



Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2011

Opening the 2011 Expo

The sounds of bagpipes and drums, the traditional opening of European fly fishing shows, opened the 2011 edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo last month.

The pipers, drummer and Jeff "Bear" Andrews marched through the hall past more than 120 exhibitors, signaling the start of the Expo. For more on the Expo, see inside.



Banquet to feature two-time national fly fishing champ



George Daniel

Did you know that there's a U.S. National Fly Fishing Championship? Did you know that the 2011 MFFC Annual Banquet will host as its featured speaker a two-time National Champion? Now you do.

George Daniel won the event in 2008 and 2009 and he'll be the featured guest May 18 at the Italian-American Club at 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia. A member of Fly Fishing TEAM USA, he has competed in four World Fly Fishing championships – 2006 in Portugal, 2007 in Finland, 2008 in New Zealand and 2009 in Scotland. In 2006, competing in a field of 110 in the world championships held in Portugal, he finished in fifth place, the second best result ever by a competitor from North America.

He began fly fishing at age 6 while growing up in northern Pennsylvania. He credits Joe Humphreys for the bulk of his knowledge. An FFF-certified Fly Casting Instructor, his passion is in teaching others about the sport. He logs over 200 days a year on trout waters near and far from his home base in north-central Pennsylvania. Daniel is currently working on his first book, "Dynamic Nymphing," which is scheduled to be available later this year. Daniel resides in Lock Haven with his wife (Amidea), daughter (Evangeline) and golden retriever (Madison). Daniel is employed and sponsored by the TCO Fly Shop in State College. His banquet presentation is entitled "Joys of Fly Fishing."

Banquet tickets are \$40 per person and are available from Dave Begley and Bill Johnson. Daniel will also lead a fly tying seminar -- "Confidence Flies" -- in the morning and afternoon prior to the Banquet. Watch *The Hatch* and web site for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2

Trout Tune-Up

Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center
3577 Sleeth Court,
Commerce Twp., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 13

Club Elections

& Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Wayne Snyder

Topic: The Golden Years

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

April 20

Board Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, Rm. 107, 7:30 p.m.

April 23

Boy Scout School

Independence Oaks County Park, 9501 Sashabaw, Clarkston
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 27

Activity Meeting

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

April 29-30, May 1

Trout Opener Weekend

Outing: Rayburn Lodge
Opening Morning:
Gates Lodge Boardroom
Grayling



The Evening

Hatch

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A visit to the show that gave rise to The Fly Fishing Show

Dear Joe (Sprys),

Really enjoyed visiting the show. I got a chuckle from the little rumor started that I was here to see about making a buyout offer. If I try to snake anything away it would be your volunteer work force. I'm jealous. You guys really impress me with your dedication. If anyone, it's me who appreciates the preparation needed to produce such a quality event. How about we satisfy these rumors and you and your volunteers run my eight shows next year and I run this one? Does your crew know the minimum wage in N.J.?

Seriously, please let my office know before you visit Somerset who is joining you. I'll have the gals print guest badges for you. Unfortunately, I don't feed or have an open bar included. Ha!

Maybe you or some of your staff doesn't know the following, but my visit was like a homecoming for me. It was over 20 years ago, not sure of the exact year, that I drove to Southfield to visit this show I heard about. I met Gary LaFontaine and Gary Borger and loved the weekend. When I talked to the owner of Seven Springs Mt. Resort, where I ran two stores of my own, and told him about the show, he said, "Why don't you do one here? I'll give you the exhibit hall for free and you bring in the people for my hotel and restaurants." That's how I started and the rest is history, as they say. Your show was the initial idea that started me on the show road and without visiting years ago I would be doing something else today instead of producing shows. So my present visit was to remember how I enjoyed my first visit years ago. It's still the best show in the country, next to mine of course! I had to say that because fly fishermen have big egos in case you haven't noticed!

Thanks for having me. See you,

Chuck Furimsky

A look back at Expo 2011

More than 3,000 winter-weary fly anglers and would-be fly anglers made their way to the MFFC's annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo last month. The popularity of the "Kidz Korner" continues to grow and kept club volunteers busy throughout the weekend. Dozens of presentations over Saturday and Sunday got attendees thinking of this month's traditional opening of the 2011 Trout Season and the stonefly, caddis and mayfly hatches that will soon follow.



MFFC Board Meeting Minutes February 9, 2011

Call to Order: Todd Schotts at 7:26 p.m.

Roll: B.Kramer, C. Hunter, D. Finstad, R. Gokebach, J. Telinda, T. Drinkwine, A. Bulszewicz, M. Duchin, T. Schotts

Review of Minutes: Hunter/Kramer - Approved

Approval of Agenda: Hunter/Gokenbach - Approved

Officer Reports:

President – Kramer:

- Expo update
- Will send email to attendees re: expo
- Will speak at Southfield Rotary, Ferndale Rotary

Vice President – Hunter

- Fred Field will attend next meeting re: liability coverage

Treasurer – Telinda

- Treasury in good shape. Above budget
 - Raffle budget: Motion to increase budget by Duchin/Hunter - Approved
- Corresponding Secretary – Finstad
- Hatch: Notices sent through Constant Contact when *Hatch* is published
 - Speakers: Rescheduled due to snow storm meeting cancellation
 - Expo speakers: Full
 - Website: Constantly being updated
- Membership – Gokenbach
- 314 paid members

Events and Outings

- East Side Meeting: Feb. 23 at Kolping Ctr., John Valk, speaker

New Business

Conservation Committee – Drinkwine

- Discussion on projects. Motion to table Hunter/Kramer - approved

Old Business

None

Visitor Comment

None

Adjournment: Kramer/Hunter at 8:26 p.m.



Al Haxton at Opener 2010.

Make plans to attend Club's 10th Opening Day celebration at Gates Lodge Boardroom

by Al Haxton

While the traditional opening day of Michigan's Trout Season is about as late on the calendar as possible, that day is rapidly approaching. I could share the true count of days until the rods will be uncased, fly lines straightened and new winter-tied flies appear on the ends of tippets, but I think I will make you count the days for yourself. Trust me, the day of the opener, April 30, will soon be here, so it is time to begin making plans.

This year will mark our 10th Opening Day celebration, and I hope you will plan on joining other Michigan Fly Fishing Club members and guests at our annual Opening Day Memorial Brunch.

Each year many of us gather at the Gates AuSable Lodge Boardroom to share fishing stories, some coffee, bagels, donuts and perhaps a famous Bloody Mary, that make the day start off so well. We gather there to share good times and also to remember past members who are no longer fishing with us. We fondly remember past experiences shared with these members, and share new experiences with newfound friends and fishing buddies.

As in past years the Boardroom will be open to us from about 9 a.m. until about 11 a.m. Only one rule must be observed: please park in the Stephan Bridge Road public access parking lot. With just a short walk you will be welcomed to our 2011 Trout Opener Memorial Brunch.

I hope to see many smiling faces again this year. Please plan on joining us for this fun and thoughtful opening day celebration.



Oh Canada!

Three hours into Ontario will put you on enticing new waters

A three-hour drive from the Detroit area puts you in casting distance of the Au Sable, Manistee and Pere Marquette.

But John Valk, owner of Grindstone Angling, offered attendees at the February 23 “East Side Meeting,” a different bit of advice: “Get to the border.” That’s the U.S.-Canada border, of course.

A three-hour drive into the Lake Huron side of Ontario will put you on the Saugeen, the Rocky Saugeen, the Bighead, the Beaver and the Nottawasaga. Heading East along the north shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario will get you to the Credit River, Bronte Creek, and the mighty Niagra, not to mention Valk’s home water – the Grand River.

“Our season at Grindstone,” he said “begins in March for salmon and steelhead on the Saugeen River later focusing on the Grand River for brown trout. We’re back on the Saugeen River and other tributaries until the freeze-up in December,” he said.

Valk reserved much of his commentary for the Saugeen, which originates in one of the highest points in Southwestern Ontario and flows through rolling, scenic countryside to Lake Huron, at Southampton. River conditions vary from broad, placid sections to stretches with rapids and eddies, making sections of the Saugeen ideal for family canoeing and for learning the basics of rapid water navigation. The rapids present little difficulty, except in early spring, when water is high and fast flowing. The upper reaches are “phenomenal trout water,” offering brookies, browns and rainbows. They also offer “all the mayflies. They’re all there, topped by a really big green drake hatch.”

Fish the lower reaches of the Saugeen and you’re in the “number one trophy small bass water in all of North America. Four- five- and six-pound bass are caught or seen every day,” he said, reminding attendees that “in a river, smallmouth bass are very trout-like, so you’ll get some dry-fly opportunities, too.”

Head toward the south shore of Georgian Bay and you’ll come to the Bighead, Beaver and Nottawasaga, three rivers known primarily for their runs of steelhead and migratory lake trout. They, like the Saugeen, originate upstream on the geological feature known as the Niagra Escarpment, where in their upper reaches an intrepid fly angler will find “lots of brookies.”

Coming around to the north shore of Lake Ontario, you’ll find the Credit River choked with log jams and a strain of brook trout specific to that river.



John Valk introduces club members to nearby Canadian waters at a special meeting in St. Clair Shores.

Valk finished with a quick tour of the Grand. “The world famous Grand River tail-water is also one of Ontario’s great destinations. The Grand has become well known as a trophy river where large browns will feed on the excellent mayfly and caddis hatches throughout the day. From the opening of trout season (last Saturday in April) until the season ends (September 30) even a beginner has a good chance at catching a trophy brown trout,” he said.

It is a river of many faces. The lower Grand, he said, boasts one of the largest steelhead runs in all of Ontario, if not all of Canada. Farther upstream, rainbows of 25, 26, and 27 inches are possible, especially during stonefly hatches, which he described as “of Western proportions.”

So the next time you’re looking to try out some new water, you might want to grab your passport and take it to the border.



Isgrigg, Lonzo, Briggs finish 1, 2, 3

The first MFFC Photo Contest attracted more than 100 entries from 23 different club members. Attendees at the 2011 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo found the expression in Isgrigg's photo irresistible, while Lonzo's "angler-meets-bison" shot finished second. Rounding out the top three was a Harry Briggs' sun-washed shot of an angler in a mountain stream.



Photos by the following club members were selected to grace an upcoming MFFC calendar:

- Steve Isgrigg
- Bob Lonzo
- Harry Briggs
- Ray Geitka
- Nancy York
- Larry Cory
- Joe Sattler
- Mike Matuszewski
- Dan Finstad
- Steve & Linda Bocs
- Joe Reed
- Charley Stevens