



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2023

Trout Opener *Calm Before the Snow Storm*

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Calendar



Peter Albertson and Bruce Strachen wading the North Branch on Opening Day.

The fly fishing gods were smiling on us opening weekend. Friday was calm and cloudy, and the hatches were on all day and prolific in the afternoon. Saturday followed with similar weather but fewer hatches.

“Best trout opener in years,” said Josh Greenberg of Gates Au Sable Lodge. “It timed up well (with the Hendrickson hatch); that’s why everybody has a happy face around here.”

On Sunday, a northerly blew in, and on Monday – May 1, mind you – it began to snow. By Tuesday afternoon, Kalkaska had four inches of snow on the ground, Alpena five, and Marquette was hit with 29 inches before the front moved out on Wednesday.

Hope you made up for opening

weekend. Many did, and you can see a few with those wonderful Bloody Marys at the MFFC Memorial Celebration on **page 5**.

On **page 2** see how our Club president did going toe-to-toe with Peter Albertson in the *Castoff To The Death*.

Our Fly of the Mouth comes from John Satkowski of Toledo, whose massive Dark Helmet streamer is tied for the River Raisin. Get the recipe on **page 6**.

And finally, you have to love the enthusiasm of Ben Schultz, who attended the MFFC Boy Scout School and then went home and tied flies that night. The next day he used one to catch a massive largemouth bass from a nearby pond. Read the tale on **page 8** and then give that boy a merit badge.

5/11-14/23 New Member Outing, WaWaSum Lodge, Whirlpool Road, Grayling

5/17/23 MFFC Banquet; speaker: Ron Weiss, Hook & Hackle Company, Italian American Banquet & Conference Center 39200 5 Mile Road, Livonia, MI

5/18-21/23 Smallmouth Outing, Blue Spruce Motel, 8527 Lake St, Port Austin

6/14/23 Speaker Meeting, Jim Fischer: Fishing in Eastern Tennessee (Tentative), Northville Community Center

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

7/14-16/23 Wawasum Family Outing, WaWaSum Lodge, Whirlpool Road, Grayling

7/22/23 MFFC Picnic, Multi Lakes Conservation Association 3860 Newton Rd, Commerce Township

7/29 to 8/20/23 Yellowstone National Park trips, three weeks, Driftwaters Resort, Montana

8/9/23 Panel Meeting, Northville Community Center

9/13/23 Board Meeting, Virtual

10/11/23 Board Meeting, Virtual

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.

Camp Grayling: DNR Pondering a Compromise

By Sybil Hunter

Thank you to all who wrote the DNR, Governor and State Representatives about the proposed Camp Grayling expansion.

In what appears to be a compromise, Friday, April 28 the DNR released a memorandum of understanding with the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs permitting military access to 52,000 acres (80 square miles) of State land training. This agreement can be renewed every five years.

Under the new agreement, additional land use is allowed with the following conditions:

- Land remains open to the public, even during training exercises.
- The Guard pays regular general public fees for land use.
- Personnel is limited to 500 National Guard and 100 affiliated partner

members.

- Exercises are “low impact” or “light maneuvering” in nature.
- Land must be returned to its pre-use condition.
- “Significant damage to vegetation” and “violent, loud, or disorderly conduct” activities are not permitted.
- “No military training can happen with protective or sensitive habitat areas or within 3,000 feet of inland lakes or designated trout streams.”

Continued concerns are the lack of information regarding the impact of electromagnetic warfare training on the local ecology, the continued PFAS contamination, and providing publicly available testing reports showing the level of environmental impact.

According to MLIVE, the proposed Alpena Airspace expansion is still under FAA review.

Camp Grayling in the News



MLive: the best overview of the issue



Detroit News: concerns and possible loopholes



DNR press release: the expansion is unacceptable



Petoskey News: a Northern Michigan point of view

The President's Message...

Lookout Peter! It's The Castoff To The Death

The 2023 Castoff To The Death, originated by Peter Albertson, Al Haxton and the late Kathy Gross, took place at Dam 4 Opening Day. Peter threw down the gauntlet - and left. When he returned I was pinched into Chris' wading gear, and Steve Isgrigg was prepping my fly rod. "It's go time."

Peter and I each tied on Steve Isgrigg's pink post Adams.

"What's the official knot?" Peter

asked. "A modified clinch knot," Steve responded. "Well, if that's what you want to use. You'll lose your fly."

Next we picked our "Rod Boys,"



Sybil Hunter

Peter chose Bruce Strachen, I selected Mike Mateuszewski, and we hit the water. Smack talk was shared. Shade thrown.

Peter casted downstream to woody debris, while I casted upstream to the bank. Three rounds. Five casts each. From the bank, Al declared the winner.

"No fly no win!" I shouted across the water to Peter staring at his empty leader. "Besides, I'm the only one who caught anything!"

Never mind it was my own shoe, because I dropped the fly and practically took us all down. Even though my waders were so tight I couldn't tie my own shoes, at least I got my waders on the correct leg. (Right Peter?)



Above: Sybil Hunter in the Castoff and (Left) with competitor Peter Albertson.

After all, that is what Opening Day is all about - camaraderie and sharing the sport we call fly fishing - in whatever way floats your fly.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting

April 12, 2023

Roll Call

Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: J. Bada; J. Fischer.

Visitors: P. Albertson; J. Aukee; C. Hunter; N. Tabaka

Visitor Presentation: Tyler Barton, *Environmental Law and Policy Center*

The environmental law firm is garnering support for the four areas presented to be placed in Debbie Stabbinow's final State Of Michigan Farm Bill as part of her legacy. In order so to do, support of said request must be quantified by organizations within the State of Michigan. Trout Unlimited supports the proposed bill and suggested the MFFC be contacted as well. We have 360+ members at present and represent Michiganians across much of the lower peninsula. Supporting organizations include a myriad of sportsmen's clubs, businesses, State of Michigan departments, private businesses and more. The hope is the bill will be passed and the four areas will be listed as Federal Lands under Federal funding. These Federal lands will abut State Land, procuring pristine, quiet, natural environment areas. Funding will be appropriated within the bill. They simply need the MFFC to make a written statement that we indeed support this environmental effort. Motion to support Board support of the above proposal passed.

Approval of Agenda – Agenda from 4/8/23 approved.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting-minutes for 3/8/23 approved.

Officer's Report

President: S. Hunter

- Sticker request for young man that found the MFFC online and other items from Club suggestions included: Boy Scout Patch, Club sticker, patch & pin.

- <https://oakland.edu/precollege/programs/clintonriverwaterfestival>. This is to be held at Oakland University on May19th. Sybil and Bill Yaw will run the MFFC programming.
- Concern brought up New Member Outing vs old members outing. Currently have 20 people signed up to attend New Member Outing.

Vice President: K. Lipp

Nothing to report.

Treasurer: B. Green

- Current Month's Treasurer's Report: Income for 2023 is ahead of last year. We are still tracking to our forecasted budget. April Treasurer's Report approved as presented.
- Review of 2023 budget for final approval of the membership. Motion approved unanimously.
- Motion to allocate in 2023/2024 fiscal year \$12,000 from Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) passed.

Membership: J. Deputat

- Current membership is 399 active members.
- b. We have gotten 57 new members so far this year.
- Dues income and donations to education, conservation and operational expenses were presented.

Corresp. Secretary: J. Fischer

- There were 7 ebcasts sent out to 2457 recipients (a distribution list size of 352) with an average read rate of 71%.
- Within the most recent membership update, the distribution list now has 362 entries.
- As a reminder, the size of the distribution list is always smaller than the membership count because some members do not have email addresses, others have unsubscribed, and sometimes there is more than one member in the household but only one email.

Events and Outings

- Banquet: Speaker is Ron Weiss.

2022 - 2023 Officers

President:
Sybil Hunter
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Vice President:
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Tickets sales are at 80 attendees. Weiss will be conducting a tying session before the banquet.

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FFI ClubWire News Service: Great Source for Fly Fishing Anywhere

By Fly Fishers International

The ClubWire News Service is a resource for FFI Clubs and Councils. Read club/council newsletters with interesting stories and reports about their activities.

The Council & Club newsletters are organized by state to help you easily find information from a particular region.



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

They range from *Forward Casts* from the Desert Fly Casters based in Arizona

to *The Flyline* from the Hawkeye Fly Fishers Association in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Several are from Michigan, including the outstanding *The Evening Hatch* of the MFFC.

You will also find FFI announcements on new programs or incentives posted on this page. Please visit this page for newsletters and announcements posted as we receive them.

To view any newsletter that is posted, just scan the adjacent QR code.



It's a Dog's Life at the Trout Opener



Above: A.L. Bulszewicz and her greyhound, Remy, take a break on opening day from her bartending duties at the MFFC tent

Left: d'Artagnan, one of Chris Hunter's three poodles, stayed warm in a U of M sweater. Go blue!



Rod Winners!

A couple lucky MFFC members will be tossing some sweet casts in search of a trout this summer. Louis Preston (Right) was the grand prize winner at the April 4 speaker meeting, taking home a Temple Fork Outfitters rod and reel set.

John Eriksson followed him during April's Activities Night (Above) by winning the 9-foot, 5-weight Winston Kairos rod. We're hoping they are just as lucky on the river with their new rods as they were at the meetings.



MFFC Welcomes New Members

Our club keeps growing. Listed below are the new members who have joined MFFC since the list that appeared in the April edition of *The Evening Hatch*. 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.

Gabby Abrego, *Detroit*
John D'Angelo, *Detroit*
Robert Malosh, *Commerce Twp*
Robert Thompson, *Ann Arbor*
Dale Manor, *Plymouth*
Jordan Graham, *Eaton Rapids*
Andrew Lemley, *Washington*
Christopher Vanslager, *West Bloomfield*
James Gregory, *Farmington Hills*
Jonathan Becker, *Royal Oak*
Robert Ocwieja, *Durand*
James Harris, *Inkster*



A Wonderful Opening Day Then It Snowed

Right: Au Sable boats are ready to be launched on Opening Day with the MFFC tent in the background.



Center right: Jeff McGowan and John Coulson enjoy some trout talk and a morning beverage at the MFFC Opening Day Memorial Celebration at Gates Au Sable Lodge.

Center Middle: The famed Bloody Marys, an Opening Day treat.



Above: Bartender Rob Bulszewicz does his Bloody Mary magic once again for MFFC members on Opening Day.

Below: John Aukee pontificating life, water and the pursuit of trout on the North Branch of the Au Sable River.



Reporter Asks: When Does It Stop Snowing Here?

Just after graduating from the University of South Carolina, Brailis Pimentel accepted a position as a reporter for 9&10 News, a CBS affiliate based in Cadillac that broadcasts throughout Northern Michigan. She arrived at her new job in February, a Southern Girl who had no experience driving in snow.

"The weather here was quite a shock to me," said Pimentel.

The new reporter quickly learned how to drive in icy and snowy conditions, not to mention an occasional whiteout, because her main beat was hosting *On The Road* segments for Channel 9&10's *Michigan This Morning* show.

On the final Saturday in April, she was at Gates AuSable Lodge interviewing Josh Greenberg on the banks of the fabled river about this

thing called "the trout opener." The weather was mild and pleasant. Two days later, it resumed snowing.

Welcome to Michigan Brailis!



Brailis Pimentel interviewing Josh Greenberg.

Fly of the Month *A Dark Helmet for Fishing the River Raisin*

By Sybil Hunter

April welcomed John Satkowski, commercial tyer and fly designer to our MFFC meeting. Hailing from Toledo, his target water is River Raisin in Monroe.

"The Raisin with rain, along the clay banks means dark, mucky water, so anything that pushes water is best," said Satkowski. "Most of the time our big hits come from big flies."

"If you've ever tried to throw a wet sock into the wind..." Satkowski said evoking a room full of laughter, "I don't like a bunch of crap floating on the water. I design my flies in layers. I don't like flash. I like glisten. Every material has a purpose."

"Does anybody know what this is?" Satkowski asked waving a piece of flowy, dayglo green material in the air.

"Arctic Goat." Chris Hunter popped up the arctic goat Wikipedia page in the background. "Apparently, arctic goats are big hairy things," said Satkowski, again to laughter. "When this stuff gets wet, it takes on water and acts like a rudder...it makes the fly take a real wide swing."

Tying it on, he then pulled out his famous brush. "What is it?" someone asked on cue.

"This is my Harbor Freight Special. Fifty cents," said Satkowski as he delicately brushed the wispy hairs of his green arctic goat tail. "There is always one little fiber that wants to be a jerk in there." Satkowski continued gently

snipping a single flyaway hair.

Next, an Arctic Fox collar, a denser hair. "You need the fly to sit in the water column, not sink like a rock," said Satkowski. Then legs, "Those make it wiggle and balance the fly in the water."

Finishing the fly he said, "My buddy hooked a car with one of these things." Again laughter. "The guy was not really keen with us..."

[A little piece of trivia: UV glue can smoke. Just sayin'.]

"Who manufactures your flies?" someone asked.

"Rainy's, I have a fly in every category they have," said Satkowski. "A disproportionate number of my flies are in Iceland for some reason. I tell people my flies work anywhere, but geographically the closer you get to the Raisin River..." Laughter broke out again. "They are Raisin River guaranteed."

"Do you use sink tip?" was another question.

"Floating line," said Satkowski. "In two feet of water (in summer), when I used sinking line, I caught all kinds of beautiful aquatic plant life." The rumble of laughter once again filled the room.

"Will this last?"

"You can throw this thing out in the parking lot, step on it, run it through



John Satkowski tying his Dark Helmet streamer.

the water, have a bunch of kindergartners run around with it, and it's gonna be fine," said Satkowski.

"What's the name of this famous fly?" "My son was watching Spaceballs and just started calling this Dark Helmet - so now it's Dark Helmet."

John Satkowski can be found on Facebook, Instagram, Rainy's website and J.Stockard's blog. Arctic goat can be found in the e-shops at J. Stockard and Harelina.

John Satkowski's Recipe For The Dark Helmet

Hook: Gamakatsu B10s sz. 2 for standard, sz. 1/0 or 2/0 for pike

Tail: bucktail prop with arctic goat over

Tail flash: Angel Hair w/ 4-5 strands of holo. Flashabou over

Body: 3 inch flash brush

Body 2: Senyo's Predator Wrap
Collar: 3 inch Chromatic brush or 3 inch craft fur brush

Shank: Flymen Articulated shank 25 mm for standard, 40 mm for pike size

Tail: clump of short Angel hair

Body: 3 inch flash brush

Body 2: Senyo's Predator Wrap

Collar: 3 inch Chromatic brush or 3 inch craft fur brush

Rubber Legs: Silicon strips or similar (ripple ice optional also)

Head: Sculpflash 1 inch dubbing brush

Head Topping: mallard flank feather

Eyes: Size and color to match fly, UV Resin used to coat eyes and thread

Colors I tie the fly in: firetiger, char-treuse/white, yellow/white, tan/yellow, Sucker





Teaching Others *MFFC Stages Casting Schools for Scouts & New Members*

Thanks to all who attended and participated in the Member School on April 22. The four-season pavilion in Plymouth was packed with 24 members and 10 volunteers.

While the weather mostly cooperated, the rain and strong winds added a great educational aspect to our casting lessons. It's good to remember we don't always get to fish in the best conditions, and learning to cast in the wind leads to a better day on the stream.

The food was plentiful, and it looked like fun was had by all.



New Member School

Above Right: MFFC instructor Peter Albertson works with Carolyn Bennett on her casting.

Right: Barry Green informs new members what should be in your sling and hip packs - and what isn't needed - for river fishing.

Left: Members take the first step to becoming accomplished fly tyers at the recent MFFC New Member School.



Boy Scout Fly Fishing Camp

Despite the 90-plus minutes of pouring rain, the scouts filled their blue cards as they rotated through the Fly-Fishing Badge stations.

The program, designed by MFFC's own Dave Oakley, took students through entomology, tying, casting, fishing, filleting, and cooking skills. Twenty-five students, male and female, representing 15 BSA troops from Midland to Gibraltar were in attendance.

The fish caught wise to scouts' shenanigans early on, vacating the dock. Students were then tasked with catching a fish on the fly they tied as the final step in earning their fly fishing badge and submitting pic-

tures to Dave Oakley.

See page 8 for the story and pictures of the scout who went home, tied a fly and then completed the most challenging requirement of the badge. He caught a fish with it.



Above: Spence Vanderhoof explains entomology at the MFFC sponsored Boy Scout Fly Fishing School. Left: Scouts and MFFC instructors work on their fly casting.

Be Prepared! Scout Wasted No Time Getting His Fly Fishing Merit Badge

Ben Schultz really wanted that Fly Fishing Merit Badge. After spending a rainy Saturday at the MFFC Boy Scout Fly Fishing Camp, he went home and immediately resumed tying flies.

On Sunday, he visited a local pond and completed the toughest requirement of the merit badge. He caught a fish with a fly he tied. Not just any fish but an impressive largemouth bass.

“Thank you for all your hard work in getting the fly-fishing school together,

it was a blast,” Dave Schultz, Ben’s Father, wrote in an email to Dave Oakley, the camp organizer. “When Ben got home, the first thing he did was tie some flies. And today he tried them out in our nearby catchment pond to largemouth success!”

If Ben ever reaches the rank of Eagle Scout, you just know his favorite badge on that long sash of them will be the one he earned at Multi-Lakes last month.

Left: Ben Schultz tying a few flies after the MFFC camp. Right: Ben with the impressive bass he caught the next day.



MFFC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 3

- Striper Trip – cancelled for 2023
- Members School – 4/22 @ Plymouth Township Park
- Boy Scout School – 4/22 @ Multi-Lakes Conservation Association
- Opening Day Celebration and Memorial – 4/29 @ Gates Lodge

- Youth School – 5/6 @ Tollgate Center, Novi
- Dick Schott New Member Outing – 5/11 @ Wa Wa Sum
- MFFC Banquet – 5/15 @ Italian American Club, Livonia
- Smallmouth Trip – 5/18 @ Port Austin
- Wa Wa Sum Family Outing – 7/14

Adjournment: 9:28 p.m.



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