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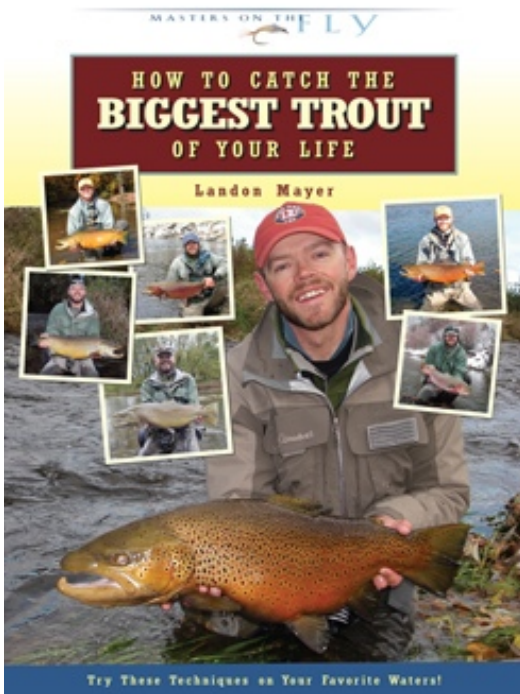


The Evening

Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2012



Don't forget your tickets to this year's MFFC Banquet

2012 Banquet Chair Ray Geitka and his committee members promise a grand evening filled with camaraderie, good food, lots of door prizes and an opportunity to hear from a rising star in the world of fly angling, Landon Mayer (left). His presentation will be sight-fishing for trout, adapted from one of his books. He is also leading a mid-afternoon fly tying seminar with 25 club members who have pre-registered. Banquet tickets are \$40 per person and are available from Geitka at the April 25 and May 2 meetings.

New officers elected; Kramer passes gavel to Chris Hunter

Club members present at the April 11 meeting elected new officers and two directors.

Formally taking office on the evening of the club's annual banquet will be: Chris Hunter, president; Mike Duchin, incumbent vice president; Scott Freeburg, treasurer; Mike Doyle, corresponding secretary; Mike Scott, recording secretary; Dave Nowicki, incumbent membership chair; and newly elected directors Dan Finstad and Todd Schotts. Finstad and Schotts join incumbent Eric Center as at-large directors.



Soon-to-be-Immediate Past President Bruce Kramer (l) with President-Elect Chris Hunter.

Club members present at the April 11 meeting elected new officers and two directors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2, Activity Meeting

Featured Tier: To be announced

Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

May 5, Youth School

The Painted Trout, 12075 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, 9 a.m - 4 p.m.

Contact: A.L. Bulszewicz

May 9, Board Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School, Room 106, Livonia, 7 p.m.

May 9-12, Dick Schott New Member Outing

Wa Wa Sum Lodge, Grayling, MI

Contact: Paul DeJohn

May 16, Banquet

Italian-American Club, 39200 Five Mile, Livonia

Special Guest: Colorado Guide Landon Mayer
Tying Seminar: noon - 3:30 p.m.

Cocktails: 5:30 p.m.; Dinner: 7 p.m.

Contact: Ray Geitka

May 17-20, Rayburn Outing

Rayburn Lodge, Grayling, MI

Contact: Dave Begley

May 18-20, Smallmouth Outing

Blue Spruce & Lucky Horseshoe Motel & Cabins, 8527 Lake St., Port Austin

Contact: Todd Schotts

June 13, Speaker Meeting

Topic: To be announced

Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.



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Editor: Mike Matuszewski
248-646-4768

Michigan Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 530861
Livonia, MI 48153

2011 – 2012 Officers

President:
Bruce Kramer
mffc.president@gmail.com
248-672-9056

Vice President:
Mike Duchin
mffc.vp@gmail.com
734-326-2868

Corresponding Secretary:
Dan Finstad
mffc.csec@gmail.com
248-650-0172

Recording Secretary:
Terry Drinkwine
mffc.rsec@gmail.com
248-506-1898

Treasurer:
Jim Telinda
mffc.treasurer@gmail.com
248-426-8926

Membership:
Dave Nowicki
mffc.membership@gmail.com
734-981-3396

Immediate Past President:
Pat Brazzil
mffc.ipp@gmail.com
248-344-7470

At-Large Directors:

A.L. Bulszewicz
mffc.d1@gmail.com
734-954-9994

Eric Center
mffc.d2@gmail.com
248-363-3861

Bruce Strachan
mffc.d3@gmail.com
248-661-2508



Greil offers an update on LSSU's Atlantic Salmon program

Roger Greil (left), manager of the Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Lab ventured from the U.P. March 28 to update the club on a favorite subject. "By the summer of 2012, one million Atlantic Salmon will have been planted in the St. Mary's River" as Lake Superior State celebrates 25 years of stocking the king of fish. It is the only successful re-establishment of Atlantics in the Great Lakes, he said. A testament to the program's success, Atlantic Salmon have turned up in every one of the Great Lakes. "Typically we find more in Lake Huron, but they've been caught everywhere," he said.

Dave Hartman

by Joe Sprys

Another of the "good guys" was lost with the passing of MFFC member Dave Hartman at the all-too-young age of 55. Dave was a husband, father, teacher, coach, and to those from the Club who knew him – a fly fisher. Many of you remember Dave as a regular on setup day for our annual Expo. Dave always said he didn't want to be in charge of anything on those days – he did enough of that throughout the year – he liked just doing whatever needed doing during setup.

Dave taught Industrial Arts at Novi Middle School and coached track there, as well as coaching varsity football at the high school level. Dave coached for over 30 years. He also enjoyed fly fishing – and he'd been enjoying the sport for the last ten years. Like most things for Dave – fly fishing intertwined with education. His involvement with the sport evolved from a discussion with a parent at a Parent/Teacher conference at the Middle School!

Some will remember Dave as somebody who liked to research the latest in fly fishing equipment and make purchases of some of the latest stuff on the market. But those who really knew him, knew that he was also quick to move on to another rod or reel that caught his eye. Each year, a number of Club members were the lucky recipients of Dave's annual garage sale contributions – and would even ask, "Is Hartman going to have anything to sell this year?" It was always near new, and didn't have many miles on it!

Dave found out about his cancer in the fall of 2010. He fought a hard battle against the disease, but lost that battle last month and will be missed by all that knew him. Dave is survived by his wife Karen, son Lucas, and daughter Lauren.

\$15,000 in 2012 conservation grants announced

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee Chairman Terry Drinkwine in April announced the recipients of six 2012 Conservation Grants. Five different organizations will share in the \$15,000 available for this year's grants, financed by proceeds from the 2011 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

The Traverse City-based Conservation Resource Alliance received two grants. Other organizations receiving MFFC support were the Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association, the Clinton River Watershed Council, the Little Manistee River Watershed Conservation Council, and the North Branch Foundation.

Joining Drinkwine on the 2012 MFFC Conservation Committee were Terry Herron, Mike Scott, Bill Shannon and Mike Swope.

A brief description of each funded project follows.

Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association (ASBWA), \$1,500:

The MFFC grant will help fund erosion remediation projects at a minimum of six sites on the Au Sable below Mio. The sites were identified during a comprehensive survey of the river conducted in 2010 and 2011. "Getting the sand out and keeping it out of Trophy Water will improve the health of the river.



Exposed gravel, deeper channels and improved stream velocity will keep this prized trout water in tiptop shape," said ASBWA President Tom Buhr. "This is

especially important now that fishing is allowed year-round. There is more use and more wear and tear. People enjoy fishing this section, but they can love it to death. The series of remediation projects should prevent that from happening."

Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC), \$3,560:

Our grant will fund five activities on Paint Creek and the Clinton River,



including the installation of half-log and lunger structures, the installation of bioswale to minimize run-off to Paint Creek at the Silver Bell Road crossing in Oakland County, improved fish passage and road-stream crossings on Paint Creek, a study of Clinton River flow rates, and the collection of warm-weather season water temperature and macroinvertebrate data.

Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), River Care Kids, \$2,000:

The MFFC grant helps to support one of CRA's signature programs. River Care Kids is a stream maintenance and improvement program focused on northern Michigan's premier trout and salmon streams, including the Jordan,



Betsie, Boardman, Big and Little Manistee, the Pere Marquette and Big Sable. River Care Kids involves K-12 students in river monitoring, maintenance

and management through efforts to remediate sedimentation, erosion and fish habitat loss. "Too often we hear from anglers, biologists and local residents how 'there used to be so many fish; the river used to have so many gravel beds,'" said CRA Development Coordinator Matt Thomas. "River Care Kids focuses on these kinds of issues in a way that fosters in future generations a sense of responsibility and understanding of the dynamics of long-term stewardship."

Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), Coe Creek 20 Mile Habitat Improvement Project, \$3,200:

The combined streambank stabilization and habitat improvement project will provide hiding and resting cover for

resident fish in a half-mile section of the stream and concentrate stream flows to help flush harmful sediment downstream. Coe Creek, said CRA Project Manager Chris Pierce, is an important cold water tributary to the Pine River, which flows through Osceola and Lake counties. The Pine supports wild populations of wild brook, rainbow and brown trout and receives no stocking. In 2008, he said, the Pine River watershed experienced intense rains that damaged numerous road crossings. The flooding "dumped excessive sediment into Coe Creek and caused significant damage to the bank immediately downstream from the crossing." As a result, Coe Creek has experienced artificial widening, channel braiding and warming as well as buried gravel essential to cold water species.

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council (LMWCC), \$3,740:

The MFFC grant will fund a bank restoration and fish structure project at the Indian River Public Access Site on the Little Manistee. The LMWCC place 60 to 70 linear feet and roughly four cubic yards of log, brush and fieldstone along the inside bank of the river where an access dock was washed



away, causing the 20 foot-high bank to significantly deteriorate. "Projects like this not only enhance the natural beauty of the river, but

also provide quality cover for fish," said Tim Phillips of the LWMCC. "It will help adjust and direct river flow, deepening and narrowing the channel, decreasing water temperatures and removing sediment. It will improve an already good fishery."

North Branch Foundation, North Branch Au Sable Road Crossing Improvements, \$1,000:

The support from the MFFC will be used to help qualify for matching funds to replace culverts at eight road-stream crossings in Otsego, Montmorency and Oscoda counties. The goal of each is to increase water flow rates, improve fish passage and reduce sedimentation and road run-off.

**MFFC
2012
Photo
Contest
Winners**



*(Above)
Second Place,
Larry Cory*



(Right) First Place, Steve Bocks



(Above) Third Place, Ken Harfoot

Have the urge to wander the flats? Make your way to Port Austin May 18-20

by Todd A. Schotts

It is that time again. Spring has returned. Also returning are the inhabitants of the Lake Huron flats.



It's time for MFFC members to, as Club President Bruce Kramer put it, "find our religion." It's time to feel the slashing take of smallmouth bass and throb of a bronzeback at the end of the line.

Yes, it's time for the *2012 MFFC Smallmouth Outing*. We'll be returning May 18-20 to the tip of the Thumb -- Port Austin, Port Crescent State Park, Grind Stone City, and Eagle Bay. Home base for the outing is the Blue Spruce & Lucky Horseshoe Motel & Cabins, 8527 Lake St., Port Austin.

The cost of the outing is \$40 per person. The fee includes a Friday evening meal and a Saturday afternoon meal. It does not include lodging expenses or other meals. Participants also are asked to bring a dish to pass.

But if you are interested, or have questions please see me at one of our meetings or you can email me at dragonfly05@yahoo.com.



Anatomy of a fly line: Darkes deciphers the mystery

by Todd A. Schotts

Back on February 29 MFFC members got the bottom line on fly lines, all courtesy of Jerry Darkes.

A little bit of background on Darkes is in order. He is a man of many hats. He is a fly tackle sales rep, a fly fishing instructor and guide, a world class fly tier, and serves on the pro-staffs of a number of companies, including Scientific Anglers, Scott Rods, Angler Sport Group (Daiichi Hooks) and Patagonia. His experience spans four decades in both fresh and saltwater. He is recognized as an expert on Great Lakes steelhead and warm water fishing in the Great Lakes Region.

To start, Darkes took the club on a tour of fly line materials from braided horse hair to silk to PVCs. Fly lines have surely advanced from the days of horse hair and silk, which had to be specially treated just to be able to use them. The biggest concern with modern lines is keeping them clean. Cleanliness isn't only next to godliness, keeping your fly lines clean also will help extend their usable life.

Curious about the anatomy of different types of lines -- floating, sinking lines and intermediate (which I love to use on the flats around the Great Lakes for smallies)? Darkes dissected them. Little glass micro-balloons permeate the outer layer of a floating line. The outer layer encases a hollow center. The outer layers of a sinking line contains tungsten powder to achieve very precise



Above: Jerry Darkes and John Wisniewski at the February 29 meeting. Photos by Peter Albertson.

sink rates. The cores of the different types of lines vary for different situations. Solid braid cores have moderate memory with some stretch and are good for saltwater fishing. Solid strand cores are used in sinking lines and have high memory and less stretch; they are great for cold water fishing.

Line weights, according to the AFTMA Standards, are determined by the first 30 feet, and range from 1 weight to 15 weight. The first 30 feet, or the taper of the line, is divided into three parts. The front part of the taper determines how the line will be presented. The middle section consists of the mass. The rear part of the taper determines how the line will turn over.

One of the recent advances in fly line technology involved the Sharkskin line. It was rough on your fingers and noisy going through the fly rod eyelets. A new line of lines – the Mastery Textured Series – employs the dimple concept common to golf balls. It is, Darkes said, easier to cast, and less noisy going through the eyelets. It is also less abrasive on your fingers and as a professional tier, I like that. It also has the advantage of being less expensive than some of the other premium lines on the market. The Mastery Textured Series encompasses five different varieties – Trout Stalker, Titan Taper, Saltwater Clear Tip, Tarpon, and Streamer Express.

Keep in mind that there is great variety in the price of fly lines, Darkes said. As with so many things, you get what you pay for.



Promotion reduces estimated cost of October's Bahamas bonefishing expedition

by John Pinto

Thanks to the Bahamas Out-Islands Promotion Board (OIPB), a division of the Bahamas Tourist Office, the cost of the Mayaguana trip this October has dropped from an estimated cost of \$1,500 to \$1,000. The OIPB is offering a credit of \$400 on hotel stays and a \$100 credit towards a purchased airline ticket. Travelers must book five nights and stay at a qualifying hotel.

The trip is for one week at the Baycaner Beach Resort at Pirate's Well, Mayaguana. The Baycaner is one of the properties participating in the OIPB program.

The estimated \$1,000 cost covers all airfares, six and a half days of guided fishing, seven nights lodging, all meals, transportation to/from fishing areas and use of canoes and related equipment.

Considering that a typical week of bonefishing in the Bahamas averages \$3,200 without airfare ... well, do the math!

For more information, contact me at bn1fsh2@gmail.com or 586-218-4433.





Trout Tune-Up 2012

This year's edition of one of the club's oldest outings, the Trout Tune-Up, brought dozens of members to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center's Yurt on April 1. Meanwhile, anglers snaked their way up and down the Huron. A few fish were even caught.

