



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2023

Let the Trout Season Begin



Fly anglers select their flies and talk strategy on Opening Day in 2022.

Opening Day. What more do we need to say?

It's not a season opener; you could have been fishing the Holy Water throughout April or even earlier.

It's a ritual, a way to mark time and celebrate the arrival of another year of rigging up the rods, selecting the flies, and watching that trout come out of nowhere and take your Adams.

It's also a time to reflect writes Al Haxton on **page 2**, the reason MFFC has held an Opening Day Memorial Celebration since 2000.

Some of us have already been on the river, catching trout. You can check out this spring's Trout Tune Up on the Huron River on **pages 5-6**. Or, on **page 7**, read about Dave Oakley, who arrived

at the special catch-and-release opener with crayfish flies that he made with hair from his daughter's Barbie doll. We heard she wasn't too happy.

On **page 8**, Jeff McGowan treats us to a piece about historic Trafeh Lodge, a place that Paul Young once owned, and Ernie Schwiebert and Lefty Kreh, among others, have stayed at while fishing the Au Sable.

Scott Freeburg explains why he loves tying his version of the Sparkle Minnow on **page 9**, one of the most versatile flies in his box, and our Camp Grayling coverage on **page 11** includes a passionate letter from Monty Bolis that the land and rivers the National Guard wants to access is your land and water. Fight for it or lose it.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

4/12/23 Board Meeting, Virtual
4/19/23 Activity Meeting, Scott Freeburg, guest tyer, Sparkle Minnow
4/22/23 MFFC Member School, Four-Season Pavilion at Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth
4/22/23 Scout School, Multi Lakes
4/29/23 Opening Day & Remembrance, Gates Au Sable Lodge

5/3/23 Activity Meeting
5/6/23 Youth Fly Fishing School, MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center
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, WaWaSum Lodge

6/14/23 Speaker Meeting, TBA, Northville Community Center

7/12/23 Speaker Meeting, Kelly Neuman, Northville Community Center

8/9/23 Panel Meeting, TBA, Northville Community Center

Meetings are held at Clarenceville Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia. The location of June through August meetings are at at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St, Northville.

Al Haxton: *A Time to Remember Before the Trout Season Begins*

I sit here, looking at snow and wanting it gone. The river in front of my home is high and very dark.

The local weather prediction is for warmer temps over the next few weeks; that sure will be nice. Maybe the snow will melt and be off my lawn.

It's less than four weeks until the traditional Opening Day of Trout Season. This year it falls on April 29.

Once again, the Michigan Fly Fishing Club will host another get-together at Gates AuSable Lodge, in the big tent in the field across from the fly shop. And once again, we will share stories of good friends and fishing buddies we have lost.

It's not a sad occasion, but a very enjoyable, friendly one to shed a few tears and talk about those we miss. This year marks our 23rd Opening Day Memorial Celebration; I was pleased to attend each one.

All this started in 2000 as a memorial to Bud Crudder. Bud was a good friend who passed in 1999, at far too young an age. Two ladies who were im-

portant to Bud, Kathy Gross and Claudia Alexander, put the event together for Club members and friends.

The Board of Directors was there and decided this was something our Club needed to continue.

So here we are 23 years later still celebrating. Since the start, we have remembered so many folks from our Club and others that impacted

our fishing in so many good ways.

This year we will remember more folks that impacted us and brought smiles to our faces. As in years past, we will meet up at Gates in the big tent, so share some of our famous Bloody Marys, maybe some mimosas, and some morning snacks too.

We are fortunate our great bartenders will return for a third year. The event starts around 9 a.m., ending at 11 a.m. so we can all go fishing for the most beautiful fish in the world -- the Michigan brook trout.



Al Haxton



Club members with Bloody Marys at Gates.

Join us and raise a toast to friends remembered.
See you there.

The President's Message...

Grab Your Fly Rods! Finally It's Fishing Season

We have four seasons in fly fishing: tying season, volunteer season, fishing season, and salmon season. We have officially entered fishing season.

April Fool's Day was the Trout Tune Up. The joke was on anglers. What started as a temperate sunny morning turned into a very cold monsoon.

Early risers caught the fish. Coffee was devoured. Dave Oakley tested his swimming skills. And there were sightings of the elusive White Wooly.

There is a week off to plan, then Member School and Scout School take place on April 22. Chris has the new Plymouth venue booked with Members and volunteers alike. Dave has a good rotation of Scouts wanting to earn their Fly Fishing badge at Multi Lakes. (Who

knew the MFFC was so amazing that we could staff two educational events on one day?) Thank you, volunteers!

We end the month April 29 with the Opening Day Remembrance at Gates Lodge. Who doesn't enjoy a Bloody Mary with their donut on a frosty morning with friends? Last year we had a surprise visit from

a founding member. I hope to toast Zeke again this year.

In May, the Club hosts Youth School, the WaWaSum New Members Outing, the Club Banquet, and the Smallmouth Bass Outing. July continues with another WaWaSum Outing and the Club picnic. Frankly, we rock.



Sybil Hunter



MFFC President Sybil Hunter with Carolyn Bennet and Marylou Rogala at the Trout Tune Up.

In between it all, there are speaker meetings and other fun events. But now is the time to get your fly fishing in before the weather chills and salmon season starts.

Tight wraps and happy whip finishes, Sybil Hunter

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting March 8, 2023

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m.

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

Visitors: C. Hunter

Approval of Agenda – Agenda from 3/8/23 approved.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting-minutes for 2/8/23 approved.

Officer's Report

President: S. Hunter

- Wawa Sum new member outing needs a chairperson. Discussion of the needs for member to provide mentoring on 6 or 7 topics that weekend. Possible members to support a chairperson is Terry Herron and Art Mikkola.
- Hatch is coming out as soon as board minutes are provided.
- Member School – Chris Hunter to chair. Still working on locating a suitable venue.
- Received our raffle licenses for the Expo, Banquet and Picnic.

Vice President: K. Lipp

Nothing to report.

Treasurer: B. Green

- For the Expo some booth rental received so far expecting more.
- We are still tracking to our forecasted budget.
- Current month's treasurer's report presented. Income for 2023 is ahead of last year. Raffle expenses tracking to budget.
- Starting to gather input for 2023 / 2024 budget.
- Motion to approve February's treasurer's report.

Membership: J. Deputat

- Current: 368 active members.
- We have gotten 27 new members so far this year.
- Dues income, conservation, education, operational expense funds received.

Corresp. Secretary: J. Fischer

- There were 9 eblasts sent since the previous BoD meeting, to a total of 2,552 recipients, with a read-rate of 74%.

Events and Outings

- Outdoorama: February 23 through February 26. First 2 days were slow. 250 kids tied for the weekend. About 800 Expo postcards passed out.
- Banquet: Ron Weiss will be our speaker. Tickets will be available at our next meeting for \$45.00 per person. Tickets will also be available for sale at the Expo. Sybil has items for the Banquet.
- Expo: volunteering sign up is going good. Still need volunteers for setup and teardown.

New Business

- Casting Committee - Chris Hunter presented Path Forward Casting Committee (Packet is in the board packet for March). Approve the recommendation for the Gym being renamed "The Fly-Casting Training and Education Center." To help anyone get to Casting Instructor level. Tentative approval of the Pathway forward.

First motion that the gym be used for the purposes reference by the Casting Committee passed unanimously. Second motion board reaffirm the support of the Casting Committee and regarding the Pathway Forward passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Estate sale raised \$2000.00 for conservation fund.

Adjournment: 8:51 p.m.

2022 - 2023 Officers

President:
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Michigan Fly Fishing Club News & Events

MFFC Attracts New Members from Across the State, Even Ohio



Mike Hetzler, MFFC member from Auburn Hills landed this 12-inch steelhead from the Clinton River'

How to Catch a North Carolina Trout

Anthony Ruella was MFFC's March speaker, with a presentation about the types of waters, hatches, fish populations, locations, and rivers for the four distinct regions of Western North Carolina. Anthony has graciously provided a copy of his detailed travelogue for MFFC members. If you are interested in how to catch Anthony's standard-sized 30-inch brook trout in Western North Carolina, please email Sybil at evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com for a copy of the information.

Let's Put Ron Spitler in the Hall of Fame

By Sybil Hunter

Our Club was recently contacted by the estate of Ron Spitler, a retired MDNR officer that passed away on June 17th, 2022. Ron was the first Urban Fisheries Specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

In his records was a MFFC award of recognition dated March 7, 1984. We have been asked to help gather information on how he worked or had contact with the MFFC as part of an application for induction into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall Of Fame.



Ron Spitler

The Hall of Fame induction is an opportunity to recognize Spitler for the work he was so passionate and dedicated to doing for all anglers and the State of Michigan. It's very possible the MFFC award may be for Spitler's tireless effort to convince the DNR and the Lake Orion Lake Association to install a drawdown tube to supply cold water to Paint Creek.

After ten long years, Spitler completed this project in 1991, which greatly improved the water quality in Paint Creek and provided fly anglers with a rare trout fishing opportunity in Southeast Michigan.

If anyone has any information regarding Ron Spitler, his interactions with the MFFC, or the award he received, please contact me at president@mffc.org. If you want to see a copy of the award, let me know.

New member Mike Hetzler of Auburn Hills attended his first MFFC meeting on March 15, where Club President, Sybil Hunter, did an impromptu interview of the five new members in attendance that evening. Setting the bar high, Mike had the sole fishing report.

"What have you people been doing?" Sybil asked. "Working a fishing expo?"

Mark's 12-inch steelhead was caught in the Clinton River in March on a copper bead-head, black hackle, size 18 fly he tied himself. He was using a 10-foot, 3-weight rod he built from a CRB blank.

Way to go Mike! Anyone for a Clinton River outing?

MFFC Members Welcome New Members

Another new MFFC member in attendance! Mark Langenderfer of Rochester Hills, said his son Luke, now an adult, was first introduced to Fly Fishing through our Youth School program decades ago. Welcome back!

Please reach out to our new members and welcome them. Contact information is available on the current membership roster, or from Jerry Deputat at membership@mffc.org.

New MFFC Members since March:

Dustin Tabert, *Whitmore Lake*

Dale Lee, *Livonia*

Charlie Elmer, *St Clair Shores*

Steve Sicklesteel, *Grosse Pte Farms*

Gregory Urbanek, *Bloomfield Hills*

Steven Barnosky, *Southgate*

Marc Kellum, *Macomb*

Wayne Meech, *Shelby Twp*

David Churchill, *Lapeer*

Steve Hanson, *Maumee, OH*

Joshua Queen-Cooley, *Warren*

Lauren Queen, *Warren*

Glen Eberly, *Bloomfield Hills*

James Mazur, *Mt Morris*

Marcel Mann, *Battle Creek*

Paul Bukowski, *Sterling Heights*

Steven Devolder, *Ft Gratiot*

Allissa Brooks, *Rochester Hills*

Tony Rutkowski, *Grosse Ile*

Elisa Rutkowski, *Grosse Ile*

Thomas Pyden, *Novi*

Eric Hirzel, *Howell*

Gilbert Herman, *White Lake*

Jeff Hibbard, *Fayette, OH*



They Put, We Take *MFFC Members Get a Jump on the Trout Season*



Above: A DNR Fisheries hatchery staff release adult broodstock trout into the Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area.

Below: Steve Isgrigg packing up in the rain after a successful morning on the Huron River.



By the Evening Hatch & the Michigan DNR

Many MFFC members showed up for this spring's Trout Tune-Up at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center in Commerce Township before 8 a.m. and arrived to dry weather and good fishing. By 11 a.m., many packed up in the steady rain and headed home. The Hot Stove group and others were swapping fish stories and warming up with a hot cup of coffee in the Education Center yurt.

A three-hour tune-up for whatever MFFC members will face on the traditional Opening Day of Trout Season on April 29.

Steve Isgrigg, one of the anglers who arrived before the early morning rain, caught two browns, five rainbows, hit two tails, and lost a couple before calling it a morning. He had good action using a size 20 black no-see-um fly.

The pre-season trout fishing on the Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area or Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area was courtesy of the Michigan DNR, which stocked approximately 3,000 adult trout in late March, fish that were retired broodstock from the state's fish hatcheries.

The Huron River, downstream of the Proud Lake Dam in Oakland County, received approximately 1,200 brown trout and 1,200 rainbow trout, ranging



A fly angler with a tailless rainbow, an adult broodstock trout that was released into the Huron River for the early season trout opener.

from 14 to 19 inches.

Spring Mill Pond, in Livingston County, received approximately 220 brown trout and 400 rainbow trout, also ranging in size from 14 inches to 19 inches.

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And then the rain came. Fly anglers fishing on the banks of the Huron River in Proud Lake Recreation Area on April 1.

Trout Tune-Up; Warming Up Before Opening Day



The Hot Stove League; staying warm and telling tales in the Yurt.

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The DNR also stocked 1,550 yearling rainbow trout at the sites: 900 in the Huron River and 650 in Spring Mill Pond. Anglers should be aware that some of these yearlings will be smaller at first than the minimum size limit of 8 inches.

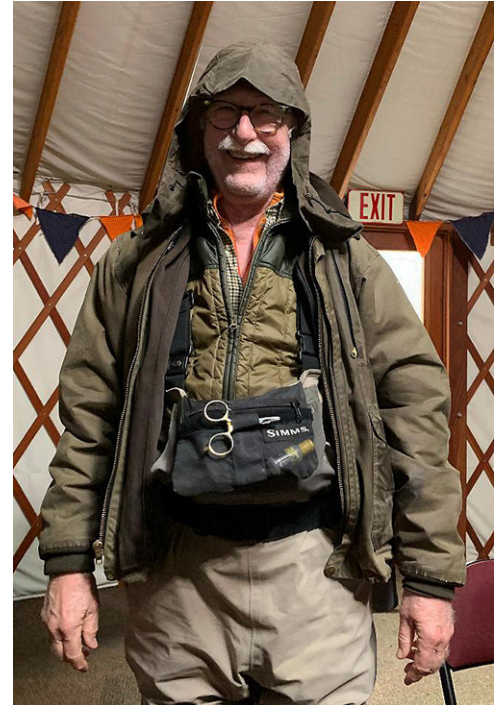
Special regulations apply for anglers interested in targeting these trout:

The Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing from October through March. April 1 through April 28, anglers are limited to flies only, catch-and-release fishing. The exception is that children under 12 during this period may keep one trout that meets the 8-inch minimum size limit and is under 12 inches.

Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing through

March 31. April 1 through April 28, anglers are limited to artificial lures only, catch-and-release fishing.

On both bodies of water, beginning April 29, 2023, all baits are allowed, and anglers may keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.



Peter Albertson survived the rain in his vintage oilcloth hood.



Anglers wading the Huron River during the early trout season that opened April 1.



The White Woolly: We Saw & We Believe

Forget Sasquatch. On April Fool's Day, the Trout Tune Up had White Woolly sightings.

Last spring the stocked trout's flavor of the week was the white woolly bugger. By the end of the day, everyone was talking up the White Woolly.

This year he showed up in person.

Bob and Nick Solanick take their first father son fishing trip of the season at the MFFC's Trout Tune Up.

Hearing the weather report, they arrived early before the cold rain set in. First stop. Yurt. Bursting in upon arrival, Nick, with his white woolly wig, announced, "The White Woolly is here!" to an anticlimactically empty yurt.

Unphased, Nick and Bob hiked the half mile to the dam to fish. White Woolly sightings were reported in the forest between the yurt and the water. People could see the white tufty hair peeking through as he walked between the trees.

Nick, The White Woolly, burst into the yurt again, "The White Woolly is here!" This time arriving to a warm reception of coffee and laughter.

Left: Nick Solanick, the White Woolly, and his father Bob Solanick.



Where's My Doll? *Oakley Turns His Daughter's Barbie into a Crayfish*

By Sybil Hunter

This year's Trout Tune Up was held on April Fool's Day. We were all there, but the joke was on us – pouring rain. A few Club members woke up early enough to venture past the yurt and hit the water before it began raining at 8 a.m.

One of them was Dave Oakley. Casting his crayfish pattern to the newly stocked trout, he eventually waded into the river. One misstep and suddenly, his waders filled with water dragging him in for a swim.

He extracted himself and, completely soggy, started the half-mile hike back through the woods to his truck when it started to rain. Heavily.

Passing the yurt (full of people by now), he dug out the old clothes he kept in his truck for just such an emergency, did a quick change, topping it off with his official Cedar Point rain slicker, before popping into the yurt...just in time for Chris and me to arrive.



Above: Dave Oakley's brown trout that he caught in the Huron River during the Trout Tune Up and the green woolly bugger (left) that he landed it on.

Barbie from the cast-off pile, shaved her head, and tied this little gem. The infamous Barbie Hair Crayfish was born.

"I got an order for 10 of them," said Oakley.

"I did have a hit on my Barbie Doll Crayfish before I got wet!" said Oakley.

I snapped a photo. He was still doing the wet, clingy underlayer dance. "That's going to end up in The Hatch embarrassing me isn't it?" said Oakley from under his bucket hat.

Editor's Note: You Bet! These are the kind of stories we love!

As he was drying off by the warm coffee pot, Nick Solanak began asking Oakley about his crayfish fly. Last year's favorite was the white woolly bugger, but this year, trout seemed to favor crayfish.

On his phone Oakley pulled up a picture of crayfish flies with orange material around the body. "What do you call it?" someone asked. "The Barbie Hair Crayfish," said Oakley.

"No, what is the orange material?" And Oakley said, "Barbie hair."

It turns out Oakley grabbed his daughter's

"Where'd you get the material?" he was asked again. From the Barbie stash, only this time, he shaved all their heads. "My oldest daughter was laughing," said Oakley. His youngest, well... not so much.

By mid-afternoon, Oakley ventured back out into the rain, yellow slicker and all, to resume fishing. This time he landed a trout on a green woolly bugger.



Dave Oakley survived the weather in his official Cedar Point rain slicker



Dave Oakley's Barbie Hair Crayfish.



Paul Young, Moose Antlers, and Purple Flies

By Jeff McGowan

I don't think Hank done it this way," Waylon Jennings sang on the radio as I pulled into the drive at Trafteh Lodge.

I had never heard of the place until a couple years ago. I was familiar with the lodge only because I had drifted my boat past it hundreds of times over the last 20 years.

To me, and to many of the AuSable guides, this place was "Moose Antlers," the place with the two-story boathouse with moose antlers on top.

Randy Lane, a friend and long-time Michigan Fly Fishing Club member, had invited me to fish with him from there.

Most MFFC members have never met him. Randy is originally from Indiana, but has since retired to Harbor Springs. He was a regular participant in the Smallmouth Outing when it was held at Wilderness State Park. He hosted the memorial for Dave Begley last summer.

Randy is now the Lodge Master at Trafteh, which means that he handles



Among those who have owned Trafteh Lodge were Paul Young and the Wakeley Family. There is currently an opening for a another partner.



Jeff McGowan

a lot of the day-to-day operations.

The lodge was built in 1940, although some documents suggest it was earlier. Abstracts show transfers from U. S. territory under Ulysses S. Grant to various owners as the Wakeleys, Michelsons, and Paul Young.

Many MFFC members are familiar with Paul Young as the Detroit-area rod maker and conservationist. According to Sherm Shultz,

a 39-year partner in the lodge, Young used to stay in an upstairs room of the boathouse even after he sold the place.

Randy and Sherm admit that "Trafteh" is an unusual name for a lodge, but explain that the name is an acronym based on the names of the individuals who formed it as a partnership in 1973. (By the way, there is currently an opening for a partner in the Lodge. Randy and Sherm can be contacted at lodgetrafteh@gmail.com.)

There have been many famous visitors to the lodge over the years, including Ernie Schwiebert, Art Neumann, and Lefty Kreh.

According to Sherm, Schwiebert was "pompous but could back it up." Ernie fished the Hendrickson hatch and "picked up fish after fish while we were working hard."

Those who know me are aware that I am a traditionalist when it comes to fly patterns. My flies need to be tied according to traditional patterns and tied with natural materials.

So it came as a surprise when Randy handed me something called a "Purple Daze."

I had previously refused to tie or fish a Purple Haze and this fly didn't look much different. But Randy was rowing the boat and I was on a busman's holiday, so I couldn't refuse.

Continued on page 9



To many anglers and AuSable guides, Trafteh is best known as "Moose Antlers" due to the moose antlers on its two-story boathouse.

Fly of the Month *Scott Freeburg's Versatile Sparkle Minnow*

By Scott Freeburg

I just love this fly. There are many variations you can probably find in books and on YouTube but since I've been coerced into sharing mine, I hope you like it. If not, no big deal, stick with what works for you.

My first opportunity to fish this fly was in the spring of 2016. I was on a guide float through Gate's Lodge and the day was cool and overcast with light rain.

The water level in the AuSable was up and my guide, Matt, suggested we throw streamers for a while. These weren't big fly's and were pretty easy to cast on a 5-weight rod.

I remember by the end of the day I'd had 24 follows, some of which I hooked and some even landed.

I think most of the Sparkle Minnows we used Matt had tied during the

winter. He even gave me a few at the end of the day.

So, I started tying these in the winter of 2017 and brought a few on the club's White River Arkansas trip. One day I had been throwing big streamers all morning and managed to boat one nice 23" brown trout.

After lunch I was feeling sore in the shoulder so I asked my guide, Kelly, if he'd mind me putting down the 8 weight and using a 6-weight rod instead.

He wasn't set up to indicator fish so we improvised with some of the small sparkle minnows I had brought along.

Wow, what a surprise - it worked so well. I think I caught at least a half dozen browns and rainbows that afternoon, ranging from 18 to 21 inches.

So next I brought some Sparkle



Scott Freeburg

Minnows to the Club's smallmouth outing. Yep, worked pretty good there too. If you've been on that outing you know that once you start catching fish it's hard to keep count.

So now the sparkle minnow is always found in whatever fly box I happen to be carrying.



Sparkle Minnow *Featured Fly April 19 Activities Meeting*

Hook: Size 6-8, Heavy 2x nymph

Thread: GSP (white)

Bead: Standard/Tungsten (color to match) with weighted wire to anchor by eye

Tail: Marabou with Flashabou (multiple combinations)

Body: Ice Dubbing in dubbing loop (multiple combinations)

How Would Paul Young Have Caught This Trout?

Continued from page 9

Almost immediately, I caught a nice fish as we passed Black Bend. And it wasn't much longer that I got another one.

I refused to believe that it was the fly. In my mind it had to be because of good technique.

But then I looked at the fly again. "Well," I said, "It does actually look like a Robert's Yellow Drake - but dyed purple. And it is all-natural material. And maybe the fish think it's an Iso. So I guess it's OK."

I found out later that the fly was conceived by Josh Greenberg at Gates Lodge and tied by John Sheets.

It was a great day fishing, with a good fly, with good friends, at a classic lodge, and I caught a few fish. But I couldn't help thinking, "I don't think Paul Young done it this way."



The Purple Daze dry fly.



Jeff McGowan landing a trout on a Purple Daze.



Women Only! *Leave the Husband at Home & Go Fly Fishing*

By The Evening Hatch

Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited Chapter along with Mer-shon-Neumann Heritage Chapter of Trout Unlimited is staging a Women on the Water Fly Fishing Clinic May 12-14. The women's only weekend is being held at the Pere Marquette River Lodge, an Orvis Endorsed Outfitter with a fully stocked fly shop.

The River Lodge is located along the banks of one of Michigan's most prized blue-ribbon trout streams – the Pere Marquette River in Baldwin. All experience levels are welcome as there will be opportunities to review fly fishing basics at the lodge or to head to the river on your own.

The cost is \$500 per person and includes two nights' lodging, one guided float trip, and most meals, including a special meal on Mother's Day. Scan the QR code to sign-up on line or for more information.

The Michigan DNR will also be offering fly fishing classes this summer at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting & Fishing Center in Mitchell State Park in Cadillac on July 8-9 and again July 22-23.

These classes are designed for beginners and will cover the basics of fly fishing, including demonstrations and instruction for various fly casts and instruction in fly selection based on the species being targeted.



*Women on the Water
Fly Fishing Clinic*



*DNR Beginner's
Fly Fishing Clinic*



*Michigan TU Youth
Fly Fishing Camp*

The cost is \$40 per person. Scan the QR code to sign-up or for more information.

And finally, there are spots available for the 2023 Michigan TU Youth Conservation and Trout Camp. The camp will run from June 18-22 and is open to

any individual 13-16 years old that has not previously attended.

Please visit www.michigantucamp.org to submit your application before the April 31st deadline. Questions can be directed to the camp director at admin@michigantucamp.org.

Time Is Running Out To RSVP MFFC Banquet Tickets

The MFFC Banquet is May 17 at the Italian American Club, 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia with doors opening at 5:30.

You only have a couple of weeks to RSVP for the banquet, as the deadline for obtaining tickets is May 3.

Jon Bada will be at the club meetings and Opening Day Saturday morning at Gates Lodge, with tickets at hand. If that doesn't work, you can contact Bada via email (jonbada@hotmail.com) or phone (248-840-2983) to arrange to pick up your tickets at the banquet's Will Call desk.

This year's guest speaker is Ron

Weiss, owner of the Hook & Hackle Fly Shop in western Pennsylvania. Weiss will have a tying session with a limited number of seats from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the day of the banquet. Weiss will tie his variation of an elk hair caddis hybrid, cinnamon ant, and a unique fly with a story behind it.

The cost for dinner is \$45 per person, and the meal choice is New York strip steak, chicken marsala, roasted salmon, or veggie lasagna. The fly-tying session is \$15 per person and



includes a pizza/salad/pop lunch. The cost for dinner and the tying session with Weiss is \$60.

Camp Grayling

You Own The Rivers & Land; Fight for Them

Editor's Note: The following is a letter sent out by Monty Bolis. Bolis is a founding member of Camp Grayling Expansion, a group fighting the National Guard's proposed enlargement of their training facility. Sybil Hunter spoke to Bolis in March.

We all support our military and want to give our troops everything they need to receive the best training possible. But the proposal of Camp Grayling to more than double the size of its training area from 148,000 acres to 310,000 is unjustified. Camp Grayling is already, overwhelmingly, the largest National Guard training area in America. Any National Guard in any other state would be thrilled and grateful to have a 148,000-acre training area. Camp Grayling is already tens of thousands of acres larger than all other National Guard training areas across the country.

The proposed expansion is not about offering a better training environment to our National Guard. It's about privatizing our state land. Camp Grayling wants the additional State land so that it can sublease it to private industry. Essentially, Camp Grayling's plan is to turn Northern Michigan into a nationally recognized and utilized testing ground where unproven products, weapons, and technologies will

"The opposition to the proposed Camp Grayling expansion has grown dramatically since we spoke to your group. We are fighting for something we believe in.

Regardless of where you live in Michigan you own that state land and those public rivers as much as anyone does.

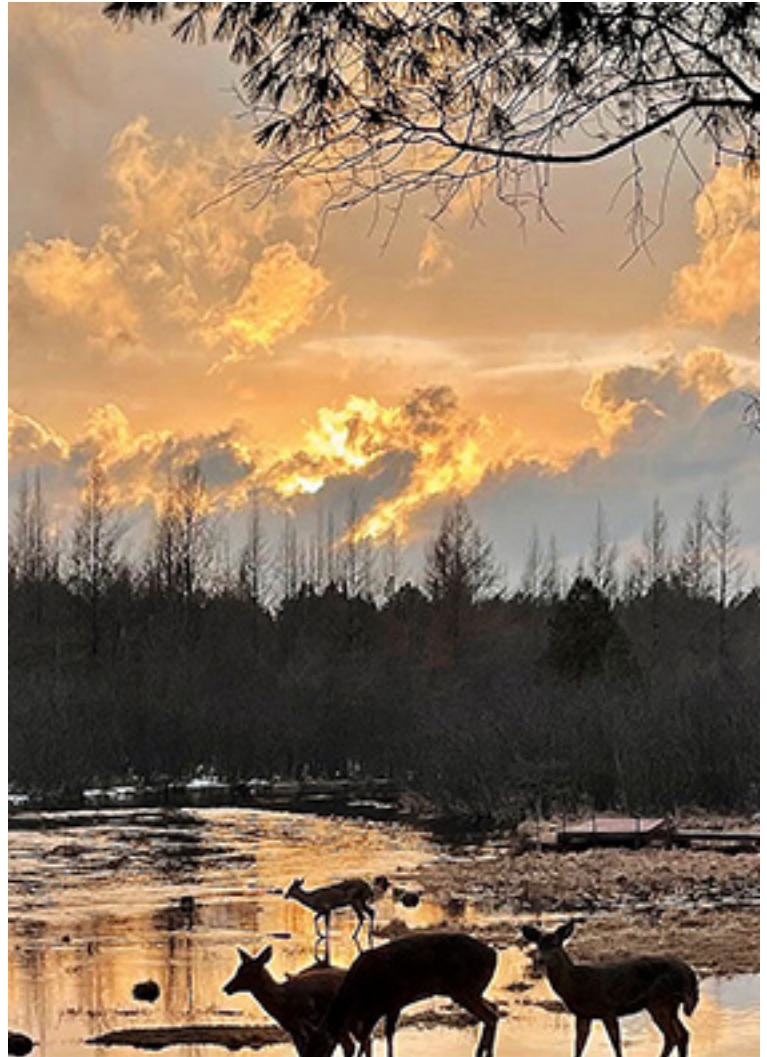
When you don't live up here, your time spent up here is even more valuable. You don't want those six weekends a year ruined by the military."

Monty Bolis

be tested and developed by private industry on our state land and in our iconic rivers.

The breadth and influence of the opposition movement continues to grow and has really been gaining momentum. As of today (April 4, 2023), we have 57 different local governments spanning an area from mid-Michigan all the way to the Mackinaw Bridge that officially voted to oppose the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling. To date, 287 elected local officials have voted nearly unanimously to oppose the proposed expansion. And very honestly, any success that we've had in attempting to defeat the proposed expansion can be attributed to the many sporting, fishing and environmental clubs and groups for doing their part to help spread the word. We are very grateful for the support that we have received from fishing clubs like the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

It's unconscionable that our highest-ranking state politicians, certain appointed state executives, and National Guard leaders think that it's o.k. to further militarize and privatize our pristine State forests, lakes, and rivers. It should be intu-



Monty Bolis has a place on the Manistee River in the area that the National Guard wants increased access to for training.

itive that if there is one state in the country not to further militarize, it's the Great Lakes State.

The single best way for concerned citizens to help is to e-mail DNR Director Shannon Lott (LottS1@michigan.gov) and urge her to reject the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling in its entirety. Our position is "Not One More Acre!"

Please continue to help spread the word about the proposed expansion. If your members haven't already, please encourage them to join our Facebook group called "Camp Grayling Expansion." What started out as just four of us forming a Facebook group for the purpose of spreading the word, has now evolved into a grassroots group of 7,300 members who are actively engaged in helping to defeat the proposed expansion.

All the best,
Monty Bolis
Camp Grayling Expansion



Scan the QR Code to join the Camp Grayling Expansion Facebook page

Camp Grayling: Not One More Acre!

230 Square Miles Is Enough

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from a letter to the Michigan DNR by Jason Teddy of 230 Is Enough.

Recently Director Lott of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that the proposed Camp Grayling expansion was needed for electronic and cyberwarfare training by the Michigan National Guard. That statement is misleading and must be corrected.

Camp Grayling currently encompasses nearly 148,000 acres (approximately 230 square miles) and is the largest National Guard training facility in the world. It is the 7th largest military training facility in the U.S. overall—including all branches of military facilities.

The proposed expansion of an additional 160,000 acres would more than double the size of military controlled land in northern Michigan and make it the largest military training facility in the nation consisting of approximately 481 square miles.

Electronic and cyber training is already being conducted successfully at Camp Grayling within its current footprint of 148,000 acres. There is no need for additional land. Comparatively, Ft. Gordon, Georgia is the home of the U.S. Army Cybersecurity Command and operates on only 55,596 acres.



Scan QR to read Jason Teddy's letter in its entirety.

230 Is Enough website



Michigan United Conservation Clubs

"MUCC, as an organization, reaffirmed its commitment to public land and access by further opposing any expansion of Camp Grayling and the unnecessary militarization of our public lands."

Scan the QR code to read MUCC's entire Resolution #14 that opposes the Camp Grayling expansion.



MUCC Resolution 14

Send An Email: Camp Grayling Contacts

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
gretchen.whitmer@michigan.gov
Shannon Lotts, DNR Director
lotts1@michigan.gov

Senator Debbie Stabenow
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Senator Gary Peters
senator@peters.senate.gov

DNR-Camp-Grayling@michigan.gov

Martha Duby on YouTube Releases Camp Grayling Video



Scan the adjacent QR code with a smart phone or mobile device to watch the video released with 230isenough.com about the proposed Camp Grayling Expansion.



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