

Mending Lines

July—Sept, 2015

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2015

Sept 17

Club Meeting
Smallmouth Bass
Classic Cafe
7:00 PM

Sept 30

**Fly Show
Committee Meeting**
Kayson's 5th Down
6:45 pm

October 7

Board Meeting
Kayson's 5th Down
6:45 pm

October 15

Club Meeting
Classic Cafe
7:00 PM

Oct 28

**Fly Show
Committee Meeting**
Kayson's 5th Down
6:45 pm

November 4

Board Meeting
Kayson's 5th Down
6:45 pm

November 19

Club Meeting
Classic Cafe
7:00 PM

Don's Den

By: Don Privett, Club President

Summer is here and the fishing should be good. I have heard good reports but it depends on if you can get out when the water is at the correct level. This is not just for the rivers and streams but also for the lakes they are being effected to. There have been reports of docks and piers being under water in the area. I would try to find lakes that are spring feed and not run off feed.

Our last two outings where not what we had hoped for, the Little Elkhart went from a good report on Saturday to colored up and high on Sunday when we planned to fish. The Island Park outing was called off because it was unsafe to fish it was even to high to fish from a boat.

The outing on the White river was well attended. I was down on Friday and the where several members there. The fishing was good and the river was low and easy to wade. We also had two visitors from Kentucky and I would like to thank Steve Harris for showing them around. A thank you goes out to Curly for setting up a dining area and sending out the e-mail to remind everyone to attend.

September meeting will be fishing from a kayak on rivers and lakes in area with Kyle Hammond. I hope to see you there. Don

Michigan hit with new invasive species

Jim Lynch, The Detroit News 11:59 p.m. EDT September 3, 2015



(Photo: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)

Michigan's rivers and streams face new threats in the form of two invasive species: a snail never seen here before and an algae that used to be found in small, sporadic concentrations.

In west Michigan, scientists have found a tiny mud snail that can crowd out native species and

lead to reduced insect and fish populations. Farther north in the Upper Peninsula, the "didymo" algae's

presence is growing and can form nasty-looking masses of muck that blanket the beds of waterways, foul fishing activities and hurt ecosystems.

Both present a threat to outdoor activities in a state known for world-class freshwater fishing.

"These two species have each had significant impact on native ecosystems," said Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant. "They degrade and in some cases ruin popular fisheries, and they can significantly alter the foundation of an entire waterway."

In response to the new arrivals, Michigan's Natural Resources, Environmental Quality and Agriculture departments are putting a new emphasis on guidelines designed to stop the spread of invasive species. They call most heavily on state anglers to ensure they don't unwittingly transport unwanted algae or snails into new areas.

The two species add to Michigan's headaches with scores of other invasives — from sea lampreys and zebra and quagga mussels, to a host of fish and plants that are altering traditional ecosystems.

Didymosphenia geminata is the scientific name for the algae that has been found in more than a dozen states and causes problems wherever it blooms. Researchers in affected states use the shorthand "didymo," while anglers often opt for the descriptive "rock snot."

In Michigan, it has sporadically appeared in small trace amounts during the last century. But large masses were recently discovered in a stretch of the St. Mary's River near Sault Ste. Marie.

"This is a full-on algae bloom," said Sarah LeSage, aquatic invasive species program coordinator for Michigan's DEQ. "It's a totally different scale from anything that we've seen before."

Michigan's new invasive species

Two new invasive species have cropped up in Michigan that pose potential threats to fisheries and natural ecosystems.

- 1 Blooms of an algae, known as didymo, have appeared in the St. Mary's River for the first time.
- 2 New Zealand mud snails found in the Pere Marquette River.



Algae 'can blanket a river'

Jeremy Hunt knows about the troubles the didymo algae presents. The 39-year-old lived near Pontiac for many years before winding up near the Arkansas/Missouri border, where he is a fishing guide dealing with the didymo along the area's White River.

Didymo also has had a presence on the White River in west Michigan for a decade.

"It can blanket a river," said Hunt, who every year returns to fish in Michigan. "It can kill the food sources."

Once established in a body of water, didymo's presence can rise and fall based on conditions.

"The jury is still out" on the algae's long-term impact, said Bob Morgan, a lead aquatic ecologist for the Fish and Boat Commission in Pennsylvania, another state where the invasive didymo has been a problem.

"We thought the Delaware River was a goner when it first showed up, with big blooms appearing all over the place. But we haven't seen any major blooms in the last two years."

Snails operate as 'grazers'

The other addition to the state's growing list of invasive species is the New Zealand mud snail, or *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*. A native of the island nation, it first turned up in the United States 30 years ago.

State officials discovered the tiny snails in a section of the Pere Marquette River west of Baldwin in Lake County. It's the first time they've been documented in Michigan. They've previously been found in large numbers in a dozen other states, particularly in the West.



The tiny mud snail can crowd out native species. (Photo: Mich. Dept. of Environmental Quality photos)

The snails can disrupt the food chain of prized fish like trout and salmon by operating as “grazers,” removing algae from rocks in and near waterways that normally feed insects such as mayflies and stoneflies. Removing that food source reduces the insect population, a dietary staple of fish and salmon.

Once the algae is absorbed, the snail itself offers nothing beneficial to the ecosystem.

“They displace the original food source, but they are not nutritionally valuable to the fish,” said Seth Herbst, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Michigan DNR.

Drinking water at risk

The didymo and New Zealand mud snails could eventually cause problems for drinking water supplies.

Last year, large algal blooms — different from didymo — fouled western Lake Erie and led to contamination of drinking water in Southeastern Michigan and Toledo. More than 400,000 households were without potable water for several days.

Didymo does not pose a significant threat to human health. But Pennsylvania ecologist Morgan said residents there have reported irritated eyes and throats after exposure. The algae's cell walls include silica, which can be abrasive.

Snails offer a more intrusive threat to drinking water. A U.S. Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force web page notes that "In Australia, New Zealand mud snails actually emerged from domestic water taps."

State officials urge anglers and others who use the state's rivers, streams and lakes to take precautions to help prevent the spread of didymo and the mud snails. Boaters and anglers are asked to:

- Clean, drain and dry equipment after use in a body of water.
- Remove aquatic plants from watercraft before launching.
- Drain live wells, bilges and water from watercraft before leaving their access points at the end of the day.
- Clean equipment such as waders with hot water or a diluted bleach solution and allow them to dry for five days before re-use.

"People will see big mats of the material that are not green," he said. "It's tan, sometimes almost white or yellow. ... It can look more or less like wet toilet paper under water."

And it has a different texture from what most people would assume algae would have. "Didymo is almost scratchy, like a wet cotton ball between your fingers," Morgan said.

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A few of the Members favorite flies presented at the April 2015 club meeting:

CRAPPIE CANDY by Kyle Hammond



Hook: Mustad, 9674, Straight Eye, #6

Thread: White 6/0

Tail: Synthetic Hair, Various Colors

Body: Synthetic Hair, Various Colors

Body: Epoxy

Head: Thread, White, 6/0

Eyes: Holographic Eyes, Red (stick on)

POKE

Designed and tied by:
Lynn W. Burry



A weighted fly, the Poke was designed to imitate a small Cray Fish or Shrimp. Tied without the eyes, it can pass as a suitable Hex Nymph.

The name came from my old pet cat Poke, which means “Fish Salad” in Hawaii. That is where I got the grey used in the dubbing for the body. Sadly, Poke has passed on, but I have enough of his hairballs left to keep me tying this fly for a few more editions.

I bounce it off the bottom using an upstream swing under an indicator. Dead drifting is also a very effective method and works well both Trout and Smallmouth.

Hook: TMC 2302, size 8
Thread: UTC Red, 140 Denier
Weight: .010 lead wire – 15 turns
Body: mix of Grey Dubbing Fur and Gold Sudo-seal
Rib: Fine Gold Wire
Legs: Ginger Hen Hackle
Eyes: Small Mono
Over Body: Natural Fox Squirrel Tail

BWS by Don Privett



Hook: Tiemco 9395, Size 4

Thread: White 3/0

Tail: Marabou, White (Blood Quill)

Tail: Crystal Flash, Pearl, (6 Strands)

Body: Cactus Chenille, Pearl, Large

Wing: Polar Fibers, White

Head: Thread, White

Eye: Black Acrylic Paint (coat the head with hard as nails)

Mending Lines is looking for additional member content!

Some suggestions are:

- Pictures of fish caught by members, families, friends...Look at the fishing pictures in the local papers for ideas.
- Pictures and notes from trips. Your notes do not need to be a final article. Your notes can be tuned and reviewed before inclusion in Mending Lines.
- Items for sale
- Fishing and casting lessons learned.
- Favorite Web sites
- Short Stories, Fact, or ?????
- Book reviews

3RFF Logo Available

The new 3RFF Club Logo is available for embroidery on your shirt.

You provide a clean shirt and \$10.00 to have the logo embroidered.

See Steve Harris for more informatio



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