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The Evening

Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club December 2011

Learn to fish like a guide on November 30; Kype's George Douglas will show us how

Our November 30 speaker, Kype Magazine Publisher George Douglas, started his fishing business in 1991 on the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY. He began Salmon River Success magazine and his own guide service which thrived throughout the 90s. In 1993, George published his first book, "The Complete Guide to the Salmon River." It quickly became the authority for anglers who fished that river.

Eventually, he moved from the Salmon River to Washington State to learn about the west coast salmon and steelhead runs. This knowledge and experience led him to publish Kype. For the uninitiated, a kype is a hook that forms on the lower jaw of a male trout, salmon or steelhead during spawning periods. "This is their badge of power and dominance, that is unique to only these species. It's an exclamation point, similar to the rack of a male deer—a sign of a warrior—a sign of strength," Douglas said. Fish sporting kypes, he said "are known to burn out drag systems, shatter graphite, and snap leaders as if they were a strand of hair."

In 2010, George was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as one of 48 freshwater fishing communicators. He now spends half the year guiding in "Steelhead Alley, Ohio" and the other half on the west coast.

His newest book, "Fish Like a Guide," shares some of the cues that help steelhead guides to anticipate water conditions and adapt to changes, ensuring that their clients won't go home empty handed. Quoted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Douglas said, "I like to educate anglers and bring some awareness of alternate techniques. Guys go out and have a big day with indicator-nymph fishing and will continue fishing that way for years. I like to help them to not get set in their ways. Some days indicators are the technique, but other times it's tight-line fishing or swinging from a spey rod or centerpin fishing. We promote all techniques."



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 30
Speaker: George Douglas,
Kype Magazine
Topic: Fishing Like a Guide
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

December 1
Paul Young TU Holiday Social
Rader Fishman Building
39533 Woodward
Bloomfield Hills, 7-10 p.m.

December 3
FFF-GLC Tying Expo
Holt High School
5885 W. Holt Rd.
Holt, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

December 7
Board Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Room 106, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

December 14
Activity Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

January 4, 2010
Speaker: To be announced
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



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Rocky Mountain High: Michigan-native Cipponeri provides a tempting view of Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley

Imagine catching a muscular rainbow trout on a dry fly and later that same day schussing down a ski run at one of Colorado's world-class ski resorts. Imagine yourself holding that rod or astride those skis.

Michigan-born Colorado guide Cameron Cipponeri took MFFC members on a photographic tour of the Roaring Fork Valley at the club's Nov. 2 meeting, working his way through a program filled with dozens of images of big trout, smiling fly anglers and breathtaking vistas.

Cipponeri's tour began at the base of the Ruedi Reservoir, the so-called "Toilet Bowl" section of the Frying Pan River, a body of water known to every angler who's read one of John Gierach's books. Fishing right below the dam – the Frying Pan is a tailwater fishery – isn't for everyone, Cipponeri said, but it does offer the opportunity for trout that "look like steelhead." The primary food for trout in this area are mysis shrimp. "The fish love them and get big and fat on them," Cipponeri said.

From the "Toilet Bowl" to a section called the Flats, anglers find ankle-deep water and an area where big fish from the "Bowl" will come during significant hatches. It's great for sight fishing, but the fish are spooky. The angler will be throwing flies on 6X and 7X tippet. "It's a lot like hunting," he said. "You'll have to be patient and stealthy."

Speaking of hatches, the one that attracts crowds from throughout the West, across the country and around the world is the Green Drake hatch. So if you come and fish the lower reaches of the Frying Pan – below the 10 Mile marker – Cipponeri advised fishing the fastest water you safely can and throwing a big green drake into the pocket water. "You'll catch fish all day long."

As for the Roaring Fork River, it's called that for a reason, Cipponeri said. There are areas where wading is possible, the canyons west of the Aspen airport being one such location. "You wouldn't think you were two miles from Aspen," he said.

He described the stretch of the Roaring Fork from Carbondale to Two Rivers, where the river meets the Colorado, as 12 miles of the most popular water to float. The Colorado, meanwhile is "a big river," where during the middle of summer nymphing is the recommended approach. Fishing a big river is different, he said, "but those of you who

have spent time on the bigger waters of the Muskegon and Manistee know how to fish big water."

If you want to mix your fly angling with skiing or snowshoeing, Frying Pan Anglers typically puts out five to six guided trips per day during the winter. "You've got better dry fly fishing but you're not going to get big bugs. You'll be fishing size 20 and 22 midges. Maybe a size 18, if you're lucky."



Treasurer Jim Telinda (l) with Cameron Cipponeri.

Twas the Season ... of BOO

by Al Haxton

2011 will be a great season of remembering for me, for 2011 was the Season of BOO. NO, not Halloween ... BAMBOO. Let me explain.

I have been fly fishing now for about 25 years. When I started this adventure a high-end graphite rod went for about \$200. A good fly tying neck for dry flies sold for about \$25. It was a while ago, and since then I have enjoyed many great memories in this wonderful sport that we share. But the year of 2011 stands out for one reason and one reason only; during my fishing in Michigan for trout I used nothing except bamboo fly rods. Perhaps a bit of history is called for.

During the first early years of my fly fishing I fished graphite rods all the time. I caught fish and had fun. My first bamboo rod was built by our own John Long, and I won it at a Trout Bum Bar-B-Q. It's a 6-6 one-piece 4-weight rod, and I fished it the very next day and enjoyed the smoothness and just plain sweetness of this rod. I caught some fish and enjoyed it a lot. My next rod was also won at a Trout Bum Bar-B-Q, a 7-6 4-weight built by Lou Burhart of Brack Hill Tackle. I fish that rod frequently and it is a dream to cast and use. During those years I looked at other bamboo rods but had little background to judge what was decent and reasonable in quality and casting ability. I enjoyed fishing the bamboo that I had, but it was not an everyday thing. I got started using bamboo for Opening Day each year, and that made me enjoy it more.

Of course having a couple of bamboo rods is fun and it did get me talking with others about bamboo. As I learned about the stuff I became more and more interested in not only the actual "lovely reed" itself, and its history, but also in why and how things are done with it. It

has been a fascinating education. During this time I also purchased another couple of bamboo rods, from Gates AuSable Lodge, both built by Keystone Rod Co. of Grayling. Now I was hooked. I started to look into some "classic" reels to use with my bamboo rods. By classic I mean retro, more like the reels of 50 years ago than the modern reels we all use for fly fishing now. I found myself reading books just about bamboo rods and the history of fishing with these lovely fishing instruments. Again, the reading was fascinating and enjoyable to me. I was lucky enough to be able to spend time with John Long and build my very own bamboo rod, that I fish frequently. It was very cool to put my name on that rod "Al Haxton-Builder." I admit that was a real ego bump with that writing. And that rod, another 7-6 4-weight is



still with me and used each year.

During the past couple of years I have gotten a few more of these wonderful rods. Now I have not only the 4-weight rods noted above but also have a 5-weight and a 3-weight, too. This year for the first time I took a bamboo rod to Yellowstone and fished it most days out there. It was a real treat. It actually caught big western trout and was able to handle the high winds out there, as well. How sweet it was.

But this is more about the entire season that just passed and not about how I got here. As I mentioned, I have been fishing bamboo on Opening Day each year for the past several years now, and during this year's Opening festivities I

got to talking with my buddy Charley Gregory. We talked about bamboo a lot and we made a pact, to fish only bamboo for trout in Michigan for the entire season. So the pact was sealed and we did that. From Saturday, April 30, until Sunday, October 23, I fished bamboo only here in Michigan. It was fabulous.

For me it enhanced the entire experience of the entire season. For me, it was just the icing on the cake of fly fishing. Every fish I caught was caught on a rod that was built by an actual person, not a machine. Every rod I used was handcrafted to do one thing superbly, cast a fly to catch a fish. It seems that I have evolved to step 6 of the fly fisher's evolution, I am just glad to be in the river and having fun. If I catch a fish it makes it great. And this year I caught my share of fish and it was just made better because of what I used for the catching. I look back at photos of the year and see bamboo in my hands in all the pictures. Some were bright natural-color bamboo. Some were nicely flamed and had a slightly darker tint, but all were bamboo. These rods, in my opinion, made the season better than before.

I can share this with you all ... Catching a fish on a fly that I tied is great. Catching a fish on a fly that I tied and using a rod that I built -- well, that's just about the greatest high I have ever experienced.

Next year is already in the planning stages. One thing for sure, for me, is that I will use bamboo not only here in Michigan, but also out in Yellowstone Park and that area. I have been bitten by the bug, and, frankly, am very thankful. For me it has enhanced the adventure of fishing. While this might not be for all, for me it makes it so much better that I find myself smiling just thinking about going fishing. Just holding a bamboo rod, thinking about the hours needed to build this thing of beauty, the painstaking process of taking a large stalk of bamboo and making it into a fine instrument of fishing, did enhance the whole fishing season for me. For me, it was a great season of BOO.

October's Garage Sale Night

*Rods, reels, books, flies and gear galore ...
It was all available at the club's October 26
Garage Sale Night.*



**MFFC Board
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2011**

President Bruce Kramer serving as
Recording Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Chris
Hunter at 7:29 p.m.

Board members present:
Bruce Kramer, Jim Telinda, A.L.
Bulszewicz, Dan Finstad, Todd
Schotts, Chris Hunter

Minutes of the April 20, 2011 Board
Meeting approved as amended.
Motion by Telinda. Second by
Bulszewicz.

Agenda approved. Motion by Kramer.
Seconded Schotts.

President's Report

- Preparation of Volunteer of the Year certificate and award prize are complete.
- To move an item listed within 'new business' to this point in the meeting a motion to suspend the rules was made by Schotts, Seconded by Finstad.
- Bruce Kramer submitted a motion to elect Bruce Strachan to fulfill the remaining one year term as Director at Large which became vacant upon Mike Duchin's election as Vice President. Seconded by Schotts. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Jim reviewed details of the April treasurer's report. A special mention was made of an adjustment to move funds to Special Grants. A motion to approve the April treasurer's report was made by Kramer. Seconded by Bulszewicz. Motion was approved.

Events & Outings

Todd Schotts provided an update on this year's Smallmouth outing.

Everything is in place and appears that it may be the largest gathering of members to attend this to date.

Corresponding Secretary Report

- Dan Finstad provided an update on speaker arrangements for the banquet and scheduled speakers for upcoming meetings.

New Business

- A.L. Bulszewicz initiated a discussion of a proposal to assist with building restroom facilities at Dam 4 on the North Branch of the AuSable. General sense of the board was that the project warrants further discussion and more information is needed.
- Jim Telinda made a motion to make a donation to the Bonefish/Tarpon Trust. Seconded by Schotts. This motion was tabled. (Motion to table by Bulszewicz. Seconded by Finstad.)

Motion to adjourn by Kramer.
Second by Schotts. Meeting was
adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

**MFFC Board
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2011**

Call to Order - Michael Duchin

Roll Call Present: Kramer, Center,
Finstad, Nowicki, Telinda, Drinkwine,
Bulszewicz, Duchin, Strachan

Review of Minutes: To be presented at
October meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by
Kramer / Center - approved

President's Report – Kramer

- Motion to approve Nowicki as Membership Secretary/ supported by Finstad – approved.
- Reported possible 4 meetings in Feb. 2012.

Vice President – Duchin

- Welcomed new Board

Treasurer – Telinda

- Expo on track.
- Budget Proposal
- Discussion of putting conservation surplus in a money market.
- New fiscal year explanation
- Motion by Telinda / Kramer to pass bank cost for insufficient funds check to check writer - approved

Corresponding Secretary - Finstad

- Hatch: No report
- Speakers: Scheduled for meetings and expo.
- Website: Discussion on overhauling – more to follow.

Membership – Nowicki

- Membership emails are being updated.
- Dues due by 2nd meeting in October without penalty

Events & Outings

- Al Haxton - Opening Day: Requested help with Opening Day ceremony at Gates Lodge.
- Dan Finstad - Garage Sale: Oct. 26 and April 11, 2012

New Business

- Fred Field - Insurance primer: Gave overview
- Author's use of MFFC Paint Creek Map: Jason Davis requested use of MFFC paid-for maps of Paint Creek in his book. Motion by Kramer / Center – approved
- Motion by Center / Bulszewicz to give \$1,000 to Novi Middle School for Salmon in the Classroom project – approved
- Somerset, NJ, trip discussed by Shannon. Motion by Drinkwine / Center for club to sanction trip - approved

Old Business

- A.L. Bulszewicz - Dam 4 bathroom project - status update

Visitor Comments: None

Roundtable

Adjournment: 9:11 p.m.

**FFF-GLC Fly Tying Expo
Saturday, December 3, 2011**

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Holt High School in Holt, Michigan

A tradition in the Michigan fly fishing community returns this year as more than 80 tiers have been invited this year to demonstrate their fly tying skills.

The Federation of Fly Fishers Buz Buszek Award is the Federation's most prestigious fly tying award. The Great Lakes Council is pleased that Buszek Award recipients Jeff "Bear" Andrews and Chris Helm are scheduled to be tying.

Among those returning to tie at the event this year are Oscar Feliu, Dennis Potter, Tim Scott, Jim Reed, Ray Schmidt, Julie Nielsen and Chris Soule.

A live auction is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for teens age 13-18. Children age 12 and under are free.



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