



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

March 2019

MFFC Rocks Ultimate Fishing Show

By Tracie Partridge

It was an amazing show! Four days serving over 250 kids and a few dozen adults at the tying table, with 20-80 people per day of all ages and skill levels in the casting lanes. The kids and families shared fishing stories, pointed out where they fish on the map, and those who had been with us the year before were happy to tell us. One young man boasted that his dad and he had taken off work and school to be at the show. A very young girl was happy to share she had caught as many fish as she had fingers. Adults came who wanted to learn to tie.

It was also very nice to see that there were as many girls as boys coming to tie. There were parents who asked to just sit and tie with their kids. And then, there were special member family moments!



So many people were interested in the club! We gave out over 150 membership forms, shared about our other events, and signed up folks for our Public School. There were families and individuals of many backgrounds, many people looking at the books on the table, or just checking out what was going on.

The really big deal here are the volunteers. They are the rock stars, the teachers, the heroes that the kids look up to, and without them we could not make this service happen. We barely kept up, there were so many people wanting to engage, tie, and cast.

MFFC Calendar



April 3, 2019
Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Bill Mangan
Topic: Casting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 17, 2019
Activities Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

May 15, 2019
MFFC Banquet
Speaker: Phil Rowley
Topic: Fly Fishing Argentina
Italian American Center
Livonia, 5:30 p.m.

June 12, 2019
International Fly Fishing
Film Festival Showing

July 10, 2019
Speaker Meeting
TBD



Some of you may not know that Mark Stephens, from MSU's Project Fish, donated almost all of the materials. Huge bags full of feathers, yarns, hooks, and more. It was amazing to find out about this nonprofit for kids, and that they have been supporting us like this for years.

It was my honor to be the organizer for this event. It was my first opportunity to truly see what the club is truly about; service to the community, education for and promotion of the sport, and a dedication to making things happen. It was also great to personally interact with members I had not met before, and hear about the experience we collectively hold. Thank you folks who helped me set up. When one of our member volunteers got called to work, others stepped up and helped fill the gap. Thanks to the board and other leadership for your assistance in helping me with this first go as a club event chair.

I hope that more of you will volunteer to participate in our events and activities coming up. It's a rewarding experience that will leave you smiling for a long time.

Cheers and tight lines!

Order Banquet Tickets Now
Contact Kathy Oehring
oehrk@icloud.com
734-692-0569



Members

On The Fly



Steve Selinger & One Big Fish



Hold it out, it will look bigger!



Scott walking on the wild side...



MFFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting February 13, 2019

Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof; Strachan; Nowicki; Bada; Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Oehring; Niemi; Freeburg

Approval of Minutes - Approved.

Approval of Agenda - Approved.

Officer Reports

President - Vanderhoof

Nothing to report.

Vice President - Strachan

Bruce is digitizing the old issues of The Evening Hatch. Anticipated completion is end of year.

Treasurer - Nowicki

The bank said we may no longer cash checks written to the MFFC abbreviation. We need to keep an eye on this.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

*Constant Contact mailing list was updated.

*Possibly not enough content for Feb Hatch due to cancelled meetings.

*Harry recently sent BOD request for website check for errors.

*IF4: Cotic Center big room is available for June showing. Board agreed we should book for 3 hours. Still open issues with rooms and costs for July & August meetings.

Membership - Bada

Currently 381 active members, slightly behind last year's numbers at this time.

Events & Outings

Expo income same as last year at this point. 6 booths still open. Have strong interest in 2 or 3.

New Business

None.

Old Business

ByLaws: Niemi reviewed and determined all positions open for this year's election. We not have candidates for all positions.

Collegiate Fishing Groups: Bada investigating regional clubs. Most are Bass fishing clubs. Only 3 seem to have fly fishing involvement. He will follow up and report more next month.

Visitor Comments: None.

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:57 pm

Official Notice Of Elections

Election Notice

The club will be holding its annual election for officers and directors during the April 3, 2019 Meeting at Clarenceville Middle School. The open positions are listed below.

A member may not be elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

A ballot committee is appointed by the president each year and additional nominations are taken from the floor the night of the election (permission must be obtained from the member before he or she is nominated for office).

If you would like to have your name placed on the ballot please contact Bill Shannon (wbshannon@sbcglobal.net).

President – 1yr term

Vice President – 1yr term

Corresponding Secretary – 1yr term

Recording Secretary – 1yr term

Treasurer – 1yr term

Membership Officer – 1yr term

Director at Large – 2yr term

Director at Large – 2yr term

Official Notice Of Banquet Tix

Selling banquets tickets starting at the March 20, 2019 meeting. Cash or check.

Banquet date: May 15, 2019

At: Italian American Club, Livonia, MI

Cost: Dinner Ticket - Still just only \$40

Choose steak, chicken or salmon, vegetarian or gluten free.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.



2018 – 2019 Officers

President:

Spencer Vanderhoof
president@mffc.org

Vice President:

Bruce Strachan
bruced0402@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Sybil Hunter
correspondence@mffc.org

Recording Secretary:

Steve Selinger
aquilasailboat@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dave Nowicki
treasurer@mffc.org

Membership:

Jon Bada
membership@mffc.org

Immediate Past President:

Scott Freeburg
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At-Large Directors:

Kathy Oehring
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Harry Briggs
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Speaker Meeting: Bill Mangan - Apr 3, 2019



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Godfather

Al The Hackleman

Another Show In The Books

I am sitting at home thinking back over the past weekend and our very own Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

I must admit I have some great memories and some sad thoughts too. It was another great show. We, as members of The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, did another wonderful job of hosting our show. I think our new Co-Chairs of this event, Craig Summers and David Mayes, did an outstanding job of getting all the stuff together and making our show happen perfectly. They both stepped up big time when the club needed just such folks to step up. My hat is off to both of these gentlemen and I say with heartfelt thanks, WELL DONE. Thank you both.

In this sport that we all love there are some jokes about things. We all know them. I fished in a 'secret spot.' You save money when you tie your own flies. The show runs itself. I think we all laugh at each of these, and other, comments about fly fishing. After this past weekend, I feel strongly that the comment about "the show runs itself," is truly the biggest lie of the bunch. All that participate in our show know that countless hours go into making it a success. From "setup" to "teardown," from the Club Booth to the Club Room, from Admissions to Security, from guest speakers to club fly tiers, NOTHING gets done without LOTS of effort and work from our members. So I think maybe we all should pat ourselves on the back and

admit we do good work. Thank you all for being there, for helping in whatever way you did. And most of all, thank you all for being members of our great fly fishing club. Well done to all of you.

I must admit I also have some sadness about the show being done again. For Joyce and I the weekend of the Expo is always a rather rushed time. We get to the venue about noon on Friday and it seems like the time just flashes by and its Sunday afternoon and we are headed north again. There are so very many folks that we mean to chat with, to catch up with, to just say HI to, and it always seems like we are in the car headed north and we talk about who we spoke with and then the thoughts come, oh my, we did not talk with..... We missed seeing..... We did not spend much time with..... That is a lot of our conversation on the drive home. Then we ask, how did we not have time with..... How did we miss..... And we ask about what we bought and why it caught our interest. Frankly we did not spend much money this year. Now part of that is because we have six fly shops within an hour drive from home. Part of that is because after more than 33 years in the sport we do have a pretty good closet full of stuff, and part of it is because every time we stopped at a booth it seemed like we talked longer than needed because we had not seen the folks in a while and it was so good to see them again. We both found that Sunday afternoon came much too fast. And now its another show in the books and another year before we see all the great people again...sort of a downer.

A few things on the upcoming agenda bring some gladness to things though. As I sit here it is exactly 44 days until Opening Day of the Michigan Trout Season.

Another celebration will be upon us. More social fun and seeing folks that we have missed during the long winter. Once again we start the fun weekend with dinner at Spike's Keg of Nails on Friday evening. We are the only group that is allowed to make reservations, and we are all set. I have already had conversations with Josh at Gates about using the Board Room once again. This will be our 19th Opening Day Remembrance time and I know I am sure looking forward to it. That morning is another time of great happiness and true sadness. Seeing all the smiling faces is a great start of the day. Remembering the folks we miss is always the sad part of the day. But if I had not been in The Michigan Fly Fishing Club then I would not have had the opportunity to meet those great folks. Once again, we will meet at Gates AuSable Inn, up in the Board Room, to celebrate the day and remember some friends that we will miss when we fish this season.

Another item on the agenda is the MFFC Yellowstone trip this year. The trip has been expanded to four weeks and we have lots of new folks planning to fish the Yellowstone area with us. If you are interested there are some spots open in some of the weeks. Contact me and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

I sit here looking at lots of snow on the ground and hope things warm up soon so the rivers we love will be accessible in the near future. So make your Opening Day plans, start cleaning your fly lines and organizing your fly boxes, because Opening Day is coming fast. Soon it will be warm and sunny and we can get out and do some fishing for the most beautiful fish in the world, the Michigan Brook Trout.

See you all soon. And thank you for another great show.



March Fly Of The Month

Pete Narancich

Big Hole Demon

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly pattern I will be bringing you a fly, that doesn't just catch fish all over the world, but it's a fly of beauty, and also comes with a bit of twisted history regarding who created it. The fly I am talking about is the Big Hole Demon (sometimes called Black Hole Demon) created by Pete Narancich.

"Now for, rest of the story..." The history of who created this fly pattern is twisted like a nasty wind knot. Many books and articles mentioned Dan Bailey as the creator of the fly back in the mid '60's. Yet, after researching through more writings on this fly, the actual originator was Pete Narancich. He owned a ranch on the Big Hole River a few miles from the Twin Bridges. The well known and famous fly fisherman Joe Brooks visited his ranch on a regular basis, and the writings said he found out how effective of the Big Hole Demon was. The fly was given to Dan Bailey by Joe Brooks and Dan started offering the fly in two versions. With everyone purchasing these flies, that is probably how the twisted history of the originator came about.

From the books and writings, sources are not really sure exactly what the original patterns looked like, but think they are closest to the photos in the book *Streamers And Bucktails*, by Joseph D. Bates Jr. The photos in there, they think were the first three Big Hole Demons. The original pattern was all black, with a

silver part of the body — this was often referred to as the All Black version. The most well known and popular version has feather from the jungle cock tied splayed as a tail and a badger hackle palmered over the front part of the body. The third version used fox squirrel hair for the tail and grizzly palmered over the front part; this was Pete's favorite fly. All of the original patterns were tied on salmon hooks; I am not exactly sure when the big switch came to wet fly hooks.

For the popularity over the big pond with this fly, you have to give credit to Jan Grunwald, Jens Ploug Hansen, and Harry Nielson from their books and writings that they wrote that made them so popular for Sea Trout. In Jan's book he describes the two colors used — a red and a badger. They describe more colors in his book for winter fishing, such as red & orange and black & white.

When tying this streamer, one major thing to remember is to keep the tinsel flat on the hook, as any little bump will show. The ribbing on the fly is optional as it is spiraled over the tinsel of the fly. If you do not want to use ribbing, then use either a UV Gluing system or Varnishes on the tinsel to secure it. Make sure when wrapping the hackle in the front, the hackle stem lies in the groove in the chenille. With doing the hackle this way it will make it more secure.

When fishing this pattern, the famous Joe Brooks mentions in his writings that, "It is fished across the current and allowed to drift free for several feet, then a slow jerk is given to make it look alive, and make it swim across the current in an tempting manner." Use this fly for Brown Trout, Atlantic Salmon (sea run), Sea Trout (sea run), and Rainbow Trout. I can imagine that either Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass, would devour this fly.

Big Hole Demon



HOOK: Wet Fly Hook, Sizes 2 to 8

THREAD: Black 8/0

TAIL: 2 badger hackle tips

RIB: Small or BR Ultra wire, color to match fly (optional)

REAR BODY: Flat Silver Tinsel

HACKLE: Badger

FRONT BODY: Black Chenille

HEAD: Tying Thread

So if you want to tie an amazing streamer that got its roots in Montana, and has become a world wide pattern, then start your bobbins slinging, because this is your fly. Until next month, Tight Line & Snazzy Flies.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Fish Tails

Bruce Strachan

When's The Opener

Of course God laughs. All the prime streamside lodge reservations have been grandfathered in for years and your only choices end up being the motel 5 miles from any stream, or a friend's cottage, if he will have you. Nevertheless the trout-smitten gaggle plan and all is in the name of fishing camaraderie.

Anglers move en masse, but some make annual pilgrimages replete with customs, menus, rituals and a rehash of the previous year's inebriated arguments and insults. On the surface, one such group's membership appears very diverse, non-select, but private and cohesive nevertheless. They are fond of meeting every year, but once, only for just a weekend. The planets must align for their time. This meeting is special. So special that they named themselves but rarely speak the name to outsiders as if it were ineffable.

Fly fishing the AuSable's Holy Water is this group's presumptive aim, though eating well and drinking better occupies a good many hours. Bourbon and good Scotch whiskies had been the staple beverages for years until the advancing years, doctors and cardiologists proscribed them. The signature meal of thick rare steak served on bite sized French bread soaked in butter has clearly been prohibited as members aged, but that prohibition has never stuck. The members steadfastly honor the founding member's signature dish, and toast "To Dick."

Minimized though it was, angling for the Browns, Rainbows and Brookies has always been pursued to some extent. Conditions often dictated results. Two feet of snow heralded a cabin weekend. Heavy rains swelled the creek to unfishable and unwadeable depths. Just plain crummy hatches kept the fish unavailable to the fly and particularly the much favored dry.

Members always accepted this as an invitation to abuse the guy who picked THIS weekend and THIS stretch of river. The planner's rebuttal, as always, is, "OK, you plan next year!"

Marginal river angling occasionally, or rather very infrequently, prompted desperation. A drive down the river to find better hatches or 'secret' lies known only to a few and never revealed to other anglers. A different branch, like the North or South, possibly could hold promise also.

This year, though, it was "How about Wakely?" Our host invited us to commandeer his canoe, stored under his cabin's porch, and pursue the hybrid Bluegill and Bass at Wakely. I was game for the adventure and persuaded a reluctant Frank to join me in the quest. Everyone else just raised their glasses, toasted us and took a sip.

Frank was an accomplished expert fly tier known well beyond Michigan's borders. He was a rather more reserved, conservative individual but nevertheless a valued member of our society. In short, he was a straight arrow, reluctant to rock any boat, follow foolish adventures, or ever, ever break the rules. Speeding on the way to Grayling was out of the question for Frank, even if someone else was driving. His angling skills were well respected also and I welcomed him as my partner for chasing gills and Bass on Wakely.

The Wakely access was but a three or four mile drive from Ed's retreat. We unloaded the canoe on to a dolly, stowed fly reels, rods, paddles, anchor and refreshments into the canoe. Off we went, down te half mile two track to our targeted waters. On the trail, we passed some hikers and day campers. That was not too surprising as Wakely sported rustic sites and vistas for those eager to spy loons on the protected northern portion of the lake. Among the pedestrians was a local Forest Ranger of some type. We recognized the official patch on his shirt sleeve and the broad brimmed hat. We smiled, he smiled, and our mutual greetings were complete. He did however return a quizzical look at us and our fishing equipment. In fact, most of the passers-by turned a somewhat questioning eye at the two fishermen and their canoe loaded with fly-fishing gear. At that time it was all just a minor mystery and we forged onward to Wakely.

Wakely is 125 acres of quality, catch-and-release Bass and Bluegill fishing with half the lake

cordoned off for loon nesting habitat. Fly fisherman love this stuff! It keeps the fish killers and tools of the devil off the lake. We launched the canoe and soon were into 9" to 12" hybrid Bluegill in the southwest quadrant of the lake. These were impressive fish despite the name Bluegill...I could not get my hand around their thick bodies. It was great fishing and catching that made us forget our fruitless endeavors on the river. I had never seen, let alone caught, such Bluegills. They fought like Bass.

Early season gills are what I call "Simple Stupid Fishing" and this was just that. Bright yellow poppers brought fish to the surface with hard takes. Gills have that wonderful large vertical cross section and these large gills put up fights worthy of much larger fish. For three hours Frank and I tested poppers, nymphs and streamers with unequivocal success. We didn't change flies out of necessity but just curiosity to see what flies would work. They worked...it was simply great fishing!

Our special meal was that Saturday night, signaling the high point of our weekend. We packed up the canoe and loaded it onto the cradle for the hike back to the car. Again we encountered hikers and yet again they wore the strange gaze experienced earlier in the afternoon. The unspoken conversation went something like this: Hikers: "Are you fishing Wakely?" Us: "No, no! It is okay. We are fly fishermen and practice catch and release. We have licenses too!"

On to the car, we went content with the afternoon's outing and eagerness to brag to our sedentary comrades.

At dinner the Scotch-and-Bourbon-lubricated conversation turned from disappointing river results to our afternoon of triumph. We entertained the assembly with exploits of bigger-than-life gills. Our custom of the annual Saturday evening repast is to invite local friends, fishing companions, guides and fly shop owners to join us. Among our guests that evening was Rusty Gates, local proprietor of Gates Lodge and Fly Shop.

At length we related that afternoon's adventure and good fortune until finally we turned to Rusty and asked, "What do you think?"

Rusty replied in the succinct and understated manner for which he was known.

"Wakely does not open until June 15."

It was May 12.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Join Us At The

Trout Tune Up

When: April 6, 2019, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: The Walled Lake Schools
Outdoor Education Center
3577 Sleeth Court
Commerce Twp., MI 48382

Cost: \$0 (our club picks up the tab)

Event Chairman: Michael Doyle
(email = dmaka1@aol.com)

What Is It: Every year during the first week of April the Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocks the Huron River with trout. The trout are planted at the dam/weir located in the Proud Lake State Park. Through the month of April, the state's restricted equipment rules apply and its catch and release only.

Reminder: Your 2018 fishing license expires March 31st, you will need a 2019 license April 1st.

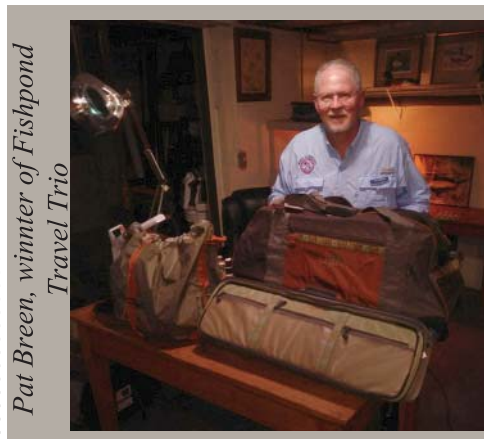
Come out and enjoy this great pre-season fishing opportunity. Meet with fellow club members at the Outdoor Center's Yurt for refreshments and join the never boring, never ending conversations. There will be coffee and donuts in the morning and stoup for lunch (stoup is a mystery soup and a club tradition). Again, there is no charge to attend event and it is open to all members and their guests. If you prefer not to fish that's fine, come out and join us for coffee, donuts, and stoup!

Note Of

Special Recognition

Please express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all my team volunteers at this year's Expo club booth. Our pin sales exceeded budget expectations and you all represented the club at the highest level. We rocked and all should be proud!

-Scott Freeburg



Pat Breen, winner of Fishpond Travel Trio

Did You Know: That in the spring of 1972 the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, with 65 members and a treasury of \$600, started the Huron River Project. They paid over \$400 for the initial planting of trout. (This activity was taken over by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is known by Michigan Fly Fishing Club members as the Trout Tune-Up). Incidentally, this project was written up in the Detroit News by James A.O. Crowe and by May 1972 the club had 150 members and a treasury of over \$1,500.

Ultimate Fishing Show Volunteers

Thanks!

These members worked more than 10 shifts each, with the top 4 working 15 shifts each!

Peter Albertson, Randy Parks, Ray Geitka and Charles Gray.

Mark Mitchell, Spencer Vanderhoof, Gordie Connelly, Dave Mayes, Jim Weakland, Terry Herron.

These members volunteered for 2-9 shifts each, two of them were also working their booth at the show!

Lisa Paisley, Bruce Strachan, Joe Pawyl, John Aukee, Dave Begley, John Eriksson, Ken Harfoot, Jack Keller, William Mangan (a vendor too), Carolyn Bridges-Bennett, Mary Lou Rogala, John Pinto and Don Mills (a vendor too).

These members volunteered, some as walk ins, which was truly appreciated:

Mike Davis, Bob Kaminski, Art Mikkola, Mel Spresney, Pat Breen, Dennis Brukwinski, Al Kowalkowski, Kevin Lipp, Patrick McDonald, Karen Spresney-Wozniak, and Norm Tabaka.

Smallmouth Outing

Sign Up

The event runs May 16-19, 2019. Sign up forms and info packets will be available at up coming meetings. Payment deadline is April 10, 2019. For more information, contact Renee Gall: reneeschatzleygall@gmail.com.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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Livonia, MI 48153