



The Evening

# Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2012



## Sounds of the season

The members of the First Presbyterian Church Trombone Quartet, anchored by MFFC President Bruce Kramer (front left) and former MFFC Vice President Chris Hunter (front right) treat club members to a selection of Christmas carols prior to the Dec. 14 activity meeting.

## How to fish like a guide: Kype's editor offers his insights

Want to fish like a guide? Who doesn't?

George Douglas, author and editor of Kype Magazine, offered MFFC members some of his insights at the November 30 meeting, which curiously was the club's December speaker meeting.

He preceded his comments with an eight-minute video featuring savage takes and deeply bowed rods on New York's Salmon River, the Yellowstone and the rivers of Washington state and Steelhead Alley.



He said his secret lays in the question "How can you put yourself in position to make the best of what you have?"

"You have to put yourself in the 'best position' to catch fish," he said.

First, do your homework, he advised.

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*George Douglas commands the room at the Nov. 30 meeting.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 4, 2012**

**Speaker: To be announced**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**January 11**

**Board Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Room 106, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**January 12-15**

**Youth Fly Tying @  
Ultimate Fishing Show**  
Suburban Collection Showcase  
Grand River west of Novi Rd.  
Contact: Jim Aitken

**January 18**

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

**February 18**

**MFFC Members  
Fly Fishing School**  
Northville High School  
Northville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Contact: Mike Doyle

**February 23-26**

**Youth Fly Tying @  
Outdoorama**  
Suburban Collection Showcase  
Novi  
Contact: Rick Gokenbach



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## Special memories of an MFFC first

Long-time member Fred Field expresses appreciation to club members who presented him and wife Feigh with a framed photograph of Montana's Madison River at Three Dollar Bridge. That location was to have been the venue for their marriage during last year's Montana trip. The fast-moving waters of the "Fifty Mile Riffle" forced them to relocate the ceremony to the more placid waters of the Henry's Fork.



## Fish like a guide: Kype's editor offers his insight

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That homework, he said, is more than knowing how to tie a variety of key knots. It involves simulating the knot-tying conditions you're likely to face. "Can you tie your key knots in low-light situations? Can you tie them in freezing conditions when you can't feel your fingers?"

The homework involves more in research than calling the area fly shops. "If you only call the shops, it'll be the same story: 'You should have been here yesterday.'"

Douglas advised: "Look at the the U.S.G.S. (U.S. Geological Survey) water flow charts, the weather and water temperature data. Study the water you fish. Is it the kind of river you fish on the rise or the drop?"

Second, examine your own thought processes, he advised. "What do you do when your fishing conditions aren't what you expect. What do you do when the river's high and muddy or low and muddy? What do you do when there are three guys armpit-deep in your hole? Always have a Plan B," he said.

Third, if you have the luxury of a full day of fishing, focus on the morning, he said. "The last thing you want to do is screw up the morning. You want to get 'the skunk' out of the way early." One way to do that is to get your stretch of water early. Also, start out conservatively. "That means no casting under tricky overhangs." That will only lead to frustration.

Fourth, float your fly down the water near the banks before you even step into the stream. This "secondary water," he said, often yields a fish or two, especially early.

Fifth, fish the river in a "systematic" fashion. "You'll fish more thoroughly and improve your effectiveness as an angler," he said.

In the end, greater effectiveness, means more hook-ups and a lot more fun.



*George Douglas (right) fields a question from John Long (left).*

## MFFC Reminders ...

### Don't forget your Expo shirt:

The volunteers at the 2012 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo will be sporting new worker shirts this year. They are light blue and feature the unofficial Expo logo of a bigger than life-size embroidered Hexagenia Limbata, otherwise known as the giant Michigan mayfly, on the front of the shirt. Club members may place an order with official Expo haberdasher Peter Albertson at the January 4 meeting. The cost is \$30.

### Mark your calendars for the (in) famous MFFC Members' School:



Saturday, February 18, is the day and Northville High School is the place. Make plans to join dozens of your fellow club members at this free day-long school. It's an opportunity for newcomers to the club and sport to get expert instruction on virtually all facets of fly angling – entomology, equipment, knots, fly tying and casting. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided. The school gets under way at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. There will also be, as in recent years, a chili cook-off open to all attendees. Did we say that participation in the school is free? Sign up to attend at club meetings in January and early February or contact Members' School Chair Mike Doyle.

### Start sorting through your snaps:

The club member fly fishing photo contest that debuted at last year's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is returning to the 2012 event. Last year's photo contest chair Scott Freeburg and this year's chair Jeff York made the announcement at the November 30 meeting. Look for more details at club meetings and in the February edition of *The Evening Hatch*.



Former Board member and long-time youth flytying volunteer chair Rick Gokenbach (left) and Past President Howard Geller are pictured in action at a past Ultimate Fishing Show.

## Volunteers needed for "Operation Wooly Bugger"

The holidays haven't quite slipped into memory. So, if you're a fan of the movie "White Christmas" you know that Bing Crosby code-named his request to former 151st Division members to spend Christmas in Pine Tree, Vt., to lift the spirits of their former WWII commander "Operation Waverly."

Consider this a request to join in "Operation Wooly Bugger."

Each January and February, MFFC members volunteer their time to introduce the young (and young at heart) to fly tying at the Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama. Why "Operation Wooly Bugger"? It's the very first fly that most fly anglers learn to tie. It's an easy pattern to tie and can be used for virtually any species from panfish to bass to trout to steelhead. It is also something that can be tied in a variety of colors.

This year marks the fourth year that club members have participated in the Ultimate Fishing Show, which will be held Jan. 12-15 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. The venue is located on Grand River Avenue west of Novi Road. It also marks the club's 21st year at Outdoorama, an annual celebration of hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting and all things outdoorsy. Outdoorama is scheduled for Feb. 23-26, also at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

Volunteer for the Ultimate Fishing Show by contacting Jim Aitken or signing up at an upcoming meeting. For more information about Outdoorama or to volunteer, contact Rick Gokenbach or sign up at a future club meeting

### Preparing for Salmon in the Classroom

Past President Peter Albertson (right) and Board Member A.L. Bulszewicz (not pictured) spent an early November day at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery near Kalamazoo preparing eggs for distribution to schools participating in Trout Unlimited's "Salmon in the Classroom" program. In addition to preparing eggs for distribution, Albertson and Bulszewicz worked with teachers arriving for a day-long training session.





*The MFFC was well represented at the 2011 FFF-GLC Tying Expo in early December. Many club members, including Past Presidents Al Haxton and Joe Sprys, Treasurer Jim Telinda, past Board member Todd Schotts and Terry Herron, spent the day tying flies while dozens of other members prowled the event, checking out new patterns and tying techniques.*

