



Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club February 2012



Top left:
Skip Morris
Top center:
Bob Jacklin
Top right:
George Daniel



Bottom left:
April Vokey
Bottom right:
Eric Stroup,
holding a stocky
Pennsylvania
brown trout

Sterling quintet headlines 2012's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Taking a page from the Big Ten Conference, the 2012 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo's headliners can be organized into two divisions -- Legends and Leaders.

The legends are Bob Jacklin and Skip Morris. The up and coming leaders are George Daniel, Eric Stroup and April Vokey.

Bob Jacklin:

This is a return trip to the Expo for Jacklin, who is widely regarded as one of fly fishing's top ambassadors. He owns Jacklin's Fly Shop in West Yellowstone, MT, where he has become an institution in a town that is a destination for fly anglers from around the world. A New Jersey native, he moved to West Yellowstone in 1967.

A story in the *Billings (MT) Gazette* recounted Jacklin's move west and his fascination with fly angling.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1, 2012

Speaker: Jerry Regan
Topic: Classic Au Sable Patterns

Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 8

Board Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School
Room 106, Livonia, 7 p.m.

February 15

Activity Meeting

Featured Tier: Al Haxton
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 18

MFFC Members

Fly Fishing School

Northville High School
Northville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Contact: Mike Doyle

February 23-26

Youth Fly Tying @

Outdoorama

Suburban Collection Showcase
Novi,
Contact: Rick Gokenbach

February 25

Grand River Fly Tiers' Celebration of Fly Tying

K of C Hall, 5830 Clyde Park
SW, Wyoming, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



The Evening

Hatch

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MUCC's McDonough kicks off MFFC's New Year

Erin McDonough, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), had the spotlight at the first MFFC meeting of the new year.

She gave club members the verbal nickel tour of one of the oldest and largest statewide conservation coalitions in the nation. For more than 70 years, MUCC has been a watchdog and advocate for our state's natural resources and hunting, fishing and trapping heritage. MUCC was formed in 1937 by 92 individuals representing 35 outdoor sporting organizations.



The MFFC is an MUCC member organization, meaning that all MFFC members are also MUCC members.

McDonough offered members a brief primer on MUCC's three focus areas -- communication, education and advocacy. Education garnered significant attention as she described a number of new youth education initiatives as well as a new effort being developed for families.

"Youth education is perhaps the most important thing we do," McDonough said. "More and more kids have experienced a night outdoors," she said. "How do you expose kids to the outdoors?" Recruitment and retention are the keys to protecting and advancing Michigan's outdoor heritage and the long-term sustainability of Michigan's outdoor resources, she said.

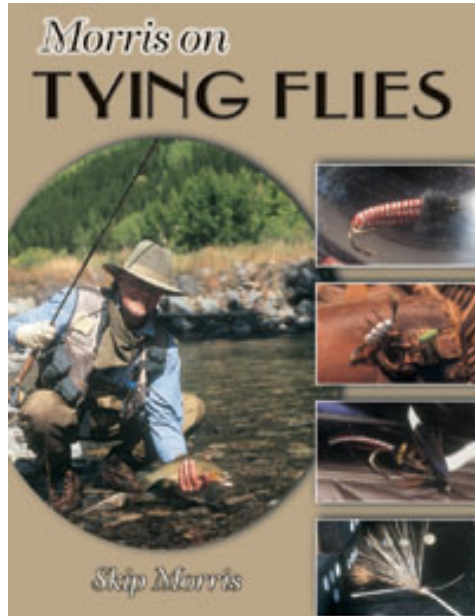
MUCC's Youth Camp is one recruitment and retention tool. While the organization has offered youth camp experiences for more than 60 years, it recently began experimenting with an effort to introduce youths with little to no exposure to outdoors pursuits to hunting, fishing, hiking and canoeing by including in the classes kids who were already experienced in those pursuits. "If they see kids like themselves involved in outdoors activities and enjoying them, they've got some motivation to continue to explore the activities themselves," she said.

McDonough's presentation wasn't a monologue, though. She also came to collect feedback from MFFC members about a new endeavor being undertaken by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division. She shared a design concept of an internet-based "habitat project inventory," intended to share information about five categories of Fisheries Division projects -- dam removal or modification, bridge or culvert replacement, bank stabilization, habitat rehabilitation and sand trap maintenance.

The inventory not only will provide information about the different projects -- their location and funding data, for example -- but also can be used by conservation clubs which want to become more involved in the projects.

McDonough came looking for feedback and club members did not disappoint. She also fielded questions on a broad range of topics, including the effort to keep Asian Carp from migrating into the Great Lakes, the removal of several dams on the Boardman River near Traverse City, Great Lakes water diversion and hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), a process used in natural gas production.

Meet 2012 Expo headliners: Jacklin, Morris, Daniel, Stroup & Vokey



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“Change was what Jacklin was seeking when he first visited Montana in 1967, fresh out of the Army. A New Jersey boy — he still speaks with the accent — he drove west in a Volkswagen Beetle to fish in Yellowstone National Park. ‘I had never seen anything west of the Delaware River,’ he said.

“What he found in the area and in the people he met hooked him hard. It helped that the fishing was good. ‘Montana probably has the finest all-around trout fishing in the lower 48,’ he said. ‘We’re so lucky in Montana.’ In 1974, after working for noted fly shop owner and guide Bud Lilly for years, Jacklin put down roots and opened his own fly shop in West Yellowstone.

“Since then, Jacklin has donated countless hours to promoting fly fishing and teaching fly casting and tying to generations of anglers.”

He has received the Buz Buszek Award, one of the Federation of Fly Fishers’ (FFF) most prestigious awards, for his contributions to the art of fly tying and was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in 2004.

Skip Morris

With a name that is known to anglers the world over, Skip Morris is among the most prolific fly-fishing and fly-tying authors alive. He hails from Washington state’s lush Olympic Peninsula whose rivers, lakes and beaches provided varied and abundant fishing opportunities.

Morris has written 12 books, including the established standard beginning fly tier’s volume “Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple,” “The Art of Tying the Bass Fly,” “The Concise Handbook of Fly Tying,” “Fly Fisher’s Guide to Western River Hatches” and “Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes” (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan).

His videos and DVD’s range from instruction for tying nymphs, to tying bass flies, to tying and fishing flies for sea-run cutthroat trout.

Morris has published more than 200 articles in magazines from *Fly Fisherman* to *American Angler*.

Morris’s newest book releases are “Trout Flies for Rivers: Patterns from the West that Work Everywhere”, and “Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple 2: Advanced Techniques.”

George Daniel

A two-time Fly Fishing U.S. National Champion, George Daniel serves as a coach for Fly Fishing TEAMUSA. In 2009, sportswriter Charlie Meyers of the *Denver Post* wrote that “a compelling case can be made for George Daniel as the best fly-fisherman in the country.”

Meyers wrote, “In competition, the tall, lean 30-year-old from Lock Haven, Pa., is the essence of intensity, and a frequent practitioner of what has come to be called the European method of short-line nymphing. At his ease, he’s a lot like the rest of us — willing to use whatever pleasurable method is most likely to put a fish on the line.”

He has competed in four World Fly Fishing Championships, sponsored by *Fédération Internationale de Pêche Sportive Mouche* (International Sport Flyfishing Federation). In 2006, competing in a field of 110 in the world championships held in Portugal, he finished in fifth place, the second best result ever by a competitor from North America. He also competed in the 2007 world championships in Finland, the 2008 world championships in New Zealand and the 2009 world championships in Scotland.

He began fly fishing at age six while growing up in Potter County, PA, and credits another Midwest Fly Fishing Expo veteran, Joe Humphreys, as a prime mentor. He has been seen on ESPN and OLN and is a certified FFF fly casting instructor.

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Eric Stroup

Stroup returns to the 2012 Expo after an exceptional first appearance at last year's show. The author of "Common Sense Fly Fishing," he is the founder of Spruce Creek Fly Co. and a full-time guide in central Pennsylvania and southwest Montana.

Stroup has solidified his reputation as one of the premier guides in the east. Years of repeat customers are testimony to his ever evolving techniques and skill. Stroup's knowledge and passion extend well beyond guiding. As the official instructor of the Regal Engineering Fly Tying School in Pennsylvania, he shares his knowledge of fly tying and entomology to enhance the fly angling experience.

An accomplished writer and presenter with feature articles in *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, *Eastern Fly Fishing* and *Kype Magazine*, he teamed up in 2006 with past Expo headliner Charlie Meck on a two-volume instructional fly tying DVD, "Practical Fly Patterns that Catch Trout."

April Vokey

New to the Expo is April Vokey, an avid angler and British Columbia steelhead, salmon and trout guide. Born with a passion for fishing the BC rivers that surrounded her, she proudly describes herself as "an eternal student" of fly

fishing. She said she has always been captivated by water, whether a small creek, a steep waterfall or even an invigorating downpour of rain.

As a young girl, she coaxed her father into going fishing and by the age of 16, when she was old enough to drive, she was devoting all of her free time to her local rivers. Within several years she was spending upwards of 300 days a year on the water. She began working for a large guiding outfitter during her early 20s and was soon thinking about ways to improve her clients' experiences. In 2007 she founded her own BC-based guiding operation, Fly Gal Ventures, where she presently guides and instructs anglers on some of BC's best steelhead destinations.

Home is Chilliwack, BC, but her time is spent waist-deep in the waters of the Dean River and the Skeena River systems. She is inseparable from her best friend and fishing buddy, Colby, a St. Bernard-coon hound mix.



Dennis Potter in action at 2011's FFF-GLC Fly Tying Expo in Holt.

Expo features tiers and flies for every occasion

The 2012 edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo also will turn a big spotlight on fly tying and some of the nation's best and most innovative tiers.

Here's a list of tiers who will be spotlighted during the run of the Expo:

Dennis Potter, Grand Rapids, MI
All-around tying techniques

Alan and Diana Ritt, Longmont, CO
Western trout flies

Jerry Regan, Grayling, MI
Historic Au Sable patterns

Mike Schmidt, Dublin, OH
Wet flies

Pat Kelly, Columbus, OH
Musky flies

Todd Schotts, MFFC member,
Lansing, MI
Warm water flies

Julie Nielsen, Ada, MI
Dry flies for trout

Steve Wascher, Greenhurst, NY
Deer hair patterns and tube flies

Jim Reed, Howell, MI
Deer hair patterns

Greg Senyo, OH
Steelhead patterns

Corey Thelen, MFFC member,
Grosse Pointe Park, MI
Trout patterns

2012 Dick Schott New Member Outing scheduled for May 9-12 at WaWaSum

by Paul DeJohn
Event Chair

Planning for the 2012 Dick Schott New Member Outing is underway, and we are happy to say this year's outing will be held Wednesday, May 9 through Saturday, May 12. It concludes the day before Mother's Day.

The annual New Member Outing gives attending members an opportunity to visit and fish superior locations along the historic AuSable River, and also provides a venue to become more acquainted with your fellow club members. The outing is not intended to be a fishing school, however you will indeed receive an education, good food, lots of laughs, and more confidence in your fly-fishing and fly-tying abilities.

All those wishing to attend the outing, new and old, are required to attend the February 18 Members School, and be able to show a safe level of fishing / wading proficiency before being included in the outing.

Sign-up will begin at the club's March 7 meeting and will continue until the outing is full. It does fill fast, though, and the lodge has only so many beds. Sorry, no campers, though we will consider enrolling those having lodging and meals elsewhere -- at area motels or cottages.

After the outing staff is established, new members will be given priority, first come -- first served, but we also need experienced club members to be "semi-guides" on the river. Our desire is to keep cost to you as low as possible. However, Michigan State University's rates for WaWaSum for 2012 are not currently known. You will know your cost before signing up. Expect a fee of \$150 to \$175.

WaWaSum Lodge is a historic log lodge and teaching facility owned by MSU. It sits high above the AuSable's Holy Waters six miles east of Grayling. If you have never visited the lodge, you are truly in for a treat. The most popular feature of the lodge is the large screened porch with bentwood rockers which overlooks the river. The great room has a large fieldstone fireplace, ample seating, and an activity area for fly-tying. Guest rooms for your three-night stay accommodate three to four guests each. Three beds on the screened porch will be available to those desiring semi-quiet.

"Master Cook-ee" Mike Duchin and his helpers will provide great breakfasts on Thursday and Friday before our morning guided scouting trips, and wholesome lunches before our afternoon and evening of fishing on Thursday and Friday. Ample food will be available for you to "graze" following your fishing day. You also have the option of dining at one of the local restaurants.

Please watch *The Hatch* and our club's website for future updates.



February's Featured Tier: Al Haxton demos two BRF patterns

Past President and Montana trip poobah Al Haxton will teach members two classic patterns -- the X Caddis and Iris Caddis -- as tied by Craig Mathews and the crew at Blue Ribbon Flies (BRF) of West Yellowstone, MT. These flies have served him well on many Montana and Yellowstone Park rivers.

Haxton said he has used the X Caddis for years after learning how good it was from Kathi Gross.

"The Iris Caddis, he said, "works great for me out west.

"Both are good patterns and they don't seem to have to match the hatch. I mostly use light colors and olive, but the Black X Caddis is truly a great pattern tied in size 16 and fished dry."

BRF's X Caddis

Hook: Standard dry size 14-20

Thread: Match body color

Shuck: Colored Z-Lon

Body: Tan, olive, black or amber

dubbing with sparkle

Wing: deer or elk hair

Head: Trimmed butts of deer/elk hair

BRF's Iris Caddis

Hook: Light-wire scud hook, size 14-20

Thread: To match body color

Shuck: Dyed Z-Lon

Abdomen: Tan, olive or amber Z-Lon
dubbing

Wing: Loop of white Z-Lon

Head: Hare's ear dubbing.

Long-time member Mannie Lopez passes away

The MFFC received sad news to begin the new year. It was informed that long-time member Manuel (Mannie) Lopez had passed away. He was laid to rest January 13.

Mike Schultz opening new full-service fly angling shop in Ypsilanti

Long-time guide, fly shop manager and MFFC supporter Mike Schultz is partnering with Brian Doelle (pictured at right) to open a new fly shop in the area. To open in March on the banks of the Huron River in the Depot Town area of Ypsilanti, the new enterprise will be known as Schultz Outfitters.



Schultz said the shop will carry the top brands in fly fishing -- Patagonia, Ross, Rio, Sage, Scientific Angler, Scott, TFO and many more. He also said it will stock a full supply of tying materials from companies like Daiichi, Hareline, Spirit River, Umpqua and Wapsi as well as a collection of Michigan fly patterns.

The shop, he said, will become the hub for the guiding and education programs that he has specialized in most recently. Casting lessons and fly tying instruction will be offered.

“The new shop expands the Schultz Outfitters mission of providing a comprehensive resource for everyone -- from the beginner to the old hand -- to have more fun and catch more fish,” Schultz said.

Store hours are slated to be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the shop’s grand opening and a schedule of future events, see www.SchultzOutfitters.com.



Classic AuSable fly patterns? Jerry Regan on tap for Feb. 1

You say you're unfamiliar with Earl Madsen's Barber Pole (right) or the Buzzsaw? You can address that situation when Jerry Regan, Michigan's unofficial fly tying historian, pictured above at a FFF Fly Tying Expo, brings his knowledge of classic Au Sable fly patterns to the MFFC's February 1 meeting. Regan has devoted much of his life to tracking down information about patterns unique to the Grayling area.

