



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2025 Edition

2025 Show Pin by David Ruimveld



Upcoming Club Events

- 01/08/25: Speaker Meeting
- 01/09/25: Ultimate Fishing Show
- 01/15/25: Board Meeting
- 01/22/25: Activity Meeting
- 02/05/25: Speaker Meeting
- 02/12/25: Board Meeting
- 02/19/25: Activity Meeting
- 02/20/25: Outdoorama
- 02/23/25: White River Trip #1
- 03/05/25: Activity Meeting
- 03/08/25: Midwest Flyfishing Expo
- 03/09/25: Midwest Flyfishing Expo
- 03/12/25: Board Meeting
- 03/16/25: White River Trip #2
- 03/19/25: Speaker Meeting
- 04/02/25: Speaker Meeting
- 04/05/25: Trout Tune-Up
- 04/09/25: Board Meeting
- 04/12/25: Member School
- 04/16/25: Activity Meeting
- 04/26/25: Opening Day
- 05/03/25: Youth School
- 05/07/25: Activity Meeting
- 05/07/25: WawaSum Outing
- 05/12/25: Board Meeting
- 05/14/25: MFFC Banquet
- 05/15/25: Smallmouth Outing
- 07/17/25: WawaSum Outing
- 07/19/25: Club Picnic
- 09/20/25: Scout School
- 09/21/25: Driftless Trip

Written by Kevin Lipp, Pres. MFFC

The Expo's coming up fast; volunteers are needed. The 46th edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is fast approaching, and volunteers are needed. This year's Expo is co-chaired by Joe Sprys and Kevin Lipp. You can sign up online at

<https://volunteersignup.org/LH9TL>.

There is a link to the signup page on the Club's web page; click on Expo and go to the bottom of the page for the Volunteer Signup link.

Help is needed with set-up and tear-down, security, admissions, youth fly tying and assisting attendees and presenters in the presentation rooms. Club members and their involvement really set our Expo apart from other flyfishing shows in the country, just ask our vendors.

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The Expo simply doesn't happen without the involvement of members. Remember, assisting at the Expo gets each member free admission to one of the premier fly fishing events in the country as well as a commemorative David Ruimveld worker pin.



Joe and I encourage every member to sign up.

For the most current listing of events, check our club's website: mffc.org

Michigan Fly Fishing Club – Business Section

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting December 11th, 2024

Roll Call:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Present: K. Lipp; S. Hunter; J. Bada;
J. Aukee; J. Aitken; J. Haxton, T.
DeFauw; N. Tabaka

Absent:

Approval of the Minutes: minutes
from 11/13/24 approved

Approval of the Agenda: agenda
from 12/11/24 approved

Officer's Report

President: K. Lipp

- No report given

Vice President: J. Bada

- Need for chairpersons for the Expo (to be added into Hatch)
- Hatch can use more content
- Request article from Vern White on bamboo rod building
- Montana info to be in Dec. Hatch

Treasurer: J. Aitken

- Income relative to membership fee is up (which is good)
- No Expo expenses yet; 10 vendors' fees are in the report as we are starting to get vendor income

Corresponding Secretary: S. Hunter (interim)

- Jan. speaker will be Jim DuFresne on Isle Royale
- Feb. will be Carl Heuter will on Fly Fishing Labrador
- March is open (no speaker)
- April will be Mark Hendricks (CI) with a casting presentation in the gym;
- May banquet speaker is Tim Flagler; contract with IABC will be finalized in January

Membership: J. Eriksson

- 271 members paid thru 12-08-24
- PayPal information on membership is working well, cost is

Membership: continued

- \$0.21 per transaction

Events and Outings:

- HFF Rod Building: good experience had by 4 club members
- Ultimate Fishing Show (01/09) & Outdoorama (02/20): sign-ups are online
- Arkansas White River Trips (02/23 – full) and (03/16 – 5 members signed up)
- Midwest Fly Fishing Expo (03/08) – three speakers lined up
- Trout Tune-Up (05/05) – need for chairperson
- Member School (04/12) – headed up by Vince Caruso
- MFFC Banquet (05/14)
- WawaSum New Member (05/07)

New Business:

- Discussion on Fly Fest in Grand Rapids - possible participation
- We will need to find a new Expo Venue for 2026. MCCC is going to renovate the space we use and will be closed for the year. We require 61,000 sq ft space. Kevin Lipp has started to investigate potential venues.

Old Business:

- Club Shirts were discussed in the visitors section of the meeting

Visitors:

- Vern White described the shirts and provided illustrations of embroidered badge placement; S. Hunter made a motion (J. Bada second) to have Vern proceed with handling the shirt procurement and sample effort. The motion was approved. Discussion followed on color samples and size samples for members to try out at the next meeting. Port Authority is brand.
- July WaWaSum “Bourbons & Browns Outing: Tom Coleman had questions on outing events, contact information, event dates for the Hatch, and future events protocol.

(to be continued on Page 8)

2024-2025 Club Officers

President:

Kevin Lipp

mailto: president@mffc.org

Vice President:

Jon Bada

mailto: vicepresident@mffc.org

Treasurer:

Jim Aitken

mailto: treasurer@mffc.org

Membership:

John Eriksson

mailto: membership@mffc.org

Recording Secretary:

John Aukee

mailto: recordingsecretary@mffc.org

Corresponding Secretary:

Sybil Hunter (Interim)

mailto: correspondence@mffc.org

Director At-Large:

Norm Tabaka

mailto: ntabaka@gmail.com

Director At-Large:

Joyce Haxton

mailto: rainbow10trout@gmail.com

Director At-Large:

Terry DeFauw

mailto: tdefauw59@aol.com

Immediate Past President:

Sybil Hunter

mailto: sybil.mffc@gmail.com

Club Editors & Publishers

Hatch Editor - Production:

Jon Bada

mailto: vicepresident@mffc.org

Club Webmaster:

Sybil Hunter

mailto: admin@mffc.org

Club Facebook Administrator:

Joyce Haxton

mailto: rainbow10trout@gmail.com

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's President & Board of Directors Page

A Message from Club President: Kevin Lipp

Michigan Fly Fishing Club members may be bracing for the coldest blast of winter, but they're already thinking spring and its precursor, the 46th annual **Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition**. The 2025 Expo will take place on March 8-9 at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center in Warren, MI. Presenters this year are headlined by Tim Cammisa, Bart Lombardo, Dusty Wissmath and Chuck Farneth.

Presented annually by the MFFC, the Expo features a wide array of tackle dealers, rod builders, guides, fly tiers, artists, authors and conservation organizations, all specializing in one or more of the many facets of fly fishing. The Expo features dozens of free seminars about technique, fly tying, equipment and flyfishing destinations. A 100-foot casting pond provides ample room for Expo attendees to test new fly rod offerings from an array of rod manufacturers. Children, teens and the young at heart will get an opportunity to tie their first flies at a special fly tying area with instruction provided by MFFC volunteers. Kids Korner will be in full swing as kids use their creativity to create their own unique t-shirts.

Expo hours are 9 am-6 pm on Saturday, March 8 and 10 am-4 pm on Sunday, March 9. Admission is \$15 for a one-day pass, \$20 for a two-day pass. Children and teens age 16 and under are admitted free. Parking is free.

The Expo is the MFFC's only fundraising event. The proceeds from the Expo help fund the club's education and conservation activities. Since the Expo's inception, the MFFC has directed more than \$550,000 to conservation efforts on such blue ribbon trout streams as the Au Sable, Manistee, Pere Marquette, Boardman and Madison (MT) rivers as well as the Paint Creek and the Huron and Clinton rivers in southeast Michigan.

Editor's Note: Hyperlink to the [Volunteer Signup for the Expo](#)



Benefits of our Club's Zoom Meetings ”

Why I enjoy Zoom (submitted by Al Haxton)

First off a bit of history. I joined the Michigan Fly Fishing Club more than 36 years ago. I have learned so much from our club and its members. Not only wonderful places to fish but also I really learned how to save money in fly fishing by tying my own flies. So many great members assisted me with ways and places to fish and shared so many great memories with me. I can say that for many years I never missed a meeting and always looked forward to shaking hands and chatting with other members. Now I live outside Grayling, and while that is a dream come true I admit that one thing I miss the most being up here is not being able to attend MFFC meetings.

(to be continued on Page 4)

Board of Director's Message: Ultimate Fishing Show

Submitted by Jim Aitken, Treasurer, MFFC

Dave(Nowicki) and I want to extend our thanks to the volunteers who helped to make our Ultimate Show a **huge success**: We tied flies for 349 kids, including 166 on Saturday; talked to any Show visitors and handed out about 800 cards promoting the MFFC Expo coming in March; and so far, 6 people have joined the Club after visiting the booth at the Show!

So our thanks go out to Warren Carah, James Harris, Ken Harfoot, Rodney Kitchen, Robert Gordon, Mike Davis, Mary & Ron Kobish, David Mayes, Art Mikkola, Norm Tabaka, Dave Miller, Eric Schuldt, Spencer Vanderhoof, Brian Rippon, Brandon West, Karl Gross, John Eriksson, David Oakley, Jon Bada, Terry Heron, Gerald Deputat, Tom Colean, Pat Breen, Gary Jones, Scott Terzich, Jan Rief, Tom Sewruk. Mary Lou Ragala and Terry DeFaux

We hope to see even more of the MFFC membership volunteering for the Outdoorama, February 20-23.





Recent News

Why I enjoy Zoom (continued from Page 3)

That brings me to the reason for this note. ZOOM. I enjoy seeing folks, being able to hear our guest speakers, being able to share fly patterns with our quest tiers, and while I cannot shake hands with friends, I can truly enjoy and feel like I can be part of meetings, even though I am about 200 miles away. Its so good to see folks there interact with each other and I do truly enjoy the smiling faces I see on the screen. So if you are a member but are unable to attend a meeting try the ZOOM link. The folks doing the ZOOM stuff do a great job and really try to include all the things going on at each meeting. Give ZOOM a try. You too will enjoy it.

Editor's Note: [HyperLink for January's Meetings](#)

Hemingway's "Bourbon and Browns" Outing

(written by Tom Coleman)



It will be the kind of summer morning that Hemingway would write about - cool air rising off the Holy Waters of the Au Sable, the river moving lazy and patient, as if in no particular hurry. The WaWa Sum Lodge will stand stoic and timeless on the banks, a rugged sanctuary for the

wanderers and anglers who will gather there for Michigan Fly Fishing Club's "Bourbon and Browns" summer outing, a celebration of fish, fellowship, and that sweet amber spirit.

July 17th thru 20th, 2025, will mark four days of easy living, the sort of days that will make you wish the clock would slow down and let the river speak. The event will be built on simplicity - good company, good food, and the unhurried rhythm of the water. You will feel it as you walk up to the lodge, the scent of pine and the soft buzz of anticipation weaving through the air.

Breakfast will be a feast that feels earned before the day even begins—eggs done right, crisp bacon, sausage, and coffee poured strong enough to wake a trout. Box lunches will be made to your liking, ready for the kayaks, canoes, drift boats, and wading anglers heading out into the Au Sable's bends and eddies. The plan for the day? No plan at all—just a rod in hand, the soft whisper of line cutting the air, a perfect presentation with the hope of a rise and the addicting tug and a tight line.

By evening, the lodge will glow with the amber light of bourbon and conversation. Dinner will be hearty enough to satisfy any appetite, a spread that will bring folks together over shared stories and the occasional fish tale. And the desserts, -all bourbon-laced, will be the kind that makes you think there's a place for whiskey far beyond the glass.

The secrets of the Holy Waters will be shared by those who know this stretch of Michigan better than they know their own backyards. Then the games, a friendly round of cards for those

looking to settle in for the evening and the casting competition for those whose hands won't yet be tired. There will also be the "CPR" competition, Catch, Photo, and Release, the only kind of contest that will matter here. The largest fish won't be measured in inches but in the grin it puts on the angler's face before letting it slip back into the river.

Bourbon and Browns won't just be an event; it will be a reminder. A reminder of what it means to slow down, to listen to the river and the laughter of new and old friends. To watch the sun dip low over the trees and feel the satisfaction of a day spent doing exactly what you love. The Au Sable will be the stage, the lodge the backdrop, and the anglers the players in this timeless tale.

As the fire burns low on the final evening, and the last sip of bourbon lingers warm on the tongue, you will feel it—this won't just be another gathering. It will be a moment carved out of the ordinary, a Hemingway chapter come o life. And just like that, Bourbon and Browns will become a story worth retelling, a memory worth keeping, and a reason to come back to the river again and again.

For more information, contact **Tom Coleman** at 248-444-9202 or tjcole6@gmail.com a \$50 deposit is required to reserve your spot, with a total cost estimated to be \$250.

Women's Fly Fishing Clinic

(original content from Michigan TU)



catch your very first fish on a fly!

Come with nothing but your enthusiasm to learn and leave ready to conquer the water! By the end of the day, you'll master the art of casting, selecting and tying your own fly, assembling your gear like a pro, and knowing exactly what essentials you need to start fishing. Plus, you'll discover the best spots to

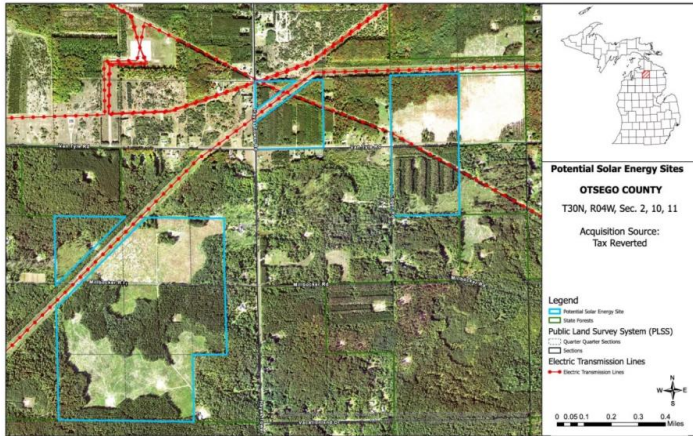
Dive into the world of fly fishing and learn everything from tying knots and choosing the perfect fly to matching the hatch, casting techniques, and finding that dream fishing location. Your adventure begins here! The event details are as follows:

Date: Sat. February 1, 2025 Time: 8:15am - 4:00pm
 Location: Bangor Central Elementary School (Bay City, MI)
 Register: [Sign up Here via Online HyperLink](#)
 Cost: \$35 per person, \$30.00 for those under 18.
 Lunch: catered by Rosie's Pies

For more information: email 1beachteacher@gmail.com or call Laurie at 989-205-3763. This event is sponsored by the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Public comment opens on a plan to clear trees for a solar array (farm) near Gaylord

(written by Izzy Ross, *Interlochen Public Radio* & Teresa Homs, *WCMU*)



A plan from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to potentially lease more than 400 acres of state land in the Gaylord area for solar development has stirred up a range of responses.

Some lawmakers have called for staff within the department to be fired, citing a lack of trust and transparency in the planning process. And the solar company that initially pitched the idea has distanced itself from the project.

The DNR released a public notice of its plans to lease the land for solar development on Tuesday, opening up three months of public comment.

Scott Whitcomb, the director of the DNR's Office of Public Lands, said the department will then decide whether to issue a request for proposals and solicit bids. He said this is part of the typical statutory process for leases or acquisitions of land over 80 acres to notify local units of government and the public.

"Considering alternate uses of state land is not unusual for the department," Whitcomb said. "We're the largest landowner in the state, and people come to us when there are land activities that require acreage. And so those include, but they're not limited to, gas & oil, mineral production, sand and gravel mines, landfills."

Whitcomb said in this case, a developer, RWE Clean Energy, reached out to DNR in May to ask about leasing state land to expand a nearby solar array in Hayes Township. (Hayes Township officials could not be reached for comment this week.)

RWE has been developing a solar array on over 1,100 acres of private land nearby, which is expected to produce about 200 megawatts of alternating current.

The department looked at around 1,200 acres of potential state forest land in the area and settled on the 420 acres, which make up just over half a square mile.

Whitcomb said there was the opportunity to develop solar on this tract of land with minimal harm to the environment. Half the land

had already been harvested for timber, and he described the piney forest as "very industrial in nature," with oil and gas extraction and transmission lines on the property.

Hayes Township had previously voted in favor of RWE's solar development on private property butting up against the state land.

"We thought all of those things would lend themselves to a successful project," Whitcomb said. "Obviously there are a lot of concerns, so we want to pump the brakes and spend some time gathering input and assess where we are."

A spokesperson with RWE, Patricia Kakridas, said in an email that the company is no longer planning to expand onto state land. "We did not just make this decision," Kakridas wrote in the message, **bolding and underlining** the words "did not."

"We have been working with the landowners since 2019 and already have leases for the property on which the solar farm will be located," she continued. "We reached out to all of the adjacent property owners during the early development process, including DNR, but decided we only needed the existing footprint."

However, Whitcomb said the DNR only became aware that RWE was no longer interested in leasing that land over this past week.

After MLive first reported on the project, a firestorm of responses followed.

Republican lawmakers like Rep. Ken Borton (R-Gaylord), called for department staff to be fired.

Others were upset at what they call a lack of transparency from the department. Over 50 lawmakers signed a letter to the department saying such projects "highlight the blatant hypocrisy within the DNR" because it's denied smaller lease proposals in the past, and demanding more information about other projects.

"This was just dropped on all of us," said Sen. John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs). "I found out about it through the news on Friday. And these types of things are big decisions related to the overall energy policy of the entire state. Legislators should be part of this discussion."

Damoose's 37th district covers parts of northern Michigan and the eastern Upper Peninsula. While Damoose said he's not opposed to solar overall, he doesn't agree with cutting down trees to make room for solar panels. And he said lawmakers should be involved in these decisions.

Damoose is also among the lawmakers who say the state's clean energy goals are unreasonable and should be scaled back. "We can't get there in the way they want us to do it," he said.

The state's Public Service Commission estimates that Michigan would need to commit up to about 209,000 additional acres for solar and wind to meet renewable energy goals, though it made no distinction between the types of land.

(to be continued on Page 6)

Conservation News Articles & Fly Fishers International Affiliation

Public comment opens on a plan to clear trees for a solar (array farm) near Gaylord (continued from Page 5)

response over the state’s process, saying it’s another example of anti-solar sentiment. Emily Smith, a policy manager with the Michigan Environmental Council, who works on land and conservation issues, said while she and other staff were initially shocked, after reviewing information from the DNR, they felt more comfortable about the process.

There are legitimate concerns about deforesting land for solar and other projects, she said, but the specifics of each project need to be carefully considered. “While these tracts of land might still have some ecological value, we were able to see that about 200 acres of the 420 is already slated to be clear cut anyway for pine for the timber industry,” Smith said, adding that another section had been damaged by tornadoes.

The council has called for the DNR to conduct a climate analysis of the potential project. The lease discussion falls amid Michigan’s ambitious goals to reach a 100% clean energy standard in the next 15 years, which was set into law by the Democrat-controlled state legislature in 2023.

The administration under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer directed state agencies to assess their role in meeting goals outlined in the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

Whitcomb said for the DNR that could mean converting “marginal productive” state land for utility scale solar. This approach has been well-documented, most recently within the 2024 state forest management plan. The plan includes objectives to identify state forest land suitable for renewable energy, develop utility-scale renewable energy siting guidelines and issue requests for proposals for renewable energy projects.

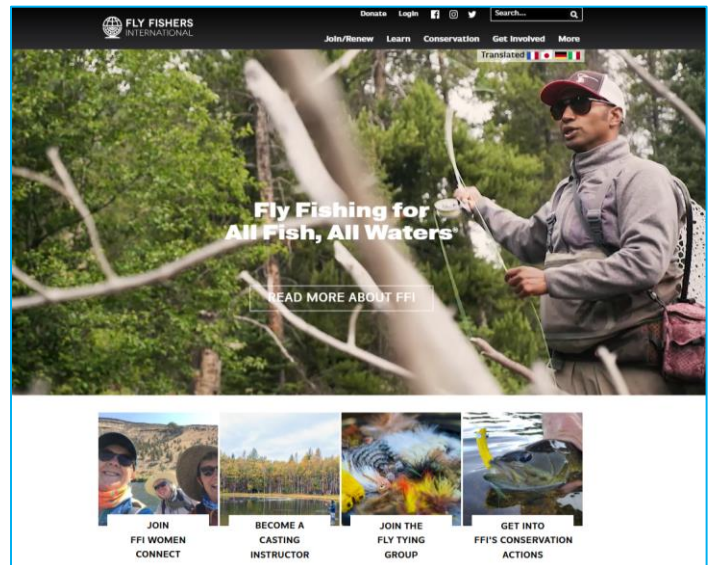
In 2020, the DNR offered land for lease on two former northern Michigan mineral mining sites for solar development; one project fell through and the land reverted back to the state. And another solar developer outside of Mio was rejected out of concern for the endangered Kirtland’s warbler.

But Whitcomb said the DNR has set the maximum amount of state land that would go toward solar development at 4,000 acres.

“We’ve established a self-imposed cap to let people know that this is not going to be a widespread occurrence where we’re leasing for the conversion of tens of thousands of acres of state land,” Whitcomb said. “This is going to be very limited, very strategic and very thoughtful.”

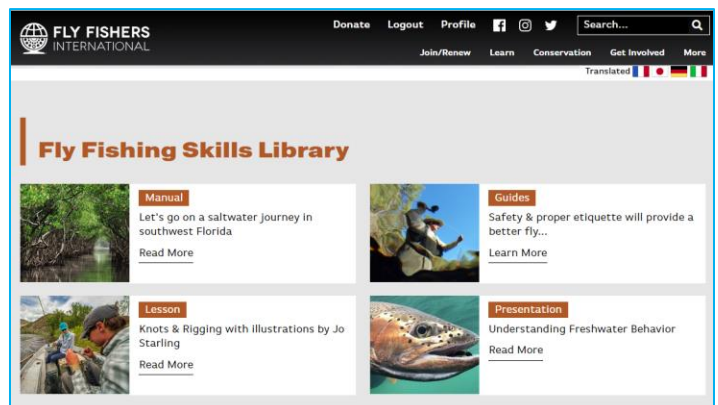
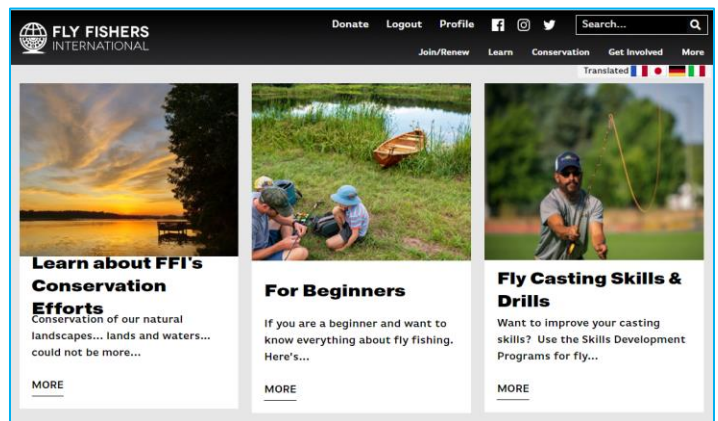


Did You Know that MFFC is Affiliated with Fly Fishers International (FFI)? **Fly Fishers International**



Learn how to become a Certified Casting Instructor (like our own Chris Hunter achieving a Silver Level). Check out their website, lots of information / links / videos ... maybe become a FFI member as well!


Some of their other “Learning Opportunities” are :



Editor's Note: Be sure to list our club when you join.

MFFC Events and Outings w/ Chairperson's eMail (Hyperlink)

 [Hyperlink for volunteer sign-up](#)

 [Hyperlink for eMail](#)

Outing and Events	Dates	Where	Chairperson(s)
Ultimate Fishing Show	January 9 th – 12 th , ('25)	Suburban Showcase (Novi, MI) Volunteer Signup for Ultimate FS	Jim Aitken / Dave Nowicki
Outdoorama	February 20 th – 23 rd	Suburban Showcase (Novi, MI) Volunteer Signup for Outdoorama	Jim Aitken / Dave Nowicki
White River Trip #1	February 23 rd – 28 th	White River Trout Lodge (Cotter, AR)	Scott Freeburg
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo	March 8 th – 9 th	Macomb County Community College (Warren, MI) Volunteer Signup for the Expo	Kevin Lipp / Joe Sprys
White River Trip #2	March 16 th – 21 st	White River Trout Lodge (Cotter, AR)	Jon Bada
Trout Tune-Up	April 5 th	Walled Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (Walled Lake, MI)	TBD
Member's School	April 12 th	Churchill Community Education Center (Royal Oak, MI)	Vince Caruso
Opening Day & Remembrance	April 26 th	Gates AuSable Lodge (Grayling, MI)	Al Haxton
Youth School	May 3 rd	MSU Tollgate (Novi, MI)	Len Dixon
WawaSum: Dick Schott New Member Outing	May 7 th – 11 th	WawaSum Lodge (Grayling, MI)	Glenn Easterbrook
MFFC Banquet	May 14 th	Italian American Banquet Center (Livonia, MI)	Kathy Oehring
Smallmouth Outing	May 15 th – 18 th	Blue Spruce Motel (Port Austin, MI)	Renée Gall
WawaSum: Bourbon & Browns	July 17 th – 20 th	WawaSum Lodge (Grayling, MI)	Tom Coleman
Club Picnic	July 19 th	Multi Lakes Conservation Club (Commerce Township, MI)	John Eriksson
Yellowstone, MT Trip #1	July 26 th – August 2 nd	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	Al Haxton
Yellowstone, MT Trip #2	August 2 nd – 9 th	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	Al Haxton
Yellowstone, MT Trip #3	August 9 th – 16 th	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	Al Haxton
AuSable River Cleanup	September 6 th	Gates AuSable Lodge (Grayling, MI)	Anglers of the AuSable
Scout School	September 20 th	Wayne County Community. College - Ted Scott Campus (Belleville, MI)	Dave Oakley / Norm Tabaka
Wisconsin Driftless Outing	September 21 st – 25 th	Nature Nooks Retreat (Viroqua, WI)	Jerry Deputat

 [Hyperlink for volunteer sign-up](#)

 [Hyperlink for eMail](#)



Michigan Fly Fishing Club – the Back Page

(continued from Page 2)

Board Directors' Meeting Minutes

Visitors:

- Member's School: Vince Caruso brought up venue change from last year to the Churc-hill Community Education Center at 707 Girard Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Discussed food offerings and Rental Cost. Perhaps having a Q&A from the Board as an item for Member School. School will take place on April 12, 2025



New Club Members: Tight Lines!!

- Edward Davis (Petosky, MI)
- Karl Gross (Novi, MI)
- Greg Kinser (Elmira, MI)
- Mortell Kinser (Metamora, MI)

Look who caught a fish over the holidays? Our very own Cory Thelan (who was visiting the Holy Waters all the way from Madison, WI). Cory was fishing with his dad (Kenneth) and Cory caught two trout near Guide's Rest. "I was using streamers after not having any action on nymphs."



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
 P.O. Box 530861
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