the bottoms of those pools or anywhere the water swirls to concentrate the dead adult mayflies. In lakes, fish will swim under the surface and pick off dead mayflies at random but somewhat predictable intervals. In both cases, flies should be presented by dead-drifting them on the surface.

Caddisflies

Caddisflies share some habits with mayflies, but they are also very different. Caddisflies prefer to emerge in shallow, moving water like mayflies, but they do so much faster than mayflies. Their pupae are also better swimmers than mayfly nymphs. Unlike mayflies who often drift for up to an hour while their wings dry, caddisflies are often airborne within seconds of their emergence on the water's surface. Before the hatch occurs, caddisfly larvae pupate, so you don't see a concentration of caddisfly larvae near the bottom just before the hatch.

Fish key in on the hatch by looking for rising and swimming pupae as the hatch starts. Since the adults spend so little time on the surface before they fly away, adult patterns are less important than wet flies that imitate the emerging pupae. Fish in lakes look for the rising pupae and the jerky motion of pupae just under the surface trying to break through the surface tension to emerge as adults.

Most adult caddisflies lay their eggs by flying upstream while skimming the water's surface and dipping their tail to deposit their eggs, or landing briefly to deposit some eggs then flying upstream to another location to repeat the land and go process again many times. Egg laying is often done in the riffles just above pools or at the head of pools. After the eggs are laid, the adults often fly off to die on land instead of on the water like adult mayflies.

The best approach to fishing caddis hatches is to concentrate on riffles with a wet fly that imitates a rising caddis pupa, fishing a surface emerger like a sparkle pupa with a slight twitch, or fishing a sparsely tied adult with a jerky or fluttering twitch. To imitate an egg laying adult, skitter an bushy fly like and elk hair caddis on the surface with an upstream movement. Especially effective is a stop and go skitter that allows the dry fly to pause for a fraction of a second before it moves upstream again. Motion of your fly is important in both the emergence and egg laying stages of the life cycle.

Midges

Midges are very similar to caddisflies in many ways. However, they seem to prefer calmer water to emerge in, spend more time working through the surface tension, and often return to the water to lay their eggs in mating clusters. Larvae imitations usually fish best in the heads of pools and along seams in slow moving water. Emerger patterns usually fish best in the calm water near the head of a pool, fished with a short twitch to imitate insects trying to break through the surface tension. Cluster type flies like the Griffith's gnat are effective egg laying adult imitations and fish best on a dead-drift with random short twitches. Lake fishing is similar to caddisfly fishing except any movement should be slower and in much shorter increments.

Stoneflies

Stonefly nymphs usually crawl out of the water to emerge as adults on rocks or weeds near the edge

of the stream. As a result, they are usually available to the fish only as dislodged nymphs or egg laying adults.

As the hatch nears, nymphs move along the bottom of the stream to the water's edge where they crawl out. Many of them become dislodged and are available to the fish near the bottom of the stream, especially near the edges of the stream. Imitations fish best when dead-drifted near the bottom and near the stream's edge. Adults usually lay their eggs by dipping their tails into the water as they zigzag upstream in flight. Bushy patterns like the stimulator that are skittered in a zigzag motion upstream are often most effective. Eggs are usually laid in the bottoms of riffles or the tops of pools. Adults usually die on land, so dead-drifted adult patterns aren't usually as effective.

We didn't cover dragonflies and damselflies, but those are best left to another article. At best, this is a simplified version of how the insects act and how the fish react to them. However, if you pay attention to the stages of the hatch and fish accordingly, your catch rates should improve a lot. ~ **AC**

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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS 2010 CALENDAR

	April	May	June
Meeting	13th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill	11th Casting Clinic at Greenfield Park, Area #5	8th "On the Water" Location TBA

Fly Tying	14th and 28th	12th and 26th	none
Special Event	Early Season Trout Outing to Black Earth Creek 24th	"Long weekend" road trip to the Iowa Driftless Region 20th—23rd	

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>

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

"Do not tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish."
~ Mark Twain

"There are eight species of rabbits in the MONTANA - the Eastern Cottontail, Mountain Cottontail, Desert Cottontail, Snowshoe Hare, White-tailed Jack Rabbit, Black-tailed Jack Rabbit, Pygmy Rabbit, and the American Pika. However, I've been told that during trout season, fly fishermen outnumber the rabbits two to one!"

~ Jimmy D Moore