

## The New Members Outing

### Aka the Dick Shot Memorial Outing

In May, we will once again have our New Members Outing. This is where we give our new members a chance to learn about how to actual fly fish. Look the river over, read the water, decide where to fish, chose a fly, get in the river, get in good position, make a decent cast, float the fly, and hope a fish will rise. All of this and much more we try to impart in one quick week end.

How did this all come about?

Years ago the club had a yearly outing at a lodge on the main stream of the Au Sable. The Matabanic Lodge it was called. This trip ran the second or third week end in June. We were shooting for the Hex hatch. Rarely did we hit it just right. "You should have been here last week", was what we often heard. The trips though were excellent, whether fish were caught or not. Many of our older members have fond memories of the place.

While on one of these outings, the late Dick Shot, Ron Angove, and I were working on our equipment and taking. We talked about renting the lodge for a second weekend, maybe renting the lodge for the two weekends, and the week in between. How would that work?

One of us, not sure who, suggested the second week end should be for new members, just learning about the sport. First timers; coming to the "Holy Water" for their first experience fly fishing. I suggested calling it "Rookie Camp". That didn't go over well. But Dick got the bug. He taught that it was a great idea. Within a few weeks he was working on launching our first New Members Outing.

Quickly it was decided not to have it in June. That early May was much better. We couldn't get the lodge then, so Dick, and others, worked on getting MSU's Wa Wa Sum lodge. Just down river. Because we had supported Michigan State students in two river study programs, and were a main contributor to conservation on the river, we got a date, mother's day week end. Dick was off and running. He got many involved to teach and guide the new members. He

decided to start the outing on Thursday, and end it on Saturday, so we would be home for Mothers day. Smart.

This became Dick's project, and a big addition to the clubs education of the next generation of fly fishers. He enlisted a lot of us over the years as instructors, guides, presenters, and demonstrators.

When Dick was diagnosed with a fatal disease it did not stop him. He still ran the trip until he could not do it any longer. Then one of Dick's good friends, Paul De John took over. Today the trip survives as one of our most important outings.

In our statement of our purpose we say that we will pass along to others the knowledge of Fly Fishing. This trip, our schools, and the scout outing help fulfill that promise.

Thanks to all who have worked this outing? Thanks most to Dick Shot, who made it happen in the first place.

Dedicated to the memory of a great teacher!!

Fred Field