

# Tippets, Tapers & Tales



*1981 McKenzie Cup Winners*

## Presidents Message



I hope that Santa found his way to everyone's home and left at least one fly fishing related item under the Christmas tree. Of course it helps when you leave little notes around the house, or, when they just plain ask you what's on your wish list. With me it's usually the latter as it gets the quickest & best results.

Thank all of you who made the 10<sup>th</sup> GLC Fly Tying Expo another success by helping with setup on Friday night and assisting with the vendors and tiers on Saturday. Without your help this could never be pulled off. Hopefully you all made the rounds of the tiers and picked up some tips to better your own tying efforts. We are planning to hold it at the high school again so any suggestions for improving the event would be appreciated. Let Mark or I know if you have some ideas.

With the new year brings some new and old opportunities for the club. The banquet is in February and the Quiet Water Symposium in March. We're also thinking of a couple of conservation/restoration work outings in the late spring and early summer on the Pere Marquette and AuSable rivers. This will give us the chance to add to our club volunteer hours as well as get some early fishing in and if we can plan the AuSable after June 15<sup>th</sup>, Wakely Lake will be open for the season. We also need someone to contact the Ingham County Parks Department for permission to produce and install several monofilament collection boxes. The Three Rivers Club in Indiana installed 31 boxes this past year in their county.

Don't forget our Sunday night tying sessions at Reno's east to pick up more techniques. We had a full house in the alcove last month and may have to move to a larger area in the restaurant. Check out the date and notes about Brad's topic for this month's topic.

On one final thought, in December our club, the Great Lakes Council, and a host of fly fishers lost a great friend as Rusty Gates passed away from an illness. If you go to the Anglers of the AuSable website there's a wonderful tribute to Rusty that sums up his leadership of the Anglers and their accomplishments these past many years. He's been a benefactor of the GLC and the Red Cedars for years and it won't be the same without him behind the counter in the shop.

Tight Lines,

Terry

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## January Meeting

By: Mark Johnson

For January's meeting we will have Red Cedar member Brian Frawley doing a presentation about GPS units and fishing. I believe it will involve using your GPS to find and mark fishing spots and uploading and downloading information from your GPS to your computer and using topographic maps also. I may not be exactly right on this information, so show up to the meeting yourself and find out what Brian can teach us about our GPS units that many of us have, but don't get used enough as many of us like myself are just not as familiar with their operation as we should be so this should be a great opportunity to learn more.

## Fly Expo Wrapup

By: Mark Johnson

The GLC Fly Expo was a great success this year with a good number of tyers and vendors as well as a good crowd showing up at the door all day long. There was a lot of positive comments about the new location this year. There are still a few bills to come in so I don't have a final tally on the results, but I know it was successful in raising money for the GLC again this year. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all of the Red Cedar Members who volunteered their time in some way to help pull off this event. I would also like to thank the several Frontier City Flycasters members who also showed up to help setup, take down and do whatever else was needed. It is all the volunteers that really help to make these events successful. I would also like to thank all the members who sat throughout the day at the Red Cedars booth to answer questions about the club and sell raffle tickets. A special thanks to Mitchell for selling so many tickets on the rod raffle!

## January Fly Tying Nights

By: Mark Johnson

Our next Sunday fly tying night is scheduled for Sunday, January 17th, at 6:30p.m. at Renos in East Lansing. We had a great turnout in December of I think 10 people that showed up to tie or watch as Brad Reynolds demonstrated Deer Hair Stacking techniques. For the first night in January Brad will demonstrate "Dry Fly Wing Techniques". So plan on showing up with your tying gear or just come to watch. We will plan another tying night in January at Renos on Sunday January 31, at 6:30p.m. As of this moment, there is no technique planned, but we will come up with something for that evening.



# **The Next Best Thing**

**By: Neil Gross**

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For many of us the next best thing to actually fishing is talking or reading about it. These days we can also readily listen to fly fishing podcasts or even watch fly fishing movies. This section of our newsletter will be devoted to sharing favorite books, podcasts, movies or even stories.

If you have something that you would like to share then type it up and send it to our newsletter editor.

To kick off the section I'd like to share with you an excellent book that I'm enjoying at the moment. The book is "Bright Rivers – Celebrations of Rivers and Fly-fishing" by Nick Lyons (published by Simon & Schuster Inc. Fireside Edition 1988).

The authors name may be familiar to you. He was recently interviewed by Zach Matthews for the November 24, 2008 Itinerant Angler podcast (season four, episode two) (see <http://www.itinerantangler.com/podcasts/podcast52.mp3>).

Zach's introduction for Mr. Lyons was as follows: "Nick Lyons is the founder of the Lyons Press, a longtime columnist in Fly Fisherman magazine, and a true literary luminary of the sport of fly fishing. Listen to his intelligent and insightful commentary on the nature of publishing fly fishing books, the lasting impact of Norman Maclean's great work, and the search for his successor."

The Itinerant Angler Podcast is, by the way, an excellent production. It is available through iTunes or directly at the Itinerant Angler website. Perhaps we'll talk about Zach Matthews and the Itinerant Angler in a future newsletter.

The first thing to be said about Nick Lyons is that he is an excellent writer. Reading his prose is a delight. He evokes wonderful mental pictures of fly fishing and portrays the people in his stories in an amusing, sometimes hilarious and thoughtful manner.

To wet your appetite for this writer here is an excerpt from "Bright Rivers." To set the scene Nick has left home (New York City) early on a Saturday to fish a stretch of the Delaware. There has been talk of large rainbows and Nick and couple of friends are lucky to have a local fish biologist to take them to a good pool. It is four o'clock when he and his friends finally link up with Ed, the biologist, and drive to the river. It has begun to rain steadily and Nick doesn't have his rain jacket as, he says, "about six years earlier when I'd gone outside my apartment to wait for Mike, it had been sunny." The rain has dampened both Nick's spirits and his cigar, which he can't keep alight. "I fish better with a lit cigar" he says. He is despondent.

After suiting up and walking about a mile along an old railway line they began to fish however only Ed was catching. From here we'll let Nick tell the story.

But finally, about eight-forty, just after the light grew dim, two splendid events took place: the rain stopped and the fish began to rise ferociously, dozens of them. I promptly lit a new cigar, clipped off my large nymph, and rummaged around in

one of my fly boxes for a No. 16 Adams. Well, I was going to make a day of it at last—or at least a fifteen minutes of it. I could taste the rise and run of one of those sleek rainbows.

My hands began to tremble. All the old fever and expectation returned, all fatigue vanished. I fumbled with the fly, couldn't get the leader point through the eye of the hook, raised the fly against the dun sky, manipulated the thin monofilament with the deftness of a surgeon, and at last got the pesky thing done.

Eight forty-five, and nearly dark.

The circles—rhythmic and gentle—continued to spread in the flat water where the current widened. Ed was at my left shoulder now, willing to forego these fine last moments of the day so he could advise me. A saint.

“Cast to the specific rises, Nick, as delicately as possible. Some of these are really big fish. Over twenty inches. Strike them lightly.”

With not a second to lose, I took my dry-fly spray from my vest, held the Adams near my face, pressed the plunger—and went stingingly blind. The little hole had been pointed in the wrong direction. I'd given myself a triple shot of fly dope in the eyes, and even after I doused them with a bit of the Delaware I could barely see.

But I squinted bravely, puffed with vigor on my cigar—whose tip now glowed like a hot little coal in the dark—and began to cast in the general direction Ed was pointing.

“That looked about right,” he said as I laid out a surprisingly accurate cast to one of the inviting circles. I couldn't see the fly but that didn't matter.

“Can't imagine why he didn't take it,” Ed said.

When I miraculously repeated the feat, a good cast, he said, “They're awfully picky sometimes. What have you got on?”

“A sixteen Adams.”

“That ought to do it.”

Another cast, my third good one in a row, a record. It was a magical, witching moment, the far bank receding in the swirling mists, the river sounds filling my ears, my squinting eyes seeing only that faint multitude of spreading circles. I could not see my fly but knew exactly where it was by estimating the distance from the end of my bright yellow fly line.

**Nothing.**

**“Strange,” said Ed.**

**“Maybe this time.”**

**Still nothing—and nothing for the next fifteen minutes, when a moonless sky finally pulled the curtain on us and we began to head back up the long stretch of railroad tracks to the cars.**

**In the headlights I saw a strange sight, which I took the liberty of not reporting to my fellow anglers. There was no fly on my leader! There was only a blackened, melted end, as if, just possibly, it might have been burned through by a cigar.**

**Mike and I made the long trip back in silence. Had I really fished through the entire rise, the twenty minutes I’d waited for all day, with no fly? No doubt. I was capable of it. My face still smarted in the darkened car with embarrassment, my eyes still stung. I tried to keep my eyelids from drooping, and I tried to talk—because good talk with a good friend after a long day on a river is one of the best parts of any trip. But I was bushed.**

**I closed my eyes and dreamed of muscular rainbows dimpling to the No. 16 Adams, then skyrocketing out and taking me into the backing. That huge bend of the river was alive with rising fish and each cast was true. I heard Ed say,**

**“They’re awfully picky sometimes. What have you got on?”**

**And I answered, moaning, knowing I had developed a pattern even the experts had never thought of, “The emperor’s new fly!”**

**I had been looking for a Nick Lyon book for a while after listening to the Itinerant Angler podcast however could not find them in bookstores. I was lucky to spot “Bright Rivers” and a copy of “Confessions of a Fly Fishing Addict” at the GLC Fly Tying Expo.**

**Many of Mr. Lyon’s titles are available on Amazon either new or used. Some are available through the Capital Area District Library ([www.cadl.org](http://www.cadl.org)).**

**Here is a partial list of titles;**

**Bright Rivers – Celebrations of Rivers and Fly-fishing.**

**The Seasonable Angler: Journeys Through a Fisherman's Year  
Spring Creek.**

**Full Creel: A Nick Lyons Reader.**

**My Secret Fishing Life.**

**A Fly-fishers World.**

**Confessions of a Fly Fishing Addict.**

**In Praise of Wild Trout.**

**Fishing Widows.**

**There are also quite a few collections and other works edited by Mr. Lyons.**

**I know I’m going to enjoy working my way through these books as, after all, it’s the next best thing to actually fishing.**

## **RCFF Annual Banquet**

**By: Mark Johnson**

Just another reminder to mark your calendars for the Red Cedar Flyfishers Annual Banquet set for Friday, February 26, 2010 at the Brookshire Inn in Williamston. We do now have tickets available for sale for \$30.00 each (same as last year). We will have these available at the club meetings and through Brad Reynolds, 333-9258 or hexfly1@yahoo.com. We have scheduled Chuck Hawkins of Hawkins Outfitters for the presentation that evening. Chuck will be doing a presentation on fishing for Big Trout in Michigan.



## **Rod Building Class**

**By: Mark Johnson**

Brad Reynolds is considering holding another rod building class/workshop like he did last winter. I believe it went over well with several people building new fly rods. He is looking at the possibility of doing it sometime next March if there is enough interest to have it. I believe it would run all day on a Saturday, but if you are interested, check with Brad, 333-9258 or hexfly1@yahoo.com for more of the details and specifics about which rod you can build, cost etc.

## **This Months Clip Art**

**By: Mark Johnson**

The clip art in this months newsletter is courtesy of Dave Whitlock. Most of us are familiar with Dave's flies, books, and artwork. Check out Dave's website at [www.davewhitlock.com](http://www.davewhitlock.com) A lot of good information there.



**The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers. It's purpose is to promote fly-fishing through Education, Restoration and Conservation.**

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# Refrigerator Reminders

## January

- | 12th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, social 7:00p.m., business 7:30p.m.  
| Large Group Room, Chippewa Middle School
- | 17th: Fly Tying Night, Renos in East Lansing, 6:30p.m. Dry Fly  
| Wing Techniques.
- | 31st: Fly Tying Night, Renos in East Lansing, 6:30p.m.

## February

- | 9th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, social 7:00p.m., business 7:30p.m., Large Group Room,  
| Chippewa Middle School
- | 26th: RCFF Annual Banquet, Brookshire Inn, 6:00p.m. Details inside this newsletter.

