



The Evening

Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

March 2011

Volunteerism: It makes our club go; Please get involved and give back

*by Rick Gokenbach
Membership Director*

Michigan Fly Fishing Club (MFFC) is an all-volunteer organization with a mission to educate, promote, conserve and practice the Art of Fly Fishing.

For the last 30 years I have coached hockey, soccer, baseball, served on the board of the St. Paul Athletic Club as president, VP and 16 years with the MFFC. I never looked at what I was doing as giving back until recently.

I thought I was helping kids have fun and learn a sport at the same time while doing something I love. Instead, I came to discover that I was passing on knowledge, traditions and skills that would not only make them better players but better people.

Recently my wife Val headed up a medical team and traveled to the Have Faith Haiti Mission in Haiti with Mitch Albom and 25 other volunteers. During their short stay was the 1 year anniversary of the 7.0 earthquake that hit Port-au-Prince. The medical team's objective was to evaluate the 40 kids living in the orphanage while the Detroit Muscle Crew built a school house. When the crew arrived the kids were sleeping on the ground and eating two meals a day consisting of beans and rice. In four days and three nights they built 20 bunk beds, a school house, started feeding them lunch, examined every kid and started a medical file on each one.

Continued on next page



Rick Gokenbach (l) and wife Val give back in their own ways.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 9

Activity Meeting

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

March 11

Midwest Fly Fishing

Expo Set-Up

Macomb Community
College Sports & Exposition
Center, Warren

March 12-13

Midwest Fly Fishing

Expo

Macomb Community
College Sports & Exposition
Center, Warren

March 16

Board Meeting

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

March 23

Speaker Meeting

Steven Kuieck

RiverQuest Charters

**Topic: Simplified
Steelheading**

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

April 2

Trout Tune-Up

Walled Lake Outdoor
Education Center

See back page for more info



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Volunteerism: It makes our club go; Please get involved

Continued from front page

Every time I think of this it brings a tear to my eyes. All 40 kids ages three to 22 gave their story of what happened to them that day and why they think they were spared. The Detroit Muscle Crew will be heading back to Haiti in April and I hope to be on that flight.

You may wonder where I am going with this!

First and foremost I want to thank all of the MFFC Members, event chair and the board of directors, past and present for all they have done to make this club what it is today. The MFFC has been getting bigger every year and what I don't want to see is burnout of the chairmen and the board of directors. One of the things that has kept this club going is newer members getting more involved with club activities.

I want to encourage new members to get more involved. I joined this club 16 years ago knowing two things about fly fishing -- the "casty" end and the "holdy" end of

a fly rod. The second was that I wanted to learn more.

My first month with the club I learned basic fly tying. During the second month I volunteered at the OUTDOORAMA, teaching kids how to tie flies and attended the club's Members' School. My third month I worked the EXPO. My fourth month I worked the youth school. My fifth month I went to the banquet then on the old Matabanic outing.

I want to encourage all members, new and old, to get more involved ... especially the NEW MEMBERS!

You can co-chair an activity or just sign up to help out. The additional help is always welcome and what better way is there to learn but to work with someone who thinks they know what they are doing?

As we pass on our knowledge and talents to others we ensure the cycle will continue. There are many people in this great country of ours who risk their lives every day ... in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti and many other places around the world. They're helping others.

When you volunteer for the club, it can be just as rewarding without the risk, with the exception of an occasional barbed hook removal, so get involved!



Charley Stevens shares a pattern

Long-time member Charley Stevens (pictured above right) stepped in to the fly tying spotlight at the February 16 activity meeting, teaching his fellow members the Foam-Body Sally. For the recipe, see the February edition of The Hatch.

Trout anglers needed for reconnaissance trip to the Canadian Rockies

by John Pinto
Chairperson, MFFC Travel Committee

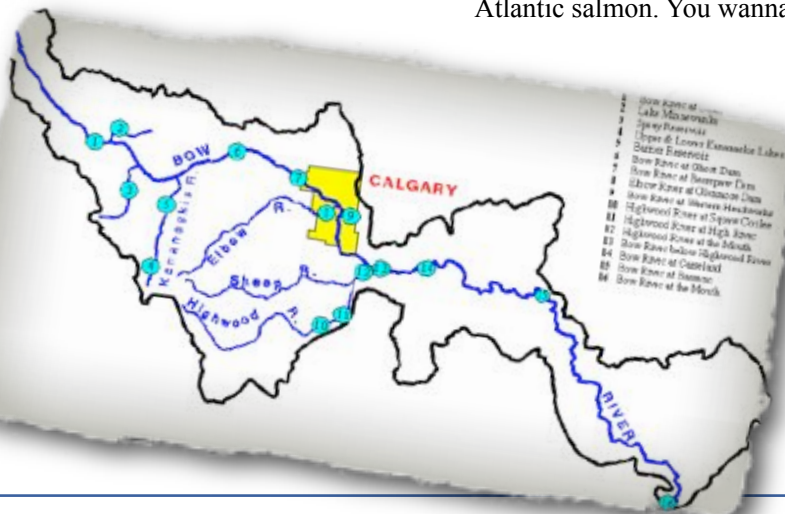
Upon taking the chairmanship of the revised MFFC Travel Committee (we had a similar committee several years ago!) my mission was to put to the membership a choice of several destinations. I wanted three Western trout trips, at least one if not two saltwater trips and the *Fuchi Manuli* of all trip ... Alaska.

Peter Albertson has the Alaskan trip scoped out. Al Haxton has one of the Western trips well up and running and the call has gone out to all boneheads for the fall trip to Mayaguana, Bahamas. Things are humming along very well as I continue to fill in the missing trips. There is an opportunity for the MFFC to use our contacts made over the past forty years on a potential trip to the foothills of the Canadian Rockies.

Back in the late 1980s a group of MFFC members embarked on an Atlantic salmon trip to Nova Scotia. One of the guides at the Stewiacke Lodge was Tony Spurrell, who not only turned out to be a great guide but also a good friend to MFFC members. Very personable, knowledgeable and talented, Tony ties classic Atlantic salmon flies competitively. He and I have remained in contact all these years. Tony now resides in the Calgary area and the emails between us have been flying back and forth of late.

“Tony, I want to send a group of our club members to Calgary. I want them to fish ‘where Tony fishes!’” I wrote. He knew exactly what I was alluding to. “I am not going to send a group of our members to Calgary and simply have them stick their heads in the local fly shop and book the same float trip on the Bow River that six guys from New Jersey took yesterday. That is not why they joined this club! We need something special. We need a bang for our buck!”

Tony replied, “Send ‘em! I’ll take care of them! I know what you’re looking for. In fact, I’ll get one of my pals to help out this year and take over next year’s trip. I am going to spend next summer in Labrador chasing big speckled trout and Atlantic salmon. You wanna send a group out there, too?”



Nice of the club to have made some good contacts over the years!

So, anyone wishing to be part of this “recon” team would meet up with Tony in Calgary. He will take you to fishing areas “off the tourist” path. You might even climb over a few barbed-wire fences. This would probably be a group of four anglers this year; they would lay the groundwork for what I hope will become an annual Canadian Rockies trip. A “trail boss” for this trip needs to step forward and contact me at bn1fsh2@gmail.com to take over the planning of this trip with Tony.

Labrador? Hmmm!

MFFC Board Meeting Minutes January 12, 2011

Call to Order:

Hunter called meeting to order 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present – Kramer, Hunter, Telinda, Gokenbach, Drinkwine, Schotts, Bulszewicz, Duchin
Absent – Finstad, Brazzil

Review of Minutes:

Motion to approve by Gokenbach / Duchin - Approved

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve by Duchin / Schotts – Approved

Officer Reports:

President – Kramer

- Kramer / Bulszewicz to attend Jan. 29 / April 2 Trout Tune-Up - DNRE Rep. Susan Tabor's BOW Program
- Expo – Moving along well
- Boy Scout School registration to begin.
- Montagne / Field doing good job as quartermasters.

Treasurer – Telinda

- Each line item will be assigned a category.
- Kwagama Lake added to self-funding category.
- Budget in good shape. Motion to approve by Duchin / Drinkwine - Approved

Corresponding Secretary – Finstad (absent)

- Hatch: Hunter / delayed being sent to members via email but is posted on web
- Speakers – Hunter: Scheduled thru March
- Web site – Schotts: Web site will be back to normal in a week due to computer crash.
- Finstad wants clarification on Constant Contact. Discussion – limit to MFFC business.

Membership – Gokenbach

- Approx. 305 paid members.

Events and Outings:

- Picnic: In progress
- East Side meeting – Gokenbach: Kolping Center (same location as last two years)
- Kwagama Lake – John Long: Discussion on setting up a club trip instead of raffle.
- Alaska – Albertson
 - Persons going must arrange own flight to Anchorage

- Discussion on liability for club and person in charge of trips.

Travel Committee:

- Western trips - Pinto
 - San Juan
 - Canadian Rockies
 - Montana
 - Mayaguana trip, Oct. 13 – Oct. 21, cost approx \$1,500. Details to be announced.

Old Business:

- Forms - Policy/Procedures – Albertson / Gokenbach: Proposed sample form. More to follow.
- Fly fishing handbook – Bulszewicz: Motion by Bulszewicz / Duchin to purchase 100 books @ \$5 ea. Approved
- MFFC Calendar – Albertson: Discussion on large vs. pocket calendar
- Hats – Drinkwine: Motion by Drinkwine/ Bulszewicz to front money to purchase one gross of club hats. Approved

Visitor Comment:

- Albertson - Adult School to have table at Expo.

Adjourned:

- Motion by Gokenbach / Schotts – Approved 9:28 p.m.

Meet Scott Freeburg and his “Pectonychia”

by Todd A. Schotts

As we march closer to the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo March 12-13, who else would be better to amaze his fellow club members with his tying prowess than Scott Freeburg? He is March's Featured Tier.

If you don't know him, here is a little bit of a background.

He began fly fishing back in 1969 with bamboo and fiberglass fly rods. As a kid, he spent many days and nights canoeing, camping, and fly fishing on the rivers of western Michigan. As a teenager he started tying flies. He says he loved to hang out, watch, and learn at the local fly shops during the winters, which on the west side of the state are long and cold with lots of snow. Ideal conditions for tying flies.

He was introduced to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club in 1997 at a shop's fly tying class and joined the club shortly after that.

Since then Scott has served on the Board of Directors in various positions for the past six years. He is the current Chairman for the Trout Tune Up, Trout Opener at the Rayburn and the first MFFC Photo Contest. He also has been deeply involved with the annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

He credits the club with enabling him to hone his tying skills. He has learned from such tiers as A.K. Best, Ed Engle, Cathy & Barry Beck, Oscar Feliu, Joe Humphreys, Bob Jacklin, Craig Mathews, Doug Swisher, Dick Talleur, and Dave Whitlock. Other local tiers have helped him to become a more successful fly angler and fly tier. He's even started developing his own patterns, including the “Pectonychia.”



Hook: TMC 200R, Sizes 10 & 12
Thread: 8/0 or 70-Denier Brown
Tail: Microfibets – Dark Dun – Splayed
Body: Peccary (Colored with brown marker and sprayed with Tuffilm
Wing: Gray Hi-Viz, Color #16, Split and Divided
Hackle: Medium Dun (Trimmed “V” underside)



Members' School 2011

MFFC members by the dozen turned out at Northville High School on February 19 for opportunities to improve their casting, explore fly tying, refresh their etymological knowledge and practice their knots, all in anticipation of a new fishing season that just can't seem to get here fast enough.



Special thanks to Event Chairs Mike Doyle and Bill Shannon and their cast of volunteers and instructors for making the 2011 Members' School one to remember.

2011 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Presentations & Seminars

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Seminars - Gym

9:30	Hex on the Huron	Dirk Fischbach
10:30	Montana Roadtrip	Brian O'Keefe
11:30	Streamer Techniques for Trophy Trout	Kelly Galloup
12:30	Common Sense Fly Fishing	Eric Stroup
1:30	Nymphing: The Art & Science	Ed Engle
2:30	Saltwater Destinations	Brian O'Keefe
3:30	Catching Difficult Trout	Ed Engle
4:30	A Fly Fisher's View of England	Glenn Weisner & Wayne Samson

Seminars - Macomb Room

9:30	Steelhead Alley: Michigan to Pennsylvania	Mike Schultz
10:30	Fly Fishing Belize	Ray Schmidt
11:30	Fly Fishing Michigan's UP	Brad Petzke
12:30	Trout, Char & Salmon on Dry Flies	John Hohl
1:30	Catch Michigan's Biggest Trout	Chuck Hawkins
2:30	Golden Bonefish	Bear Andrews
3:30	Fly Fishing the Roaring Fork Valley	C. Cipponeri
4:30	Hex on the Huron	Dirk Fischbach

Seminars - Trout Room

9:30	TBA	TBA
10:30	Ontario Brook Trout	Bear Andrews
11:30	Canadian Muskies on the Fly	Ken Collins
12:30	Fishing Florida's Salt Water Flats	Todd Fuller
1:30	Rod Building Made Easy	Ron Weiss
2:30	AuSable Lore: People & Flies	Jerry Regan
3:30	Huron Pines Initiates	Patrick Ertel
4:30	Christmas Bahama Bones	Peter Albertson

Fly Tying Bench

9:30	Working with CDC	Weisner & Samson
10:30	Classic AuSable Patterns	Jerry Regan
11:30	Tying Small Flies	Ed Engle
12:30	Hendrickson Lifecycle	Andy Partlow
1:30	Articulated Streamers	Kelly Galloup
2:30	Soft Hackles for all Seasons	Eric Stroup
3:30	The Best of Bear	Bear Andrews
4:30	Favorite Trout Patterns	Sam Surre

Casting Pond

9:30	Basics & Benefits of Spey Casting	Pete Humphreys
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10:30	Common Sense Casts, Mends and Line Control	Eric Stroup
11:30	Saltwater Fly Fishing Techniques	Ray Schmidt
12:30	Double Haul Made Easy	Brian O'Keefe
1:30	Spey Casting	Simon Gawesworth
2:30	Cast and Fish a Sinktip	Chuck Hawkins
3:30	Line Handling & Management	Kelly Galloup
4:30	Beginning & Intermediate Casting	Brian O'Keefe

Sunday, March 13, 2011

Seminars - Gym

10:30	Common Sense Fly Fishing	Eric Stroup
11:30	Nymphing: The Art & Science	Ed Engle
12:30	Saltwater Destinations	Brian O'Keefe
1:30	Streamer Techniques for Trophy Trout	Kelly Galloup
2:30	Montana Roadtrip	Brian O'Keefe

Seminars - Macomb Room

10:30	Fly Fishing SE Michigan Rivers	Mike Schultz
11:30	Trout, Char & Salmon on Dry Flies	John Hohl
12:30	Golden Bonefish	Bear Andrews
1:30	Fly Fishing the Roaring Fork Valley	C. Cipponeri
2:30	Catching Difficult Trout	Ed Engle

Seminars - Trout Room

10:30	Fishing Florida's Salt Water Flats	Todd Fuller
11:30	A Fly Fisher's View of England	Weisner & Samson
12:30	Fly Fishing Michigan's UP	Brad Petzke
1:30	TBA	TBA
2:30	Fishing Ontario by the Seasons	Ken Collins

Fly Tying Bench

10:30	Articulated Streamers	Kelly Galloup
11:30	Classic AuSable Patterns	Jerry Regan
12:30	Soft Hackles for all Seasons	Eric Stroup
1:30	Tying Small Flies	Ed Engle
2:30	The Best of Bear	Bear Andrews

Casting Pond

10:30	Strictly Distance	Brian O'Keefe
11:30	Spey Casting	Simon Gawesworth
12:30	Fish Fighting Techniques	Kelly Galloup
1:30	Basics & Benefits of Spey Casting	Pete Humphreys
2:30	Common Sense Casts, Mends and Line Control	Eric Stroup

Join us for 2011's Opening Weekend @ The Rayburn

by Scott Freeburg, Event Chairperson

Here in our great state of Michigan, the last Saturday in April is the traditional opening day of trout season. That means that the "2011 Trout Opener" -- April 29-May 1 -- is fast approaching.

In conjunction with the MFFC's "Trout Opener" Saturday celebrations and activities, weekend accommodations will be available to club members at

the Rayburn Lodge. The Rayburn is located on the banks of the AuSable River, downstream (east) from the city of Grayling, at 1491 Richardson Road. The lodge is a handsome log mansion with a profound history in the Grayling-AuSable area.

The AuSable River is one of Michigan's premier trout streams with the lodge located right in the middle of the world famous "Holy Water" section. This stretch of river has been known to offer the adept angler some of the best trout fishing in all the country.

Space for this outing is limited and I will start a sign-up list and take deposits immediately.

Total cost will be \$120 with final payments due by the April 6 meeting. Included will be "luxury accommodations" for Friday and Saturday nights, hearty breakfasts each morning and snacks and beverages throughout the weekend.

Check-in time will be after 2 p.m. on Friday, April 29, and check-out 11 a.m., Sunday, May 1. To reserve your spot please feel free to telephone, email or see me at upcoming club meetings.

2011's Dick Schott New Member Outing: Wa Wa Sum, May 11-15

by Paul DeJohn, Event Chairperson

Planning for the 2011 Dick Schott New Member Outing is underway, and we are happy to say this year's outing will be one day longer, and one week later than last year.

New members who want to attend the outing are required to have attended the club's February 19 Member Fly Fishing School, and must be able to demonstrate wading proficiency before being included in the outing.

Sign-up will begin at the club's March 9 meeting and will continue until the outing is full. Sign up early, as this outing fills fast. New club members should return their sign-up sheets with a \$175 check made payable to Paul DeJohn. New members have priority, first come, first served.

Outing staff guides and mentors should also return their sheets and checks as early as possible.

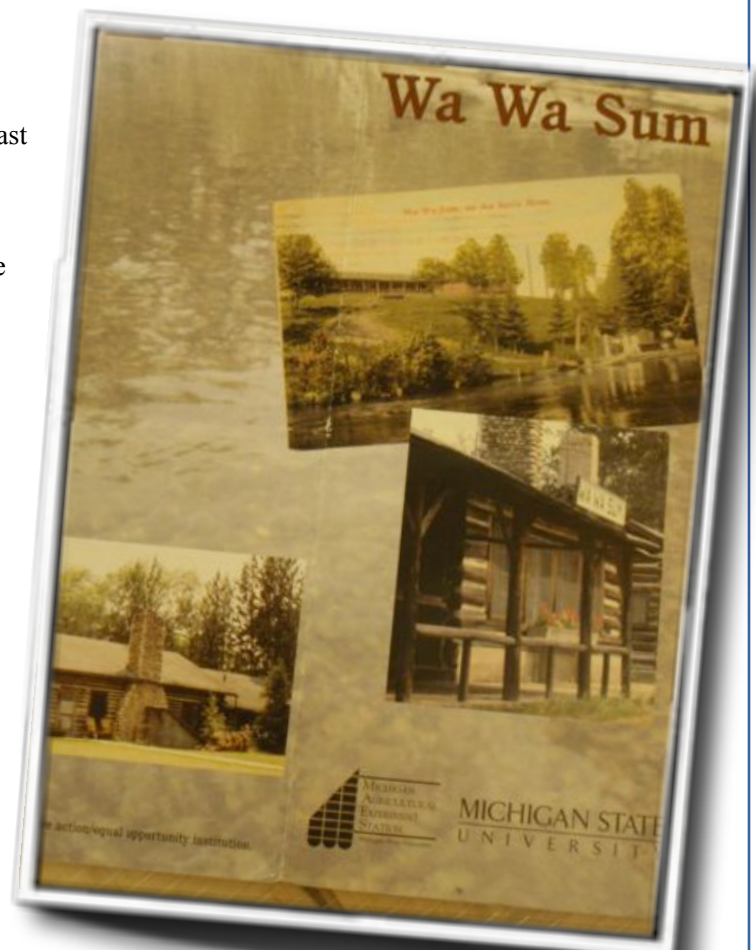
Wa Wa Sum is a historic log lodge owned by Michigan State University. It sits high above the AuSable's Holy Waters six miles east of Grayling.

If you have never visited the lodge, you are truly in for a treat. The most popular feature of the lodge is the large screened porch with bentwood rockers that overlook the river. The great room has a large fieldstone fireplace, ample seating, and an activity area for fly-tying. Guest rooms accommodate three to four guests each, and three beds on the screened porch will be available to those desiring semi-quiet.

Master Chef Mike (Cookie) Duchin and his helpers will provide great breakfasts on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, before our morning guided trips, and wholesome lunches before our afternoons and evenings of fishing on Thursday and Friday. Unlike outings in the past, dinner will not be served, but ample food will be available for you to "graze" following your fishing day. You also have the option of dining at one of the local restaurants.

The annual New Member Outing gives attending members an opportunity to visit and fish superior locations along the historic AuSable River. It also provides a venue to become more acquainted with your fellow club members. The outing is not intended to be a fishing school, however you will indeed receive an education, good food, lots of laughs, and more confidence in your fly-fishing and fly-tying abilities.

Please watch *The Hatch* and our club's web site for future updates.



It's not too early to start thinking Trout Tune-Up 2011

by Scott Freeburg, Event Chairperson

If an unrelenting winter has you down, plan to begin your season with the MFFC at the annual Trout Tune-Up.

The Trout Tune-Up is an annual gathering of MFFC members on the first Saturday of April (April 2, this year) at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center at 3577 Sleeth Court in Commerce Township. The club rents a structure called the Yurt for the day and provides food, beverages and a place to warm up, if it happens to be a cold day.

A yurt is a semi-permanent structure which was used by the Mongolian Nomads. It is the Asian version of a tepee. The Lowe's Yurt is 30 feet in diameter and built on a 36-foot by 50-foot deck. It can hold up to 50 people at one time.

We fish the Huron River, which will have been recently stocked by the DNR with trout from a nearby hatchery. The DNR usually plants between 2,000 and 3,000 brown and rainbow trout between the Moss Lake dam and the Wixom Road bridge. Special trout regulations (flies only) are in effect for that stretch from April 1 to the end of the month.

Sometimes, if we're lucky, the DNR will have released some of their "breeder stock." These fish are usually very large and very strong. Catching one of these guys can sometimes be one of the largest fish you catch all year.

All our club members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to come to the Yurt anytime throughout the day between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

This outing also makes for a good time to test out new equipment you may have acquired at the Expo or over the holidays.

I hope to see you there and don't forget your fishing license.



Scott Freeburg shows off a brightly colored football of a trout caught at a past Trout Tune-Up.