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The Evening

# Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

March 2012

## Fly Lines 101: Second February speaker meeting will demystify fly lines

Are you mystified by fly lines? Are you curious about how the right fly line can enhance your fly angling experience?

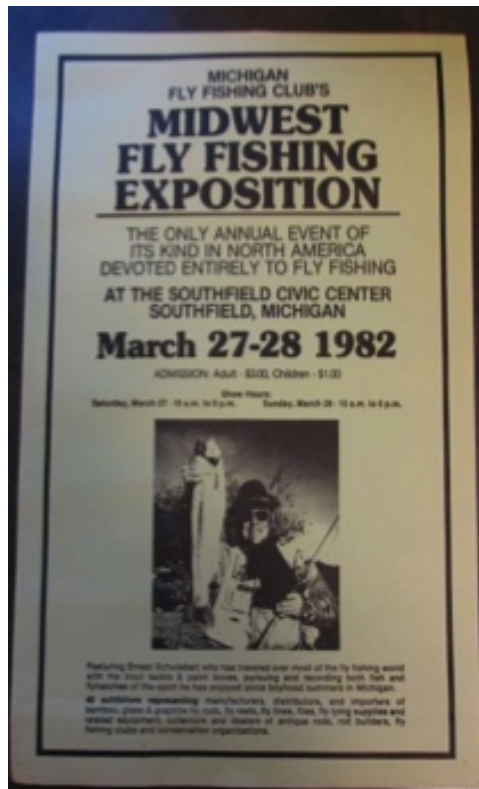
You've got the chance to get some insight into the wonderful world of fly lines on Feb. 29 courtesy of guide and fly tackle sales representative Jerry Darkes.

Based in northern Ohio, Darkes has more than four decades of fly fishing experience and is recognized as an expert on Great Lakes steelhead and warm water fly fishing. He is also a member of the Scott Fly Rod Pro Staff.

Darkes has been featured in several books and video productions about Great Lakes fly fishing and has authored numerous articles about the region. He is also a well-known fly tier and has created a series of Guide Patterns instructional fly tying DVDs focusing on Great Lakes steelhead and other gamefish.



February 29 speaker Jerry Darkes



## It's Expo time!

*It was 30 years ago that fly angler extraordinaire and legendary author Ernie Schweibert headlined the 1982 edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition, then held at the Southfield Civic Center. Known for years in fly fishing circles across the country simply as "the Southfield show," the Expo has become a tradition for thousands of fly anglers. Arguably the oldest fly fishing-only show east of the Mississippi, it continues its tradition of bringing some of fly fishing's brightest lights to share their fishing and fly tying techniques.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 29**  
**Speaker: Jerry Darkes**  
**Topic: Fly Lines 101**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**March 7**  
**Activity Meeting**  
**Featured Tier: Corey Thelen**  
**Pattern: Traditional Hendrickson Dry Fly**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**March 10-11**  
**Midwest Fly Fishing Expo**  
Macomb Community College  
Sports & Expo Center  
14500 East Twelve Mile Rd.  
Warren

**Hours are:**  
March 10, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
March 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Joe Sprys

**March 21**  
**Board Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Room 106, Livonia, 7 p.m.

**March 28**  
**Speaker: Roger Greil**  
**Topic: Lake Superior State Fishery Project Update**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



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## 2012 Dick Schott New Member Outing Update: Sign-ups to begin at March 7 meeting

by Paul DeJohn, Event Chairman

The 2012 Dick Schott New Member Outing is shaping up. This year's outing will be held Wednesday, May 9, through Saturday morning, May 12, at MSU's historic WaWaSum Lodge, located six miles east of Grayling.

All members wishing, both new and old, wanting to participate are required to have attended the club's February 18 Member Fly Fishing School and be able to demonstrate safe wading proficiency before being included in the outing.

Sign-up will begin at the club's March 7 meeting and continue until the outing is full. Be aware, this outing fills fast. Once the lodge is full and costs paid, the outing will enroll a limited number of members wanting to participate but who are willing to secure rooms and meals off-site, at area motels, for example. Sorry, no campers. My staff of experienced club member "camp guides and instructors" is already established.

Once sign-up begins on March 7, new members are given priority, first come – first served. Visitors are welcome for evening visits.

Our desire is to keep our costs to you as low as possible, and as of this writing the cost will be \$155 per person, plus a snack, for 3 nights stay in the lodge, Thursday and Friday breakfasts, and late lunch/dinners, and snacks throughout the outing. For those staying and eating off-site, the cost to attend will be \$45. I have also made arrangements with the Grayling Days Inn to make available a limited number of double rooms at a cost of \$65 per night.

WaWaSum Lodge is a historic log lodge and teaching facility owned by Michigan State University. It sits high above the banks of the AuSable's Holy Waters. If you have never visited the lodge, you are truly in for a treat. The most popular feature of the lodge is the large screened porch with bentwood rockers. The porch overlooks the river. The Great Room has a large fieldstone fireplace, ample seating, and an activity area for fly tying. Guest rooms accommodate three to four guests each, and three beds on the screened porch will be available to those desiring semi-quiet.

The annual New Member Outing gives attending members an opportunity to visit and fish superior locations along the historic AuSable, and also provides a venue to become more acquainted with your fellow club members. The outing is not intended to be a fishing school, however you will indeed receive an education, good food, lots of laughs, and more confidence in your fly-fishing and fly-tying abilities.

Please watch *The Evening Hatch* and our club website for future updates.

I can be reached by phone or text at 734-612-9900.



January featured tier Jim Weakland, left, weaves a stonefly nymph pattern.

## An evening with a legend: Grayling tier Jerry Regan

by Todd A. Schotts  
photos by Peter Albertson

MFFC members got a chance to spend their February 1 meeting in the company of Jerry Regan who demonstrated his fly tying prowess, and shared his knowledge of Grayling's fly fishing heritage and fly angling in general.

A third-generation fly tier and one of the best production tiers in the business, Regan was born along the fabled Au Sable near Grayling. He said he learned fly tying and fishing as a kid from legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert.

True to the Grayling style of tying, he sticks with traditional materials – deer hair, types of feathers and yarn -- and techniques. He prefers deer hair from does that are five years old or older because the shafts of hair are hollow to the tips.

He cited his grandmother as his greatest mentor. He recalled an early fly fishing experience with her. He said he was false casting repeatedly. As he recalled it, his grandma turned around saying, "Leave that d--- fly on the water or I will kick your butt." Out of fear, he said he left the fly on the water even after he hooked a fish. His grandma knowingly observed, "See, the fish are in the water, not in the air."

On that note, Regan launched into his tying demonstration.



The first fly he demonstrated was his fly, "Jerry's Deer Fly." The recipe is:

**Hook:** #12 94840 Mustad  
**Thread:** Black mono 3/0  
**Body:** Peacock fibers  
**Wing & Head:** Deer hair and 2 hen feathers

The deer hair is tied same as for hopper, with the 2 grizzly hen feathers laid over the top of deer hair wing and tied just behind head, flat out over body, delta style. Jerry also mentioned to cement the head of the fly when you are finished, as he does with all his flies. One other trick, be sure to wind peacock fibers around the tying thread (*clockwise*) to help make the peacock fibers strong. This fly is the best imitation of a deer fly you will ever see. It sits down in the surface of the film just like a natural deer fly. Asked if he ties this fly in any other sizes, he said he prefers the size 12 for both the deer fly and his second pattern, McClain's Drake. He did say that back in the day, the smallest fly tied was size 12. Today, for many of us a size 12 qualifies as a big fly.

Regan said McClain's Drake, originated by Jerry McClain, made its debut in either the 1940s or 50s. Considered one of the great Grayling yarn flies, it is still used with great effectiveness today. The pattern recipe:

**Hook:** Mustad 9671, 9672 or Mustad 94840 in sizes 12 and 10  
**Thread:** 3/0 Tobacco Brown  
**Tail:** Pheasant Tail Fibers  
**Body:** Yarn (Red Hart Loden #653 or Wool Ease, Chunky #127 Walnut)  
**Wing:** Any color feather you want tied in straight up  
**Hackle:** Brown and Grizzly

Sometimes referred to as McClain's Yarn Fly, this pattern can be tied as a parachute or with a body of palmered hackle with split wings. A note on the tying of the yarn; you want to tie in the yarn and have a looped tail as in hoppers; wind forward, and tie off. But leave the little piece of yarn; you will tie in your wing in front (*only on the parachute for the yarn excess*) and then wrap the hackle around the yarn piece. Once you wrapped the hackle, trim off the extra yarn sticking out.

After we got to see this pattern tied both ways, Jerry showed us some techniques when tying Borchert's Special and Borchert's Drake. The main difference between the two is that the Drake is tied in sizes 10 and 8 with pheasant fibers for tail. The Special is tied in sizes 14 and 16 and uses moose mane for tail fibers.

In closing, Regan advised, "Never wait for the hatch; the hatch is just a bonus. Fish are always feeding on something."

## MFFC's 2012 Public School on tap for April 14 in Plymouth

by Peter Albertson  
Public School Chair

Do you know someone who's itching to learn more about fly fishing? Thanks to the club's annual Public School, you can help get them hooked on the pursuit we all love.

The Public School, scheduled for April 14, consists of three class segments over a full day of instruction at the Plymouth Cultural Center, Plymouth, Michigan.

The first segment will be "Equipment, Knots and Stuff." We will provide an overview of basic equipment; how the rod and reel combination is assembled, knots for connecting the system components (backing, line, leader, tippet and fly); and introduce the general accessories or "stuff" to complement your streamside activities. Remember, in the beginning you can never have enough stuff.

Segment two will feature "Michigan Entomology" or "bugs," basic fly tying equipment, material and basic fly tying instruction focusing on learning to tie a few flies.

"Casting" is the third segment where we cover the grip, stance, form and posture; rod plane and loop development; the basic components of a standard pick-up-and-lay-down cast; false cast; roll cast; wiggle cast; and off-shoulder cast. Whew! We also will introduce students to some practice techniques and talk about troubleshooting some common casting problems.

Our club provides all equipment, materials and, most importantly, food.

The tuition is \$50 for adults and \$15 for those under 18 with a paid adult.

For information or to sign up, e-mail [palbertontsp@yahoo.com](mailto:palbertontsp@yahoo.com) or call me at 248-921-9103. Club members interested in assisting at the school can see me at a club meeting or contact me by email or phone.

## Call for candidates: MFFC elections to be held April 11

by Kevin Lipp, Election Committee Chair

Outgoing President Bruce Kramer has appointed an Election Committee consisting of Past President Kevin Lipp, incumbent director Eric Center and a member yet to be named to conduct the upcoming election. Members interested in standing for election should contact the president or any member of the Election Committee.

With the exception of one at-large Director position every office is up for election – President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chair, and **two** at-large Director positions.

The Club's strength, and what other clubs comment about, is the willingness of our members to get involved and make things happen. If you want to see our Club continue as an active, energetic, fun organization I encourage you to run for a leadership position.

Here is a brief description of each position:

- **President:** Presides at all Club meetings and functions as the chief executive officer
- **Vice President:** Presides at meetings of the Board of Directors
- **Recording Secretary:** Keeps the minutes of all Club Board meetings and other special business meetings as necessary and maintains the inventory of the Club's equipment
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Is responsible for electronic communications to Club membership, communications from the Club to non-members and arranging speakers for Club meetings and special events
- **Treasurer:** Manages the Club's finances, pays the Club's bills and ensures that all finance-related reports are filed with the appropriate government agencies
- **Membership:** Is the first point of contact and a resource for individuals interested in joining the club, processes membership applications and maintains the Club's roster
- **Directors:** Provide insight, perspective and advice as members of the Board and guide special Board endeavors as directed by the President. Directors serve two-year terms

The Board meets once each month, typically on the second Wednesday of the months September through May. Special meetings may be convened during the summer or at other times as necessary.



### Caddis emergers in the spotlight

February's featured tier Al "Soft Hackle" Haxton introduced club members to two highly effective caddis emerger patterns, the X Caddis and Iris Caddis. Both work exceptionally well in Michigan's northern trout waters and have established a reputation as go-to Yellowstone patterns.

## MFFC Board Meeting Minutes October 12, 2011

**Call to Order:** M. Duchin 7 p.m.

**Roll Call - Members present:**  
Kramer, Center, Finstad, Drinkwine, Duchin, Strachan

**Review of Minutes:** September minutes / Motion to approve Center / Finstad – approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Drinkwine / Finstad - approved

### Officer Reports

#### President – Kramer

- DAC interested in a MFFC meeting: Kramer to attend DAC Meeting

#### Vice President – Duchin

- Will get agenda out earlier

#### Treasurer – Telinda

- Absent

#### Corresponding Secretary - Finstad

- Hatch: All is well
- Speakers: November double speaker month
- Website: Kramer reported on website task force

#### Membership – Nowicki

- Absent
- 250 paid members

#### Old Business

- John Pinto - Bonefish grant discussion

**Visitor Comment:** None

#### Roundtable

**Adjournment:** 7:48 p.m.

## MFFC Board Meeting Minutes November 9, 2011

**Call To Order:** Kramer at 7:24 p.m.

**Roll Call – Present:** Kramer, Center, Finstad, Telinda, Drinkwine, Bulszewicz, Strachan.

### Review of May and October Minutes:

- Motion to correct May minutes date by Center / Finstad – approved
- Motion to approve October minutes by Bulszewicz / Drinkwine – approved

### Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by Drinkwine / Telinda – approved

### Officer Reports:

#### President – Kramer

- Website – Expo and Club site being worked on and improved.
- Peter Albertson to attend January TU Board Meeting: Chair Public School: Sell club shirts for Expo: Be responsible for club rods.
- Kramer reported annual Christmas Gift would be given to cleaning crew – no objection.
- Membership – 280 paid members

#### Treasurer - Telinda

- Matuszewski reported annual audit of club expenses was clean. Motion to accept report by Center / Drinkwine – approved.
- Income from members dues ahead of last year at this time.
- Raffle income down.
- Expo expenditures and income on track. Motion by Center / Finstad to accept report - approved

#### Corresponding Secretary – Finstad

- Speakers – Signed for meetings, Expo and banquet.
- Expo post card almost ready for distribution.

#### Events –

- Bill Shannon will man club table at the Holt Show Dec 3.
- New Jersey trip still in sign-up stage.
- Adult School scheduled for April 14, 2012

**Adjourn:** Motion by Finstad / Strachan – approved 8:55 p.m.

## This year's Trout Tune-Up will be Sunday, April 1

*by Scott Freeburg  
Trout Tune-Up Event Chair*

Hear ye! Hear ye! Trout Tune-Up 2012 is scheduled for **Sunday, April 1**. Typically scheduled for the first Saturday in April, this year's first Saturday is part of the Easter weekend.



For the uninitiated, the Trout Tune-Up is an annual gathering of MFFC members at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center in Commerce Township. The

Club rents a structure called the Yurt for the day and provides food, beverages and a place to warm, if it happens to be a cold day.

A yurt is a semi-permanent structure which was used by the Mongolian nomads. It is the Asian version of a tepee. The Lowe's Yurt is 30 feet in diameter and built on a 36x50 foot deck. It can hold up to 50 people at one time.

We fish the Huron River, which will have been recently stocked by the DNR with trout from a nearby hatchery. The DNR will usually plant 2,000 to 3,000 Brown and Rainbow trout between the Moss Lake Dam and Wixom Road Bridge. Special trout regulations (flies only) are in effect for that stretch from April 1 through the end of April.

Sometimes, if we're lucky, the DNR will have released some of their "breeder stock." These fish are usually very large and very strong. Catching one of these guys can sometimes be one of the largest fish you catch all year.

All our club members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to come to the Yurt anytime throughout the day between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

This outing also makes for a good time to test out new equipment you may have acquired at the Expo, over the Holidays or after last trout season ended.

Hope to see you there and don't forget your fishing license.

# April 28 is fast approaching; it's not too early to plan for the Opener

by Scott Freburg, Opener Event Chairman

Here in our great state of Michigan, the last Saturday in April is the traditional *opening day* of trout season and the "2012 Trout Opener" is fast approaching. That said, it's not too early to start planning.

In conjunction with the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's "Trout Opener" Saturday celebrations and activities, weekend accommodations will be available to MFFC club members at the Rayburn Lodge.

The Rayburn Lodge is located on the banks of the AuSable River, downstream (east) from the city of Grayling, at 1491 Richardson Road. The lodge is a handsome log mansion with a profound history in the Grayling-AuSable area.

The AuSable River is one of Michigan's premier trout streams with the lodge located right in the middle of the world famous "Holy Water" section. This stretch of river has been known to have some of the best trout fishing in the country to the adept angler.

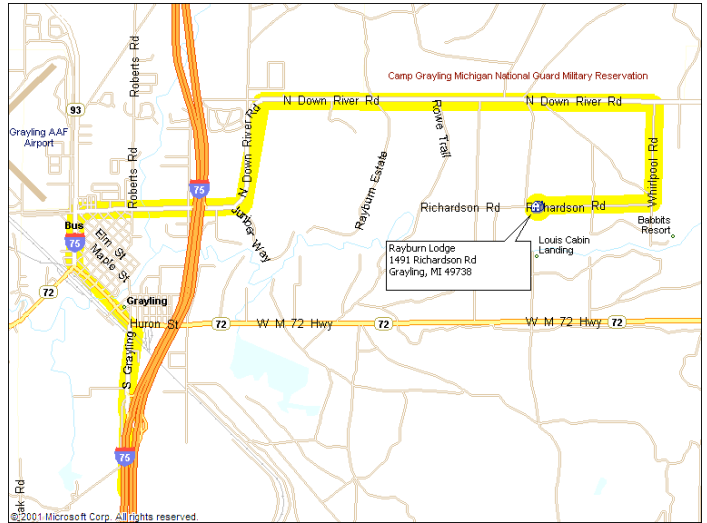
Space for this outing is limited and I will start a sign-up list and take deposits immediately.

Total cost will be \$120 with final payments due by the April 11 meeting.

Included will be Friday and Saturday nights' "luxury accommodations," hearty breakfasts each morning and snacks and beverages throughout the day.

Check-in time will be after 2 p.m., Friday, April 27, with check-out at 11 a.m., Sunday, April 29.

To reserve your spot please feel free to telephone me at 248-366-6783, email me at [sfree357@aol.com](mailto:sfree357@aol.com) or see me at upcoming club meetings.



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MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB