



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2025 Edition

Tim Flagler – Featured Tier & Speaker for our 2025 Club Banquet on May 14th



May 14, 2025 @ 6:30 – 9:30pm
Italian American Banquet Center
39200 W. Five Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48152

Tickets are \$50 per person. Choice of: NY Strip Steak, Chicken Marsala (or gluten free Chicken Marsala), Roasted Salmon or Vegetarian Lasagna. Tickets are available for purchase at club meetings. Cash or check only please. Email Kathy Oehring (oehrk@icloud.com) or call (734) 341-9196. Please note, no tickets will be sold at the door. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 29, 2025.

Join us at the IABC to enjoy an afternoon with our Guest Tier: Tim Flagler, as he will be leading a tying session with some of his favorite patterns and sharing techniques that

will help to enhance your tying experience.

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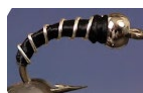
Cost of the event is \$30 and includes pizza and salad for lunch and tying materials. Tickets are available for purchase at club meetings. Cash or check only please. Note: no tickets will be sold at the door. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 29, 2025. You can also email Kathy Oehring at oehrk@icloud.com or call (734) 341-9196.

Here is the agenda for May 14th:

- 11:30am: doors open for tying session
- Noon: lunch for tying session
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm: tying session
- 5:30pm: doors open for evening festivities

Here are a few of Tim's social media sites (just in case you want to learn):

- website: tightlinevideo.com
- Facebook: [tightlinevideo](https://www.facebook.com/tightlinevideo)
- YouTube: [@tightlinevideo](https://www.youtube.com/@tightlinevideo)



Upcoming Club Events

- 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
- 05/25/25: Driftless Spring Trip
- 06/04/25: Summer Speaker Meeting
- 07/09/25: Summer Speaker Meeting
- 07/17/25: WawaSum Outing
- 07/19/25: Club Picnic
- 07/26/25: Education Outing
- 07/26/25: Yellowstone Trip #1
- 08/02/25: Yellowstone Trip #2
- 08/06/25: Summer Speaker Meeting
- 08/09/25: Yellowstone Trip #3
- 09/20/25: Scout School
- 09/21/25: Driftless Fall Trip
- 09/26/25: FFI Flyfest

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 March 12th, 2025

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; J. Eriksson

Absent:

Approval of the Minutes: minutes from 02/12/25 approved

Approval of the Agenda: agenda from 03/12/25 approved

Officer's Report

President: K. Lipp

- Kevin noted the Club's "Busy Season" was over, the club's Constitution needs revisions.
- We could use more grant requests; we may underspend this year. There are a few days left for grant requests this year.

Vice President: J. Bada

- The second Arkansas White River trip will begin this Saturday, March 15.

Treasurer: J. Aitken

- Membership income is on target.
- The storage fee/rate at the Hayes Rd facility has increased. Still waiting for a possible increase from the 8 Mile Storage Unit.
- Some 90 members received the Hatch by mail. A discussion followed on possible solutions to alleviate the added cost but there were no motions made.
- The Raffle is currently \$1,500 under income. Members are encouraged to purchase more tickets.
- Expo booth rental was on budget, and we made a profit on Expo Pins. Overall, we are expecting a profit overall for the 2025 Expo.

Corresponding Secretary: S. Hunter

- Mark Hendricks will present a casting demo on the April 2nd mtg
- Dan Walker will be the featured tyer for April 16 activity meeting.

- Tim Flagler will be the Banquet Speaker on May 14th

Membership: J. Eriksson

- Membership now stands at 419.
- There were 39 new member signups at the Expo.

Events and Outings:

- Expo summary, vendors did pretty much the same as last year regarding sales, overall attendance was down slightly.
- Planning for 2026 Expo and Site/Location discussion
- Trout Tune-up on April 5 chaired by Kevin Lipp and Sybil Hunter
- Member School: April 12th in Royal Oak
- MFFC Banquet: May 14th Tim Flagler will be speaker
- Browns & Bourbon July 17th
- Club Picnic - July 19th
- Grindstone Port Hope Sportsman Club Education - July 26th

New Business:

- Club Investments - discussion on investing in short-term CDs that pay more than our current accounts do and not affect cash flow, specifically, 3–6-month CDs. We will be able to set up the Certificate of Deposits after completion of the Expo financial review.
- We need to establish the list of potential speakers for 2025-2026.
- 2025-2026 Budget setting will begin after Expo financial results are completed
- New member/meeting guest welcome, see Visitor Business.

Old Business:

- We still need someone to step up for the Corresponding Secretary position; post edit – James Harris was newly elected

(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

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

Results of April's Election of 2025-2026 Club Officers

- President: Todd Schotts
- Vice President: Jon Bada
- Treasurer: Jim Aitken
- Membership: John Eriksson
- Corresponding Secretary: James Harris
- Recording Secretary: John Aukee
- Director at Large: Norm Tabaka

The following two Directors at Large will be serving their 2nd Year Term:

- Joyce Haxton
- Terry DeFauw

2025-2026 Club Officers' terms, will start on May 14, 2025 and will be reflected on May's Edition of the Evening Hatch

Important Facts about the Evening Hatch as submitted by Jon Bada, Hatch Editor

Due Dates: for submittals towards the next issue of the Hatch is the Thursday proceeding of the club's Board Meeting. Submittals can be sent to the Editor at: vicepresident@mffc.org

Cost of publishing and mailing hard copies of the Hatch: based on the production & mailing budget, and the rising cost on printing and postage stamps, with two more publications this current fiscal year, the Hatch's actual cost has exceeded its planned budget by 25%.

For those members using printed and mailed copies of the Hatch, would you **consider reading the online version of the Hatch?** eBlast mailers from the Corresponding Secretary and our club's website has electronic versions of the Hatch. We would like to reserve hard copies to handout to new members at their first club meeting as well as handouts for potential new members at some of our outreach / volunteering events. Please email me if you want to be removed from the Hatch Mailing List of members. Thank you for your cooperation.

Seeking Assistance from Club Members on the Following

Storage Facility: do you (or someone you know) where we can store our Expo Equipment? As the cost of renting the storage locker has drastically risen over the years, MFFC is looking for an alternative site to house the display items, curtains, signage, and various equipment that we use for our Expo. We are looking for storage space equivalent to an one car enclosed garage.

If you have any suggestions, please contact any Board Members as soon as possible.

Extra Tying Materials laying around that you are not using? For now specifically **looking for hooks** that will used during our Activity Meetings or Outreach Tying Events. So if you have any hooks in any size or configuration that are laying around you tying bench and are not used, please contact Vern White or any Board Members.

Summary on a Search for a Temporary Venue of 2026 Expo: Submitted by Jon Bada

As some of you are aware, Macomb Community College's Sports & Expo facility will be undergoing renovations next year and our Midwest Flyfishing Expo will need a temporary venue for our March 2026 dates. Kevin Lipp is exploring venues such as other local community colleges/exposition centers where can host our Expo under the following guidelines:

- 60,000 square foot floorspace with high ceilings and several classrooms nearby
- Free parking for vendors, volunteers and guests
- Floorspace access to set-up on Friday during the day (hence schools with large gymnasium will not allow access to their floorspace during school hours)
- Either first weekends in March 2026 would be ideal

Please contact Kevin Lipp or any Board Members if you have any suggestions.



Latest New Members

As submitted by John Eriksson

New Club Members: Tight Lines!!
 Daniel Boyko, Fort Wayne, IN
 Paul Brown, Macomb, MI
 Mark Collins, Northville, MI
 Chris Fondaw, White Lake, MI
 David Green, Farmington Hills, MI
 David Kent, Rochester Hills, MI
 Cody Kurzer, West Bloomfield, MI
 David Newman, Mt Clemens, MI
 Nickolas Opalewski, Garden City, MI
 Kevin Prather, Brethren, MI
 Sherman Schulta, Adrian, MI
 Terry Simek, Lake Orion, MI
 Rick Swaine, Livonia, MI
 Jeffery Tolsdorf, Clinton Twp, MI
 Angelo Zervos, Novi, MI



Recent News from Club Members & Affiliates' Fishing Reports

Opening Day Memorial Celebration

Submitted by Al Haxton

The days are certainly getting longer, the snow is almost gone and the rivers are beginning to look really like Spring. What a wonderful time of the year.

Once again the Michigan Fly Fishing Club will host our annual Opening Day Memorial Celebration in just a bit over a month. As we have done for the past 24 years, we will meet up at Gates AuSable Lodge on **April 26th**, the traditional Opening Day of Trout Season in Michigan. We will have the big tent in the field across from the fly shop. As in years past we will remember the folks we have lost during the past year, share a bloody mary and maybe partake in some sweet treats from Goodales Bakery of Grayling.

We will gather about 9 AM to chat and remember fellow club members. About 11 we will all disperse into the river and do some fly fishing. During the hours in the tent, we may shed a tear or two, laugh about wonderful memories with great friends and maybe meet some new friends and fishing buddies.

Please plan on attending and sharing the memories of this wonderful MFFC Tradition. See you there.

Power Outage Hits Northern Lower Michigan

Submitted by Josh Greenburg, Gates Lodge



April 1st: As you may have seen on the news, our area was hit by a significant ice storm over the weekend. Power has since returned to the lodge (but not to all of our homes) and so we are working today, Tuesday, to get the lodge picked up, turned on, and ready to rock. Major kudos to all the professionals who got called in to help this area out. An impressive effort.

It's been an exciting weekend to say the least and for those that were here, you caught a lot of nice trout (the fishing was pretty good, actually) and had a good adventure. That is about what March has to offer on the Au Sable.

This storm came roaring in Saturday night (03/29). I texted a friend at 5:32 PM that evening -after watching an 80 foot tree fall across the road: I think we'll remember this storm for quite awhile. But that was a bit of an understatement. The rain fell at

a 33 degree temperature but the air was just cold enough to glaze the tree branches. This glaze grew into ice balls, a translucent weight that bowed every tree in the forest before a great many - thousands and thousands - began snapping. We heard them at night from inside our home. There were trees falling all around us the next day as we cut open roads, drives, and so on. The trees that fell pull down or broke whole power poles (there was one, two days later, still laying in the middle of McMasters Bridge Road.) And then it began really raining. And raining.

From the trout perspective, it's not a bad thing. Our rivers were in desperate need of a flush of water. The needed a bunch of new trout cover. The big picture effect of this storm to the trout is positive.

The river is high, but it's not very dirty. The edges are somewhat clear and, to be honest, the streamer conditions don't look that bad. Fishing it will be an adventure. If you're floating, well, make sure that you have a plan for if the river is blocked. We canceled a few floats but will be back on the water starting Thursday. If wading, your options will be very limited for a few days but the river has crested, and is beginning to drop down by Parmalee. This means that the mainstream up by the lodge is also dropping. Point to point wades are likely out of the question for awhile, but at least you should be able to get into the water and do a little fishing by this weekend at select spots. The South Branch is over 700 cfs and continuing to rise. That river desperately needed a big flush of water after several years of low flows.

April 10th: The river has settled into something close to perfect spring conditions...and I'll extend that to include the South Branch which as of right now is flowing at a very spring-like 471 CFS (and dropping). The BWOs have been hatching well and we anticipate a few rising trout in certain stretches of river on certain days (cloudier the better) over the next week. The hendricksons won't be too far behind. No predictions from me, and none needed: It's a classic mid-April fishing report. You take your streamers and your nymphs, you fish the water as best as you can, and you hold out hope that in the middle of the afternoon that a little hatch will happen and a few trout will rise. And if they don't, you do like Bryan and fish the nymph.

I haven't been fishing — been using the chainsaw and getting ready for dry-fly time. I think it'll be sooner rather than later, and so rather than squeeze in an afternoon of subsurface fishing, I've been using my spare time to prepare. Black stones. BWOs (emergers and duns, mostly). And Hendricksons (nymphs, emergers, duns, cripples, oddballs, experiments, spinners). It happens fast now. Spring is a lot of things, from spring cleaning to dry fly fishing. If it sounds like I'm excited, it's because I am.

If it really is going to be this warm this weekend, we will plan on fishing black stones with bead head droppers, fishing smaller streamers (especially the wade anglers), looking for BWOs, and enjoying the spring bird songs and the decent wading conditions. Aside from the South Branch, the upper sections of river are
(to be continued on Page 5)

2025 Education and Conservation Grants Summary

As submitted: Kevin Lipp

The 2025 Conservation & Educational Grant will be considering the following requests. If you have any comments about these requests, please contact Chair Kevin Lipp @ 734-837-1100.

Request 1: Cedars for the Au Sable

The northern white cedars along the Au Sable River in Michigan provide needed shade to maintain the cold-water fishery. The presence of the cedar sweepers at the water line provides protection for the fish, increases the amount of large woody debris in the water, as well as the preservation of the riverbank by locking in the soil. However, there has been no natural reforestation/ regeneration of northern white-cedar seedlings along this river for the past four decades. A grant is requested to purchase north-ern white-cedar seedlings and their protective enclosures to be planted by volunteers along the riparian corridor of the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers.

Expected total cost: \$10,200 Requested amount: \$1000

Request 2: Dam 4 Portable Toilet

Place a portable toilet at the end of Dam 4 Road in Lovells's Township from 5/22/25 thru 9/2/25. This busy landing is use by fishers, kayakers and canoeists throughout the summer season. The landing has no toilet facilities. The cost would be split between the MFFC and the Lovells Township Board.

Expected total cost: \$371.43 Requested amount: \$185.72

Request 3: Grayling Fish Hatchery Fish Feeders

The Hatchery needs updated, functional and varmint-resistant automated fish feeders to assist our staff in keeping the Hatchery fish healthy and properly fed.

Expected total cost: \$4000 Requested amount: \$2000

Request 4: Anglers of the Au Sable North Branch Au Sable Habitat Project

Install over 50 structures on the North Branch between Twin Bridges and Lovells Bridge utilizing proven structure types including inverted V's, brush bundles, parallel logs and bank overhangs. Work will commence and conclude in the summer of 2025. The goal of this project is to provide the trout population with a diverse selection of habitat types to encourage survival in all age classes. This work functions in conjunction with our other habitat work between Twin Bridges and the Meadows Access.

Project benefits include the exposure of gravel through the use of flow-moving and scouring structures, protecting and encouraging spawning trout, increasing the number of aquatic insects and providing cold-water refuges by protecting spring steeps with large woody debris.

Expected total cost: \$40,000 Requested amount: \$10,000

**Clinton River Watershed Council Clean-Up Day**Excerpts from: crwc.org

Save the date for our 2025 Clinton Clean-Up, which takes place on April 19th. Locations and times vary (see below)

Clinton Cleanup is an annual effort that brings people together to participate in clean-ups and practice stewardship of local water resources and green spaces. Clinton Clean-up is made possible through the combined effort of hundreds of individuals, businesses, local governments, and community organizations who host clean-ups with us throughout the watershed. Volunteer groups organize clean-ups around the watershed and CRWC provides the materials needed (grabbers, trash bags, etc...).

River Woods: April 19, 2025 9:00 am - Noon
Description: Cleaning up trash and debris at River Woods Park
Organizer: City of Auburn Hills
Contact: [Steve Baldante](#)

Wolcott Mill Metropark April 19, 2025 11:00am - Noon
Description: Learn about your impact on stormwater and water quality while we pick up around and in the river. All ages are welcome, water gear is advised.
Contact: [Mary Barnes](#)

Yates Park April 19, 2025 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Description: Annual Clinton River Cleanup along the banks of the River at Yates Park (across the road from Yates Cidermill).
Organizer: Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Metro-West Steelheaders
Contact: [Olivia Triltsch](#)

Josh Greenburg's Fishing Report

(continued from Page 4)

good for wading and the lower sections of river have been fishing well for the streamer anglers.

The rainbows used this high water to run up the river and they are starting to spawn on the Holy Waters. We let them do their thing — the wild Au Sable rainbow is a spectacular fish. They are bold, hard fighters, love to eat small dry flies in the summer, and provide a silver shock to the system when one takes. Here is a fresh redd that showed up today.



Fly Fishers International FFI Learning Center (Ethos)**Handle Fish Safely for Soft Release**

Catch and Release was recognized by those early leaders as a conservation practice that every fly fisher could use to reduce fishing-related mortality and sustain healthy fish populations. FFI continues to strongly advocate the safe release of fish and management agencies now also are regulating the release of caught fish to reduce “take” in specific cases where “over harvest” of fisheries has been documented, to assist in restoration of sensitive fish populations and to optimize recreational opportunities in selected areas.

Research has shown that native game fish that occur in cold, warm and salt waters can be safely returned to the water with an expectation that they will not only survive but also reproduce. Still, post-release mortality can be as high as 18%, depending upon the species, differing environmental circumstances but especially how the fish is handled prior to release.

FFI believes that conservation of fishes and wetland habitats remains more critical today than ever and urges our members and the fly fishing community to embrace “Handle Fish Safely for Soft Release” as a personal commitment to conservation of our valuable fishery resources.

Handle Fish Safely:

- Fish with barbless “Single Hooks”, or hooks with barbs bent down, to minimize tissue damage during removal.
- Land fish quickly in a rubberized net.
- Wet your hands before handling a fish, don’t squeeze the fish and keep them in the water and wet to the extent possible. “Keep Fish Wet”
- Do not support fish by the jaw for any reason.
- Use hemostats or dehooking devices to remove hooks while the fish remains in water or net.
- Never lay fish on rocks, bank or boat or keep out of water for an extended period to photograph.

Soft Release of Fish:

- Minimize the time your fish is out of the water.
- Wet your hands when handling your fish.
- Keep fingers away from gills and eyes and never support fish horizontally by jaw.
- Never squeeze your fish.
- Cradle fish gently in hand or net and in the water until the fish swims away freely.
- Fish native to cold and/or moving water may need to be held with their nose upstream to sufficiently recover before release.



The high-quality digital cameras in our smart phones are excellent for taking photographs of fish, other wildlife and the wetlands where we fish. They allow taking multiple photographs quickly for review, cropping and discarding later. Be sure to secure your camera with a lanyard when over water.


Excellent photographs can be created safely of fish in several ways, dependent upon size and species of fish, whether standing in water with the fish or photographing from a boat. Smaller fish can be easier to compose for photographs, whereas photographing larger fish safely can be more challenging.



“Safe Handling for Soft Release” of the larger and often heavily harvested trophy species is especially important to post-release survival. The popular practice of photographing fish in hand adds additional reason for handling fish safely and releasing them softly to improve their survival and possible capture another time. The following practices will help ensure the fish you release survive:

- Ask a partner to assist in taking the picture, especially helpful when photographing larger or very active fish.
- Avoid holding fish completely out of water and never lay fish on ricks, shore or boat. “Keep Fish Wet” at all times as you prepare to take your photograph
- Leave fish in water with the line or in a rubberized net while turning the camera on and planning the photograph.
- Avoid photographing highly active fish; wait for the next fish.
- Fish will often calm when pressure on the line is slackened, making natural photographs in water possible.
- Wet hands before handling a fish.
- Have your camera ready before handling the fish for the picture.
- Compose the picture, take photographs quickly and softly release the fish as soon as possible.
- Calmed fish can be photographed laying or cradled in hand or in net.
- Larger fish can be photographed in wet hands, partially out of or just above water with water dripping, as well as when they are being released softly from hand into the water.
- Avoid retaining fish longer when trying for the perfect photograph.
- Take several successive photographs of moving fish and review them later to avoid holding fish for extended periods.

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

 Hyperlink for eMail

Outing and Events	Dates	Where	Chairperson(s)
Members' 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
Driftless Spring Trip	May 25 th – 30 th	Quiet Valley Cabins (Coon Valley, WI)	Jess Farris
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
Grindstone Port Hope Youth Outdoor Education Day	July 26 th	Grindstone Port Hope Sportsman Club Education Outing (Port Hope, 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
FlyFest 2025	September 26 th – 27 th	Sheraton Airport Conference Center (Grand Rapids, MI)	Fly Fishers International

Scenes from April's Members School



Michigan Fly Fishing Club – the Back Page

Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes (continued from Page 2)

Visitors:

- Vern White: suggested we have a greeter at the sign in table to provide resources to new members and visitors in order to help them feel comfortable when attending for the first time. We have worked on visitor and new member encouragement over the last few years but having a designated greeter at each meeting would be a positive move, in addition to the new member guides that have updated. Vern offered to work on greeting and enabling guests and new members to make contact with current members to fish with and learn fly tying and get acclimated to the club.

Pictures from the March White River (AR) Trip



Mike Davis on a White Wiggle Minnow



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
 P.O. Box 530861
 Livonia, MI 48153