



*The Evening*

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

JANUARY 2014

## Whitetail Down!

Submitted by Todd A. Schotts

Life is all about the adventure. This is about an adventurous trek that most of us in the MFFC have made down Highway 23 into Sylvania, Ohio (north of Toledo) to purchase our amazing fly tying materials and visit a close friend of the club. These treks will become fond memories as the month of March draws to a close in 2014.

Another world class fly shop will soon close. The famed and internationally known Whitetail Fly Tying will officially close its doors as of the end of March. Chris' remaining materials will continue on toward the Windy City (Chicago) to a new home in the beginning of April.

I know many of us have a lot of memories after heading down to Whitetail Fly Tying; the stories we heard, the purchases we made and how much we spent. Aside from the usual, "How much did you spend this time?" from my fly tying comrades, my best memories are from taking a newbie with me and watching their face as they go through the most amazing tying materials one will ever see in a single place.

If you have never been down to Chris Helm's shop, it is in the basement of his house. Now don't think that this is a small fly shop since it is in a basement of a house. On the contrary, that is farthest from the truth. I have to admit, it is probably one of the best stocked shops I have ever seen. You can see the awe in their eyes as a newbie enters the first time. It's like watching a kid in a candy store or opening presents on Christmas morning.

The funniest memory from Chris' shop happened quite a few years ago. The famed Fish Mobile loaded up and headed down highway 23, along with a co-pilot who spent way too much time preparing. He had his checkbook and credit card with him,



*Chris Helm of Whitetail Fly Tying, Sylvania, OH*

and "forgot" to tell his wife where he was going and what he was planning. When I heard this, my first thought was, 'Houston we have a problem!' I then thought of my defense when I would be questioned by his wife later. All I could come up with was the standard Schultzie defense - "I know nothing!" if his wife asked if I knew about his secret plan.

As we turned off highway 23 toward Chris' the newbie noticed there was a "Waffle House" - which he did not know was a prerequisite before going to Helm's shop. I recommend the loaded hash browns with coffee - you will be fully loaded to shop to you drop.

All I can say is it is a good thing I had the SUV with me on that day. The rookie went pro that day - he purchased enough fly tying material for about 20 years, in addition to books and DVD's which would last a lifetime - all in a two hour Waffle House fueled shopping spree.

All I know is, after he went home the checkbook and credit card were confiscated, never to be used again  
(Continued on page 2.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**January 22, 2014**

**Activities Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**February 5, 2014**

**Speaker: Ed McCoy**  
**Topic: Dry Fly Fishing**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30

**March 5, 2014**

**Activities Meeting:**  
**Expo Finalization**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**March 8-9, 2014**

**Midwest Fly Fishing Expo**  
Macomb Community College  
Sports & Expo Center

[www.evh.org](http://www.evh.org)

The Evening  
**Hatch**

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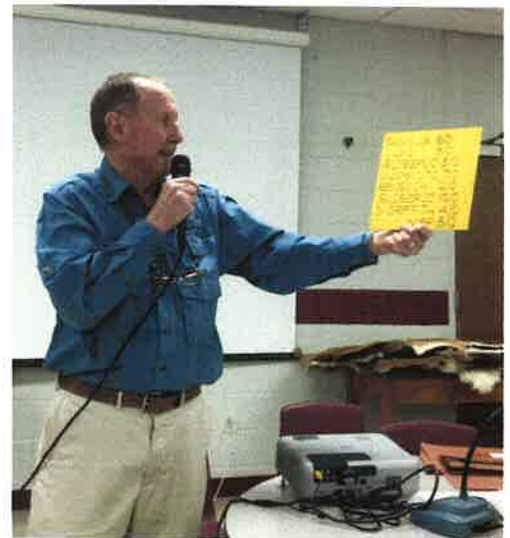
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without his wife's supervision. As additional punishment he hasn't been allowed to hang out with me after that brief, but fulfilling, shopping trip.

Going to Chris' isn't about the materials or buying things, its about talking to Chris and learning. Everyone knows he is a master of deer hair, but he has so much more knowledge about vises, feathers, dubbing, tying tools, and all the other items in the fly tying and fly fishing world. The experience is priceless.

I consider Chris a mentor, a friend, and an ambassador to the world of fly tying. His shop will be truly missed. We all wish Chris the best in his retirement, and thank him for his service and dedication to the world of fly fishing.



Tight lines and snazzy flies to you, Chris!

Chris Helm was the featured speaker at the January 2013 Michigan Fly Fishing Club speaker meeting. The January 2013 issue of The Evening Hatch highlights his insight and knowledge. At that time, he talked about the details of denier, the nuances of deer hair quality and purpose, and how to pick deer hair for your flies, how to properly clean a hide without damaging it, and home dyeing deer pelts.

You can find a copy on-line, by going to [mffc.org](http://mffc.org), clicking on The Evening Hatch, from the menu on the left side of the screen, then scrolling down to the year folder. From there, scroll down to the month, and double click to open.

[www.evh.org](http://www.evh.org)

The Evening  
**Hatch**

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club JANUARY 2013

**More Knowledge Yields Better Flies**  
After years of using retail young supplies and preparing his own, Chris Helm, has become the foremost expert in fly tying materials. He reveals the hair of choice from the fly tying industry's leading experts, and provides details on why in your own personal case with that in mind, he is now offering his deer hair.

Working with an expert colleague, Helm spent years testing several materials from the original manufacturer, comparing the labeling system. "It's really not a contest, it's a whole new way of thinking about it," Helm says. "I'm not a deer hair expert, I'm a fly tyer."

Chris Helm holds up his deer guide during the January MFFC presentation with just one club. "You can't do this with just one club!"

Old Tyme became available on the retail market in 1988 - "I'm a fan for hair die," and "I'm a fan for the more fly" "I'm a fan of you use it as backing!" Helm added. "I'm a fan for hair die." "I'm a fan for hair die." "I'm a fan for hair die."

Chris Helm said that the more you know about deer hair, the better you can use it. "When you use fly tying, you know that the more you know about the hair, the better you can use it." "I'm a fan for hair die." "I'm a fan for hair die." "I'm a fan for hair die."

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 23, 2013  
Artistry meeting  
Clemens Middle School  
Livonia 7:30 p.m.

February 6, 2013  
Speaker: Josh Greenberg  
Topic: Cuts Lodge  
Clemens Middle School  
Livonia 7:30 p.m.

February 13, 2013  
Board meeting  
Clemens Middle School  
Room 101 Livonia 7:30 p.m.

February 20, 2013  
Artistry meeting  
Clemens Middle School  
Livonia 7:30 p.m.



**CHRISTOPHER HELM**  
Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies  
Purveyor of Quality Deer Hair  
and the Brassie® Hair Packer

7060 White Tail Court  
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Custom Tied Flies  
Fly Tying Instruction

# 2014 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Featured Fly Tyers

**Alan "Al" Ritt** grew up here in Michigan where his passion for fishing was born. He started tying in the early 80's. In 1989 he moved to Northern Front Range of Colorado (Longmont) where he and his wife Diana reside. He is currently on the pro-staff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Tubeology, Daiichi Hooks, and a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. Al guides on the Colorado and Sylvan Dale Ranch just outside of Loveland. Alan's web site is: [www.alrittflies.com](http://www.alrittflies.com) Alan will be demonstrating various Western Trout Flies.

**Jerry Regan** is a third generation fly tyer, and one of the true keepers of Michigan's fly fishing history. He is one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. As a kid he learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's genuine legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borcher. One unique trait of Jerry's patterns is that he continues to use the original materials, and avoids using the synthetics which have flooded the market place. Jerry will be demonstrating the flies of the Classic Au Sable fly patterns.

**Jason Haddix** moved to Colorado with his family as a teenager, and soon took up fly fishing and tying. He is an experienced veteran guide who enjoys taking clients into Colorado's Front Range and the beautiful, productive waters of southern Wyoming. When he's not guiding, he spends time designing and developing new flies as well as making modifications to old ones. Jason owns and operates his own tying business, Waters Edge Fly Tying Company. Not only are Jason's flies extremely productive, but because of the processes he uses, they are also very durable. Jason's affiliations and pro-staff status include Rite Bobbins, Peak Vises, Enrico Puglisi Products, Daiichi hooks, Rip Lips Fishing, Flymen Fishing Products, and Rivers Wild. His website is: [www.watersedgeflyco.com](http://www.watersedgeflyco.com). Jason will be demonstrating his famed Warm water flies plus others.

**Mike Schmidt** is owner & Fly Tyer for Angler's Choice Flies, based out of Dublin, Ohio. He started the business with encouragement and influence from his dad. Mike, is an Orvis Fly Designer, Contract and Fly Tying Instructor for Mad River Outfitters, Signature Tyer for JagFly Company/Steelhead Alley, and has articles published in Hatches on line magazine. Mike's web site is: [www.anglerschoiceflies.com](http://www.anglerschoiceflies.com). Mike will be demonstrating abundance of Big Fly Patterns along with his famed Winged Wet Flies.

**Todd A. Schotts** is a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. He started tying before he started fly fishing. He owns and operates Grizzly Flies by Schottsie. Along with standard fly patterns, he invented 25 design of flies proven to be durable and effective. His passion is chasing smallmouth and largemouth Bass, but he also enjoys chasing trout and steelhead. His website is: [www.grizzlyfliesbyschottsie.com](http://www.grizzlyfliesbyschottsie.com). Todd will be demonstrating tying various warm water, Thunder Creek's, and Czech nymph patterns.

**Wayne Samson** has been tying for over a decade. Originally a warm water fisherman, Wayne started experimenting with bass bugs using deer hair. His talent exploded when he met and befriended Chris Helm, who is considered by most to be the authority on deer hair tying. His friendship and collaboration with Helm continues through the present. Wayne's specialty remains deer hair bugs and hair work in general. He is also known for his epoxy flies, saltwater flies, and classic Atlantic salmon flies. Wayne is the better half of the duo from Glenn River Fly Co. LTD which is known for their fly tying kits. His website is: [www.glenriver.com](http://www.glenriver.com). Wayne will demonstrate saltwater flies.

**Steve Wascher** caught his first Trout at the age of three and a half, on a DRY FLY!! He is a third generation tyer from Greenhurst, NY and received his initiation into tying from his father and grandmother. Steve enjoys all aspects of tying from unique nymph and wet flies for steelhead, to his famed deer hair bugs. In addition to tying, Steve guides during the summer months and writes articles which have appeared along with his flies in Hatches Magazine, American Angler, and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. Steve will be tying his famed deer hair bugs and tube flies.

**Eli Berant** grew up and lives in Michigan. He was surrounded by big water all his life. He tied his first fly at the age of 15, and ever since, fly fishing and fly tying have been a passion ever since. Steve has adapted concepts from fishing huge saltwater flies and applied them to the big waters in Michigan. If you are interested in "Big Flies" for Lake Trout, Musky, Bass, you see Steve's work at Great Lakes Fly: [www.greatlakesfly.com](http://www.greatlakesfly.com). Eli will be tying his monster flies.

**Eric Austin** grew up tying and fishing Catskill dry flies in the Adirondack Mountain region of New York State. In his youth, Eric loved "classic" fly fishing books authored by the likes of Preston Jennings, Ray Bergman, Al McLane, J. Edson Leonard and George La Branche. This love of history led to a column at flyangleronline.com called "Just Old Flies." Each week Eric would provide a recipe, photograph, and history of a classic pattern. The Just Old Flies column blossomed, including historical flies by American classic tiers and the old masters of the U.K., including salmon flies found in Kelson, Francis Francis, and Pryce Tannatt. Eric was featured in the series of books published in London, "Fly Tiers of the World." His Red Quill was recently selected to be on the cover of the re-release of Earnest Schwiebert's classic "Matching the Hatch." His influences include the Irish wet flies of Alice Conba, Rene Harrop's flies for the Henry's Fork, Carrie Stevens' streamers, the quill body flies of A.K. Best, and the dry flies of Francis Betters. His website is [www.traditionalflies.com](http://www.traditionalflies.com). Eric will be tying Classic Atlantic Salmon and New England Streamer fly patterns.

# What do Oscar Feliu, Joe Humphrys, Rick Kustich, Landon Mayer, Eric Stroup all accomplished fishermen, fly tyers, speakers, and authors all have in common?

**They will all be appearing at the 2014 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo as headliner speakers! There are only 60 days left before the show!**



**Oscar Feliu**, a native of Chile, came to the United States in 1969. Here in the states he became a master fly fisher and fly tyer. As a student in Michigan, he conducted aquatic studies in several of the states' rivers. His innovative fly patterns became well known throughout the Great Lakes region and were the subject of several newspaper and magazine articles. These publications include: Lansing State Journal, FFF Magazine, Trout Canada, "Fly-fishing Magazine", Scientific Anglers Quarterly, American Angler, Field & Stream, Fly-fish America, Michigan Out-Of-Doors.

As a musician, Oscar has traveled the world entertaining countless people. His repertoire ranges from operatic arias such as Granada, to pop classics from the likes of Elvis and Johnny Mathis. He has recorded a number of CDs, which have received critical acclaim.



Fisherman, educator, author, and conservationist, **Joe Humphreys** demonstrated his passion for angling, water, and wildlife throughout his life long career as a fly fisherman. Fortunately for us, Mr. Humphreys enjoys sharing his knowledge and skills.

He authored two highly acclaimed books, *Joe Humphreys Trout Tactics* and *On the Trout Stream with Joe Humphreys*, plus many articles in regional and national periodicals. He also hosted a nationally broadcasted fly fishing series on ESPN, been featured on three fly fishing videos (*The Fly Fishing Series*), and produced and featured on four videos.

Mr. Humphreys taught fly fishing for more than forty years, including directing Penn State's angling program for nineteen years. Some high-profile pupils include former President Jimmy Carter, former Vice President Richard Cheney, and basketball coach Bobby Knight. He currently teaches a weekend fly fishing course at the impressive Yellow Breeches Creek in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, hosted by Allenberry Resort located directly on the creek.



**Rick Kustich** is a fly fishing author and photographer. In January 2013, he released *Advanced Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead*, his fifth fly fishing title. Rick's work appeared in numerous national and regional publications. He is also a fly tyer, seminar speaker, travel host, and produced a fly tying DVD. Rick spent time as a fly shop owner, outfitter, and fly fishing book publisher.

Rick began fly fishing almost forty years ago on the lakes and streams of upstate New York. He has since traveled extensively experiencing the finest fly fishing throughout North America and beyond, but continues to find that some of the best fishing often exists in your own backyard. Rick spends a significant amount of time each year on the water, and has developed a special passion for steelhead fishing in the Great Lakes and British Columbia.



**Landon Mayer** is a fly fishing guide in the Florissant, CO area, in the South Platte River area where he has guided for fifteen years. He also served as a guide in Alaska for a year. Passion and love of fly fishing is what motivates him. His specialty is catching large trout with small flies using lightweight rods. Landon also teaches. Through trial, error, and perseverance, he has developed innovative techniques for hunting trout.

His books are titled *Colorado's Best Fly Fishing* (Stackpole/Headwater Books, 2011), *Sight Fishing For Trout* (Stackpole Books, 2010), *How To Catch The Biggest Trout Of Your Life* (Wild River Press, 2007), and *Weapons of Bass Production* (2008). The latter of which is produced by Mad Trout Media featuring John Barr.



**Eric Stroup** is a commercial fly tier, professional guide and author Eric Stroup is the total package on the waters of central Pennsylvania and southwestern Montana. His career has been spent in the fertile waters of both regions and while he personally would never claim to be an expert in anything, there are few better at their craft Eric is considered one of the finest instructors in the business both on the stream and at the vise and his volume of work in both print media and video have contributed greatly to the sport of fly fishing.

# Michigan Fly Fishing Club Minutes

## October 2013

Call To Order 7:30 pm

Present - Hunter; Bocks; Thelen; Freeburg; Finstad; Vanderhoof; Bulszewicz; Schotts

Approval of Minutes - Change made and approved by board. Motion to approve, Schotts, second Vanderhoof

Approval of Agenda- Freeburg, second Schotts

Officer Reports

President – Hunter None

Vice President - Finstad. Deferred to Joe Sprys. Expo update: Expo doing well. 8 vendors asking for more booth space. Suggested idea of moving non-profits to hallway to create more space for other vendors. There will be 2 ponds this year, one for constant use by patrons, one for exhibition.

Treasurer Report - Freeburg. Recommendation to increase Conservation Reserve Fund within Constitutional allowance. Freeburg, second Bocks. Bocks motion to approve report second Vanderhoof. Passed.

Corresponding Secretary – Vanderhoof. Speakers lined up through Feb. Motion Vanderhoof- to approve honorary membership for guest speakers. Second Bocks. Passed.

Hunter motion to allow classified advertising in the Hatch. Opposed by board. Motion denied.

Website events calendar updated. Discussion on improving website.

Membership – Bulszewicz. 322 paid members. Letters sent to unpaid members. Unpaid members will be removed from Constant Contact.

Events and Outings: Bocks motion for garage sale date to be set for Jan 22 2014 second Schotts.

Schotts and Bocks working on receiving dates for club events. Website updated for events.

Banquet Committee established Finstad, Sprys, Telinda.

New Business

Ausable –Manistee river clean-ups added to the events calendar.

Hunter appointed Bocks chair for Ausable clean-up.

Hunter appointed Schotts chair for new member recruitment –movie disk.

Old Business

Discussion on adding merchant service capabilities to the website for the convenience of expo vendors and member dues payments in addition to charging expo entrance capability. Thelen to research and report back to the board.

Discussion on materials for Outdoor-Rama and Ultimate Fishing Show

Project fish will still supply MFFC with materials although donation of materials recommended. Telinda will make an announcement at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn. Freeburg – second Bulszewicz. Passed.

# Michigan Fly Fishing Club Minutes

## November 2013

Call to order 7:31 pm

Present: Hunter, Bocks, Freeburg, Finstad, Thelen, Schotts, Bulszewicz

Approval of Minutes - Change made and approved by board. Motion to approve; Bocks, second Bulszewicz

Approval of Agenda - Calendar to be added to agenda. Motion to approve; Freeburg, second Bocks

Officer Reports:

President - Hunter. Nothing to report

Vice President- Finstad. Nothing to report

Treasurer-Freeburg. In the May Treasurer's Report there was a new line added at the Conservation Reserve Fund area. Motion to approve; Bocks, second Hunter

Audit Results - Matuszewski. Kudos extended to Freeburg and Telinda for better financial tracking in recent years. Requesting more use of receipts and check request forms. Requesting event Chairpersons should be encouraged to come to the board with a budget of how the money will be spent on an event. Request made to have speakers produce something in writing to verify their expenses. Auditors recommended a revised version of the current check request form. A new updated check request was approved by the board. Audit was submitted to the board and approved. All committee chairs to be made aware of the new check request form.

Other agenda:

Board approved a \$350 donation in honor of Art Ditmar to the MUCC for purchase of Tracks Magazines for classrooms. An additional \$150 was added from Club Member donations. Motion to Approve; Freeburg, second Bulszewicz

Corresponding Secretary-Vanderhoof. Nothing to report

Hatch - Sybil Hunter. Nothing to report

Website - Briggs. Needs help with the website and need to update calendar and events Status.

Membership - Bulszewicz. 345 out of 426 members paid. December 4 meeting will have roster printed out. Vanderhoof will put note to unpaid members in constant contact informing them that they will be removed from the roster if payment is not received by Dec 4.

Events and Outings: All MFFC events and activities will be posted on the MFFC Calendar website.

New Business:

Porta-potty update/solution - Bulszewicz. Information presented by Al Bulszewicz on a possible permanent structure to replace the current porta potty located at the Dam 4 access. Discussion ensued by the board. Bulszewicz appointed as chair for exploring a permanent structure for the Dam 4 porta potty site

Michigan Fishing Guide Ad - Freeburg. Discussion by the board regarding placing an advertisement in the Michigan Fishing Guide. No decision was made at the meeting. MFFC Board to make a decision prior to the cut-off date for printing. New bill counting machine requested for expo room. Brief Discussion by the board. Decision tabled to a later date.

Old Business:

Discussion heard on adding merchant service capabilities to the website for the convenience of expo vendors, payment of club member dues and expo entrance charging capability. Thelen still researching possibilities before a decision is made.

Movie Media - Schotts. 600 pictures have been submitted by Bulszewicz and Albertson. Schotts has old pictures and would like some new updated pictures for the media. We would like to keep the film clip to a ten minute story line. Want to be able to included club name, some events like: public school, outings, pictures of equipment we use for fishing, and tying flies. Intent is to be able to use the same pictures for most events. Approved and motioned at last meeting. Motion to table old business until future meetings-Finstad, Second Schotts

Visitor's comments:

Linda Bocks request sale of MFFC calendars will be cut off on December 4, 2013. Hunter approved.

Adjournment - Dismissed at 9:32pm.

# 2014

1978 **\*\* 36 Years \*\*** 2014

# Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Presented by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

**FREE SEMINARS, CASTING & TYING DEMOS**

**March 8th and March 9th**

**SHOW HOURS: Saturday 9am to 6pm & Sunday 10am to 4pm**



**100+ FLY FISHING VENDORS IN ONE LOCATION**

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Joe Humphreys



Landon Meyer



Eric Stroup



Rick Kautlich



Oscar Felle

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**FOR CLUB INFO: [www.mffc.org](http://www.mffc.org) FOR EXPO INFO [www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com](http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com)**

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