



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2022

## Mrs. President



*Bill Zadorsky, one of MFFC's founding members, congratulates Sybil Hunter, the first woman president in the 52-year history of the club.*

## *Sybil Hunter Steps Into New and Unprecedented Role for MFFC*

### **By The Evening Hatch**

What should we call Sybil Hunter?

It used to be Hatch editor and still is, then corresponding secretary and vice president. Now Madame President? And what about Chris Hunter? First Husband?

Doesn't matter. What matters is that for the first time in the 52-year history of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, the venerable organization is being led by a woman.

At the Opening Day Celebration on the grounds of Gates Au Sable Lodge, MFFC members were toasting Sybil's new title as much as they were remembering those who had passed on.

Sybil, who joined MFFC in 2000, took over as president in May from Bruce Strachan.

And Bill Zadorsky, one of the club's founding members, said it was about time a woman oversaw this group of fly anglers.

## *Michigan Fly Fishing Club* **Calendar**

**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, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Multi Lakes Conservation Association 3860 Newton Rd, Commerce Twp

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

"I was there when the first two women joined the club," said Zadorsky while toasting Sybil on the banks of the Au Sable River. "That was in 1984, so this was long overdue."

For Sybil's thoughts on her ground-breaking role go to **page 6**. For a round-up of the Opening Day Celebration and Memorial go to **pages 2 and 3**.

# Time to Celebrate Opening Day! We Can Fish Later



Wow, we had another opening day memorial celebration.

It was so very nice to see so many folks there with so many smiles and shared stories. After a great Midwest Fly Fishing Expo we had a great time of shared fun and Bloody Mary's (donuts too). As always, we remembered some members that are no longer fishing with us. That brought some tears and sad moments, but that is also part of the yearly celebration.



Al Haxton

around Grayling, the last Saturday in April is a very special day.

While some rivers are now open to fishing all year, the traditional Opening Day is still a special day.

One of the nicest aspects of our shared sport is the social component.

If you love to fly fish for smallmouth bass, we have many members that will agree with you. Trout fishing? Many members like that too. Saltwater fly fishing? Yup, lots of members love that. Tying, owning flies, and saving money? Oh yes, we have many members that love that part of the sport too.

That is what makes the Michigan Fly Fishing Club so wonderful. So, a day of social fun, of shared memories and shared stories, and maybe even shared tears is just what we need. Our Opening Day Memorial Celebration is just that.



Clockwise from top left: Al Haxton gives an emotional memorial speech honoring past members. Above: A future MFFC member (hopefully) is clearly enjoying his first Opening Day. Below: Bruce Strachan telling fish stories under the tent. Bottom left: Bartender Rob Bulszewicz does his Bloody Mary magic on another opening day.



# Nothing Sweeter for MFFC Than Opening Day of Trout Season



Above: The Au Sable River the morning of the trout opener. Above right: Kevin Lipp explains why his fiberglass rod is so smooth to Brando Sabo while Ben Gould tries casting it. Below left: Members socializing at the MFFC Opening Day Celebration. Below right: The MFFC tent at Gates Au Sable Lodge.



## Raising a Glass & Drinking Dave Begley's Whiskey

It seemed the entire Michigan Fly Fishing Club mourned the passing of Dave Begley earlier this spring at the age of 77.

At the Opening Day Celebration on the banks of the Au Sable River, it seemed the entire club was toasting him and telling Dave Begley stories.

And they were toasting him with shots of Jameson Irish whiskey, which was only right. It was Dave's favorite, and it was his bottle.

"Hard to believe Dave never finished this one," said Bill Johnson, a close friend of Begley. Johnson then pulled two small plastic shot glasses out of his pocket, poured and commenced with a Begley story.

Another bottle of Jameson appeared when Begley's ran out, but the stories never ended that day.

"It's probably illegal, but we should have put (some of his) ashes in a cardboard box with an Adams and a Flymph (floating nymph) tied to the back with 7X tippet," said Johnson. "Then give him one last ride down the river."



Chris Hunter and Bill Johnson enjoy Dave Begley's bottle of Jameson.



Dave Begley's last bottle of Jameson Irish whiskey.



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

# Business

## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 2022

### Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:33 p.m.

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

*Absent:* Doyle

*Visitors:* Peter Albertson; Jim Aitken; John Eriksson; Kevin Lipp; Mike Matuszewski

**Approval of Agenda** – Agenda from 4/14/22 approved

**Approval of Minutes** – Meeting-minutes for 3/9/22 approved.

### Officer's Report

**President:** B. Strachan

Nothing to report

**Vice President:** S. Hunter

- Dave Gibson moving to NY to be close to family

**Treasurer:** K. Oehring

- Motion to Approve March's Treasurer's Report passed

Fly Tying Grant for Youth Program through FFI.

- Application to be filled by Jim Aitken

### Corresponding Secretary:

J. Fischer

- The club needs summer speakers

### Membership:

 B. Niemi

- Current – 351 active members; 26 new members
- New members became aware of MFFC and joined the club based on outdoor shows

### Events and Outings

None

### New Business

2022-23 Budget Review

- Budget for 2022-23 reviewed by Board
- Approved by Board

### Old Business

None

**Adjournment:** 9:53 p.m.

## 2022 - 2023 Officers

**President:**  
Sybil Hunter  
*president@mffc.org*

**Vice President:**  
Kevin Lipp  
*kjlipp@gmail.com*

**Coresponding Secretary:**  
Jim Fischer  
*corespondence@mffc.org*

**Recording Secretary:**  
John Eriksson  
*recordingsecretary@mffc.org*

**Treasurer**  
Barry Green  
*treasurer@mffc.org*

**Membership**  
Jerry Deputat  
*membership@mffc.org*

**Immediate Past President:**  
Bruce Strachan  
*bruced0402@gmail.com*

## At-Large Directors

**Jim Aitkin**  
*dznvvm@comcast.net*

**Tom Doyle**  
*info@mffc.org*

**Jon Bada**  
*jonbada@hotmail.com*

### Webmaster

**Sybil Hunter Club Webmaster**  
*sybilsypemail@gmail.com*

### Hatch Editors

**Sybil Hunter**  
*evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com*

**Jim DuFresne**  
*kidven@aol.com*



Bound & Determined; Terry DeFauw works on his fly with the April Featured Club tyer Chris Hunter..

# Opening Day *Finally on the Water After a Long Winter*



Left: An angler casting on Au Sable at Guides Rest. Above right: Scott Freeburg fishing at Dam 4 on the North Branch (photo by Bruce Strachan). Right: An angler searches for that nymph that will entice trout on Opening Day.



Above: Corey Thelan casting on the North Branch (photo by Bruce Strachan). Below: Anglers tie on their first choice at Guide's Rest. Below right: Guide boats at Gates Au Sable Lodge.

Here were the recommended dry flies for opening day from one fly shop. How many did you have:

- Para Ribbed Hendrickson
- Deer Hair Hendrickson
- Last Chance Hendrickson Cripple
- Parachute Adams
- Early Black Stoneflies
- Black Caddis

Other "opening day confidence flies" the shop recommended:

- Yellow/Brown Sparkle Minnow
- Olive/White Laser Legal
- Yellow/Tan Sculpzilla
- Michigan Wet Skunks
- Tweaker Soft Hackles
- Pheasant Tail Soft Hackles



# From Bluegills to the MFFC Presidency

By Sybil Hunter

**I**t is with great reverence that I accept the position of President-Elect of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club in 2022.

At the Opening Day event, I had the pleasure of speaking to one of the founding fathers of our Club, Bill Zadorsky, a.k.a. "Zeke." He relayed to me tales of the early days of the Club.

There were stories about John Pinto, the first expos, chillin' and fishing with what are now nationally recognized speakers, including Lee and Joan Wolff. And an array of fun, crazy outings they took... which included wheeling one of those said "nationally recognized speakers" to his upstairs hotel room strapped to a hand truck borrowed from the cleaning staff.

Thank you, Zeke for bringing me up to speed and keeping it all in perspective!

Frankly, I have no idea how we found the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. Perhaps it found us (the expo maybe?).

Chris and I joined around 2000



Sybil Hunter

when Al Haxton finished his presidency, passing the mantle of leadership to Peter Albertson. This was the time when I returned to grad school to earn my teaching certificate. Chris attended more meetings than I did because I was eyeball deep in calculus, programming, French, and linguistics.

I grew up fishing. My mother would put me on the back of her English bike, setting me in the metal pop-up child's seat behind her. We rode to the other end of town to fish from the huge rocks lining Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay. On our trip home, I shared the seat with a stringer of fish we would clean for that day's meals.

When I was older, I fished with my father and his father. My grandparents lived in a cabin in Harrison. Grandpa sent my sister and me out to dig up worms in the yard. My sister typically wandered off. Then we would pack into



Al Haxton and Sybil Hunter at Dam 4.

Grandpa's duct-taped, olive green vehicle with vinyl bench seats with the windows down and head up to Roscommon to fish for dinner. Lunch was a bologna sandwich with butter and ketchup.

It was there I stabbed my first worm (it bled, poor thing) and caught my first bluegill.

"Oh just grab it, and pull the hook out," Dad said. "It's no big deal."

I still remember the stinging pain and bleeding from being pin-pricked across my entire left palm from that little bugger. After that, I pimped the privilege...batting my eyelids and giving my Dad puppy dog eyes, I would slog the Bluegill through the water for him to unhook. Perch - no problem. Bluegill - no dice.

When we got back to Harrison, my sister would help Dad clean the fish. (She especially liked to pluck the eyeballs out to play with them. Scaling the fish was fun too.) This time I wandered off. Grandma would send me to the garden to pick peas or beans to snap.

Let me tell you, Dad cooked fantas-



Times have changed. A.L. Bulszewicz (left), one of the Opening Day bartenders, takes a break to talk fishing at Gates Au Sable Lodge.

Continued from page 7

# Be Prepared *MFFC Volunteers Help Scouts with Fly Fishing Merit Badge*

**By Dave Oakley**

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, 21 scouts attended the annual MFFC scout school.

The day started with the pledge of allegiance, then attending indoor stations where scouts learned knots with Norm Tabaka, bugs from Mike Harrington, plus safety, gear and fish ID with Dave Oakley.

After lunch, scouts headed outdoors for casting with Chris Hunter, Amanda Hughes, Stephen Isgrig, Gerry LeBeauf, Wayne Glessner and a few others. Next, the fish fillet station with Mike Zrnich to prep and cook fish.

Lastly scouts moved to the fishing dock where 12 caught fish and 9 did



*The class of scouts at this year's MFFC fly fishing scout school, an annual event.*

not. The day ended with a meeting hall review where they got their merit badge blue cards signed and a special trout patch.

The weather was great. The staff did

a wonderful job! A big thanks to Spencer Vanderhoof who got the gear for us from the Club.

Thanks to all who helped make Scout School a success.



*Left: Scouts at the fishing dock where they used their new skills to catch fish. Right: Mike Zrnich teaches scouts how to cook fish.*



## Sybil Hunter

*Continued from page 6*

tic panfish and made the absolute best hushpuppies. I never liked any others better.

Christopher and I married in 1994 (yep, 28 years). Our first Christmas together, I unwrapped a pair of Orvis Women's neoprene waders, cut with a waist to make them stylish, a 5-weight Powell IM6, loaded reel, and felt-bottomed boots. I remember standing there in front of the fireplace in our flat giving him a long, hard, silent stare.

"It's better than a blender," Mom said on the phone that day. It was the start of my fly fishing adventures.

Ironically enough, I enjoyed driving over the border into Pennsylvania to fish the spring creeks at Slippery Rock - where I slipped on a rock, tearing my waders.

Chris stormed a nearby fly shop and came out with a new pair of waders that were "under warranty." I fell in next time as well but didn't bust my waders. Then fishing in Castalia where an arti-

cle the next month said women were incompetent therefore should not be allowed to fish there. (Chris was being an attentive new husband, netting my fish for me.)

Later he dragged me to MFFC Member's School. I greatly enjoyed that and remember happily tying with Jeff McGowan. Then Opening Day and Dam 4 a few years later - after which Chris told me to find a divorce attorney. What can I say? It's been a rocky road.

Tying and casting are still my favorites. Tracy Wallis, Chris and I hooked up with Al Haxton to learn to tie at Beuter's Fly Shop in Northville. That was a ton of fun for all of us! I experienced my first casting lesson with Bruce Richardson and loved it.

Now I get to write about it. September 2012 I took over responsibilities of The Evening Hatch from Mike Matuszewski. Fast forward to 2020, and I now have the absolute pleasure of working with Club member, outdoor writer, cartographer for MichiganTrailMaps.com, and awesome dude Jim DuFresne.

As Corresponding Secretary from

2018 through 2020, I had the opportunity to work with speakers firsthand.

In 2020, Bill Shannon helped me mobilize Operation Pin Drop to celebrate MFFC's 50th anniversary. It was a real treat to get see where our Club members live. From 2020 to 2022 I served as Vice President, which brings us full circle.

After talking to Zeke, who congratulated me on the upcoming presidency, I realized women have attended Club events since the start, however the treatment of said individuals was not necessarily very forward thinking at the time (rather laugh worthy).

While we still have some isolated issues as a group, it is wonderful how far MFFC has come and the strides we have made. In recent years, women within the group are now serving in leadership positions as event chairs, Board positions, and now president of Michigan's largest fly fishing club.

Thank you to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for the honor of being the first female president. No doubt a "symbol" of what is to come.

Peter Albertson's

# Conservation Corner



## How should Conservation Corner, aka CC, conceptually work?

Well, intent and reality are infrequently aligned. My experience is that this is due to lack of communication, training, and focused effort on the part of those who are running the effort. That would appear to be me.

So, I am trusting this will clarify the CC intent and workings.

First, an item is brought up by a club member so it can be followed by those interested.

Second, the person who brings up the topic needs to provide updates for discussion during our actives meeting. Presently, topics are simply suggested and seldom followed with any updated information.

Third, we need to generate concern about the issue by contacting

our state and national officials and encourage their support for a plan of action...or not.

I am the facilitator, record keeper, and communicator for the club during meetings and interact with the Board as needed. I am trusting this will provide a little better understanding of the CC concept and workings.

New topics brought forth this month is:

*Great Lakes  
Restorative Initiative:  
EPA list of Areas Of  
Concern*



*Ypsilanti Penin-  
sular Paper Dam  
Removal on the  
Huron River*



Thanks for looking at this CC contents. Anything? Thoughts are appreciated! Comments, issues or remarks send to Peter Albertson at 248-921-9103 or [palbertsontsp@icloud.com](mailto:palbertsontsp@icloud.com).

## Invasive Species on Northern Michigan watersheds

The Northern Angler Fly Shop in Traverse City spent some time on the Upper Manistee River before the opener and filmed this video on invasive species and what we as anglers can do about it.

They talk about the two species that have started to affect Northern Michigan watersheds and the three steps you can take to help protect our trout streams.



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