



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2016

Hi. I'm Brian.

By Sybil Hunter

"I myself, got into fly fishing at about nine years old. Later I ran off to college to chase girls and beers...then when I was in my 30's I found something was missing in my life....that's when I went back to fly fishing."

"My wife said if there's something you want done in your life, now would be a good time," said Brian Kozminski (Koz) at the April speaker meeting. So what did Koz do? Fly fish. "If it wasn't for fly fishing and AA...I'm honest with this...I wouldn't be alive today."

True North Trout (<http://truenorthtrout.com>), "It's one of the best decisions of my life," said Koz, adding, "aside from marrying my wife." Koz was born in Grand Rapids, lived in Boyne City, then moved to Petoskey to raise his children. "There are beautiful rivers and lakes...all rivers that are less popular. The Jordan is my primary water. The water rarely gets over 65 degrees. I also fish the Manistee, Maple River, Burt Lake, off Lake Charlevoix, Sturgeon River and Black River. I can be on them in an hour."

"What do I do that sets me apart from other guides?" said Koz, "I focus on smaller more intimate rivers. Trudging through the swamp, we are five minutes



The Koz



away from Boyne City and you can't believe you are not in the U.P."

"The Jordan is one of the best kept secrets," said Koz. "The lower stretch of the Jordan River is wider. There is a seven to eight foot drop off from the bank. Fish hide in the undercut banks."

"The M.O. is to go to your spot, hang out, have dinner, Scotch, cigars, whatever, and wait for the hatch." I take scones, apples, cheeses...The guys always talk about the scones," said Koz.

Where does he guide? The Pigeon River - it has faster water and much erosion. The Sturgeon River - it is the fastest flowing river in Michigan. Maple River - excess hatchery brood stock is dumped into it. Thumb Lake/Lake Louise - it is loaded with Splake (a lake and book trout hybrid that is sterile). Pigeon State Forest - Make sure your 4x4 is
(Continued on page 2)

MFFC Calendar



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

May 18, 2016

MFFC Banquet
Speaker: Gary Borger
Italian American Club
39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia

June 8, 2016

Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Kevin Breen
Topic: Fly Fishing The Flint River
William M. Costic Center
Farmington, 7:30 p.m.



Keep paging that way ->

Continued from page 1
working and spend the \$7 for the waterproof map, otherwise you'll get in, but not get out. Also Green Timbers - originally a 1942 hunting/fishing resort. Green Timbers includes stretches of the Sturgeon River, Club Stream and Pickerel Creek. "It's the last of the Big Wild," said Koz. "There are things out there that will make your hair stand on end."

Fly suggestions? Royal Coachman, Opal Caddis, Madam X and Chernobyl Ants. "You never want to be on any northern river without ants....in case the elusive ant hatch comes around."

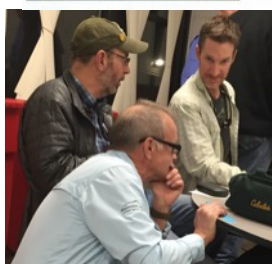
Koz showed pictures of his Adipose Boatworks low profile boat. It is easier to step into and has a wider base. "This boat allow me to go into places I can't normally get into." He also has a trout colored canoe. SupOnTheFly was another suggestion. The boards come with onboard coolers. "Visibility is easily 30 to 40 yards out, and the fish don't spook. You can totally sneak up on fish without them know it."

"If you could be on the river just one day out of the year, the first 80 degree day in May is it."



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Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

Banquet

Following the conclusion of another successful Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, we look forward to our annual banquet. This year's Banquet features Gary Borger as the evening Speaker and our instructor for the afternoon fly tying session.

Our banquet extravaganza takes place on Wednesday, May 18, at the Italian-American Hall on Five Mile road near I-275 in Livonia.

The afternoon fly tying session begins at noon. Tickets cost \$40 and include a book by Gary and a pizza lunch. Tiers bring their own tying equipment to follow along with Gary's instruction. Tickets are limited.

Each Banquet ticket costs \$40 with a dinner choice of NY Strip Steak, Salmon Siciliano, or Chicken Marsala. This includes salad, bread, and chocolate mousse for dessert. Special dietary needs can be accommodated. A cash bar will be available for the evening.

Door prizes for attendees and a members-only Premium prize drawing are featured. Also, there will be a 50/50 raffle and a card drawing for a Ron Barch built Bamboo Rod.

Current, and newly elected, MFFC Officers and Directors will be introduced. Member awards will be presented. Our Master of Ceremonies duties will be our own, Roger Hinchcliff.

Ticket sales began March 23 and continue with each following meeting. There will be NO ticket sales at the door.

Contact, Ray Geitka for any questions:
flyfishray@comcast.net

Members On The Fly

At The Tune Up





MFFFC Business

Set a goal to read page 6 ->

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting March 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Bocks, Doyle, Finstad, Freeburg, Hunter, Montagne, Nowicki, Oehring, Telinda, Vanderhoof
Absent: None
Guests: Todd Schotts, Fred Field, Peter Albertson

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President – Finstad

No updates at this time.

Vice President - Freeburg

* Rick Gokenbach recently interviewed with Mitch Album during his show on WJR regarding the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. Rick also secured an Expo announcement in Crains business publication. The Board expresses its thanks to Rick for all his efforts.

* The Next board meeting will be a budget meeting. If any event chairs wish to comment on their budget concerns they may attend the meeting or submit documentation to a board member.

Treasurer – Oehring

Treasurer's report approved.

Corresponding Secretary - Vanderhoof

Speakers are lined up through Oct 2016. Jerry Regan will be the October speaker.

Hatch - Sybil Hunter

No updates at this time.

Website - Harry Briggs

Website has been updated. If you have not visited lately, please give it a look.

Membership – Nowicki

Membership is at 388 members. We are expecting an increase in membership during the Expo.

Events and Outings

Muskegon River Outing - Todd Schotts. Todd Schotts organized a Club outing on the Muskegon River. The dates are Sept 22-Sept 25th The Old Dam Inn was secured for this outing. There will be openings for Fourteen to Sixteen people. Contact Todd Schotts for more information. The Board would like to thank Todd for his efforts in putting this outing together. Motion to approve a onetime seed money to secure a deposit.

New Business

Huron Pointe Sportsman – Heritage Days. The Huron

Point Sportsman Club is having their annual Heritage Days Sunday Aug 28 2016. The club is looking for a volunteer for chairing the Kids Fly Tying at this event. Please contact any board member if interested.
MFFC Clothing, Volunteering. Peter Albertson. Peter approached the Board for approval regarding the purchase of various articles of clothing featuring the club logo. This will be a self-funded project. The board gave approval to go ahead with one article of clothing at this time. Contact Peter for more details.
Peter Albertson put together an Events/Activities sheet for possible distribution at club meetings as an effort to recruit new volunteers and educate the members as to what opportunities are available. The Board will discuss and advise at a further date.

Old Business

Club Insurance - Expo Storage Inventory. Fred Field. Fred gave an update and prices for increasing the club's insurance coverage. Increasing the insurance coverage would ensure the club was adequately covered for possible losses at club events and property liability loss. Motion approved for an endorsement to the liability property policy. Motion approved for an increase in the liability policy. Motion approved for an increase in the Club's bond.

MFFC Rods / Equipment. Chris Hunter is continuing to work on the sale of the old Club school rods.

Expo Chair Replacement. Joe Sprys will be stepping down as Expo chair after this year. The board discussed seeking a replacement or replacements for this position. The board would like to thank Joe Sprys for all of his efforts over the years in organizing the Expo. Jim Telinda and Mike Doyle have received a presidential appointment as co-chairs for the Expo starting with the 2017 Expo.

Visitor Comments: See above.

Adjournment

Noted Special

Recognition

A big thank you goes out to Scott Freeburg for being Johnny On The Spot and running out to purchase a missing cord (during the meeting) for the April speaker's presentation.



2015 – 2016 Officers

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March Fly Of The Month

A Classic Go To Pattern

Borcher's Drake Parachute

By Todd A. Schotts

For the April opener, I'm talking about nothing but the best, and only a dry will do. Of course this means a Parachute Borcher or Borcher's Drake Parachute.

The original Borcher's Drake was designed by Ernie Borcher back in the 1940's. Ernie was a legendary fishing guide and tyer who resided in the Grayling area. According to history he saw natural flies being taken by rising trout, so he sought to create a fly that worked as well as the real thing. After a few modifications this unique dry fly was "hatched." The pattern worked so well, word spread, and the Borcher's Special became one of the "go to," and most well known, patterns around. Even today this pattern is still one of the most used fly patterns for spring trout fishing in the Midwest.

The Borchers Drake represents a range of dark mayflies depending on the size of hook. The Parachute Borcher and Borcher's Drake Parachute is a relative to the Borchers Drake, but tied in a post pattern. The pattern evolved in the 1960's and its origins are unclear. Credit went to Art Neumann, who was one of the founding fathers of Trout Unlimited and an owner of Wanigas Rod Company. We use the Borchers Drake to represent the Hendrickson hatch, which has a 2 to 3

week life span (depending on how Mother Nature directs the symphony of wind, rain, and temperatures in the spring).

The original pattern was tied more of a Catskill style with the hackle in the up right position using feathers. However, the post pattern makes the fly a lot easier to see while the fly meanders on flowing waters. The recipe below suggests white Hi Viz for the post, but you can also use white Turkey Flats (for the traditional fly tyer). When you fish this pattern at dusk and the evening shadows start appearing on the waters, making your fly difficult to see; use pink in place of the white for the post. Another option for the pattern uses extra fine copper wire for ribbing. (I prefer to skip the wire and use Zap-A-Gap on the hook shank before I wrap the Turkey Tail toward the front. This helps to secure the materials without the extra weight.)

I hope this fly brings you many trout this spring. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Borcher's Drake



- HOOK:** Dry fly sizes 8-16 (94840)
- WING:** Hi Vis White, White Turkey Flats, or optional Pink Hi Vis.
- TAIL:** Moose Body Hair 3 pieces
- BODY:** 5 strands of turkey tail
- HACKLE:** Brown & Grizzly mixed, tied parachute
- RIB:** extra small copper wire (optional)

Michigan's Contributions

Glenn Blackwood

After our historic Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, who else should come speak, but the club's great friend, Glenn Blackwood. Glenn is a professional auctioneer, owns Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company in Rockford, Michigan, and is friends with many MFFC members. At the Expo, he had an abundance of books across from

our club booth. Oh and, if you grew up on the west side of the state, you got to watch his fly fishing shows on PBS. For me, he was important factor for getting into fly fishing & tying.

Glenn presented, not on fishing locations nor tying flies, but instead "Michigan's Contributions – Wading Through Our Fly Fishing History."

Starting out, Glenn mentioned Michigan gets passed over for our contributions to the history and essential areas of fly fishing. The east coast is known for Carrie Stevens, Art Flick, George Harvey and many more. The west coast has the famed Golden Gate Casting Cub, Winston

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March Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Bring On The Fish!

Terry Drinkwine

To help us get ready for the annual Trout Opener in April, we are bringing a well deserved tyer that will not only entice the trout with his fly, but may entice his fellow fly fishers in the club. Let's welcome for his first time as a Spotlight/Featured Tyer Terry Drinkwine to the camera and the enticing fly he will be bringing is, is none other than the Wet Hendrickson.

Here is the fishing report on Terry, he has been in the club for about 10 plus years, but he has been tying for around 40 years, most of those years were for enjoyment. Terry is retired from several vocations. He has written outdoor columns for several newspapers, the

occasional article for various magazines, and for our own newsletter in the club. Besides all of that, he has helped out with various schools and outings that our club offers. Plus, up until recently he was chairing the Club Booth at our Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

Terry will be bringing us as an old faithful fly pattern - a wet Hendrickson. I know in the months of April, May, and sometimes June, this fly resides in my fly boxes and does a great job of imitating the Hendrickson Mayfly. If you're not familiar with the Hendrickson Hatch in the spring in Michigan or even the mid-west areas, you have light and dark hatch's coming off. This hatch usually takes place in April or May in most areas, but can vary by weeks depending on how Mother Nature decides to orchestrate the season of spring. The hatch normally last 2-3 weeks (again depending on Mother Nature) and can provide some great fly fishing experiences.

So get your tools ready, bobbins slung, andddddddd TYERS start your vises to tie with an amazing writer and an extremely talented fly tyer at our MFFC April activity meeting.

Wet Hendrickson



- HOOK:** 10 – 14
- THREAD:** Gray
- TAIL:** Medium Dun Hackle Fibers
- BODY:** Muskrat Fur Dubbing
- HACKLE:** Medium Dun Hen – Collar Style
- WING:** Lemon Wood Duck

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Rods, and the Distance Casting. In all that history, Michigan is not mentioned, yet there is plenty of history from our great state, that helped shape the world of fly fishing and fly tying.

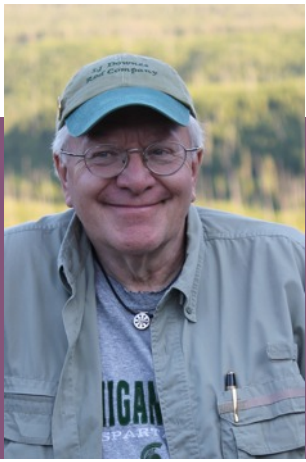
Glen mentioned we have the first successful Brown Trout Stocking in the U.S., Trout Unlimited was born on the banks of the AuSable River in July 1959 at the "Barbless Hook," Modern day Floating Line was developed by Scientific Angler in 1954 in Midland and Sinking Line in 1960. Plus, we had some of the industries' best writers such as Hemmingway, Heywood, Greenburg,

Pobst, Nick Lyons, Swisher/Richards, Travers/Volker, and many others. We also have well-known artists Ruimveld, Schlaff, DeYoung, Pleissner and more. Glen mentioned one of the most sought after, well known, and prized pieces of artwork comes from Pleissner of the "AuSable River Boat." Not to mention some of greatest craftsman: Dickerson, Young, Regan, Smock, Borchers, etc. Some of the greatest fly patterns were created in Michigan like the Adams, Rusty Spinner, Roberts Yellow Drake, the No Hackle Paradrake and Zoo Cougar to name a few.

Even with all of the aforementioned

notable individuals, Glen said probably the most important is the beginning of Trout Unlimited, the writings of Robert Traver/John Voelker, the Planting of Brown Trout, but of highest of importance are the writings of Dr. Carl Richards and Doug Swisher. Richards & Swisher's book *Selective Trout*, opened doors and minds for many people. That book was followed with others including: *Emergers*, *Fly Fishing Strategy*, and *Tying The Swishers/Richards Flies* is just to name a few.

We should all be proud of everything our great state has contributed to the world of fly fishing and tying! Thank you Glen for a interesting and eye opening evening!



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Psyche

Al The Hackleman

Set A Goal

It's amazing how time *flies* when you are having fun.

The traditional opening day of trout fishing season is just around the corner and it's about this time each year that I set a goal for the new season. Setting a goal and working to accomplish it is a thing I have been doing for the past 20 years or so. Some of the goals were easy and I accomplished them early in the season. Others were more far reaching and took lots of effort and time. All of them moved me forward as a fly fisher and I am glad I did each of them.

Let me explain, and go through some of the goals I have set for myself over the years.

Probably the first goal I remember doing was changing the way I fished. Like many fly fishers I started out fishing dry flies and enjoyed that a lot. To see the actual take of the fly was always a good experience and I still enjoy that fun sight a lot. I was tying flies for a few years with MFFC member Ron Angove and learned a lot from him. We tied some fun patterns and always tried to learn something new each time we got together. He started some nymphs and soft hackle flies, and while they were fun to tie and fun to talk about, I didn't fish them. I just loved the dry flies and while I thought about fishing the new patterns in the fly box, they languished and did not get fished. I purchased a book about soft hackle flies and another book about fishing nymphs, but just could not bring myself to tying those flies on my tippet. So one year, about this time of the year, I made a pact with myself and set a goal of fishing nymphs and soft hackles only for the entire fishing season. Yes, you read that correctly. No dry flies for the whole year. If I caught fish, it would be on nymphs and soft hackled flies, or no fish would be caught. I stuck to

the goal. I fished on my favorite streams in Alcona County. I fished on the AuSable River, and other rivers too using nothing but wet flies.

The season started off rather slow. If memory serves, I probably fished about five or six times with nothing coming to hand. But after re-reading the books and adjusting my casting and mending a bit, suddenly I was catching fish. Frankly looking at my fishing notes from that year, I think I was catching more fish than ever before. Now sometimes the fish were not friendly, but it seems like I was enjoying the new style and new patterns; I know I was not missing putting Gink of my fly all the time. By season end, my goal of learning how to fish wet flies was met, and maybe even exceeded. I fished wet flies with confidence and enjoyed the underwater take almost as much as the dry fly splashy take.

Now some of my other goals were much easier to accomplish, and probably more fun too. Quite a few times I set a goal to fish more than the previous year. This can be accomplished pretty easily. Around the metro area there are so many fishing opportunities that they cannot be counted. There was one year when I spent a lot of time on the Huron River out near Ann Arbor. It has moving water, is close to town and the Smallmouth Bass are fun to catch. Like a long time MFFC member told me, a 5 wt. rod is great for trout, and Bass too. So I tried my hand at bass fishing on the Huron River and I discovered that it's a great place to fish and hang around. Most of the river is open and easy to access. There are quite a few parks right on the banks of that river and that make it quite easy to get into the stream. Take a lunch along and enjoy the park setting while you are there.

Of course there are also a lot of nice lakes to enjoy too. A float tube is a handy item for this, and again a 5 wt. rod is perfect for the Bass and other species you will encounter. If you tie your own flies, fishing for bass and other species will open new patterns for your enjoyment too. As I read back in my fishing



notes, I see that I enjoyed a lot of visits to local lakes and ponds...and that the fishing was always good. I found that some lakes have restrictions on motor size. I frankly like that idea as it saves me from having to watch for water skiers and other such nuisances, and I felt a lot saver - that's a positive thing too.

So setting a goal each year is something I have done for quite a while now. Of course some goals are easier than others, but they can all open new ideas, new vistas, new sights and sounds to our fishing experiences. Heck, we could even set a goal to fish new kinds of fly rods, like fiberglass or cane. So here is the challenge. Sit down and think about all the fun you have had fly fishing. Think about the where and when and who you fished with. Consider the flies and rods and reels and transportation used. Think about places you have heard about, or just places you want to visit. Maybe find a new stream to fish. Rusty Gates always liked to say "follow the blue lines." So get a map, and follow the blue lines. Maybe use some modern technology like Google Earth and look for tracks out in the woods that meet up with blue lines. Or get a lake list to find lakes that are close. Or maybe not so close. Look around. Consider what would make things a new adventure and set a goal for this season. Then accomplish that goal. Enjoy the experience. Then share it with a buddy. Go fishing.

Enjoy.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Not Even Cold Can Stop

The Trout Tune Up

Thank you to all who came out to this year's Trout Tune Up. I was really surprised by how many people (35-40) attended the event.

We knew from the weather forecast that snow, sleet and temperatures in the low 30's would arrive by mid-afternoon. Mother Nature had crueler intentions and decided to start earlier, like 10 am, an hour after the event started.

Some came to fish, some for the friendship, but I think all came for the food. We had coffee and donuts in the morning and kept the coffee flowing all day long.

Unfortunately this year I lost my "Soup Nazis" due to work commitments, so I had to improvise. Pizza and wings had to do for lunch. I think everyone enjoyed them.

Most club members who fished were rewarded. The fish this year were big and responded positively to a well presented fly. Just as an example, Ken and Corey have some good stories, as do Bob and Renee.

Fly tying, and trying out new gear, was also part of the day. My new rain jacket worked great, I just hope I don't have to use it too much this year.

So after 20 plus years, another Tune Up is in the books. The fly fishing only gets better from here.

See you on the water.

Scott Freeburg

Smallie Fighters Unite

Smallmouth Outing

The Annual MFFC Smallmouth Outing is upon us May 20-22, 2016; most bass chasers on site by May 19. The cost for this years outing is same \$40 a person as last year; you have to be a club member to sign up for the outing. Once again we will call the Blue Spruce Motel and Horseshoe Cabins our base camp.

Upon writing this, I was thinking back when I resurrected the Smallmouth Outing from being dormant from the year before. This was the first time I ever ran anything resembling an outing. Add in that my fellow club members were probably reluctant from not knowing me, there was no outing the year before, and our attendance was only six or seven club members that wandered the flats. But like any outing we had a great time and feasted like royalty. Now we have grown to 50-60 attending club members, are still feasting like royalty and having many tight lines.

I want to thank my fellow club members for attending, if it wasn't for you, this outing wouldn't be what it is today. I remember coming up to Port Austin area 21 years ago to fish. You would hardly see any fly fishers wading the flats. But now I can proudly say that isn't the case.

Yet as with all good things, there is always some sad news. This years outing will be without my trusty Co-Chair, John Pattee, due to his work schedule (hopefully he will still be able to make it up to fish with us). He is passing that fly

Mayaguana

Bone Fishing

The October Bonefish Round-Up for Mayaguana, Bahamas has one opening left. Interested anglers for this or a September, November, December, January or February Round-Up should contact either Mike Scott or John Pinto. Groups are limited to (four) anglers plus the trail boss.

The cost is \$1795.00 which includes round trip flight from Nassau to Mayaguana, 6 nights lodging, 5 days of guided fishing, all meals, transportation to/from fishing areas and use of canoes and related equipment. A \$500.00 deposit is required to hold a spot. Dates are determined by best tide conditions.

line of Co-Chair to someone else. John has been such a big help in all the years he has been Co-Chair, cooking on the grill for the shore lunch, helping cook entire meals, running the whole outing when I was going through Chemo, or adding up the Chili & Soup Cook off points, plus all the other things behind the scenes proceedings. Thank you John for everything you have done, your Co-chairness will be truly missed.

So if you are interested on getting your "Bass On," see me at one of the meetings and sign-up. I will need the sign-ups funds paid no later than April 27 so I can get the shirts ordered and get everything ready for the outing.

I know I am ready to test my surgically repaired knee out and see how many tight lines I can have for this year's outing.

Hope to see you there.

Todd Schotts

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