



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

February 2022

The Expo is Back!

MFFC Marquee Event Takes Center Stage Again



The Rio team and a hall full of vendors are happy to be back at MFFC Expo.

Covid or no covid. The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is back!

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, the MFFC Expo, the oldest fly-fishing show east of the Mississippi River, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13, at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center located in Warren.

Boy, do we need the Expo. So, we have devoted this issue of the Evening Hatch to the largest gathering in Michigan of all things fly fishing.

For a roundup of all the activities, events and everything else taking place on Expo weekend **go to page 2.**

Read about our headline speakers,

we have some great ones this year, **on pages 6-7.**

Want to volunteer? The MFFC desperately needs help. Find out how to sign up **on page 2.**

Our line-up of guest tyers and some of their best-known flies begins **on page 5.**

A schedule of the presentations and casting demos of our headline speakers is **on page 8.**

Jim DuFresne writes about hustling sales with Dave Hughes at the Expo author's table **on page 9.**

Be a Social Influencer! The Club needs your help in spreading the word; *the Expo is back!* **on page 4.**

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Calendar

2/16/22 Activity, Tie Along Dan Walker, Plymouth Cultural Center

2/24-27/22 Outdoorama, Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi

3/2/22 Activity, Plymouth Cultural Center

3/9/22 Board Meeting, Virtual

3/12-13/22 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Macomb Community College – Sports & Expo Center

3/16/22 Chuck Earls, *LakeErieKayakFishing.com* “Kayak Fishing,” Election Nominations, Plymouth Cultural Center

4/2/22 Trout Tune Up, Walled Lake Outdoor Educational Center, Commerce

4/6/22 MFFC Elections, Speaker, Danno White, 1884 Fly Shop, Plymouth Cultural Center

4/13/22 Board Meeting, Virtual

4/20/22 Activity, Tie Along Chris Hunter, Plymouth Cultural Center

5/4/22 Activity, Tie Along Ken Harfoot, Plymouth Cultural Center

5/11/22 Board Meeting, Virtual

5/11-14/22 New Members Outing - WawaSum Lodge, Au Sable River

5/18/22 Club Banquet, Speaker: Alice Owsley of Riverside Anglers, Montana, Italian American Banquet and Conference Center, 39200 5 Mile Road, Livonia

Starting Feb. 2, new meeting venue is Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St., Plymouth

It's Been a Long Two Years But It's Finally Expo Time

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club again brings the largest fly fishing show to Metro Detroit. After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, this year's event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13, at The Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center located in Warren.

This 61,000 square foot venue will be transformed into a weekend fly fishing academy offering dozens of demonstrations and presentations on topics ranging from casting to fly tying to "reading the water" to find those places most likely to be occupied by fish.



After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center will once again be filled with everything fly fishing.

"We are so excited to be able to hold this event again," said MFFC President Bruce Strachan. "Our guest speakers and tyers are excited as well and include Ed Engle, Whitney Gould, Devin Olsen, and Jason Randall headlining the Expo. We pride ourselves on bringing to Greater Detroit, some of the most talented individuals in this sport.

"This year – our 45th Expo – is no exception. We're especially pleased because this year's headliners will appeal to a broader angling audience. Each excels in their way in helping their fellow anglers become better, which adds to the enjoyment in this sport."

However, according to Strachan, the Expo is much more than just the

headliners.

"We again will have special seminars and exhibitors devoted to female anglers. We even have a "Kid's Korner" where young anglers can learn to tie flies, learn to cast a fly rod, or create a one-of-a-kind T-Shirt.

"Are you interested in fly tyers who specialize in traditional Michigan patterns or those who create exceptionally realistic flies? We have them. Are you looking for tyers who are innovators or create flies for toothy species like pike and musky? We have them.

"Are you looking for a new venue to cast your flies? We have travel specialists who will help get you to the des-

Continued on page 10



Vendors are a highlight of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

MFFC Desperately Needs Volunteers at Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

By Kevin Lipp

The Club's annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is just over a month away. The good news is the show preparations are going well. The venue is successfully hosting events, we have our usual great lineup of speakers, and we continue to sign vendors. The only bad news is the number of open Club volunteer positions, almost 100 spots are still open.

In the past we have always had a rush of volunteers filling the signup sheet at our February and March meetings. Times have changed, but the need for volunteers has not. We need your help to run this Expo, it's our volunteers that make this show so special.

I'm asking everyone who has not volunteered to take a look at the online signup sheet or to contact me. To volunteer directly, I can be reached at 734.837.1100 or at kjlipp@gmail.com.

To sign-up begin by scanning the QR code to the right with your smartphone or going to the VolunteerSignup page for MFFC at: volunteersignup.org/QT8BD

Both will take you to a website that will allow you to signup online. On the first page you will see a list of positions, the number of volunteers needed, and a green arrow (>).

Select the activity/date/time that

you want to work and then click on the green arrow (>) to go the Signup form.

On the Sign-up form fill in your first and last name, email address, and phone number. And then click on "Agree and sign up." You will see the next screen with a confirmation page that states the activity, date and time for which you have signed up.

Please make a note of this in your calendar now. It's a lot easier than trying to remember in an hour or day from now.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting

Jan 12, 2022

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:35 p.m.

Present: Strachan; Hunter; ; Fischer; Niemi, Sejalonn; Green; Doyle; Nowicki; Bada

Absent: Oehring

Visitors: Kevin Lipp; Chris Hunter; Peter Albertson; Mike Matuszewski

Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved with amendments.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting-minutes for 12/15/21 approved.

Officer's Report

President: Strachan

- Appreciation for estate/garage sale volunteers: Kevin Lipp, Renee Gall, Mark Hendricks, Dave Miller, Tom Hector.
- Draft proposal to honor Jerry Regan. Issue a certificate for Jerry in March.
- President will be available for Zoom meetings.

Vice President: S. Hunter

- Terry Herron, casting coordinator for activities night, will be unable to attend at the new venue.
- Rod book was retrieved from the library. Will be made available for future meetings.
- Joe Mondro is very ill. Ben Crabbill has requested get well cards/emails be sent to him to deliver to Joe. Information will be provided via Constant Contact.

Treasurer: K. Oehring

- Motion to approve December's treasurer's report. November report approved.

Corresponding Sec: J. Fischer

- January speaker cannot make it, Dirk Fischbach will take his place. Dano White rescheduled for April
- February – Alexa Blankenship, DR WLE, Invasive Species 101
- March – Chuck Earls, Lake Erie Kayak Fishing
- May – Alice Owsley – signed banquet presentation contract
- eBlast: 10 emails sent; 3281 mailings, 67% open rate. Ascertained everyone is receiving their emails.

Membership: B. Niemi

- 10 letters to process
- Lost checks received in parcel prior to the holidays. All checks and deposit slip were present. Memo sent to the 183 members for checks requesting feedback on handling returned checks.

Events & Outings

- Banquet 2022 - May 18 at Livonia Italian-American Club; keeping ticket prices at \$45; Pay Pal \$47. Beef, chicken, fish, veggie lasagna choices. Do we rent another room for afternoon tying session?
- New Members Outing - WawaSum Lodge May 11-14, need chairperson. Current guidelines are: 1 household per room; 10-12 participants; \$40/night, prior years \$190 total including food; pushed back due to Trout Opener; no announcement until a chairperson is identified.
- Summer Outing – WawaSum Lodge July 13-15, Jon Bada chairperson. Current guidelines are: 1 household per room; 10-12 participants; \$40/night. Possibility of hosting Public School

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2021 - 2022 Officers

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MFFC Needs You To Be a Social Influencer for the Expo

By Dave Mayes
MFFC Expo Chairmen

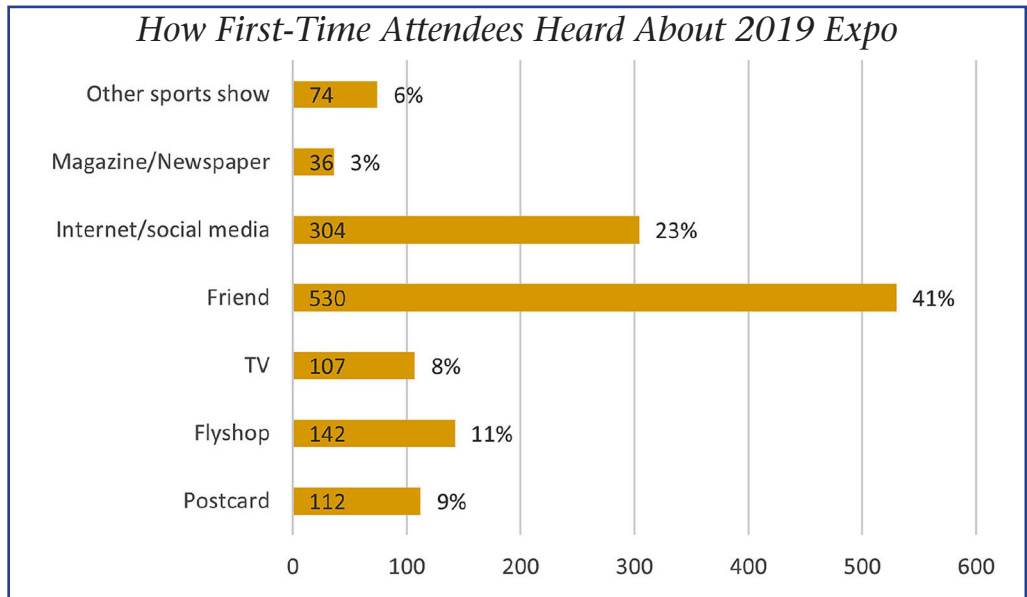
Many of you may not realize the power you hold to make our Expo a success.

We need more of our members to volunteer their time on Saturday or Sunday, March 12-13, to make our guests feel welcome and comfortable at the Expo.

But you can also help us make it a success by passing on news of it to friends, neighbors and family who might not know what a great event we stage. You can have a significant impact on the number of patrons who attend just by telling others about the expo.

The demographic study we performed following the 2019 event clearly indicated a significant number of new attendees heard about the Expo from conversations with their friends. It was not because of something they saw on TV or read in the newspaper, but simply by word of mouth.

So you all have the power over the next few weeks to help in the success of our Expo. Talk it up! If you have a Facebook or Instagram account, please share news of the Expo with your friends. This WILL make a difference.



Harfoot Spins & Whips Out A Winning Fly

MFFC's Ken Harfoot was Michigan Bobbin Slingers first annual Sling It fly tying contest winner!

"It was just taking materials they assigned us to use to come up with something," said Harfoot. "I chose to use the foam as the body. The blue mop material I used for the tail, I wouldn't have normally used it, but I had to use it." Contestants were required to use every material on the list, "Some of them are hidden so you don't see them, but they are still there."

Those set materials were very particular, some were even hard to find. In fact, a few were so hard to find, that the contest was altered slightly to allow for minor shade variations in specific materials. The official list of mandatory materials is: CDC PMD Color light olive; doll eye(s) white with black, speckled black Thin Skin, chartreuse 2mm foam; mahogany turkey biots; pink Ice Dubbing; white polypropylene floating yarn; and blue mop material.

"We just wanted to have some fun and see the creativity of the tyers out there," said Todd Schotts, Club member and owner of Michigan Bobbin Slingers (fly tyers).

The judging panel was comprised of Scott Bowerman, and Todd Schotts. "We were judging on originality, creativity and fishability." What made Harfoot's fly stand out? His creativity!

Harfoot won an "OMG beautiful" titanium tool kit from Anadromous Fly Company out of Byron Center, MI, and a swag bag.

"It was going to be a one off, but we decided to do it again," said Schotts. He hopes to make it bigger, expand the sponsorship, and aim for December and February as contest times.

Contestants were required to join Michigan Bobbin Slingers on Facebook and their sponsors Instagram feeds. Schotts is an affiliate ambassador of Anadromous Fly Company and UV Craft, both Michigan based businesses.



Tom Mogford was a multiple winner in the January saltwater raffle. His haul included two limited edition saltwater fish prints from John Pinto's estate, plus two streamer boxes, a Simms t-shirt and brimmed cap.

"The guy is on one hell of a winning streak these last few months," said one raffle loser.



Ken Harfoot's winning fly from the Michigan Bobbin Slingers Sling It fly tying contest.

Guest Tyers

Learn New Patterns & Tricks from the Pros

Dennis Potter

Before he was fishing on the Au Sable River, Dennis Potter was tying and has been for more than 30 years. He spent four seasons at the Gates AuSable Lodge as a fly fishing Instructor and still enjoys teaching fly tying instruction. His fly designs are fished extensively and with great success throughout the U.S. Dennis has various fly tying videos on the market and is the owner of Riverhouse Fly Company. You will be able to find him tying with his recognizable high resolution video tying demo roadshow. Dennis's web site is: www.riverhouseflyco.com.



Fat Head Beetle
By Dennis Potter

Alan Ritt

Alan "Al" Ritt grew up in Michigan where his passion for fishing was born. In the early 80's while living in Northern California, just after he started tying flies, he started fly fishing. In 1989 he moved to Northern Front Range of Colorado (Longmont) where he and his wife Diana reside. He is currently on the Prostaff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Clear Goo Glue, Fishing for a Cause, Pro Sportfisher, Diiachi Hooks, and is a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. Al is on the board of IFFF Fly Tying Governors and is also a guide at Colorado and Sylvan Dale Ranch just outside of Loveland. In addition to all that, his articles are published in various magazines and he is the author of *25 Best Most Versatile Flies*. Alan's web site is: www.alrittflies.com.



Al Ritt's Grant Style Fly

Steve Wascher

Steve Wascher caught his first Trout at the age of 3 ½, on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third generation tier from Greenhurst, NY who received basic instructions and guidance from his father, along with tying instruction from his grandmother. Steve is a well rounded tier, enjoying all aspects of the art of fly tying, from creating a unique nymph and wet flies for steelhead, to his famed deer hair bugs for those warmwater surprises. Besides tying, Steve guides during the summer months for a wide range of warmwater species. His articles have appeared, along with his flies, in *Hatches Magazine*, *American Angler*, and *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*. Steve is on the Pro Staff of Dyna King Vises.



Steve Wascher's Bass Bugs

Tim Jacobs

Tim Jacobs, a Michigan resident, is a fly fisherman and fly tyer from the Roaring Fork Valley of Western CO. He guided in the Steamboat Springs area and Roaring Fork Valley. Additionally, he was a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor who taught the Sage Casting Clinics during the 1990's. He works as an instructor at the Michigan Youth Trout Camp each summer and is a casting instructor for Project Healing Waters in western Colorado. Tim has published numerous articles and has authored the book *Tying and Fishing Deer Hair Flies* (2018, Stackpole Books). Tim appears at numerous fly fishing shows and fly shops as a demonstration fly tyer for Whiting Farms, Regal Vise and Sand Nature's Spirit Pro Staff. Tim's website is: timjacobsflyfishing.com.



Walking Birdfur Baitfish
By Tim Jacobs

Joe Jackson



Joe Jackson's National Defense Ribbon Popper

"Sgt. Joe Jackson" was raised in a small town in southern Indiana, has a love of fishing, hunting, and wildlife that was instilled in him at a young age. After 14 years in the Army, he found Project Healing Waters and his curiosity in fly fishing and tying bloomed into a love and obsession. He started tying in November 2015 and placed second in Project Healing Waters National Fly Tying Contest in 2017. Joe received the Everett Drake Fly Tying Award in 2018.

Joe ties flies for all warm, cold, and salt water species with a focus on deerhair flies. His realistic art flies like the hummingbirds, pheasant, Grinch, Baby Yoda, Bald Eagle, Kingfisher, and others have been sent across the globe. He believes the most important thing anyone in this hobby can do is to get kids out on the water and behind a vise. His pro team and ambassador affiliations include Regal Vise, Natures Spirit Fly Tying, Dette Flies, Partridge hooks, Dr. Slick tools, Solarez Uv, J. Stockard fly fishing, Wade-Deep, Fly Trap Fly Holder, and Semperfly Fly Rods. He is starting a 501c3 to get inner city kids out in the woods and on the water.

Scan the QR code to see how to tie Joe's National Defense Ribbon Popper designed for the Project Healing Waters.

*National Defense
Ribbon Popper*





At the Podium *Meet This Year's Headline Speakers*



Ed Engle with a Siberian Taimen from his adventure in Mongolia.

Ed Engle Author and Photographer

Ed has been an avid fly fisherman for more than 40 years. He has fly fished throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Mongolia and in Europe for a variety of game fish species with a special emphasis on trout.

As a fly fisherman, Ed is especially interested in small fly tactics and techniques. His small fly fishing research has tak-

ed him to many of the West's famous tailwaters and to spring creeks across the country. He is also dedicated to fly fishing small streams and high country lakes for wild trout. Ed balances out his interest in the "small side of fly fishing" with the avid pursuit of king salmon on the fly.

Ed has authored numerous books over the years with the second edition *Fishing and Tying Small Flies* (Stackpole 2019) being his most recent releases.

Ed is the originator of the *Lone Angler Journal* blog and is the outdoor writer for Boulder Daily Camera. He is the former Southwest Field Editor for *Fly Fisherman Magazine* and Outdoor Editor for *Colorado Springs Sun*.

His articles and photographs have appeared in: *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *American Angler*, *Trout*, *Warmwater Fly Fishing*, *Fly Tyer*, *Saltwater Fly Fishing*, *Angler's Journal*, *Sports Afield*, *Fly Fishing Magazine*, and *Gray's Sporting Journal*.

Ed lives in Manitou Springs, Colorado within 40 miles of the South Platte River, one of Colorado's premier tailwaters where he guided fly fishers for more than 20 years before he retired in 2010.

For more on Ed Engle or his other books on fly fishing go to his website at edengleflyfishing.com.



Whitney Gould Seven-Time Two-Handed Casting World Champion

Whitney is a seven-time Spey-O-Rama world casting champ, and considered one of the world's best two-handed casters.

Hosted by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club at their world-renowned casting ponds located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, Spey-O-Rama has been bringing the best spey casters from a variety of countries to compete in two-handed "Spey rod" distance casting competition since 2004.

Whitney is also an FFI Certified Two - Hand Fly Casting Instructor and an avid angler who currently guides for Head-Hunters Fly shop on the Missouri River in Montana.

Away from the water Whitney is a part-time painter with a Painting degree from Temple School of Fine Arts and a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design.

Fishing allows Whitney to merge her creativity with her love for fishing and the outdoors.

Whitney is a Pro staff member of EPIC Fly Rods, Simms, And RIO Products and is the owner of GOULD Standard Fly Casting.

"Fly fishing isn't about catching the most fish," Whitney

told *Fly Fisherman Magazine* in 2020 in the article "Spey Tackle and Techniques For Montana Trout." "If it was, none of us would be fly fishers to begin with. It's about catching fish on your own terms.

"Spey tackle offers a different perspective on traditional trout fishing. It challenges you to come up with new solutions to old problems. Spey has become the means of targeting trout that I not only find the most rewarding, but also the most interesting."

You can learn even more about Whitney at her website: whitneygouldspey.com



Whitney Gould, RIO Products photo.

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Returns With a Solid Lineup of Speakers

Devin Olsen *Fly Fishing Team USA medalist*

A fly fisherman all his life, Devin discovered his competitive side in 2004.

"When I fished against Lance Egan and Ryan Barnes in the Outdoor Life Network's Fly Fishing Master's, I knew I had to find a way to compete in the sport I loved," Devin said. "It was serendipitous that I worked with both these anglers a year later after they had made Fly Fishing Team USA.

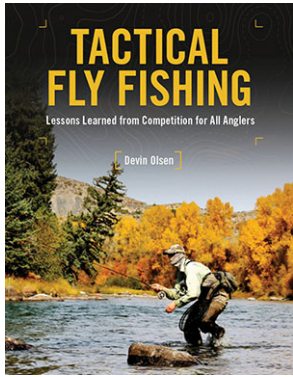
"I fished in my first regional and made the team myself in 2006. The ensuing years have been more educational than I could have ever imagined, and I'm as hopelessly obsessed with fly fishing today as I've ever been."

As part of Fly Fishing Team USA, Devin competed in the World Fly Fishing Championships that are organized by FIPS Mouche annually and features a field of up to 30 countries each with a team of six anglers. Competition involves six three-hour rounds of fly fishing on five lakes and rivers.

In 2015, Devin captured the individual bronze medal in Bosnia and was part of the USA squad that won its first team medal, a silver, at the Championships. The following year Team USA, including Devin, captured bronze in Vail, Colorado. Spain captured both events.

Devin made Fly Fishing Team USA for the 9th consecutive time in 2017 when the Championships were staged in Slovakia and won by France.

"Fly fishing competitions have



Devin Olsen Fly Fishing Team USA member exposed me to tactics and techniques from incredible teammates and fellow anglers from across the globe," Devin said.

"Away from competitive fishing, fish have sculpted my professional life as well," he added. "I hold a bachelor's degree in ecology and a master's degree in fisheries science and spent 3 years working as a fisheries biologist before taking on Tactical Fly Fisher as a full time business in 2017."

Devin's book, *Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned from Competition for All Anglers*, explains how the techniques he has used to become a repeat medalist in fly fishing competitions can be adapted to everyday fly fishing situations. He covers strategies, tactics, and flies for rivers, small streams, and still waters, allowing anyone to fish more successfully by applying the approaches taken by competitive anglers.

You can learn even more about Devin at his website: www.tacticalflyfisher.com

Jason Randall *Author, Temple Fork Outfitters pro-staffer*

Jason Randall, a Temple Fork Outfitters national pro-staffer, has been an outdoor writer for the last 15 years with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, as well as *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines.



Author Jason Randall

He is also veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine, a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association, and the Society for Freshwater Science.

Jason's first book, *Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents*, was released in 2012 by Stackpole/Headwater books and covers the effect of current on trout and presentation. In particular how vertical layers

of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

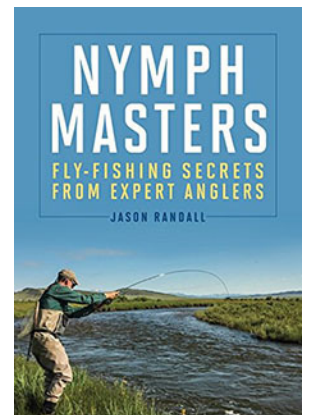
The release of *Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat* focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout's feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.

The third book in the Fly Fisher's Guide trilogy is *Trout Sense: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell* in which Jason offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry they seek.

Jason's latest title is *Nymph Masters: Fly Fishing Secrets from Expert Anglers*. He combines secrets, tips and hints from some of the top nymph masters in the sport who have thoroughly studied all aspects of nymph fishing.

Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) named Jason to their National Advisory Team to develop a new and innovative nymph fishing rod. In 2017 the Drift Rod was released to wide acclaim as the first truly convertible rod, changing in length from 9, 10, 11 or 12 feet.

You can learn even more about Jason at his website: jrflyfishing.com/



More Fly Tyers with Deep Michigan Roots at the MFFC Expo

Jerry Regan

Jerry Regan, a third generation fly tier, is one of the true keepers of Michigan's fly fishing history, along with being one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Just like Trout Unlimited, Jerry was born along the fabled trout waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid he learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's Genuine Legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert. One thing unique about Jerry's patterns is he has never uses synthetic materials, but has stuck with the original historic pattern materials.



Jerry Regan's Hexagenia pattern for the Au Sable River.

Where and When Headline Speakers Will Be at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Shows and times subject to change without notice. There are many more vendor, expert guide and outfitter presentations, too numerous to mention here, that will be posted to the Expo website in the near future.

Saturday March 12th

Fly Tying Bench Demos

10am Devin Olsen: Tying Competition Tested Flies
4:30pm Ed Engle: Tying Blue Wing Olives

Casting Pond Demos

11:15am Whitney Gould: Single & Double Haul Spey Casting
1pm Whitney Gould: Casting Clinic
2:45pm Whitney Gould: Montana Style Spey Casting
5:15pm Devin Olsen: Common Casting Mistakes & Their Fixes

Seminars – Salmon Bleachers

11:45am Jason Randall: Nymph Fishing Secret Weapons
2:15pm Devin Olsen: An Intro to Euro Nymphing

Seminars – Gym

10:30am Ed Engle: 25 Ways to Elevate your Trout Game
11:45pm Devin Olsen: Cutting Edge Fly Fishing

Euro Nymphing and Dry Fly Fishing

1pm Whitney Gould: Spey Fishing for Trout in the Lower 48
2:15pm Ed Engle: Fishing Small Flies
3:30pm Jason Randall: Where the Trout Are

Sunday March 13th

Fly Tying Bench

10:30am Devin Olsen: Tying Competition Tested Flies
2:15pm Ed Engle: Tying Small Flies

Casting Pond

10:30am Whitney Gould: Casting Clinic with Kiki & Katie
12:30pm Whitney Gould: Single & Double Haul Spey Casting
2:30pm Whitney Gould: Montana Style Spey Casting



Eli Berant's big and colorful flies for musky and bass.

Eli Berant

Eli Berant grew up and lives in Michigan, surrounded by big water all his life. After getting his first fly tying kit at the age of 15, fly fishing and fly tying has been a passion of his ever since. Even though he likes the traditional fly fishing experience, he has taken the concepts of the huge saltwater flies and have apply them to his exploits back here in the big waters of Michigan. If you are interested in "Big Flies" for lake trout, musky, bass, or whatever will consume them, you can order these flies at Great Lakes Fly (www.greatlakesfly.com).



Jerry Regan of Grayling is one of the keepers of Michigan's fly fishing and fly tying history.

Seminars – Macomb Room

2:15pm Whitney Gould: Spey Fishing for Trout in the Lower 48

Seminars – Salmon Bleachers

10:30am Ed Engle: Offbeat Tactics that Catch Trout
2:15pm Devin Olsen: Cutting Edge Fly Fishing: Contemporary Advancements in Euro Nymphing and Dry Fly Fishing

Seminars – Gym

10:30am Jason Randall: What Trout See and why it Matters
11:45am Devin Olsen: Modern Nymphing Elevated
1pm Ed Engle: 25 Ways to Elevate Your Trout Game
2:15pm Jason Randall: Catching Trout on Slow Days



Hustling at the Expo's Author Table

By Jim DuFresne

The first time I stepped inside the Macomb Community College – Sports & Expo Center was in March, 2010. I was schlepping a heavy case of books, but I wasn't an MFFC volunteer, a vendor, or a big-name fly-fishing celebrity named Lefty.

I was a freelance writer whose first fly fishing book, *Twelve Classic Trout Streams in Michigan*, had just been released. Actually, my name wasn't even prominently displayed on the cover. That honor went to Gerth Hendrickson in 30-point, bold-face type, who in 1984 penned what was then Michigan's first guidebook to our renowned trout streams.

But Hendrickson, a USGS hydrologist and a fly fisherman with a very cool last name, had passed away years earlier when U of M Press came knocking on my door. The fact that I enjoyed fly fishing was all fine and dandy, but what the publisher really needed was a writer with cartography skills. All of Hendrickson's maps in his book were hand-drawn and now impossible to update or change without him.

So, beneath his name in a 10-point,

light gray font is mine. You have to squint to see it.

Didn't matter. Somehow I finagled a session at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo author's table. Okay, Dan Finstad was nice enough to give this unknown but annoyingly persistent author the show's opening hour. You're hoping for a mid-afternoon shift when things are hopping, but I did well. A lot of anglers recognized the new edition of an old standby that 20 years ago guided them to the Holy Waters or the South Branch.

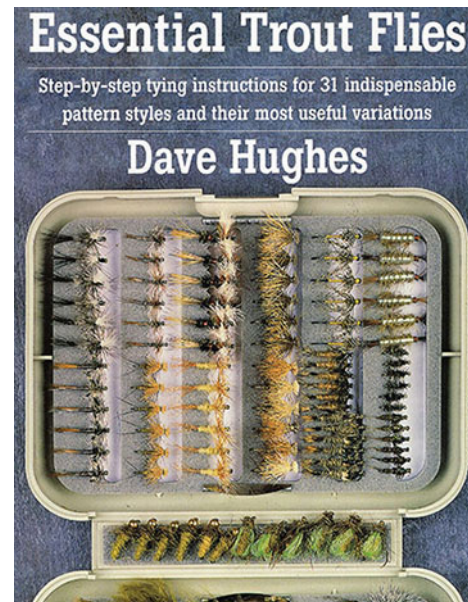
But my good fortune improved even more at the end of my



Jim DuFresne

session when I looked up and standing there, with an armful of books, was Dave Hughes. I immediately recognized him because he was important enough to have a nametag, and two of the books he was holding I had.

Dave arrived at the Expo as the author of more than 20 books on fly fishing and a regular contributor to national magazines like *Field & Stream*, *Gray's Sporting Journal* and *American An-*



One of Dave Hughes' many books.

gler. MFFC had to pay Dave to come to Macomb Community College, I had to beg.

But I quickly learned that Dave was not just a well-known author but an incredibly gracious person. After I introduced myself and apologized for over extending my stay at the table, he asked me if I wanted to share it with him for another session. "I don't need the whole thing," he said.

For the next hour we talked about fly fishing, writing and working with editors from hell. But most of the time Dave was furiously autographing books, which was great because I got the spillover. I didn't waste any opportunities to pitch my title to people standing three deep around the table, patiently waiting to meet Dave.

So impressed by him, I attended his fly tying demonstration in the afternoon, grabbing a seat in the bleachers with 150 other people. During the Q&A, somebody asked him if he uses head cement on his dry flies. He didn't – he really thought that trout could detect it – but said let's ask another expert.

I was floored when he called out "Jim, do you use head cement?"

I realized that there were now 150



Tom Rosenbauer and Phil Rowley at the author's table during the 2018 Expo.

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DuFresne: Pockets of Spillover Cash and a Hall Full of Vendors

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people staring at me, thinking I was a dry fly guru, when in reality I was enrolled that winter in a beginner fly tying class at a local TU chapter. Maybe I could have fooled this crowd but not the speaker. I said “the way my flies unravel, Dave, I’d cover them with a half a bottle of head cement if I could.”

He laughed. I’ll never forget that; he had a good laugh and there was more than one angler in the audience nodding his head in agreement with me.

Knowing we were going to share the author’s table on Sunday morning, I arrived with my copy of Dave’s *Essential Trout Flies*. You could tell I used it a lot. The pages had bent corners, were scribbled with notes and stuffed with photocopies of other fly recipes. It also looked like I spilled some wine on the cover one night.

My wife said “You going to ask him to autograph that?” Then told me not to be cheap and buy a new copy from him.

“You don’t understand,” I said as if I was holding the family bible. But deep down I knew she did. I was cheap.

I took it in anyhow, and at the end of our session, asked Dave if he wouldn’t mind one more autograph. He was happy to do it, and then we shook hands and said we’ll have to go fishing some day, though I already suspected Dave never has to ask anybody to go fishing with him.



Teaching the next generation how to cast at the Expo.



What do you need? A row of vendors at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

The next two hours were one of my best moments ever as a fly angler. I was clutching an autographed copy of Hughes’ book, had pockets stuffed with spillover cash, my wife wasn’t within 40 miles of the Expo and all around me were vendors wanting to sell me stuff I really didn’t need.

It was like I had died and gone to fly fishing heaven. An Arctic fox mask for \$5.95? I’ll take it!

It all ended that night. When I finally had a chance to sit down and look at what Dave wrote in my book, I was stunned. I couldn’t read a word of it. This was a writer who either left the Expo with a paralyzed hand from signing 300 books or struggled with penmanship in first grade before learning how to use a typewriter by third grade.

Our Expo is Back With All Its Attractions

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Continuation of your dreams. If you’ve been thinking of adding to your rod inventory but want to evaluate several models on a casting pond before you buy, we have the answer for you. If you’re a fan of angling literature or artwork, we have specialists in those areas, too. If you only need to restock your supplies for the upcoming fly fishing season, we’ve got outfitters who’ll be happy to help you.”

The show will feature dozens of free seminars about fly fishing techniques, fly tying and fly fishing locales and will bring together over 100 exhibitors, including dozens of tyers, rod builders, artists, guides, outfitters and conservation organizations.

For years every time I grabbed the book to check a fly recipe, I would stare at what he scribbled, and I still couldn’t understand it. Finally, one night a friend grabbed that giant magnifying glass on my fly-tying table and studied Dave’s words for 15 minutes before announcing he had broken the secret code:

To Jim DuFresne,

With appreciation for your own work in fly fishing, and your books about it.

Dave Hughes, May ’10.

Those were powerful words, and they permanently changed my life. Hopefully nobody will ever need a magnifying glass to decipher an autograph of mine.

Whenever somebody asks me for one that is.

“We’ve got exhibitors from every corner of the country,” Strachan said. “While many of our exhibitors hail from Michigan and Ohio, we’ve also got outfitters, guides, artisans and artists from places like Wisconsin, Washington State, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Texas, Colorado, Illinois, Connecticut and Maine.”

The annual Expo is the oldest all-fly fishing show east of the Mississippi and is hosted by the Livonia-based Michigan Fly Fishing Club, which is also celebrating its 52nd anniversary this year. The Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center is located at 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren.

Admission is \$15 per person; boys and girls age 16 and under are free. Two-day tickets are \$20. Parking is free.



The 36-minute Fishing Season

By The Michigan DNR

After only 36 minutes of fishing, this year's sturgeon season on Black Lake (in Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties) ended at 8:36 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5. The season, which included spearing and hook-and-line fishing, was scheduled to run Feb. 5-9, or until the harvest limit quota of six lake sturgeon had been reached.

Anglers initially were allocated a season quota of seven sturgeon, but the Michigan Department of Natural Resources set the harvest limit at six fish. This action helps accommodate the expected number of anglers and anticipate the possibility of near-simultaneous harvest of more than one fish.

There were 565 registered anglers, including a good number of supervised youth. According to the DNR, five sturgeon harvested were male and one was a female, ranging from 46 to 62 inches long and 23 to 67 pounds in weight.

The sturgeons caught during the 2020 season were:

- The first fish was a 59.5-inch female that weighed 48 pounds.



Six sturgeon, ranging from 46 to 62 inches long and 23 to 67 pounds in weight, were caught in 36 minutes this winter.



The 62-inch male sturgeon harvested at the 2022 Black Lake sturgeon season.

- Fish number two, the largest fish, was a 62-inch male that weighed 67 pounds.
- Fish three was a 47-inch male that checked in at 25 pounds.
- Fish four was a 57-inch male that weighed 45 pounds.
- The fifth fish was a 46-inch male that weighed 23 pounds.
- The sixth fish was a 56-inch male that weighed 35 pounds.

All six harvested fish taken had been captured before by Michigan State University and the DNR during spring spawning runs in the Black River or from past surveys of Black Lake. The harvested 62-inch male originally was captured in every other year in the spawning run from 2002 through 2020. The 57-inch male had been captured and tagged during the 2002, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2019 and 2021 spawning runs in the Black River. The 56-inch male had been captured in the 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021 spawning runs. In addition, the 47-inch male had been tagged in the 2006, 2010 and 2012 spawning runs.

Participating anglers were notified of the season closure in a variety of ways, mainly from nearly instantaneous text alerts and ice shanty visits

from DNR personnel. All methods were used to indicate the season's end within minutes of the final fish being harvested.

DNR law enforcement officials and other department personnel again were embedded in the on-ice fishing communities and were able to quickly and safely report harvested fish this year, as well as to quickly contact all lake sturgeon anglers on the ice and close the season.

Rehabilitation of lake sturgeon in the Cheboygan River watershed is a cooperative effort involving the DNR, the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow, Michigan State University, Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

For more information on lake sturgeon in Michigan, scan the QR code to the right or go online to Michigan.gov/Sturgeon.



Peter Albertson's

Conservation Corner



MI Healthy Climate Plan: EGLE will hold virtual discussions, see their site for schedule. Plan Item 5 has key focus area Summary.

Johnson Creek: EGLE is planning an affluent discharge review meeting, either February 17 or 24, at the Northville Township offices.



Johnson's Creek



Pfas

PFAS: Michigan Water Stewardship Program announces the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network, launched 7/15/21. See Network function and actions at PFAS website.

EGLE: See Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program for what this is and how the program monitors many MI lakes and streams.



EGLE



Invasive Species

Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: A regional effort to provide early detection and response resources for invasive species. Their goal is to assist experts and citizen scientists in the detection of invasive species.

Minnesota Boundary Waters Proposed Mining: During the

next two years, BLM and the Forest Service will seek public comment and conduct an environmental analysis to evaluate the potential effects of mining in the watershed.

Please contact Peter Albertson with any items of interest: palbertsontsp@icloud.com, cell 248-921-9103. Thank you for your interest in the MFFC Conservation Corner.

MFFC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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at this event. Public School needs a chairperson.

- Member's School – mini sessions at Activities meetings due to no available venue.

New Business

- Jerry Regan recognition award approved by board.

Old Business

- Reassessment of COVID guidelines due to February surge of Omicron variant spread. No motion made.

Adjournment: 9:11 p.m.



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