



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

September 2021

Welcome back, MFFC!

By Sybil Hunter

Welcome back, MFFC! June 9, 2021, marked our first in-person meeting since COVID hit in the ever-dreaded 2020. The Club welcomed author Jerry Darkes who spoke about his new book *Essential Flies for the Great Lakes Region*. He was available throughout the meeting for book signings. As informative and well-received as Darkes was, the real news was seeing Club members again face-to-face.

Terry Herron greeted me with a big smile and a hug. I froze. What was this? What was going on? We haven't been able to actually see people in ages,



MFFC members were back fishing for bass last May in Lake Huron.

let alone *hug* them....I was a deer in headlights! Wow! What a wonderful welcome back to meeting in person!

"Everybody was really looking forward to being back in person," said Herron when I called him for an interview following the meeting. "It was great just to make the individual contacts... and being able



Sybil Hunter

to say hello to people; I know that was my intent for going." Terry took a brief puppy-gnawing-on-his-toes-break and continued, "I really enjoy it, and I really look forward to the meetings, and I think everybody else does too."

Speaking again after the August meeting, Herron noted, "I couldn't make the meeting with Todd. I didn't get home in time, so I Zoomed in. I know Todd was showing pictures, but it's not the same. It made it not as good for me. The in-person meetings are just a whole lot better."

We both concurred that Zoom was the "glue" that kept everyone together during the COVID shutdown. "The Zoom was better than nothing," he noted, "but virtually everybody goes there (club meetings) for the social aspect.

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Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

9/22/21 Activity Meeting, VFW Post 345

9/30/21 Trout Season ends in Michigan for Type 1 & 2 streams

10/13/21 Speaker TBA, Virtual or VFW Post 345

10/20/21 Board Meeting, Virtual

10/27/21 Activity Meeting, VFW Post 345

11/3/21 Speaker TBA, Virtual or VFW Post 345

11/10/21 Board Meeting, Virtual

11/17/21 Activity Meeting, VFW Post 345

12/8/21 Speaker TBA, Virtual or VFW Post 345

12/15/21 Board Meeting, Virtual

12/22/21 Activity Meeting Garage & Estate Sale, VFW Post 345

1/5/22 Speaker & Location TBA

1/6-9/22 Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi

1/12/22 Board Meeting, Virtual

1/19/22 Activity, Location TBA

2/2/22 Speaker & Location TBA

2/9/22 Board Meeting, Virtual

2/16/22 Activity, Location TBA

3/2/22 Activity, Location TBA

3/9/22 Board Meeting, Virtual

3/16/22 Speaker & Election Nominations, Location TBA

It is anticipated that the November and December meetings will be held at Hubert-Fortiers-O'Grady VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft, Redford Township

Life (& Fishing!) Begins to Look Normal for MFFC

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The information that is given at the meeting – that’s just a bonus.” He then mentioned how he missed casting and conversing, “That is why I enjoy going down to the gym and that.”

“I was looking forward to returning to meeting in person again,” said Joe Pawyl, who brought some of his artwork to that first meeting to share. A few of his pieces have been included in *The Evening Hatch* in the past.

“Meeting in person was a chance to see faces I haven’t seen since Clarencville shut down; it was wonderful,” said Kevin Lipp after the meeting. “I really appreciate meeting face-to-face, seeing smiles and hearing hellos. I hope we can keep the face-to-face meetings going, and more people can participate either via Zoom or feel comfortable coming to the meetings.”

“I was really happy to get back together too,” said David Mayes, also in attendance at the first June evening, “and see old familiar faces again and be able to share times again face-to-face. It was nice to renew old acquaintances.”

Then, at the July 14 meeting featuring Jerry Regan, we even signed up two new members! “It was great to be there!” said Dave Miller, who brought along new member Mark Hendericks from Plymouth. “A couple of other guys also stopped over and introduced them-



A rainbow trout that was caught during the MFFC trip to Yellowstone National Park this summer (photo by Chris Hunter).

selves to Mark, I thought that was very nice, and I’m sure it made him feel welcomed.”

For those of you who are still abroad, up north in Grayling enjoying your permanent new “cottages,” are sick, have medical issues, or are just staying safe and staying home, Mike Matuszewski sums it up for all of us:

“While it’s great to be able to meet again in person, the club recognizes that it may not be possible for

some members to resume the in-person experience. In addition, some members may not yet feel comfortable attending a group gathering.

That’s why the club will continue offering the Zoom option. It’s not perfect; it’s true. But it helped us stay somewhat connected during the worst of the pandemic. And for that, we’re thankful ... with special kudos to Barry Green and Kevin Lipp for their behind-the-scenes technical wizardry.”

Club’s Memorial Book for MFFC Members Moves Online

For more than two decades the Michigan Fly Fishing Club has maintained a memorial book dedicated to members who have passed away. Typically, the Memorial Book is available for perusal at the Club’s annual Opening Day event.

To give members greater access, the book has moved online at the Club’s website. Headlined *In Memoriam*, the pages can be accessed from the menu under the “About” tab.

Members will find a list of departed members. Clicking a “blue” name will bring up a photo of the member. Names appearing in black do not have a photo attached.

That’s where we need your help. If you have any photos of the following departed members, please send them to Mike Matuszewski, care of the club mailing address or as a .jpg or .pdf file via email at: mjmatuszewski1693@yahoo.com.

Note that some of the members listed below passed away in the late 1980s and 1990s.

- John Butcher
- Bud Crudder

- Michael Daly
- Tom Derro
- Larry A. Gangleard
- Ron Gilpin
- Katherine Hammons
- Larry Kale
- Donald Kelenski
- Thomas Kilkenny
- Ken Mers
- Gene Michaelson
- Gordon Seiler
- Jim Vandawalker
- Mike Zulick

In a similar vein, if you are aware of a deceased member whose name has not been included in the section, email Mike at mjmatuszewski1693@yahoo.com.

The original Memorial Book was established through a bequest from the family of Ken Flowers.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting May 12, 2021

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:37 p.m.

Present: Strachan; S. Hunter; Oehring; Fischer; Niemi, Bada; Mayes; Green; Nowicki

Absent: Sejalon

Visitors: Kevin Lipp; Tom Doyle (incoming Director At Large)

Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved with amendments.

Approval of Minutes - Minutes from 4/14/21 Board Meeting Approved.

Officer's Report

President: B. Strachan

- 2021-2022 New board members sworn in. Incoming: Tom Doyle. Outgoing: David Mayes.
- Venue Presentation by J. Fischer

Summary: avoid public/private schools due to easier shutdown by the State; VFW in Redford for three summer venues due to availability Weds night; recommending venue attendees are vaccinated and mask. Zoom also available. State guidelines at this time dictate vaccinated people and mask mandates for indoor usage. Security concerns voiced. Another possible venue: Unity Church at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake, has outside casting area. Need to determine if Wi-Fi for Zoom. Covid protocol questions for both venues. Metro parks suggested until venues open. VFW costs more than Clarenceville. Board will follow State guidelines regarding indoor requirements. Plan on summer venues at VFW if State loosens 25 person indoor capacity limit.

Vice President: S. Hunter

- Security of Club Passwords in

one location, with two board members who have access

- Club's Facebook account is not actively managed. What options are available?
- Social Media Volunteer Request, asking a member to assist with social media.
- Conservation Corner, limited feedback from members. Hatch format to be reformatted to contact form. Please contact Peter for detailed information. Use of long links problematic in print only format.

Treasurer: K. Oehring

- Little monetary activity, a few new members, yielding positive cash flow. Report approved
- Raffle License, John Eriksson requested a raffle for the summer picnic. K. Oehring submitted paperwork for this request. Board recommends raffles less than \$100 until a venue location is selected.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Fischer

- Distribution of 20-21 active member list. Six eMail Blasts since last Board meeting. Open rate 58%. Highest open rate was 65% - State Of Club notification.

Membership: Vacant

- Currently 340 active members. Motion to appoint Bob Niemi for the next Board year, approved.

Events & Outings

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Old Business

None at this time.

Adjournment: 9:18 p.m.

2019 - 2020 Officers

President:
Bruce Strachan
president@mffc.org

Vice President:
Sybil Hunter
sybilsympemail@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

Volunteers Needed At Fishing Shows

As part of outreach and education for the MFFC, we staff an activity booth at The Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama where Club members teach young participants to tie Woolly Buggers for fishing, and guide them through fly rod casting on the pond.

Volunteers are needed for the four days of the Ultimate Fishing Show. Volunteers receive free show entry.

If you've never tied wooly buggers, you can be trained on site. It's so easy even kids can do it! Translation: No experience necessary.

Assistance is also needed with fly rod casting, packing in, packing out, and general organization of things as cochairs.

If you can volunteer an hour or two or even part of your day, it would be greatly appreciated. Ultimate Fishing Show volunteers are needed for tying with attendees, casting with kids, set up, tear down, as well as co-chairs to assist with event organization and scheduling.

The event takes place at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI 48374. Park-



ing is \$5. If needed, parking fees can be reimbursed after the show.

Contact Jim Aitken if interested at dznvwm@comcast.net.

MFFC Provides Camera-Ready Members

The MFFC came to the rescue for the the Michigan Nature Association. The MNA and a Grand Rapids production company teamed up to produce a video on the Fox River System near Seney in the U.P. as part of a campaign to preserve 3,500 acres of the watershed.

The six-minute video will be used to highlight the importance of the property that includes rare fen wetlands, 3,000 feet of frontage along the East Branch and 6,000 feet along the East Slough. The Fox is famous for being the river Ernest Hemingway fished in 1919 that later became the basis for his short story *The Big Two-Hearted River*.

"A successful acquisition will help

Ultimate Fishing Show

2022 Show Dates & Hours:

Thursday, Jan. 6: 1pm – 9pm

Friday, Jan. 7: 11am – 9pm

Saturday, Jan. 8: 10am – 8pm

Sunday, Jan. 9: 10am – 5pm

Outdoorama

2022 Show Dates & Hours:

Thursday, Feb. 24: 1pm – 9pm

Friday, Feb. 25: 11am – 9pm

Saturday, Feb. 26: 10am – 8pm

Sunday, Feb. 27: 10am – 5pm

maintain the high-water quality and outstanding brook trout fishery of the East Branch," said Julie Stoneman, MNA Director of Outreach and Education in an email to MFFC. "Any chance someone from the club might be interested and available to be on camera fishing in the East Branch?"

Several members replied and in early September the production crew captured what they needed: a fly angler catching a beautiful brook trout from the famous river. The final film promo is schedule to be completed by late December. A full report of the Fox River adventure will appear in October's *Evening Hatch*.

Gypsy Moth Outbreak Witnessed in Baldwin

While fishing the Baldwin area in late August, Tom Doyle saw this year's anticipated gypsy moth outbreak.

"The majority of trees, windfalls, firewood, etc. have Gypsy Moth cocoons on them," reported Tom Doyle, Director At Large. "The message should go out to everyone to not to bring home any firewood should they go out salmon camping in the Baldwin area."

According to Michigan.gov:

Approximately two weeks after cooing, adult moths will emerge for a short mating cycle. Females are white with brown to black markings and do not fly. Males are gray to brown with dark markings and will fly to locate females. Females produce a fuzzy, tan-brown egg mass of more than 200 eggs.

Egg masses will persist until the next hatch in the spring. To lessen im-

pacts next year, it is important to look for, remove and destroy egg masses.

- Look on trees, buildings, outdoor furniture, and playsets - anything that's outside.

- Use a scraper or hard plastic card to scrape egg masses into a container of soapy water.

- Let them soak overnight, then bag and dispose of them.

- Alternately, egg masses can be placed in a fire and burned.

- Note that just scraping them onto the ground will not kill the eggs. Masses will still hatch next spring.

- It's important to check and remove egg masses from cars, equipment and anything that has been outdoors before you pack up for your travels.

- Leave firewood at home. It's a source for spreading the moth.



Gypsy Moth egg masses on a tree in the Baldwin Area this summer.



Montana Madness

A Delightful MFFC Outing in Yellowstone



Welcome to Yellowstone National Park, home of buffalo and the highlight of the annual MFFC trip out west.



No Toll Booth on the \$3 Bridge

Located just outside Yellowstone National Park on the Madison River is \$3 Bridge, a go-to spot during the MFFC trip. Good news; there is no longer a toll at the bridge thanks to local conservation groups. Better news is the brown trout Chris Hunter caught at the bridge on a flying ant.



Uh Oh! But still Had a Wonderful Outing

By Jim Fischer

The plan, like the last couple of years, was for Bill Magee and Tom Mogford to leave Friday morning and drive out of Montana (their plan is to beeline it out to Montana, then fish their way home). I would leave Saturday morning and fly to Bozeman Airport. Bill and Tom would pick me up mid-afternoon on Saturday and we would make it to the resort in time for dinner. It was better than getting an Uber.

This would have been the third year for the three of us together, and this year we planned two weeks in Montana rather than one. But uh oh! Bill underwent some emergency surgery a couple of weeks before the trip. His recovery wasn't as fast as he had hoped, so Bill and Tom bailed. Bummer dudes! (Fret not, Bill's recovery is moving along nicely.)

Luckily, I did not spend two weeks at the airport. Mark Rogish and Jay Labbon flew into Bozeman later that day; Mark had a rental. I got a ride! Mark and Jay were assigned to my cabin, so it was convenient. This was their first time fishing in Montana. I'm happy to say that club members did a good job reaching out to them and showing them fishing sites. Between Mark and Jay, Scott Freeburg and Bob Niemi, Al and Joyce Haxton, Mark Rais, and Frank and Nancy Klimoko, I was well looked after and went fishing whenever I wanted.

The fishing in Montana was touch and go this year due in part to the
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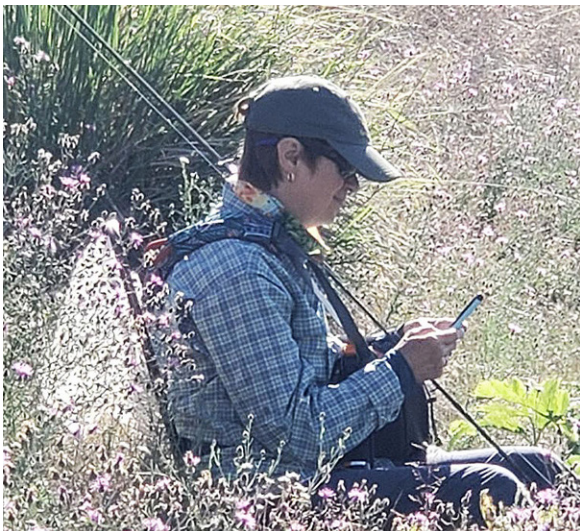


MFFC members enjoy a Low Country Boil of shrimp, sausage and corn on the cob in Montana.

Montana Madness *Hunter Boys Fishing Outing*



Despite warm water temperatures and distant forest fires, the annual Hunter Boys Fishing Outing, a week of the Hunter family fishing out west that includes the MFFC-organized Yellowstone trip, still took place. Left: Sam Hunter fishes with his father John Hunter in Yellowstone National Park and below a trout that John Hunter caught and released. Right: Young Sam Hunter getting a lesson on how to catch a trout from his uncle Chris Hunter at Taylor Fork, Montana.



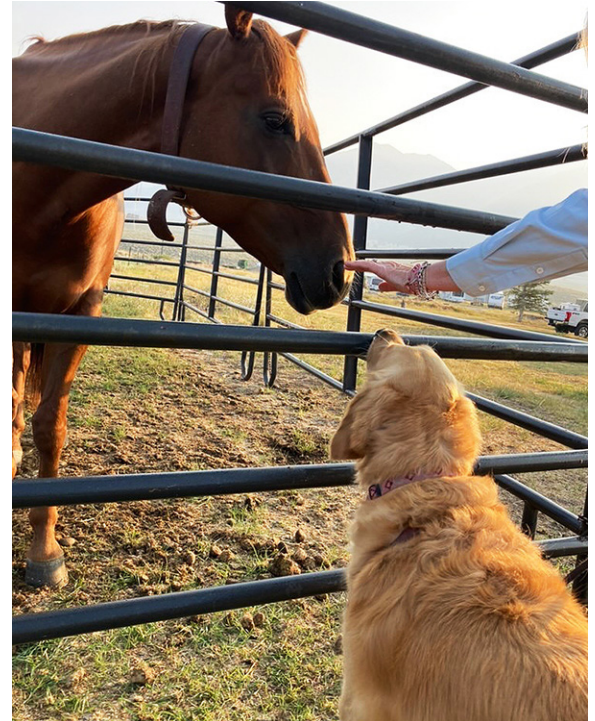
Left: Is Nancy Klimko taking a break from fishing during the Montana Madness Trip or is she using her new Select-A-Fly App? She'll never tell. Right: Rib night at the Driftwaters Lodge with (left front to back) Sam Hunter, John Hunter, Megan Klabunde, Jen Klabunde and Al Haxton along with (right front to back) Jim Fischer, David Hunter, Frank Klimko, Nancy Klimko, Dirk Fischbach and Joyce Haxton.



Montana Madness *A Fly Angler's Best Friend*



Man's best friend can also be your fishing buddy. Clockwise from the left; Dirk Fischbach camping in West Fork, Montana with Biddy who loves to ride the boat, guard the shore and spot fish. A member of the MFFC Montana trip was Nellie, Al and Joyce Haxton's dog, seen meeting a horse, scouting the river and hanging out with Scott Freeburg one evening.



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"hoot-owl" restriction. Because of the high water temperatures and low levels, fishing inside Yellowstone National Park and most rivers outside of the park was stopped mid-afternoon. Rangers flushed the fishing areas every day and anglers caught casting after 2 p.m. were fined. Thus the crowds were heavy on the rivers and the fishing sparse.

There was a silver lining in these restrictions however. Leaving the water mid-afternoon, followed by a 30 to 90-minute drive, gave us time to relax before dinner. We really only missed out on the evening fishing at the \$3 Bridge. Instead we would all gather on the front porch of the cabins and tell fishing stories.

Another downer was the forest fires. I never saw any fires in my travels. But there was smoke. It appeared as a haze, but occasionally you could smell it. I believe the fish were confused, thinking it was an overcast day even though they didn't detect any weather fronts passing through. One day

would be cloudy, and it rained; another was smoky.

There was also one evening on a restaurant porch where the wind was blowing chairs around, and the temperature dropped 20 degrees within 5 minutes. That was fun!

The water levels were low. Looking at the Lamar River, I estimated the water was down 3 feet.

There were a few cool days (highs in the low 50s, lows in the high 30s), making for good sleeping weather. The mountains appeared to have 7 inches of snow -- in the third week of August!

The fishing could have been better. Everyone, including all the guides, were dumbfounded as to why the fish were not hitting on hoppers. You could see and hear grasshoppers on the banks of the river, but the fish weren't eating them. While the fish counts were modest, a couple of people on the trip caught some 18 and 19-inch browns.

All-in-all, it was an excellent trip. I am going back for two weeks next summer! Who is going to join me?

MFFC Club Picnic *Food, Friendship & A little Fishing*



On July 17 the MFFC Club Picnic returned with John Ericsson and Kathy Oehring co-chairing the event. Above; Manning the raffle table is Dennis Bruckwinski and Spence Vanderhoof with Lisa Vanderhoof looking on. Below; Kevin Lipp digs in along with a friend of John Eriksson's; followed by Craig Summers and Kelly Summers with Don Oehring in the background.



Right; Don Oehring and John Eriksson work the grill with Carolyn Bennett watching the masters cook. Below; club members and friends enjoy the pot luck on a beautiful day at the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association at Commerce Township.





Night Moves *What I Learned Casting into the Dark*

By Jim DuFresne

For an evening float on the Upper Manistee River Spence Vanderhoof and I met Ed McCoy at an access site around 5 p.m. where a party of canoers, who had too much to drink that day, didn't have enough patience with each other that night so someone had to call the police. Four police cars arrived and blocked us in the parking lot for 20 minutes before they allowed Ed to pull out in his pick-up with a driftboat in tow.

By the time we drove up river to our put-in site and slid the boat down the wooden ramp it was almost 7 p.m. Just as well. The day had been brutally muggy and hot even for a week that was already unseasonably warm. Ed, a guide with Mangled Fly Outfitters, knew we were still an hour away from rigging up our rods.

So we just floated for a while, eating sandwiches while drifting around one river bend after another. Soon the Manistee was ours, the paddlers and inner tubers were long gone. So were most other anglers. Wildlife slowly began to appear with Spence happily naming the ones with wings.

Then we saw the first rings of a feeding trout.

"When you take the time to listen to nature," Ed said, "she tells you things."

She told us the trout were there but the water was warm, topping 68 degrees. That we needed to keep a fish in the river at all times when releasing it to avoid stressing out what we prized so much. No "grin-and-grips" this evening.

She told us to be patient. The night is long and the best fishing will come long after the sun has set. And she hinted that there would not be a whole lot chances that evening so we needed to make every cast count.

I caught the first trout, a 10-inch, but Spence followed up with a 15-inch brown and another one quickly after that. With every trout Ed positioned the boat, dropped the anchor and grabbed the net. He would lean far over the side so he could place it under the fish without having to lift it out of the water. For a minute we would stand there admiring it, a blurry trophy made with the river flowing over

it, and then Ed would quickly release it with a twist of his wrist.

At 9:30 p.m. we were entering the transitional period of night fishing. We could still see the rings but dusk and darkness were quickly approaching. It wouldn't be long before hearing would replace vision in spotting a trout.

Just before it did, a faint ring appeared in a pool across the river. My first cast was short but my second was my best of the night and whatever was feeding took my offering. I immediately had a hunch it was big but when the trout leaped clear out of the river and twisted its head in an effort to throw the hook I was mesmerized by its size.

Ed snapped me out of it with anxious instructions. I couldn't believe how nervous I was for a fish I would never keep. Or even lift out of the water. But my fishing resume didn't include a 20-inch trout from Michigan. It does from Alaska, New Zealand and Argentina. But not from the place I call home. And I told Ed and Spence that at the beginning of the float.

After the brown trout began to tire, I was able to swing it to the side of the boat where Ed gently placed the net under it and then a ruler next to it.

"Nineteen inches and three-quarters," Ed announced. A moment of silence followed and I thought great, I'm fishing with the only honest guide on the river. But then Spence said "Well, at night we usually round everything off to the nearest whole number."

I'll take it. My first 20-inch trout in Michigan.

We pushed on, through water that was black past pines

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Jim DuFresne



When the river is warm in the middle of a hot summer the trout need to stay in the water at all times (photo by Ed McCoy).

Hot Days and Dark Nights on the Manistee

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that had turned into silhouetted soldiers guarding the bank. At 10:30 p.m., in the last streaks of dim light above us, we watched a brown drake hatch, huge bugs flying overhead like the winged monkeys leaving the castle in the Wizard of Oz. "No spinners," Ed said.

Vision was gone. We sat and carefully listened as we silently floated downstream. We'd hear something rustling in the trees, or slipping into the river, or chirping.

Then there it was; a slurp, a gulp, maybe even a small splash. When we heard it repeatedly from the same direction Ed maneuvered the boat and Spence picked up his rod and casted blindly to where he thought it was coming from before retrieving his fly.

After a minute of silence, the slurp resumed. "I think you were a couple feet short," Ed said and Spence would cast into the night again.

At midnight everything was pitch black. I couldn't see more than 10 yards down the river. At times it looked like we were going to run aground in a forest of silhouetted soldiers when suddenly a bend would appear and Ed would gently ease us into it with a quick pull of an oar.

It was almost 1 a.m. when a light appeared downriver. After floating 8 miles of the Manistee River, most of it in the



Anglers prepare to launch their driftboat for a night run.

dark, we arrived at our takeout where someone was waiting with Ed's truck and trailer. Everybody was tired and conversation was limited, not much more than an obligatory "how was the fishing?"

But on the drive back to my cottage I was wide awake reliving vivid moments of my first float at night. Especially during the witching hour when I was amazed how much I learned about fishing despite not seeing a thing.

For more on Mangled Fly Outfitters fishing adventures go to www.mangledfly.com.

TU Announces No More Hero Photos in TROUT Magazine or Online

Trout Unlimited has announced no more "hero shots and the grip-and-grins" will appear in its *TROUT* Magazine. Throughout the entire month of July, almost without exception, TU didn't publish a single photo of a fish that wasn't at least partially submerged in the water.

The #NoFishDryJuly effort started by Keep Fish Wet was a catalyst for the TU communications staff during a summer of prolonged heat and drought throughout much of country, including Michigan.

"We wanted to show that, as anglers and conservationists, keeping fish safe and healthy matters to us," wrote TU Director Chris Hunt in the August issue of *TROUT*. "It might matter more than the fishing to some of us, honestly.

"So we're doubling down. From here on out, only in very rare instances will you see a photo of a fish out of the water on the online pages of *TROUT* Magazine. The print product, our flagship *TROUT* Magazine, will likely follow suit."

Readers and online visitors will see more up-close, macro-level photos of trout as the editorial staff seeks out more and better underwater photography of fish and the craft of fishing.

The exceptions to the to the Keep Fish Wet rule is any fish destined for the grill or the smoker can be displayed in



Trout Unlimited will "Keep Fish Wet" in its magazine and online photos.

various stages of cooking preparation. Or when keeping fish is the best choice such as a brook trout encroaching on native cutthroat trout habitat.

"Stocked trout planted for the sole purpose of being harvested?," Hunt wrote. "It's fine to keep a legal limit, and we'll do more to show you how to prepare and cook them."

Finally, when on-the-ground biologists and members of TU's Science Team are working in the field, sometimes it's necessary to remove trout from the water to collect data. You may see photos of fish fully emerged from the water while measurements are taken or PIT tags are inserted.



Jerry Regan *Still Tying After All These Years*

By Sybil Hunter

A retired guide, retired barber, but never a retired fly tyer, Jerry Regan treated MFFC members to his vast resource of fly tying experience, demonstrating tips and tricks he has learned throughout his many years.

Below are a few of the insights Regan provided during his presentation on July 8, 2021.

Where does one start? With Thread "Use flat thread," Regan said, "it holds the materials better. I tie over 1000 flies a year. I only tie with 3 ott and 6 ott Danville thread because the 8 ott and 6 ott are about the same."

Next? The Chair "If you do nothing else for yourself, get a higher chair....or maybe you don't tie enough flies to make a difference." Tying goes best when not worked uphill.

Followed by: Hair "Invariably and we all do it, when you are trying with Kip tail, the hair is lopsided...too high, one side longer than the other," said Regan. The first tip is, "I never use a hair stacker. I know people try to stack kip tail, but it's

almost impossible to stack. When I hear guys use hair stackers I say where is that woodpecker?!"

"I do this with squirrel hair and deer hair. I pull all the junk out of it," said Regan. "I usually cut it at a 45 degree angle so it falls down right, then if you think the wings are too long, you do a blunt cut." Regan then demonstrated hair cutting techniques for trimming flies.

"I like doe hair," said Regan. "The reason I like doe hair is, we all know deer hair is hollow, doe hair is hollow to the tips. After all, the deer hair is there to float the fly."

Hackle "I have three kilos of Chinese saddle hackle. One of the problems with Chinese saddle hackle is you're going to have 30 to 40 percent throw aways. One thing you have to watch for is to take it out of the bag and look at it. If one side is a 14 and the other side is an 8. The feathers are uneven. I buy most of my hackle from Bill Keough."

Feather Prep "I see guys do this all the time. They just strip the feather. If you continue to do this, don't do it in front of me....it just breaks my heart. I do this," said Regan trimming the barbs of the vane close to the base of the quill short, in a cut parallel to the quill, leaving just enough for the thread to grab ahold and anchor.

Bass "Bass in Grayling are just the Brown Trout of the lakes."

Tail (No, not that guys...) "Make it too long, rather than too short."

Body "When I do the deer hair (body). I get twice as much as I need.



Jerry Regan at the tying bench.

Why? Do you ask? Just wait. I told you earlier. Don't tie these flies like sticks. I want taper!"

Supplies "I'm that guy who sees that skunk on the road and jumps out and cuts off the tail to put it in a baggie. Dawn & peroxide will pretty well settle it down. Then put it in borax soap."

Dying Feathers "I dye my own feathers and skins," said Regan. "Trust me on this. Don't do it in your wife's kitchen. It won't end well. That's why you don't see to many fly tyers dying their own supplies."

And lastly, Philosophy "I tie every fly for me. If you like it, that's good," said Regan.

For more: Jerry Darkes (June's guest speaker) interviewed Jerry Regan for *Fly Tyer Magazine*. Find it at www.flytyer.com/tie-one-on-grayling-michigan-style/



Parachute Hoppers MFFC members used in West Yellowstone this summer.

Members on the Fly *Fly Fishing Reports*



Left: Knee surgery, physical therapy and the pandemic doesn't hold Elmer Jantz back from fishing. In August, he landed a nice smallmouth bass from the Thunder Bay River near Alpena with guide Kelly Neuman. Right: new Club member John Herhalt holds a 21-inch rainbow trout that he caught in Deckers, Colorado in June during the trip out west with his children. You'll find him on the rivers in Michigan this month. Below: Club members fishing - and catching - smallies during the MFFC Smallmouth Bass outing in Lake Huron last May.



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