



Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2023

MFFC Hollywood Bound!



Michigan Nature Association produced this conservation video with MFFC assistance.

For the middle of January, in the dreary lows of winter, this issue of the Evening Hatch is packed with stories. Enough of them to get you to the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo and beyond to Opening Day.

We're not quite packing our bags for Hollywood and La La Land. But the Michigan Nature Association kicked off its fundraising campaign to protect the Fox River Watershed and it included releasing the four-minute video that MFFC was involved with in the production.

You can read about the effort to preserve the Fox and where to see the YouTube video on **page 5**. On **page 6**, you can read why the Fox River was the destination for Ernest Hemingway's only trip to the Upper Peninsula

Al Haxton spends many of his

winter days tying flies and reminiscing about good friends and shared moments. You can read his column on **page 8**. On **page 2** is our Camp Grayling update, along and President Sybil Hunter's column about the promising future of MFFC. It will warm you up.

The 2023 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is just around the corner, March 11-12 at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center. On **page 9**, is a feature about one of the vendors who will be there, a local from White Lake trying to save the world one bottle of UV resin at a time.

Finally, on **page 10**, Jim DuFresne wraps up his series about fly fishing in Argentina's Patagonia region, answering the question we all wondered from the beginning: Did he catch that trophy trout?

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

1/12-15/23 Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
1/18/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
1/25/23 Activity Meeting, Spence Vanderhoof Tying

2/1/23 Speaker Meeting, International Fly Fishing Film Festival
2/8/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
2/15/23 Activity Meeting, estate sale
2/23-26/23 Outdoorama, Suburban Collection Showplace

3/1/23 Activity Meeting
3/8/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
3/11-12/23 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Macomb Community College Expo Center
3/22/23 Speaker Meeting, Anthony Ruela, "Getting into Small Water"

4/1/23 Trout Tune-up, Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center
4/5/23 Speaker Meeting, Ashley Agler, Small Water Fishing
4/12/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
4/19/23 Activity Meeting
4/22/23 Scout School
4/29/23 Opening Day & Remembrance, Gates Au Sable Lodge

5/3/23 Activity Meeting
5/6/23 Youth Fly Fishing School
5/10/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
5/17/23 MFFC Banquet
5/11-14/23 New Member Outing

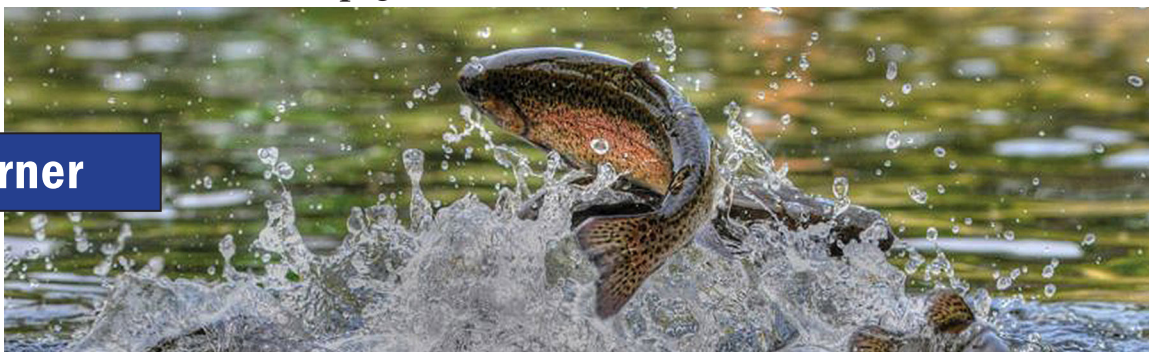
6/14/23 Speaker Meeting, TBA

Beginning Jan. 11, meetings will be held at Clarenceville Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia.

Peter Albertson's

Conservation Corner

Camp Grayling Updates



New Facebook Page: Mike MacNamara, who spoke to the MFFC in 2022, has established a Facebook group to share photos and information regarding the proposed Camp Grayling expansion. Please join, check it often and "like it."

Proposed Lowered Airspace: The comment period for Camp Grayling Air Space Expansion has been extended until **Jan. 14**. Comments should be sent to the National Guard Bureau, Attn: Ms. Kristi Kucharek, 3501 Fetchet Avenue, Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-5157 or emailed to NGB.A4.A4A.NEPA.COMMENTS.Org@us.af.mil with subject Attn: Alpena SUA EA.

Low Electronic Warfare: Growlers were added to low Navy electronic warfare flight patterns that were approved in Washington. They are causing problems with endangered birds, and children alike.

Flight Noise: Navy aircraft electronic warfare flight noise damages to Olympic National Park, in the forest and in the water. Aircraft noise effects behavior of water life up to 100 feet deep according to Journal of Marine Science and Engineering.

MacNamara
Facebook Page



Electronic
Warfare



Olympic
Flight Noise



Letter of Protest

Dec. 23, 2022

Dear Director Eichinger:

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International. We are dedicated to Conservation, Education, and Community in our volunteer efforts. The proposed Camp Grayling Expansion is very concerning to us.



www.redcedarflyfishers.org

After reading the details of this proposal, our Board of Directors passed a motion on 12/18/22 to formally oppose any expansion of Camp Grayling. The rivers and natural areas in the proposed area deserve protection from this kind of expansion.

Sincerely,
Mark Johnson, *Past President*

The President's Message...

Cold & Dreary Winter; Let Our Accomplishments Warm You Up

As winter sets in (somebody, please tell me why it's raining), I focus on preparing for the upcoming year. I am packing away 2022, paying bills, tracking my mother's budget, storing the last of my shorts and summer things, and hunkering down in wool. As I sit on the couch, covered in poodles and a sherpa blanket writing, I realize we have FOUR months before Opening Day. Yes, that can be a depressing thought. Let's face it, even the fish are cold, slow, and hunkering down.

But The DNR recently opened parts of the Saginaw River and Lake Huron to year around Wall-eye fishing. An MFFC crew will be heading to Arkansas to catch giant browns. Trout Tune-up is not really that far away (it's too cold, but yurt company is most entertaining). And some of us live on rivers Up North (Definitely not fair.)

There is also the warm reassurance as we enter 2023 about the future of our Club. Last February, the Forward



Sybil Hunter

Planning Committee (FPC) met for the first time, and just before Christmas, they presented their assessments and recommendations to the Board of Directors. It's been a long, arduous path, but the FPC members recommended some wonderful ideas to advance MFFC offerings, increase outreach, and burgeon awareness of more inclusivity. Thank you to all who served on the FPC, and thanks to our past president Bruce Strachan for starting the process.

Last year also ended with the release of the Michigan Nature Association's *The Fox & The Fen* video, which officially kicked off its fundraising campaign to preserve more than 3,400 acres of the Fox River watershed in the Upper Peninsula. MFFC provided technical advice to the film crew and was responsible for the short video's most crucial footage: our own Jim DuFresne catching a brook trout!

We can feel good about all this. But let's face it, what gets most of us through a dreary winter is the angling excitement generated by the Ultimate Fishing Show, then Outdoorama, and finally the crescendo; our own Midwest Fly Fishing Expo! We'll make it to Opening Day, just hang in there.

Tight wraps and happy whip finishes,
Sybil

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting December 14, 2022

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:35 p.m.

Present: S. Hunter; K. Lipp; J. Deputat; B. Green; J. Aitken; J. Fischer; J. Erikson; J. Bada; K. Oehring; B. Strachan

Absent:

Visitors: M. Matuszewski; S. Freeburg; D. Nowicki; C. Summers; K. Burba

Approval of Agenda – Agenda from 12/14/22 approved

Approval of Minutes – Meeting minutes for 11/16/22 approved.

Officer's Report

President: S. Hunter

- Hatch link on website and calendar is up to date.
- Future Planning committee notes forwarded to Board.

Vice President: K. Lipp

- Clarenceville in January.
- Handout and signage to be posted at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Treasurer: B. Green

- December Treasurer's Report approved.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Fischer

- Speaker schedule up to date through end of year.
- Email blasts – 3

Membership: J. Deputat

- Currently 339 dues paying members.
- Membership renewal 92% as of July 31, 2022

Events and Outings

- Jim Aitken update for Ultimate Fishing Show 32 of 62 slots filled.
- Outdoorama signup sheet on the website can be added to email blast.
- Expo Update – Craig Summers reports everything is proceeding okay for the expo, vendor monies collected, sent non-profit contract for Expo to Kieth Burba.

New Business

- Kieth Burba from Project Healing Waters – presented PHW meeting schedule; looking for new meeting location.
- Jim Fischer's Measuring Stick – motion to approve purchase of 200 units; costing \$4.50 each.
- Raffle Concerns – review of State Raffle guidelines.
- 8 Mile Storage Unit – Jim Aitken; clean out & inventory unit; yearly.
- Club Promotional Items – Jerry Deputat; creating brochure; direct people to webpage(s).

Old Business

- New Membership Process – Expand for what what a new member might be interested in; get support from tenured members.

Adjournment: 9:17 p.m.



2022 - 2023 Officers

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Michigan Fly Fishing Club News & Events

Microbrews & Flies *There is More Than One Way to Tie a Fly*

By the Evening Hatch

It must be by fly-tying season! There is a flurry of events not only within the MFFC but across the state.

Master tyer, Jerry Regan, is a busy guy this time of year. Regan was the first speaker when the MFFC returned to meeting at Clarenceville Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia on Jan. 11.

Regan presents programs on the historical flies that are indigenous to the Grayling area. Most of the flies that he ties are from all-natural materials that he personally collects and dyes.

A third-generation commercial tier, Regan will also be at the Old Au Sable Fly Shop in Grayling on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. demonstrating timeless Au Sable River and Manistee River fly patterns.

On Jan. 25, our very own Spence Vanderhoof will be the feature tyer at the MFFC activities meeting at Clarenceville Middle School, leading us with a demonstration on how to tie

Tim's Hopper

Every Saturday through mid-March, they tie flies from 9 a.m. to Noon at Gates AuSable Lodge and Fly Shop, 471 Stephan Bridge Rd.

If you're a beginner they have vices, tools, and everything you need. There is a pile of material in the middle of the table and expert tiers to help you with whatever fly you're hoping to tie. For more info, call (989) 348-8462.

Finally, the Northern Angler Fly Shop in Traverse City stages its Reload Sessions from 5 to 9 p.m. every other Wednesday at a local brewery. The next one is on Jan. 18, then Feb. 1, Feb.15,-



It's time to fill the fly box and there are opportunities to do that everywhere. Northern Angler stages fly tying nights at Traverse City breweries. Microbrews and Zap-a-Gap!

March 1 and finally March 15.

It's a night of social tying and microbrews. Bring your vise, tools, and materials to tie whatever you want or need in your fly box.

For more info or where the event is taking place, call (231) 933-4730.

Tim's Hopper: Fly of the Month

By Spence Vanderhoof

I picked this fly with our summertime Montana-bound members in mind. The club's weeks out west can be prime terrestrial time. Why not a fly with a little Michigan flavor to trick that Lamar Valley Cutthroat?

It is only appropriate that when we return to our old stomping ground at Clarenceville that our first guest speaker will be a great friend of our club Jerry Regan. The fly that I will demonstrate at our activity meeting was created by a Jerry's longtime friend, Tim Neal.

Neal, like Regan grew up in Gray-

A few years back, Tim Neal started a YouTube site where he demos his flies. It is a great resource if you have an

interest in Michigan patterns. It is called "Michigan's Best Trout Flies." Scan the QR code for a video of this pattern.



ling. They have been longtime fishing friends and they both tie the classic flies of the Au Sable River valley. They even order their materials for their commercial tying together. Their flies are go-to flies throughout the fishing season and are sold in the fly shops of the area.

I think for your first attempt with this fly I can supply everything save your tying thread. As we have learned over the years of listening to guys like Jerry and Tim, and Chris Helm, all deer hair is not the same. I will have the appropriate deer hair with me for you to use.

It isn't really a difficult fly to tie, though getting the rubber legs out of your way while you are attaching that second wing can take a little practice. So, visit Tim's videos and tie a few. If time permits perhaps, we can sneak in a second fly?



Tim's Hopper

Hook: Tiemco 2302 #12 (DE, 2XL, Standard Wire, Slightly rounded shank)

Thread: Danville Yellow 3/0 Monochord

Body: Yellow Poly (Other colors Tim uses, Olive or Black)

Rib: Dark Ginger Hackle

Legs: Medium round rubber Centpede Legs (Speckled Yellow/Black/Red)

Down wing: Non-flaring deer hair

Top wing: Compressible deer hair



The Fox & The Fen *MFFC-Assisted Conservation Video is Released*

By the Evening Hatch and Michigan Nature Association

What was a bird-watching group incorporated in 1952 into the Michigan Nature Association and has since protected more than 180 nature sanctuaries across the state. Last month MNA celebrated its 70th anniversary by announcing its largest conservation project.

Called *Founders 4 the Future*, the multi-year fundraising campaign aims to protect nearly 4,000 acres of critical habitat in three areas of the Upper Peninsula, including parts of Brockway Mountain and the migratory bird flyway along the St. Mary's River.

But the largest slice by far is 3,346 acres of wetlands in the heart of the Fox River watershed, the storied trout stream fished by Ernest Hemingway in his only trip to the Upper Peninsula.

The MNA and the award-winning film crew of Fauna Creative reached out to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club in 2021 for assistance in the production of a short video focusing on the Fox River's outstanding water quality, extensive wetlands, and its exceptional



The Michigan Nature Association video includes the use of a drone for aerial shots of the East Branch of the Fox River (top photo) and close ups of fishing for native brook trout (above) on the main branch of the river (photos courtesy of MNA).

native brook trout fishery.

Michigan's largest fly-fishing club was more than happy to help.

The shoot took place near Seney in

early September. Jim DuFresne, one of the editors for the Evening Hatch, arrived two days in advance to talk to DNR fishery biologists and scout suitable film locations on the main branch and East Branch of the Fox River.

"What they really wanted to get on film was me catching a brook trout," said DuFresne, who admitted

being a little nervous with such expectations.

After several months of studio work and editing, the MNA launched the campaign just before Christmas by uploading the video to YouTube.

The contiguous wetland complex within the Fox River watershed protects the East Branch of the storied trout stream. Popular among anglers for its native brook trout, this state-designated "Natural River" supports a diversity of plant and animal life within a relatively undeveloped area of Schoolcraft County. The water quality and wildlife habitat benefits resulting from protecting this critical ecosystem exceed far beyond the borders of the property itself.

Scale is everything for larger mammals such as the federally endangered gray wolf, moose (a species of special concern in Michigan), and black bear. These animals require large landscapes to disperse widely.

"Connections and scale really play

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How to Watch The Fox & The Fen



You can watch the four-minute and 12-second video by scanning the adjacent QR code with your smartphone or entering:

<https://youtu.be/WrjC39BotIU>

on your laptop or desktop computer.

Big Two-Hearted *Fishing in the Land of Ernest Hemingway*

By Jim DuFresne

You shouldn't fish the Fox River without immersing yourself in advance with Hemingway lore. The river and the only town it flows through – Seney – is an area with a strong connection to Ernest Hemingway

For that reason, it's best to start any fishing trip at the Seney Museum and Historic Railroad Depot. I did, and on the front door of the old depot I was instructed to call for an appointment.

It took Ed Nyman less than two minutes to arrive on a tractor with a front-end loader, wearing a hard hat and a yellow vest. The township employee splits his time as the public works department and museum curator. He's the one with the key, so I received a personal tour. Yea, Seney is that small, population 118.

The museum itself is a Hemingway artifact. It's the original railroad depot where the 20-year-old, still recuperating from an injury as an ambulance driver in World War I, stepped off the train in 1919 with two friends. Shouldering rucksacks and carrying fishing rods, they hiked north from town for three miles along an abandoned railroad bed



Ernest Hemingway camping and catching trout in Wyoming. The author had a life long passion for fly fishing for trout that began in Michigan.

that today is M-77 and then camped along the East Branch of the Fox River for a week of fishing.

Among the tidbits we learned, it was Seney's reputation as a "wild west

town" at the height of the logging era in the 1880s that drew Hemingway's attention, a time when lumberjacks could belly up to more than 30 bars on Main Street. And that this was Hemingway's only trip to the Upper Peninsula.

"Now we have one bar," said Nyman, a life-long resident of Seney. "And growing up, I was told that he was here all the time. Want to see the rowboat he used at his family cottage on Walloon Lake?"

After moving to Paris as a foreign correspondent for the Toronto Star, Hemingway used the Fox River experience to pen *Big Two-Hearted River* in 1924. But in the short story, he not only changed the river that his character, Nick Adams, fished, but changed the name of the river itself from the original Two-Heart to a more poetic sounding Big Two-Hearted.

The new name stuck and today the Big Two-Hearted is well known throughout the country, even though Hemingway never saw the river much less fished it. The Fox meanwhile remains relatively obscure even in Michigan. There are

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The Seney Depot where Ernest Hemingway stepped off the trail for his only trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Traveling through Ernest Hemingway Country in the U.P.

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many anglers grateful to the author for that, and it's why you can always get a campsite at the East Branch of the Fox River State Forest Campground.

Located just four miles north from where young Hemingway camped, the rustic campground features 19 campsites spread out among giant red pines, a bubbling spring that has been piped for drinking water and a stone marker dedicated to Hemingway's U.P. adventure.

From 1936 through the 1980s, the campground was a working fish hatchery when local families would pitch in to help rear brook trout in King's Pond and then stock them in the Fox River. Evidence of the hatchery can still be seen among the campsites. Built into the hillsides are stone huts that housed a root cellar and a storage area for equipment while crossing the East Branch are cement slabs used to release the trout into the stream.

The best reason for spending a night here is not the East Branch, a small creek this far upstream whose banks

Founders 4 the Future: Saving the Quality of the Fox River Watershed

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an important role as far as far as the ability of many species to persist over time," said Andrew Bacon, MNA Conservation Director, in the video. "We're excited about this project for the connections and building of corridors for a larger wildlife community."

The Fox River Wetlands project not only helps support the unique needs of these animals, but it also provides excellent habitat for a diverse group of wetland and forest interior birds that require large habitat blocks.

Of particular concern for the MNA was preserving a rare 400-acre wetland known as a patterned fen.

A limited number of patterned fens

For More Information



To read more about Michigan Nature Association's *Founders 4 the Future* campaign to preserve large sections of the Upper Peninsula or to donate, scan the QR code.



Fauna Creative videographer Chris Zuker filming the Hemingway memorial stone in the East Branch of the Fox River State Forest Campground.

are entangled with tag alder, but King's Pond that borders the campground to the north. The six-acre impoundment is feed by a series of springs that send a constant flow of cold clear water through it to the East Branch, making the pond ideal for brook trout.

The DNR still stocks King's Pond so any calm evening it's possible to sit and watch the dissipating rings of brook trout feeding on mayflies rising to the surface.

Just like Nick Adams did a century ago.



remain in Michigan, making their protection very important for biodiversity. A state-imperiled natural community, the striking "wave-like" mounds, and ridges in the fen give this property a remarkable view from above, which Fauna Creative captured using camera-equipped drones.

"There is a limited number of these pattern fens within Michigan," Bacon said. "This one was classified as a top ten pattern fen complex in the state."

The MFFC didn't let MNA or Fauna Creative down. DuFresne caught an

8-inch brookie on film the first night and a beautiful 11-inch brook trout the following afternoon.

DuFresne saw a rough cut of the video last February. He said was pleased with his effort overall except for forgetting his wading belt, making him look chunkier in his waders than he is.

"I pleaded with Fauna Creative to add a disclaimer that baggy waders make you look bigger than you really are," said DuFresne.

The Grand Rapids-based production company said they couldn't fit it in.

Shared Memories *Winter is the Time to Reflect & Thank Your Friends*

Each year, during these long dark days of winter, I do different fly fishing-related activities.

I clean all my fly lines for the next season. I tie more flies to save money. I plan fishing trips to new spots making notes on how to get there and what to bring.

And I sit and remember shared fishing of years ago, thinking about all the wonderful folks I have been lucky enough to know in our sport.

Ron Angove got me into the Michigan Fly Fishing Club when I attended the class he taught at the old Northville High School during the winter. I loved his class. We would meet to chat about patterns, how to tie them, and where to fish them. Each week there were new patterns to learn and enjoy.

When Ron mentioned the MFFC, I was surprised there was a fly fishing club around, very pleasantly surprised, I must admit, and that the club had a show where many other fly fishers showed up to enjoy fly fishing stuff. So, I went to a meeting and immediately joined. There I met my friend Peter Albertson and so many other friends. That was about 34 years ago. I am still thankful. *Thank you, Ron.*

Peter Albertson and I had known each other for years because our children were the same age were and involved in the same school activities. So now we developed a new shared relationship, fly fishing.

We fished together on many weekends on the North Branch of the Au Sable River. We shared some fishing stories. We shared a LOT of laughter and yelled at the fish. We waded through many different areas of the river and enjoyed them all. We even branched off fishing other rivers together.

One Opening Day Peter and I met up with Mike Moreau to fish the Black River. On Peter's first cast of that season, he caught a 13-inch brook trout. The three of us admired that fish before

releasing it back into the river. Peter commented that his season was pretty well over after that. After all, he probably would not duplicate that fish all season. We did fish more. It was not duplicated. It sure was a beautiful fish. *Thank you, Peter.*

One weekend Peter and I met Kathi Gross at Dam 4. We all had fun, caught fish, and shared some laughter. Back at our cars, taking our waders off, Peter and I were about to get our normal end-of-the-day snack, Diet Coke and M&Ms. Kathi went to her car, opened a folding table, set out a large cooler, then set up a bar on the table. Next, she opened the cooler and took out smoked salmon, excellent crackers, and even pulled out dessert.

"What are you doing?" we asked.

"THIS is how you end a great day of fishing with good friends," she replied. Real food and adult beverages. Peter and I looked at each other and threw our snacks back in our cars to join Kathi. We learned a lot that day, and our after-fishing snacks have never been the same since. *Thank you, Kathi.*

On an Opening Day years ago, a

group of us (Peter, Joe Sattler, Joe Mondro and myself) met to fish at Dam 4. The day was chilly, and very windy. In fact, whitecaps were coming upstream toward us. We fished for a while then regrouped to assess how things were going. None of us had caught a thing, nor even had a rise for any fly we presented.

Standing huddled together in the middle of the river, Joe Mondro opened his fly box to see what else to try. Now, his fly box was nice, but none of the compartments had tops. Just as he opened the box, a huge gust of wind blew upstream, blowing numerous flies out of his box and onto the river.

We stared as they floated downstream. Shortly, a couple of fish rose and ate the flies. Some of us laughed, but to Joe, this brought frustration.

"That's it!" he said, "I am going to the bar in Lovells for the rest of the day."

Nodding in agreement, we left for lunch, adult beverages, lots of talk, and some shared laughter. We stayed later than expected because there was live music that night. Sneaky Pete was performing. I think we might even have shared some singing time with Sneaky Pete. *Thank you, Joe.*

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Al Haxton



Al Haxton (right) and the MFFC gang toasting during the 2021 Montana trip.

UV Craft *Saving the World One Bottle of UV Resin at a Time*

By Jim DuFresne

Scott Trahey says making a high quality, affordable UV curable resin is his ikigai.

Ikigai is the Japanese word that means “life purpose.” It’s a concept that refers to defining your personal meaning of life in relation to your talents, passions, and profession and what you can give back to the world.

Trahey decided what he could give back to the world was a quality UV curable resin that didn’t set fly tiers back \$24.95 for a tiny little bottle.

Trahey is not some superhero with a cape. Just a guy who lost his job on the eve of the pandemic and suddenly was spending his days fishing and tying flies. That’s when he realized UV resin was great, almost necessary, but overly expensive.

“I was tying a lot of flies and thought the world needs a cheaper UV resin,” said Trahey.

Thus, UV Craft was born. The Michigan-based company – Trahey runs out of his basement in White Lake – is in its fourth year of promising “high-quality UV resins and tools, at a reasonable price, to empower experimentation, creativity, and evolution of the craft.”



Scott Trahey and his wife introducing their new UV resins at the 2019 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. The couple will be back at the Expo this spring when it’s staged at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center on March 11-12.

You can see the entire line of UV Craft products and talk resins and fly tying with Trahey at the 2023 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. He will be one of the many vendors at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center on March 11-12.

“I think a lot of things in fly fishing are expensive just because they can be,” said Trahey. “Companies make them expensive because they can, not because they have to.”

The key to Trahey’s journey to affordability began with a close friend, a chemist who owns a chemical company in Shelby Township. Together they came up with a formula for a UV medium viscosity resin in 2019 and produced small amounts at the Shelby plant.

Trahey would then drive home with a 5-gallon bucket of resin in the back of his car and use a plastic mustard squeeze bottle to fill the half-ounce bottles he was selling. At that point, Trahey neither had a full-time job nor a lot of start-up capital.

“You know what they say; you can make a small fortune in the fly-fishing industry if you start out with a large fortune,” said Trahey.

But he persisted, setting up a web-

site with an e-shop and attending his first Midwest Expo as a vendor. The Expo was the push out of the gate he needed, selling UV Craft to hundreds of fly anglers each day and exposing his products to fly shops that were there as vendors as well.

Things were moving in the right direction when the pandemic shut down the Expo for two years.

“That really hurt,” said Trahey. “It took the steam out of what I was doing.”

Trahey accepted a job with Adobe, a software company, but was back at the Expo when it resumed in 2022 with a new line of ultra-thin UV resins. At the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center, he finally got his big break. Devin Olsen, a member of the USA Fly Fishing Team and a headline speaker at the Expo, stopped at his booth.

Olsen wasn’t using any black resins on his flies at the time because they never looked truly black after he hit them with the UV light. He tested Trahey’s ultra-thin resins at the UV Craft booth and liked what he saw.

Trahey comped him a bottle,



The resin that Devin Olsen endorses and uses; UV Craft’s ultra thin UV curable resin that is offered in black and clear.

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Me & Marco *My Best Guide Ever Knew 12 Words of English*

Editor's Note: This is the final article of a three-part series about Jim DuFresne's mid-life crisis that led him to Argentina in search of Patagonia's renowned fly fishing. The first appeared in the November edition and the second in December.

After a flight halfway down the world and another halfway across Argentina, an all-night bus ride and jaunts on subways and taxis, after dreaming and planning about this day for over six months, there I was.

Standing on the banks of the Rio Malleo in the foothills of the Andes.

The river was roughly the width of the Au Sable's Holy Water and just as clear. But it was slightly deeper, possessed a much stronger current, and its bottom was composed of round, slippery rocks and small boulders. I immediately regretted not bringing a wading staff. I stepped into it gingerly and cautiously moved toward the center of the river with my guide, Marco, urging me from behind with what little English he knew.

On my first cast, I was still getting organized when a trout took the No. 14 parachute Adams, a dry fly Marco selected out of my box and tied on for me. I missed the fish. On my third cast, I was ready. After setting the hook, I watched with amazement as the trout leaped out of the water repeatedly and



Jim DuFresne



Fly anglers and their guide use a driftboat to float and fish the Argentina's Lakes District near Junin de los Andes (photo courtesy of Trident Fly Fishing).

ran with surprising power before I could swing it towards Marco, standing guard with a net.

It was a 12-inch rainbow, a beautiful fish with a bright pink splash of color along its sides. A 12-inch trout is a nice fish on the Au Sable. A 12-inch trout is a great fish for me on the Au Sable. But before I could get my camera out, Marco had removed the hook and slipped the trout back into the river, saying three consecutive words of English for the first time that day.

"Call your momma," he said as the fish darted off.

A 12-inch trout was not a great fish to Marco.

Up to then, my only experience with guides was as part of a driftboat float, targeting steelhead. I had never had a guide for wading until Marco showed up at 11 a.m. my first day in

Junin de los Andes, a small town in the Patagonia region. He was supposed to pick me up at 10 a.m. but I already knew everything runs an hour late in Argentina.

We drove north of town, within 20 miles of the Chile border, to a stretch of the upper Rio Malleo that Marco obviously knew well. The river was part of the country's famed Lakes District. Preserved high in the Andes within Lanin National Park were a dozen huge lakes whose rivers descended towards Junin de Los Andes.

They were rivers with cold, clear water filled with rainbows and browns. Every one of them was designated flies-only and catch-and-release, the reason this small town is known as the fly fishing capital of Argentina.

Within the first hour, I hooked and released a dozen rainbows. I also managed to snag my fly a half dozen times in a branch which wasn't easy, considering the lack of trees along most of the bank. At first, it was embarrassing. Marco would rush over and retrieve the fly and untangle my tippet or replace it. He also insisted on untangling my wind knots, and with a steady breeze throughout the day, some were ugly.

Often our conversation, in the be-

Many of the photos from this series were courtesy of Trident Fly Fishing Travel, which offers organized trips worldwide, including to the Patagonia area of Argentina. For more information scan the QR code or call 888-413-5211.



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DuFresne: *What a Journey! Finally Fishing in Patagonia*

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ginning, was little more than me saying "sorry" for another wind knot and Marco replying "no problem, no problem." But after a while, my embarrassment disappeared. Having somebody untangle your tippet was nice.

Other times he would say "mend" which I knew well but was struggling to do in the wind. Or "coast too close," when he wanted me further from the bank or else risk spooking the trout I was casting to.

I spent seven hours that first day slowly working the pools and runs with him a couple of yards behind me, watching intently. When my cast was poor, he'd quickly say "again." When I nailed a particular hole, he'd say, "good cast," and eventually hearing a compliment was almost as satisfying as catching a 12-inch rainbow.

When we broke for lunch, Marco set up a small folding table and chairs on the bank of the river and covered it with plates of crusty bread, marinated potatoes and thin pieces of chilled beef that had been coated and cooked like a chicken-fried steak. Sitting in the river were cans of ice-cold beer to wash everything down.

Marco was going to stand there and watch me feast but I got him to sit down and eat - there was enough food

Haxton: *Here's to Friends and Fond Memories*

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In 2002 Phil Heck started the Yellowstone trip for our club. I signed up for that trip and truly loved the experience. Fishing out there is so very different than fishing in Michigan.

Here we have wonderful rivers that promise great fishing adventures ... but out there, the rivers are so very different. First off, Montana is high altitude, with lots of rocks. Then there are other animals that we had to be wary of.

That first year we were there to fish Yellowstone National Park, so that's what we did. Every day. It was truly awe-inspiring and wonderful. The scenery was superb, and the variety of places to fish was simply mind-boggling.

Plus of course, the fish were so different from here. It was truly a wonderful learning experience. That trip still

for six hungry anglers - and finally have a beer. That's when we really began to talk.

For as little as we knew of each other's language, it was amazing how much we conversed. I learned he was 30 years old, and his wife was expecting their first child. He conveyed that by expanding his stomach with his arms under his shirt.

He once attended a university near Buenos Aires but hated the sprawling city so much he returned to Junin de los Andes within a year, vowing never to leave Patagonia again.

He learned this was my first trip to Argentina and possibly the only chance I'd ever have to fish his rivers.

By early evening the wind had eased up, and we were working well as a team. I had found my rhythm, casting steadily and needing only one or two false casts to re-position the fly and lengthen my line. From behind I heard a constant "good cast...good cast...good cast" as

happens and frankly, I am still learning. *Thank you, Phil.*

Now I am sitting, remembering these shared experiences and so many others that I have not written about yet.

So just what is the Michigan Fly Fishing Club thing all about? After all, I never keep a fish, so how much was my fish dinner?

I travel around and share the fun with others and with Joyce. I sit and remember. I sit and think. Sometimes I sit and shed a tear. Normally, I smile.

So, *what is this Club all about?* I think it's about sharing adventures with good friends. It's about shared memories and looking forward to more. It's about friendships and being together.

So don't forget to make more memories and remember your fishing buddies.



Jim DuFresne with a brown trout from near the town of Junin de los Andes in Argentina's Lakes District.

I caught and Marco released numerous trout in the 12-14 inch range and an occasional 15-16 inch fish.

When we came to a sweeper in the river we both instinctively knew there was probably a trout in the patch of quiet water it created. I managed to drop that fly right against the tree so it could float across the smooth surface. From behind I heard "best cast."

I smiled and might have turned to say something to Marco, but a dark, elongated shadow immediately darted from underneath the fallen tree and slurped in that fly. I set the hook and it ran hard downstream.

The fish never broke the surface, but I was within a few feet of my backing at one point. I patiently work line back in, only to watch the trout take it out again at will. At times it sat so still on the bottom of the river I thought the hook was snagged on a submerged log.

Then it would run again.

Finally, after 10 minutes, the fish tired, and I was able to work it in close enough for Marco to scoop it up with his net. It was a 22-inch brown trout, and for a minute or two, we both just stood there and gazed at the fish.

It was only the third time I had ever caught a 20-inch plus trout on a fly and Marco sensed this was a personal trophy for me.

He smiled and said, "day awesome, huh, Jim?"

I laughed at hearing another unexpected word of English and there was only one thing I could say.

"Day awesome, Marco. Day awesome."



To view the entire line of UV Craft resins that will be available at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo scan this QR code.

UV Craft *Affordable Resins*

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and Olsen used it an hour later at his fly-tying demonstration to finish off a nymph, telling the crowd of fly anglers, "It looks nice. I will have to continue to use this."

He has. Olsen also told Trahey that he likes the fact that UV Craft resins do not clump or crystallize from cold temperatures, like other brands do, when shipped in the middle of fly tying season, i.e., winter.

"Devin uses our resins and sells them," said Trahey. "He's our biggest wholesaler."

Five fly shops are now carrying UV Craft resins and several others have shown an interest in the product. While Trahey has no plans to give up his day job, he has found his path to ikigai.

He's saving the world – not to mention fly tiers a few bucks – one bottle of UV resin at a time.

A New DNR App for Your New Fishing License

It's a new year and a time to purchase a new fishing license. Last year the Michigan DNR released its Hunt-Fish app after months of development and testing. It was introduced as a convenient way for anglers to do that plus many other tasks.

"I like the app; it's easy to use and has everything right there," said Mike Koziara, owner of MQT Adventures and Guide Service, which provides guided fishing in the Upper Peninsula.

The new app will allow you to:

- Buy hunting and fishing licenses and trail permits.
- Report deer or fish harvests.
- Look up regulations and download guides and digests.
- Find your license history.
- Check out maps with multiple layers, showing features such as boat launches.
- Get timely notifications from the DNR.

The app is designed as a hybrid solution, meaning users need internet access for some features, including making purchases, reporting fishing harvests, downloading fishing guides,

and viewing a map of DNR boat launch locations.

"It has never been easier to get DNR licenses and information – download the free app and get a one-stop shop at your fingertips," said Tom Weston, DNR chief technology officer.

If you have any questions about the app, call the DNR licensing customer service staff at 517-284-6057 during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Downloading the New DNR App

Apple

If you have an Apple smartphone scan the adjacent QR code to download the free DNR app.



Android



If you have a Google Pixel or another Android smartphone scan the adjacent QR code to download the free DNR app.



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