



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2022

## Drifting *in a Fly Fishing Paradise*



*Jerry Deputat casts into a trout stream in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. See his article on fishing these wonderful streams on page 6.*

This issue of the Evening Hatch covers some serious issues facing fly anglers in Michigan.

On **pages 2**, you can read the MFFC Board of Directors' response to the proposed expansion of Camp Graying, in which the National Guard is asking to more than double its current size. This request clearly violates the DNR's core mission according to Jim Montagne on **page 2** while on **page 3** is the long list of townships, environment groups, and just about every Michigan fly-fishing club who oppose it.

We've had didymo, i.e. rock snot, articles in the past three editions, and it's a serious issue. But on **page 10** we have an article by guides who float the upper Manistee with the most shocking

photos of rock snot we have published to date. These photos alone will have any sane angler disinfecting their waders after every outing.

But not everything in this edition is controversial. On **pages 6-7**, Jerry Deputat provided us with a wonderful DIY (Do It Yourself) piece on fly fishing Wisconsin's Driftless Area, the land of small trout streams, green pastures and a few cows.

And on **pages 8-9**, we have a round-up of the best photos and stories that were turned into us from the annual MFFC outing to Yellowstone National Park. Despite park roads being washed out this spring, our diehard members still made the trip out west and caught a few trout.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Calendar

- 10/5/22 Speaker Meeting
- 10/12/22 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 10/19/22 Activity Meeting
  
- 11/2/22 Speaker Meeting
- 11/9/22 Activity Meeting
- 11/6/22 Board Meeting, Virtual
  
- 12/7/22 Speaker Meeting
- 12/14/22 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 12/21/22 Activity Meeting—Garage Sale
  
- 1/11/23 Speaker Meeting
- 1/8/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 1/25/23 Activity Meeting
  
- 2/1/23 Speaker Meeting
- 2/8/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 2/15/23 Activity Meeting
  
- 3/1/23 Activity Meeting
- 3/8/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 3/18-19/23 - Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Macomb Community College Expo Center
- 3/22/23 Speaker Meeting
  
- 4/5/23 Speaker Meeting
- 4/12/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 4/19/23 Activity Meeting
  
- 5/3/23 Activity Meeting
- 5/10/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
- 5/18/23 MFFC Banquet
- 5/11-14/23 WaWa Sum New Member Outing
- 5/19-22/23 Smallmouth Bass Outing

Speaker and activity meetings are Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. through December, 2022.

# MFFC Opposes Camp Grayling Expansion

## The President's Message...

### *We Need To Fight For Our Streams*

On September 14, 2022 the Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors passed a motion opposing the proposed Camp Grayling expansion.

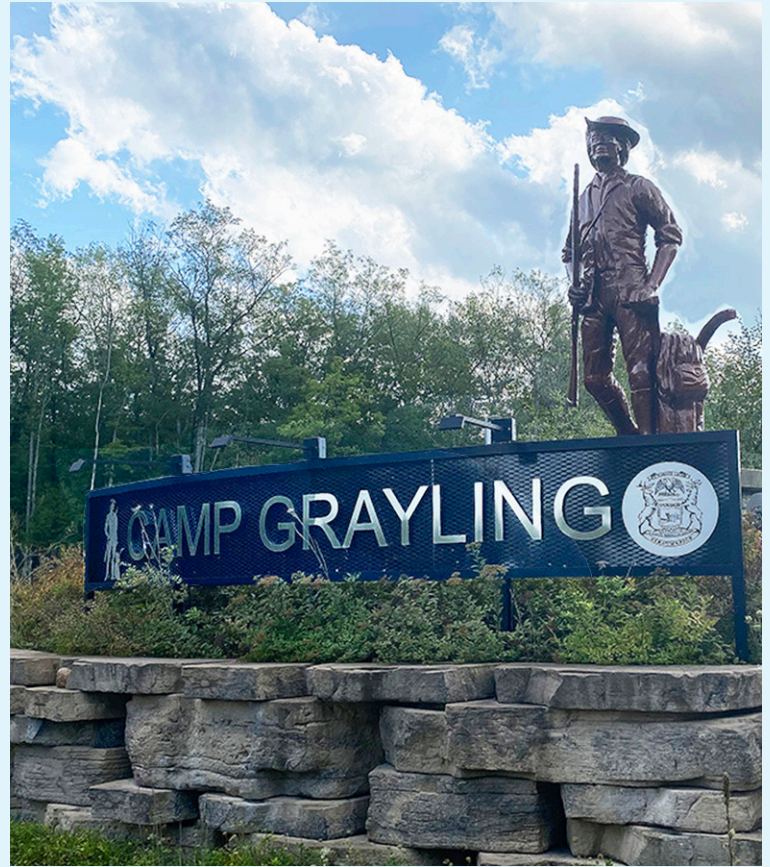
MFFC's purpose is to be "an organization of fly fishers dedicated to the promotion of fly fishing, the preservation of the arts of fly tying, rod building and the protection of gamefish and their habitat." We are built on the three pillars of fly fishing: community, education, and conservation.



Sybil Hunter

The October 5 Speaker Meeting welcomes retired Lt. Col. Mike MacNamara, a former Deputy Commander of Camp Grayling providing information on the topic. Last month, Club member Jim Montagne shared his personal experience of what he sees - literally in his back yard.

Personally I perceive the proposed expansion to be an issue of environmental importance and ongoing river access that impacts the future of our sport. What do you think? Please feel free to do your own research, reach out to government leaders, and let the Board know what you think.



## *Camp Expansion Clearly Violates the DNR's Core Mission*

**By Jim Montagne**

There is a proposal to lease an additional 162,000 acres (more than 253 square miles) to the Michigan National Guard for cyber, electronic and space warfare training.

This area is roughly east to West Twin Lake near Lewiston, north into rural area southeast of the Village of Mancelona, west along the Manistee River and south to the western shore of Houghton Lake. This land contains the watersheds of the AuSable River, the Manistee River, two of the best trout streams in the nation as well as the headwaters of Muskegon River.

This transfer of land would more than double the size of Camp Grayling. Camp Grayling is already, prior to the proposed expansion, the largest National Guard Training Facility in the entire nation. The expansion, if allowed, would make Camp Grayling larger than the City of Chicago.

The "lease" would be a "short term" lease for twenty (20)

years. There would be a 1,500 foot set back from the rivers (AuSable and Manistee) where the guard would not set up work areas, however, there will not be a buffer from springs and other tributaries to the rivers.

The guard would also use state, county and township roads near the river for ingress and egress without contributing any funds to maintain those roads.

The DNR would retain ownership rights to the property and manage the property subject to the lease to the Michigan National Guard. The National Guard has promised to interfere as little as possible with the public's use of the same property and would continue to allow public use of the property subject to the needs of the Guard.

The Guard will also retain the right to sublease the land to military suppliers for use in testing their future weapons or other products. The purpose of the expansion is to "better market to the Department of Defense and to private industry" according to Camp Grayling's commander Colonel Scott Meyers.

The decision will be made by the director of the DNR, Dan Eichinger. Mr. Eichinger is appointed by the Governor, Gretchen Whitmer. The final decision will be made in fall of 2023.

The DNR's mission reads, "The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations."

*Continued on page 3*

*Editor's Note: This article is a short synopsis of Jim Montagne's original piece which was too long to run in its entirety in the Evening Hatch. Having said that, it's well worth reading. We have uploaded that version onto the MFFC website and you can read it by scanning the QR codes with a smart phone.*



# Statewide Swell of Opposition Against Camp Expansion

## Michigan Trout Unlimited Statement

Given the lack of specific and definitive written information regarding the scope and impact of this expansion proposal, and the lack of justification provided for its necessity, it is the position of Michigan Trout Unlimited to oppose the proposed expansion of the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center as presented at this time.



This proposal seeks to greatly increase the size and operations of Camp Grayling, more than doubling it, through encumbering public state-owned lands through leases to Camp Grayling.

The proposed lands are extensive, and include enormous portions of the Manistee, Au Sable and Muskegon rivers watersheds and their tributaries. This area is unique geologically, hydrologically, ecologically, recreationally, and aesthetically; and is critical to Michigan's coldwater fisheries now and in the future. The proposal did not include any detailed justification for the need or necessity of this expansion.

The proposal has also not been accompanied by adequate written information on the uses to be permitted, restrictions to be implemented, nor specific assessments of alternatives or impacts.

Given the deficient nature of the proposal at this time, it poses significant possible concerns and no assurances of how these may be addressed. Therefore, Michigan Trout Unlimited must oppose the proposal for Camp Grayling expansion at this time.

*The above mission statement by Michigan Trout Unlimited is a brief synopsis of what TU has posted. You can read the entire statement by scanning the QR codes with a smart phone.*



## Now Is The Time To Prevent The Taking of Our Land

*Continued from page 2*

Approval of this expansion clearly would violate the DNR's mission. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 Of 1994, States that, Sec 503. (1) "The department shall protect and conserve the natural resources of this state...factors that must be considered before promulgating any rule regarding the use of land must include, considering Providing access to

use the public land for tourism and recreation, potential impact the rule would have on the property and surrounding property."

By allowing the guard to expand onto public property would violate the Natural Resources and Environmental Act and the DNR's own mission statement.

Now is the time to take action to prevent the taking of taxpayers (our) land

giving it to the military. Adequate bases exist and some are being underutilized. The plan is to take recreational land from the people of the State of Michigan, transfer it to the National Guard who, in turn will sublease the land to private defense contractors. There is no reason to take away the vacation and recreational land of the people of the State of Michigan for this unnecessary expansion and exploitation.



**The proposed expansion of Camp Grayling has been formally opposed by:**

Twin Lakes Property Owners Association  
Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
Anglers of the Au Sable and Sierra Club  
Michigan Chapter Back Country Hunters and Anglers  
Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation  
Kalkaska Board of Commissions  
Michigan Trout Unlimited  
Bear Lake Township  
Lovells and Albert Townships  
Michigan Fly Fishing Club

**From the author:** Here are some contacts that should be made aware of our opposition to this plan:

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909  
[Somgovweb.state.mi.us/govrelations/contact.governor.aspx](http://Somgovweb.state.mi.us/govrelations/contact.governor.aspx)

Dan Eichinger  
DNR Director  
PO Box 30028  
Lansing, MI 48909  
[Dnr-director@michigan.gov](mailto:Dnr-director@michigan.gov)

Senator Debbie Stabenow  
3335 S. Airport Road West,  
Ste 6B  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 929-1031

Senator Gary Peters  
109 East Front Street,  
Ste 215B  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 947-7773



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

# Business

## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting May 11, 2022

### Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:37 p.m.

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

*Absent:* Bada

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

**Approval of Agenda** – Agenda from 5/11/22 approved

**Approval of Minutes** – Meeting-minutes for 4/14/22 approved.

### Officer's Report

**President:** Strachan

- Fixed 5/18/22 meeting with Plymouth Cultural Center
- Accidentally tried to cancel fly tying before banquet. Everything is fine.
- Thanks for recognizing his work as president also appreciation to the support of the board during his tenure.

**Vice President:** S. Hunter

- Presented notes from IFF seminar on member retention

**Treasurer:** K. Oehring

- Current month's treasurer's report presented.
- File available on shared Board drive.
- Current month's treasurer's report approved.
- Review of 2022-2023 Budget.
- Fly Tying Grant for Youth Program through FFI information presented by Jim Aiken and

Mike Matuszewski for \$600.00. Application sent to FFI by Jim Aitken.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Fischer

- Have enlisted help to search for speakers.
- Email Blast Stats: 3112 emails sent. 8 event reminders. 69% read rate. Constant Contact places readers 62% "engaged;" 25% "somewhat engaged;" and 12% "least engaged."
- Future Planning Committee draft in the works.

**Membership:** B. Niemi

- Current membership 355 active members; 3 new members, 1 renewal.
- New members became aware of MFFC and joined the club based on outdoor shows

### Events and Outings

Event Updates

- MFFC Spring Banquet 5/18/22

Outing Updates:

- WaWa Sum New Member Outing May 11-14
- Smallmouth Outing May 19-22
- WaWa Sum Member Outing July 15-17
- Club Picnic July 16

### New Business

2022-23 Budget Review

- Zoom status looking for help
- Phishing attempts
- Approved by Board

### Old Business

None

**Adjournment:** 9:15 p.m.

## 2022 - 2023 Officers

**President:**  
Sybil Hunter  
[president@mffc.org](mailto:president@mffc.org)

**Vice President:**  
Kevin Lipp  
[kjlipp@gmail.com](mailto:kjlipp@gmail.com)

**Coresponding Secretary:**  
Jim Fischer  
[coorespondence@mffc.org](mailto:coorespondence@mffc.org)

**Recording Secretary:**  
John Eriksson  
[recordingsecretary@mffc.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@mffc.org)

**Treasurer**  
Barry Green  
[treasurer@mffc.org](mailto:treasurer@mffc.org)

**Membership**  
Jerry Deputat  
[membership@mffc.org](mailto:membership@mffc.org)

**Immediate Past President:**  
Bruce Strachan  
[bruced0402@gmail.com](mailto:bruced0402@gmail.com)

## At-Large Directors

**Jim Aitken**  
[dznvvm@gmail.com](mailto:dznvvm@gmail.com)

**Kathy Oehring**  
[oehrk@icloud.com](mailto:oehrk@icloud.com)

**Jon Bada**  
[jonbada@hotmail.com](mailto:jonbada@hotmail.com)

## Hatch Editors

**Sybil Hunter**  
[evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com](mailto:evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com)

**Jim DuFresne**  
[kidven@aol.com](mailto:kidven@aol.com)

## Webmaster

**Sybil Hunter Club Webmaster**  
[sybilsvpemail@gmail.com](mailto:sybilsvpemail@gmail.com)



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club News & Events

## In A Rut *Is the Same Old Casting Technique Giving You Enough Drag-free float?*

**By Wayne Glessner  
and Christopher Hunter**

Are you in a rut casting? Are you making the same cast over and over, producing only minimal drag-free drift thus not increasing the water you are fishing?

The MFFC has created a committee to identify and develop a group of casting instructors who are educated and trained to demonstrate and teach the different levels of Fly Fishers International (FFI) Casting Instructor (CI) skills.

The MFFC is tasking this committee to bring uniformity to the MFFC casting programs for the benefit of our members using the FFI casting principles. The Board agreed having uniformity among those teaching casting at Club events will not only enhance the educational opportunities for the members, but will enhance the overall fishing ex-



*Bill Mangan works with Chris Hunter before a MFFC meeting. Hunter won the club picnic competition earlier this summer while Jim Fischer came in second.*

perience of members, hopefully making fishing more productive and enjoyable.

The Committee is welcoming anyone who wishes to learn, improve, or

teach casting to join us. Whether you are interested in being an instructor or just improving your casting skills we look forward to seeing you at the Club!

## High on an Alpine Lake with a Fly Rod in Hand

**By The Evening Hatch**

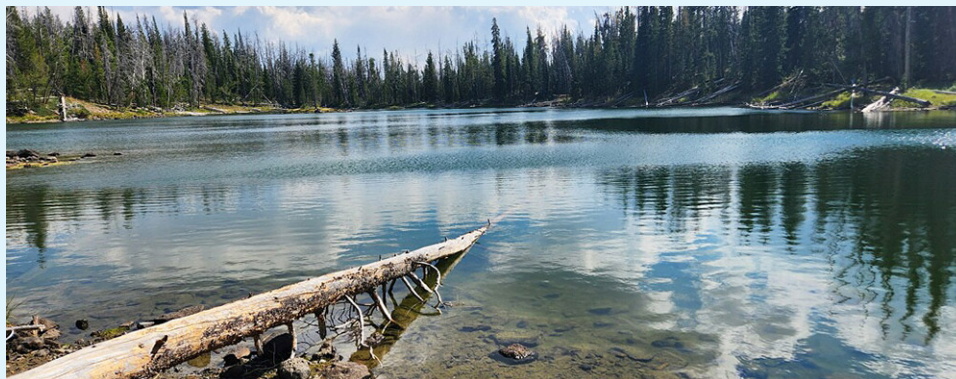
In early September Harry Briggs and Tom Hector were in Wyoming fishing when the beauty of the mountains overwhelmed them. So, they decided to cast their lines into an alpine lake they noticed on their map.

It was quite the backcountry adventure.

"We fished this high mountain lake today," Briggs emailed to the Evening Hatch. "I caught one Grayling. (It was) tough fishing with very high winds and very little back cast space."

"We still had a great day."

Looking at these photographs of mountainous splendor, how could they not?



*Above: The alpine lake that Harry Briggs and Tom Hector fished during a trip to Wyoming. Below: The scenery on the way to their fishing destination; a mountain range and a cold water trout stream.*





# Driftless Fishing *Close to Home (Sort of), Excellent Trout Fishing*

**T** By Jerry Deputat

The "Driftless" area captures about 24,000 square miles comprising southwestern Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa, and the northwest corner of Illinois. When I first heard the term, I thought it described the water flow in the region...as in still water fishing. Well, needless to say, I was a bit off the mark.

It so happens to be an area untouched by the glacier flows that occurred thousands of years ago.

What you have is a topography characterized by steeply forested hills, deeply carved river valleys, spring fed waterfalls, and some of the coldest limestone trout streams in the country. The area is not the recipient of the leveling and the typical glacial deposits (silt, clay, sand, gravel, boulders, etc.) known as "drift" -- hence the name "driftless."

An estimated 85% of the Driftless Area lies in Wisconsin. This is an area known for organic farming and is a prominent dairy center of the Midwest.

It appears the central hub of fly-fishing activity for that area lies in the vicinity of the town of Viroqua (the "Grayling" of Wisconsin). They even have an area guides liken it to "the holy waters" of our state.

Viroqua is a town with a population of 4500, located about 100 miles northwest of Madison. I am told there are over 13,000 miles of creeks and streams in driftless Wisconsin.



*The streams are small and very wadable in the Driftless.*



*MFFC member Jerry Deputat and his guide explore a Driftless stream in a Wisconsin dairy farm. Cows be aware of fly anglers!*

Although the Kickapoo and Bad Axe are among the big name rivers, my experiences were limited to the myriad of creeks and streams flowing through the countryside.

What makes the area so attractive for fly fishing? Let me list a few reasons that immediately come to mind:

***It's within driving distance from metro Detroit.*** The trip from South Lyon to Viroqua is 500 miles. Do keep in mind the last 100 miles can take every bit of two hours, as you are driving through many small towns, reducing your speed to 35 mph (and these limits are strictly enforced!).

***It's easy wading.*** You are seldom in water depth over your knees, plus have plenty of room to exit the stream to navigate around those deeper holes.

Since the width of the stream/creek

may range from that of a sidewalk to a one-lane road, you'll never find a canoe, kayaker, or tuber inquiring "if the fish are biting."

In many cases, as you may be in the midst of pastureland, casting may even be done without getting into the water. Even casting from the middle of a small stream is easy, as the immediate banks are generally tree-free. Also, you don't have to be conscious of bears...just mindful of the farmer's sign that may indicate a bull may be in the pasture!

***It's low pressure fishing.*** In my limited exposure to the area, I've never experienced pressure from other anglers. As I remember hearing a presentation on the Driftless several years ago, if you find a car parked near a bridge, just drive to the next bridge. The opportunities are endless.

***It's great fishing.*** All of the above, together with the many hues of lush green scenery, make for a great fishing experience, but catching fish adds to the enjoyment. We all know there are good and bad days; my limited experiences have all been satisfying.

Although big fish do reside there,  
*Continued on page 7*

# Driftless: Gentle Trout Streams, Green Pastures and a Few Cows

Continued from page 6

depending on the size of the stream, most fish range 8-14 inches. But catching these native trout on a light weight rod can be a thrill.

Despite having only 7 days experience fishing in Wisconsin, I love the area and plan on making a yearly visit.

My recommendations include:

**Hire a guide.** Although the temptation may be there to do it on your own, it pays enormous dividends to have a guide -- at least for a day.

He/she can quickly educate you on the lay of the land, nuances concerning access to waters, tips on stream/creek fishing, safety issues inherent to the area, not to mention putting you in touch with the fish.

Rain may occur frequently in this part of Wisconsin, if only for an hour. Streams and creeks will vary in water clarity and your guide will know best, based on conditions of today as well as what transpired yesterday.

The Driftless Angler Flyshop in downtown Viroqua is a well-stocked shop with excellent guide services.

**Bring rain gear.** It's not uncommon to be caught in an afternoon shower. Come prepared.

**Don't forget the fishing license.** Wisconsin has a welcoming annual license for \$25.75 for first time out of staters. If I recall correctly, the second-year fee is \$50, though non-resident daily (\$10) and 15-day licenses (\$28) are also available.

**Try to get your hands on good Wisconsin maps...**road maps, county



*Jerry Deputat casts in a Driftless area stream in Wisconsin last summer.*

maps and detailed stream/creek maps, as well as fishing regulations, which like Michigan vary by stream.

Some areas are posted catch and release, with others noting a creel limit but no size restriction (as I alluded to, fish population does not appear to be a problem).

Keep in mind April and May are considered prime fishing months with the coldest waters, good hatches, and lower vegetation growth for accessing water, though many locations are mowed to facilitate access. Fishing barbless is strongly recommended.

**Some gear recommendations:** an 8-foot, 4-weight rod seems to be a

general recommendation, not to say a 3-weight on a calm day or a 5/6-weight on a gusty day would not be welcomed.

Shorter leaders (no more than 7 1/2, with 4x tippet) is generally recommended based on the shorter casting distances.

Many guides will fish a hippie stomper (or similar terrestrial) with a small dry trailer or nymph dropper. On my most recent outing, most fish were caught on a 16 beaded pheasant tail nymph with a wool indicator.

**And Finally** If you are looking for nearby Michigan options, easy wading, and all within a limited budget, the Driftless will not disappoint!



*A trout stream habitat improvement project being coordinated by the Wisconsin DNR in the Driftless Area.*

## For pre-trip planning and more information on Driftless Fishing



The Driftless Fly Shop website where you can arrange guide service, order local flies and obtain a lot advice on seasons and where to fish.



The website for the Viroqua Tourism office is a source of where to stay, where to eat and other businesses in town that cater to anglers.



You can order your Wisconsin non-resident fishing license before you even leave Michigan from the Wisconsin DNR website.



# Yellowstone *Roads or No Roads, MFFC Still Heads Out West*



*Above Left: Two MFFC ex-presidents, Chris Hunter and Al Haxton, scout the Gallatin River. Above: A rainbow from the Beaver Creek. Left Center: Michael Klimko fishing a secluded and hard-to-reach spot on the Yellowstone River.*



## By Chris Hunter

In mid-June, Yellowstone National Park experienced record flooding devastating the roads within the park. We immediately reached out to family friends who work there to get the skinny. Hearing this information allowed us to find comfort in knowing restoration efforts were starting immediately. But what would we see when we got out there?

Upon our arrival many of the roads in the northeastern portion of the park were still washed out. The Haxtons, arriving early, came through the north to visit Cooke City. The roads into the park were were closed, but they were allowed to hike down the road towards Slough Creek. Bear Tooth was also closed.

"It was fun, we saw beautiful scenery we wouldn't have seen if we were driving," said Joyce Haxton. "We didn't see any wildlife, but I didn't want to!"

Much of the fishing this summer took place on the Gibbon River outside of the park, the Gallatin River in and out of the park, and the Madison River *Left: Sam Hunter on a float trip with guide Mike Loebel after catching his "fish of the week." Above: In Yellowstone road crossing warnings are for wildlife and old anglers.*

outside of the park.

Reports include: a front seat to an elk sighting (Flex 1: Moose 0); the Bourbon Brothers nightly winding down ritual; a one day power outage (in which



one Hunter took the bottled water to style and wash his hair - you know, to look good for the fish); missing rental car keys that resulted in the go-to phrase for missing items, "Did you look under the pretzels?"

And most of all the amusement of hunting down Dave Hunter to ask how he was, to which he always responded - "Do you REALLY want to know?"

I'm old, I'm cranky and my back hurts. But I'm here."

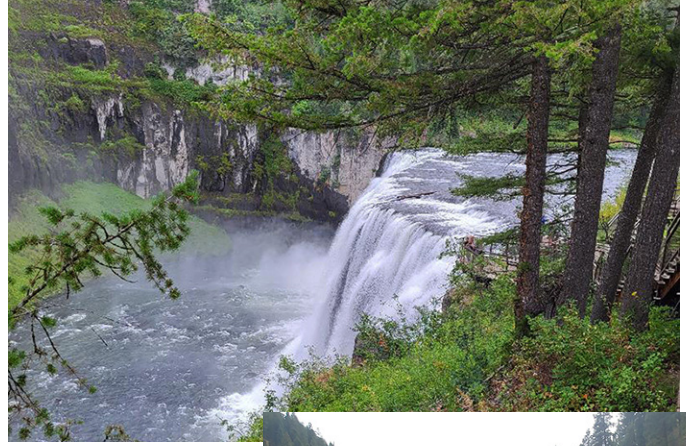
Then there was the fishing - the fishing was challenging. The water was warm and the fish were spooky. However, patience, persistence and Purple Haze (of course) prevailed, attracting nice fish on the Gallatin, Madison, West Fork, Taylor Fork and of course Rock Creek.

Sam Hunter landed the fish of the week on a float trip with Mike Loebel. According to Mike, Sam hooked, fought and landed the fish by himself. Sam also managed to land a "new" rod and reel, complete with line which he saw and Mike salvaged from the bottom of the Madison. Luck is with the youth.





# Yellowstone *Wildlife, Spectacular Scenery, Even A Few Trout*



*Above Right: Thundering Upper Mesa Falls in Idaho. Just downstream is Cardiac Canyon on the Henry's Fork, an incredible fishing adventure. You can float the entire day without seeing another soul. The only challenge is making it down the 400-foot drop to the river without bodily injury while your guide wrestles down the inflatable raft. Right: A guide holding Frank Klimko's rainbow, caught in Cardiac Canyon.*

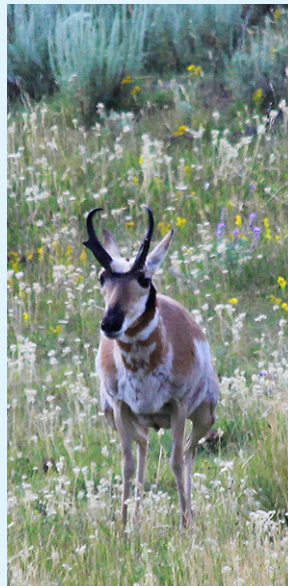


*Above Left: Father and son and MFFC members Drew and Bill Lehman taking a break to admire the scenery in Montana. Left: Drew Lehman with a trout from his secret river. Drew was dubbed this year's "Fashion Guru" during the MFFC outing.*

## *Not All That's Wild in Yellowstone has Fins*



*What MFFC members spotted in Yellowstone: Clockwise from Right: A brown bear seen at West Fork of the Madison. Bottom Right: A coyote underneath a "Watching For Wildlife" interpretive display. How convenient! Below: An antelope in a meadow and a buffalo, of course. Left: A Yellowstone Terrestrial Garter sunning itself on a elk horn that was shed next to the river.*



# The Ugliness That is Didymo, i.e. Rock Snot

By Brian Pitser

**D**idymo (Rock Snot) is in the Manistee from Yellowtrees downriver. It is expected to move towards M-72 this fall. Recently confirmed blooms are in several sections of the Boardman River from the site of the old brown bridge pond to Shumsky's landing.

It was originally discovered in late fall, on the Manistee from CCC Bridge State Forest Campground to Sharon.

Last November an Ottawa Band fisheries biologist who had recently moved to Michigan and had experience with Didymo recognized it right away. Blooms look like pieces of shredded toilet paper floating downstream.

Guides have observed it mainly in the gravel and riffles, coating the bottom like a thick mat or felt carpet. This suffocates insects. Caddis, Hennies, Sulphurs, and Isonychia hatches were greatly reduced this summer in areas affected by Rock Snot.

Didymo, unlike other algae, prefers below 65.5 degree, cold, clean, low phosphorus water - prime trout habitat. New Zealand studies report Rock Snot displaces 70-80% of the brown trout in the contaminated areas.

No food, no fish.

As Michigan anglers, we need to treat every river as if it were contaminated with Didymo and NZ Mudsnaills.

There is no known way to eradicate the nuisance species once introduced into a waterway. We must get the word out to make sure everyone is doing their part to prevent the spread.

Michigan has some of the world's greatest coldwater and freshwater resources. It is up to us to protect them.

*Reported from the riverbanks by Brian Pitser, guide and owner of The Northern Angler Fly Shop (thenorthernangler.com).*

## How to Prevent Rock Snot from Spreading

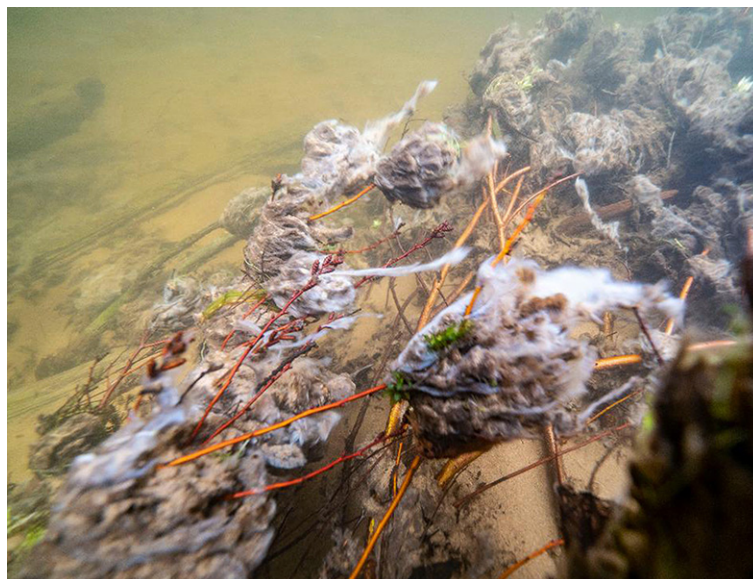
Please help get the word out and stop the spread! Urge the DNR and EGLE to coordinate efforts to:

- Outlaw felt wading boots, wash stations at M-72, CCC and Sharon.
- Get the word out to waterway users via public outreach, educational information handed out at sport shops, fly shops, guides and liveries.
- Set a protocol to clean and disinfect gear and waders, including anchor lines and anything that comes into contact with the water. (NZ websites cite the most practical solution to prevent the spread is a 10% solution of dishwashing detergent, soaked for 10 minutes).
- Study how Didymo affects fall trout spawning.
- Determine alternative methods to inhibit growth and spread to nearby rivers.

Remember, that the ideal habitat conditions of the Manistee are very similar to the AuSable so we really need to be vigilant in spotting Didymo blooms and stopping the spread between waterways.



*Right: Northern Angler Fly Shop in Traverse City has a excellent video on invasive species. Left: The DNR website devoted to Rock Snot.*



*The ugly views of Didymo, i.e. Rock Snot, on the Manistee River (Photos by Northern Angler Fly Shop and Mangled Fly).*

# Tree Drop *Tossing Timber to Improve the Upper Manistee*

By **Kristin Thomas**  
Michigan  
Trout Unlimited

**I**t finally happened; 150 whole trees were added to the Upper Manistee River by helicopter drop! This project has been in the works for three years.

Adding woody habitat between YellowTrees and CCC Bridge with an emphasis from YellowTrees to Roger's Landing was the highest priority project identified by the Upper Manistee Collaborative Group.

The Collaborative Group is facilitated by Michigan Trout Unlimited but includes many partners; The Upper Manistee River Association, The Michigan DNR, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, The US Forest Service, several Michigan chapters of Trout Unlimited, The Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Mangled Fly, The Northern Angler, Streamside Orvis and True North Trout to name just a few.

All the trees were placed on Monday, Sept. 12. Those of us on site agreed it was one of the most fun workdays we have ever experienced.

The incredible crew and pilots from Construction Helicopters thought it was an absolute blast to put trees in a river instead of air conditioners on top of buildings, and they did an amazing

job. The precision with which the pilots could place trees was awe inspiring.

Shawn Kanouse and his crew had as much fun as those of us from TU. This project would not have been successful without Kanouse Outdoor Restoration and their incredible work. Without them I'm not sure we would have pulled it off.

Shawn was the contractor in charge of all aspects of the helicopter drop. He thought of everything which meant the flying day went off without a hitch.

We also appreciate all the generous donors who made this day happen, including several incredible private individuals, the Michigan DNR, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The tree drop was not a cheap project, but we think it will be worth it in the end.

Using whole trees will create a meaningful impact on habitat through this stretch, and we could not have done that without the helicopter

and ample funding.

It was good to see the installation finally take place, but the project is not completed.

We will monitor the river in the areas of the most work for years to track changes in stream shape and habitat.

We expect to see positive changes with an increase in depth in some areas and

sediment deposition in other areas - pitchers and catchers for the baseball fans.

The main point though, is that we are monitoring so we can continue to improve our techniques through time. You learn by doing, but you can't learn if you don't know what happened.

We are always striving to do the best work possible, which means taking a hard look at how successful our projects are.

It is our hope that we will be able to continue similar work in other areas of this watershed, and that we will be even more successful with each new project.



*Construction Helicopters pilots position a pine tree before dropping it in the Manistee River.*



*Dropped trees line the Upper Manistee as a way to improve habitat and water quality for trout.*

# Fly of the Month

## *The Versatile and Easy to Tie Mylar Minnow*

The fly selected for the Tie Along at the October 19 Activities Meeting is the Mylar Minnow as tied by Sybil Hunter. This fly, originally developed in Texas, is easy to tie and very effective in warm water fisheries.

The bead-chain eyes enable the fly to swim effortlessly and sink slowly, giving it a more natural appearance in the water. Used on a sinking-tip line and retrieved with short strips, the fly will rise and drop, enticing fish to ag-



gressively strike it, particularly bluegills in May and June.

Size 12 hooks are ideal for panfish, but size 10 or 8 will limit strikes to larger bluegills and pumpkinseeds while also attracting largemouth bass, crappie, an occasional perch and even northern pike.

The most common colors are red thread, red bead chain eyes, white Chenille, and silver Mylar chord. But the patterns and combination you can tie are almost limitless, with the tail being especially easy to dress or extend.



*A 9-inch bluegill that was hooked with a Mylar Minnow*

### October 19 Tie-Along

#### *Mylar Minnow*

**HOOK:** Mustad 9672 or Daiichi 1720, sizes 8 to 12

**THREAD:** Red 6/0 red (140 denier)

**Eyes:** Medium silver, red or gold bead chain

**Body:** Medium Ultra Chenille

**Back and Belly:** Small or medium Mylar chord

**Tail:** Teased-out Mylar cord and added Krystal Flash if desired



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