



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2023

Cutthroats & Graylings



MFFC members headed out west this summer targeting cutthroat and grayling.

All summer MFFC members went west to catch trout they can't catch in Michigan. Like the 12-inch cutthroat above that Hatch Editor Jim DuFresne landed from his float tube in an alpine lake near Leadville, Colorado.

In a photo essay on **page 7** are snapshots from this summer's MFFC West Yellowstone outings, including Corey Thelan's grayling that was well worth the Michigan-to-Montana drive he endured. Tom Malbouef was so grateful for the rainbow he caught during the MFFC outing he kissed it.

On **pages 5-6**, Jon Bada writes that this summer's Montana trip was the best yet thanks to all the "lessons learned" from fellow MFFC members,

resulting in a week full of catching cutthroat, grayling, and rainbows.

In her *President's Message* on **page 2**, Sybil Hunter says that those tips, trips, and where-to-go suggestions are a big part of the MFFC's mission. Learning from one another or recent speakers like author Anne Miller is how you catch a trout out west or in Michigan.

But you can't catch those trout unless wild and undeveloped lands are preserved. That's the reason the MFFC Board of Directors voted to join the Keep The U.P. Wild campaign, a collection of nearly 400 Michigan organizations working to preserve new wilderness areas in the Upper Peninsula. Please read about it on **page 2**.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

10/4/23 Speaker Meeting, author Ann Miller, book signing

10/11/23 Board Meeting, Virtual

10/18/23 Activity Meeting

11/1/23 Speaker Meeting, Cleyo Harris, DNR Biologist

11/8/23 Board Meeting, Virtual

11/15/23 Activity Meeting

12/6/23 Speaker Meeting, TBA

12/13/23 Board Meeting, Virtual

12/20/23 Club Garage Sale

1/10/24 Speaker Meeting, TBA

1/11-14/24 Ultimate Fishing Show, uburban Collection Showplace, Novi

1/17/24 Board Meeting, Virtual

1/24/24 Activity Meeting

2/7/24 Speaker Meeting, TBA

2/14/24 Board Meeting, Virtual

2/18-23/24 White River Trip, Cotter, AR

2/21/24 Activity Meeting

2/23-25/24 Outdoorama, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

3/6/24 Activities Meeting, TBA

3/9-10/24 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Macomb Community College

3/13/24 Board Meeting, Virtual

3/20/24 Speaker Meeting, TBA

4/3/24 Speaker Meeting, TBA

4/10/24 Board Meeting, Virtual

4/17/24 Activity Meeting

5/8-11/24 Dick Schot New Member's Outing, Wawa Sum Lodge, Grayling

Meetings are held at Clarenceville Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt, Livonia.

MFFC: Great Source For What You Need To Know

As education is one of the MFFC's many focal points, bringing in speakers who help us learn is a great component of that tenant.



Sybil Hunter

In June, our own Jim Fischer presented a historical and entertaining guide to fishing his new home stomping grounds in Tennessee. August saw the sharing compilation knowledge of a panel of our members that covered everything from the best knots to tie on one's fly to places to fish.

Our return to Clarnenceville Middle School for the academic season was kicked off with local fly shop owner Niall "Neil" McCarthy talking about the wanderlust of trying to find new places to fish. Just this month, we welcomed Ann Miller, author and biologist, talking

about critical methods to better fly fish by learning the science behind the insects we tie.

Even this month's featured columnist, Jon Bada, writes about the wonderful resources at our fingertips and "lessons learned" during the MFFC outing this summer to West Yellowstone.

The MFFC is a group with such a diverse base that affords us great connections, wonderful travel opportunities, and the opportunity to learn from one another.

We each bring a unique skill set to the table, and when those talents are combined, our fly fishing world



MFFC Speaker: Anne Miller

explodes with invaluable knowledge for all to share.

Tight wraps and happy whip finishes,

Sybil

MFFC Board Joins Others to Endorse the Keep The U.P. Wild

Keep The U.P. Wild is a collection of nearly 400 Michigan environmental, business, recreation, political, faith, and other organizations working to preserve new wilderness areas in the Upper Peninsula.

That includes an endorsement from the Michigan Fly Fishing Club board of directors, along with many other local fly-fishing clubs.

Currently the Keep the U.P. Wild coalition is seeking federal Wilderness designation for four tracts of public land in the Upper Peninsula: the Trap Hills, the Ehlco Area, Norwich Plains, and an addition to the existing Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness area.

Together, Trap Hills, the Ehlco Area, Norwich Plains would create a nearly contiguous National Wilderness area of more than 40,000 acres. Likewise, the Sturgeon River Gorge addition would add nearly 2,000 acres of unique pristine land to the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness,

KEEP THE U.P. WILD

Scan the QR Code for more information from the Keep The UP Wild website.



Bridge Magazine article on the importance of wilderness preservation

creating a total contiguous area of almost 17,000 acres.

"As our population and associated development increase, the demand for resources on public lands will also increase. But so will the need to escape the stresses of an increasingly urbanized world," said retired Ottawa National Forest Wilderness Ranger Doug Welker of Alston. "Action now will help ensure that

those refuges will be available."

The Keep The U.P. Wild campaign is coordinated by the Environmental Law & Policy Center, which believes preserving these areas for hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, kayaking, canoeing, snowshoeing and the other activities of Wilderness designation protection will benefit Michiganders much more than development.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting

May 10, 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: John Aukee, Norm Tabaka

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

- Suggestions for young man who found the MFFC online and requested a sticker include: Boy Scout patch from Norm Tabaka and Club sticker and patch from Chris Hunter.
- May Hatch is out.

Vice President: K. Lipp

Nothing to report.

Treasurer: B. Green

- Review of current Treasurer's Report.
- 2023 Expo balances presented.
- May's Treasurer's Report accepted as presented.

Membership: J. Deputat

- 404 active members to date (356 males and 45 females)
- Income from dues presented.

Corresp. Secretary: J. Fischer

- June speaker meeting, I will be talking about fishing opportunities in Tennessee.
- July Speaker is Kelly Neuman.
- August will be a Q&A Panel.

Events and Outings

- Club Banquet: Ron Weiss will be the banquet speaker. Ticket sales are at 124 people. Ron Weiss will also conduct a tying

session before the banquet.

New Business

- 2023 Trout Opener: Bruce Strachan to chair. Information presented for Au Sable Riverview Resort. Seeking co-chair due to fall travel schedule.
- Expo: Dave Mayes and Craig Summers are stepping down. 2024 Expo Chairs will be Joe Sprys and Kevin Lipp.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

Adjournment: 9:28 p.m.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting September 13, 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; N. Tabaka; J. Aukee B. Strachan.

Visitors: Mike Matuszewski

Approval of Agenda – Agenda from 9/13/23 approved.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting-minutes for 5/10/23 approved.

Officer's Report

President: S. Hunter

Review dates for calendar 2023-24:

- Ultimate Fishing Show: Jan 11–14, 2024; Jim Aitken chair
- Postponed Public School; needs chair
- White River Arkansas Trip: February 18–23, 2024; Scott Freeburg chair
- Outdoorama Club: February 22–25, 2024; Jim Aitken chair
- Midwest Fly Fishing Expo: March 9–10, 2024
- Opening Day: April 27, 2024; Al Haxton chair
- Opening Weekend Riverview

2023-2024 Officers

President:
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Sybil Hunter Club Webmaster
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- Lodge: April 25–28, 2024; Bruce Strachan chair
- Youth School Toll Gate Center: May 4, 2024; Len Dixon chair

Some Mighty Big Fish

Below: One huge salmon caught in the Manistee River during the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing outing in early October. MFFC sponsors the Ann Arbor chapter of PHWFF, which was founded by Club member Keith Burba to connect veterans through the sport of fly fishing. Right: MFFC member Mike Davis also displays an impressive fall salmon.



Welcome Newest MFFC Members

Updated new members since September edition of *The Evening Hatch*. Contact information is available on the current membership roster.

Mark Mceldowney, *Brooklyn*
 Kenneth Ball, *Grayling*
 Brian Callahan, *Livonia*
 Mark Johnson, *East Lansing*
 Gregory Bajuk, *Farmington Hills*
 Jess Farris, *Redford*

MFFC Board Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 3

- Old Member Outing: Wa Wa Sum, May 6–8, 2024; needs chair
- New Member Outing: Wa Wa Sum, May 8–11, 2024; Glenn Easterbrook chair
- MFFC Club Banquet: Italian American Banquet & Conference Center, May 15, 2024; Chair Committee
- Wa Wa Sum Family Outing: July 17–20, 2024; Jon Bada chair
- Hatch is set for September
- Welcome new board members John Aukee and Norm Tabaka

Vice President: K. Lipp

- Expo chairs for 2024 will be J.Sprys and K.Lipp
- Joe will handle the vendors and Kevin will have everything else
- Featured speakers to be Alice Owsley, Phil Rowley, Michael Mauri

Treasurer: B. Green

- Current month's treasurer's report approved as presented.
- Rod show expenses lower, income higher.
- August Treasurer's Report approved as presented

Membership: J. Deputat

- 508 renewal letters mailed (407 active members, 47 former members 2022, 54 former members 2021)
- Member surveys mailed
- As of Sept. 11, 272 members have paid their dues, 128 surveys returned
- Three new members

Corresp. Secretary: J. Bada

- Eight E-blasts sent out
- Three Special News/Announcements:
- Two Evening Hatch Editions
- Total contact 364 with an email

open rate of 70%

Upcoming speakers:

- September speaker: Niall McCarty, Motor City Anglers
- October speaker: Ann Miller, author/entomologist
- November speaker: Cleyo Harris, DNR Biologist

Visitor Business: Mike Matuszewski

Spoke about FFI (Fly Fisher International)

- FFI has 17 councils throughout the US
- Michigan and Indiana make up the Great Lakes Council
- FFI was started in 1964
- Dedicated to Fly Fishing for All Fish, All Waters
- MFFC members are encouraged to join FFI.

Adjournment: 9:02 p.m.



Why We Flyfish *What I Learned On My Summer Vacation*

By Jon Bada

This was my second trip to Montana. I honestly did not fish spectacularly on my first trip. Yet I was enamored by the majestic scenery on what West Yellowstone had to offer.

This year's trip had much more planning and inquiring about secret fishing spots from other club members. That said, Jay Labban and I packed up my truck on a Thursday afternoon. We made it to Idaho by Friday evening.

We had some ideas where we were going to fish on Saturday (the secret spot!) and Sunday (a guided trip), but the rest of the week depended on other club members' fishing.

We found *the secret spot* across the Continental Divide. We met some other anglers in the parking lot, exchanging info on how we found this gem of a watershed because there were nice cutthroat and graylings here. While Jay fished there before, I had no idea what was in store - because it was all folklore to me.

We found the lone Christmas tree; Jay said he was fishing downstream from it, so I headed upstream. What a fantastic place to start our Western Adventure.

A few holes later, I caught an av-



Jon Bada

erage grayling and a cutthroat on a parachute Adams. I lost that fly when a huge grayling snagged it from the same pool. I switched to a prince

nymph because the sun was high, and I did not see any more rises. I caught small cutthroats in the next few spots and then saw what was rumored to be in this stretch -

huge cutthroats!

I tried everything from nymphs to switching back to the parachute Adams, but they did not budge from their spot. Finally, I switched to a small bead-green scud pattern. One of the smaller cutthroats started to chase my fly, and then the granddaddy of all cutthroat chased away the other cutty as if he knew it was not a real fly. Interesting!

As our meeting time approached, I returned to the truck to hydrate and eat my sub sandwich in the hot sun. Again, it was a breathtaking vantage point sitting there talking to the other anglers, finding out where they were from Tennessee, California, Pennsylvania, and



Jon Bada with a rainbow he caught during his trip to Yellowstone as part of the MFFC annual outings.

Colorado, to name a few.

All had the same success as I did. But Jay came back with even more impressive action using a Purple Haze!! I will let him tell those stories!

Jay was comfortable wet wading because it was too dang hot to wear chest waders and boots. *Lesson Learned!*

We headed back to the Driftwaters Resort, meeting with the rest of the Week One Gang and hosts, Al and Joyce Haxton. We exchanged greetings, settled in for dinner, and prepared for Sunday's guide trip. We found out our Madison River Outfitter guide was none other than Mike Loebel (Alice Owsley's husband), and he was also scheduled to guide Peter Albertson and Phil Heck on Monday.

When we met Mike, he wanted to know what we would like to do and where we wanted to fish. We wanted to experience the Madison but with a different twist; we wanted to learn how to fish euro-nymphing and indicator fishing styles.

He agreed, mentioning we would



A grayling caught and landed during the MFFC Yellowstone trips this summer.

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Lesson Learned: West Yellowstone Is a Great Place to Fly Fish

Continued from page 5

catch some good fish today because the river traffic on Sundays is light as it's a travel day for most anglers. *Another lesson learned.*

After launching the drift boat at nearby Curlew Creek Access, Mike rigged two euro-nymph set-ups for Jay and me. While drifting, we asked Mike why he fishes so much, he replied, "To prove or disprove a theory." From that, I knew we got the reason why we flyfish!

My goals for the week were:

- Learn how to euro-nymph (and other nymphing methods) to catch trout differently. (Theory #1)
- Learn how to read big streams (and smaller streams) better for nymphing, and how they are different/similar to traditional dry fly techniques (Theory #2)
- Share my experiences to others and have fun doing it!

We disembarked the drift boat, and Jay was the first to catch a nice rainbow using a euro-nymph rig for the first time. Even though I had a couple of casting lessons and a short guided session in euro-nymphing earlier in Michigan, I finally caught a brown trout. I felt sorry for the younger angler dry fly fishing on the other side of the river. Only a short distance away, he didn't catch anything during the short time that Mike was instructing us. *Lessons Learned: use a guide!*



Lesson Learned: Never let the bison see you in Yellowstone National Park. And no selfies with wildlife!



Don Mills admires the beauty of fishing a West Yellowstone trout stream.

We soon hit other spots along the Madison, catching (and losing) some rainbows and browns of average size. I lost another nice brown when it leaped in the air. *Lesson Learned: Use the drag of your reel to keep the fish from leaping into the air.*

More spots, more trout and even whitefish. All caught on small and midsize peridon flies. Mike varied the weight/size of the euro-nymph depending on the depth and flow of the water (mostly 2.5mm -3.5mm I recall). *Lesson Learned: Cast softly and carry a big box of small peridon flies with different weights and colors.*

We broke for lunch just around Lyons Bridge, where Mike re-rigged us into his double indicator method using size 16 and 18 nymphs. Jay kept catching whitefish and rainbows, while I also caught a few rainbows. *Lesson learned: Double indicator floats!*

Even though Sunday was a productive day of learning to fish. Jay and I were still able to switch back to dry flies and shared our adventure with our Club Newbies (Dan McKeon and John O'Brien).

It was even better when John caught some cutthroat in *the secret spot* after I pointed out where it was on the creek and what lanes to fish. Boy, that paid off when I allowed John to fish that hole and I bypassed it to go further downstream. *Lesson Learned: share what you have learned to others!*

The rest of the week was less fishing for me and more sightseeing the different aspects of Yellowstone National Park and becoming conscious of the wildlife. *Lesson Learned: Drive out early through the park because rubber-neckers will block the road and streams trying to take selfies with the wildlife.*

Why did the bison cross the stream? A humongous bison crossed the Soda Butte, within 30 feet of me, to ward off a female grizzly and her cub from the rest of the herd in the Lamar Valley.

I didn't realize the grizzly was just 100 yards up the hill until the park ranger pointed it out, saying it was the reason this "sentinel" bison had crossed the river where I was fishing. Returning to the truck, I asked Ron Le Tourneau's son, Kevin, what defines a bison sentinel. *Lesson Learned: Never let the bison see you (always duck behind something as they pass by).*

There were other spots we fished and even more spots we hope to hit next time we are at West Yellowstone. *Lesson Learned: Share all your lessons with friends and club members.*

What Jay and I learned that week will last a lifetime!

Final Snapshot of West Yellowstone Trips



Top Left: John Hunter with a small brown trout. Top right: Don Mills, Chris Hunter and Jen Klabunde pause before searching the runs for rainbows (right) during the MFFC West Yellowstone trip last August.



Left: Corey Thelan with his Element that he drove to Montana for the MFFC trip. Parents Amy and Ken Thelan flew from Michigan to Montana to join Corey for a family fishing trip. On Monday they teamed up with the Hunter Boys, the Haxtons, and the Klimkos to fish Taylor Fork. Below: Corey Thelan's first Grayling, caught on the same day Amy Thelan caught her first.



How Good Was The Fly Fishing in Montana? We Were Kissing Trout



According to Jim Fischer the fishing was so good in West Yellowstone this summer that Tom Malbouef used a rod in each hand, caught a fish, and thanked it! Editor's Note: Evidently fish kissing is the thing this year! This is the second photo in an issue of the Hatch this fall.

Fly of the Month *The Bread & Butter of an effective jig-style nymph*

By Trident Fly Fishing

The Bread & Butter Fly is a jig-style nymph, one of those confidence patterns that you can bring almost anywhere you're fishing and have success.

While the Bread & Butter doesn't look exactly like any one specific food source, it's a reliable pattern whether you're matching mayflies, caddis, crustaceans, or just want a solid attractor.

Nice and heavy, this fly gets down quickly, and whether you're using it as a point fly in a multi-nymph rig, or fishing it on its own, it's sure to help you find fish.

Fly of the Month Recipe

Hook: Gamakatsu J20B Hook (size: 12; can be tied 8-20)

Thread: UNI-Thread (size: 8/0; color: camel)

Bead: Tungsten Bead (size: 3.8mm; color: gold)

Weight: .020 Lead wire

Tail: Whiting Coq De Leon Tailing Pack (color: dark pardo)

Body: Hare's Ear Dubbin (color: natural)

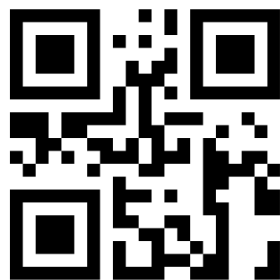
Ribbing: UTC Ultra Wire (size: medium; color: copper)

Thorax: Spirit River UV2 Seal-X Dubbing (color: brown sugar)

Bread & Butter Nymph



Trident Fly Fishing is a fly shop and online retailer based in Portland, Maine. Every Friday the Trident blog features a new fly pattern video with step-by-step guide instructions. For a tying video on the Bread & Butter Fly scan the adjacent QR code.



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