



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

February 2023

## Finally It's Expo Weekend!



The stands were filled last year for a casting seminar at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

Sure, there's going to be a snow-and-ice storm in late March. This is Michigan. But raise a glass because we all survived another winter, and the 2023 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is just around the corner.

MFFC's showcase event will be March 11-12 at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd in Warren. For advance tickets, scan this QR code.



Hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the center will be packed with more than 100 vendors, two casting ponds, guest tyers, and endless seminars covering everything from casting to how to locate those trophy rainbows.

Our club also desperately needs volunteers for Set-Up days (Thursday and Friday, March 9-10) and during

the Expo. Most require only a couple of hours (you're going to be there anyway, why not put in a two-hour shift somewhere). And, of course, there's Teardown after the show. If you can pitch in, please scan the adjacent QR code or log into [www.volunteersignup.org/QT8BD](http://www.volunteersignup.org/QT8BD).



This issue of The Evening Hatch is packed with Expo coverage. Read who the headline speakers are this year on **pages 5-6**. A team of talented guest fly tyers is arriving to pass on tying tips, new patterns, and great recipes. Check out the line-up on **pages 7-8**.

Finally, noted fly fishing guide and birder Charlie Weaver died. Read a personal heartfelt remembrance of him on **page 11**.

Charlie Weaver



## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

**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, "South Carolina Fishing"

**4/1/23** Trout Tune-up, Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center  
**4/5/23** Speaker Meeting, Ashley Agler, "Getting into Small Water"  
**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; speaker: Ron Weiss, Hook & Hackle Company, Italian American Banquet & Conference Center 39200 5 Mile Road, Livonia, MI  
**5/11-14/23** New Member Outing

**6/14/23** Speaker Meeting, TBA

**7/12/23** Speaker Meeting, TBA

**8/9/23** Speaker Meeting, TBA

Beginning in January meetings were switched to Clarenceville Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia.

# Thanks to FFI Grant, MFFC Keeps Our Youth Tying

**By Mike Matuszewski**

The holidays are behind us, and the new fishing season is months away. That can only mean it's time to tie flies.

The GLC-affiliated Michigan Fly Fishing Club (MFFC) celebrates that season this year by dusting off the vises and pulling out mounds of hooks, hackle, and thread to introduce the art of fly tying to children and teens.

Volunteer MFFC members again will be instructing boys and girls (and, on occasion) their parents at outdoors-oriented events in metro Detroit this winter.

This year's program of youth fly-tying events is supported by a grant from Fly Fishers International, an umbrella organization of more than 300 fly-angling organizations across the United States and around the world.

Also supporting the effort is Michigan State's Project F.I.S.H, which provides fishing education opportunities to interested adults and youth from Michigan's many diverse populations.

First was the Ultimate Fishing Show in mid-January at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Outdoorama follows Feb. 23-26, also at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

The MFFC-hosted Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, the oldest all-fly fishing show east of the Mississippi, is March 11-12



*A MFFC volunteer helps a youth tie a wooly bugger while Dad watches.*

at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center in Warren.

At the Expo's Kid's Korner young anglers can learn to tie flies, learn to cast a fly rod, or create a one-of-a-kind T-Shirt.

The MFFC's volunteer tyers have been hosting kids at these events for years.

"I joined the Club 18 years ago, and youth fly-tying is one of my favorite events," said Jim Aitken, who heads up the Club's youth fly-tying efforts.

"There's a real thrill helping kids learn how to tie a fly. Many come back year after year, and it's always great to hear how some have caught fish on a fly they tied."

## The President's Message...

### *Clarenceville Middle School: Back Where We Belong*

Walking into Clarenceville Middle School in January, I smiled. My smile grew counting the 78 Club members in attendance at our first meeting back! Even the janitor smiled when he saw us coming in, AND we had a visitor! I was so happy to see everyone again in one place.

After addressing the Club calendar, volunteer opportunities, outings, and a few other orders of business (visit the website), Club member Jerry Regan kept everyone entertained with his opinions, one-liners, and insights.

Did you know polypropylene yarn is the only yarn to use? 6/0 thread is best? And that Jerry finishes his flies with house lacquer which he purchases by the gallon?

Coffee and cookies were enjoyed. Raffle tickets purchased. Winn won the first grand prize back – a REEL looker, in citron. Happily caffeinated and entertained, we slowly



*Sybil Hunter*



*Noted fly tyer Jerry Regan addressing the crowd during the January MFFC meeting at Clarenceville Middle School*

migrated our way back through the halls to the parking lot, ready to do it all again in two weeks, only next time with casting! I hope to see you there!

Tight wraps and happy whip finishes,  
Sybil

# Michigan Fly Fishing Club Business

## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting January 18, 2022

### Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:35 p.m.

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

*Absent:* J. Fischer

*Visitors:* C. Hunter, C. Summers

**Approval of Agenda** – Agenda from 1/18/23 approved

**Approval of Minutes** – Meeting-minutes for 12/14/22 approved.

### Officer's Report

**President:** S. Hunter

- The Hatch is ready and available.

**Vice President:** K. Lipp

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer:** B. Green

- We are on track for forecasting budget.
- Motion to approve January's Treasurer's Report.

**Membership:** J. Deputat

- 344 active members.
- Renewal letter mailed; 6 new members renewed.

**Corresponding Secretary:** J. Fischer  
Absent.

### Events and Outings

- *Ultimate Fishing Show* – successful, we tied flies with over 300 kids, passed out around 900 expo cards and had 15 people join the Club.
- *Outdoorama* – February 23-26, there are still open spots for volunteers
- *Expo* – Craig Summers reports everything is proceeding okay. There are still open spots for volunteers. Craig was contacted by someone regarding the future of the expo. The Board had a discussion.

### New Business

- Estate Sale – at February Activity meeting.

### Old Business

- Proposed new membership form reviewed.

**Adjournment:** 9:17 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)

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
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**Membership**  
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[membership@mffc.org](mailto:membership@mffc.org)

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

## At-Large Directors

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## Webmaster

**Sybil Hunter Club Webmaster**  
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It's Expo Time. This year's show is March 11-12 at the Macomb Community College.

# Michigan Fly Fishing Club News & Events

## Looking Good *MFFC Unveils New Display at Ultimate Fishing Show*



Right: At the Ultimate Fishing Show in January, the MFFC unveiled its updated trade show display sporting 15 new photos. Above: Club members prepping for the arrival of little tyers at the Ultimate Fishing Show in January. This activity is made possible by Showspan (who donated the booth space), Project Fish (who donated past materials), and FlyFishers International (who awarded the MFFC a \$1,000 grant for youth fly tying).

## Saturday Morning at Gates Lodge

Gates of Au Sable Lodge hosts free fly tying “classes” that are open to everyone, whether it’s your first fly or your 100,000th. They have extra materials, tools and vises and two instructors on hand that walk around the class helping tyers with their individual flies. You need to email RSVP to Josh@GatesLodge.com ahead of time to ensure a spot in the room.



Frank Klimko works on a Smoke Jumper fly (left) at Gates Lodge while Joyce Haxton (center) and Al Haxton (right) tie Hairy Drakes in preparation for this summer’s Montana trip.

## Volunteers Needed for Outdoorama

MFFC volunteers are needed for Outdoorama Feb. 23-26. This is a great opportunity for the Club to pass out flyers and generate interest for the upcoming Midwest Fly Fishing Expo on March 11-12, introduce people to the MFFC, and promote our mission of fly tying and casting. The MFFC fly tying booth for children is one of the most popular attractions at Outdoorama! Please contact Jim Aitken or Dave Nowicki with questions. Sign up by scanning the adjacent QR code or logging into: <https://volunteersignup.org/8LPA7>



Winn wins! Winn Collins (left) won the Citroen Orvis Hydros reel grand prize at the first meeting back at Clarenceville. Al Kowalkowski (right) won a Cabela’s fly tying tool kit at the second meeting in February.



# 2023 Expo Headliners *Gather Around & Learn a Trick or Two*

## Tim Flagler *Fly Tying Video Producer*

Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty has become fly fishing.

Flagler is best known for taking fly-tying videos to a higher level by incorporating professional video production standards and techniques at his in-home studio.

He is also a prolific producer, uploading a new fly recipe or instructional video almost weekly. He estimates he has created "well over 600 videos" dedicated to fly fishing, the reason his YouTube channel, [practicalpatterns.com](http://practicalpatterns.com), has more than 106,000 subscribers and 33 million views.

You can also hear his distinct voice on Midcurrent ([midcurrent.com](http://midcurrent.com)) and

Trout Unlimited's national website, as well as on the Orvis Learning Center ([howtoflyfish.orvis.com](http://howtoflyfish.orvis.com)). In addition, he has a regular column, *Beginner's Masterclass with Tim*



Flagler, in Fly Tyer magazine, which selected Flagler as "Fly Tyer of the Year" in the Winter 2022 issue.

## Landon Mayer *Fly Fishing Guide & Author*

Landon Mayer's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing selective quality trout on the fly. He enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge to fellow anglers and has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking and landing selective trout.



His passion for fly fishing has allowed him to make several noteworthy contributions to the sport on and off the water. This includes travels to fly-fishing-related organizations of the Mid-Atlantic, West, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and Southern states, as well as teaching through guided trips,

Many of Flagler's tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural species it represents and how it can be fished.

Flagler and his wife, Joan, also enjoy guiding year-round for Shannon's Fly & Tackle and host annual trips to Patagonia in the spring and to the Kootenai River in MT in the summer. He'll be hosting trips to Iceland starting in the fall of 2023.



Tim Flagler at the vice (right) and his Western Coachman fly that has attracted almost 20,000 views on his Tightline Video Channel.



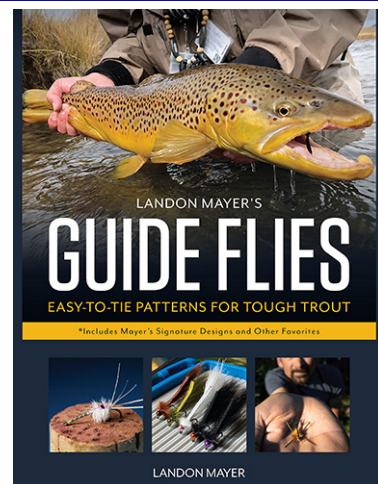
fly-fishing classes, presentations, and demonstrations of his unique techniques.

Mayer is a contributing writer for Fly Fisherman and High Country Angler magazines as well as Fly Fusion and American Angler.

He is also the author of a handful of books, his latest being *Guide Flies*.

As an ambassador in the fly-fishing industry, Landon represents several lines, including Simms Fly Fishing apparel, and is a royalty fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is also an advisory team member of Simms, Bauer Reels, R. L. Winston Rods, Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Fishpond, Yeti Coolers, Regal, Fly Craft, and Casio Pro Trek watches.

He has been guiding in Colorado full-time on the South Platte River for the last 21 years, and one full season on the Nak Nek River in Alaska. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and their four children in Florissant, Colorado.



## Jake Villwock *Fly Fishing Guide & Author*

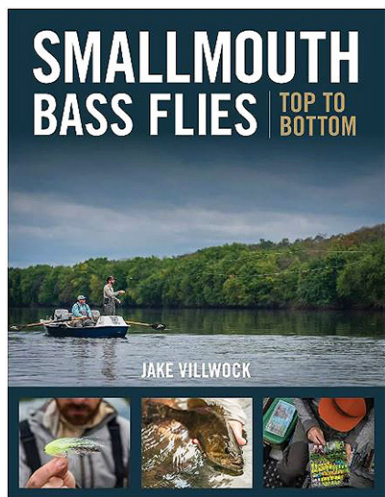
Jake Villwock has been an industry professional for over 14 years. Growing up in a commercial fishing family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, fishing has been part of his life from day one – so it should come as no surprise that he has chosen a career in the fishing industry.

After graduating from High Point University with a business degree, Villwock worked as a deckhand and fly fishing guide in Sitka, Alaska. He spent the winter dog sledding in both Fairbanks, AK, and Deep Creek, MD.

Moving back to the east coast in 2009, Jake worked for TCO Fly Shop at the Reading, PA, and Bryn Mawr, PA locations. Villwock has helped open and manage their newest location in Boiling Springs, PA.

After 8 years as a full-time retail manager with TCO, Villwock decided to start his own business. Relentless Fly Fishing, which will serve as a contract guide service for three of TCO Fly Shop's locations.

Villwock guides in Pennsylvania and New York for trout, smallmouth, and steelhead. He has a true passion



## Eric Naguski *Pennsylvania Bug Geek & Guide*

Eric Naguski has spent the last 40 years chasing trout around Pennsylvania with a fly rod in hand. He is the owner of Riseforms Fly Fishing guide service and also a guide for Relentless Flyfishing and TCO Flyshop. He currently lives and guides out of Boiling Springs in the Cumberland Valley.

Surrounded by its legendary Spring Creeks and their notoriously difficult trout. Naguski is a bug geek and loves to dry fly fish. To him, sharing the experience of successfully presenting a dry fly to a picky rising fish with a client is most often more fun than doing it himself.

Naguski has a biology degree in aquatic ecology and is heavily involved in conservation activities in the Cumberland Valley as a board member of Cumberland Valley TU. He also finds the time to serve on the board of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association working to preserve and promote the storied history of fly fishing in Pennsylvania.

Naguski enjoys fly fishing for saltwater fish and has caught fish on the fly from Massachusetts to Mexico, but his heart lies in the limestone streams of Pennsylvania. His book, *Favorite Flies for Pennsylvania* (Stackpole 2021) highlights an all-around fly selection for Pennsylvania waters. Naguski has also contributed to Keystone State Fly Fishing, Fly Fisherman magazine and Hallowed Waters Journal.



for warmwater species, it's hard to find him anywhere but a smallmouth river from early spring to late fall. When he is not rowing a boat, he is most likely crawling around a local spring creek chasing picky wild fish.

In addition to guiding, Villwock is the author of *Smallmouth Bass Flies Top to Bottom*, a Fulling Mills Signature tyer, blog-writer, contributor to Fly Fisherman and Eastern Fly Fishing magazines, and serves on various pro-staffs of leading industry companies such as Hatch Reels, Scientific Anglers, Simms Fishing, Clacka Craft Drift Boats, Scott Fly Rods, and Regal Vise. He lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



## George Daniel *National Fly Fishing Champion*

George Daniel has been chasing anything that swims with his fly rod since the age of six and still has the same passion 37 years later. He has competed at a high level for Fly Fishing Team USA, earning individual back-to-back US National Fly Fishing Championship titles and ranked as high as 5th in the World.

Daniel has also served as captain for Fly Fishing Team USA and Coach for the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. He has competed and won other regional and national fly fishing competitions over the years. At age 30, Daniel decided to give up competitive fly fishing and focus on what he enjoys most - teaching.

Daniel considers himself a teacher first and a fly fisher second.

He has authored three best-selling fly fishing books and has authored dozens of articles for national fly fishing publications, including Fly Fisherman Magazine. He continues to travel the county conducting lessons and workshops for private groups, corporations, and conservation organizations.

In 2022, Daniel decided to come back to coach the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. He's a brand ambassador for a number of fly fishing companies. He is currently the Director of the Joe Humphreys Fly Fishing Program at the Pennsylvania State University. Daniel currently lives on an old farm home- stead with his wife, two children, and Boykin spaniel.



*George Daniel, teach and fly fisher.*

# Expo Tyers *They'll Be Slinging Bobbins & Spinning Deer Hair*

## Dennis Potter

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



## Alan Ritt

It was growing up in Michigan that Alan Ritt's passion for fishing began. In 1989, he moved to Northern Front Range of Colorado where he and his wife Diana still reside. In 2022, he received fly tying's highest honor; FFI Buz Buszek Memorial Award. He is currently on the Pro-staff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Clear Goo Glue, Performance Flies, Pro Sportfisher, Diachi Hooks, and is a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. A guide at Colorado and Sylvan Dale Ranch, Alan is also the author of *25 Best Most Versatile Flies*. His website is [www.alrittflies.com](http://www.alrittflies.com).



## Steve Wascher

Steve Wascher was three when he caught his first trout on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third generation tyer from Greenhurst, NY. He received basic tying instruction and guidance from his father and grandmother. Steve is a well-rounded fly tyer who enjoys all aspects of the art, from creating a unique nymph, wet flies for steelhead, to his famed deer hair bugs. Steve also guides during the summer months for a wide range of warmwater species. His articles have appeared several magazines including in Hatches and American Angler. Steve is on the Pro Staff of Dyna King Vises.



## Eli Berant

Eli Berant has been surrounded by big water his entire life in Michigan. Fly fishing became his passion when he was given a tying kit at age 15. Even though he really likes the "traditional" fly fishing experience, he has taken the concepts of huge saltwater flies and applied them to his exploits on the Great Lakes. You can order his flies at [www.greatlakesfly.com](http://www.greatlakesfly.com).



## Tim Jacobs

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



## Joe Jackson

An avid angler and hunter since his youth in southern Indiana, Joe Jackson discovered fly fishing through Project Healing Waters after 14 years in the Army. He began tying in 2015 and placed second in a national fly tying contest two years later. His realistic art flies have been sent around the globe. He loves getting kids out on the water and behind a vise. His pro team affiliations include Regal Vise, Natures Spirit Fly Tying, Dette Flies, Partridge hooks, Willowemoc Creek Dist. Dr. Slick tools, Solarez Uv, J. Stockard fly fishing, Wade-Deep, Fly Trap Fly Holder, and Semperfly Fly Rods.



## Todd Schotts

Todd Schotts is a custom production fly tyer through Grizzly Flies by Schottsie located in Southeast Michigan. A long-time MFFC member, his Fly of the Month column ran for seven years in the Club's *The Evening Hatch*. In 2015 he was awarded MFFC's "Volunteer of the Year" award. Schotts also serves as the president of the Huron River Fishing Association. Two of his flies have been featured in Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine. In 2017, five of his patterns appeared in the spring issue of *Fly Fusion Magazine*. His Facebook page, Michigan Bobbin Slingers ([www.facebook.com/groups/653195868055505](http://www.facebook.com/groups/653195868055505)), is where you can watch him tie live while his fly tying videos appear on the Nor-Vise YouTube channel. His passion though, is creating new amazing flies, being a Bass Bum, and chasing panfish and trout. He is on the pro staffs for Anadromous Fly Company, Nor-Vise, and TFO Rods.



*Continued on page 6*



# One Liners & Two Flies *An Evening with Jerry Regan*

By Sybil Hunter

**P**ut a piece of worm on that, and you'll catch fish," said Jerry Regan joking at January's tying demo, where three of his Tricos were displayed, jabbed into a rubber worm clipped to a fly display. A lifetime tyer, Regan entertained as he tied, keeping the audience in stitches with his one-liners.

"If you got a question, fine. If not, fine. I'll just keep tying anyway," he said to a laughing audience. "That's why I'm an only child. My Mom took one look at me and said...Done."

"Good enough!" Shouted someone from the back.

Regan grew up along the Au Sable River near Grayling and mastered fly tying and fishing from Michigan legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchner. Today he is a prolific commercial tyer and a historian of the many flies that originated in Michigan.

Regan will be back as one of the guest tyers at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo on March 11-12 at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center. But MFFC members didn't wait for the Expo, packing Clarenceville Middle School for an entertaining evening with the legendary fly tyer.

During the entire presentation, Regan was tying, walking the audience through patterns the Hairy Drake and his Hex Spinner pattern.

"They got a lot of this thread that you can tow your car with," said Regan.



*Jerry Regan tying at the MFFC January meeting. Below Regan's first fly of the night was a Hairy Drake pattern.*



"Thinner thread keeps you from getting heavy-handed." He used 6/0 thread tied on thin, then tied in the tail. "You can't make a tail too long, but you sure can make it too short," said Regan. He uses floss for color because "It does not fray."

"I tie with my fingers. One thing about fingers is they don't fall off and get lost on the floor," said Regan.

He swears by polypropylene yarn. "Wool...chenille...try to keep that from sinking!" "

"I don't use a stacker," said Regan while tying in the deer hair that he aptly snipped off the hide on the table. "If I hear (a stacker being used), I holler out, 'Is there a woodpecker in here?'"

He also uses house lacquer, which he purchases by the gallon, to finish his flies.

Regan said to fish the Hairy Drake from the end of April into October Hex season is late June to early July.

"As soon as it gets dark, my favorite version of (the Hex Spinner is tied with) white deer hair, collared with white hackle, and white hen wings," said Regan. "People say, what do you think (the fish) see? I don't know, but I know what they see last!"

The audience laughed and then also ended the night seeing and admiring Regan's Hex Spinner.

## More Expert Tyers & More Patterns to Learn at the Expo

### John Satkowski

John Satkowski is a Toledo-based artist, commercial fly tyer, and fly tying instructor that focuses on the rivers and lakes of southeastern Michigan and northwest Ohio. John's trademark is the realistic flare of his patterns that is often achieved by his use of creative fly materials and unconventional tying styles. John is a pro tyer for Flymen Fishing Company, and JS Stockard, and a Commercial Tyer for Rainy's flies with patterns ranging from dry flies to saltwater flies.



### Glenn Weisner

Glenn Weisner is the owner of Glenn River Fly Co. in Sylvania, Ohio that specializes in "Tying Kits." Glenn was a friend of the late Chris Helm and attributes most of his tying capabilities to the information he has "stolen from Chris's warehouse of knowledge and experience." Glen can often be found fishing the trout streams of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. He enjoys tying mostly trout flies for small streams and has created and improved several patterns that can be seen on website: [www.glennriver.com](http://www.glennriver.com).





# TroutRoutes *More Trout Streams Than You'll Ever Fish*

By Sybil Hunter

Have you ever asked yourself, "Where's the closest trout stream?"

Zach Pope, founder of TroutRoutes has, and personally found, all 50,000 of them in the Lower 48. As well as mapping the streams, he included the contact information for every fly-fishing shop along them. And he finished by putting this wealth of information in one location -- Your cell phone.

Pope started this immense project by collecting public data from sources like OpenStreetMap.org and the National Hydrography Dataset from US Geological Surveys (*usgs.gov*).

Then he added the Geographic Information System (GIS) hydrological data from each state, Google Maps, personal map usage data, QGIS.org (an open source information system), images from Google Earth, and more, importing them to his computer as layers of information.

Realizing what an amazing collection of information he had collected for fly anglers, Pope continued to improve and tweak it and then packaged it in an app. Today the most extensive resources are available to the public via their smart phones and mobile devices.

The app includes real time flow rates along with elevation and color coded, current regulations for all 48 contiguous states. Zach has verified there are trout in each river within the app.

I had the privilege of interviewing him.



*Zach Pope of TroutRoutes will again be a vendor demonstrating his mapping technology at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center on March 11-12.*

## **How do you verify there are trout in each river?**

"We get asked that a lot. We work very closely with each state. In most states they have very thorough GIS sites. We actually work with the local agencies" getting additional information. However, "For example, South Dakota has nothing regarding trout, in that case I've been there a bunch of times to manually enter the information to the layers (of the software)."

## **Is there stocking information?**

"There are quite a few states that have stocking information in their systems. One that comes to mind is Pennsylvania. When it is available, we display that to the user." For Michi-

gan, the app includes all the regulations and state classifications. "The long-term vision is to show anything related to trout."

## **The onWater app says they recently added more streams. Now what?**

"They are a higher-level product. We've taken a more comprehensive approach...to truly understand where the trout are," said Pope. "onWater displays the top 50 versus the actual 50,000 available trout streams within the state of Michigan. There is so much more available."

## **Why is TroutRoutes sexy?**

"It is every trout stream. It is all the regulations. It is all the public access, and it is every access point you could ever be able to find," said Pope.

"What it is not? It is not social hot spotting. It is not user data."

So much consumer misinformation  
*Continued on page 12*



A free basic TroutRoutes trial is available. A full year subscription costs \$39.99 and keeps the world of fly fishing at your fingertips. Scan the adjacent QR code to find out more or go to:

**[troutinsights.com](http://troutinsights.com)**



# Camp Grayling Expansion Faces Swell of Opposition

The following is the latest on who has opposed the expansion and why. Please take the time to scan the QR codes and read their full statements. This is the most important issue facing fly anglers since the battle over instituting catch-and-release on the AuSable River in the mid-1980s.

## Anglers of the AuSable

A letter from the Anglers of the Au Sable to the National Guard Bureau opposing the massive expansion of vertical and horizontal airspace for low-altitude training over the eastern half of Michigan's lower peninsula.



## Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

A letter of opposition from the Sierra Club: 'The Air National Guard airspace proposal creates a potentially unacceptable risk of habitat damage, species disruption, and impacts on the recreational usage of trails and waterways. When paired with the Camp Grayling expansion proposal these proposed actions represent a huge increase in the usage of Michigan land and natural resources by the National Guard of many states and several foreign countries.'



## Grayling Township

The Grayling Township Board of Trustees pass a resolution stating they "cannot support the expansion at this time."



## A letter to Shannon Lotts, DNR Director

Please stop the expansion of Camp Grayling before a long lawsuit that will waste money that would be best spent to enhance and protect the environment. Your approval of the expansion would be career suicide. You would be seen as selling your soul for advancement. Your predecessor has been removed because he was opposed to the expansion. The mission statement of the DNR has been changed to make it read as being more expansion friendly. The law is something you cannot change. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, Sec 503 (1) states, "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

## Peter Albertson's Conservation Corner

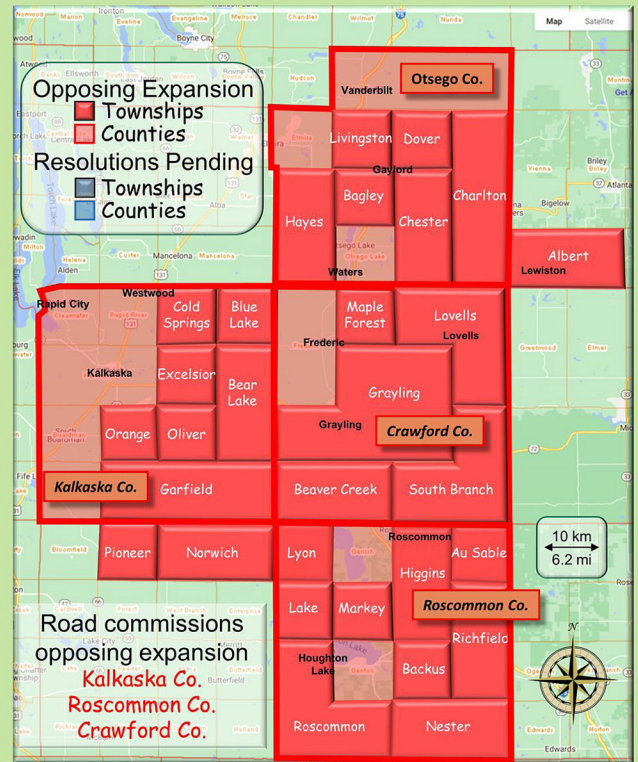
Thanks to many clubs, organizations and governmental institutions for their focus and responses regarding the proposed Camp Grayling and Alpena Airspace Utilization expansion issues, especially the letter sent by Joseph Hemming, President-Anglers Of The Au Sable (see above). Please recall how important it is for each of us to let all the unique de-

cision making entities know your thoughts on an issue. If you don't, others will.

**Other CC areas of interest:** Issues remaining in the courts: Line 5/6; Johnson and Creek discharge latest at [conservancyinitiative.org](http://conservancyinitiative.org); MI PFAS areas of concern continue to identified, Bridge Environmental Watch 2023-0117; EGLE Weekly Digest, 1/13/2023: Great Lakes Report and PFAS Report.

## Counties and townships that have passed resolutions opposing the expansion of Camp Grayling.

Data as of 5 Feb 2023



Map prepared by the Au Sable River Property Owners Association

property and surrounding property." Clearly this gift of land to the Guard adversely affects the state property itself (owned by the citizens of the state) as well as the surrounding privately owned property. The expansion would be detrimental to tourism and recreation as people do not recreate on military property.

Before you make any decision that could ruin your career, I humbly suggest that you get an advisory opinion from the AG's office to determine if this proposal is even legal.

*James P. Montagne, Attorney at Law*

## The News-Tribune

An article from the News-Tribune entitled "Quietest place in US hammered by military aircraft noise, study says. Why that matters"



Please contact me with issues of interest at [palbertsonsp@icloud.com](mailto:palbertsonsp@icloud.com) or cell phone 248-921-9103. Your input is encouraged...always!"



Pipeline 5 issues Great Lakes News



PFAS found in fish Lansing State Journal

# Renaissance Man *Charlie Weaver Loved Fishing & Everything in Nature*

## By Friends of Charlie Weaver

Charlie Weaver died at home last week after 80 years of a life fully-lived.

Born in Washington DC in 1942, Charlie grew up in Pennsylvania, lived for some years in Ann Arbor and a short time in western Canada, before moving to northern Michigan near Grayling to what became his permanent residence near his beloved Manistee River.

During his time in Ann Arbor, Charlie taught Special Education. He loved to teach and loved his students, but couldn't abide the paperwork and administration, prompting him to change careers; he moved north and became a fly-fishing guide.

He worked daily from the stern seat of the area's endemic Au Sable River Boats, guiding anglers from all over the world in search of wild trout on both the Manistee and the Au Sable Rivers.

Charlie was a true naturalist; indeed, one long-time friend describes him as a North Woods Renaissance Man. In addition to his love of fishing, he was an incredibly accomplished birder. His last known life list included as many as 950 species worldwide and 355 species in Michigan, placing him 55th on the eBirds top 100 birders in the state.

He was an accomplished arborist who knew every tree in the woods. And though he didn't hunt, he was a championship marksman in high school.

Not surprisingly, Charlie was a noted advocate for the environment through his efforts in stream improvement, water quality studies, and conservation.

He was a valued member and contributor to the Sierra Club. Throughout his life, he defended best those people, creatures and special places that couldn't defend themselves.

He loved to travel, often to see new birds or fish new streams. He visited New Zealand many times, as well as Australia and made many trips to Mexico and Central America.

Many will remember Charlie for his musicianship. He had a remarkably beautiful, strong, resonant, deep voice and played a number of instruments well. Though he mostly interpreted the music of others, he did write one song to protest the Line 5 pipeline.

He was also identified with Jim O'Dell, the "local ne'er-do-well" character in his friend Jay Stielstra's musical play, North Country Opera. Prior to the play's most recent tour in October, Charlie had played the role in all but one production over four decades.

As O'Dell, Charlie sang the play's iconic song, with lyrics that feel appropriate to the man as well as the character: *Hand me down my fly rod, hand me down my gun Dress me in my waders when*



*Spence Vanderhoof and Charlie Weaver birding in 2021*

*my days on earth are done. Dump me in some corner in Northern Michigan And wrap my stiffened fingers 'round a Pabst Blue Ribbon can. Oh, that will be Heaven for Me! Buried in the North Land, in God's country!*

Cremation has taken place. A gathering of Charlie's friends will be scheduled for this spring on the banks of the Au Sable. Charlie's forward-thinking instructions for this occasion were simple: "Good acoustic music, and no drums!"

For information on this gathering, contact [Josh@GatesLodge.com](mailto:Josh@GatesLodge.com). Friends can consider honoring Charlie's memory with donations to the Sierra Club, Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, Audubon Society of Michigan, or Anglers of the AuSable.

## *A Fly Named Lou's Blue*

In 1922, fly tyer Leonard Halladay was asked to create a mayfly pattern his friend saw hatching on Mayfield Millpond. Halladay did and named it after that friend, Charles Adams.

Today the Adams is the most recognized fly in Michigan. Mary Lou Rogala is hoping for the same fate in Colorado.

Last fall Rogala's friend, Jonathan Antunez of Westminster, just outside of Denver, created a blue-wing olive pattern he named after her; Lou's Blue. The next day they went fishing on the South Platte River at Deckers and the MFFC member was the first angler to catch a trout on it.

"I was very honored," said Rogala. "I met



*Mary Lou Rogala and her trout.*

Jonathan through Colorado Women Fly Fishers. He's just really into Tankara. He took us out a couple of days Tankara fishing. He's been a great friend. You just call him up and he's ready to go!"

On his Facebook page, Antunez wrote that the "simple spider-like pattern excels when used with a long rod. I work this fly on a downstream swing, sometimes gently jiggling, lightly tapping, or just let it slow swing near seams where BWO like to hatch."

### **Lou's Blue**

**Hook:** TMC 3769 Size #16

**Thread:** Veevus Olive 12/0

**Dubbing:** MFC UV Frogs Hair in Grey Olive

**Ribbing:** UTC Ultra wire in small silver

**Legs:** Small feathers from a Sage grouse neck or partridge

## TroutRoutes: Find a Stream, Cast for a Brookie

*Continued from page 10*

abounds, that Zach responds daily to social media accusations of hot spotting (providing GPS coordinates online showing the location of a specific fishing run). "I think the fly fishing industry is unique, in that there are a lot of hot topics within the industry."

***Tell me about the fly shops in the app.***

"After speaking in Michigan, I spent the next day visiting all the fly fishing shops in the area. There is a 950 shop curated list of all the fly shops in the country on TroutRoutes. There is a link to each shop. We even make some of them custom icons."

***Do you do a lot of windshield time?***

Pope laughed. "It was just me up until July 2021. It's been a pretty wild couple of months since then."

"I now have a team of eight...half of them are in mapping and half are in sales and marketing. I originally planned to drive from location to location but going from New Jersey to Cali-

fornia in a short time is unrealistic."

When I caught up with Pope, he was pacing the floor of a Best Buy looking for a replacement display monitor – his last one was crushed in his luggage by the airline grounds crew. "My next stop is Target, to get a blanket to wrap it in." Thus go the unique problems of owning your own business.

***Does your family join you?***

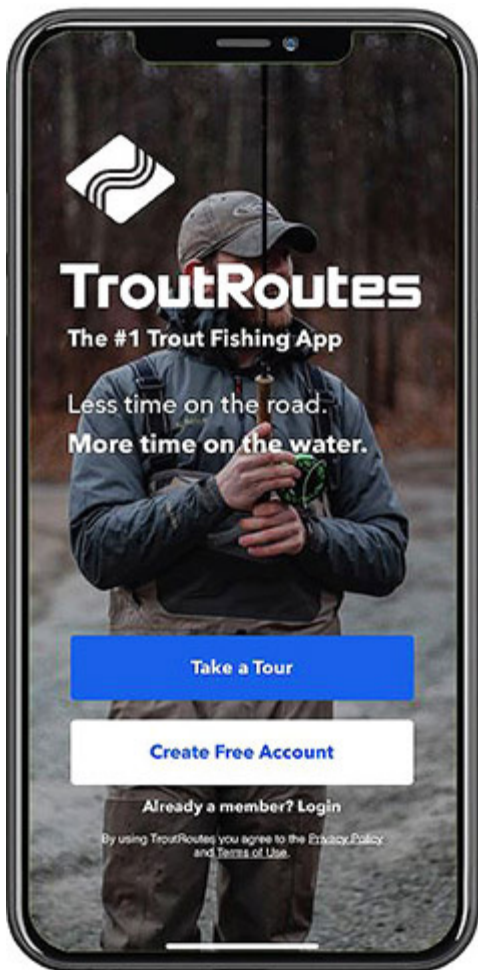
"My wife is a nurse. We have three kids – two, plus one on the way due in August!" said Pope. "My family will join me in California, New Jersey and maybe Michigan."

***Then when your little one is born?***

"I hope to take off a few months to camp and fish with the family. It's better than any corporate job."

"It's the busy season."

Pope will be in Boston few days, next Idaho, New Jersey on January 27th, and on until our Midwest Fly Fishing Expo March 11-12. Please stop by at Pope's booth when you get there and check out what TroutRoutes has to offer.



*The TroutRoutes fly fishing app.*



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