



# Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club November 2011

## Jason Davis offers a guide's view of a local gem: Paint Creek's 15 miles

Paint Creek is closed for the season, but that didn't stop dozens of MFFC members from queuing up for a copy of Jason Davis's book "An Angler's Guide to Paint Creek" following the author's presentation on Oct. 5.

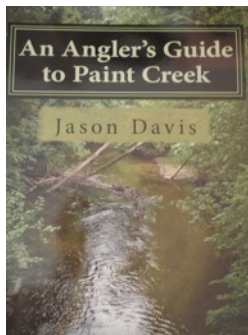
It's the first fly fishing guide to the 15-mile-long body of water that Davis described as a "gem." In fact, the urban fishery of Paint Creek is one of two designated trout streams in Oakland County. The other is the diminutive Trout Creek, itself a tributary of Paint Creek. Davis said he wrote the book to answer the basic questions that every fly angler has about virtually any body of water:

- Where can I access the creek?
- How can I catch bigger fish?
- What flies work?
- When's the best time to catch fish on the creek?

Along the way in answering those questions, Davis offers information on the history of the watershed, its geology and hydrology, the history of trout plantings on the creek, complete habitat descriptions from road crossing to road crossing, a hatch schedule for April through September and the creek's top 21 flies.

Davis is uniquely qualified to author the first ever guide. Formerly a staff member of the Clinton River Watershed Council and a member of the Board of the Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, he also owns and operates The Downstream Drift guide service.

He sprinkled his presentation with interesting nuggets of information that surely have



Jason Davis (above) in action at the Oct. 5 meeting. He wrote the first fly angling guide to Paint Creek. (left).

MFFC members thinking about the 2012 trout season and making their way to the creek:

There's a great spring steelhead run on the Clinton River and plenty of steelhead jump the Yates Dam (near Yates Cider Mill). Some of them make their way up Paint Creek. So you can be fishing the creek near downtown Rochester and hook into a 5- to 12-pound steelhead. He said it happened to him while fishing near Dinosaur Hill, not far from downtown Rochester park.

"In May, if you're nymphing in the (Rochester city) park, there are steelhead smolt all over the place. That can be a lot of fun."

There are multiple mayfly, caddis and stonefly hatches. There's even a "terrestrial hatch." "The ant hatch is huge on the creek. It's the best hatch on the creek," he said.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**November 2**

**Speaker: C. Cipponeri,**

**Frying Pan Anglers**

**Topic: Fishing the Roaring Fork Valley**

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

**November 9**

**Board Meeting**

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

**November 16**

**Activity Meeting**

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

**November 30**

**Speaker: George Douglas,**

**Kype Magazine**

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



The Evening

# Hatch

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## November Program: Fishing the Roaring Fork Valley

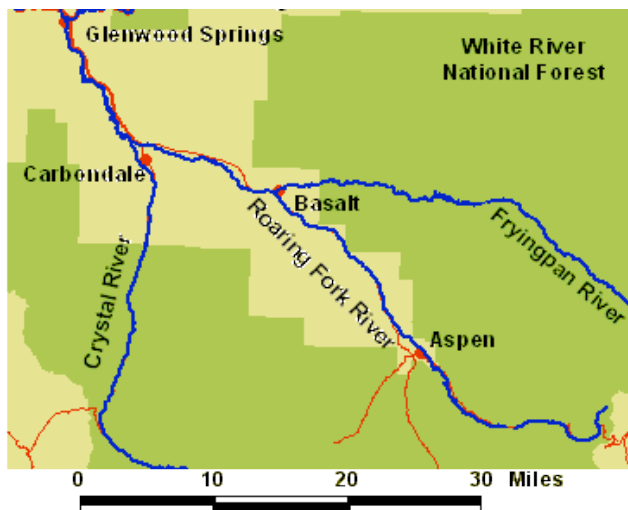
October's speaker focused on a stream in our own backyard (Paint Creek) but November's presenter, a native Michigander, takes us way out west to Colorado and Roaring Fork Valley.



Cameron Cipponeri, a guide at Frying Pan Anglers in Basalt, CO, was reared in South Lyon and fell in love with fly fishing at a family friend's cabin on the North Branch of the Au Sable. "This is where

I got my second passion of bird hunting. I either had a fly rod in or a 20-gauge shotgun in my hand. Growing up, I always loved the west. The Roaring Fork Valley suited our family because it is beautiful and gives me the opportunity to guide all year."

Nevertheless, he added, "Michigan will always hold a special place in my heart for the outdoors. And, I'm still a Red Wings fan!"



### L.Z. "Zyggi" Lawrence

All too often over the past year, the fly fishing community has mourned the loss of one of its luminaries. In early September, the sport and Michigan Fly Fishing Club lost a relatively recent "convert," L. Z. "Zyggi" Lawrence, age 64, of Northville.



L.Z. "Zyggi" Lawrence

A club member since 2007, Lawrence died September 4 in an auto accident.

Jim Telinda, currently treasurer and a past membership chairman, recalls Lawrence attending virtually every meeting since he joined the club.

A Marine Corps veteran, Lawrence served in Vietnam, where he was wounded and was awarded a Purple Heart. He was an avid sailor his entire life and had been looking forward to fly fishing as the next phase of his life. As he learned about his new pastime, he was sharing that knowledge with his two grandsons, teaching them how to fly fish and how to tie flies. He was on his way to a birthday party for one of the grandsons when the accident happened. The present he was bringing to the grandson was a fishing vest with his name embroidered on it.

**Join the MFFC Excursion to The Fly Fishing Show  
North America's Largest Fly Fishing Extravaganza  
January 26-29, 2012**

Join more than 40 of your favorite fly angling friends on a madcap dash to the Garden State for the 2012 edition of The Fly Fishing Show. **Contact Bill Shannon for more information.**

Cost:

\$215 per person

Based on 48 participants, double occupancy

Must meet minimum participant level of 48 paid spots to achieve stated pricing.

All participants must be paid in full by December 1, 2011.

Price is based on entire package; there is no "a la carte" pricing.

If the trip does not meet the minimum required, checks will be returned.



The event will include:

- Round trip transportation from Detroit to Somerset via a 48-person bus contracted from Blue Lakes Transportation
- One night's stay at the DoubleTree Somerset hotel
- Dinner on Friday night at 8 p.m. at Old Man Rafferty's restaurant
- Speaker to address group at Friday night dinner—Speaker to be named.
- Bus transportation from the DoubleTree hotel to restaurant
- Driver gratuity and appropriate taxes and tolls
- Hotel room gratuity

The \$215 per person event fee does NOT include:

- The entry fee into The Fly Fishing Show; two-day passes at \$25.
- Food or beverages other than the dinner Friday night
- Alcoholic beverages

Trip Requirements and Rules:

- Adults (21 years and over) only
- Dues-paying members in good standing receive first priority; non-members will be accepted only if seats available.
- Checks made payable to MFFC. No cash will be accepted.
- All participants are responsible to adhere to published agenda times; the departure times are non-negotiable.
- No refunds; any cancellations must provide a qualified substitute.
- Bus will observe the following quiet hours:  
Friday January 27, Midnight to 5 a.m.
- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

## The Fly Fishing Show Proposed Itinerary

**Thursday, January 26, 2012**

**10:00 p.m.**

- Depart Detroit
- Location: To be determined; will coordinate location with Blue Lakes Transportation. Efforts are underway to identify a suitable, centralized location where cars may be safely left for the weekend.
- **Transportation:**
- Blue Lakes 48-person bus featuring onboard lavatory, DVD players
- Refreshment stop scheduled; location to be determined in consultation with the driver

**Friday, January 27**

**Approximately 8:00 a.m.**

- Arrive at Garden State Convention Center, Somerset, NJ
- DoubleTree Hotel located at 200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, New Jersey 08873
- Check-in time is 3 p.m.
- Hotel to provide room for luggage storage until check-in time

**10:00 a.m.**

- Attend The Fly Fishing Show
- Location: Garden State Convention Center
- Connected by causeway to DoubleTree hotel
- Show hours:  
Fri 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m. p.m.
- **Fly Fishing Show Admission:**  
**Adult:** \$15 for one day; \$25 for two-day pass

**7:30 p.m.**

- Bus departs to Old Man Rafferty's restaurant
- Meal includes: to be determined
- Presentation by guest speaker—speaker to be named later
- All taxes and gratuities included
- Cash bar available

**Approximately 10:00 p.m.**

- Bus returns to DoubleTree hotel

**Saturday, January 28**

**8:30 a.m.**

- Attend The Fly Fishing Show; show opens at 8:30 a.m.
- Location: Garden State Convention Center

**3:00 p.m.**

- Bus departs the DoubleTree hotel for return trip to Detroit
  - One dinner stop scheduled—turnpike location

**Midnight**

- Return to pick-up location



*A scene from the very first wader wedding orchestrated by Fred and Feigh.*

### Contemplating a fly fishing-themed wedding? Consult Fred and Feigh

Several Michigan Fly Fishing Club traditions were set when MFFC members stepped into the Henry's Fork for the wedding of Fred Field and Feigh Lewis. So here's a guide to what to do if your planning a wader wedding.

1. You shall have an Honor Guard of at least six fly anglers in their waders, in the river. Fly rods at attention. All Bamboo is strictly optional.
2. If it is to be a formal wader wedding you must both be in your fishing vests.
3. The Groom's boutonniere shall be a fly. The Bride's "something blue" shall be a blue fly.
4. The Bride's bouquet shall be passed to the Maid of Honor via a fishing net. The bouquet shall be picked from wild flowers growing in the area. This is dependent on the season of the wedding.
5. At the end of the ceremony, before the kiss: The Bride and Groom shall "Tie the knot" as we are fly anglers. Material for tying the knot. The choice of which knot to tie, is up to the Bride and Groom.
6. Upon leaving the river the Bride and Groom shall pass under the Honor Guards' crossed fly rods.

Official wedding consultants for a "Wader Wedding" are now Feigh and Fred Field. Their fees are reported to be very reasonable: two well-tied flies.

## Montana, Idaho and Yellowstone 2011: A trip of firsts for MFFC members

by Al "The Hackleman" Haxton

It's October and in my mind I'm already focused on 2012's trip to the Yellowstone Park area. As in years past I sit and remember the fun, the fish, the shared times with good friends and fishing partners. And I also think and dream of the next visit and the fun, fish and shared times with some new folks on the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's annual trip to Yellowstone Park.

This year we had a lot of firsts:

We had a wedding during the trip. Mr. Fred Field and Ms. Feigh Lewis tied the knot during our visit. Standing right in the lovely Henry's Fork River, they exchanged vows and shared some laughter and smiles with all the assembled folks on the trip. (See some of the pictures in the last issue of *The Hatch*.) It was truly one of the real high points of this year's visit. During that ceremony another first happened ... two of the guys there actually wore ties. Not quite as important as the ceremony itself, but a first nonetheless.

We stayed somewhere other than the Slash E Ranch. The Slash E, our long time trip HQ, was undergoing some needed repairs and improvements. So we stayed at a rather nice place right on the Madison River, the Driftwaters Resort. While the Driftwaters was very friendly and certainly newer than the Slash E, we did miss our home away from home and all the memories and fun we have shared there before. If you are planning on visiting the Yellowstone Park area in the future I would recommend the Driftwaters Resort; the accommodations are clean, spacious and first rate. Next year, though, we will be back at the Slash E because, well, it's just like home after all these years.

We had a young person with our group. Corey Thelen and his dad Ken were part of the group this year. Corey, who is 16, took the prize for top rod during our stay. If he was not catching gulpers on Quake Lake he was showing us how it's done on Slough Creek in the Park. He caught many fish, and large fish, just about anywhere he fished. Just about every morning he was one of the first out to the car and getting ready. I also know that he was always suggesting new areas to visit and fish. He has a great casting stroke and will be a superb instructor someday. His enthusiasm helped the rest of us enjoy the trip a bit more than normal. Please congratulate him at the next meeting.



Joyce Kelley with a high-mountain rainbow.



Haxton displays a Yellowstone Park brown.

We actually thought about, and some of us viewed, bears. The areas we fished were covered with signs that noted that bears had been frequenting the area and our safety could not be guaranteed. While that is not too scary, when you see that kind of sign everywhere you go it does make one stop and think. And I noted that when I was fishing and trying to look all around for bears I missed a lot of hits on my fly and so I probably caught fewer fish than normal. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

One other first that comes to mind. While fishing up in the mountains I needed to use the lavatory. This is not the news, though. My fishing partner decided to fish a small stream about 50 feet from the building. With a 2-weight rod, no net, no forceps, no waders, just a couple of casts. So on the first cast, a 16-inch rainbow trout came up and ate her fly just as pretty as you please. In a stream that was at most 15-feet wide. As I exited the lav building I was accosted with screams of "Al, get the net, get the forceps, get me some help, oh WOW, what a fish, HURRY!" And I slowly walked over to see this tiny fish, and low and behold, it was big. So I rushed to get the net and forceps and help. We each walked into the cold stream in our sandals (it was very cold) and got the fish. Nice fish. I heard about this nice fish for the next day or so. It was a very nice fish. See attached picture.

On a totally personal level, one other first happened. I fished bamboo almost exclusively this year. While I did take some graphite rods, I used a 6-foot, 6-inch 4-weight bamboo rod as much as possible and enjoyed that thrill of catching wonderful western fish on the lovely reed. More about this experience in a future article in *The Hatch*.

*Continued on next page*

## Montana, Idaho and Yellowstone 2011: A trip of firsts for MFFC members

*Continued from previous page*

With all these wonderful memories of the trip it's now time to say a few things about the next trip. The MFFC will sponsor another trip to Yellowstone Park in 2012. It will be from Saturday August 4 until Saturday, August 11. The expected cost will be about \$350 per person for room and board. The cost will include breakfast and dinner each day we are there. We will also visit the eastern side of the park and stay at Roosevelt Lodge on the Thursday during the visit. The Roosevelt Lodge cost is extra and is not determined yet as fees for the cabins at Roosevelt Lodge are not finalized yet. In addition to Roosevelt Lodge, other additional expenses include plane fares, rental cars and fishing license fees. I will take reservations for next year's trip at the first meeting in December, which this year is actually in November.

If this trip sounds like something you might enjoy come and see me at any meeting. This trip always fills up fast and most years we get into the alternates before the trip happens. But getting on the reservation list is a must. Hope to see you at the November 30 meeting.



*(Above) Bear warnings abounded and some members saw more than the signs. (Far left) Phil Heck displays one of the many trout he hooked and landed. (Left) Corey Thelen won the outing's informal title of "top rod."*