



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

March 2016

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo A Double Haul of A Success!

By Sybil Hunter

A great big thank you goes out to all of the unsung heroes of the MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo that make the expo possible! There were committee chairs, booth chairs, runners, booth volunteers, security, after hours events coordinators, printing staff, trip advisors coordinating the headliners' travel, public relations and social media feeds for the show, and many other volunteers, not to mention the set up and tear down crew that works on site from the afternoon of the Thursday before the show to well after closing on the last day of the show...plus many others hidden behind the scenes working together to make this show the success it is!

Attendance was well over 3,000 this year, thanks to a light rain on Sunday. There were five headlining guest speakers, eleven demonstrating guest fly tyers, a myriad of casting demonstrators, and a vendor list that is too large to print in an article. Well over 100 club members volunteered their time an effort to maintain the show's superior reputation.



The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo was officially opened by live music from the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham Trombone Choir, which made everyone "Happy!"

MFFC Calendar



March 23, 2016

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Glen Blackwood
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 13, 2016

Speaker Meeting

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

April 27, 2016

Activities Meeting

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

May 4, 2016

Activities Meeting

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

May 7, 2016

MFFC Youth School

MSU's Tollgate Education Center



Keep reading! ->

Honoring

Joe Sprys



Thank you Joe for your many years of dedication to organizing and running MFFC's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo!



Honoring

Joe Humphreys



Joe Sprys and Dan Finstant present guest speaker Joe Humphreys with an honorary lifetime membership to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for his achievements in the field of fly fishing.



Honoring

Tom Clark



Tom Clark represents the living history of fly fishing. He has held a booth since the first MFFC Expo.

"I've always done a certain amount of fly fishing...for my 13th birthday, my dad and my aunt colluded and got me a fly reel and line."

The bamboo rods and vintage flies at Tom Clark's booth, which attracts attendees of all ages, represent almost a century of fly fishing history - all for sale.





MFFFC Business

Don't forget to meander to page 6 ->

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting February 10, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Bocks, Doyle, Finstad, Freeburg, Montagne, Oehring, Telinda, Vanderhoof
Absent: Hunter, Nowicki
Guests: Ray Geitka

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President – *Finstad*

The expo is on schedule.

Vice President - *Freeburg*

No updates at this time.

Treasurer – *Oehring*

Treasurer's report approved.

Corresponding Secretary - *Vanderhoof*

Speakers are lined up through July.

Hatch - *Sybil Hunter*

No updates at this time.

Website - *Harry Briggs*

MFFC.org is currently being updated, as is the 2016 Expo website.

Membership – *Nowicki*

No updates at this time.

Events and Outings

Expo marketing expenses are being reviewed, particularly the postcard mailing expense. Linda Bocks will provide necessary information for this decision. Only prior years attendees will receive postcards, in order to cut expenses.

The Club Banquet is on schedule. There is still a need for additional door prizes. Donations are welcome; give to Jim Telinda or Ray Geitka.

Bass Pro Shop offered MFFC a fly tying booth at their Spring Classic Event Feb 13, 14, 20 & 21. The club accepted; it is a two person booth.

May board meeting is moved from 5/11/16 to 5/26/16.

New Business

None at this time.

Old Business

Gokenbach Seminar has no update at this time.

MFFC Rods/Equipment will be auctioned off in a silent auction at the next two activity meetings. Opening bid is set at \$50. Highest bidder gets first pick.

Club insurance update. Jim Montagne has the paperwork for review. The board will discuss further options after this assessment.

Visitor Comments: See above.

Roundtable

Adjournment

Used Club Rods

For Sale

In light of the purchase of new club rods, the Board has authorized the sale of the outgoing rods and reels. There are five rod and reel combinations, including backing and line. Contact Chris Hunter for details at attyhunter@gmail.com.

Noted Special

Recognition

Thanks to all those who volunteered their time to make the MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo so successful!



2015 – 2016 Officers

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Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Shedding A New Light On The

Guest Speakers

By Sybil Hunter

SYBIL HUNTER

Asking questions when you least expect it.



JEFF CURRIER

What is your favorite stream side food?
Fried chicken.

What do you drink when nobody is looking?
Sierra Nevada.

What is the one thing you will not fish without?
Dark Chocolate.

What is the one question you wish people would ask, but do not? What is the answer?

What else do you like beyond fishing?
Answer - talking baseball.



ED ENGLE

What is your favorite stream side food?
Peanut butter cookie Larabar.

What do you drink when nobody is looking?
Diet Coke.

What is the one thing you will not fish without?
Chewing gum.

What is the one question you wish people would ask, but do not? What is the answer?
Why do you fish those tiny flies? Answer: Because I like them. There is no tactical reason.



JOE HUMPHREYS

What is your favorite stream side food?
A hotdog.

What do you drink when nobody is looking?
A martini.

What is the one thing you will not fish without?
A fly rod.

What is the one question you wish people would ask, but do not? What is the answer?
How far to the next stream? Answer. Over the mountain.



SKIP MORRIS

What is your favorite stream side food?
Anything but what I do eat when fishing.

What do you drink when nobody is looking?
Same thing as when they are looking. Water.

What is the one thing you will not fish without?
Carol (Who is not a thing, but is a good sport).

What is the one question you wish people would ask, but do not? What is the answer?
What is the secret of your prodigious sexual stamina? Answer: Still Carol. (See? Good sport.)



JASON RANDALL

What is your favorite stream side food?
Chili with cheese and onion.

What do you drink when nobody is looking?
Cheap red wine.

What is the one thing you will not fish without?
A sense of humor!

What is the one question you wish people would ask, but do not? What is the answer?
Can I buy your a drink?





Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

A Word From The Club Booth

Freeburg

Chairing the Club Booth was a great first time experience. I've chaired other areas over the past 10 years but never on the front lines like this. It was really busy at times but I'd do it again. I learned a lot about the enthusiasm our members have for this club and was proud to be part of it. Our volunteers are top shelf and really step up to help when needed. The stories they shared with complete strangers about meetings, outings and the expo were so inspirational I'd join again. It was a wonderful example of why our expo has been so successful for 39 years. Too bad we only get to do it once a year. SF



Skip Gibson, a WWII vet from East Pointe in attendance at the Expo, has fly fished for over 50 years and identified the historic mint condition 1927 flies made from original materials, at Tom Clark's booth.

A Word From Kids Korner

Thanks!

A BIG THANK YOU to all the MFFC volunteers who participated helping in the Kids Korner!! The kids had a blast and I think most of us "big" kids did too!! The kids' smiles, whether they were casting, tying a fly, or making a fish shirt, are great memories! Again thank you to all and see you next year!! Your chairs...Joyce and John!



Sam Hunter displaying his self painted Kids Korner tee.



A Word From Membership

Nowicki

So, how did we do this weekend? 22 people decided that Club membership was worth the \$35, and one person joined as an Associate Member. Of the 23, four are ladies. Nineteen are from Michigan, two from Ohio, and two from Ontario. The average age of the group was 45-50 years old. Four of the new members have never fly fished before, and a couple of others had done some fly fishing "many years ago." A couple dads in the group had young sons they wanted to get involved in fly fishing, and one mom signed her son up as well. One individual was already signed up for the Public School and was happy that he would be able to attend the New Member Outing in May.



Awesome Kids Korner Khaozi!



Waiting for the show to begin.



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Welcome

New Vendors



Bill Mangan is an IFFF certified casting instructor, licenced guide working on the AuSable and Manistee Rivers.



Doug Faude specializes in breathable, sun protectant, professional artist designed, base & outer layers - he caught many club members.



Welcome to John from across the pond. Hardy was one of the vendors who donated to the MFFC.



Dennis Kennedy, happy to be at the show, Red Fox Outfitters sported flies, fly gear & tying materials.



Don Matthews is a new vendor and past guest speaker at MFFC meetings.



Allen Fly Fishing Welcome to the purveyor of our new Expo Club performance shirts & all things fly fishing.



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Members On The Fly

Around The Show



Joyce Haxton welcomes Dirk to the Expo.



Joe, Dan is there something you'd like to share with the class?



Joe Satler, heading up admissions.



Reyna & another club member of the Royal Oak Student Chapter.

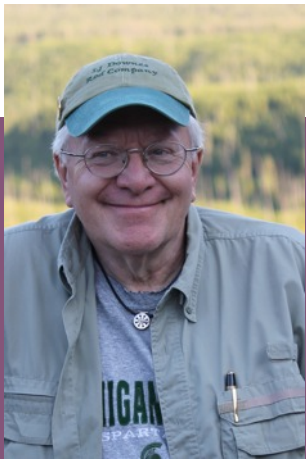
Preset-up set-up crew.



Peter Albertson instructing new Michigan Fly Fishing members Rich Ryan and Liam Ryan at the Kids' Korner Kasting Pond.



Rich and Liam Ryan were spotted again at the MFFC Club Booth inquiring as to the details of the club sponsored fishing activities. "We have all the equipment," said Rich. When asked for his favorite spot to fly fish, he responded, "I love to fly fish the Snake River out in Yellowstone." Welcome guys! You are going to fit right in!



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Finatic

Al The Hackleman

Rantings Of A Crazy Man

Wow, what a show. Now on to opening day.

Oh boy, I am sort of bummed right now. Another great Midwest Fly Fishing Show has come and gone and while I loved every minute of the fun, now I am saddled with the hang over of another year 'til the next show. It was a great weekend; Joyce and I loved every minute of it. The drive south on Friday was fast and furious. We were both so excited about being there and seeing folks that neither of us remember the drive nor anything that happened during the drive. I know my drive part seemed to fly by and all that was on my mind was setting up and walking around and shopping and talking and watching and talking and chatting and seeing folks and shopping and looking at things and..... You probably get the idea. We were both pumped and ready for fun. The drive home on Sunday was not quite as happy, or exciting.

We all need to thank Joe Sprys for another well organized show. He sure does great work. I was lucky enough to be high bidder on the right to introduce Skip Morris for all of Saturday and that was certainly a high spot for me. I also sat in a great seminar on Sunday morning given by Jason Randall, I must say he did great work and I not only enjoyed his presentation but learned a bunch about fish that I did not know. One really good

thing about this sport is we keep on learning things all the time. A life long learning experience is pretty cool, I think.

When we left home last Friday, there was snow on the ground and still some on the roads too. When we got home Sunday, most of that snow was gone. We now have open spots on the lawn; the roads and driveway are totally open and clear. This is an exciting thing and now we have to start to get ready for the new fishing season. So right now Joyce and I are tying flies and making our fly boxes full and cleaning fly lines and generally getting ready for the next big event on the year. Opening Day of trout season. It's about 40 days away right now and that means plans are being made and stuff is being arranged. Now the reality is that on some streams here in Michigan we have open season all year long. But I think that the traditional opening day, the last Saturday of April, is still pretty special. If nothing else, it means that every trout stream in the state is open to fishing. That means we have the opportunity to fish so many wonderful trout streams that if we fished one new stream every month it would take us about 100 years to fish them all. Get an early start on that.

What really makes opening day special for me is the social aspect of the day. There are more parties and gatherings that anyone can attend. I have already had about six invitations and I know as the day gets closer there will be more added. One thing that really makes the day special though, is The Michigan Fly Fishing Club opening day festivities. Many of us get together at Gates AuSable Lodge and talk and share stories and remember some of our great friends that

are no longer fishing with us. We as a club have done this for 16 years now and each year it gets sadder and more upbeat at the same time. We remember those that helped us, or taught us, or showed us that secret spot, or just shared the fun of fly fishing with us. At the same time we meet new folks to share the future fishing, the future secret spot, the future streams and ponds with us. It's a very nice way to start the trout season.

We share this opener each year and start about 9 AM and then about 11 AM we all head out to the rivers we love and wet a line in hopes of catching the first fish of the year. During our shared time at Gates we have some breakfast pastries, some coffee or maybe something a bit stronger, we share stories about past fish, spots we fished and happy times with fishing buddies. We also talk about the future of our sport, the new rods and reels and stuff we need, or want, to buy. We share stories and dreams and plans with others that share the same crazy sport. As my buddy Bud Crudder once said to me, "We stand here in the river with about \$2000 worth of stuff on us, catch a 6" Brook Trout and admire it, then put it back into the river. How much did our fish dinner cost us?" Its pretty silly when you think about it. So I don't think about it anymore.

The reality is it's not the fishing we are looking for when we are in the stream.

I hope you will consider joining many of your other club members and start the trout season at Gates with us on April 30th this year. Just one rule, no parking at Gates parking lot. We park at the Stephan Bridge river access site just a two minute walk away from the Board Room. Hope to see you upstairs in the Board Room.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

Annual Banquet

Tickets are on sale now for 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.

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 are: beef, salmon, or chicken. A cash bar is available to serve adult beverages. There will be door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, and a membership prize drawing.

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: flyfishray@comcast.net.



Youth School - May 7, 2016

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

Youth School

MFFC members may sponsor a young person – ages 7 thru 16 – to attend this club-staffed event. The program goal is to introduce young people to the sport/joy of fly fishing while also teaching our responsibilities to support sustainable fisheries. Club equipment – rods, reels, tying vices and materials – will combine with member knowledge and patience to provide a positively exciting experience.

Registration for both club mentors and students is required by April 27 in order for lunch and beverages to be provided. Students must be accompanied by an adult/sponsor for duration of the class. Please contact Len Dixon @ 248-348-0914 or lendixon@comcast.net to register students/mentors or if you need more information.

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). 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.

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