



*The Evening*

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

APRIL 2014

## Time to Get Mystified

By Todd A. Schotts

Our April speaker meeting brought us a very good friend of the club, Dennis Klein from Mystic Rods - amazing, unique, and awesome. Klein got started when he was 11 years old building his very first fly rod. With this type of craftsmanship and knowledge, I was pretty excited when Dennis coming to our club to talk on "What Makes a Great Fly Rod." This is something all of us can gain knowledge from that will help in the future.

Mystic Rods is located in Portland, Michigan between some of the best smallmouth fishing areas; they are situated between the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers. The company was founded in 2005 and has been very successful. Their design is top of the line, with excellence in rod tapers, double locking reel seats, high grade reel seats, high grade cork handles, and a very high level of craftsmanship.

The night was a learning experience as to what to look for in a fly rod. We heard about snake guides, stripper guides, cork with little voids, the three things you want to look for when purchasing a fly rod, and how to gauge different rod actions.

The first three things you want to look for when purchasing a fly rod are: (1) casting, (2) line control, and (3) striking or landing a fish. For casting, if you have a good fly rod and a good combination of casting skill you will be able to lay the fly down without spooking the fish. The next big function of a fly rod is line control. This happens once the fly is presented to the fish on the water, it is how you are able to control the fly as it is floating (dry fly) or sinking (streamer, wet fly, or nymph). The last thing you need to consider is the striking or landing of a fish.

Your fly rod is used to both set the hook and to fight/land the fish. The rod needs to be flexible and strong enough to bend under great pressure without breaking. However, there are always those unfortunate moments when a fly rod meets with a car door, ceiling fan, your foot, etc.

The next three areas of concern to look for when purchasing rods should be the three types of fly rod actions. The three actions are: (1) fast action or tip-flex fly rods, (2) medium action or mid-flex fly rods, and (3) slow action or full-flex fly rods. The action refers to the flexibility of the rod. If you take the fast action rod, the stiffness of the rod allows for more power. For example, fishing on a windy day you would have to work less to cast the same distance as with a slow action rod. The medium action rods are probably the most versatile. They have a lot of great factors. For example, they are easier to learn to fish with and perform in a wide variety of conditions. The slow action rods are very flexible. The best places for a slow action rod is on a small stream. But remember, pick out the action that best fits your level of casting, and how it feels when you cast. Not all actions are suitable for everyone.

With these six basic things to look for when you are interested in purchasing a new fly rod, you will be on the correct path for great rewards in casting, presenting your fly, and landing that fish of a life time. Thanks Dennis for taking the time to come to our club and mystifying us with all this great fly rod information.

If you are interested in purchasing a Mystic Rod, or have questions you can contact Mystic Rods, LLC at 248-672-9375 or check out their website at: [www.mysticoutdoors.com](http://www.mysticoutdoors.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**May 7, 2014**  
**PreBanquet Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**May 21, 2014**  
**MFFC Annual Banquet**  
Italian American Hall  
Livonia, 5:30 p.m.

**June 11, 2014**  
**Speaker Meeting:**  
**Speaker: TBD**  
**Topic: TBD**  
Costick Center

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## 2014 Michigan Fly Fishing Club's Youth School

The school is for children ages 7 through 16. It will be held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Michigan State University Toll Gate Center located on Meadowbrook at 12 Mile Rd. in Novi Michigan. There is no cost for the school and all dues paying members may sponsor children for the school. Children in the noted age range may attend the school yearly.

The school's goal is to provide an enjoyable and positive fly fishing experience for children while educating them in five primary aspects of fly

fishing: streamside safety and etiquette, fly rods, reels, and lines, casting, fly tying, and fishing. Participants will tie a streamer and a dry fly that they will actually fish and catch fish with in the afternoon.

Our instructors are club members who are avid fly fishers and are eager to share their talents and knowledge with youngsters who will someday join us in our favorite fishing holes.

Lemonade and a box lunch will be provided to participants.

Sign up is open and will continue through April 25, 2014 or until all available slots are filled. To sign up please contact Michael Doyle at a club meeting or the following email address: [miketheflyguy@gmail.com](mailto:miketheflyguy@gmail.com).

## 2014 Michigan Fly Fishing Club Annual Banquet

The annual Michigan Fly Fishing Club Banquet will be held on Wednesday May 21, 2014 at the Italian American Hall on Five Mile Road (by I-275) in Livonia. The banquet speaker will be Pat Dorsey. Many fine door prizes and special members only prizes will be awarded.

The cost is \$40 per person with a cash bar available. Meal selections are: 8 oz. New York Strip, Chicken Piccata or Salmon Siciliano. Tickets will be available at club meetings beginning March 19.

Also, in the early afternoon preceding the banquet, a special fly tying session will be conducted by Pat Dorsey. A separate fee and sign-up sheet will be available at club meetings for this additional event.

### Banquet Agenda

**5:30 to 6:30 PM Arrival & social hr**  
**6:15 to 7:15 PM Door Prize Drawing**  
**50/50 Ultimate Drawing entries**  
**7:15 PM Dinner begins**  
**Continue 50/50 Drawing Entries**  
**Continue Door Prize Drawing**  
**8:00 PM Introductions and Remarks**  
**50/50 Drawing Award**  
**8:10 PM Guest Speaker: Pat Dorsey**

A native of Colorado, Pat has been guiding for over 20 years. He spends around two hundred days a year on the water, enjoying a unique quality of life both personally and professionally. In addition, Pat is Guide Director and partner in the Blue Quill Angler fly shop. He oversees and trains more than two dozen guides and helps to set the standard for integrity and professionalism in the Blue Quill Angler guide operation. Pat, also, writes the central Rocky Mountain stream report that monitors stream flows and conditions on the Blue, Colorado, South Platte (Cheesman, Deckers, Spinney Mountain Ranch, and Elevenmile Canyon), North Fork of the South Platte, and Williams Fork rivers.

Pat is proud to be a **Simms Guide Ambassador** and a member of the **Sage Fly Rods Advisory Team**. Pat is the *Southwest Field Editor* for **Fly Fisherman Magazine**.

Authored Books include: *A Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River; Fly Fishing Tailwaters; and Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies*  
**8:45 PM Special Members Only Door Prize Drawing**

## Coming this August!

Remember to attend the MFFC annual picnic! Held at Multi Lakes recreation area, there is good food, camaraderie, a casting competition, and lake fishing. Come join us!



## Traditions Of Opening Day

By Chris Hunter

Opening day. I could be cliché - "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I could be sentimental - "I remember when..." Not much more need be said, but there are volumes which need to be written. Opening day is truly a time when the Michigan Fly Fishing Club shines. More than 100 members gathered in the Boardroom at Gate's Au Sable Lodge to celebrate, remember, and honor our members, past, present and future. The familiar faces of Carol and Joe Sprys and Eric Center were behind the bar making sure everyone was well hydrated, and Al Haxton was at the front of the room to deliver his yearly address. Al reminded us of our history and those who have gone before. He reminded us why we meet every year as a Club instead of simply going to the river to fish alone or with a few others. We meet because many years ago, several women in our club, among them Kathy Gross, decided we should do more than fish on Opening Day. We now honor their tradition every year, and their tradition has

now become club tradition. Everyone present had a story to tell, and these stories will become our future. The day was not much for fishing, but it was wonderful for fellowship. Each year our Club celebrates this wonderful day, regardless of (and sometimes despite) the weather, and every year I am reminded how lucky I am to be a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. For those of you who could not join us, I would encourage you to come, and enjoy the wonders of opening day. For my part, I did have a rod in hand, with a reel borrowed from Peter Albertson. I did manage to get the line in the river and make a few casts - although I must admit there was no fly at the end of the line. Catching a fish was not important. Several other members joined in and tried out the rod. This is what was important - the fellowship of opening day. Many of the stories from opening day are not suitable for print, but they will be remembered and told for years to come. Just ask Skeeter how he got his nickname, or Kevin about "Hey lady...." Thanks to everyone who made the drive to Grayling for Opening Day, it was truly a memorable experience, and I am already looking forward to next year.

## Long Live The Queen

By John Pinto

While scrolling through the internet the other day I came across a review for a new book called *Behind the Smile: Sex, Humor & Terror during the Glamour Years of Aviation*. The author is Bobbi Phelps Wolverton. I remembered her as just Bobbi Wolverton, from years past, we would meet and get entirely crazy at the Fly Tackle Dealer Shows in Denver during the 1990's. Sadly, we have all moved on to other endeavors, but at that time Bobbi was without a doubt regarded as the uncontested queen of the fly fishing industry.

Bobbi was married to Mike Wolverton at the time and they lived on a large farm in Idaho growing - what else! - potatoes. Mike is a high-profile saltwater fly fisherman who has harassed many billfish in places like Mexico and Guatemala. And... Mike's father was the original Marlboro Man - the cowboy you have seen in the advertisements forever.

Bobbi, who owned the Angler's Calendar, would set up a booth at the Fly Tackle Dealer Show and always brought huge potatoes from her farm to give away. They must have weighed three pounds each. She also brought her two workers from the calendar company - Karen and Carol - two country girls who couldn't wait to come to this show and get off their farms for a few days. A gang of us found a great bar in Aurora, Colorado where the gathering crowd on a Saturday night was at least thirty-five years old and the disc jockey played great old rock-n-roll songs. He always

ended the evening with Billy Joel's *Only the Good Die Young* and it was all we could do to get Carol and Karen down off the tables. One year, Jorge Graciosi, the famous trout guide from Argentina, came with us and brought three other Argentinians with him. The Denver girls just swooned over these handsome Latinos as they danced the entire night away. I wasn't quick or smart enough to write down their great pick-up lines. Whatever they said, it worked in Denver.

The night before the show opened Bobbi always held her "invitational" dinner for friends and assorted members of the fly fishing industry. This is where I met people in the trade like Mike Michalak from the Fly Shop in Redding, California and renewed friendships with Gary Loomis, Steve Rajeff and Larry Dahlberg. It was during the set up on the day before the show that I was standing in the aisle of the exhibition hall talking with Bobbi and trying not to drop a three-pound potato she had given me. Bobbi was making sure I was attending her dinner that evening when a man walked past us. Bobbi blurted out, "Oh Chico. Are you coming tonight to the dinner?" The man responded positively and walked on.

"Was that Chico Fernandez?" I asked. Bobbi confirmed that it was.

"Geez! I've always wanted to meet him," I replied.

That night I arrived at basement of the restaurant where the dinner was being held. Bobbi always assigned seats to everyone so that the personalities meshed, and the conversations stayed at a feverish

pitch. I took my seat, ordered a drink, and began yapping with those around me. There was an empty seat next to me. Bobbi brought Chico Fernandez over and seated him by me. As she walked away, she turned to Chico and said, "Watch out for him, Chico. He knows the Bahamas better than you!"

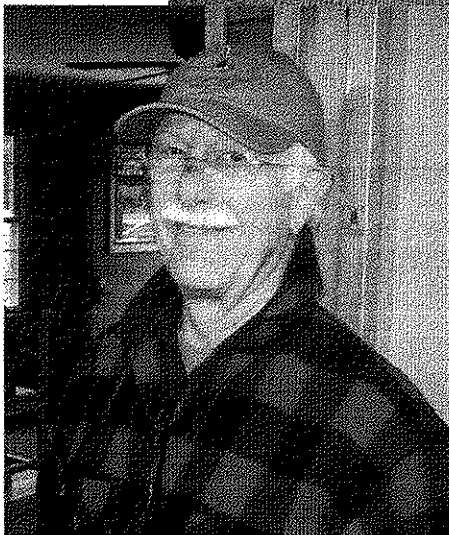
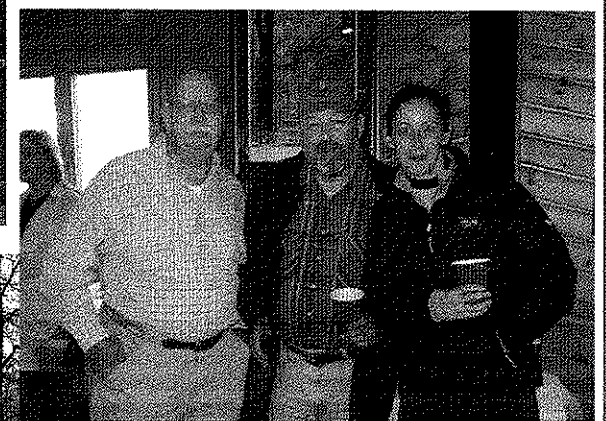
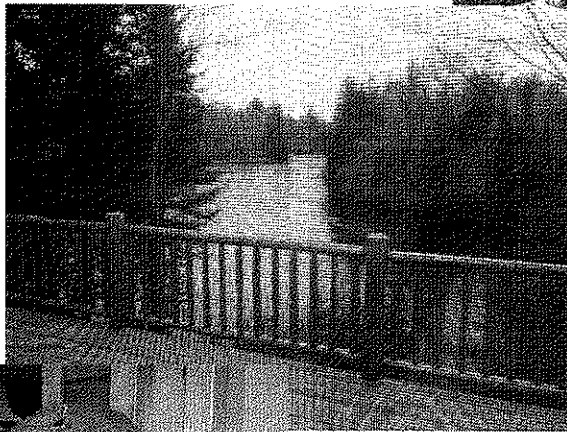
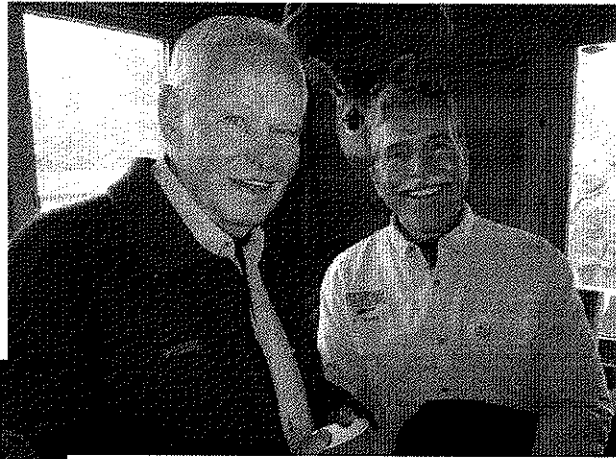
What a lead in! Chico and I talked all night about bonefishing in the Bahamas and then he took me to a little Latin bar he knew where we talked until last call. We are good friends to this day.

But Bobbi takes a back seat to nobody when it comes to adventures. In her younger days she was a flight attendant (stewardess) for Pan Am. She had worked long enough to earn enough points to fly around the world. She coaxed a girl friend of hers to come with her on her round-the-world jaunt and their first stop was Cairo, Egypt - the very day the 6-Day War broke out with Israel. Bobby and her girl friend were on their hotel balcony overlooking a city square where they were burning Israeli and American flags. Fearing for the lives, the owner of the hotel smuggled Bobbi and her friend out of Cairo in his car trunk.

The girl friend caught the next plane she could find heading back to the U.S. And Bobbi, undaunted by all of this, hitchhiked across the African continent to Cape Town, South Africa....by herself!

Bobbi is remarried now, living near Washington D.C. and has taken up writing. I wish her nothing but the best and will buy her book. I'll always remember the good times in Denver and I feel honored that I personally know the Queen of Fly Fishing.

## Opening Day 2014 Photo Submissions



This month's photo submissions credits include: Mystic Rods website, Spencer Vanderhoof & Chris Hunter.

# Michigan Fly Fishing Club Minutes

## February 2014

Call To Order - Dan Finstad - 7:29pm

Roll Call: Hunter; Finstad; Center; Freeburg; Scott; Schotts; Doyle; Vanderhoff; Nowicki-A; Kramer-A

Approval Of Minutes Moved Doyle- Second Vanderhoff

Approval Of Agenda Modified And Approved - Moved Scott - Second Freeburg

### Officers Reports

#### President - Hunter

1. Public School April 5, 2013 And People Needed To Man Booth At Expo
  2. Jim Telinda To Do Banquet
- Motion To Accept - Doyle - Second Scott

#### Vice President - Finstad

No Report

#### Treasurer - Freeburg

1. April 6th Is the Trout Tune Up At Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center  
The Yurt has Been Rented. Need Receipt For Check Request Or Estimate Before Check Can Be Written.
  2. Need Information On Booth Rental Income
- Approval Of Report - Motion Doyle - Second Vanderhoff

#### Corresponding Secretary - Doyle

- March 20th Speaker Cancelled And New speaker Needs To Be Found  
Members School Is Filled  
Approval Of Report Motion Scott - Second Schotts

#### Events & Outings

1. Member School February 16th
2. The Director Of The Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center Where Trout Tune Up Is Held, Is Stuart Riley.
3. Proposal For The MFFC To Participate In Proud Lake Adventure Day In Partnership With DNR And Walled Lake School And Education Center.  
No Charge For Booth And The Date is August 17, 2013.  
Motion To Participate And Find Chair. Motion Schotts - Second Scott
4. New Event Chair Tabled.

#### New Business

1. Brochures And Calendar Samples Shown And Request For Pricing On Brochure Was Made By Board.
2. Peter Albertson Talked About Certified Fly Fishing Program And The Need To Stress That The Program Includes All Aspects Of Fly Fishing Not Just Casting.
3. Ultimate Fishing Show Contact Has Trout Pond Which Might Be Used For Youth School.

#### Old Business

1. Link On Web Site - Hunter To Investigate
2. Public School Has Low Sign Up To Help. Board Will Make Request To Members For Assistance

Adjourned - 9:17 pm Motion Vanderhoff - Second Center

**2014 Banquet**

**Wednesday May 21,  
2013**

**Tickets available  
now**

**Still Only \$40**

**Doors Open @ 5:30 PM**

**Dinner Served @ 7:00 PM**

**See Jim Telinda at**

**Meetings**

**or e-mail him at**

**[jtelinda@aol.com](mailto:jtelinda@aol.com)**

**Speaker this year:**

**Pat Dorsey**

**Food Choices:**

**8 oz. New York Strip; Salmon Siciliano;**

**Chicken Piccata**

**Door Prizes Galore**

*Rods, Reels, Populated Fly Boxes, &*

*Fly Fishing Stuff you can't imagine*

**50/50 Ultimate Drawing**

**52 Card Deck sale for custom**

**Bamboo Rod**

Livonia, MI 48153

P.O. Box 530861

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB