



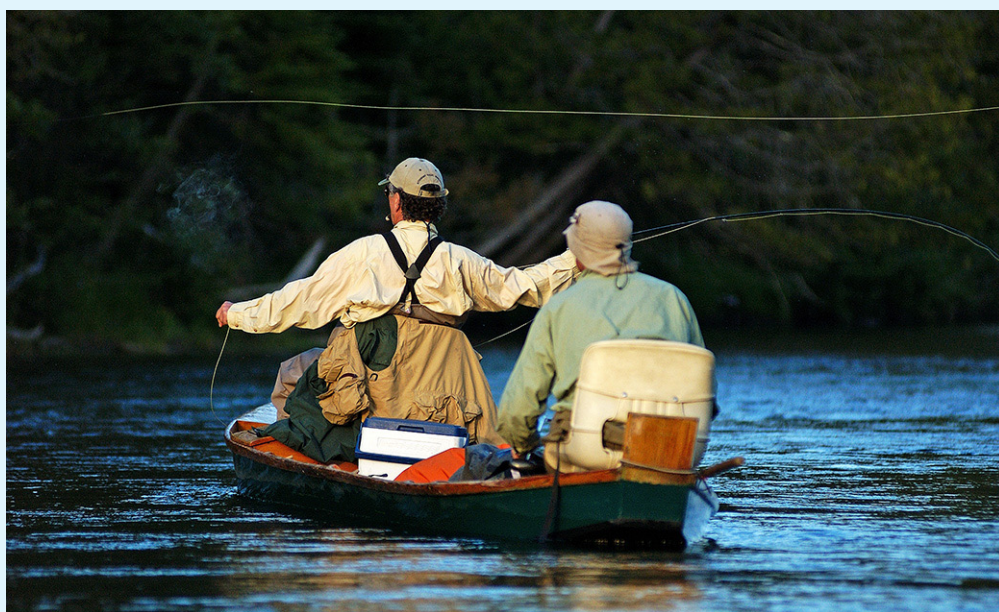
The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2022

Winter Is Over *Trout Opener Ushers In Spring & Optimism*



An fly angler and his guide float a section of the Au Sable in search of a trout.

In this issue of *The Evening Hatch*, we're celebrating the last Saturday in April.

Officially it's the "Michigan Inland Trout Season opener," but we all know it simply as Opening Day.

You could have fished the Au Sable all winter long, but that final Saturday in April is more than trying to catch a winter-weary rainbow.

In his column **on page 2**, Al Haxton says it's a time to reflect and toast those who passed on while celebrating that the rest of us have made it to our favorite river for another spring. The Bloody Mary tradition will take place in

the big tent at Gates AuSable Lodge on April 30 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Saturday is also a day to remember those who did so much for our sport. **On page 9**, Jim DuFresne writes about Art Neumann, one of the founders of Trout Unlimited. During his time as the outdoor writer for the *Saginaw News*, DuFresne had the good fortune to befriend, fish and write about Art.

Finally, some MFFC members are more than ready for the opener, thanks to the club's Trout Tune-Up on the Huron River. **On pages 5-6** you can see who will be catching fish on the final Saturday of April.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

4/13/22 Board Meeting, Virtual
4/20/22 Activity, Tie Along with Chris Hunter, Outdoor Casting, weather permitting; Mini Member School – Advance Fly Tying with Todd Schotts and Jeff McGowan, Plymouth Cultural Center
4/23/22 MFFC Scout School, Multi Lakes Conservation Club, Commerce Charter Twp.
4/30/22 Trout Opener, Gates of the AuSable Lodge, Grayling

5/4/22 Activity, Tie Along Ken Harfoot, Mini Member School - Casting, Plymouth Cultural Center
5/11/22 Board Meeting, Virtual
5/11-14/22 New Members Outing - Wa Wa Sum Lodge, Au Sable River, Grayling
5/18/22 Club Banquet, Speaker: Alice Owsley of Riverside Anglers, Montana, Italian American Banquet and Conference Center, 39200 5 Mile Road, Livonia
5/19-22/22 Smallmouth Bass Outing, Port Austin

7/15-17/22 Summer Outing at Wa Wa Sum, AuSable River, Grayling
7/16/22 Annual Club Picnic, Multi Lakes Conservation Association 3860 Newton Rd, Commerce Twp

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

Snow on the Ground? So What! Opening Day Is Almost Here

By Al Haxton

Another Opening Day celebration is only 27 days away. I sit looking out the front window and see snow on the ground and in the trees. That makes it tough for me to think about Opening Day. Being a cold and snowy March, followed by a still colder than normal April, there is still snow on the ground and stuck to tree branches.

I do know for sure that The Michigan Fly Fishing Club will have



Al Haxton

an Opening Day celebration again this year. It is what we do after all. We will have a nice large tent to stand in, tables and chairs to sit on, along with some of our famous Bloody Mary's and some great finger food from Goodales Bakery here in Grayling. I am sure it will be warmer than today and very sure we will have a good group of folks sharing some laughter and stories of past fishing fun.

Part of the great thing about trout season opener is getting my stuff ready for the season. That involves a few special flies being tied, some leaders being built and getting the waders and boots and maybe a rain jacket ready for that special day.

Of course, I test wiggle a few rods to determine what rod I will fish that day. Then I spend some time cleaning fly lines for the coming season and making sure the reels work and are ready for action.

Joyce and I normally have fished a few times before the actual opening day of the season, but this year because of really cold temperatures, high water and just not being inspired at all to get outside in the cold weather we have not fished yet at all. It seems we have become our own worst enemies, but the season will be here soon, the weather will improve, and things will get warmer and more enjoyable.

Joyce and I purchased our new Michigan fishing licenses yesterday; I must say that made us both excited about the upcoming season.



We all survived winter and the pandemic. Time to have a bloody mary at Gates AuSable Lodge and toast those who no longer are able to join us for the Opener.

Opening day always brings fond memories of past celebrations. It has truly been a wonderful run of get-togethers with so many great friends.

Of course there were Opening Day fishing times before MFFC started our celebrations. Some of us always fished the North Branch at Dam 4, and one time we fished there for about an hour then moved the fun to the Lovells Tavern.

Another time Peter and I learned that the end of the fishing day was not just for Diet Coke and M&Ms. Some-

On Opening Day, Raise a Glass to Dave Begley

By Kevin Lipp

It is with great sadness and after more than a few glasses of the Irish that I tell you Dave Begley passed away last week at the age of 77.

You may have known Dave from the Club's beginners fly tying sessions at our activity meetings; he led those sessions for years. You might have known him from tying with veterans at the VA Hospital during our collaboration with Project Healing Waters.

If you were lucky, you knew him from fishing trips or from his fishing stories; he enjoyed both, and being with him was always a pleasure.

If you were really lucky you were at Dam 4 at the opener of 2000 for the first "War at Dam 4" between Peter Albertson and Kathy Gross. Dave decided he would be the court Marshall and demand quiet during the casting.

times we actually caught fish, but we always had good times and great memories.

So, folks, it is that time again. Get ready for some fun. Talk with fishing buddies and make sure you have some rods and flies ready for this season. Make your plans to come north in just a few weeks and join us in the big tent at Gates AuSable Lodge from 9 to 11 a.m. Then we go out to the trout streams we love and to enjoy a wonderful Opening Day.

See you there.

Please join me in a toast and a tear for a dear soul that we will miss on and off the water. Dave is fishing with Jesus.



Dave Begley; Quiet Please!



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting March 9, 2022

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:35 p.m.

Present: Strachan; Hunter; ; Fischer; Niemi, Sejalon; Green; Oehring; Nowicki; Bada

Absent: Doyle

Visitors: Chris Hunter; Peter Albertson; Mike Matuszewski

Approval of Agenda – Agenda from 3/9/22 approved

Approval of Minutes – Meeting-minutes for 2/9/22 approved.

Officer's Report

President: Strachan

- Raffle Information – Resolve issues on fees from 2020 Banquet; collecting raffle records for 2020-21

Vice President: S. Hunter

New Member Outing Request

- S. Freeburg wants to assure to the BoD that New Members Outing still happens going forward
- J. Bada recommends May Weekend as New Member (but reformatted) in order to maintain good standing with MSU/WawaSum; awaiting MSU feedback from email sent for confirmation of May dates

Treasurer: K. Oehring

- Motion to Approve February's Treasurer's Report passed
- Current Month's Treasurer's Report – Expo booth fees being collected;
- Brief Preliminary Budget Review discussion

Corresponding Sec: J. Fischer

- Mail Blasts Logistics Blast outs – read rate in upper 60 percent

Membership: B. Niemi

- Current – 322 active members; new members
- Latest membership posted on shared drive; hardcopies will be available at club meetings
- Bob will be available to take renewal & new members fees at the Expo

Old Business

WawaSum Updates – May & July
J. Bada

- May – New Member School – reformatted as a gathering of new and current members; at this time – no formal instructions/sessions will be scheduled but anticipates that current members will assist new members on items relating to flyfishing on the AuSable/WawaSum Lodge
- July – Public School format for two days; some meals to be included

Banquet Tying Session – May 18th
J. Bada

- To be held at PCC
- Costs: two dozen (\$11) books on West Yellowstone have been acquired (by Dan Finstad) and Alice Owsley will be signing, tying materials purchased at Expo or prior to the tying sessions; sending a note (by J. Bada) to Alice on what materials she requires for the tying session.
- Reassessment of COVID guidelines due to February surge of Omicron variant spread. No motion made.

Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.

2021 - 2022 Officers

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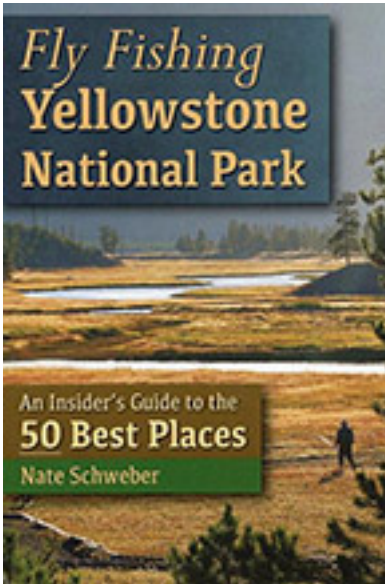
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Banquet Features Yellowstone Guide Alice Owsley

The guest speaker for the 2022 Annual Michigan Fly Fishing Club Banquet is Alice Owsley, a guide in Yellowstone, Montana and Idaho since 2001. *Fly Fishing Yellowstone National Park: an Insider's Guide to the 50 Best Places* features Owsley's guide comments in one of the book's chapters, making it a must read for those going to Montana this summer.

Owsley will be hosting a tying class, featuring copies of her book, in an afternoon session on May 18, the day of the banquet. *Fly Tying Session with Alice Owsley* will be from noon to 3 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The cost for the tying session and a copy of her book is \$30 or \$19 just for the tying session. Leftover books can be purchased at the banquet for \$11.

Tickets for the MFFC banquet are available at our club meetings. Will Call tickets can also be arranged if you make out a check to *Michigan Fly Fishing Club* and is sent to Jon Bada, the Banquet Chair, at 2814 Walsh Dr, Rochester Hills, MI. 48309.

For more information on tickets or if you are interested in the fly tying session with Owsley call Bada at (248) 840-2983. Bada needs to get a sense of the number of members who want to attend the fly tying session.

Be a Trooper & Help a Scout Earn a Badge

By Dave Oakley

Did you know in 2007 the Boy Scouts took pictures of Norm Tabaka's sons - Bryan and Trevor - and a few MFFC members for their Fly-Fishing merit badge book?

With that said, the annual Scout School, sponsored by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, is in need of additional volunteers

If you are available on Saturday, April 23 we need a hand with tying flies (simple wooly bugger / ant patterns) or casting (roll cast-overhand). The Scout School will be held from 8:50 a.m. (sharp) to 5:30 p.m. at Multi Lakes Conservation Club, 3860 Newton Rd, Commerce Charter Twp.

We currently have 25 scouts registered. Hope you can make it or maybe ask some fishing friends that could help. There will be more than one instructor and usually one scout leader at each station.

This event also help our membership rolls. We have gained new members to the club from parents of some of

Classic Wa Wa Sum Lodge Site of MFFC Outings

Historic Wa Wa Sum Lodge, a Michigan State University Fisheries Research Facility, will also be the site of two MFFC trips to the Au Sable River.

On May 11-15, the lodge will host the Dick Schot New Member Outing. The weekend's focus is to build on what new members have already learned in this winter's mini-member school by putting those techniques to use fishing the Au Sable.

For more information or to register contact Jon Bada (248-840-2983).



Raffle Winners!
Right: Ken Harfoot won the rod from the Orvis-themed raffle at April's speaker meeting.

Left: Ken, who had just joined MFFC that night won on the first ticket pulled. Ken was so excited, he never did give us his last name.



FLY FISHING



the Scouts The Scouts that attend this workshop love it and those raving reviews about our club may propel registration in the future.

And finally perhaps I can bribe you to volunteer with a dozen steelhead flies, a cup of hot coffee, a free lunch and a warm area for tying.

If you can assist, please call, text, or email me at: Dave Oakley, cell 313-613-1262 or email oak2153@yahoo.com.

On July 15-17, the MFFC will host the Wa Wa Sum Public School Outing. Both attendees and volunteers are needed for this outing. If interested contact Jon Bada at jonbada@hotmail.com.

The classic Wa Wa Sum was built as a summer fishing camp between 1898 and 1933 after J. Secour and James Brown Bell of the Champion Spark Plug Company after they acquired 250 logged-over acres high on the north bank of the river.



Fine Tuning for the Trout Opener

By the Michigan DNR and The Evening Hatch

Watch out! Some MFFC members are ready for Opening on April 30.

They kicked off the month by participating in the club's Trout Tune-Up on the Huron River at the Walled Lake Outdoor Recreation Center in Commerce Township. The annual event features early season trout angling on the upper reaches of the Huron River.

The Michigan DNR had stocked 4,900 adult trout in the Clinton River in Auburn Hills, Huron River in Proud Lake Recreation Area and Spring Mill Pond in Island Lake Recreation Area. The fish were retired brood stock from Michigan's state fish hatcheries.

The Huron River, downstream of the Proud Lake Dam, was stocked with 1,900 brown trout and 1,400 rainbow trout, all ranging in sizes from 13 to 19 inches. Spring Mill Pond was stocked with 380 brown trout and 540 rainbow trout, also ranging in size from 13 to 19 inches.

In addition, 200 yearling rainbow trout were stocked in the Huron River and 300 in Spring Mill Pond. Some yearlings are at first smaller than the minimum size limit of 8 inches.

Special regulations apply for anglers interested in targeting these trout:

The Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing from Oct. 1 through March 31. From April 1 through April 29, anglers are limited to flies only, catch-and-release fishing. The



exception is that children under the age of 12 during this time may keep one trout that meets the 8-inch minimum size limit and is under 12 inches.

Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing March 15 to March 31. From April 1 through April 29 anglers are limited to artificial lures only, catch-and-release fishing.

On both bodies of water, beginning April 30, all baits are allowed, and anglers may keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.

The Clinton River was stocked with 650 brown trout averaging 17 inches at Riverside Park in Auburn Hills. The Clinton River is open to trout fishing all year, and anglers can keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.



Top: Despite a chilly early morning MFFC members take to the Huron River for the second day of the Early Flies-Only Trout Season in Southeast Michigan. Middle: A DNR employee releases the brood stock rainbows at Proud Lake Recreation Area. Left: MFFC members talk strategy and fly selection while warming up at the Walled Lake Outdoor Recreation Center Yurt on the Huron River. Right: This is how the MFFC keeps its members warm and happy on a nippy Huron River.



First Casts & Catches of the Season During the MFFC Trout Tune-Up

A Family Trout Affair



Left: Bob Solanick holds a 16-inch brown trout during the MFFC Trout Tune-Up. Above: His son, Nick, did better with an 18-incher. Both used an orange trout crayfish pattern and said it was too chilly to see if anything was hatching.

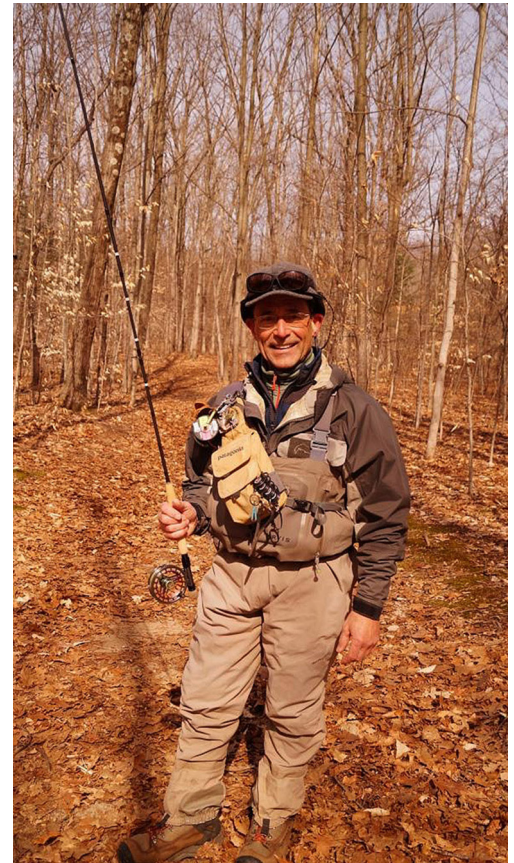
It was a wonderful day for both of them. "My son Nick moved back to Michigan from Texas and shortly after arriving he joined the fly tying obsession, by becoming a MFFC member," said Bob. "Which brings us to the Trout Tune-Up. Bruce Strachan showed us some great spots. We had a great time, each caught fish, met some great people. Thank You Bruce for giving us a great father-and-son, trout tune-up experience."



Above: If MFFC members were not on the water at this year's Trout Tune-Up then they were refueling and warming up at the Walled Lake Outdoor Center Yurt.

Right: It was good to be back casting again for trout as Bill Cusumano heads out to the Huron River.

Left: Happiest MFFC member at the Trout Tune-Up was Chris Hunter's dog, d'Artagnan. He tracked a groundhog, marked a few pee mail posts and scouted fish on a walk to Proud Lake Dam. He also peed on Chris' shoe, much to Chris' chagrin, in front of an audience of fellow club members. He scored a piece of pizza for that.



Devin Olsen

The Expo's Non-Stop Speaker is on the Run

By Sybil Hunter

In the world of professional fly fishing, Devin Olsen is a non-stop ball of casting energy.

Boasting an individual bronze and a team silver for Fly Fishing Team USA, Olsen started his day at the 2022 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, demonstrating his competition-tested nymph flies (for sale online on his site tacticalflyfisher.com).

Olsen started with the Perdigon.

Olsen is Spanish for pellet. What does a pellet do?" He asked. "It sinks very quickly. It works very well in a low light season."

In the end, "Everything but a few feathers is buried deep in the resin," Olsen said, adding Coq De Leon hackle. "It's a Spanish fly; I might as well use a Spanish feather," he said, then shared his tying mantra - "Thin to win."

"Use scissors or a scalpel to flush cut the feathers before tie off," Olsen added, "You do not have to put a wing case in, but I do."

After explaining why he does not use black resin because it never looks truly black, Olsen had been at the UV Craft Booth testing the black resins under a light. They comped him a bottle.

Fly finished, he sealed his masterpiece with black UV Craft resin, which is set with UV light, so the color does not change. "It looks nice," said Olsen "I will have to continue to use this."

His Blowtorch was next, size 16. "There might not be a better fly out there for me," said Olsen. "I use this all

over the place now." He first used it in a Czech Republic competition. (I suspect this is how he medaled.)

"Use inverted beads," said Olsen. Putting Super Glue on the shank, he slid on a tear-drop bead. "You get 10-15% more weight that way." Moving on, "The biggest mistake people make is making the tail too long." To the body, "I am not really building a taper - thin to win!" Lastly, he tied in CDC for the collar. "I use brown khaki or natural dubbing."

Cutting the specific feather tines he likes, he splits his thread for a dubbing loop - which keeps the bulk down, takes a couple of turns with the bobbin, then wraps the collar. Super Glue the thread, then whip finish. "Durability is the goal," said Olsen.

Next, he tied the Soft Hackle Carrot, size 14. Use an oversized bead. "It really fishes well during a caddis hatch. This is probably the most popular nymph in the Chez Republic," he said. "I don't really like small jigs...no smaller than a 14, usually I stick to 10s and 12s. I rarely use gold beads. You do not see a lot of gold beads in competition fly boxes." Olsen uses copper.

Then at breakneck speed, in under 10 minutes, Olsen whipped out an impeccable, thin to win, Royal Wulf.

A bio break and snagged bottle of water later, he was back on stage in the



Devin Olsen examines trout strategy during a presentation at the MFFC Expo.

gym, this time talking about lines and casting. Devin travels with his own full equipment set up from computer and patch cords to a mic and HDMI projector. (You know - along with all of his gear.) AND he gets everything into one backpack. He sets it all up like a flash of lightning too.

After procuring a healthy-looking piece of cheese cake for him, and threatening anyone who touched it with life and limb, I rejoined Olsen in the gym.

"Casting is super important," said Olsen. Use micro leader. "Less mass, less weight, less sag...you have to change your game to be accurate."

And use more wax sighter from

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Sybil Hunter

Flies By Devin Olsen



Perdigon Nymph



Blowtorch



Soft Hackle Carrot



Royal Wulf

Fly Anglers Soak In Olsen's Pro Tips at the MFFC Expo

Continued from page 7

what I hear. Olsen regaled us with the horrors of showing up at a competition only to discover his gear never made the connector. Scrambling, a cohort took pity on sharing one of their extra rods, rigged with micro leader. (Later in the presentation Olsen provided the schematics of how said line was pieced together – at that point I was convinced he earned an engineering degree just to prep his line.)

Heading out to practice and familiarize himself with the line, he was infuriated at his inaccuracy. The harder he worked, the worse things became. His buddy Pablo tried to help – things went south. Olsen started the competition the next day with the micro leader rod he had bummed from Pablo. Working through it, Olsen pressed on.

Already well into the week of competition, Olsen's gear arrived. Relieved, he unpacked. Casting, he discovered his accuracy was even more miserable than when he started with the micro leader!

The moral of the story? Use micro leader, but "work your way down to it. Play around with different diameters. Step it one size down at a time until you are uncomfortable, then size back up, and practice."

Other tips: A dry fly on top of a rig fixes drag, eliminates mend, allows high sticking, and provides a delicate presentation. Target still water pockets. Fish Caddis with Euro leader and "bounce the dry fly." "Overweight your fly; do the moving with your rod tip." "Sometimes fish want it fast; sometimes they want a twitch and drift mix."

I also learned how different Euro-nymph casting is as Olsen struck fascinating Herculean poses demonstrating all varieties of casting for side obstructions, back obstructions, pock-

et waters. "My elbow never leaves my side," said Olsen. "It is all wrist – open, wide and oval." Remember no elbow, all wrist, no torso twist. "Match the energy forward and back. Most people underpower the back cast and overpower the forward cast. You have to use consistent energy."

Next, lunch. Dan Finstad spent much of lunch enthusiastically grilling Olsen, as Fins' is prone to do. That is where I learned that Olsen was life-flighted off a stream during a competition, when the COVID took him down out of the blue. "That's one expensive medical bill," said Olsen.

I also learned he and his wife and daughter moved from a sparsely populated area out west to an even more sparsely populated place further out west. Gently nestled at the foot of a mountain range, they are two hours from the nearest highway.

In 2020, when the world shut down, Olsen was sitting in a bar in Wisconsin with Ed Engle and Jason Randall, ready to watch March Madness. After a day of fishing together, the realization hit them hard. They were not all boarding a plane together to fly to the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo; they were scrambling to find a way for Engle and Olsen to get home.

Catching the last flight out, Olsen made it. (I am thrilled I witnessed at least a glimpse of their long-awaited reunion. That is how I found out Olsen drinks stout and that the lot of



Devin Olsen signing books at the Expo.

them were absolutely convinced Finstad was trying to kill them, so he didn't have to pay them. Just to get a peek into this, ask about the infamous two-wheel lift, car-slammng-back-down exit Finstad took during his drive to New Jersey to find this crew.)

Back to the Salmon Bleachers, Olsen tied together his two days of presentations with invaluable tips, instructions and advice from an acknowledged pro along with pictures of his team.

My pro tip? Find someone to radio your spouse to send in SWAT Team 2 to grab the last book before it is gone. Why? Olsen closed his Michigan trip at the author's booth autographing books. (... and you might just score a cosigned copy of someone else's book too.)

More Pro Tips from Devin Olsen

- *Don't fish too much weight. Water flows at different speeds within the column. A drift rig will get a down shift. Ticking bottom slows the drift. Only tick bottom downstream every four to five times.*

The one thing we all need to consider is drag. Do not show the fish the tippet before it sees the fly. Of the line Devin has out on the water, 40 to 50% will be tippet and to compensate he uses two rod weights below his fly-line weight. Micro tippet is designed to not turn over; the back of the fly is what the fish sees first.

- *When you set the hook, don't wait until you feel it. If you*

see anything different, set.

- *Don't fish just pools and runs, fish all the water. Cast upstream of clear water, perpendicular for rougher water.*
- *Use barbless hooks. Large hackle that is stiff makes your fly twist and spin. Eight foot of tippet makes amazing floats.*
- *When you feel the guitar string vibration, then it is time to forward cast. Greased blood knots in the leader help the float of the rig. There is winter and summer grease. Dry floatant sucks.*
- *Strip to match the current speed.*
- *and finally Anytime it does something weird, set the take.*



An Evening With Art Neumann

By Jim DuFresne

Art Neumann, one of the 16 founders of Trout Unlimited, was rambling along near Selkirk when he suddenly applied the brakes and did a double-take at the side of the road. "Good lord, look at that," Art said. I looked but all I saw was an open gate.

But what was an open gate to one person was an invitation to Art. "That's my old access," he said. "I'm going in and play ambassador."

It was 1990, and Art invited me to drive north with him to see the warm water diversion project his Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited was involved with on the Rifle River. I was the outdoor writer for the Saginaw News at the time but had only recently begun fly fishing and was in awe, maybe even a little intimidated, by Art's history with TU.

He was there on the evening of July 18, 1959 when George Griffith proposed the idea at his cabin on the Au Sable River, and it was Art who drafted TU's most familiar piece, *The Philosophy of Trout Unlimited*.

We drove to the Rifle River Recreation Area, looked at the project, snapped a few pictures, and then left to do what Art really wanted to do; go fishing in his favorite stream.

Many will tell you nobody knew



Jim DuFresne

Michigan trout streams better than Art, and there was no stretch of water he loved more dearly than the Rifle River.

Art was a high school student in Saginaw when he was introduced to fly fishing by a friend in the 1930s. They both drove to George Lake near the headwaters of the Rifle River where his friend proceeded to use a fly rod and Neumann tossed plugs.

"He whupped me, so I got into my car, drove to Rose City and at the corner gas station I bought my first fly rod," Neumann told me. "I paid \$1.49 and it was a bamboo, 8 1/2-foot, three-piece."

Art then spent much of his youth tossing flies into the Rifle River and it was on the Rifle, not the famed Holy Waters of the Au Sable, that he came to appreciate everything that a trout symbolizes. And of all the holes and pools within this river it was the stretch just downriver from Selkirk that Art liked to fish most. Or he did until he lost his access to the water when the cottage owners he knew either died or moved away.

But today the gate was open.

Art turned down the dusty, dirt



Art Neumann determined to catch a trout. Print courtesy of Michigan Trout Unlimited. Copies can be purchased to help coldwater conservation at www.michigantu.org.

road and stopped at the first cottage. "There is a good pool just downstream from here," he said, but nobody was home. So he drove to the next one, and I watched him enter a beautiful log cabin where he played ambassador for at least 10 minutes. Maybe longer, Art could talk.

I wasn't inside but I could just hear Art tell the owners about the days when the Rifle was a blue ribbon trout stream or how Trout Unlimited was formed or why he served as TU's first executive director. And when he finally stepped outside, and had a little spring in his step, I knew this master fly angler had received what he so dearly possessed in the past.

Permission to fish.

"Were they fly anglers?" I asked.

"Nah, they just dangle a worm once in awhile," Art said. "When I get home

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The Philosophy of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited believes that trout fishing isn't just fishing for trout.

It's fishing for sport rather than food where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the love and the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel.

It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit.

It's communing with nature where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use—not abuse, to enjoy—not destroy our trout waters.

It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout is good for trout fisherman and that managing trout for the trout rather than for the fisherman is fundamental to the solution of our trout problems.

It's appreciating our trout, respecting fellow anglers and giving serious thought to tomorrow.

DuFresne: A Memorial Evening Fishing with Art Neumann

Continued from page 9

"I'll send them some flies and an instruction book. That'll get 'em started."

We drove down to the river, stepped out and walked past the trunk filled with our gear. At first Art just wanted to see the Rifle flow through his favorite stretch. It was a thing of beauty, then and now.

"It's pretty clear," said Art as we stood on the bank watching a few trout rise upstream. "I caught a 20-inch brown in a pool around that bend once."

When we finally did open the trunk, I realized I grabbed the wrong metal tube at home and now had my eight-weight rod I used for bass when what I needed was a five-weight. It might have been a problem any other time but not with Art.

After returning from duty in the Navy during World War II, Art resumed fly fishing and dabbled in reel repair and rod refinishing. Demand among friends was so great for his services that in 1946 he opened up the Rod Renew Shop...in his kitchen. He later moved it into a chicken coop someone gave him. In 1948, he converted his garage into his part-time business, changing its name to Wanigas Rod Company, Wanigas being Saginaw spelled backwards.

At the Wanigas Rod Company Art built his fiberglass fly rods and sold only the flies and equipment you truly needed to catch a trout in Michigan. For the next 42 years that tiny shop, where there was only enough room inside for three customers, two if they walked in wearing vests and waders, was the pulpit from which Art preached what was



Above: Art Neumann fishing his beloved Rifle River in 1990. Below: The Trout Unlimited memorial dedicated to Art at the Lovells Museum.



dressed the state Legislature once, and almost every month, he would drive to Lansing and make his pitch to the Conservation Commission, the forerunner of today's Michigan Natural Resources Commission. One commissioner was listening. George Griffith was convinced Art was on the right track.

In 1959, Griffith invited Neumann and 14 other anglers to his cottage, the Barbless Hook, on the Au Sable River to discuss creating a new organization that would work to "protect cold water resources." In September of that year, Trout Unlimited was launched and Art was elected first vice president. Almost two-thirds of the 340 original TU members came from the Saginaw Valley area. Anglers listened when Art was preaching in his shop.

TU was still a fledgling conservation organization in 1961 when it achieved its first major victory, convincing conservation officials to replace Michigan's indiscriminate stocking of catchable-sized trout with stream improvement programs, fingerling planting, and protective fishing regulations. Word of the success in Michigan spread quickly, and anglers from Pennsylvania to California began to inquire about forming TU chapters in their region.

In 1962, Art agreed to take a leave of absence from his position at Eaton Corporation to become the first full-time executive director of TU. His first decision was to move the headquarters from Lansing to Saginaw. His second was to devote his time and energy to transforming TU from a small Michigan organization to a national concern.

Under his leadership and his numerous road trips to enlist the help of fly anglers across the country, within two years Art turned TU into the most influential coldwater conservation group.

The TU history I knew well. What I discovered that night on the Rifle was when your fishing partner is a rod builder, you'll never lack for a rod. Art unzipped a black case that held almost a dozen of them and selected one for me, a fiberglass rod he had built years earlier, a personal favorite. "I'm going to spoil you with this one," he said.

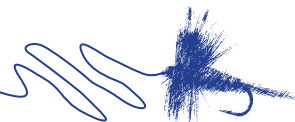
Next, he gave me a leader, a Neumann 60-20-20 leader, after he saw the knotless one tied to my flyline and

then a revolutionary concept; catch-and-release.

You catch a trout; you put it back. The trout is then there to catch again. Art liked that concept, preserving the resource for what he really enjoyed, catching trout on a fly.

He also began preaching catch-and-release to sportsmen's groups, he ad-

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Fly of the Month *You Need a UV Light For This Hendrickson*

Tim Flagler, a well-known fly-tying instructor and video editor, is also the smooth voice of the fly tying videos on *practicalpatterns.com*. The YouTube channel currently has over 101,000 subscribers and 31 million views of the fly tyer who in February were a popular presenter at the MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

For early season fly fishing on the famed trout streams of Northern Michigan Tim has a recipe for a basic parachute Hendrickson that is easier to tie "with some less than traditional posting and hacking methods."

The pattern involves using UV curable resin in attaching the post and the hackle. Basically, you use the tip of your bobber to pick up a very small drop of UVC to stiffen the base of the post or to secure the hackle to it.

Then hit it with that purple light.

"The extra weight of resin is made up by the absence of extra tread," said Flagler in the video. "That Leaves the underside of the fly very clean with little to no trimming."

For Tim's videos, including Oriv's 's one-minute fly tying vidoes, go to www.practicalpatterns.com.



Practical Parachute Hendrickson

HOOK: Dai-Riki #320 size 14 dry fly hook.

THREAD: Tan, 70 Denier.

TAIL: 3 to 4 brown hackle fibers

Body: Hendrickson Pink Superfine dubbing

Post: Light gray para post material

Parachute: Light dun hackle

Left: Practicalpatterns.com's Parachute Hendrickson.

Below: Using a UV light to attach the hackle to the parachute post.



To download Tim Flagler's "Tying the parachute Hendrickson" video on your smart phone or tablet scan in the adjacent QR code.



DuFresne: An Evening with Art Neumann

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lectured me on the benefits of tying your own. And then just before we spilt up, with him heading downstream to try and find that 20-inch brown again and me upstream, he gave me a few flies. "Not much is hatching right now," he said. "Try the pale blue dun."

I did, and the first fish I caught was so small I couldn't tell what it was. But 20 minutes later, I floated that fly over a dissipating ring, and the fish returned to take it. It jumped three times before I gently lifted the eight-inch brown trout out of the water.

It wasn't another 10 minutes later when the current took that fly, swept it along the bank and I experienced my hardest strike of the evening, catching me off guard. I kept the tip up and

worked the fish away from the river-bank brush into the middle of the river.

The trout never jumped but there was no doubt in my mind it was large. When it finally tired and came to the surface, I saw the largest brown I had ever caught on a fly in the short time I had been fly fishing. It was 15 inches long with a ban of reddish dots along the side. It was beautiful in my net, and

I marveled that I caught it in a river I never expected to.

Then again, maybe I didn't catch it. I was using an Art Neumann rod with a leader he tied and flies he selected. And I was fishing in his river. Knowing all this, I gently took the hook out and watched the trout return to the depths from which it came.

It was, after all, Art's fish.



A brown trout from Art Neumann's beloved Rifle River.

Peter Albertson's

Conservation Corner



Johnson Creek, Not Again? Again I say, defiantly, yes! A former club member attempted to gather support for the Johnson Creek (JC). Sadly that effort drifted over quiet waters.

Today, there is a much greater array of entities with an exemplary focus on JC due to its proximity to the landfill, meandering adjacent to subdivisions. So, what and why now?

The what: land fill processes are causing environmental air quality and water discharge affluent content concerns.

The why: air has, at times, presented some unpleasant orders; JC flows adjacent at the Southeast corner of the landfill site where affluent discharges into the JC that are less than desirable. Addressing the issues

are: Northville Township; Ypsilanti; and Salem Township. The State has settled one lawsuit; Northville Township has another in progress.

Northville Township: Landfill to make improvements. Say tuned!

Northville Township Landfill



Other References or topics:

PFAS: Michigan PFAS limits in public drinking water



Great Lakes PFAS Action Network site



PFAS Action Response Team



Pipe Line 5: Reasons not to build



Five Ways To Save The Planet



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