

www.mffc.org



The Evening

Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2012



What a difference a day makes

Dozens of MFFC volunteers transformed the wide open spaces of the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center into the 2012 edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. The setup crew (left) readied the space and more volunteers helped exhibitors move in. By the time the Expo opened Saturday morning, dozens of other volunteers were at their posts selling tickets, staffing the MFFC booth, the Club Room, the Kids Corner, the Youth Fly Tying area and the speaking venues. For more photos of a very successful Expo, see inside.



Annual Banquet to feature Colorado's Landon Mayer

See inside for more information about Mayer, his afternoon tying seminar and the 2012 Banquet itself.

Trout Tune-Up 2012 is set for Sunday, April 1

The Club's Trout Tune-Up, one of the oldest outings offered by the Club, is an annual gathering at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center in Commerce Township. The Club rents a structure called the Yurt for the day and provides food, beverages and a place to warm, if it happens to be a cold day.

The Huron River between the Moss Lake Dam and Wixom Road Bridge will have been recently stocked by the DNR with trout from a nearby hatchery. The DNR usually plants 2,000 to 3,000 brown and rainbow trout. Special trout regulations (flies only) are in effect for that stretch from April 1 through the end of April.

It's a great place to try out some of your Midwest Fly Fishing Expo purchases! We hope to see you there and don't forget your 2012 fishing license.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 1

Trout Tune-Up

Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center, 3577 Sleeth Court
Commerce Township
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Contact: Scott Freeburg

April 11: Club Elections, Garage Sale, Activity Mtg. Featured Tier: Dan Walker
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 14

Public School

Plymouth Cultural Center
525 Farmer St., Plymouth
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Contact: Peter Albertson

April 21

Boy Scout School

Independence Oaks
9501 Sashabaw, Clarkston
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Contact: Bruce Kramer

April 25

Speaker: Brian Pitser, The Northern Angler, TC
Topic: Streamer Fishing
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 27-29

Trout Opener Weekend

Outing: Rayburn Lodge
Contact: Scott Freeburg
Trout Opener Celebration
Gates Lodge Boardroom
Grayling, Saturday, 9-11 a.m.



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Editor: Mike Matuszewski

editor@mffc.org
248-646-4768

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 530861
Livonia, MI 48153

2011 – 2012 Officers

President:

Bruce Kramer

president@mffc.org
248-672-9056

Vice President:

Mike Duchin

vp@mffc.org
734-326-2868

Corresponding Secretary:

Dan Finstad

248-650-0172

Recording Secretary:

Terry Drinkwine

248-506-1898

Treasurer:

Jim Telinda

treasurer@mffc.org
248-426-8926

Membership:

Dave Nowicki

dn44213@gmail.com
membership@mffc.org

734-981-3396

Immediate Past President:

Pat Brazzil

248-344-7470

At-Large Directors:

A.L. Bulszewicz

734-954-9994

Eric Center

248-363-3861

Bruce Strachan

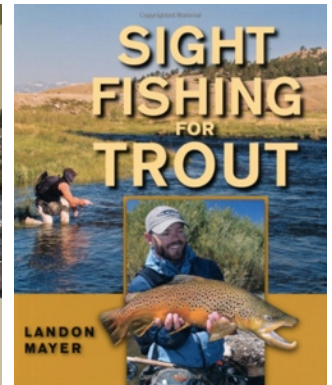
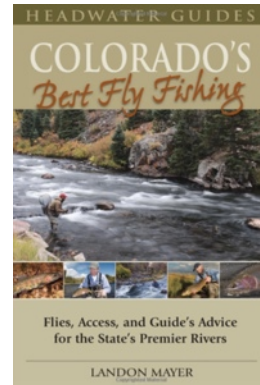
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Annual Banquet scheduled for May 16; Colorado guide Landon Mayer will be our speaker

by Ray Geitka
Banquet Chair

This year's MFFC Member Banquet will be held May 16. The location will be the same as the past several years, The Italian-American Banquet Hall on Five Mile Road, near I-275, in Livonia. The cost will be the same as last year: \$40 per person.

Tickets will be available beginning with the April 11 meeting.



Mayer is the author of several fly angling tomes.

We are hoping to have door prizes for every attendee as well as a special members' only drawing for fine fly angling-related items. To meet that objective, the Banquet Committee will accept donations of new, unused fishing-related items. Hint: Think items you may have won but have not used. Tax donation receipts will be issued upon request.

Our featured guest will be Landon Mayer. He is a fly fishing guide in the Woodland Park, CO, area and calls the South Platte River his home water. He has been guiding on these waters for 14 years.

His banquet topic will be "Sight Fishing for Trout," a multi-media presentation based on his 2010 book of the same title.

As with prior banquet speakers, Mayer will share his fly tying expertise with members at a tying session earlier in the day. That session is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. at the Banquet site, following a pizza lunch.

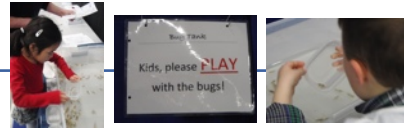
Among the patterns he will demonstrate and teach seminar participants to tie will be the Tube Midge (an Umpqua pattern), the Mysis Shrimp and the Brokeback Leech.

There will be a \$30 charge for the seminar. The fee includes lunch (pizza and salad), all the tying materials that participants will need as well as a signed copy of one of Mayer's books. Sign-ups for this special pre-banquet tying seminar are slated to begin at the Club's March 28 meeting. Sign-up is first come-first served with enrollment limited to 20 participants.

Passion and love for the sport are what motivate Mayer. He said his success in catching trout is fueled by an addiction of pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly-fishing equipment. Through trial/error and perseverance, he has developed innovative techniques for sighting, hooking and landing selective trout. He is sharing these techniques and secrets in his books titled "Colorado's Best Fly Fishing," "Sight Fishing for Trout" and "How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life."

Mayer is a contributing writer for High Country Angler and Fly Fisherman Magazine and has been featured in such publications as Fly Rod and Reel, American Angler, and Fish and Fly. He currently teaches by guiding and through fly-fishing classes as well as presentations on his techniques. He is an ambassador for Simms fly-fishing apparel and is an advisor to Simms, Ross Reels, 3M/Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Ross World Wide, Fish Pond and Outcast.

Joining me on the Banquet Committee are Jim Aitken, Mike Daly, Terry Drinkwine and Chris Schroer.



From setup to teardown and everything in-between, the 2012 edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo gave club members and fly anglers a chance to get up close and personal with every facet of fly fishing. Photos by Peter Albertson, Mike Matuszewski and Jan Matuszewski.

Check out these upcoming activities

by John Pinto

If you're interested in broadening your fly angling horizons, here are several opportunities.

Spey Night on the St. Clair

MFFCers Steve Isgrigg and Terry Herron will sponsor a Spey Night for club members on Wednesday, July 25. It will be held at my cottage on the St. Clair River near Port Lambton, Ontario, starting at 5 p.m. Steve will instruct Spey and Switch rod casting techniques during the daylight hours. Members are encouraged to stay over and fly fish for walleyes after dark. I will cremate something on the grill for all to enjoy. A small cost may apply. Space is limited to 12 members. Contact Steve Isgrigg or Terry Herron to sign up.

Fish for bones in the Bahamas

The MFFC Bonehead Class of 2012 will travel to Mayaguana Island, Bahamas October 17-24 to stalk very large bonefish. The trip is limited to six per week and if there is sufficient interest a second week can be added. Cost Detroit-to-Detroit projected at \$1,495, which includes all airfares, 6-1/2 days of guided fishing, 7 nights lodging (DO), all meals, transportation to/from fishing areas and use of canoes and related equipment. Not included is overnight expenses in Nassau going in and alcoholic beverages at the Baycanner Hotel on Mayaguana. Contact Head Bonehead John Pinto at bn1fsh2@gmail.com

More Western trips?

With the tremendous success of Soft-Hackle Al Haxton's Montana trip, the question comes up....does the MFFC need another Western trip? Or two? Travel Committee Chairman John Pinto would like to hear from you. "We can easily put together a trip to the San Juan River in New Mexico as we have members who have recently fished there and would act as Trail Bosses. And our old Nova Scotia guide Tony Spurrell has moved to Calgary and has offered to lead a group of our members around to various locations in the Canadian Rockies. All we need are for members to step forward." Contact John at bn1fsh2@gmail.com



Corey Thelen: Tying the Divided Wing Hendrickson

Corey Thelen, one of the club's outstanding young tiers, took his place in the spotlight as the featured tier at the March 7 Activity Meeting. Just in time for the traditional Trout Opener, he demonstrated a classic Opening Day fly, the upright, divided-wing Hendrickson.

Here's the recipe:

Hook: Tiemco 3769, size 14

Thread: 6/0 Camel or light brown

Tail: Gray or blue dun hackle fibers

Body: Natural Brown Awesome Possum (or light colored dubbing)

Hackle: Gray/ginger or blue dun

Wing: Mallard flank in Wood Duck gold

Fashion advice for Belize: Cover up to survive a brutal sun

Editor's Note: Are you intrigued by Steve Isgrigg's tale of his third trip to Belize (on the next page)? Have you put it on your list of "Must Fish" travel destinations? If so, Isgrigg offers some advice about how we far-north fly anglers can protect ourselves from some mighty wicked rays.

by Steve Isgrigg

A word about the clothing you'll need if you ever plan to fish in Belize.

The Belizean sun is brutal. If you're a pale-skinned person like me, you'll be burned to a crisp in a matter of hours.

So what do you do to stay out in the sun for eight hours with absolutely no shade for six days? You cover up EVERYTHING!

I wore a wide-brimmed hat with a cape on the back, and a long bill in the front. I recommend a hat with a chin strap, just to keep it from blowing away in the wind.

To protect your face and eyes, you'll need Polaroid sunglasses and a Buff neck gaiter (+30 SPF). The gaiter you pull up over the back of your head and up in the front to cover your neck, ears, cheeks, chin and nose. Don't forget to apply 50 SPF sun block under that.

You'll need a light, long-sleeve, +30 SPF shirt with cooling vents (buttoned up to the neck and at the wrists), long, +50 SPF pants with cooling vents, white socks and running shoes.

On any skin that was exposed to the sun I put on 50 SPF sun block every couple hours.

I managed to come home almost the same pasty shade of white as when I left for Belize.

February 2012: Chasing tarpon in the hot Belizean sun

by Steve Isgrigg

I have been to Belize fishing twice before with Ray Schmidt of Schmidt Outfitters ... 2007 and 2009. Both times I caught a lot of fish and had a great time, but never was able to catch a tarpon. I was hoping the third time was the charm.

We flew down the first week of February 2012 ... Detroit to Dallas-Ft. Worth to Belize City. Then a short hop on a small Tropic Air flight to San Pedro. We were met at the San Pedro airport by people from El Pescador and they helped us move to the waiting water taxi and short 10-minute ride to the dock at the lodge.

We settled into our rooms and then met for a short orientation meeting in the bar ... just a short meeting so everyone knew how each fishing day would go.

Guide assignments are posted the night before. Also, the night before you fill out an order sheet for lunch the next day. Each day we would have breakfast in the dining room and then meet our guide at 7 a.m. on the dock. Fish most of the day and then back to the dock about 3 p.m. Recap the day with other fishermen in the bar and dinner at 6:45 p.m. After dinner and a couple of Caribbean rum drinks it's off to bed.

At 7 a.m. I met my guide, loaded up and headed out on the flats. Typically they're 20 to 60 minutes away, depending on where you want to fish and what you want to fish for. For me, it was tarpon. We chased schools of them all morning long and had lots of shots until about 1 p.m. Lunch break.



The dock at El Pescador.



Snook and permit were just two of the species landed. One very special tarpon isn't documented in pictures, but will remain burned into memory, just like the Belizean sunset to the left.

him. Since it was the last fish of the day and yellow jacks are good to eat the guide took him home for dinner.

It is amazing how fast tarpon move from place to place. And once hooked, as I was to discover, their speed is blazing fast.

It was the last day of the trip ... and the last chance to go for Mr. Tarpon.

After a couple near misses and a "trout set," the next one I did perfect ... strip set ... rod low and to the side ... he ran out, then slowed, and I started to take line ... my rod was bent and I had good tension on the line and then ... Phaa! ... He spat the hook. Game over.

Tarpon #2 was the one to remember.

After I set the hook, it took off a few feet and then launched himself completely out of the water. Tail dancing, head shaking and mouth open. He looked like the pictures in the magazine or on the Saturday morning TV fishing shows. I "bowed to the king" and he ran a short ways and launched himself again. I "bowed to the king" again. I'm getting good at this bowing thing. Tarpon #2 took off on a run, but I still had him tight on the line with a nice bend in my rod. One nanosecond he was there, the next not. Phaa! ... He spat the hook.

I didn't land him, but the vision of him in the air will be in my memory for a very long time ... this was the thrill of the trip for me! The third time was almost the charm.

After lunch, it was off to the lee side of a small island for permit or bonefish.

The first day my guide said, "Permit ... 9:30 ... 50 feet!" I made one cast and stripped the fly twice slowly ... and BAM! Fish On! About a 10-minute fight and I had my first permit in the boat. It took a size #2 gold Gotcha. It was a great way to start the trip, but I was still tarpon-free.

I was dedicated to remedying that situation. We went to look for baby tarpon one morning at the edge of the mangroves. We saw several and had shots at them. I had something on and thought it was a baby tarpon. It turned out that a nice-size snook had taken my olive bunny-strip tarpon fly. That afternoon, I caught four bonefish and had one solid bump from a permit. Still, though, I remained tarpon-free.

The next day I had a couple of tarpon "follows" and even a bite, but no hook-ups. I had trouble remembering NOT to "trout set" the hook ... that's attempting to set the hook by raising the rod straight up. That cost me a lot of tarpon. Nevertheless I did catch a little mutton snapper and an eight-pound yellow jack. The jack took me into my backing three or four times and they had to start the motor and chase after him each time to gain back line. He was very powerful and it was fun to catch



The 2012 edition of the Club's Members' School again demonstrated that the MFFC's annual membership dues are the best bargain around. Free to members, the school offered instruction in knots and equipment, entomology, casting, and beginner and intermediate fly tying, as well as ample amounts of food. A.L. Bulsiewicz's entry in the annual Chili Cook-Off was named best of show.

