



The Evening

Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

July 2012



Albertson offers a sure-fire recipe for "Brown Chile"

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club ushered in its slate of summer meetings on June 13 with a travelogue from Past President and world traveler Pete Albertson.

Titled "Brown Chile," Albertson dished up a delectable concoction of travel advice (both serious and tongue-in-cheek), stunning landscape photography, pictures of big Brown Trout, and tales of uncrowded water and unpressured fish. His remarks covered the highlights of a February 2011 trip to Chile with fellow MFFC member Phil Heck.

Albertson, who has fished for coldwater and saltwater game fish in such places as Alaska, Argentina, Norway, the Christmas Islands and the Bahamas, talked of several of Chile's world-famous blue-ribbon trout waters like the Simson and the Humales and a special little stream – nicknamed "the lost stream" that was "like stepping back into time."

"The fishing in Chile was absolutely phenomenal," Albertson said, with some locations offering angling opportunities akin to "fishing in an aquarium – perfectly clear

water, three to four feet deep and stacked with fish."

Did the fishing in Chile compare to fishing the waters of neighboring Argentina? "Argentina required a much higher skill level. In Chile you just needed to be in the boat!"

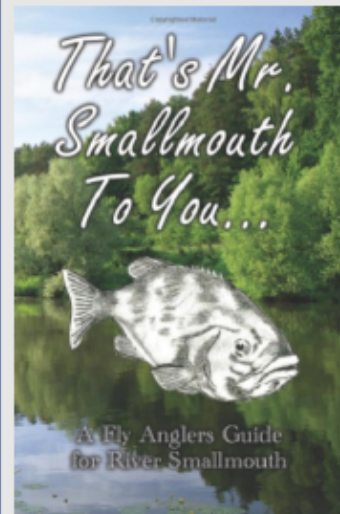
The flies used on the trip tend to be from the Stimulator and Adams families and tended to be a little bigger than those used here in Michigan. The rod would be the same "almost" as an angler would use on the North Branch of the Au Sable at Dam Four – four- to six-weight rods with floating lines.

Among Albertson's most prized pieces of advice:

- Allow three hours whenever you go through any major airport.
- Use a porter to get and move your luggage, help you clear customs and get from flight to flight.
- Don't let your travel partner order flies for you.
- Insist that your guide have a four-wheel-drive vehicle.
- Don't let your guide transport your fly rods from one access point to another by sticking them under the windshield wipers.
- Pack your fly fishing gear first, whatever room is left is for everything else.
- Take what you need with you.
- Make sure to take spare glasses and copies of your passport, credit cards and any prescriptions that you need.

His number one piece of advice: "If you're thinking of going to fish South America, just go. You find great fishing, great people and great lodges."

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS



July 11, Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Jim DiStefanis
Topic: "That's Mr. Smallmouth to You"
Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

July 25, Walleye Outing on the St. Clair River
John Pinto's Ontario cabin
5 p.m.-???
Contact: Terry Herron

August 8, Speaker Meeting
Speaker: To be announced
Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

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FFF Chairman visits GLC Conclave, issues membership challenge

*by Mike Matuszewski
MFFC Past President and
FFF-Great Lakes Council
Secretary*

Federation of Fly Fishers Chairman Phil Greenlee paid a visit to Michigan June 15-17, taking in the Great Lakes Council's annual fly fishing school and Conclave. While there he addressed the annual general membership meeting of the Council, offering his assessment of the state of the Federation and its future.

The Federation of Fly Fishers is a 47-year-old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through conservation, restoration and education. The idea to create a national federation of fly fishing clubs sprung up on both coasts in the early 1960s. Today the FFF is comprised of more than 300 clubs and roughly 11,000 individual members. The goal of the organization is to support fisheries conservation and educational programs for all fish and all waters. The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is affiliated with the FFF and a significant number of MFFC members are also FFF members.

The Great Lakes Council (GLC), which consists of clubs in Michigan, Indiana and northwestern Ohio, is the second largest council in the Federation with 881 members and trails only the seven-state Southern Council.

Greenlee told his audience at the annual general membership meeting that the Federation as an organization is stable and is holding its own against the backdrop of the Great Recession. Stable membership is good, he said, but the organization needs to grow and become more relevant to younger fly fishers.



Federation of Fly Fishers Chairman Phil Greenlee addresses Great Lakes Council members at the DNR's Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Rosscommon.

He said he sees promise on two fronts – building up the Federation's emphasis on education and building stronger links to fly anglers in Europe and around the world.

He said the Federation should seek to cultivate its already impressive credentials as an educational resource by building on its casting curriculum and certification program, further developing its fly tying resources and developing more sustainable paths to introducing children, pre-teens, teenagers and college-age students to fly fishing. As for internationalization, the Federation has long had members in other countries, but Greenlee said his visits to Europe and Africa made him realize that the "quiet sport" has legions of avid anglers beyond the shores of the United States and Canada.

That said, to kick start the FFF on a path of renewed growth he challenged FFF members to recruit just one new member to the Federation. "If everyone just recruited one new member we'd double our membership," he said.

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Smallmouth Outing '12: Sun, loads of food, lots of fish, great company

Story by Todd A Schotts; photos from
Ken Harfoot's YouTube video

The 2012 MFFC Smallmouth Outing took place May 18-20 providing lots of sun, tremendous fishing and great company. It all took place up and around Port Austin.

The weather for this outing was probably some of the best that I have ever experienced in my 15 years of pursuing the bronzebacks of the flats. I have never seen Eagle Bay so tranquil as that Saturday. It looked like a sheet of glass and was it ever clear! It produced great fishing.

With the nice weather, we had another great turnout for the outing with club members, family, and friends. It combined to make the weekend even more special and grand.

Add the two meals that John Pattee and I planned, which turned out really well and you have one grand outing. Friday's shore lunch/dinner at Eagle Bay consisted of burgers, hot dogs, Dave Nowicki's homemade Polish kielbasa, my seafood salad, John's soup/chili and other items contributed by various members. Saturday's meal featured two deep-fried turkeys (done by John), Schottzie's cheesy cornbread and seafood mac, accompanied by other contributions from the outing participants. It was like Thanksgiving in May.

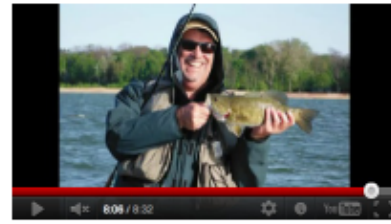
We did do more than eat. Some fly fishing was involved and, yes, we did end up catching a lot of fish. The smallmouth spawn was just beginning and that makes for some of the best smallie fishing you will ever encounter. Not only did we eat well, the local fish had a great feed going. Brown drakes were popping. Emerald shiners were darting around all over the Bay.

Crayfish were scurrying all over the bottom. With all of that chub members were throwing all manner of flies: Chartreuse & White Sparkle Grubs, Floating Head Minnows, various Clousers, Meat Whistles, tried-and-true Woolly Buggers, a variety of crayfish patterns and Schottzie's Nerdy Hillbilly, plus a

few other "secret" patterns.

This year's outing has made it "big time," you could say. If you didn't get a chance to get up to this outing or you just want to relive the fun, check out several YouTube postings -- "Smallies on the Bay" posted by Scott Freeburg and "2012 MFFC Smallmouth Outing" posted by Ken Harfoot. You can also go to their individual Facebook pages and see videos there.

The weekend ended on a great note with lots of fish caught, great food, great company and awesome weather. Here are a few big shout-outs: to John Pattee for helping out with both of the meals, the Blue Spruce/Horseshoe Motel & Cabins for accommodating the huge school of MFFC outing attendees, to all the club members who made the outing so much fun and especially the smallies that took our flies and tightened our lines.



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ASBWPA seeks volunteers for July projects

The Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association needs volunteers for several July projects.

July 4th

Weekend:

Small groups of volunteers are needed to clean up the following access areas -- M-33, Comins, Camp Ten, Whirlpool, McKinley, 4001 and other heavily used access areas.

Au Sable Canoe Marathon Race Weekend (July 29th):

Again, small groups of volunteers are needed to clean up the following access areas -- M-33, Comins, Camp Ten, Whirlpool, McKinley, 4001 and other heavily used access areas.

It's not too early to start planning for the annual September cleanup of the Au Sable rivers. The ASBWPA and the Anglers of the Au Sable will be involved for this year's big cleanup on September 8.



Interested in Spey casting? FFF-GLC can get you started

The Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be holding two one-day Spey Casting Schools on August 11 and 12. The Saturday, August 11, session will be devoted to "basic" Spey casting with Sunday, August 12, being focused on an "Intermediate/Improver" school. The sessions are being organized by Rich Knoles, who has recruited Peter Humphreys and Bob Breandle as instructors.

"Both of these guys are fantastic instructors and anglers," Knoles said. "I learn something whenever I'm around them."

The cost for each day is \$100 and 12 spots are available each day. The sessions will be held at Henning Park in Newaygo on the Muskegon River. Lunch and light refreshments are provided. Lodging is not included.

"Both classes will be on the water, so students will need waders ... unless you prefer to wade wet," Knoles said. "All other equipment will be provided or students can bring their own rods and reels."

The "basic" session will cover equipment, lines, rods, fishing techniques and basic casts. "Students will also learn to fish the Spey fly properly on the appropriate line," Knoles said.

"The Intermediate/Improver session is for those who have had some instruction or experience with a two-handed rod. We'll review basic casts to get everyone on the same page and then we'll move on to advanced casts," Knoles said.

Contact Rich Knoles with any questions or to reserve a spot. He can be reached at 734-625-0882 or via email at rknoles@gmail.com.

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MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

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