



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Summer 2017

Romancing The Trout

By Sybil Hunter

Joe Humphreys, nationally renowned fly fisherman, fly tyer, conservationist, author and educator, was our MFFC Banquet speaker this year. He presented stunning videos, sharing his passion for the sport.

Cueing up stunning views of fly fishing, "These waters saved my life." Humphreys started. "It was captivating to me. I think the trout streams are fountains of youth....I want to save them." (His signature video can be viewed at livesthestreamfilm.com.)

In his second video, Humphreys showed footage of fishing near Kentucky with a lovely rainbow, in the spring creeks of Pennsylvania for Brown Trout, and 6000 feet high in the Smokies for Brook Trout. "This is called falling in love," said Humphreys, "romancing the trout, loving the beauty around..."

With footage of him fishing, he said, "Follow that drift in, then you follow the drift to the bitter end." The tuck cast, the rolling truck cast and general fly fishing aerobics were included in the footage, narrated live by Humphreys. "Watch this," he said.



"The fish has me right where he wants me." In the video, Humphreys delicately navigated from large bolder to large bolder, back and forth, back and forth the.....SPLASH! The room erupted in laughter.

"I love to work upstream," said Humphreys of the next video segment. "When I'm working a stream, my elbow is in." Humphreys landed a beautiful fish on the video.

"I call this poetry in motion," said Humphreys. "The flow of the currents... the flow of the fly line." Big pause. "The anticipation of hopefully catching a trout..."

"When you go on that stream, this is God's world. This is why you are doing what you are doing. You are trying to keep those beautiful streams around for our children," he said in closing.

MFFC Calendar



August 23, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: James Frances

Topic: The Lake Erie Watershed

Costic Center

Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

September 13, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

September 27, 2017

Activities Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 11, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 18, 2017

Activities Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

[Joe Humphreys Video Link](#)



MFFC

The Dave Begly Challenge

Mike Miller

As a Forensic Chemist currently working in the metalworking lubricants industry, Mike was recently approached by a recruiter to move to a large company in Texas. He will start his new job at Nexeo Solutions on August 21st. He said he is sad that this opportunity will pull him away from the MFFC, Michigan waters, and the friends he's met here in Michigan, but hopes he will be back to visit.

My favorite things about fly fishing are getting out to see things in nature that I may never get to otherwise see; that fly fishing always offers me serenity, as well as a technical challenge; and that I get to teach others - seeing the smiles on their faces when they realize it is not as hard as it first appears.

When I moved to Michigan for a new job in 2015, I went to the Orvis shop in Royal Oak looking for a fly fishing club; they put me in touch with MFFC. I joined the club in 2016. I felt welcome almost immediately, almost like part of a special family.

I have fished pretty much the entire country fresh and saltwater alike, catching everything from Bluegill, Bass, Pike, Musky, Salmon, Trout to Tuna, Redfish, and even Tarpon. I spent a lot of time on the Wolf River in Wisconsin, the Au Sable River in Michigan, and the White River in Arkansas. Michigan is special because I love the variety and the types of waters, the ease of access, and the lovely surroundings they flow through and rest upon.

My daughters, Stephanie and Brenda, both learned to fly fish when they were young girls. Steph and I went on a fishing camping trip when she was about 10. She also went salmon fishing with me when the fish were almost as big as she was. Those are some of the best times I have had fishing!

My wife, Debbie, lives in Downers Grove, IL and works as a teacher's aide to challenged students. (She hates to fish but let's me go fishing anyway.) My two daughters Stephanie

(29) and Brenda (26) are now grown. Stephanie graduated with a degree in physics (optics) and is living in Lake Orion. (She gets married September 21!) Brenda earned her degree in biology and lives in Roselle, IL.

As for me? I was born in and grew up on the northwest side of Chicago in a Polish neighborhood. Our family built a few boats when I was younger and we would spend most of our spring, summer, and fall weekends plus vacations on the Fox Chain O' Lakes near the Illinois-Wisconsin border. That is where I first picked up a fly rod.

My dad had a Shakespeare Wonder Rod with an automatic fly reel. He used it to drift fishing with Minnows for Crappie. The rod peaked my curiosity when I was about 8 years old. After some research, I bought a fly from a meager selection of flies I found at a resort in the area. I started catching Bluegill with it. Then one day decided to try tying my own fly. I read about how to make a popper. With my youthful naïveté, I misunderstood what the books meant by "vise" so, with no fly tying equipment nor anyone to show me, I used a pair of pliers and a regular vise to design my first fly - a popper concocted of a cork test tube stopper, a Carlisle hook, squirrel tail fur, and some Testor's model paint.

My first fly wasn't a work of art, but the next time we were at the lake I woke up one early before everyone else and took my dad's fly rod to take the popper out to work the shoreline. I was shocked when a five pound Bass arose from the weeds engulfed my fly. Ever since that moment, I have been hooked on fly tying and fly fishing.

To this day I still have one of the first books I bought (for 50 cents!) from Scientific Anglers titled "To Cast A Fly." I was told by Bruce Richards of Scientific Anglers that he has only seen two copies of it, and they are both in the archives of 3M and not allowed out.

I learned on my own; that's why I like to teach others. I want to teach them so that they can avoid making all of the novice mistakes I made and struggled through. I took advantage of every opportunity to learn from anyone who could help me. I learned until I could teach.



After years of teaching at many fishing and fly fishing events for Orvis, Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers (now Fly Fishers International), I was approached by one of the FFF master certified instructors to get my certification. He mentored me; I passed my certification to become a FFF (now FFI) Certified Casting Instructor in 2005. Everyone always said I was certifiable, and now I can say I am.

I joined TU and FFF in the early 1990's when I was looking for clubs that were into fly fishing. I wanted learn more and meet other people interested in the sport. I wanted to learn about local places to fly fish and was looking for camaraderie. Little did I know that it would draw me in.

I became a BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge Counselor in Illinois, and later in Michigan. I was the secretary of the Oak Brook Chapter of TU in Illinois and edited its newsletter for six years. Later I became the newsletter editor for the FFF club in Illinois called DRIFT (DuPage Rivers Fly Tyers) and did that for another 6 years. I was the membership chair of the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited (TU) for many years. I guess it got into my blood.

My advice for everyone fly fishing is: Take time to look around you when you are fishing. Learn as much as you can about the sport from as many people as you can. AND above all, pass along that knowledge to others to help keep our sport alive.



MFFFC Business

Photographer On The Go

Spence's Field Report



Our own Gadabout Gaddis, Randy Park, hanging at the Jackson Hole airport with Winona Judd, both on their way to Nashville.



Jim Holly getting it done at the Sterling Heights Nature Center today for free fishing weekend.

This is the club's second year there tying flies and letting the kids cast.

Thank you Jim, Mike and Vicki Harrington, and Craig Summers.

Brenda Suchenek, who runs the place, fed us pizza and sent out an ad so we had a good turn out. Thank you Brenda for letting us in your place a second time. We always have fun.



Two of the nicest guys around and always there when our club needs some support. Norm and I go back to the Free Press days, and love to share old memories of a once great newspaper... You know Norm, the place went to hell after we left...



Besides these guys being great and having some great fun, Corey...I love the work you did at Gates! A fresh new



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Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Ray Schmidt On

Fishing South America

By Sybil Hunter

In July, MFFC welcomed guest speaker Ray Schmidt. "I've been going to South America on and off for 20 years," Schmidt said referencing Patagonia and Argentina. Patagonia is a region, not a country as many people think; it's a region in the Andes Mountains that is named after the indigenous people native to that area. "Peaks in the Andes are young peaks, jagged peaks, unlike what one sees in the Rockies." A slide show of beautiful photos accompanied his presentation.

Bariloche, Argentina. "There is a very large upland, fresh water lake. The city looks like Bavaria as it was a hiding place for the Nazis during the war." The rivers there are a fourth tier water shed. "It (the water) just keeps clarifying every time it drops into another lake. The water there is extremely clear. The region itself is very clean and arid."

Rio Limay. "Here lies one of the biggest big fish rivers," said Schmidt. "Brown Trout average 20 inches." There are some Rainbows in the watershed as well. According to Schmidt, between 1860 and 1865, Brown Trout were brought to the river, then they were brought to the United States. "Their primary diet is a Pancura." (A Pancura looks like a cross between a crayfish and a crab.)

"They also eat minnows and insects. The caddis hatches are really as strong as any trico hatch," remarked Schmidt.

"There are many, many rivers that are almost never fished." Schmidt said in his two to three day trip, he never saw another soul. Every time you turn around, there is another splendor; it's a gorgeous place."

Chile. "Chile is lush compared to Argentine. It is greener. It is cooler and rainier," said Schmidt. "It took us 15 minutes to get to the top of the Andes, then in a minute we were at sea



level. A lot of these rivers are two tier rivers. The stuff is clear. The water is as blue as blue can be. The weather is wet, cool and damp." While there he fished Brown Trout.

A bait fish pattern Schmidt suggests is the Zoncora (a crab and Zonker cross). It is good for both Chile and Argentina.

In Chile, "These are very hospitable people. The food is delicious." In Argentina, "You eat beef. Beef and beer."

In this area, according to Schmidt, the Rainbow Trout are an average of 12 to 16 inches in length and "are dumber than a box of rocks."

Condors hang out on the rocks. "As the sun hits the walls, the thermals come up," said Schmidt. This keeps the condors warm. The condor's wingspan is about seven to nine feet.

There are multiple working estancia (cattle ranches) in the area. One is a 70,000 acre ranch in the valley that houses 18 to 20 inch Brown Trout.

The second half of Schmidt's presentation showed the making of a TFO rod. "TFO gives power to the angler," said Schmidt. "TFO is on the move. TFO is made in Korea. They own their own building...and are proud to say that they offer high performance rods at affordable prices."

Slides showed each step of the rod building process, meticulously executed. The raw material is impregnated with resin, then a clear plastic film is put on the rod. It is refrigerated (the binding agent is sensitive to humidity and temperature).

The taper is cut. A straight taper is "stronger to the butt." A compound taper is for a tip flex rod. It is then wrapped and refrigerated. Next, the piece is rolled onto a specific stainless steel mandrel. The mandrels are checked. One is chosen, dependent upon the specific rod being built. The worker then applies a release agent to the mandrel. Graphite is tacked to the mandrel with a hot iron. The press table turns the graphite onto the mandrel. This process is done by hand. Next, the heat shrink film is applied. The mandrel is then hung and enters the 160 degree F oven. The temperature is then increased to meet very specific specifications. At the right time, the mandrel is removed from the oven. The film is removed. The piece is sanded, cut for each section and dyed. The name is silk screened onto the rod. The technician then lays out the guide placement. Connection points are ground. Guides are put on by hand. Threads are sanded. Line up dots are placed on the rod body. The reel seat is assembled and attached. The rod is then complete!

"TFO's custom shop is in Dallas, Texas," said Schmidt. "We stock every part for every TFO rod in Dallas, with next day turnaround."

The next slide displayed the break points of the completed rod. "We tell you this because we want you to know," said Schmidt. "Don't bend the rod too much." He showed how a rod body is circular when straight, but oval when bent.

"Keep a lower rod angle," said Schmidt. You should never take your hand above the cork because you are at risk of breaking the rod."

"We are the number one manufacturer of fly rods. 10,000 rods a month, within the U.S., are shipped out of Dallas," said Schmidt. "We are the number one rod maker in the world."

"Every place we go, 80% of the people have TFO rods," said Schmidt, who then took an informal poll. TFO owning MFFC members proved Schmidt right once again.

In closing, Schmidt passed around an Axiom 2. "It has straight tapers, is light as a feather and strong as a bull! It is a surprisingly pleasant rod to cast," he said. "A new patented process is used in manufacturing the Axiom 2." Being the truly discerning crowd that MFFC is, a few members liked the Axiom 2 so much - that they threatened to grab it and run.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

From The MFFC Archives

A Historical Perspective

Submitted by Mike Doyle

This is the third installment of an ongoing series of historical articles. The following excerpts are from the May 3, 1980 edition of The Evening Hatch. Of interest in this issue are the items up for grabs in the raffle, a contest announcement, and the Balance sheet for the 1980 Rod Show. Space is limited and we can not reprint the entire edition.

Bold Type indicates current members

Editor Bill Schott

....be sure to turn this page over as **Bruce Strachan** has several items of interest!! Including the announcement for what will be the best raffle of the year!! Be sure to come out to the May 7th meeting so you can participate in the raffle. (So, we turn to page 2 and **Bruce** writes) The final raffle of the year will be held at the May 7 meeting. For those who goofed off all winter, a selection of small trout flies and a selection of Hex patterns tied by Frank Cupp will be offered. Or a collection of Bass Flies tied by Dick Garvey may be your choice. To carry those flies we'll have a Henry's Fork Vest up for grabs too. For casting those bugs, we'll have a choice of one of four beautiful Fisher Graphite Fly Rods with bag and case. The rods are a 9' #5, 8 1/2' #7, 8' #6 or a 7 1/2' #4. And for keeping the coffee warm around the camp on cool spring evenings we have a double air pot and insulated picnic bag for the taking.

(Special Announcement in this issue of The Evening Hatch)

FIRST ANNUAL MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB FLY TYING AND ROD BUILDING CONTEST

Win a beautiful prize while you have fun tying flies and building yourself a fly rod.

Rule of Contest:

Fly Tying

- tie 9 flies consisting of 3 dries, 3 nymphs and 3 wet
- Flies shall be of an authentic pattern, except that you may have complete freedom of material substitution
- Hook sizes as follows:
 - Dries - 10 through 14
 - Nymphs - 10 through 14
 - Wets - 2 through 14

Rod Building:

- Build a fly rod or steelhead / salmon rod of your choice.
- Build any length, line weight, or material

Flies will be judged on authenticity of pattern, uniformity, balance or conformation and workmanship. Awards will be made for best set of 3 flies in each category.

Rods will be judged on workmanship, appearance. Compatibility of materials used and suitability for purpose designed. Awards will be made for the 1st 2nd 3rd best of contest.

All club members are eligible except judges and club fly tying and rod building teachers.

Only flies and rods produced during the this contest period will be eligible for entry. Only fly rods may be entered in contest.

...Please note Page 3 of this issue. It contains the balance sheet for this year's Rod Show I guess we didn't make out quite as good as we did last year... (The balance sheet indicates total revenues were \$6,153.47, total expenses were \$5,747.61 leaving a balance of \$678.86, less \$600.00 budgeted seed money. The actual profit was \$78.86)
The Rod Show was held at the Northfield Hilton Inn.

Current Event:

Our club currently has one (1) active member from the 1960s, five (5) from the 1970s, ten (10) from the 1980s, and thirty one (31) from the 1990s, that makes rest of us just kids!

MFFC Members

Catching Fish



Corey Thelan



Linda Bocks at the Lovells Woman's Outing



A captive Bass at the Smallmouth Outing



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Small Mouth Outing

Wind & Waves

The 2017 MFFC Smallmouth Outing blew in from May 19th through the 21st. Most of us blew in Thursday the 18th.

This year's Smallmouth Outing took place in its usual location, the Village of Port Austin and its surrounding areas. I should have known what was in store for us after the drive up M-53 to Port Austin. Being a former Marine stationed in Camp Pendleton and being stationed over in Desert Storm, I saw a lot of sand/dust storms. On the way up Thursday, a few of us attendees got the chance to drive through a sand/dust storm! This present from Mother Nature was like the winter white outs we are used to seeing in our Michigan winters, but instead of snow, this time it was all dirt! The winds gusted upwards of 50 to 60 mph. With all the dirt fields we passed, aided in these rare and unforeseen circumstances. The car in front of me totally disappeared and then reappeared quite a few times - which made for interesting driving.

The fishing Thursday the 18th was the best, from the report of those who went out enduring the waves and wind. All weekend we endured muddy waters, high winds, and large waves (7 to 15 feet) for the entirety of the four days. Lucky for us, most of our fishing areas had breaks to help cut down the waves, making it safer to wade and use water vessels. Those of us who kayaked, ventured to the Pennebog River to get out of the waves. Our gaggle of Kayakers invaded the Pennebog for a very successful mission.

As for me, I became the "Pike Whisper" with my arsenal that only enticed Pike. For

other fishers, both Pike and Smallmouth kept their lines tight. Considering what Mother Nature threw at us with the winds where we fished, our mission was successful and complete.

Dangerous and bad weather approached our area the night of the annual get together dinner. With our trusty phones, we watched the storm, and were finally forced to make the decision to cancel, but not till after some serious discussion. We had no place for 47 attendees to gather that was safe from the storm coming our way. As usual, Mother Nature decided to throw us a curveball; the storm just missed us, but hit the areas to our west really hard with heavy rains and lots of lightening. During this dinner is when we do the Chili and Soup Cook-off and award prizes to the winners. So, to be fair to everyone that attended, we put all the attendee's names in a hat and drew our four names for the prizes. The four big winners were Cody Kurzer & Larry Burrell who each won a gift card to Bass Pro Shop, and Renee Gall & Donald Kelenski who each won a famed Game Changer Fly.

With every article, you have to have a closing, and for this closing I would like to announce this was John Pattee's (co-chair) and my self's last year running this totally amazing outing. For me it has been 11 years of some of the greatest moments. I rescued this outing from being defunct and only in memories of yesteryear. My first year I had only five or seven attendees. From there I averaged around 50 attendees for the past six years. To me that is truly amazing achievement of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's membership. Never in my mind, would I have thought that this outing would have grown as it has and become so popular and successful.

Since I cannot put everyone's name in this article that has attended over the years,

or helped somehow, to thank them this will have to do. I would like to thank my fellow club members, the club's Board of Directors (for letting me chair this outing), local fly shops, River Traditions (fly boxes in 2016), and ATS Printing (for the shirts). One final thing, I would like to introduce the NEW Chairperson for the Smallmouth Outing, my good friend, and fellow Bass Bum, Renee Gall. Tight Lines and see you on the flats.



Nice Bass



Bob Gall



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Instructors of the

MFFC Youth School



On Saturday, May 6, 2017, 36 folks gathered at MSU Tollgate for the 2017 MFFC Youth School. There were five returning students and eight new students eager to learn on this windy, but sunny day. Seventeen MFFC members volunteered their time that day to instruct, mentor, and encourage the youth.

The day began with Len Dixon's overview of fly fishing, including developing a respect for the land and bodies of water on which one fishes, and sharing some ideas of books and resources that would make good gift ideas. This introduction was followed

New Outing

Woman's Outing

The First annual Women's outing took place June 29th through July 2nd in Lovells, Michigan.

The venue was a three bedroom, two bath cabin located on Big Creek Between Grayling and Lovells. The ladies were each treated to a half day float trip on the Mainstream AuSable with guide Chad Fath. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the float! Meals were

prepared at the cabin with the new outdoor grill we put to good use. Libations and s'mores were on the menu as we all sat by the evening campfire. Big Creek provided the perfect setting to step out the door and hit the river for some nice Brook Trout. It even provided a nice Brown Trout for one lucky lady!

Nearby Shupac Lake was the destination for a daytime fishing, as was the North Branch of the AuSable on the last day. Lasting friendships were made as the beautiful setting by the river in northern Michigan provided the perfect opportunity to get to know one another.

The dates for next year will be slightly earlier, so as to coincide with some of the better hatches on the river. Next year's

Upcoming

Sept. & Oct. Outings

- * Au Sable River Clean Up @ Gates - September 9, 2017. Contact Al Haxton at infoman984@sbcglobal.net.
- * Manistee River Clean Up - September 23, 2017. Contact Al Haxton at infoman984@sbcglobal.net.
- * Muskegon River Outing - Sept. 21-24, 2017. Contact Todd Schotts at dragoneyeflyz05@yahoo.com.



dates are Thursday May 31st through Sunday June 3rd. Three nights and four days on Big Creek with a half day float trip are included. There is room for six ladies. Contact Linda Bocks at loopster4@yahoo.com for details.