



Outdoors: Fly fishing show offers instruction, education, information



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The oldest and largest fly fishing show held east of the Mississippi River will be staged at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center in Warren, Mich., next month.

The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, now in its 46th year, takes place March 11 and 12.

A collection of expert fly tyers, casters, instructors, guides, and industry representatives will be part of the show, which will feature a number of demonstrations and a veritable fly fishing academy.

“We are so excited to be able to again hold this event,” Sybil Hunter, president of the host Michigan Fly Fishing Club, said. “We pride ourselves on bringing to Greater Detroit some of the most talented individuals in this sport.”

The lengthy list of guest speakers and tyers includes George Daniel, Landon Mayer, Tim Flagler, Jake Villwock, and Eric Nagusky.

“We’re especially pleased because this year’s headliners will appeal to a broader angling audience,” Hunter said. “Each excels in their own way in helping their fellow anglers become better, which adds to the enjoyment in this sport.”

The show promises to showcase dozens of free seminars about fly fishing techniques, fly tying and fly-fishing destinations, while also bringing together the rod builders, artists, outfitters, and conservation groups that are so vital to the sport of fly fishing.

Admission is \$15 per person, with those under age 16 admitted free. Two-day tickets are \$20. For more information, visit midwestflyfishingexpo.com.

■ **Decoy show:** The Ohio Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association, and the Great Lakes Decoy Association, have joined forces to stage a major show and sale March 18-19 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence, Ohio, 12 miles from downtown Cleveland. The 44th Vintage Decoys and Wildlife Art Show and Sale will feature vintage decoys, wildlife art, and amazing carved creations will make this the largest in-person collecting and carving event in the Midwest. Vintage and contemporary decoys, fish decoys and tackle, hunting and fishing memorabilia, and wildlife art will be offered for sale throughout the weekend. Last year's event attracted 225 carvers/artists from across the United States and Canada. Adults and students of all skill levels are encouraged to compete in the judged competitions at the event. For show hours, ticket prices, and more information, visit odcca.net and greatlakesdecoyassociation.com and find the organizations on Facebook.

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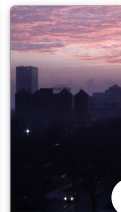
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■ **Midwest Open:** Organizers of the Midwest Open, which historically has offered the highest prize money of any ice fishing tournament in the nation, have announced that the event will not take place in 2023. Tournament director Tom Knutson cited “many, many reasons” for calling off the tournament, including the lack of ice on Irish Hills lakes. Last year's tournament on Wamplers Lake featured 97 two-person teams, and the winning duo of Chad and Rylan Hamlin of Jackson took home \$20,300.

■ **Outdoorama:** Michigan's oldest outdoors show will take place Thursday through Sunday at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. The show features educational seminars, entertainment and displays of boats, hunting and fishing gear, along with hiking and camping equipment. Visit [UltimateFishingShow.com](https://www.ultimatefishingshow.com) for show hours, admission prices, and more information.

■ **Biggest Week:** Registration is open for the Biggest Week in American Birding festival, which takes place May 5-14, at biggestweekinamericanbirding.com. This year's festival schedule features dozens of educational workshops, field trips, and informative keynote addresses by top birders and biologists. Registration and much more information on the extensive schedule are available at biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/summary-schedule.

■ **Ottawa Soil & Water:** National Agriculture Week will be celebrated and local producers honored at the Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District's Ag Breakfast on March 17. The event will be held at 8 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor and feature an all-you-can-eat scrambled eggs, pancakes, and sausage breakfast for \$5. The featured speaker will be Donald Kaatz, president of the Toussaint Shooting Club, who will talk about the history of the club and the newly formed Toussaint River Watershed Conservancy. The event, which funds scholarships in the agricultural community, is open to the public. Please RSVP by calling 419-898-1595 or sending an email to becky.simpson@ottawaswcd.com.

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