



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2021

Kevin Lipp - A Tireless Volunteer in a Time of Need

2021 Howard Geller Award Winner

By Mike Matuszewski

Kevin Lipp has been named the recipient of the 2021 Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award.

While the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's schedule and routine has been knocked sideways by the COVID 19 pandemic with few in-person events occurring and meetings hosted via Zoom, the 2021 award represents the continuance of a proud tradition.

Kevin is no stranger to Club members, having joined the club several decades ago. He has served in the past as a Board member, officer, president and Midwest Fly Fishing Expo chairman.



Kevin Lipp, Volunteer of the Year.

In addition, it's rare when something is going on with the Club and Kevin hasn't been involved or contributed in some way.

Club Vice President Sybil Hunter added that there's a lengthy list of behind-the-scenes activities regularly handled by Kevin. "He is also the 'keeper of the keys,' the keeper and organizer of the storage rooms; the unofficial tracker, organizer and fixer of all things audiovisual within the Club."

"During my time as Corresponding Secretary," Sybil said, "it was my official responsibility to track cameras and set up. I didn't actually realize Kevin was the person who provided all the quirky connectors that were needed. Kevin was the person who coordinated the purchase of the boxes that organized the gear. I had no idea that Kevin would coordinate the periodic fixing of the microphones. He coordinates and orders the Club name tags. He was the first Project Pin Drop runner, delivering 50th Anniversary pins to Club members last year."

Moreover, during this pandemic-derailed year, he teamed with Board Member Barry Green to host the Zoom meetings that give Club members a chance to stay connected.

Asked for his reaction, Kevin said, "My reaction? Astonishment!"

"I'm someone who started volunteering," he said, "when a couple of long-term members put their arms

around my shoulder and suggested that I should step up. Through my volunteer activities I have met and worked with great people, people that have made my day. I've never felt that my efforts stood out; this is a Club full of people that volunteer their time and their energy for meetings, outings and events. Being singled out when so many give, is pretty damn cool. I encourage each of you to consider stepping up, this Club succeeds because of the strength of our membership and our volunteers. Thanks for the honor, it's been a great ride."

Continued on page 12

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

4/4/21 MFFC ballot open from April 4 to April 7

4/7/20 MFFC Elections / Speaker: Roger Greil of Lake Superior State
4/14/21 Board / MFFC election results announced

4/21/21 Tie Along with Peter Albertson

5/5/21 Activity TBD

5/12/21 Board

5/19/21 Banquet cancelled until May 18, 2022

6/9/21 Speaker TBA

7/14/21 Speaker TBA

8/25/21 Speaker TBA

A Trout Opener We All Need

By Al Haxton

Sitting here in Grayling, I look outside and see NO SNOW. That is so very nice, and quite a change from previous years. No snow on the ground and none in the weather forecast are two things that bring a smile to my face this time of year.

It's only three weeks until Opening Day of trout season, and we all know that the tradition is for cold weather, rain, snow, or sleet ... but I am upbeat and looking forward to another fishing season ahead.

Joyce and I have already cleaned our reels and fly lines. We do that chore each year about this time.

We get the reels lubed and ready for the upcoming season and clean the acquired grime lines from last year's season. We organized the reels and frankly realized we probably had not used them in a year or two.

We laughed and thought about this addiction we have with fly fishing. I bet we all have more fly rods and reels than we use. That is just a small part of this wonderful sport we all share and enjoy so much. Too many reels, too many fly rods, far too many flies, but what a wonderful thing each year to look at our stuff and admire one rod or another

and remember that one fish on that rod that made it all so special. The memories are part of this sport, and they sure make this time of the year grand.

Later today, I will tie up some new leaders for this year's fishing. I started tying my leaders years ago after a talk by John Long at one of our meetings. He developed and used a special leader. John's leader formula used six steps within the leader and frankly took quite a while to



The Hackleman
Al Haxton

tie properly.

I used that formula for a few years then discovered a much easier leader formula by Gary Borger that I use to this day. My leaders start six feet long and go in one foot increments up to 12 feet long. The shorter leaders are mainly used for streamer fishing but sometimes for tight line nymphing. The longer leaders are for dry fly fishing. Sitting and tying the leaders each year brings back more memories of fish caught, or sometimes trees or rocks caught.

I carry my leaders in an old-fashioned leader wallet made of leather. They are all in separate leaves within the wallet and are marked with their length, so it is easy to change one for another.

During this past winter, I spent some time tying more flies. Looking at my box, I found that I only tied about six dozen flies this winter. My excuse



It's impossible to own too many fly reels because they hold much more than just fly line.

for such lack of production is the Covid lockdown and the depression of missing so many friends during the winter. Part of me feels I need to tie more flies.

I will probably do that in the next couple of weeks. After a glance at our fly boxes, I noticed low quantities of several of our favorite patterns, so the list is being made for the flies I will tie soon.

Tying flies during the winter is such good sport, again with the memories of fish lost, who we fished with, what river, and what access. Tying replacements makes me look forward to the next fishing season and think back to previous seasons and all the great times shared with others on the rivers we all love.

Next week Joyce and I plan to drive around a bit to explore some spots we have not fished in a while. I fondly remember Rusty Gates telling me to "follow the blue lines" on maps. He always suggested finding new spots to explore.

Each year Joyce and I have done that a bit, but probably not as much as we should. This winter, one of the things we did was to "follow the blue lines" more and make some notes about areas to explore further.

Continued on page 10



Time to get busy. A fly tying desk before the trout opener.

Get Organized! *Here's What Should Be in Your Flybox*

By Sybil Hunter

March's speaker meeting brought Coast Guard Captain Chuck Hawkins of Hawkins Outfitters in Traverse City to speak on Simplifying Your Fly box.

Early on in his son's life, he gave him a box of flies and set him out fishing. When queried by other fishers as to how he was catching fish, his son replied, "I grabbed the bug out of the water and put it in the fly box then fished the fly that most looked like the fly in the box."

"My goal today is to simplify this process," said Hawkins. "I will also help you reduce cost by avoiding the junk....there is a lot of stuff that is tied for us to buy, not to be used."

First off, the Super Hatches. "I divide the super hatches into early season and big bugs. May is early; June is big bugs." Early season: Hendricksons; Black Caddis; Sulfurs; and Mahoganies. Big bugs: Bat Flies ("the little bug that wants to be big"); Iso; Grey Drakes; Brown Drakes; Caddis; and Hexes.

"Hendricksons are the first significant hatch of the season. Females are dull brown. Males are pinkish brown. Female spinners have a prominent yellow egg sac (the fish seem to enjoy that particular thing)."

"I am a big fan of parachute patterns in Michigan. I'm a big fan of Jerry Regan's tying. He ties tough, heavy bugs."

Then you hit the supers. The super hatch is huge in Michigan. "Supers are tied in 12-14; 16-18, Caddis are also 12-14. Make sure to include the green egg sac. The same imitation can be used for all three major hatches. You also can use yellow Sallies."

Next, come big bugs. Mahoganies. They mostly come out close to, at, or after dark. Tie them in sizes 10 to 12. A small size mahogany is a size 14.

"The only fly you need to carry is a Borchers's Drake. I carry it only in a parachute tie."

"My favorite bug is Isonychia. There are a couple of reasons; one is because you don't need a huge hatch to be successful," said Hawkins. "If you are doing an Adams for an Iso, I'd tie it myself and make it meatier."

"Few people use Bat Flies. It climbs out of the water and hatches on land. It spins during the same time as dry hexes spin. You gotta have the bug in your box. If the fish aren't eating what you think they should be eating, please put on a Bat Fly." Hawkins suggests tying the Bat Fly in a lighter color so you can see it.

"Spinners spin over riffles at dusk. They have a slight body. Tie them as a parachute," said Hawkins.

According to Hawkins, the most challenging part of the hatches is the bugs and this is a way to take Michigan hatches and

make them easy to fish with the same standard dry flies and emergers.

"Robert's Yellow Drake is my best pattern. What I love to do is palmer that body with brown hackle," said Hawkins.

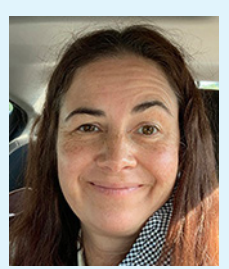
According to Captain Chuck Hawkins, with the following fly patterns, a fly fisher can cover 90% of the Michigan hatches in one fly box:

- Get a Hendrickson dun and spinner pattern with the yellow egg sac.
- Get a Black Caddis adult and egg-laying pattern with the green egg sac.
- Buy a good Bat Fly imitation, look for oversize wings and a stubby body.
- Include Robert's Yellow Drake in EVERY size from 18 to 4.
- Throw in Adams in sizes 10 and 12.
- Add Borchers's Drake in sizes 10, 12, 14, and 16.
- Including two of each, and that keeps the fly box at 34 flies.
- Imitate Yellow Sallies with a Robert's Yellow Drake.

"There are a few things you can add to this if you want," said Hawkins. If you are a glutton for punishment, add the Mattress Thrasher. Otherwise, to upsize, include the Blue Wing Olive. "The only sizes I've seen fish eat them in are 14, 16 and 12. The Blue Wing Olive is in my fly box for all seasons," said Hawkins.

After complementing the Club for their conservation support and the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Captain Hawkins opened the floor to questions, responding to inquiries about the Pine River (Hawkins is one of two people who are allowed to fish the Pine); where the fish are the largest; and how many boats he currently uses (the answer is three).

For guide service, Captain Chuck Hawkins can be found through his shop in Traverse City, at <https://hawkinsoutfitters.com>, or by emailing him at chuck@hawkinsoutfitters.com.



Sybil Hunter



What do fly anglers in Michigan need in their fly box? Not as much as you might think according to Captain Chuck Hawkins.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting March 10, 2021

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:37 p.m.

Present: Hunter; Oehring; Fischer; Bada; Mayes; Sejalon; Green; Nowicki

Absent: Strachan; Niemi

Visitors: A.L. Bulszewicz ; Kevin Lipp

Approval of Agenda - Approved with additions.

Approval of Minutes - Approved of 2/17/21 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

Officer's Report

President: Strachan

Nothing to report.

Vice President: Hunter

- Todd Schotts tendered his resignation for Hatch's column Fly Of The Month; email via Constant Contact to go out recognizing his longtime publication efforts.

- Board Packets will be placed on the shared Board of Directors drive going forward.

Treasurer: Oehring

- February Treasurer's Report approved.
- 2020-2021 Budget Revised and approved. Income adjusted due to not having the 2021 Expo.
- Amendment to next year's budget presented (2021-2022). To be approved in April.

Corresponding Secretary: Fischer

- Six sets of emails sent for 2,200 total emails outgoing with 52% open rate average.
- Chuck Hawkins will speak in April.
- Request to investigate possibility of recording Zoom meetings in the future.

Membership: Niemi

Nothing to report.

Events & Outings

None at this time.

New Business

- Dam 4 Porta-john typically funded by MFFC, not being funded this year. A.L. Bulszewicz to investigate other sponsoring groups.

Old Business

None at this time.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

2019 - 2020 Officers

President:
Bruce Strachan
president@mffc.org

Vice President:
Sybil Hunter
sybilsvpemail@gmail.com

Cooresponding Secretary:
Jim Fischer
coorespondence@mffc.org

Recording Secretary:
Jon Bada
jonbada@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Kathy Oehring
treasurer@mffc.org

Membership
Bob Niemi
membership@mffc.org

Immediate Past President:
David Nowicki
info@mffc.org

At-Large Directors

Barry Green
greenbar1020@aol.com

David Mayes
dmp8906@gmail.com

Fred Sejalonn
sejalon@comcast.net

Hatch Editor

Sybil Hunter
evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com

Webmaster

Harry Briggs
habriggs@gmail.com



Michigan Fly Fishing Club News & Events

New Board of Directors Step In

The MFFC extends a warm welcome to the new 2021-22 Board of Directors and officers.

The elections took place on April 7, the first meeting of the month, per the MFFC constitution.

The members of the newly elected Board of Directors are:

President - Bruce Strachan;

Vice President - Sybil Hunter;

Treasurer - Kathy Oehring;

Corresponding Secretary - Jim Fischer;

Membership Chair - vacant;

Recording Secretary - Jon Bada;

Director at Large: Tom Doyle.

The other two Directors At Large, Fred Sejalon and Berry Green, were elected to a two year term starting in 2020.

Tom Doyle will be serving a two year term. Doyle previously served as the MFFC representative to the MUCC.

Dave Nowicki continues to serve in an advisory capacity as Past President.

Join us all in welcoming the 2021-2022 Board of Directors.

Time to Chase Some Smallmouth Bass

If you are interested in participating in the Annual Smallmouth Bass Outing, May 20-23, in Port Austin, you need to contact Renee Gall (reneeschatzleygall@gmail.com; 419-290-5573).

The cost is \$45, which covers a T-shirt and Friday and Saturday dinners, is due by April 20. If you miss the April deadline, you are still welcome to attend, but there will not be a special-order event T-shirt available.

Participants are on their own for lodging. Gall has arranged for a discount at the Blue Spruce Motel, and there are still rooms available.



A guide and his client search for trout on the Au Sable River during a past opening day. The Evening Hatch is hoping MFFC members can send in some photos from this year's opener to be used in the May issue.

Send The Hatch Your Best Opener Photo

The Evening Hatch is looking for a few good photos from the trout opener on Saturday, April 24 (or even Sunday or Monday!). Land a nice trout? Or maybe your partner netting one? Enjoy the afternoon in a driftboat? Never left Gates Au Sable Lodge because those first-of-the-morning bloody marys were so good?

Take a photo of the events on your smartphone and send it to:

evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com

Include a word or two of who or what is happening if you could. We'll have a special photo spread in the May Evening Hatch of MFFC members getting back to a normal trout opener.

WawaSum Outing Set for July 14-17

The WawaSum Summer Outing will be staged July 14-17, with check-in Wednesday afternoon and check out Saturday morning. The nightly rate is \$40 per person for a total of \$120 for the three nights.

Due to current Covid restrictions applied by MSU and the State of Michigan, only one person per room (unless multiple people in the same room are from the same household) and no use of the kitchen. The historic WawaSum Lodge has eight rooms and a porch overlooking the Au Sable River.

If interested, contact: jonbada@hotmail.com to reserve a room.



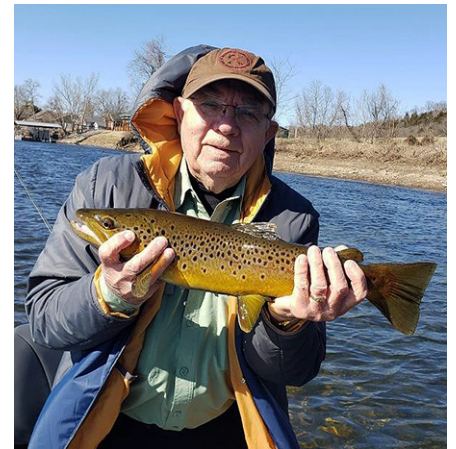
Club member Katie Thurman and her husband welcome the next generation of fly fisher! Born March 27, 2021, Robin Danielle joined the Thurman family.



Members of the Fly Sweet Success on the White River



Above: Scott Freeburg and Guide Lisa Bellue with a nice Rainbow. Below: Lunch time on the river for Tom Malboue and Jim Fischer breaking with guide Jeremy Hunt.



Above: Elmer Jantz with a 20-inch plus brown trout. Below: Freeburg with another brown trout from the White River.

Great Weather, Great Fishing, Great Time

By Scott Freeburg

To say the MFFC White River trip was a success would be an understatement. This year's trip to the White River in Arkansas is a memory I will not soon forget. We originally had nine members signed up to go. COVID and other medical issues trimmed our group to five, so we made the best of it.

Tom Malbouef, Frank Gosiewski, Elmer Jantz, Jim Fischer and myself began our trek to Arkansas on a Sunday morning in February. We drove 500 miles the first day and spent the night in a hotel west of St. Louis. We finished the last 300 miles Monday, arriving at the White River Trout Lodge late that afternoon. The weather was turning warm and sunny, so a little fishing before dinner was in order.

The river was at minimum flows. The trout were spooky and not concen-

Continued on page 7



The White River *Three Glorious Days, 353 Nice Trout*

Continued from page 6

trated so no fish were caught. Our thoughts were that unless they released some water, the next few days were going to be tough.

Tuesday morning we split into pairs and met with our guides Kelly Neuman, Jeremy Hunt and Lisa Bellue. Frank and I fished with, Tom and Jim with Hunt and Elmer with Neuman. The weather forecast was for sunny skies and temperatures in the 70's. We fished the Norfolk River first. It was also at minimum flow, but our guides had everything under control. We were in drift boats, fishing indicator rigs due to the shallow water conditions.

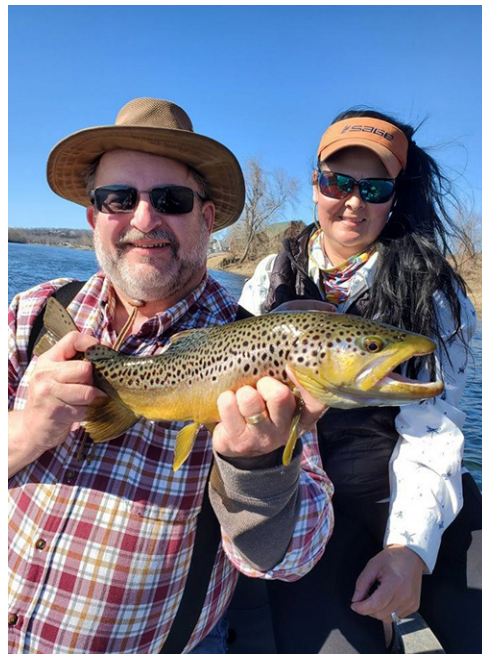
Frank and I were catching fish five minutes into the float. I landed a nice rainbow and a cutthroat. Frank often was a little slow on the set when his indicator went down, but Bellue remedied that by coining the phrase "Pick up the phone Francis." It seemed to work and he boated 11 rainbows in 45 minutes just before we finished. I have no doubt he missed some big ones.

Overall, our crew caught and released 95 rainbows, browns and a cutthroat that day. After a wonderful dinner and a few fish tales, we hit the sack to ready for the next morning.

We again split into pairs on Wednesday but this time Elmer and I would be with Hunt, Jim and Frank with Bellue, and Tom with Neuman. We fished a section of the White River downstream from the lodge.

Once again, the weather and fishing were kind to us. And again, because of the water level, we used drift boats and fished indicator rigs with midges and mega worms.

Continued on page 8



Above: Tom Malbouef with a rainbow trout from the White River Left: Jim Fischer and guide Lisa Bellue with a 20-inch plus brown trout also from the White River.



Above: Scott Freeburg attempting to fish Tenkara style on the White River. Left: Frank Gosiewski and guide Lisa Bellue rigging up on the first day.



Elmer Jantz battling a large trout during a MFFC trip to the White River in Arkansas.

Memorable Fishing in Arkansas

Continued from page 7

We caught and released 130 browns and rainbows, with most of them ranging from 12 to 14 inches. Tom caught the largest fish, an 18-inch rainbow. Elmer, Jim and I caught browns over 20 inches.

I think the most memorable thing from Wednesday was watching Jim fight his big brown trout. Our boat was anchored downstream so Hunt could re-rig our flies. Bellue's boat was upstream from us. Jim was standing in the bow with his fly rod severely bent. The brown jumped clear out of the water as Jim and Neuman floated toward us. It was a glorious sight and I only wish I had taken a photo to share.

Thursday, the last day of guided fishing, we again split

into pairs and fished the White River. Frank and I were with Neuman, Jim and Elmer were with Hunt, and Tom was with Bellue. The weather was ideal and fishing was even better. We added 128 rainbows and browns to our totals, with Tom breaking the 20-inch mark on another nice brown trout.

Friday morning came all too soon, and unfortunately, rain moved in, so we started the drive home. We drove as far as Terre Haute, spent the night and arrived back Saturday afternoon.

Our group of five caught and released a total of 353 fish in three days. I am amazed at what we did and that it was even possible. The great thing about the trip was how much we learned about fly fishing in those three days.

A special thank you to Kelly Neuman from Streamside for guiding and setting this up and to Jeremy Hunt and Lisa Bellue from Flies and Guides for guiding us.

We had a great group and a great time. There was never a dull moment, and I would fish again with any of these anglers, anytime.

Will we go back? You can bet on it.



The White River Boys from left to right: Elmer Jantz, Scott Freeburg, Frank Gosiewski, Tom Malbouef and Jim Fischer.

Who Wouldn't Stop at a Town Called Uranus?



The White River Boys doing a little sight-seeing in Uranus.

On the way home from Arkansas the White River Boys - Tom Malbouef, Frank Gosiewski, Elmer Jantz, Jim Fischer and Scott Freeburg - decided to take a side trip. For the past three years they had passed a few billboards south on the way out of St. Louis that promoted a fudge factory in Uranus. So, seeing how they left early, they decided Uranus might be worth exploring.

When they arrived, the first sign they saw was, "No parking in the rear," which they thought was unusual. In Uranus, they were treated to the amenities of almost any typical small town, a police department, doctor's office, general store, and even a zoo. The cafe was closed due to Covid.

Like true tourists they saw and experienced everything Uranus had to offer. They even purchased some fudge, mostly with nuts. After more than an hour they figured it was time to leave Uranus. On the way out the last sign they saw was, "Thanks for picking Uranus." They were glad they did.



Cormorant Anguish *This Bird is Fishing in My Lake*

By Jim DuFresne

I was slowly kicking across a small lake in my belly boat when I noticed a large black bird with a long neck doing the same about 50 yards away. I stopped and watched it, but the bird was too far away from me to identify the species. Then it dove beneath the surface and reappeared even further away, and that made me nervous.

This bird was fishing in my lake.

Every angler has a lake. I've been fishing my lake for almost 30 years. I don't live on it, but I'm close enough to walk to it, even with a float tube slung over my shoulder. The first time I fished it, I used a conservancy easement to reach the shoreline.

Carrying a fully-rigged fly rod and a belly boat, I was either knee-deep in a swampy pond or in a tangled mass of thorny underbrush. It was an ordeal.

A week later, I skipped the easement and followed the edge of the well-manicured yard next to it. When I was ready to pull out that evening, I realized the owner was standing in his backyard watching me. I braced myself for a tongue lashing for crossing his lawn without permission or even a threat to call the police. Instead, he said, "catch any nice bass?"

Joe and I have been the best of friends ever since.

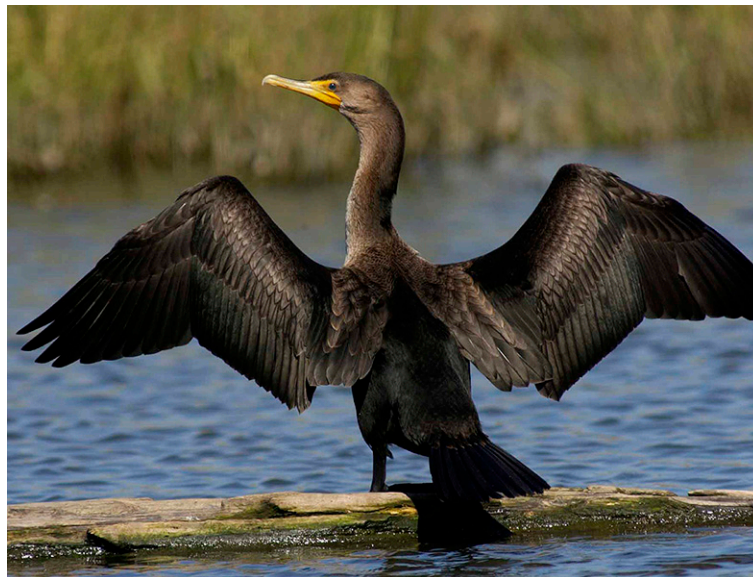
When the bird reappeared, I put my rod down, stopped kicking, and studied it in earnest. Then I had a childhood memory of my mother reading me a book about a fisherman and his bird with a gold ring around its neck. The storybook bird could catch fish but couldn't swallow them, and suddenly it occurred to me, even from 50 yards away, what I was looking at.

A cormorant. A double-crested cormorant my friend Spence would tell me, and this bird could eat fish, a lot of them.

Mother Nature designed cormorants to catch fish. Adults feature a bill that is long, thin and hooked. Their feet are webbed because they chase their prey by diving and swim-



Jim DuFresne



A double-crested cormorant, a bird designed to catch fish (photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation).

ming below the surface. Some species have been known to dive as deep as 150 feet. On average, an adult cormorant, which only weighs three to five pounds, will eat a pound of fish a day.

Every day.

I don't fish my lake all that often, just when I don't have enough time to go anywhere else. So close to my home, it's a nice backup. Even as late as 9 p.m. in June I have enough time to catch a few largemouth bass, bluegills and crappie and then pull out and talk to Joe for a while.

This time I asked him about the cormorant. He said that for the past couple of years a handful would show up in the spring, hang around for a week or so and then move on. This guy, however, decided to stay.

"It's been a while since I had a good night here," I said.

"They can eat a lot of fish," said Joe.

Like the bald eagle, double-crested cormorants were decimated nationally from the use of toxic pesticides, particularly DDT. Banning those chemicals and adding the cormorant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act allowed the species to recover dramatically in the 1980s and 1990s. In only 20 years, the Great Lakes population went from a few thousand birds in the 1970s to more than 115,000 nesting pairs.

Even though the native range of the double-crested cormorant includes the Great Lakes, such a dramatic rise was seen as an invasion - not a recovery - and a threat to popular sport fish like perch and bass. In 2000, research showed a direct correlation between the collapse of the yellow perch fishery in the Les Cheneaux Islands and the rising numbers of cormorant nesting in northern Lake Huron. Beaver Island in Lake Michigan experi-



My lake. Every angler has a lake, whether they live on it or not, a lake they have fished for years and know every dropoff and weedy patch where bass like to hide.

Continued on page 10

Sharing My Lake with a Cormorant

Continued from page 9

enced a similar assault on its famed small-mouth bass fishery.

In my lake, gasoline motors are banned because it's too small for jet skis or tubing which is fine with me. Joe has a small pontoon with an electric motor, and that first summer he took me on a slow cruise around the shore and pointed out a dozen places where you can catch a bass. I returned two days later and caught a decent largemouth in 10 of them. But not tonight.

At one point, I had a strange feeling the cormorant was watching me catch dinky bluegills and letting them go. But whenever I stopped to watch the bird, it would dive and disappear for a few minutes.

As I waited for it to reappear, it occurred to me that every fish I hook from my lake, regardless of size or species, is released alive, and every fish that cormorant catches is eaten. Many people, maybe most that don't fish, would argue that the cormorant and all wildlife have a natural right to those bluegills and bass. And that I don't.

But not the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under immense pressure from anglers, the USFWS in 2003 gave authorization to states, including Michigan, to control the cormorant population by killing a specified number of adult birds and covering eggs with oil to smother developing chicks. In 2016, a federal judge stopped the practice, but by then, more than half a million cormorants had been killed east of the

Haxton: Time for the Opener

Continued from page 2

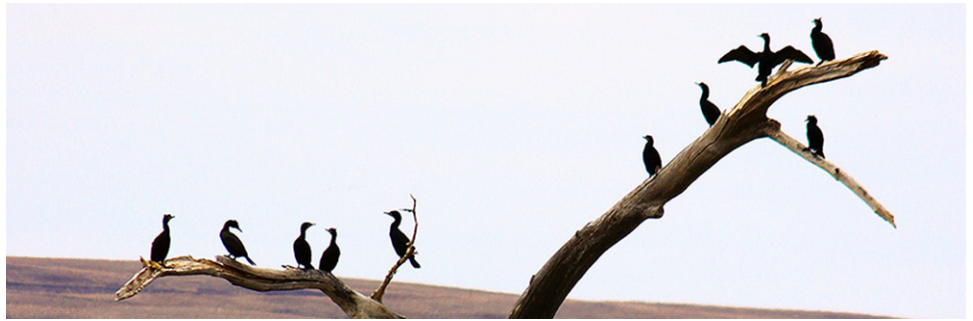
We are all so truly fortunate to live here in Michigan. There are so very many trout streams and feeder creeks. Sometimes those small feeder creeks are the real bonus of an area. We have found creeks only a couple yards wide that held fish, and those fish, having never seen a fly fisher, were very welcoming to us. Those fish were not huge, but they were beautiful, colorful and very feisty to catch and release. Those fish made some great memories too, so this year we have some exploring to do to find new feeder creeks.

One other plan for this season is to spend some time fishing for bass and bluegill. We both had fond memories of fishing the Huron River near Ann Arbor for these species but frankly have not done much about it since moving north.

This year we plan to change that situation. Besides the numerous lakes nearby, there are many other opportunities around here for those fish. To think this was all brought about by looking at fly boxes that we had not opened in a while, discovering boxes of bass and bluegill flies. We plan to use those flies for new warm water memories this year - more good stuff we are looking forward to enjoying.

We all have a new fishing season just around the corner. Get things ready. Make some plans. Then go fishing and enjoy this marvelous State with all the fishing opportunities it has to offer.

Tight lines.



After DDT was banned and the cormorant was added to Migratory Bird Treaty Act, species to recovered dramatically in the 1980s and 1990s. (photo by the USFWS).

Mississippi River and countless eggs sprayed with oil.

The USFWS went back to the drawing board and in January, finalized a new rule that would facilitate the lethal take of nearly 120,000 double-crested cormorants annually. That figure is for the country, but the rule would profoundly affect Michigan because we're home to nearly 55 percent of the interior population's breeding pairs.

The new rule puts front and center a thorny ethical question. Who has a right to those fish? Birds or anglers? And with cormorants is it possible to share?

With the sun setting and dusk turning to dark, I reeled in my line and began the long kick across the lake to Joe's dock. Halfway there, the cormorant launch itself off the water flew completely around this small body of water and then disappeared into a deep orange sky to the west.

I suspect this bird had a better night than me. At the dock I told Joe I wasn't sure when I'll be back to fish my lake again.



Opening day of trout fishing on the Au Sable's Holy Waters.

Opening Day MFFC Traditions Resume

Michigan's trout season opener will take place in less two weeks on Saturday, April 24. MFFC members will resume their opening day tradition of meeting at Gates Au Sable Lodge at 9 am.

The club will have a tent in the open area across the parking lot from the lodge. Some finger foods, individually wrapped of course, will be available and bartenders in masks and gloves will be pouring traditional Bloody Mary's that MFFC members have enjoyed for years.

There will be a few tables but chairs should be brought for whoever wants to sit down.

If you plan to join the festivities, please contact Al Haxton in advance with an email at infoman984@sbcglobal.net

A Tie Along *Tying Flies & Raising Funds*

Activity Zoom Meeting with Al Peterson, April 21

By Al Peterson

My name is Peter Albertson, a.k.a. Al Peterson. I joined the Club in the mid-1980s, as the story goes, on the same night as Al Haxton, but who knows.

The Club has allowed me to enjoy being involved with various service opportunities, most of which I have greatly appreciated. Shortly after joining our Club, I thought it appropriate for me to start fly fishing, so I went to Kmart and purchased all the stuff I would need, which I



Beaman's Ghost

Hook: 2XL Steamer
Thread: Black
Weight: Nontoxic "lead wire"
Rib: Gold flat tinsel...or silver...or embossed...+-
Body: Black wood...or similar chenille
Wing: White or whiteish hackle
Throat: Red or yellow hackle, tied sparse

have since come to understand was not totally accurate.

While I enjoy the fishing, for me, the Club has morphed into enjoying the people first, places second, and once in a while, when I am lucky enough to find a trout on



Griffith's Gnat

Hook: 16-20 dry fly or whatever you have...
Thread: Black 8/0 +-
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Grizzly, palmered or something leaning towards dark.

the end of my line, fishing third. I only tie to be with the people who understand my lack of skill and are willing to share their time, expertise and, most of all, materials.

The flies I am going to tie are the Griffith's Gnat and the Beaman's Ghost from *Classic Michigan Flies: 16 Legendary Patterns*, by Jon Osborn, and the Stimulator from *Tying Dry Flies*, by Randall Kaufmann, the revised edition, copyright 1995.

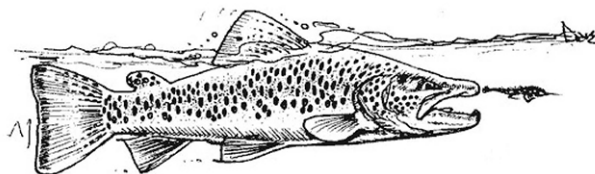
Note: As a special remembrance of "5 Dollar Joe," I will donate "5

Bucks" to our Club in Joe's name for each Club member who stays online until my last fly is tied. Joe spent years sharing his expertise with me...I should have listened more carefully.



Stimulator

Hook: 200R 6-16 or use whatever you have but the larger the better at first.
Thread: Fluorescent fire orange
Tail: Light elk, flared wide
Rib: Fine gold wire
Abdomen: Bright yellow, orange, green Antron palmered with badger or ginger hackle
Wing: Light elk, flared wide and tall
Hackle: Grizzly, 3-5 turns thru thorax
Thorax: Amber or same as the abdomen





One Chunky Rainbow from the Huron River

Not everybody heads to a Northern Michigan streams to land a rainbow. MFFC member Scott Freeburg reports that the Huron River levels are low but it is indeed stocked this year. "There are a lot of fish in there,"

said Freeburg of a recent day on the Huron. "They are big and nasty, but very cooperative. I landed seven of them, along with a 16-inch Pike." He reportedly used Woolly Buggers.

Howard Geller Award *Continued from page 1*

The Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award debuted in 2009 when the Board recognized the importance of volunteers to the Club's success. The Board instituted a new practice — to each year honor an outstanding volunteer. The first recipient was Howard Geller, who devoted untold hours to the Club, especially its youth education activities. "The Board thought so much of Howard and his selflessness that it named the new award after him," Matuszewski said.

The Geller Award Committee is comprised of past recipient of the award: Matuszewski, Joe Sprys, A.L. Bulszewicz, Terry Herron, Todd Schotts, Bill Shannon, Peter Albertson and Kathy Oehring. Deceased recipients are Geller, Mike Doyle, Jim Telinda and Joe Sattler.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 530861
Livonia, MI 48153