



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May/June 2016

Where The Trout Are

By Sybil Hunter

Gary Borger, botany professor, Pennsylvania native, the first to incorporate video in the fly fishing industry, David Letterman Top 10 Look Alike, and father of Brad Pitt's butt double in the movie *The River Runs Through It*, joined the MFFC at their annual banquet mid-May.

"This is something that is a passion for me," said Borger, "I remember fishing in a mud puddle when I was four." Of course he did not catch anything, yet he loved the experience.

"Trout are a cold water species native to North America," said Borger who's next slide featured Salamon Trouta (a designation that includes Steelhead, Lake Trout, and other hybrid trout). "It has a big body and small head. The head grows according to age. The body grows according to the availability of food." He went on to explain, "Rivers protected by greenways protect fish habitat."

"Nothing can grow in pure water." Life requires nutrients delivered by the water. "If we didn't have bogs, we'd lose our Brook Trout. We used to have five to eight pound Brook Trout," said Borger. "Michigan was the first state in the U.S. to get Brook Trout."

"If we think about what's happened historically...we fish for introduced



(non-native) species."

"Lake states are very, very susceptible to acid precipitation (snow and rain). Acid snow floods lakes and rivers in the early spring...young fish and lakes are especially susceptible."

For this reason, Trout Unlimited vehemently fought the Yellowstone River Dam; it was designated as "flood control" for an area that never flooded.

The real purpose of the dam was to pipe water into Wyoming to run coal burning plants. The water diverted to the hydro plants would fuel the coal burning facilities that release high levels of sulfur coal, which when burned creates sulfuric acid. Everything west of Wyoming (including Michigan) would be subject to the sulfuric acid due to prevailing wind and weather patterns. That would kill the

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MFFC Calendar



June 8, 2016

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Kevin Breen

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

July 13, 2016

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Bob Miller

Topic: Great Lakes Basin Fish
William M. Costic Center
Farmington, 7:30 p.m.

July 30, 2016

MFFC Picnic

Multi Lakes Conservation Assoc.
Commerce Township

August 10, 2016

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Anthony Mule

Topic: Fishing Lake St. Clair
William M. Costic Center
Farmington, 7:30 p.m.



More to come! ->

Great Lakes. “We stopped it, not for the dam, but for what they wanted to do with the water after the dam. You *gotta* be on your toes,” said Borger.

“Yellowstone Park was the first National Park on Earth. Yellowstone River is the longest un-damed river in the United States,” said Borger. “But the Army Corp of Engineers has dam plans set for every river in the United States.” You gotta be on your toes.

Notice how the salmon population has decreased? Opening up the Great Lakes water ways to international cargo ships started this trend. “The zebra mussels are cleaning up the food sources, ending the salmon population. That all happened in *two* years.”

“If there is no food source, there are no fish,” Borger pointed out. “Pink Salmon, they were a mistake. All they are doing is consuming the food source of the native species.”

In Alaska there is a designated Escapement Period placing a temporary moratorium on commercial fishing of spawning Sockeye Salmon running up stream. “Once the commercial fishers show up, want to guess how many fish go upstream?” Asked Borger. “None.” Not only are we losing the fish, but animals upstream are losing their food source.

Poor resource management is truly a problem. The average size trout in Yellowstone river was 18 inches. Over 10 years, that dropped to 14 inches, all because of park management. The first superintendent allowed park visitors to catch ten fish per family member. The next superintendent was a fly fisherman, insisting on catch and release - the population recovered. Then came a superintendent who dumped Lake Trout that ate all of the native trout in Yellowstone Lake. The park is still

actively working to diminish the Lake Trout population.

Just down from the Yellowstone River, is the famous San Juan River. Water temps are 44 degrees year around because of a cold bottom draw dam. “It is a nutrient rich water draw,” said Borger. “Now they control the flow to keep active spawning.” And that famous San Juan worm? It mimics a real worm. Gary Borger introduced it around the country.

Jack Hemingway (yes, the famous Ernest Hemingway’s son) bought and turned land over to the Nature Conservancy. There are now 36 miles of river under management of the Nature Conservancy, preserving strips of land on both sides of the river. “Productive waters need foliage,” said Borger. “This is a real tribute and monument to what can be done when we all work together.”

You gotta stay on your toes.

“Of the world’s water, only 3% of the world’s water is fresh water. 20% of that 3% is in a Russian Lake. 20% of what’s left over, is in the Great Lakes - Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario,” said Borger. “Less than one thousandths of one percent (<0.001%) is fresh water in streams. One ten millionth of one percent is in Trout streams.”

“Trout are the canaries in the mine.”

“As soon as pollutants, acid, enter the water system - Trout die,” said Borger. “The cold water is not only important to Trout, 50% of private wells in the United States are polluted above the EPA minimum standards. The City of Albuquerque has fallen in elevation because of the permanent draining of the aquifer below it. There is fracking (where the water is never usable again.)”

All of us need the Trout,” said Borger. “Because all of us need the places where the Trout are.”

Members On The Hook

Fly Tying With Gary





MFFC Business

Tight lines this summer

Noted Special

Recognition

By Sybil Hunter

“I’m gonna cry,” said this year’s heart-felt recipient of the prestigious Howard Gellar Volunteer of the Year Award, “It is *such* an honor!”

Well Happy Birthday Mike Doyle! “Howard was my adopted family,” said Mike, “He knew all the kids and extended family....their birthdays...” The Gellar’s attended Doyle gatherings and the Doyle’s attended Gellar gatherings.

Another amazing guy, Mike, follows in Howard’s footsteps....kind, kid focused, always happy, always positive, and an extremely diligent volunteer. Volunteering makes him genuinely happy.

In 2016, Mike chaired merely three outings. Merely. (Speaking to him, he sounded sincerely upset he had not managed to do more.)

After tons of agonizing, and copious amounts of pontificating, Mike decide to let go of leading those three events this year. Even the letting go process was given tremendous amounts of thought. “I lead,” said Mike. “Then I take on someone to help,” but first he makes sure they are willing to lead

later. “I let my helper lead....I help the lead....and watch the positive grow.”

Frank Kunick officially chairs the next Dick Shott New Members Outing, Chris Hunter, now chairs the Members School. Len Dixon and Steve Selinger now co-chair the Youth School event. In true Mike form, he had nothing but praise to share with everyone.

“It was probably the best one ever!” Mike said regarding the May fourteenth Youth School alone, “It was over filled this year!”

Even when life throws him a curve ball like when the Dick Shott New Members outing guide came down with the flu, Mike said he knew it would all work out somehow, and it did.

When queried about the banquet, “Last year I remember driving 90 miles per hour down the highway on my birthday to make the MFFC banquet,” recalled Mike. “It is *that* important.” Mike admitted fracturing speed laws was probably not the *best* plan, so he took this year off. (May is an innately family intensive birthday month for the Doyles.)

On that note, what is there left to say? Nothing but thanks!



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June Fly Of The Month

The Bees Knees

Murdich Minnow

By Todd A. Schotts



Image: Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1670525>

For the June fly of the Month we are heading back to the warm water arena, with a pattern that was originally designed to fish Strippers in Saltwater, but has taken the Midwest by storm for fishing warm water species. The fly is the “Murdich Minnow.”

Originally created by Bill Murdich it has a foggy time frame so to when it was created. But about 9 years ago or so, this pattern was starting to be found around the Midwest for fishing various warm water species. Aside from this well known pattern, Bill also designed the Murdich Wiggler, another great pattern if you are targeting warm water species. Both of these patterns can be found through Umpqua Feather Merchants and various fly shops. I know from being a bass junky, this pattern is like that old saying “it’s the bee’s knees” and should be in your fly box at all times.

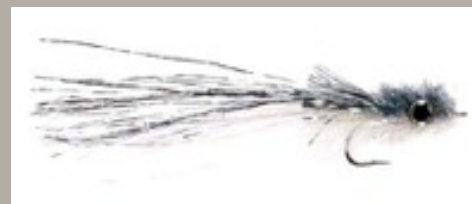
One nice thing about this pattern, is that depending on which colors it is tied in, it can resemble many different types of minnow species that are in the watersheds you may target. Remember when you are tying this pattern, it is

considered a subsurface type of a pattern; it doesn’t get down to the bottom in the water column. Keep in mind, there are two ways of tying this fly. One way is as the recipe listed on this page, or the other way is to tie it with a large head area.

When fishing this pattern it cast easily, swims extremely well, and has a very typical minnow profile and can cover a lot of water. This pattern can be stripped fast, or slowly over structure. However you present this pattern, the results are usually the same, hard hitting strikes. And as with most patterns without any weight, you can get this down into the water column by fishing on intermediate, sink tip, or full sinking line. Smallmouth Bass like this pattern as well as any species that enjoy minnow meals, such as Large Mouth Bass, White Bass, Pike, Trout, Musky, or Steelhead.

If you are planning on having tight lines while chasing a species of fish that enjoy the fine dining of minnows, then make room in your boxes for this pattern. Until next month Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Murdich Minnow



HOOK: TMC8089NP, Mustad 3366, Allen Hooks B200, sizes 10 through 3/0

THREAD: White 6/0 or 140 Denier thread

TAIL: Silver Flashabou over white Bucktail with pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash

COLLAR: Silver Flashabou over white Ice Fur

BODY/HEAD: Pearl Estaz, top colored with cool gray Pantone pen. If needed, use underbody of white medium chenille for bulk

EYES: Silver, Red, or Pearl molded or 3D eyes, size 5.0

FLY FISHING



Kevin Breen- June Speaker



May Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

The Super Secret Flies Of

Mel Spresney

To wrap up our Spotlight/Featured Tyer until September, I decided to have another tyer that hasn't been under the spotlight of the camera. The flies he brought us will have the fish jump right onto your flies and in your nets. Let's welcome Mel Spresney, our Spotlight/Featured Tyer.

Here is the fishing report on Mel in case you don't know who he is. Mel became a member in the mid '90's. He was active in tying flies with kids at the Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama with the club for several years. Also an instructor of the Boy Scout School he works in the fly casting area catching fish. In the spring of 2015, he can claim that all the scouts caught a fish and all but one on a fly he tied. Out of all the years that I worked with this school, no one else can

claim that distinction. Besides teaching kids tying and fly fishing, he is a regular at the club's Annual Smallmouth Outing since 2008. Mel took advantage of the club's resources by going on many charters with the varied club presentation speakers including: Brad Petzke; Jim Johnson in Alaska (where he landed five Pacific Salmon) and Belize (where his record was 5 of 15 bonefish); and various other guides, states, and waters.

Mel will be brought us two different patterns that will have the Smallmouth jumping out of the water to eat them. They'd likely chase our flies' boxes if we tossed them in! At time of writing this, I didn't get the high security clearance for the recipes for these 2 flies, but after some Marine Corps Recon work I got a couple of top secret pictures to share if you come see me. The top secret recipes were released at the meeting along with the materials and how to fish them.

Interested tyers of these two top secret flies got them at the May fourth activities meeting slinging bobbins with Mel. They are sworn to secrecy. Tight lines and snazzy super secret flies.

Specialty Fly



- HOOK:** *classified*
- THREAD:** *classified*
- TAIL:** *classified*
- BODY:** *classified*
- HACKLE:** *classified*
- WING:** *classified*

June Speaker

Kevin Breen

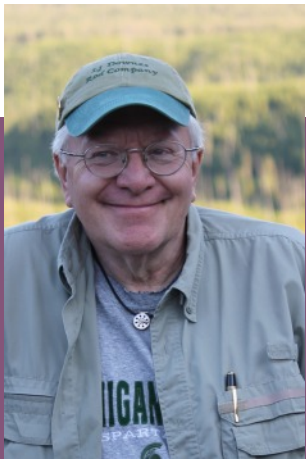
Catching that first Bullhead at age four cemented Kevin's fixation for fishing at an early age. Kevin was from a fly fishing family, so fishing was inevitable. His father helped him along by giving Kevin his first fly rod, a Berkley Cherrywood. From fishing, Kevin's experimentation continued with hook and feather. This

passion of tying and fishing led Kevin to some of best streams in the country - to test his tying skills of course.

Kevin has fished some of the best waters in the country including the high mountain streams of Colorado and famed streams of Montana. These experiences fanned the fires of his heart for fishing, but he always remains faithful to the lakes and streams of his home state of Michigan, with numerous streams and almost unlimited opportunity to explore new waters.

With all of his travels, both inside Michigan and out, Kevin's favorite haunts are still the Huron, Flint, Grand AuSable and Manistee.

When he isn't fishing, Kevin takes advantage of his day time position as a High School teacher and track coach to share his passion for fly fishing with others. Kevin is our first Summer speaker and will be sharing his experience of fishing local waters for smallmouth bass on June 8th at the Costick Center 7:30pm.



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Phool

Al The Hackleman

Summer Blues

Oh boy, its finally summer. Now for some real fishing stories.

Summer is the time for fishing and one thing I love about The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is that we don't care what you fish for, just so long as your use a fly rod and fly. That being said, let's think about all the opportunities we have here in our wonderful state.

First off, there is always fishing for trout. Probably the first idea that comes to all our minds is just getting north and wading in one of our many trout streams. No matter if it's the AuSable, the Black, the Pigeon or any one of the hundreds of trout streams, trout is probably the first fish we think of during summer.

But it's not only about trout. Did I just say that?

It's about any fish that swims in our rivers or lakes. Our club offers a Smallmouth Bass outing, it's well attended and always a great time. Smallies are great catches that are fun to hold and admire. A whole different type of fly is needed for these predators and we have members that will share and even teach you how to tie some smallie flies. So consider putting them on your list for this summer. And, if you enjoy Smallmouth Bass you gotta get a float tube. All of a sudden a whole now realm

of fishing possibilities opens up. From the local little pond to larger lakes, they all have fish to catch and fun to be shared. If you prefer stream fish there is the Huron River just west of town that houses a huge number of fish and is easy to get to with lots of access in the park system. Give it a try and enjoy the evening.

If you fish from a float tube, I suggest you also consider Bluegill, Crappie and other fish of that ilk. They fight better than any trout and will really put a bend in your fly rod. Again, they take a different type of fly than trout, so some education is needed. But again, we have members that fish for those hungry fish and will share how and when and what to use to have a great time with all those fish. They can also be caught right from the bank on many ponds and lakes around the state, so add these fish to your list too.

I can remember a few years ago, we had a guest speaker come in and talk about a fish that really tweaked my imagination. Some folks love to catch big fish, fish that can weigh 10 pounds or more, like Salmon and Steelhead. And some folks enjoy catching fish with bottom feeding mouths like Bonefish. Some folks like catching fish with large scales, fish like Tarpon. Put those things together and we come up with heavy fish with big scales and bottom feeding mouths. Well guess what, we have those fish right here in Michigan. Carp. Yes, Carp. They get huge in the big waters. They feed on the bottom and they have big scales. I have added Carp to my fishing list. They need special flies too.

Have I mentioned Pike and other

toothy critters? Well they eat flies too, they grow big and are voracious eaters. Be careful around those teeth. You might need a bigger hemostat for these guys.

So enough with the whetting of appetites. Put these species on your list for this summer.

Get out there and fish.

Let the adventure begin.

See you in the fall.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

MFFC's Youth School 2016

Mission Accomplished

By Len Dixon

On Saturday, May 7, with rain in the forecast, eleven club member-sponsored youth, along with their volunteer mentors and accompanying adults, gathered at MSU's Tollgate Learning Center for the 2016 Youth School. The youth age range was seven to fifteen. Almost half of the youth were returning from the 2015 Youth School.

Students were instructed in the basics - an introduction to our sport, the importance of conservation/etiquette, and the minimal amount of equipment needed to fly fish. They also learned about what fish eat and how to imitate fish food with flies. Terry Herron taught students how to tie two different flies that later proved to be very successful in catching fish. Mike Doyle followed with assembling basic fly fishing gear. Mike Miller

finished the instruction phase with fly casting - forward and roll. At every step in the instruction, club mentors guided the students to ensure the information was understood.

The forecast for rain was not realized and students/mentors headed to the pond. While the wind presented challenges to new casters, it did not keep the flies off the water. Some fish were caught immediately and others took more time to catch their first fish. Eventually, all students caught fish, with some into double digits. Bass, bluegill, and especially crappie came to hand. Given the size of a couple of "boils" as flies were stripped, there is no doubt some large fish were missed.

Memories were certainly made by some of the students. Several of the after-action reports by mentors and sponsors indicated students were getting "fired-up" to go fly fishing. THANK YOU to all club volunteers - Cesaro, Gudich, Holly, Isgrigg, Keller, Park, Rippon, Sattler, Weakley - and instructors, as previously mentioned, for fostering both the interest and skill of these young anglers. Plant the seed, cultivate the skill, and watch it grow.

2016 Dick Schott Outing

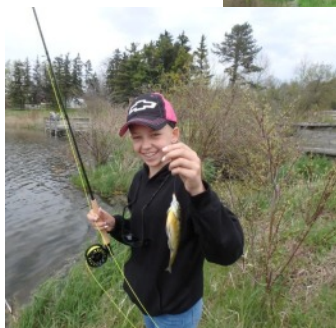
Good Fishing

By Steve Selinger

Another May and 22 MFFC members make the trip north to "Lightning on the Water", aka Wa Wa Sum, on the Holy Waters in Grayling. From May 11 through May 14, the members gathered at the Wa Wa Sum lodge to learn the "best" fishing spots on the North and Main branches of the River, to share the camaraderie of the participants, to dine on the best GFS has to offer, and my favorite, to sit on the Wa Wa Sum porch and watch the night fall (a little beverage helps).

This year we had 15 new and returning members attend. Wednesday night was our "meet and greet" hamburger and brat barbecue. After dinner some went fishing and were greeted by a good spinner fall, the rest of us enjoyed the great porch. Thursday and Friday were spent with the usual guided trips to the various fishing spots on the North and Main branches, the local fly shops, afternoon fishing, fine dinners, and then local speakers and the more fishing or porching. Speakers included talks by local summer students on the Kirkland Warbler; Josh Greenberg on the latest info on the "Fish Hatchery Suit" and of course Gates Lodge; and Kevin Gardiner, Wa Wa Sum - the caretaker of, history of, and legends of in the Grayling area. Luckily the weather cooperated with only light showers until Saturday when we had to leave.

Finally, I would like to thank all the experienced members who support this event. Especially Frank, Dale, Pat, and Vince for their expertise in the kitchen, Terry and Artie our experts on the river and fishing, and last but not least, Mike Doyle who was leading his last new member outing.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Royal Oak HS Fly Fishing Club

Year End Update

By James Hutton

The Royal Oak High School Fly Fishing Club had a second successful year! Although some of the founding members are graduating in June, a new class will soon join when we have our Raven Rally in the Fall. The Raven Rally is a student council event where students learn about, and sign up for, clubs and activities.

Over the past school year, some of the club activities included tying the infamous Woolly-Bugger, Prince Nymph, Mickey-Finn, Clouser and Parachute Adams flies. Other meetings include a fish-themed Holiday party, charity car wash, presentations on fish habitat, casting lessons and trip planning.

We took trips to Brookhaven, Sylvan-Glen Lake, and an outing to Harsens's Island that was featured on Michigan Out of Doors. We hope to squeeze in one more trip before school gets out!

The students truly enjoyed the big MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, especially those who like the atmosphere of the club, yet are a tad leery about fly-fishing. Raffling off the rod at the MFFC sponsored Expo student booth is the main fundraiser supporting our activities. Additionally, the Expo gave us an opportunity to connect with the fly fishing community, and companies who were super supportive.

Grants provided by the MFFC allowed our group to purchase fly-tying



vises in 2015, and waders for students to use on our outings in 2016. We truly appreciate the commitment of the club for getting us on the right path.

The livelihood of our group though, could not have taken place if it was not for the many MFFC members who regularly volunteered their time on outings, and club meetings. Bill Shannon is the MFFC Liaison to the ROHSFFC who coordinates with Jim Hutton, our teacher advisor.

Member Outing

Opening Day

By Chris Hunter

Opening Day, 2016. Another historic day in Grayling at the Boardroom at Gates' Ausable Lodge with record Club member participation. The weather held out, as did the Bloody Mary's and Mimosa (and coffee and water). Food was a plenty and fellowship was in full stride. Al Haxton led our remembrance of members who are now fishing in the great trout stream in the sky. Michigan Out of Doors was in attendance, and if you listen

carefully you can hear a cameo by Eric Center - "Stay out of my spot!!!"

Following our traditional remembrance, many gathered at Dam Four for more food and fellowship. Some of our Club Members even went fishing, including yours truly. Some Members actually caught fish, but those people shall remain nameless. (Mainly because everyone I was fishing with caught fish - but not me.) Our traditional "Cast off to the Death" went smoothly, once we were able to move the canoes and dogs from the fishing area. Peter Albertson wowed the gathered members with his casting skills, and although he won this year's contest, he did not catch a fish. Meanwhile Joyce Haxton, this year's non-winner, did her best (worst) casting and wound up catching a fish, on a backcast nonetheless. The poor unfortunate fish, clearly confused by Joyce's casting style, nearly lost its life to V.P. (now President) Scott Freeberg in his madcap attempt to net the fish in a manner which would rival any Gilbert & Sullivan production dance number. Those who could not handle the excitement were fortunate to have the MCF sponsored porta-potty close at hand. It is days and times like this which remind us why our Club is so important.

If you were unable to join us this year, please find time to come to Grayling and experience the Trout Opener in person. You will cherish the memories, and you will come away with a much deeper appreciation of not only our Club, but our Club's promise to promote conservation.

You can see video from the event at Michigan Out of Doors Show #1620, starting at minute 7:10. Go to <http://www.michiganoutofdoorstv.com/shows.cfm?VideoID=406> for the video.