



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

February 2016

## Fly Fish The Flats of Mayaguana

By Sybil Hunter

"I happen to like bone fishing in September to October because the crowds are gone. We're gonna put together some affordable trips," said Club member John Pinto of the newly formed MFFC Saltwater Committee. The committee's leadership consists of himself and two other Club members - Rich Knowles and Mike Scott.

"In 22 years, I have fished Nicaragua coast to coast and top to bottom. Nobody fishes there...it's a real honeycomb." Pinto pointed out, "Codina, Mackerel, and Dorado are all very good fish on a fly rod."

Pearl Keys, along the Miskito Coast is the place for Permit. There are Permit in Mexico and Belize as well, according to Pinto. A slide of a thrifty looking hotel popped up. "It's \$10 for meals. \$20 a night. Clean. No electricity. You walk around and fish for Permit."

Downtown Kara was next, where the Hexigina hatch. "I had never seen Tarpon jumping out of the water like that at a hatch," Knowles pointed out. "Fish are big, fat and heavy. Tarpon are as bright as any other fish. You are sight fishing....(new slide)...as you can see, it's not clear water, but you can still see them and see the take. The fish don't see a lot of flies down there."



Randy John Pinto, Rich Knowles & Mike Scott of the Salt Water Committee.

Electricity in that area is from 7:00 to 10:00 daily.

A slide of a hooked fish appeared. "Look at the bend, not a lot of pressure on the top third of the rod," Knowles noted, "You want to put the pressure on the fish. It doesn't matter if it's a Brook Trout or a Sailfish."

The group presented a Tarpon video representing the frustration, success, remoteness and intense fight of the fish there.

Trips coordinate through John Pinto. Attendees are assigned a Trail Boss. There are 13 miles of road on Mayaguana, it starts and ends in a cemetery. "If you want to go bonefishing, come to us with a group  
*Continued on page 2*

## MFFC Calendar



**February 24, 2016**  
**Activities Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**February 25 - 28**  
**Outdoorrama Booth**  
Contact Jim Telinda or Jim Aitkin  
Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

**March 2, 2016**  
**Activities Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**March 12-13 2016**  
**MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo**  
Macomb Communit College Sports & Expo Center in Warren, MI

**March 23, 2016**  
**Speaker Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Glen Blackwood  
**Topic:** TBA  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



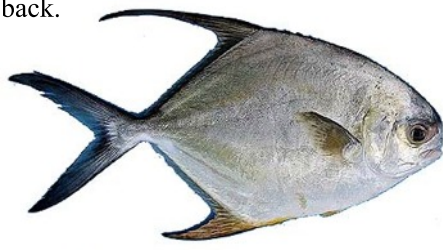
*Al is back that way! ->*

*Continued from page 1*  
of four. We set you up with a Trail Boss. Come any time with a group of four." According to Pinto, the food is "typical Bahamian." Take 11 or 12 weight rods, said Pinto, "They are big heavy fish. It's good to have big gear."

A very unassuming building appeared on the screen. "This is the airport of Mayaguana," said Pinto. "It was built by the Army Corps of Engineers." It was originally used to house bombers.

"It is very tide sensitive there [Mayaguana], they measure tides from the eastern most point in that country."

"The bonefish are my favorite," said Pinto. "I caught my first one in 1985 in the Bahamas and mentally never came back."



### Upcoming April Event

## Trout Tune-Up

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club 2016 Trout Tune Up is Saturday, April 2, 2016, 9 AM to 5 PM on the Huron River. Meet at the yurt at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center, Commerce Twp.

The Trout Tune Up is an annual gathering of MFFC members on the first weekend of April. The Club rents a 50 person yurt for the day and provides food, beverages and a place to warm up if it is a cold day. The event is open to all club members. Don't forget your fishing license! Contact Scott Freeburg for further information.



### Opening Weekend

## Trout Opener

In conjunction with the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's "Trout Opener" Saturday celebrations and activities, weekend accommodations will be available to MFFC club members at the Riverview Lodge.

([www.ausablecabins.com](http://www.ausablecabins.com)). Space is limited. A downpayment is needed. The

total cost is \$135. Final payments are due by the March 23 meeting.

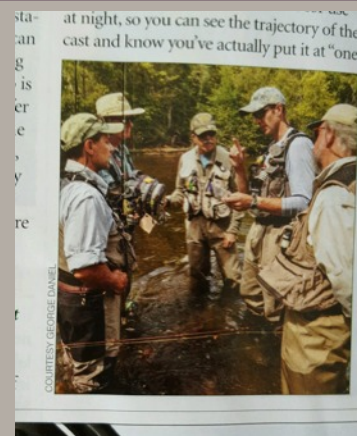
The Riverview Lodge is located on the banks of the AuSable River, downstream (east) from the city of Grayling, at 1320 South McMasters Bridge Road. The lodge is a handsome, newly remodeled building with a profound history.

Reservations include 4 days and 3 night's of luxury accommodations, hearty breakfasts, snacks & beverages throughout each day. Check-in is after 4 pm, Thursday, April 28th, and check-out 11 am, Sunday, May 1st.

Contact Scott Freeburg if you are interested: 248-505-3563 (cell) or [sfree357@aol.com](mailto:sfree357@aol.com).

### Members On The Fly

## Around The State



*Randy Park sent this to me...It's in the latest American Angler, on page 13. Bill Cusamano and Randy took a class with George Daniels a few years back. I told them it was their 15 minutes of fame!*

*- Spencer Vanderhoof*



*Yes that is Jim, at Jim's.*



# MFFC Business

*Don't forget to meander to page 6 ->*

## Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting January 13, 2015 at 7:30 pm

### Rollcall

Present: Bocks, Doyle, Finstad, Freeburg, Montagne, Nowicki, Oehring, Telinda, Vanderhoof  
Absent: Hunter  
Guests: Fred Field, Kevin Lipp

**Approval of Minutes - Approved**  
**Approval of Agenda - Approved**

### Officer Reports

#### President - *Finstad*

No updates at this time

#### Vice President - *Freeburg*

Fred Field - discussion of MFFC insurance policy

#### Treasurer - *Oehring*

Treasurer's report approved.

#### Corresponding Secretary - *Vanderhoof*

Summer meetings and speakers booked and financed.

#### Hatch - *Sybil Hunter*

No updates at this time.

#### Website - *Harry Briggs*

No updates at this time.

#### Membership - *Nowicki*

Membership is 369 current members.

### Events and Outings

**Banquet expenses** discussed. Door prizes purchased.

More prizes needed.

**Rod show** per Kevin Lipp. Rod Show leadership

turnover next year. Board is seeking volunteers to serve.

**Board election**, several positions will term out next

year. Board discussion of replacements. Election

Committee seeking volunteers to run for club positions.

### New Business

None at this time.

### Old Business

**Gokenbach Seminar** to take place in March. Kathy Oehring will attend.

**MFFC Rods/Equipment**, all new rods have cases and are available for use in schools. Old rods to be sold at upcoming meeting. Discussion of sale of 12 used Dyna King Vices.

**Visitor Comments:** See above.

### Roundtable

## Deadline Approaching

# Conservation Grant Request

MFFC members be on the lookout for groups that need conservation or educational project funding. Please inform these groups that the 2016 MFFC Conservation Grant Request form can now be found on the MFFC website under the Conservation tab. Also, remind them the last day applications will be accepted is Sunday, March 13.

If they, or you, have any questions or concerns regarding the grants contact Eric Center at: [ecenter4753@yahoo.com](mailto:ecenter4753@yahoo.com).



*Club President Dan Finstad hard at work.*



## 2015 - 2016 Officers

### President:

**Dan Finstad**  
[finsmich@yahoo.com](mailto:finsmich@yahoo.com)

### Vice President:

**Scott Freeburg**  
[MFFCClub@gmail.com](mailto:MFFCClub@gmail.com)

### Corresponding Secretary:

**Spencer Vanderhoof**  
[svanderhoof@mi.rr.com](mailto:svanderhoof@mi.rr.com)

### Recording Secretary:

**Steve Bocks**  
[MFFCClub@gmail.com](mailto:MFFCClub@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

**Kathy Oehring**  
[MFFCClub@gmail.com](mailto:MFFCClub@gmail.com)

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### Immediate Past President:

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# February Fly Of The Month

An Innovative Pattern

## Deep Sparkle Pupa

By Todd A. Schotts

After much research for the February Featured Fly, an idea hit me while cleaning out past year's fly boxes from fishing the inhabitants of the White River and the Muskegon River. There it was, a very productive fly glistened in my box - none other than the "Deep Sparkle Pupa" by Gary Lafontaine.

The history of this fly is very basic, not as tangled like the wind knots of the other patterns that I have written about in the past. The fly's design came about in the early to mid '70's, created by Gary Lafontaine after he studied the caddis extensively in and around Montana.

Gary Lafontaine was, and still is, one of the most prolific and astounding fly tyers. He created the Natural Drift Stonefly Nymph, Flex Hopper, Firecracker, Creature, and the Emergent Sparkle Pupa to name just a very small portion of his patterns. History has it, at age eight Gary caught his first fish using a fly while growing up in Connecticut. At age 15 he published his first fishing article. This speaks volumes of the legacy he left us in the fly world. Aside from countless magazine articles, he has given us five books that opened our minds up to the world of entomology, tying, and fly fishing. Plus he has various fly tying videos that are always useful and enjoyable. Unfortunately,

with multiply medical issues, Gary left us in 2002 at the early age of 56. Even though his rod, pen, and vise were silenced, he leaves us with an impressive and amazing portfolio of material.

This unique pattern represents caddis stuck in the surface film. When Gary designed this fly, he not only studied caddis from the surface, but also under the water surface with scuba gear. He best explains the pattern in his writings, "Under the water I noticed that caddis pupa were vulnerable only when the pupa was cutting itself free from its cocoon and under the surface layer where it splits its pupa shuck. When the caddis pupa cuts from its cocoon, there is a 15-20 second period in which the pupa drifts along the bottom generating gas to fill the sheath around its body. This gas produces a shimmering effect to the pupa." The ability to mimic this shimmer was critical to Gary's pattern, he accomplished this by using Antron fibers. If you are not familiar with Antron, it is a Trilobal fiber-yarn that is resistant to matting and has the ability to hold air bubbles within water. By utilizing the Antron for the underbody and a sparse overbody, Gary was able to accomplish the gas-attracting qualities of the fly and the translucency required.

There are multiple color combinations; the one I show is called "Ginger Deep Sparkle." It is one of my favorites when fishing the watersheds on the west side of our great state.

When fishing this it, there are many methods; one of my favorites is putting on an indicator to dead drift it through the current at the time the "Caddis Hatch" is taking off, with plenty of fish rising.

Remember, if you are fishing a "blizzard" of a caddis hatch (and yes there are waterways like that in Michigan with size 28 flies) tie on a Deep Sparkle Pupa, and get ready for tight lines. Until next month, Tight Lines, and Snazzy Flies.

## Deep Sparkle Pupa



**HOOK:** TMC 3761 #12-18

**THREAD:** Tan 140 Denier or 6/0

**BODY:** 3/4 Cream Antron Yarn, 1/4 White Antron Yarn

**UNDERBODY:** 1/2 Ginger Antron Dubbing, 1/2 Light Cahill Superfine

**SHUCK:** Strands of Overbody material

**WINGPADS:** Lemon Wood Duck Flank Fibers

**HEAD:** Light Cahill Superfine



## Humphreys, Engle, Morris, Carrier and Randall Headline 2016 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

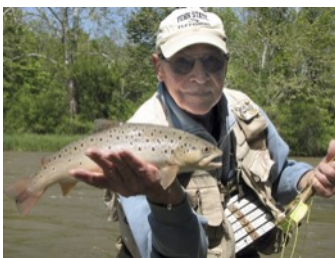
One of fly fishing's great ambassadors, a preeminent small-fly specialist, one of the sport's most prolific authors and tiers, a former member of the U.S. National Fly Fishing Team, and a renowned trout researcher will be making their way to the Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center in Warren to share their expertise with thousands of Great Lakes area fly fishers at 2016's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo on March 12-13.

"Our cast of headliners brings a blend of familiar names and newcomers," said Expo Chairman Joe Sprys. "Joe Humphreys leaves us in awe every time we see him. Ed Engle knows how to elicit a strike from even the most finicky fish. Jeff Carrier is blessed with the skills of a truly outstanding teacher. Skip Morris is a walking encyclopedia of fly patterns and insights into how to fish those patterns. And Jason Randall brings volumes of knowledge from observing trout in their native habitats and is able to make that knowledge accessible to the rest of us."

The 2016 Expo headliners offer something for everyone, Sprys said, but the Expo is much more than the headliners. "We have something for every fly angler," Sprys said. The show will feature dozens of free seminars about fly fishing techniques, fly tying and fly fishing destinations and bring together more than 100 exhibitors, including dozens of fly tiers, rod builders, artists, guides, outfitters and conservation organizations.

Hosted by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, the 2016 Expo is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, and Sunday, March 13. The Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center is located at 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. Admission is \$10 per person; boys and girls age 16 and under are free. Two-day tickets are \$15. Parking is free.

Meet our headliners:



**Joe Humphreys, Pennsylvania:** Humphreys has demonstrated his passion for angling, water, and wildlife throughout his life and career as a fly fisher. Fortunately for us, Sprys said, Humphreys enjoys sharing his knowledge and skills, doing so through his works as an educator, author and conservationist.

Humphreys has taught fly fishing for more than 40 years and still loves to share his insights. In fact, he is the subject of a documentary – "Live the Stream" – currently in production. The film focuses on Humphreys' lifelong journey to share the sport he loves while inspiring a greater respect for his home waters near Penn State.

He has authored two highly acclaimed books, "Joe Humphreys' Trout Tactics" and "On the Trout Stream with Joe Humphreys," as well as many articles in regional and national periodicals. He has also hosted a nationally broadcasted fly fishing series on ESPN, been featured on three fly fishing videos (The Fly Fishing Series), and has produced and been featured in four other videos.

In the course of his more than four decades teaching fly fishing, he spent 19 years directing Penn State's angling program, succeeding the legendary George Harvey. Some high-profile pupils include former President Jimmy Carter, former Vice President Richard Cheney, and retired basketball coach Bobby Knight. He currently teaches a weekend course at the Yellow Breeches Creek at Boiling Springs, PA, hosted by the Allenberry Resort located directly on the creek.



**Skip Morris, Washington State:** Morris, as one of the sport's most prolific fly fishing and fly tying authors, is known to anglers around the world.

He has written more than a dozen books on fly fishing and tying, including the volume that set the standard for beginning fly tiers, "Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple." He also penned "The Art of Tying the Bass Fly," "Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes" (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), "Concise Handbook of Fly Tying" and "Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches."

His videos and DVDs range from instruction for tying nymphs and bass flies to tying and fishing flies for sea-run cutthroat trout.

Morris, who calls Washington State's Olympic Peninsula home, has published more than 250 articles on fly fishing and tying in magazines from Fly Fisherman to American Angler. For three years he was among the hosts of the "Fly-Fish Television Magazine" show. Among fly anglers he is well known as an entertaining, concise and knowledgeable presenter, with a sly sense of humor and an easygoing manner that draws in the audience.



# Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

## Humphreys, Engle, Morris, Currier and Randall Headline 2016 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo *(continued)*



**Ed Engle, Colorado:** Engle says he got into fly fishing the same way many fly anglers did. “My parents,” he recalled, “gave me a ‘starter’ kit that included a rod, reel, backing, line, and leader. There weren’t a lot of people teaching fly casting at the time, so I pretty much taught myself. I paid for that later on, too. Fortunately, I was lucky to make friends with some great casters who helped me correct some of my idiosyncrasies. My first fly fishing trips were to the South Platte River about a 45-minute drive from my house. Even then the South Platte was known nationally as a ‘technical’ river. Catching trout required small flies and good presentations. I’d go up to the river by myself and flail around trying to learn as much as I could. Once in a while I’d run into a more experienced angler who would give me a tip. I fished the river for four months before I caught a trout. By that time I was tying my own flies because I couldn’t afford to keep replacing all the store-bought ones I was losing. I actually caught my first trout with a fly I’d tied.”

Engle said he didn’t stop with “just” catching some trout on a fly rod. He began working part-time for Kent Brekke at the old Angler’s Covey in Colorado Springs and writing a fly fishing newspaper column for the Colorado Springs Sun. Before long he was writing magazine stories for many fly fishing publications and guiding anglers on the South Platte. Next came his first book, “Fly Fishing the Tailwaters.” After that, he said, he began making presentations to fly fishing clubs and became “a struggling ‘professional’ fly fisherman.”

“A lot of water has gone down the river since those early days,” he said. “I still think the point of fishing is to catch fish, but I’m not as possessed by it now as I was when I started out. I like everything about fly fishing—the water,

the places I go to catch fish, the casts, flies, boats and the friends I’ve made. And more than anything, it has always come down to the fish themselves for me. Whether it’s a trout, king salmon, bonefish, permit or bluegill. I just like looking at them, watching them swim, seeing what they do and how they act. And I like sharing all of this with others through my books, magazine stories, presentations, classes and shows like the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.”



**Jeff Currier, Idaho:** Currier was born in Massachusetts and grew up fly fishing throughout New England, but he now calls the Northern Rockies home. He may reside in Victor, ID, but he fly fishes the world. An active member of the R.L. Winston Rod Company Professional Advisory Team, he also is affiliated with Simms, Scientific Anglers, Ross Reels and Abel Reels. Currier is a “Fishing Ambassador” for Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, hosting exotic trips and exploring new destinations.

In fact, Currier has been fly fishing the world for more than four decades. His adventures to more than 50 countries on six continents and more than 300 fly-caught species make him one of the foremost authorities in fly fishing.

He penned “Currier’s Quick and Easy Guide to Saltwater Fly Fishing” and “Currier’s Quick and Easy Guide to Warmwater Fly Fishing.” Currier said his biggest accomplishment involved leading Team USA to its first ever top-10 finish in the World Fly Fishing Championship in Jaca, Spain. During the competition he placed third in the individual standings, becoming the only American ever to take home a medal in the 30-year history of the Championships.



**Jason Randall, Illinois:** A veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine, a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and a member of the Society for Freshwater Science, Randall has been sharing his science-based insights to fly angling as an outdoor writer for the last 12 years via feature articles in American Angler, Fly Fisherman, Eastern Fly Fishing, Northwest Fly Fishing and many other outdoor magazines.

His first book, “Moving Water: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to Currents” was released in 2012 by Stackpole/Headwater books. It studies the effect of current on trout, their prey species and an angler’s presentation of his or her fly. Randall noted that vertical layers of current create sub-surface drag and require adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

His second book “Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat” was released in August 2013. It focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout’s feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.

In 2014, the third book in the ‘Fly Fisher’s Guide’ trilogy was released- “Trout Sense: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell.” It offers anglers even more science-based insights into the behavior of their quarry.

As he wrote in “Moving Waters,” “Fly fishing may be an art, but it’s also a science. The more you learn about the scientific aspects of a river and the details of their inner workings, the more success you will have in the pursuit of angling.”



# Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Expo Guest Tyers

## Biographies

By Todd A. Schotts



**Richard Strolis** grew up in the foothills of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts, catching native Brook Trout. He moved on to various Massachusetts rivers where he fine tuned his skills on the water, and later at the vise, tying his first fly at the age of 11. Next, Northwestern Connecticut, setting up shop by Farmington River, a place he still calls home. He guided there for little over a decade. Many of his patterns were built around his client's problems he while guiding. In time, he branched out, fishing rivers across New England, New York, Pennsylvania, the Midwest and Alaska. Over the past five years Rich penned several articles detailing his patterns in various publications including Flyfisherman Magazine and Eastern Flyfishing. He enjoys every facet of trout fishing; his true love is chasing trophy trout with larger streamers. Rich just released his new book, "Catching Shadows, Tying Flies For The Toughest Fish And Strategies For Fishing Them." You can see Rich's work at his website: [www.catchingshadows.com](http://www.catchingshadows.com).



**Steve Wascher** caught his first Trout at the age of 3 1/2, on a DRY FLY! He is a third generation tyer from Greenhurst, NY. Basic tying instructions and guidance came from his father and grandmother. Steve is a well rounded tyer, enjoying all aspects of the art of fly tying creating a unique nymphs, Steelhead wet flies, and his famed deer hair bugs. Steve guides during summer months for a wide range of warmwater species and enjoys writing articles which have appeared along with his flies in Hatches Magazine, American Angler, and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. Steve is on the Pro Staff of Dyna King Vises, plus many others.



**Hunter Hayes** is prodigy of the late deer hair master, Chris Helm. He started tying when he was seven years old, and started tying with Chris when he was 13. His deer hair creations are more masters of artwork than fishing flies. Beside deer hair, Hunter slings bobbins for all types of flies at his vise for warmwater Trout, Steelhead, Salmon, and for his guide service "Maumee River Flies & Guide Service." In addition, he is employed at Bass Pro Shops in Ohio and is the Fishing Team Lead. Contact Hunter at [maumeeiverflies.com](http://maumeeiverflies.com) or at his email [crowhunter79@gmail.com](mailto:crowhunter79@gmail.com).



**Jerry Regan**, a third generation fly tyer, is one of the true keepers of Michigan's Fly Fishing History and one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Jerry was born along the fabled Trout Waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid, he learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's Genuine Legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert. One thing unique about Jerry's patterns is that he never uses synthetics, but stuck with original pattern materials.



**Kevin D. Compton** is a commercial tier, author, speaker, tying instructor and fly designer for the Solitude Fly Co. He lives in central Pennsylvania near the banks of the Little Juniata River, spending partial summers in the Colorado Rockies fishing, tying patterns for competition anglers, guides and the bins at Vail Valley Anglers. His fly-tying company, Performance Flies, [www.performanceflies.com](http://www.performanceflies.com) distributes select tying materials, tools, and hooks, throughout North America. In 2006, he was runner-up in the Team USA National Fly Tying Competition sponsored by "Fly Tyer" magazine. In 2006, he traveled to Portugal to the World Fly Fishing Championship where he contributed flies to US competitors. He tied for members of Team USA at the National Championships and at the America's Cup. In September of 2010, Kevin was runner-up to Charlie Craven in the first annual Ironman Fly Tying Competition at the Denver Retailer Show. Kevin's flies were featured in magazines such as "Fly Fishing and Tying Journal" and in collections such as Rick Takahashi's "Modern Midges" and George Daniel's "Dynamic Nymphing."



**Dennis Potter** started tying over 30 years ago, before fishing the Ausable River in Northern Michigan. He spent four seasons at the Gates Ausable Lodge as a Fly Fishing Instructor and still enjoys teaching fly tying. His fly designs are fished extensively and with great success throughout the U.S. Dennis has various Fly Tying Videos on the market. You can find him tying at the show with his well known high resolution video tying Demo Show. Dennis owns Riverhouse Fly Company: [www.riverhouseflyco.com](http://www.riverhouseflyco.com).



# Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Expo Guest Tyers

## Biographies *continued*



**Alan "Al" Ritt** grew up in Michigan where his passion for fishing was born. In the early '80's while living in Northern California just after he started tying flies, he started fly fishing. In 1989, he moved to Northern Front Range of Colorado (Longmont) where he and his wife Diana reside. He is currently on the Pro-staff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Clear Goo Glue, Fishing for a Cause, Performance Flies, Pro Sportfisher, Diiachi Hooks and is a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. Al is on the board of IFFF Fly Tying Governors. He guides in Colorado on Sylvan Dale Ranch just outside of Loveland. He wrote various magazine articles and published the book, "25 Best Most Versatile Flies." His web site is: [www.alrittflies.com](http://www.alrittflies.com).



**Mike Schmidt** is owner & fly tyer for Angler's Choice Flies, based out of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. His business started out from his dad's encouragement and influence. His fly tying consists of winged wet, warmwater, coldwater, and saltwater patterns. Some of Mike's accomplishment's are: Orvis Fly Designer, Contract and Fly Tying Instructor for Mad River Outfitters, Signature Tyer for JagFly Company/Steelhead Alley, and articles published in Hatches on line magazine. Mike's web site is: [www.anglerschoiceflies.com](http://www.anglerschoiceflies.com).



**Paul Beel** is owner, writer and fly tyer of the fly tying business website Frankenfly [www.frankenfly.com](http://www.frankenfly.com). His passion for fishing came from watching his grandfather create homemade lures as a kid. He felt he could continue in his grandfather's footsteps as a fly tyer. Paul specializes in modern streamers and classic Michigan dry flies. He is a Commercial Fly Tyer for Gates Au Sable Lodge and Fly Shop, enjoys fishing for Bass and Trout, is on the Regal Vise Pro Staff, Partridge of Redditch Pro Team, Engrico Puglisi Pro Staff and Deer Creek Pro Staff. His Patterns are sold nationwide through Orvis. Contact Paul at his website.



**Todd A. Schotts** is a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, who aside from volunteering for various club functions, chairs the club's Annual Smallmouth Outing, contributes various articles to the Club newsletter, including the "Fly of the Month" feature. He owns and operates a production fly tying company "Grizzly Flies by Schottsie" that he started 13 years ago & he is the founder of the "Michigan Bobbin Slingers (fly tyers) page on Facebook. In 2015 two of his patterns were featured in articles in Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine. His passion is being a Bass Bum, chasing both Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass. He also enjoys chasing Trout, or whatever else will take a fly. Some of his patterns can be seen at the Painted Trout located in Dexter, MI, Brookhaven Lake Guide Service, and just recently Esnagami Wildness Lodge in northern Ontario. Contact him at his website: [GrizzlyFlies@yahoo.com](mailto:GrizzlyFlies@yahoo.com).



**Eli Berant** grew up, and lives, in Michigan surrounded by big water all his life. After getting his first fly tying kit at the age of 15, fly fishing and fly tying has been a passion of his ever since. Even though he really likes the "traditional" fly fishing experience, he has taken the concepts of the huge saltwater flies and applied them to his exploits here back in the big waters in Michigan. If you are interested in "Big Flies" for Lake Trout, Musky, Bass (or whatever else will consume them) you can order them at Great Lakes Fly ([www.greatlakesfly.com](http://www.greatlakesfly.com)).







# February Tyer Of The Month

## Featured Member Tyer

Bring On The Fish!

## Ken Harfoot

Last fall when I was seeking Spotlight/Featured Tyers for our Activity Meetings, I approached the many, many tyers we have in our club. In the past, some of these tyers appeared on center stage and camera, but there are others that have not. This month I will be bringing someone that has never graced our center stage as our Spotlight/Featured Tyer - that would be Ken Harfoot. Ken will bring us three of his favorite patterns: Dust Mop Fly, Ken Harfoot's Estaz Nymph, and the Indestructible Woolly Bugger.

In case you are not familiar with Ken, the following river report on him is right from the email Ken sent me; "I joined the club around 1995 and I have been tying since 1996, to save money. Thanks to the Master Tyer's in club, I have learned enough to tie all my own flies I fish. I fish primarily Michigan and Ohio waters. I have also fished in Alaska for Dolly Vardens & Silver Salmon, and made the trip around Lake Superior fishing the many tributaries. I owe all the success I have had to the club. I have been privileged to be amongst what I call true sportsmen & women, people willing to share and teach unselfishly. This sport we call 'Fly Fishing' is a way of life and I am proud to be a participant. This is why I accepted the invitation to demonstrate my favorite patterns. It's my turn to share what I've learned."

I am fortunate enough to have fished with Ken on many different occasions, the flies he ties are amazing, and the results are many tight lines.

Ken mentioned he has caught everything ranging from Bluegill to Steelhead on his Ken Harfoot's Estaz Nymph pattern. Now that says a lot about this pattern. He also mentioned when tying this pattern, he uses lead weight to help get the flies with smaller hooks, down in the water column. During his presentation, Ken will cover necessary fishing techniques for these three patterns.

So bring your vise, tools, and note taking material to spend a night tying with Ken and three of his favorite patterns. Maybe these will be your favorite patterns also. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



### DUST MOP FLY

**HOOK:** size 10 or 12 nymph hook

**THREAD:** Black

**TAIL:** Dust Mop finger  
(Auto detail cloth)

**THORAX:** Pheasant rump  
aftershaft dubbed in

**HACKLE:** Pheasant rump



### KEN HARFOOT'S ESTAZ NYMPH

**HOOK:** size 8-3xl nymph for Steelhead; sizes 10-12 curved nymph 3xl for Trout

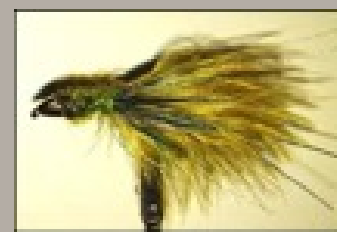
**THREAD:** Tan 140 denier or 6/0

**TAIL/WING CASE:** Squirrel Tail

**BODY:** Yellow Estaz over Yarn

**EYE:** Chain Bead med/small

**WEIGHT:** 0.10 (for the smaller sizes)



### INDESTRUCTIBLE WOOLLY BUGGER

**HOOK:** 9671 Size 4-8

**CONE:** To match hook

**TAIL:** Strung Marabou  
(soft hackle style)

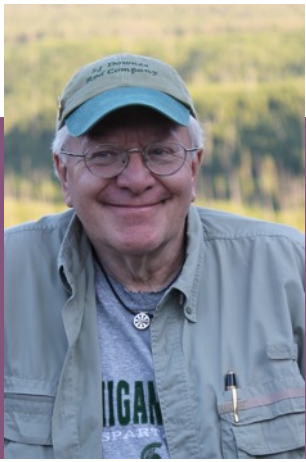
**TRANSITION HACKLE:** Peacock  
Body feather, grizzly to match tail color

**FLASH:** Krystal Flash/Flashabou to  
match tail color

**BODY:** Med. Chenille match tail color

**RIB:** Size 20 Wire

**THORAX:** Ice Dub or Soft hackle to  
match



# Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Fin-atic

Al The Hackleman

## Let's Volunteer

Oh boy, oh boy.

The show is coming up soon.

This is the time of year I get excited. Our show, OUR SHOW, the Midwest Fly Fishing Show, is just around the corner. It's the time of year I feel sorry for little children. They only get one day of Christmas, but I get two days plus the set up day of Christmas for Fly Fishers. Two days of looking at stuff that just makes this sport more fun. Two whole days of feathers, hooks, shirts, waders and of course rods and reels. Two days of fun and two evenings of shared laughter and camaraderie with not only our guest speakers and other members of our club, but other fly fishers from all over the Midwest.

For 39 years The Michigan Fly Fishing Club has hosted The Midwest Fly Fishing Show. During that time we have been so fortunate to host many of the premier names of our sport. Folks that have written hundreds of books, had numerous videos, folks that have made their names in our sport, and we get to hob nob with them for a couple days during March every year for the past 39 years. I can personally tell you that I have had such wonderful experiences during our show that I just about count the days from one show to the next. And the really cool thing is, I get these great memories and fun experiences and I also get into our show for free. So I sort of get paid to have fun. What could be better than that?

Because I stepped up and volunteered with our club, I have these great memories of times shared with Sylvester Nemes, Dave Hughes, Gary Borger, Skip Morris, and others. I have had the wonderful opportunity of spending time with these folks and so many others, and I truly value those shared times. And as I look

back I realize that without me volunteering to help at our show, I would not have those wonderful memories today.

The Midwest Fly Fishing Show. Let's think about that for a bit. It's OUR show. We own it, we run it, we enjoy it and we actually make some money from it every year. Our show lets us donate money to protect and improve the streams we love. It lets us provide fly fishing related items to schools and youth groups. Our show allows us to teach and share our love of rivers and fishing with others and promote conservation practices with others too.

Because I volunteered I have fond memories of sharing information and background about fly fishing at our member school and our public school. I can still see the faces of the students and I remember some of the questions and tried to include that information in the next class. And I remember hoping that all that took the class fell in love with our sport as I have.

Thinking about our show is fun for me. Thinking about what makes our show possible is another aspect that we should consider too.

What makes our show possible? In fact, what makes our club possible? Let's think about that a bit. Our club, The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, offers so many great opportunities and experiences to our members. Trips, outings, educational opportunities, a great library of many books about fly fishing, classes about our sport and different aspects of our sport. We offer so many things to our members, to ourselves really, that it sometimes boggles my mind. Just think about the fishing outings we offer. Smallmouth Bass, WaWa Sum, Yellowstone, Pink Salmon, Steelhead, the list goes on. And what makes all these outings possible? Volunteers.

Volunteers are what drive our club. Whether it's the raffle at each meeting, the guy that teaches fly tying at meetings, the "spotlight tier," the folks that share casting in the gym, the folks that sell tickets at our show or those that collect the tickets at the door, the folks chatting at our booth, the folks that help

youngsters tie flies at the various other outdoor shows in the area, they are all volunteers. The guys that keep our library up to date, the guys that set up the rows of booths for the show, the folks that teach at our schools about fly fishing, all volunteers. Nobody gets paid for this stuff. Well they do get paid, but it's not in monetary ways. It's payment in shared fun, shared laughter and conversation and the feeling of doing a job well and helping others learn and enjoy a sport we all love. And that payment, in my opinion, is far better than dollars and cents. And far nicer and self-fulfilling.

I like to think back on the wonderful memories I have about our club and our members. Between running the raffle, being a board member and Past President, I have such wonderful memories of our club and its great membership. I remember the first club outings I attended and how other members took time out of their weekends to show me areas to fish on various rivers in our state. To this day, I remember those members and I thank them for their thoughtfulness and caring. I have tried to 'pay back' the efforts of those members. We are all part of a truly fun and wonderful organization that does some pretty cool things. But we all have to pay it back a bit, or maybe even pay it forward for the next group.

So look in the mirror. Consider those that showed you how to tie a fly, how to cast or wade safely. And consider that we need to share our talents, our education in the sport of fly fishing. We need to share our love of this sport for the next group that is coming along. We need to get involved in our club. We need to volunteer to keep our club moving forward.

So step up and volunteer for The Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

See you at the show.





# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Club Events

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

### Annual Banquet

By Ray Geitka

The annual MFFC Banquet closing out the Club year, will again take place at the Italian-American Hall in Livonia. Reserve the date: Wednesday May 18, 2016.

I'm baaa..ck! The guy who initiated Door Prizes for all attendees is returning once again to run this year's Banquet. I'm told that it's a big job! But, spreading the work load with a cadre of several extremely talented volunteers will contribute to a very special fun evening.

Our featured Banquet Speaker and afternoon Fly Tying Instructor is the legendary Gary Borger. Gary is the author of a number of excellent fly fishing books, a Professor of Botany, and a renowned Fly Fishing and Tying

Instructor. He also was a previously featured Midwest Expo Speaker. He and I go back a long way and I am proud to introduce him.

This year's Banquet cost remains at \$40 per person. Dinner choices will be: beef, salmon, or chicken. A cash bar is available to serve adult beverages. We will also have a 50/50 drawing. All attendees will receive a Door Prize choice by a drawing. A membership-only drawing will be for an array of Premium Prizes. Gary Borger tops off the evening with a quality presentation.

The afternoon Fly Tying Session includes a pizza lunch and a book written by Gary at a cost of \$40. Seating for this event will be limited, so enroll early.

Tickets for both events will be available at Club meetings beginning with the Activity meeting of March 16.

Prize donations are always welcome. For example, Items that you may have received as gifts, from raffles, etc. and never used. Especially flies. Receipts for tax purposes will be given upon request.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Banquet in any manner, big or small, contact me at: flyfshray@comcast.net.

Club Rods

### For Sale

As you have probably heard, we replaced the Club rods and reels with new ones in September. In order to subsidize our purchase, the Board has authorized the sale

of our outgoing rods and reels. We are going to start this process at the activity meeting on March 24, 2016. Five rod and reel combinations (including backing and line) are going to be put up for silent auction, with a minimum bid of \$75.

This is a great opportunity purchase one of the Club rods at a great price for yourself or maybe someone new to the sport while supporting our Club in the process. Bid early and bid often.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

### Member's School

Thanks to all those who attended the Member School on February 13. It was well attended, and well staffed, which is a true nod in recognition of the talent in our club. Thanks to all the teachers, tyers, casters, bug guys, food handlers and assistants who made our School a success. The food and fellowship was excellent; the chili (one in particular) left a lasting impression on all. We will miss Mike as he passes the torch to the next generation to run the School. For those of you who missed out, Bob Kaminsky won the Gold Medal in the chili cook off (okay a Sage rod, but still quite nice) and Al Haxton has filed a light hearted complaint against a Club member for impersonating him at the school. (Records have been sealed and photographs destroyed, to protect the innocent...)

Noted Special

### Recognition

Thanks and kudos to Cory Thelan for running the Club Tyers Booth at the upcoming MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo!

# 2016

1978 **\*\* 39 Years \*\*** 2016

# Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Presented by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

**FREE SEMINARS, CASTING & TYING DEMOS**

**March 12th and March 13th**

SHOW HOURS: Saturday 9am to 6pm & Sunday 10am to 4pm



**100+ FLY FISHING VENDORS IN ONE LOCATION**

**Featuring**

**ADMISSION**  
ADULTS \$10

KIDS 16 & under  
**FREE**

2-DAY PASS \$15



**Joe Humphreys**



**Ed Engle**



**Skip Morris**



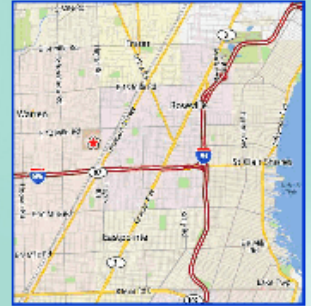
**Jeff Currier**



**Jason Randall**

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**Includes: Free Parking**, Expert Fly Tyers, Tackle Dealers, Expanded Kids Korner, 100' Casting Pond- Test a Fly Rod, Steelhead & Bass Shows, Guides and More!



**FOR CLUB INFO:** [www.mffc.org](http://www.mffc.org)

**FOR EXPO INFO** [www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com](http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com)

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