

9th stop “Non-Meeting Wednesdays on the Water Summer Tour 2025” at Nankin Lake

The final stop for our “*Non-Meeting Wednesdays on the Water / Summer Tour 2025*” is finally here. I cannot believe our final stop for the Summer Tour is already here. It seems like just yesterday we kicked off this amazing fun time at Bishop Lake. It has been totally awesome with all the waterways that Ken & I put together this year and especially to everyone that joined in these adventures that fished in personal watercrafts, from shore, or waded. Did you realize we fished the whole Huron River System from the headwaters (*Pontiac Lake*), above the book section* (*Kent Lake*), in the book section* (*Delphi*), and where the Huron River dumps into Lake Erie at Point Mouillee. We did have a challenge from Mother Nature throughout with rains, high winds, nasty storms, and to extreme heat conditions. But like the true fly-fishing diehards we overcame and adapted. Like at Newburgh Lake, when Ken and I fished in a downpour for probably our best bass fishing experience all summer and especially after the sun came back out. Then Ken and one other member fished the Flint River with nasty extreme strong storms all around them with success. So, to wrap up this tour, our last stop of this “Summer Tour 2025” we will be back up in Livonia at Nankin Lake to finish the tour.

This lake was created when Henry Ford dammed up the Middle Branch of the Rouge River to run mills and eventually a parts plant. This is located down river from Newburgh Lake that we fished earlier on the tour. The lake is located within Nankin Lake Park, a recreational area in Livonia. Offers a lot of activities in fishing, walking trails, and picnic areas. This lake, like Newburgh Lake, underwent significant restoration to help improve fish habitat and the water quality. They removed 35,000 yards of sediment from within the lake and reshaped the reservoir basin to create more open water, shallow water habitats, drop offs, and wintering deep water habitat for the watershed inhabitants. The funds also supported addition of a bike rack, bike service station, kayak rack, kayak launch, and a dock

For fishing in this unique and historic area, most of the popular catches would be Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Panfish, and Northern Pike. But do not be surprised if you hook into or see a weary carp. I would say for the gear to use either a 5 or 6 weight fly rods, floating line, and if you are fishing in the lily pads or weed mats/bogs I would go with a 9 weight to help get the fish out of the structure. For the flies, anything top water, poppers, divers, foam stealth bombers, frogs, or anything of your favorite top water. A sub-surface minnow patterns will work great like Shimmering Minnow, Small Feather Game Changer, Light Weight Clousers, and Schultz’s Swinging D. Bring your favorite panfish flies either on top the surface or below the surface.

Again, Ken and I would like to give a big **THANK YOU**, to everyone that has attended fishing in these different watersheds this summer on these Non-Meeting Wednesdays on the Water. It is always a great way to meet & fish with your fellow club members and have a great time. If you are not a member, you are more than welcome to join us to fish and hopefully you will be club members soon. Remember keep an eye on the weather for anything interesting. Remember it is fun to fish in the rain, but not in hail or extreme weather like thunderstorms or tornados. Any questions please contact Todd or Ken, hope to see you out there.

*Book Section refers to Dirk Fischbach’s book “The Fly Fisher’s Huron: A Practical Guide to Michigan’s Blue-Ribbon Smallmouth River”