



Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club OCTOBER 2012

Cautiously Tread Within The Watershed

“Be aware of how we treat the land, because it effects our streams and rivers. That’s why awareness is important,” said Jeremy Geist, Watershed Ecologist and active flyfisherman, speaking during during the early October MFFC meeting. Continuing, he added, “Active restoration is just as important as education.”

Education and awareness is key to revitalization of the Clinton River Watershed in which Jeremy operates as an activist, educator, restoration organizer, and data collector. There are 50 major watersheds in the state of Michigan. The Clinton River Watershed encompasses Macomb, Oakland, Lapeer and St. Clair counties and is affected by 63 communities, that house approximately 1.5 million people. And it is the 1.5 million people which impact the water quality within the 81.5 miles of waterways they all share.

The Clinton River Watershed Council, for which Jeremy Geist is one of six employees, heads up the grassroots efforts of stream research, restoration and community awareness. Previously a department of the DNR, the Clinton River Watershed Council is now a non-profit 501(C)(3) self sustaining organization that utilizes donations and grant monies to maintain the ecological integrity of the Clinton River Watershed as best they are able. Most of what the group does is accomplished by volunteers.



Mike Doyle and Jeremy Geist before the map of the Clinton River Watershed, at the October MFFC speaker meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 7, 2012
Speaker: Erin McDonough
MUCC Executive Director
Topic: MUCC
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 14, 2012
Board meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Room 106, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 21, 2012
Activity meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

December 5, 2012
Speaker: TBD
Topic: TBD
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

Clean up & water quality testing pics courtesy of the Clinton River Watershed Council site crwc.org





The Evening

Hatch

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Watershed continued

"How we use our land, every day practices, effects water quality," Jeremy said. That is why the group heads up a number of educational efforts including presentations, Adopt-A-Stream (where people volunteer to maintain a portion of a waterway), Stream Leaders (where kids are taught to measure chemical water quality and collect ecological data used by the council), Storm Water Education presentations, and Clinton Clean Up Events (staffed by volunteers on a weekly to yearly basis).

"Land uses affect impact surface water," said Jeremy, "Land uses include agriculture and farms that use fertilizers, and urban impacts like concrete, parking lot and roof run offs that include oils, salt and feces." All of these impact surface water.

Historically, a mere 40 years ago, the Clinton River was the most polluted waterway in Michigan, due to industry, agriculture, rapid development and lack of stewardship and education." Club members cringed, as Jeremy provided a historical photograph of the river plugged up with car parts, mattresses and appliances. There are still legacy contaminants and flooding problems, however Stoney Creek, particularly Pain Creek - part of the Clinton watershed, now is known for its fishing for brook, brown, and resident rainbow trout.

The watershed council's motto is "to enhance and celebrate the Clinton River and it's watershed," something we as fishermen can all appreciate. Stream restoration is a part of the group's focus. They, with the help of the cohesion and support of MFFC members voting support, landed a grant from the MillerCoors brewing company, through their water stewardship program, sponsoring the 15 mile long Paint Creek dam removal and stream bank stabilization project.

"The biggest problem is storm water pollution," Jeremy said displaying a slide of a dog pooping in a lake accompanied by a woman walking on water, causing a chuckle to ripple across the room. "This includes fertilizer, pesticide, sediment, feces" and other things that run into the storm water drains emptying directly into the watershed.

Questions were fielded at the end of the presentation. "We are very thankful for all the help this group gives us," Jeremy said as he concluded his presentation.

For further information you can visit the Clinton River Watershed Council website at: <http://www.crowc.org>. Or for further information regarding MillerCoors water stewardship programs, visit: <http://www.millercoors.com/Great-Beer-Great-Responsibility/Environmental-Stewardship/Water-Resources.aspx>



Jeremy Geist responding to club member questions.

Available maps of rivers within the Clinton River Watershed, listing access points and geographical information.



Sprys' Prize



Who says money can't buy happiness? Well, maybe not, but it can get you a day of fly tying with Dennis Potter. Thanks to Joe Sprys' winning auction bid, a few lucky MFFC members were able to spend the day tying flies and telling lies with Dennis Potter. Dennis regaled the assembled tiers with fishing stories, MORE THREAD, casting suggestions, MORE THREAD, and helpful tying suggestions - MORE THREAD. To give tiers a break, and Dennis a break from the tiers, Dennis personally prepared and served a 5 star mid day lunch. (Ask Dennis for his meatball and marinera recipes - they are as valuable as his fly recipes.) The flies included the Lightening Bug (recipe on last page), Fat Head Moth (pictured left), Magma Ant, Opal Drake, and Big Eye Ghost (pictured below). At the conclusion of the session, Dennis donated the flies he tied to the MFFC.

Submitted by Chris Hunter



Looking Ahead

For the 2012-2013 Year

MFFC
2012-2013
Schedule of Events

OUTING	DATE	CHAIR	CONTACT
<i>FFF-GLC Fly Tying Expo</i>	<i>December 1st, 2013</i>	TBD	TBD
<i>Ultimate Fishing Show</i>	<i>Jan 10th thru 13th 2013</i>	Rick Gokenbach	richard.gokenbach@chi.frb.org
<i>East Side Meeting</i>	TBD	Rick Gokenbach John Pinto	bn1fsh2@wowway.com richard.gokenbach@chi.frb.org
<i>Members School</i>	<i>February 13th 2013????</i>	Mike Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
<i>Outdoorama</i>	<i>Feb 21st thru 24th 2013</i>	Rick Gokenbach	richard.gokenbach@chi.frb.org
<i>Midwest Fly Fishing Expo</i>	<i>March 9th & 10th 2013</i>	Joe Sprys	flyfishmichigan@aol.com
<i>Spring Steelhead</i>	TBD	TBD	TBD
<i>Trout Tune-Up</i>	<i>April 6th, 2013</i>	Scott Freeburg	sfree357@aol.com
<i>Boy Scout School</i>	TBD	Bruce Kramer	brucekramer@hotmail.com
<i>Youth School</i>	TBD	Mike Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
<i>Public School</i>	<i>April 13th, 2013</i>	TBD	TBD
<i>Opening Weekend</i>	<i>April 26th, 27th, & 28th 2013</i>	Scott Freeburg	sfree357@aol.com
<i>Trout Opener</i>	<i>April 27th, 2013</i>	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
<i>Dick Scott New Members Outing</i>	<i>May 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th 2013</i>	Paul DeJohn	paul.dejohn@hotmail.com
<i>Smallmouth Outing</i>	<i>May 17th, 18th, & 19th 2013</i>	Todd A. Schotts	dragoneyeflyz05@yahoo.com
<i>Rayburn Outing</i>	TBD	Bill Johnson Dave Begley	billjohnson711@att.net
<i>MFFC Banquet</i>	<i>May 22nd, 2013</i>	Jim Telinda	jtelinda@aol.com
<i>Family Couples Outing</i>	TBD	John Parks	
<i>Club Picnic</i>	TBD	Mike Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
<i>Montana (1)</i>	<i>August 3rd - 10th 2013</i>	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
<i>Montana (2)</i>	<i>August 10th - 17th 2013</i>	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
<i>Bless the Waters Outing</i>	TBD	Paul DeJohn	paul.dejohn@hotmail.com

Tying Corner - Dennis Potter's

Lightening Bug

The perfect fly for bluegill and smallmouth bass.

Hook: Size: 14 TMC 2457 or 2487 Scud

Thread: 8/0 Olive

Head: 2.3mm. tungsten bead

Thorax: Peacock herl (3 or 4 strands);

Body: Medium & large opal tinsel;

Legs: rubber legs and 8/0 olive thread

Tying Instructions:

Put the bead on the hook. Wrap the thread to prevent the bead from moving and then continue wrapping to the bend of the hook. Tie in a split rubber tail. Wrap forward and tie in the medium opal tinsel about mid hook and wrap to the tail and back to mid hook. Tie in the larger tinsel for a wing case, and let it hang. Tie in the strands of peacock herl and wrap to the bead - more thread. Pull the wide opal tinsel to form the wing case and tie off at behind the bead. Tie in the rubber legs just behind bead on each side. Whip finish or half hitch finish behind the bead. Trim the legs if necessary.

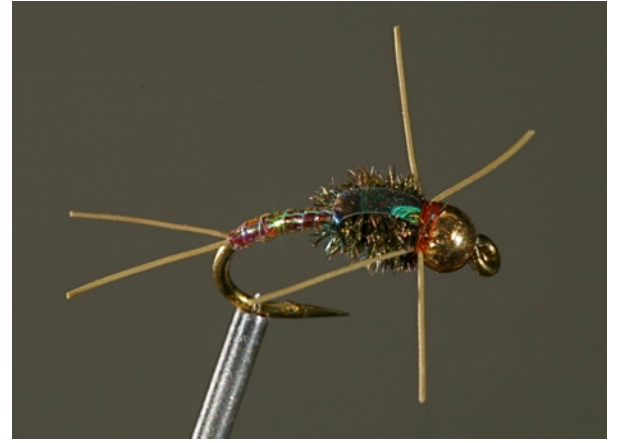


Photo Credit: Dennis Potter.

With thanks and gratitude to Dennis Potter.

Fly Crafter Patterns and Techniques Vol. 2 can be purchased at <http://www.riverhouseflyco.com/patterns/>

Uncredited Photo Credits: ET sign - Roxanne Bower; Speaker meeting photos - Dan Finstad & Chris Hunter; Sprys' Prize photos - Chris Hunter