



*The Evening*

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

September 2017

## Fisheries Update Lake Erie Unit

*By Sybil Hunter*

In August, MFFC welcomed Jim Francis from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (M-DNR). Francis works with the Grayling Initiative, Aquatic Invasive Species, and handles the Lake Erie Management District. "Anything that drains into Lake Erie is my district," said Francis.

### RESOURCES

Displaying the M-DNR Trout Regulations Map, he said, "This is just what the glaciers left us. This is a pretty good representation."

Although we do not have a ton of trout in southeastern Michigan, there are a host of really great resources, Francis pointed out: the Huron River; Spring Mill Pond in Livingston County for Brown Trout; the St. Joe of Maumee which drains into Ohio, a marginal trout stream; the Clinton River in Oakland County with a 15 year stocking program for Brown and Rainbow Trout; Mill Creek, Dexter, in Washtenaw County where the stocked fish are surviving and doing well; and Paint Creek in Oakland County - "That's kinda a jewel in our district. It is about 15 miles long," said Francis. There's a five mile stretch in the middle subject to special regulations of a 14 inch size limit. He also noted that the Spring Mill and Huron River



Programs were started by the MFFC back in 1974!

Trout Trails was Francis' next topic, "This is a newer initiative at the DNR. We're trying to make this information available to anglers. Pick which water systems you are interested in...then you can download to a tablet or smartphone." Available information includes fish type and water type. "I encourage you to check it out. I used it personally on a trip to Traverse City."

### FISH

Steelhead. They can be found on the Huron River; Clinton River; Belle River in St. Claire County (stocked because it gets less access); and Mill Creek (a tributary to the Black River). "Go out and catch a few fish," said Francis.

Smallmouth Bass. Francis advises fishing: the Huron River around Hudson Mills Metro Park as there is great access there; the River Raisin; the Bell River; and the North Branch of the Clinton River.

## MFFC Calendar



**October 11, 2017**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker: Katie Ferner**

**Topic: Fall Brown Trout**

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

**October 18, 2017**

**Activities Meeting**

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

**November 1, 2017**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker: TBD**

**Topic: TBD**

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

**November 15, 2017**

**Activities Meeting**

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

**December 6, 2017 - Speaker Mtg**

**December 20, 2017 - Activities Mtg**



# MFFC

*Continued from Page 1*

Arctic Grayling. The Arctic Grayling initiative was founded by the M-DNR and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The initiative consists of 32 organizations. Initial stocking will occur in the upper Big Manistee River. "We identified a source for the eggs... We are holding them in a quarantine. In two to three years, we plan to put these fish in the water," said Francis. Nicole Watson, a prior MFFC guess speaker, is working with the M-DNR studying the genetics of the Arctic Grayling for future information.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

"An aquatic invasive species is a species that is not native, and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment and human health." Francis paused. "The more we look, the more we find."

For example, \$25 million a year is spent fighting the Sea Lamprey, likewise \$10 million a year on Zebra Mussels - just to keep them at bay. "If you find them... it's too late," said Francis. "You have to be proactive."

"There are Bighead Carp, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, Black Carp... they are highly prolific and have no predators," said Francis. He indicated an M-DNR group went to Illinois to learn how to deal with some of these predators. "They respond to noise. We bang metal weights on the side of the boat, then throw out our nets to catch them."

"All the Great Lakes agencies are working on this," said Francis regarding Asian Carp. "When they found that fish six miles from Lake Erie, it triggered a host of plans already in place."

The Brandon Road Lock needs to be rebuilt. "When Trump took the White House, they put a hold on it," said Francis pointing out, "This is really critical stuff."



The M-DNR hired commercial fishermen to help. "Over the past five years, they pulled out a million carp a year," said Francis, "that can only be used for fertilizer."

When queried about local effects, Francis spoke of the Red Swamp Crayfish Threat right in Novi. Around 8 Mile and Haggerty roads, a one acre retention pond was infested with at least 3,200 Red Swamp Crayfish. "They are native to Louisiana. They outcompete our native species. They just mow down the vegetation, which makes the water muddy. They are so filthy and nasty you can't eat them. They burrow, and are so aggressive they have been responsible for structural and infrastructure damage."

The same week the Red Swamp Crayfish were found in Novi, they were also found in Kalamazoo. "Wisconsin has been dealing with them for awhile," said Francis. "Dredging and filling is the only success story."

"They just bounce from lake to lake," said Francis. "They are at such a high level, there is nothing you can do. We are working with the State of Michigan... I'm not optimistic that there are many good

answers here, but we are trying to learn all we can about them."

## QUESTIONS

Opening the floor up to questions, Francis addressed the sink hole his biologist found in Paint Creek; that the Snakehead fish can actually walk up on the grass and move locations; how the chemical bloom in Grayling wells and water sources has been linked to a fire retardant used by the military base there (the same thing is occurring Oscoda); and the difference between the DEQ and the DNR (the DEQ is regulatory where as the DNR is advisory).

"We are stationed up in Waterford," Francis said in closing. "If you've got questions about anything, shoot us an email, give us a call... we are available, so take advantage of it."



# MFFFC Business



## Minutes

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting  
May 10, 2017 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Meeting minutes are not posted on line.

You may request a copy from any board member.

Anyone may attend a board meeting and the dates are posted on our web site.



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# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Corey Haselhuhn

## Technical Fishing in SE Michigan

By Sybil Hunter

“The rivers are very low right now,” said Corey Haselhuhn, Schultz Outfitters guide, and MFFC’s September guest speaker, “very dry, very clear. Fishing doesn’t really change under lower water conditions. The biggest baddest fish are still gonna be segregated. The conditions we have now are good for technical fishers.”

Haselhuhn indicated fishing is best with good flows (150-1500 cfs.), shallow water, and on 80 to 200 foot wide waterways.

“Our rivers on the east side of the state are alot smaller. There is a sight fishing element...waiting,” said Haselhuhn. “We are not going out casting to every fish. Put down a Yeti cooler and stand on top of it. You need to see about 30 feet away. I spend 70% of the time just watching.”

“You have miles and miles of river, when there are no fish, that adds a level of technicality to fishing.”

Haselhuhn addressed Michigan’s diverse fishery of warm water species including Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass and Carp, as well as the cold water species which include Steelhead, Pike and Walleye.

No matter what is being fished,



“Good sunglasses are super important,” said Haselhuhn. “Not all glasses are created equal. Having good optics with very good coloration is really important. It’s a visual contact sport.”

Haselhuhn then pointed out, “The ugliest conditions are the best Smallmouth fishing. Bad, ugly, rainy, snowy days are best. Smallmouth are catch and release year round. We have better Smallmouth fishing than anywhere else on the planet!” (This is based on sheer numbers and the average size of fish caught.)

Michigan also has seasons within seasons, such as winter, pre-spawn, spawning, post-spawn, summer...

“Pre-spawn is a time of the year you can go out and catch hundreds of fish,” said Haselhuhn. “Post-spawn is when things tend to get alittle more difficult. That’s when these fish start to travel and disperse. During *spawning* we want to leave those fish alone to get things done.”

Addressing equipment, Haselhuhn started with rods. He suggested eight to nine foot rods. “The go to rod to catch Smallmouth is a 9ft. 7wt.,” said

Haselhuhn. “Then it’s the size of the flies and techniques that matter.

Next he suggested “having an intermediate fly line - which is bread and butter.” The three lines he advised are 1) floating line - “a do it all Charlie” that can effectively fish both deep and shallow waters; 2) full intermediate line - it fishes warm and cold water, but take into consideration it will always feel “sticky;” and 3) intermediate clean tip - when it’s hot use this.

After presenting his leader guide, Haselhuhn said, “It’s not uncommon to use four to six foot leaders. These fish (Smallmouth) are not leader shy.”

Haselhuhn recommended four varieties of flies: dredgers; swinging; poppers & bugs; and frogs. Dredgers like the Red Eyed Leech have a weighted head. “It’s gonna go up, and it’s gonna go down,” said Haselhuhn. Swinging flies like the Swingin’ D, Game Changer and the Crafty “give us alot of opportunity to fish places we would, or couldn’t, in the past. This is a pattern that is virtually unweighted...even with the slightest touch, it is moving.” Poppers and bugs are pretty self explanatory, whereas frogs such as the Dalbert Diver “catch the biggest fish.” If you are night fishing, “This thing makes *alot* of noise, mice do not.”

The evening ended with a rousing game of How-Much-Does-This-Fish-Weigh?, based assessment of projected digital images - much to the amusement of the assembled club members.

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# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

The Meanderings of our own Fly Fishing Fin-Addict will re-run in October...

Todd Schotts

## Fly of the Month

Look, it's that "Rat-Faced McDougal!" No I am not talking about a nickname for some dangerous or shady character, but the famous fly from yesteryear for our September 2017 Fly of the Month.

The "Rat-Faced McDougal" was created back in 1939 in Roscoe, New York by tiers Harry and Elsie Darbee, a husband and wife fly tying team. In 1935, Harry and Elsie started E.B. and H.A. Darbee Fly Tying Business. They tied many different patterns, from other tiers and their own creations. One of the most famous of their fly patterns is the "Rat-Faced McDougal." The original pattern was a hair body dry fly called "H.A. Darbee's Special Mayfly" that later got the name "Beaverkill Bastard" because of mating the deer hair body (like a bass bug) with the materials of a trout fly. Then a friend of the Darbee's, Percy Jennings, wanted the fly tied in a smaller version; eventually that is how the fly became the "Rat-Faced McDougal." The Darbee's were known to take famous dry flies and add the deer hair body, for a unique fly. Besides changing flies to float like a cork, they also had a fly called "Darbee's Spate Fly" (a salmon fly) and the "Two Feather Fly" just to name a few.

The original pattern was tied with hackle tip wings, but the book *Catskill Flytier: My Life, Times, and Techniques* by Harry Darbee, mentions that white calf tail wings are even more visible than the hackle tips that were originally used in this pattern and just as successful. I know this first-hand. For the waters I fish here in Michigan and in the

Smokey Mountains, I used pink calf tail for the wings making the fly extremely visible.

For this month, we are going to use the original pattern with hackle tip wings. As the body is deer hair, this makes the pattern extremely buoyant and a great fly for fishing rough waters. When tying this attractor fly, the larger sizes of this fly is a great evening fly pattern and is easier to see both for fly fishers and the fish.

When fishing this pattern, fish it like any other basic, normal type of dry fly, although now you will be able to fish the rougher waters. Another great feature of this fly, with it being so buoyant it makes a great indicator fly for the "Hopper/Dropper Rig." If you are wondering what species to tie this fly for, it is really an all purpose fly pattern for about any species of fish.

Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



**HOOK:** *Standard Dry Fly sizes 16-10*

**THREAD:** *Gray 3/0 or 210 denier for the deer hair, White or Tan 8/0 or 70 denier for rest of the fly*

**TAIL:** *Ginger hackle fibers*

**BODY:** *Spun and shaped Deer or Caribou body hair, tan or grey*

**WING:** *Grizzly Hackle Tips (or Calf Tail)*

**HACKLE:** *Ginger Hackle*

Al Haxton

## Au Sable River Clean-up

Saturday September 9th was a perfect day for the annual AuSable River cleanup sponsored by Anglers of The AuSable, now in its 23rd year! The weather cooperated with mostly sunny skies and temps in the high 60s. It was a great day for a walk and to give back to the river that brings us so much enjoyment. Our team of MFFC members did a great job of finding a few bags of trash that had been left on our beat. Once again, the pickings were rather slim compared to early clean ups. But that's a good thing. More folks are appreciating the river for the wonderful resource it is and being more careful during their trips downstream. This year, for the first time, Angler volunteers spent time going through each bag of collected debris and took out items that could be recycled. The estimate is about 70% of the items were put into recycling containers. What a great improvement. Unfortunately our club only had one team this year. I must promote this enjoyable event better next time. Next year this annual event will be on Saturday September 8th. Joyce and I will be there. We hope to see many more MFFC members.





# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Club Events

John Pinto

### Sand In My Shoe

My many thanks to for letting me publish my very salty thoughts each month. This column will keep MFFC members informed regarding salt water fishing destinations and related news.

Having traveled the tropics for over thirty years, I have seen just about everything regarding the life and culture there. I have seen many tourists arrive to a Bahamian island such as Harbour Island in northern Eleuthera for their first island experience. For a week they take in the beautiful turquoise water, the white sand and the island life. As they are checking out of the hotel at week's end, they book the following year. As they say their goodbyes to their new-found friends and get into the waiting taxi, one of the members of the hotel staff will turn to another and say, "Dat fella sure got sand in his shoe!" That means he has fallen into a trance that will keep bringing him back year after year. I know this to be true. It happened to me.

The years have moved on and they have been good years. From a trout fisherman who dared not miss a Michigan trout opener for twenty-five years to one who moved onto the salt water flats in 1985. I managed to fish every Bahamian island over the past thirty years and can still tell you the prominent guide on each island, the names of his wife and most of his kids. It has been a very good run. I am now enjoying the best fly fishing of my life solely chasing bonefish on Mayaguana along with Permit, Tarpon, Snook, Dorado and Rooster Fish in

Nicaragua. So many fish! So little time!

Stories and information I have plenty of, and am pleased to share them with you. The Salt Water Committee is actively putting together programs for members to put you where the fishing is terrific and the cost is minimal. There will be a Bahamian bonefish trip each year, maybe several, and for those more adventurous souls, we are working with a small hotel in the Cayos Perlas of Nicaragua for our lodging and meals as we chase Permit over thirteen small keys. I am also exploring a baby Tarpon fishery this coming February in Mexico, and when the Texas coast get past the havoc caused by Hurricane Harvey, I have been invited there to sample their Redfish and Sea Trout fishing.

Come along on this salt water journey. I promise to keep it interesting and informative. Perhaps when all is said and done, you'll end up with some sand in your shoe too!

Upcoming Saltwater Committee events include: a possible Mayaguana Trip in October - four members needed, and January and February saltwater trips will be assembled at a later date.



MFFC Members

### Cleaning Up



*Prepping for the Au Sable clean-up.*



*Team MFFC hard at work catching trash.*



*Awaiting orders.*



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Important Club Stuff

Jeff Kenzie

### Welcome!



Jeff joined in September!

*"I was stalked by Jon Bada....I was out cleaning my drift boat in my driveway... and got recruited."*

If you see him around give him a warm Club welcome...and ask him what is cropped out of his picture.

Order Soon!

### Expo Shirts

Expo shirts will be the same as last year, but without the 40th anniversary under the club logo. After speaking with the Simms representative and looking at the meeting schedule, we determined *the order needs to be placed in December*. Therefore, we will be taking orders during the October and November club meetings. Also, we have ordered Simms hats that will be selling for \$15 during those meetings. Contact Eric Center [ecenter4753@yahoo.com](mailto:ecenter4753@yahoo.com).

Speaker Meeting, TBD - November 1, 2017

"Jay" James Humphries

### Welcome!



Jay, from Farmington, joined at the August speaker meeting. Here he is asking questions of Jim Francis from the M-DNR.

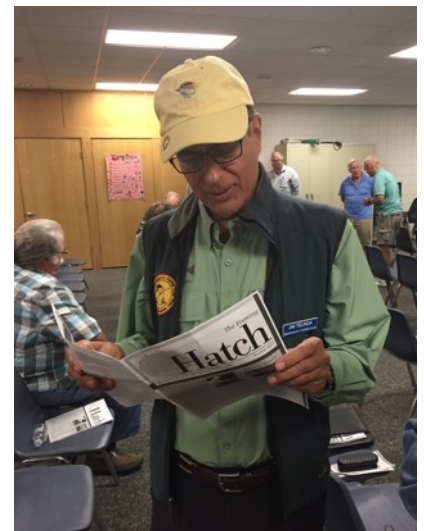
An All Call

### Needed Volunteers

The MFFC needs chairpersons for the following: Featured Fly Tyer Chair (schedules monthly member tyers for activities meetings); Banquet Chair; Raffle Co-chair to work with Linda Bocks; and an Expo Hospitality Chair (to co-chair this year, then become chairperson next year). If interested, contact a board member.

Caught

### Reading The Hatch



Special Recognition

### Thank You!

Big thanks go out to John Eriksson for coordinating, organizing and making sure everyone was well fed at the club picnic! A thankful shout out to Jim Akin! He is stepping down as MFFC Banquet Chair. A grateful note of thanks to Todd Schotts, who served as the club's Feature Fly Tyer Chair and Chairperson for the Smallmouth Outing for many years! Special thanks also to Renee Gall for stepping up as the new Smallmouth Outing Chairperson!