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FLY FISHING CLUB

The Evening

# Hatch

Membership dues  
deadline is Oct. 26.  
After Oct. 26, dues  
are \$40 for 2011-12.

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2011



## *A MFFC first: Wed in waders*

*Standing in the Henry's Fork and surrounded by an honor guard of MFFC members, long-time club member Fred Field and Feigh Lewis tied the knot (a double clinch, no doubt) in a first for the club's annual trip to the greater Yellowstone area. The Rev. Dimitis Larsen of Big Sky, MT, performed the ceremony.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**October 5**

**Speaker: Jason Davis,  
The Downstream Drift  
Topic: Paint Creek**

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

**October 12**

**Board Meeting**

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

**October 26 (4th Wednesday)**

**Activity Meeting**

**Garage Sale Night**

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

**November 2**

**Speaker: C. Cipponeri,  
Frying Pan Anglers**

**Topic: Fishing the Roaring  
Fork Valley and the San**

**Juan River**

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

## Get up close and personal with Paint Creek in October

Fly anglers typically think Up North when they ponder a fishing getaway, but there's a resource that's a whole lot closer – Paint Creek. The length of Paint Creek from Lake Orion to the city of Rochester has gained a reputation as one of the best trout streams in southeast Michigan.

October speaker Jason Davis will provide members with the fly angler's view of Paint Creek. Davis is a former employee of the Clinton River Watershed Council and vice president of Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited. He also runs The Downstream Drift, an instructional fly fishing guide service focused on the Clinton River and Paint Creek.

He recently penned "An Angler's Guide to Paint Creek," which he described as "a full-color 40-page guide for any angler wishing to learn more about this fantastic fishery." With luck, copies of the book may be available at the Oct. 5 meeting. The guide, he said, covers Paint Creek's rich human-influenced history, the geological history of the creek, the historic and current fish population, river descriptions, access points, and information on Paint Creek's insect hatches.



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**Editor:** Mike Matuszewski

[editor@mffc.org](mailto:editor@mffc.org)

248-646-4768

**Michigan Fly Fishing Club**

P.O. Box 530861

Livonia, MI 48153

2011 – 2012 Officers

**President:**

**Bruce Kramer**

[president@mffc.org](mailto:president@mffc.org)

248-672-9056

**Vice President:**

**Mike Duchin**

[vp@mffc.org](mailto:vp@mffc.org)

734-326-2868

**Corresponding Secretary:**

**Dan Finstad**

248-650-0172

**Recording Secretary:**

**Terry Drinkwine**

248-506-1898

**Treasurer:**

**Jim Telinda**

[treasurer@mffc.org](mailto:treasurer@mffc.org)

248-426-8926

**Membership:**

**Dave Nowicki**

[dn44213@gmail.com](mailto:dn44213@gmail.com)

[membership@mffc.org](mailto:membership@mffc.org)

734-981-3396

**Immediate Past President:**

**Pat Brazzil**

248-344-7470

**At-Large Directors:**

**A.L. Bulszewicz**

734-954-9994

**Eric Center**

248-363-3861

**Bruce Strachan**

248-661-2508

## Schultz ushers in a new program year; focuses on warm-water angling

If it's early September it means the Michigan Fly Fishing Club is gearing back up for its normal fall-winter-spring cadence of activities and guide Mike Schultz helped open the festivities.

Schultz, who has spoken to club members about fly fishing in Alaska, focused on warm-water rigging, gear and techniques, a topic suited to closer-to-home fishing venues. In fact, Schultz specializes in guiding for smallmouth bass, carp, pike and musky on such rivers as the Huron, Flint and Shiawassee. That's not to say that he doesn't venture on longer excursions. Ohio's "Steelhead Alley" is a favorite fall haunt and he organizes trips to more exotic destinations like the Bahamas, Baja, Alaska and Chile.

More to the point, he focused on the gear, techniques and flies best suited for smallies and "toothy critters" like pike and musky.

Rods? He favors six- to nine-weight saltwater rods and light, dependable reels. "What I like to see," he said, "is a fighting butt."

Lines? Among his favorite lines is the Rio Outbound Short Floating Intermediate. "It casts two lines heavier than they say," he said. That means, he advised, you'd fish the five-weight line on a six-weight rod and a six-weight line on a seven-weight rod. Other favorites include the Scientific Angler Streamer Express and the Scientific Angler Textured Coastal Express. The Coastal Express line, he said, was especially well suited for beach fishing and river mouths during steelhead season.

Leaders and tippet? For smallmouth bass leaders, Schultz recommended this formula: 1.5 to 2 feet of 40-pound Seaguar, 1.5 to 2 feet of 20-pound Seaguar, finished with 2 to 2.5 feet of 15-pound Seaguar or a like length of 10- to 12-pound Seaguar if you're fishing extremely clear water. For "toothy critters," he recommends a leader constructed of 1.5 to 2 feet of 50-pound Seaguar Fluoro Premier, 1.5 to 2 feet of 30-pound Seaguar Fluoro Premier and finished with 2 feet of 60-pound Seaguar Fluoro Premier.

Techniques? Generally, he recommends observing and learning from the techniques employed by spin- and bait-casters and imitating them with the fly rod. "For late season smallies, pike and musky, for example, slow things down. Think jerk bait." A jerk bait is typically a slender bait that can be hard or soft. The basic premise is for the bait to be buoyant and slow sinking. The objective is to fish the bait so that it mimics a wounded bait fish swimming through the water. Correctly fished, jerk baits can produce explosive results.



*Mike Schultz (left) pawing through his fly box following his presentation.*

If carp are your quarry, you can hook up the easy way fishing a "mulberry fly" or the hard way by fishing streamers. Carp, normally as spooky as bonefish, get silly for mulberries, Schultz said. You just have to know where the trees are.

He finished his presentation with a brief overview of some of his favorite warm water flies: Schultz's Red-Eyed Leech, Schultz's Stinger Sculpin, Schultz's Clown Show Popper, Schultz's Single Fly Cray, the Modified Lynch Black 'n Copper Leech, the Murdich Minnow and Schultz's Low Water Crayfish.

## Meet 2011's six Fly Fishing Hall of Fame inductees

The Fly Fishing Hall of Fame announced the members of its 2011 class. The following six fly fishers will be inducted in ceremonies at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor, NY, on October 8:

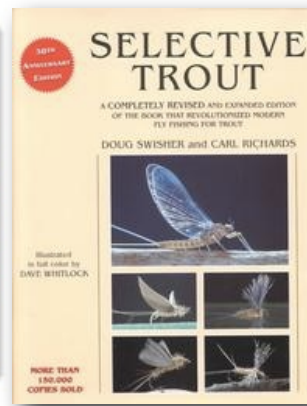
**Cathy and Barry Beck:** Barry and Cathy Beck have traveled the world fly fishing and photographing their adventures. They travel to such destinations as New Zealand, Africa, Argentina, Alaska, Bahamas, Mexico, Belize, Venezuela, Mongolia, Russia and the American West.

As photographers, their work appears regularly in sporting calendars and magazines, including *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters*, *Field and Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Big Sky Journal*, *Montana Outdoors* and others. Commercial clients include Patagonia, L.L. Bean, Sage Rod Co., and 3M/Scientific Anglers.

They have provided photography for books by numerous authors and have written and photographed for their own books, which include "Fly Waters Near and Far," "Seasons of the Bighorn," "Outdoor Photographer's Handbook," "Fly-Fishing the Flats" and "Cathy Beck's Fly-Fishing Handbook."

The Becks spend their lives in pursuit of fish and photographic opportunities. Cathy Beck has a fly fishing school in Benton, PA, and has been teaching fly fishing for 25 years. Barry has spent his life in the fly fishing business and photography. They regularly appear at sports shows and sporting events around the country, including the MFFC's Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition, giving casting demonstrations and presentations on fly fishing and photography.

**Doug Swisher and Carl Richards:** The Golden Age of movie musicals had Astaire and Rogers. Early television



*From left: Barry and Cathy Beck; "Selective Trout," the most famous of the Swisher-Richards collaborations; Roderick Haig-Brown; and John Alden (Jack) Knight.*

had Lucy and Desi. Comic books offered Batman and Robin. The Detroit Tigers has Trammell and Whitaker. When it comes to famous duos in the world of fly fishing, Swisher and Richards rank at the top.

It was Richards' fascination with trout-stream insects that led him and Montana author Doug Swisher to first team up on "Selective Trout." The groundbreaking book, based on research done in Michigan, was published in 1971. It has since been heralded as a defining moment for fly fishing in the U.S.

"That book revolutionized fly fishing," said Dick Pobst, himself a fly-fishing author, founder of the Thornapple Orvis store in west Michigan and one of Richards' fishing buddies. "Fly fishing wasn't even popular back then," Pobst said. "What Carl got us to do was pay attention to the 'super hatches' ... to realize that fly hatches occur at the pleasant time of day and to tie lifelike imitations."

In addition to "Selective Trout," Swisher and Richards also published "Strategies for Selective Trout," "Fly Fishing Strategy," "Tying the Swisher/Richards Flies," "Emergers," and "Backcountry Fly Fishing in Salt Water."

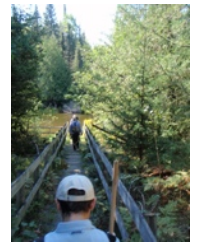
**Roderick Haig-Brown:** This author and conservationist remains one of North America's most popular and best-loved writers about the outdoors. He was born in England and settled in Campbell River, British Columbia, in 1931. He was a dedicated conservationist and a prolific writer. He authored many articles and stories and 25 books, including novels, books

about sport fishing and stories for young readers, including "Saltwater Summer," which was first published in 1948 and was honored with Canada's Governor's General Award. A British Columbia Provisional Park carries his name in honor of his dedication to conservationism in the province. The Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park was established in 1977 to conserve and protect the spawning beds used by various species of salmon.

**John Alden Knight:** Known as Jack to his friends, Knight was the developer of "The Solunar Theory" in 1926, which gave grades to the quality of fishing one could expect based upon the position of the sun and the moon. The late John Alden Knight coined the word "solunar," combining "sol" (sun) and "lunar" (moon) to designate his annual schedule of the daily feeding times of game and fish. Solunar periods, major and minor, designate the three or four periods of each day during which wildlife activity is the greatest. The major periods sometimes last longer than three hours; the minor periods, about an hour.

Outdoor enthusiasts have found the tables invaluable in helping them plan well enough ahead so that they can be on the scene and ready when nature's biological clock tells the fish and game that it's feeding time.

Jack Knight also helped to popularize the famous Mickey Finn Bucktail known earlier as "The Assassin." His books include "The Modern Angler," published 1936; "The Theory and Technique of Freshwater Angling," published 1940; and "The Complete Book of Fly Casting," published in 1942.



### ***2011 Au Sable River Clean-Up***

*Hundreds of fly anglers, including a contingent of MFFC members, made way for the Au Sable system on September 10 for what has become an annual end-of-summer ritual.*