



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

June 2021

The Joys of Warmwater Fishing

Short Drives from Home & Hard Charging Fish

By Sybil Hunter

May welcomed Corey Haselhuhn, sales manager of Schultz Outfitters in Ypsilanti, MI. "My time spent fishing is usually limited to before work, or after work," he said. "My fishing is often put into these 3 hour to 4 hour time slots.... and I enjoy that," despite the fact that local watershed water levels are quite low right now.

"Tonight, I'm going to talk about everything we have available to us. Summertime living is easy. It can be split between warm water fishing and cold-water fishing," said Haselhuhn.

Showing glorious looking bass, carp and one special Gar picture, Haselhuhn shared photos of the Schultz Outfitters team and all the wonderful fly-fishing supplies available at their retail outlet, right on the Huron River, cozying up to Riverside Park.

"May is the best month for fishing," said Haselhuhn. "Carp are one of the reasons I really love summertime. I spend a lot of time pursuing carp. They always keep me guessing and always keep me on my toes. It's a fish that's available to all of you. If some of you have not thought about targeting carp, it's a lot of fun. It's technical." Carp stay in faster moving currents and they have lateral lines on all sides of their body, so they spook easily.

According to Hasselhuhn, Carp were imported from Europe as a food



Joy of May; a fly angler with a common carp (American Carp Society photo).

source. The DNR estimates the fish live 2-6 years. Research indicates some of the common carp can grow up to 6 to 7 lbs. in their first year. "They are eating big sculpins and big crayfish. There is not a lot of research on this fish. (They are not glam.) They grow fast and they have a short lifespan."

Next, addressing gear for warmwater species, "If I had to have three rods to cover every base -- a 6, 7, and 8 wt.," Haselhuhn said. "If I had to have one rod to do it -- 7. It offers power, more ability to throw larger flies, and overall better line management."

"For those of you who are wade fishermen like me, my go to rod is a 9

ft. 6 wt. The salt water equipped 6 wt. gives me enough muscle power to land a fish, once you understand how to land a larger fish by letting
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Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

6/9/21 Speaker, author Jerry Darkes

7/14/21 Speaker TBA

8/25/21 Speaker TBA

9/20/21 Next issue of the *Evening Hatch*. The staff has "Gone Fishing."



The Smallies Were In

The Smallmouth Bass Outing Best in Years

By Jim Fischer

This year was my third time attending the Annual Smallmouth Bass Outing. The first two years were windy, cold and there was high water in the bay. Let's just say those years were educational opportunities that I enjoyed immensely. Then came COVID in 2020.

Then this year was FANTASTIC! Temperatures were in the comfortable mid-70's and the winds were gentle (enough) at 6 MPH from the SW. The water temperature was a little cool but warm enough for a "refreshing" wet wade. The water levels were much closer to normal, although I'm told the "old normal" was still lower.

The first day fishing, Wednesday evening for me, was a short wade (with waders) in Lake Huron off of Bird Creek Park (City of Port Austin). It was short because it was already evening, and the water was bone-chilling cold. There were no strikes, no fish. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday I fished in Eagle Bay. The water was shallower and warmer. The bass had just started coming in on Thursday when the fishing was reasonable and improved every day. We checked out the Pinnebog River on Saturday, but there were too many kayaks and canoes, so we rerouted back to Eagle Bay.



Scott Freeburg's smallmouth caught in the secret flats of Port Austin during the recent MFFC Smallmouth Bass Outing.

After checking out of the motel on Sunday morning, I thought I'd give Eagle Bay one last chance — a big mistake. It started out like the other days, with

an air temperature of 78. The wind was up a little, but still from the west. The higher wind put a little chop on the water, making sight fishing very poor. Then it happened. The wind increased to about 14 MPH and shifted from westerly to northerly. The air temperature dropped to 56 within 10 minutes...so I went home.

At the end of the trip I had six small catches (all 13 to 15 inches), 11 nice fish (16 and 17 inches), and two really nice fish (18 and 20 inches), 19 fish total. I won't tell you about the four lunkers that broke off. I did not catch a huge number, but it was a very satisfying trip nonetheless. I'm ready to sign up for next year!



Todd Schotts' new "Witchiepoo" fly and what it enticed during the Smallmouth Bass Outing.

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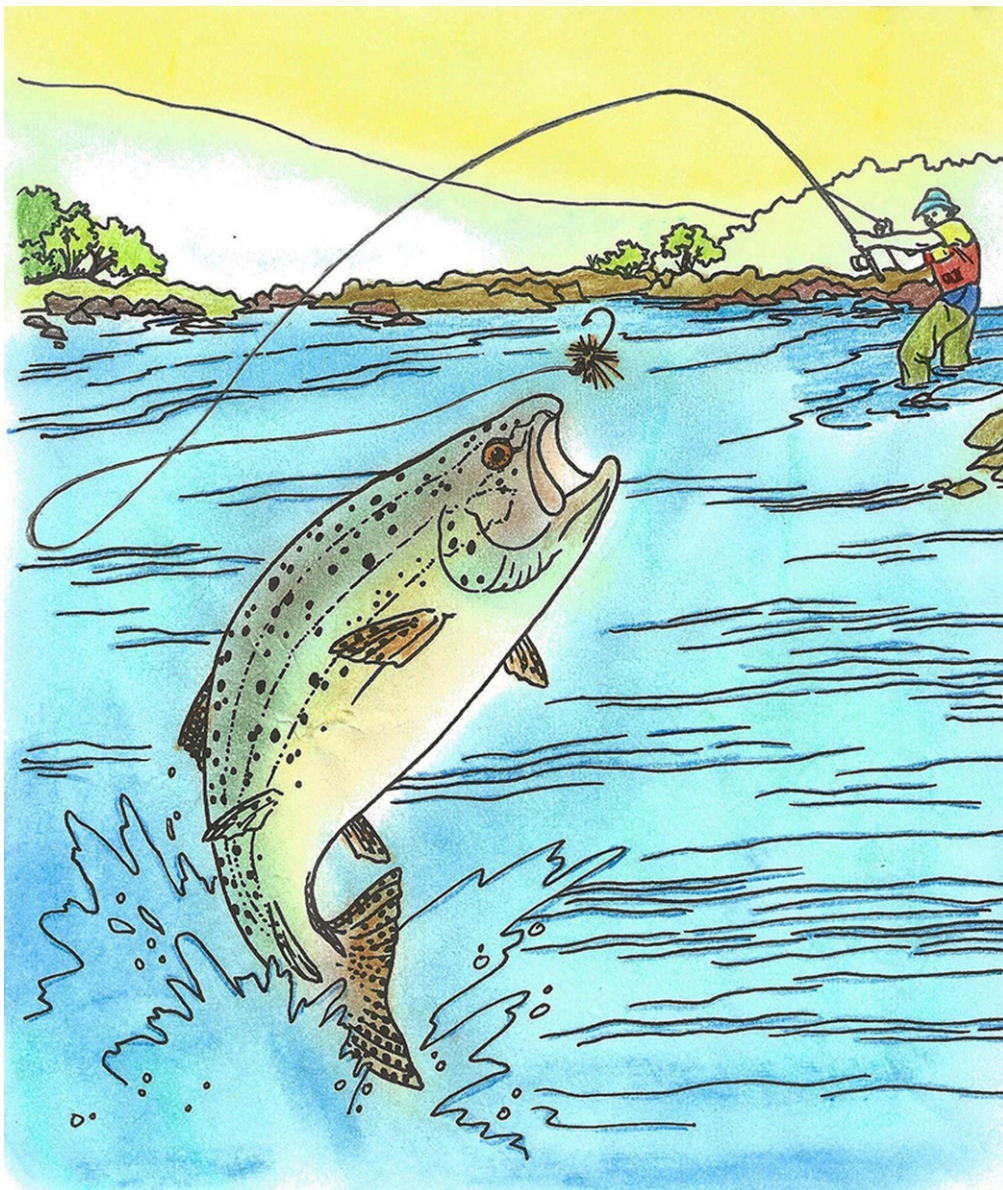
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Joe Pawyl captures that special moment fly fishing on the river with this original artwork for the Evening Hatch. A retired airline mechanic, Pawyl has been a MFFC member for eight years and enjoys chalk and pencil drawing as much as fly fishing.



Longtime MFFC member Jim Doig with his wife Monica and family.

The Passing of James Doig

MFFC just learned that longtime member Jim Doig passed away on June 23, 2020 at the age of 94 years old.

Jim was married to Monica Doig for 66 years and was never one to sit around. Already retired, Jim mastered woodworking and designed and constructed a wooden boat for fishing. When he was finished he bought it to an MFFC meeting one night.

"He did it because he was bored and wanted to learn something new," said Sybil Hunter, MFFC Vice President. "Then Jim brought it to a meeting for all of us to drool over. The man was amazing."

As much as fishing, Jim enjoyed being a member of MFFC and loved to bring his family and grandchildren to events. Jim is survived by his three children, nine grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren with three more on the way.

Trout Water

A Good Read Whether You Fish or Not

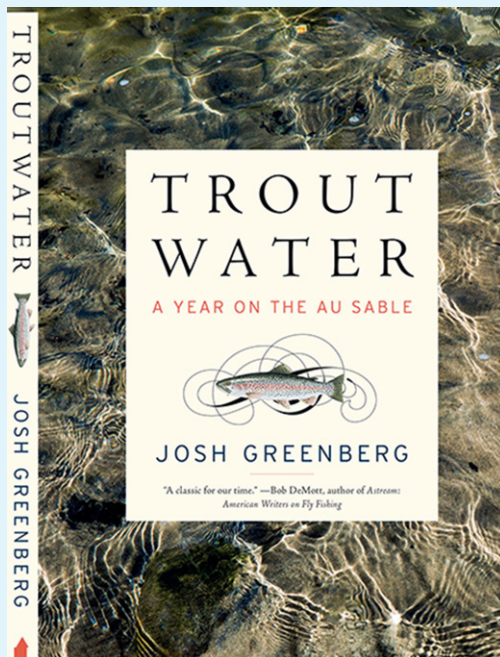
We all know Josh Greenberg as the proprietor of Gates Au Sable Lodge, one of Michigan's best known fishing encampments on one America's most iconic trout-fishing streams, the Au Sable River.

But Greenberg is emerging as one of our most gifted writers who happens to spend a lot of time on the water holding a fly rod. His first book, *Rivers of Sand: Fly Fishing Michigan And The Great Lakes Region*, explored the unique techniques needed to fish the waters of Michigan and the surrounding lakes. But by the end the book becomes a discussion of (and paean to) the region itself.

You knew better things were coming from Greenburg.

In his second book, *Trout Water*, Greenburg takes his writing in a different direction. He is standing in the Au Sable at dusk in 2019 when he gets the call that a dear fishing buddy has died. What began as a fishing journal that year transcends into emotional remembrances, entertaining stories and reflections on the impact the natural world and fishing has had on his life.

"In 2019, I kept a fishing journal,"



Greenburg writes. "That was the year that so many of us lost a friend in Terry Warrington. The journal just kind of took on a life of its own, and I often found myself writing into my fishing past. When the 2020 lockdown came, I had the time to expand it into a book. And so I did, good times (and moods)

and bad."

Released this year by Melville House, early reviews of the 162-page hardcover book have been solid to outstanding.

In *Life on the Fly* that appeared in the Wall Street Journal this March, Bill Heavey writes:

As his journal progressed, I found myself growing increasingly fond of Mr. Greenberg's voice. Even a nonangler will see that the author gets it. He knows how haphazard life is and feels lucky rather than entitled to have fallen in love with fishing, to be connected to the great dynamo of the natural world. One night he and his wife lie in sleeping bags on the back of his truck as they watch a magnificent display of the northern lights. A lesser writer might have forced some deep insight from the experience, but Mr. Greenberg only notes that he's exhausted. "A human can only take so much cosmic power."

"I don't expect this will be for everyone," writes Greenburg. "It's just a little book about one guy going fishing."

Trout Water is available at Gates Au Sable Lodge and can be signed and dated upon request.

Tips & Suggestions For Warm Water Fly Fishing

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the reel do the work. If you Bass fish on foot, use a 7 wt. It still is a rod I can be a more delicate with, but it's going give me a little more push. The 8 is the big hunting tool. I do not need the weight for any other reason than to throw a bigger fly."

Flies for these set ups are: 9 ft. 6 wt. (hopper, large dry, small Boogle); 9 ft. 7wt. (Boogle, hair bug, streamer); and 9 ft. 8 wt. (large streamer, large hair bug).

When fishing, "I like to swing, it's a good way to cover water on foot," Haselhuhn said. "Use minnows, crayfish, bugs...I'd say the sculpin ranks up there too. Olive is a must have color." Take a Boogle Bug (a popper) and a frog.

"Smallmouths inhale the frog. Cast six inches off of the bank if you can make it there. The key to the frog is the long strip. Really stretch it out. You'll know it is right, because you'll hear it."

Increasing numbers of the younger generation have been frequenting the store, said Haselhuhn. "They are

very fixated on targeting fish with a big fly...most commonly a 7-inch streamer. I do not believe utilizing a giant fly at all times is the most productive way to target a watershed, but if you can do it, good for you. I am downsizing flies every time. It's going to be easier to cast. You're going to have more fish to eat it."

"That 17-inch fish is the crown jewel of our world here, an overall great fish," said Haselhuhn showcasing a large bass photo.

"Fly line is a big thing," he said. "The big thing I see with many anglers is that they don't use the right line for what they are trying to achieve. If you do not have the right line, you're going to have a harder time. Fly lines have come a long way." Schultz Outfitters specializes in Scientific Angler fly lines. Haselhuhn discussed the pros and cons of the options available.

Tips include: clear tip is a good streamer line; use sink tips for large bodies of water to reach different parts

of the water column; preference a blood knot or a surgeon's knot; and for heaven's sake, do not forget polarized sunglasses, a hand towel and a fully waterproof pack. Things will end up in the water eventually.

"Flats fishing is one of the wettest forms of fishing. Your gear is going to get wet. If you have important stuff in there, dropping it can make a good a day bad," said Haselhuhn.

Last but not least, Haselhuhn said to always take a thermometer, especially now going into summer with low water levels. "Be respectful of the fish – we don't want to stress them. When waters get mid to upper 70s water temp, give the fish a rest."

Then the Gar picture. "They are a native fish. They fight pretty well. They are anywhere waterways connect to the Great Lakes. If there is a good thing about low water levels," Haselhuhn said in closing, "is that you can see more, you can see the bottom, and you can sight fish."



Fly Fishing Reports *Members of the Fly*



Members on the Fly: Above Bill Brocks holds a 24-inch, 8-pound rainbow caught on a 4-weight rod with 4x tippet and size 20 Rs2 at Miracle Mile in Wyoming. Top left: Mike Harrington gently releases a 19-inch brown trout caught during a float on the Manistee with Ed McCoy of Mangled Fly. Left Dan Walker casting for smallmouth bass during a kayak float down the Huron River in May. Fishing partner Elmer Jantz reports "lots of casting, lots of paddling, not much catching."



From the Editors: We're not sure what Spence loves more, catching a 20-inch brown trout or checking off another species on his birder's life list. Last February, Spence Vanderhoof's photo of a rose-breasted Grosbeak (right) was selected for the second edition of *The Trails of M-22*. In May, Spence hooked up with Charlie Weaver, another fly fishing birder.

From Spencer Vanderhoof: This ole Charlie Weaver, an icon of the old Au Sable when I first started fishing it in early '90s.

He guided for Rusty, and in the off season he guided on the Pere Marquette for steelhead. I visited him on Wednesday May 27 and Mike Harrington went along as well. We hung out in the morning watching his feeders, then went to a secret spot to bird. Afterward, we took him into town for dinner. It's been a while since I've seen him. Charlie is well known in the Michigan birding community as well. I was paying a little tribute to a living legend from my past.

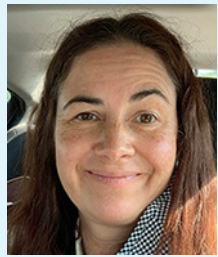




A Power Plant *And 30 years of Atlantic Salmon research*

By Sybil Hunter

Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski from Lake Superior State University (LSSU) joined MFFC in April as our guest speaker. Originally hailing from Wisconsin, his focus on freshwater fishes, particularly invasive species effects on the ecosystem structure, the relationship of fish and habitat structures, population characteristics, and feeding ecology, has brought him to where he is today as Director of Research working on the applications of the new state of the art LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) Fish Hatchery.



Sybil Hunter



A brownfield site along the St. Mary's River being converted into a "riverside destination" by LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education.

"Our facility started in 1977," said Kapuscinski. "It was housed in the Edison Sault/Clover Leaf Electric building. It was started by LSSU, the (then) DNR, and the hydro electric company. It was originally just a collection of folks from the University and the electric company that wanted to do this." From this, the fish hatchery and 30 years of Atlantic Salmon research were born. The facility supports over 80. "Seventy percent of the staff are alums," said Kapuscinski.

"Our fish are captured as far away as Ontario," said Kapuscinski. "Most stay in the river, swim to Lake Huron and then to the St. Mary's River to spawn."

One thing that has been to our benefit is our location, our surface water. The hatchery being in the power plant over the canal, when we go to stock our fish we simply pull the plug on the drain and just load them down the drain....so we

don't have those stock transportation issues." Although this ideal fishery is not without its perils -- "Line 5 was dented by a ship, invasive species, and water level issues."

"We all know it is not a limitless resource and needs to be protected." Conservation, innovation and the new CFRE help raise that awareness.

"We've out grown our (original) facility," said Kapuscinski, "it was not originally built to be a toured facility. In 2007 the annex building was donated, in 2009 a large construction grant was provided, in 2010 the architect and engineering firm was hired, in 2011 the design was completed, then in 2018 the new CFRE facility became a reality."

An old Union Carbide site, "When they started digging there were footings and pipes, fittings larger than any of our vehicles. There was junk...some of it they just plowed into the ground demolishing it. We started digging on this property and it's contaminated. It is contaminated but it is not... there are different levels of contamination. We are allowed to move things around on site. Anything you move off site has to go to a special facility for which tipping fees are paid." This site is a brown field. "I believe this is the first brown field development St. Sau Marie has granted," said Kapuscinski.

"Our target is to move in August, at the start of the fall semester, August or September," said Kapuscinski.

"Our vision is to inspire our community and sustain our Great Lakes," said Kapuscinski. "I'm a researcher and I'm also an educator. We see this need, but it is so much broader than that. It's not enough for us to care. We have to engage



The new state of the art LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) Fish Hatchery.

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Community Support and Involvement For Healthy Fisheries

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many more people, get people when they are young, so we maintain outreach with the community. We need to get everyone one onboard to protect this resource, this ecosystem. We are small, but we have great partners in that support. We need to train the next generation of scientists and educators, collaborate on research, engage the community to develop Great Lakes stewards to enhance our future."

"The boardwalk is starting to collapse into the river and is currently closed," said Kapuscinski. "It was actually a really popular fishing spot. We are really turning this site into what we hope to be a destination, a green space, downtown on the river. The public really has limited shoreline access in this area. With this new space, people can sit and watch the freighters, they can fish from the shore, they can visit our facility. There really is nothing like this in our area, you have to drive several

hours to find anything like this."

Inside the new CFRE, there is a wet lab that will "allow us to control four 16 foot-around tanks, with different flows, temperatures, light regimes...we can manipulate water quality too" allowing study of "really controlled replicated experimentation." Many experiments are problematic because of the lack of control had over the variables of reality.

Kapuscinski continued, "We will have a wetlands exhibit...a wetland symphony...a mural...some interactive scopes that magnify aquatic invertebrate, a Lake Sturgeon touch tank which is going to be really tremendous. It will house some Lake Sturgeon. This will connect people to the Sturgeon."

"We will have an invasive species pod, micro-eye viewers, Kapuscinski said, where "you look through the viewer and it projects onto a screen what is inside of the tank. There is a watershed table, so attendees can manipulate the landscape to teach how our actions ef-

fect the landscape." Much of this is targeted at the K-12 community.

Next, "We are working at formalizing other partners and using seed grant funds for the second floor," said Kapuscinski. "The discovery lab will house the where high school students will learn for two hours a day for this program, really helping to build that next generation of conservation learners in this state-of-the-art lab facility. This allows you to test nutrients in your water, emerging contaminants, has a microscope lab, a teaching lab space...things that require high end microscoping and imaging systems."

"We are looking at working on a receiver to track Sturgeon," said Kapuscinski, "but I'd like to track and tag Atlantic salmon."

Topics for cold water fisheries

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Where Did It Come From?

The History of a Brownfield

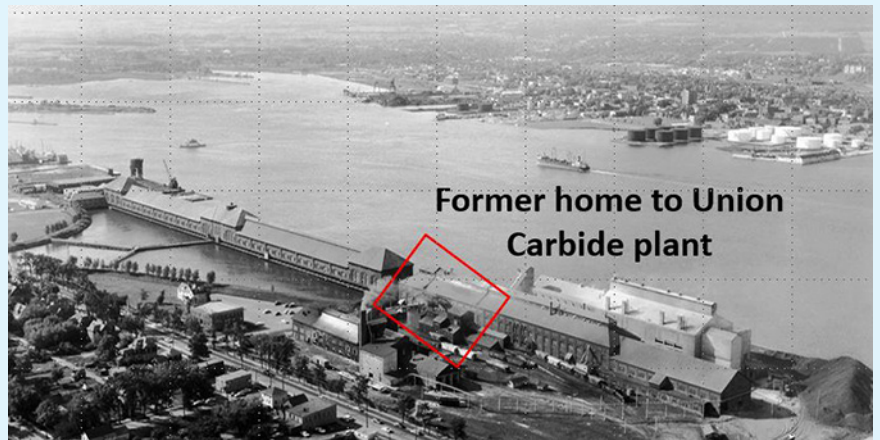
When our April guest speaker, Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski from the LSSU CFRE joined us, he mentioned that the annex building given to the university was part of the old Union Carbide plant which resides on a brownfield. In 1995, the EPA started the EPA Brownfields Program which allows for limited, specific use of a contaminated site, with specific clean-up protocols. There are many of these sites in our township alone. As for the building up in the Soo, I asked for more information on the Union Carbide plant and this is what I learned:

When the Union Carbide Sault plant was first built, it was used to make calcium carbide. When water is added to the calcium carbide, acetylene gas is created. In the early 1900's it appears to be the acetylene that was used to power the power plant.

The plant was used until the early 1960's to continuously make calcium carbide. The calcium carbide was then used in the production of plastics and other synthetic materials.

"In my humble opinion" the pollution at the plant might not have come from the calcium carbide produced in the plant so much as the PCB's used in the transformers. From my experience, when calcium carbide is exposed to the atmosphere and hydrates, it breaks down and becomes lime powder.

Calcium carbide is also used to remove sulfur from molten iron and steel. The carbide is injected into the molten metal with a carrier gas such as argon or nitrogen. The carbide reacts in the metal, and the sulfur bubbles to the surface in the slag on top of the metal. The slag is then raked off, and now you have ultra low sulfur metal.



The former Union Carbide Plant on the St. Mary's River.

Carbide also was used for miner's head lamps. The lamps had two parts, a water tank on top, and the lower part where dry carbide was stored. When the lamps were utilized, a little water was dribbled into the bottom to form the gas. There was a flint striker built into the face of the lamp, like in old cigarette lighters. The gas would ignite with the spark. The brightness of the lamp was controlled by how much water was added to the carbide.

When I was growing up we had a couple of these for night fishing. Before sealed beams in cars, you could take the old mirrored reflectors and use them to replace the small reflectors. The lamps then would cast quite a bit of light.

Down south the good old boys used to put carbide in plastic bottles that had holes poked in them. The bottles would sink as they filled and the gas buildup would burst. The fellas would then go around with nets to harvest the fish.

Tom Doyle

Thank you Tom for sharing that insight. Now I know how those White River trip boys caught so many fish so fast! - Sybil

CFRE Fish Hatchery.

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research would include: use of tributaries by migratory fishes; impacts of didymo on fish spawning habitat (Didymo is an algae that can grow on the rocks in streams. It can get so strong and nasty it is called rock snot. New Zealand has had a problem with it. The Great Lakes are now seeing blooms which is really strange.); how spawning and eggs are affected by invasive species and contaminants, and more.

This is a largely collaborative project. "We are lucky to have two tribes adjacent to us, we are lucky to have MI DNR and others that work with us," said Kapuscinski. "We work with the Traverse Bay Band of Potawatomi Indians. With MiWaters we are building relatively low-cost sensors and deploying them in different locations within Michigan. We don't have a project manager for this. They can monitor temperature, and other things could be monitored like discharge."

"This is an opportunity for tremendous growth. The Soo always has been a tourist destination. This will add to it. Some effects take on quick, others take time."

Go to <https://foundation.lssu.edu/> to fund undergraduate research and training fund. Kapuscinski noted, "60% of our undergrads are the first person in their family to attend college, and many of them come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds."

Visit the CRFE online at: <https://www.lssu.edu/cfre/hatchery/> for information and a virtual tour.



Ed McCoy of Mangled Fly carefully removes a dry fly from Spencer Vanderhoof's ear. The barbed size 12 hook was placed there by MFFC member Bill Cusumano during a float on the Manistee River recently. Along with Spence's ear, Cusumano also caught a beautiful 22-inch brown trout (left). Mangled Fly (www.managledfly.com) is a full-service guiding company that includes on-the-water, from-back-of-the-boat emergency surgery if needed.



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