



Hatch

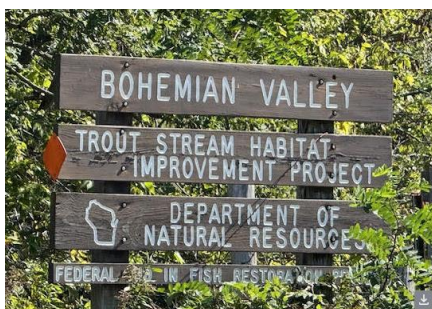
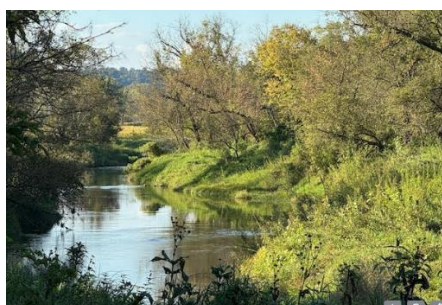
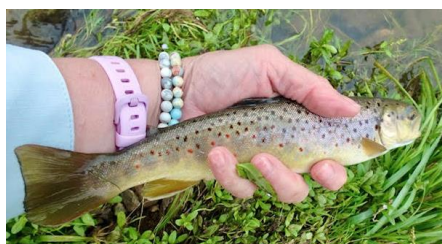
The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2025 Edition

Fall Outing to the Driftless (WI)

Submitted by Joyce Haxton

Another wonderful Driftless trip is in the books. Hosted by Jerry Deputat, we had a wonderful week. With the cooler weather and the rain needed, fishing was very good! Many Club members connected with fish! Al and I, besides fishing, wandered to the local fish hatchery, where we saw 100,000 baby Sturgeon fish, rainbows and smallmouth bass that were being cared for. Then we took a drive over the Mississippi! If you are looking for a closer to home adventure, check the Driftless out. There are more Coulees (Rivers) then you will ever be able to fish!



(more pictures on Page 4)

Upcoming Club Events

- 10/15/25: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 10/31/25: AuSable Salmon Trip
- 11/05/25: Club Meeting (Speaker)
- 11/12/25: Board Meeting
- 11/19/25: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 12/03/25: Club Meeting (Speaker)
- 12/10/25: Board Meeting
- 12/17/25: Club Mtg (Garage Sale)
- 01/07/26: Club Meeting (Speaker)
- 01/08/26: Ultimate Fishing Show
- 01/14/26: Board Meeting
- 01/21/26: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 02/04/26: Club Meeting (Speaker)
- 02/11/26: Board Meeting
- 02/18/26: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 02/19/26: Outdoorama Show
- 02/22/26: White River (AR) Trip #1
- 03/01/26: White River (AR) Trip #2
- 03/04/26: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 03/11/26: Board Meeting
- 03/13/26: Midwest Flyfishing Expo
- 03/14/26: Expo (Pontiac, MI)
- 03/18/26: Club Meeting (Speaker)
- 04/01/26: Club Meeting (Speaker)
- 04/04/26: Trout Tune-Up
- 04/08/26: Board Meeting
- 04/11/26: Members School
- 04/15/26: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 04/25/26: Opening Day
- 05/06/26: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 05/06/26: Dick Schot New Member
- 05/13/26: Board Meeting
- 05/20/26: MFFC Banquet

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 September 10th, 2025

Roll Call:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

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

Absent: none

Approval of the Minutes: minutes
from 5/10/25 approved

Approval of the Agenda: agenda
from 09/10/25 approved

Officer's Report

President: T. Schotts

- Todd Schotts thanked board members for serving this year. The Clarenceville dates thru May are set.
- The Constitution needs to be updated.
- Hatch printing will need to be limited; paper costs are becoming prohibitive. Todd will make an announcement at the next meeting regarding paper costs and Hatch print copies.

Vice President: J. Bada

- Hatch mailing list will be revised to eliminate duplicates

Treasurer: J. Aitken

- Jim Aitken - Report Jim summarized the previous year, we have a positive cash flow for the year.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Harris

- Blasts are working, we are looking for a Banquet Speaker and hope to have a speaker finalized by October.

Membership: J. Eriksson

- Membership now stands at 447.



Events and Outings:

- FlyFest – 09/26 and 27 in Grand Rapids
- A new venue for the 2026 Expo has been found the Oakland Cty Expo Center, a contract should be completed next week. There will be new times for the event. Set up will be all day Thursday and Friday morning. The Expo will be open starting Friday afternoon until 9pm and Saturday 9am – 6pm. Dates are March 13th & 14th, 2026.
- Oscoda Lower AuSable Coho & Steelhead trip October 31, November 1, Jon Bada leading. Kelly Neuman guiding, there is room for 4 anglers.

Old Business:

- FFI Expo on Sept 26 and 27 we will be represented by Scott Freeburg, Bill Magee, Tom Mogford, Todd Schotts (who maybe speaking) and John Eriksson,
- Storage costs. Jim Aitken made a motion to pay for the next 6 months while we consider other storage options, Todd Schotts seconded the motion, the motion carried.

New Business:

- The Constitution needs updating, Hatch mailing is an issue, and the constitution has not been updated in many years. Kevin Lipp will head up a committee to revise and update the MFFC Constitution. Kathy Oehring, Todd Schotts and Vern White have agreed to help as well, the committee will need one more member. Membership can also make a recommendation on the constitution. The (revised) document needs to be presented to the general membership and receive an affirmative vote.
- PayPal allows payment in honor of past members. The Corresponding Secretary needs to communicate the acceptance of the gift to the donator.
(to be continued on Page8)

2025 - 2026 Club Officers

President:

Todd A. Schotts

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:

James Harris

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:

Kevin Lipp

mailto: kjlipp@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 – Todd A. Schotts FFI FlyFest Wrap-Up

The FFI FlyFest that took place in Grand Rapids MI from September 26th and September 27th was a huge success for the FFI to raise their funds needed to go for another year. As I mentioned this event is for FFI to raise funds to be able to proceed for another year, like Trout Unlimited's Banquets, and for the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

Our club had a table there, and I have to give a huge shout out to Scott Freeburg for running this for the club, and the club members that helped, Bill Magee, Tom Mogford, Jon Bada, and John Erickson. They did something right; we got 4 new club members, way to go team!!!

I was fortunate enough to be tying with other tyers from all over the United States and the world. It was a great time, especially on Thursday as a group of us sat down in the lobby of the hotel, we held court, talked about fly tying, shared our tied flies, discussed tying techniques, and different tying materials. I have to say, I think I was the ringleader that started this while I was waiting for Scott Freeburg to show up. For the event I was fortunate enough to see and visit with speakers that spoke at our club and Midwest Show in the past, with Bruce Richardson, Al Ritt, Kevin Feenstra, and Emily Whitlock (they all gave high praise to our club and for everything we do).

The Fly Fest had silent auctions and bucket raffles going off all day long besides the classes and seminars. Every 2 hours the FFI was putting new items out; I have to say the Michigan Fly Fishing Club represented those auctions and raffles well, including myself. John Erickson won probably the coolest prize in silent auctions with the Oasis Tying Bench he won. It was really, really nice table, congrats John. The funny part, I actually got to know the owner of Oasis Tying Benches as he was demonstrating his Dubbing Brush Table both days in with the tyers. His dubbing brushes is an art form by itself for sure. We wrapped up Friday night with Dinner and a live auction with the one and only Glen Blackwood. It was a very successful auction for funding for the FFI.

Saturday was identical to Friday, but with some different tyers coming in and seminars/classes were changed up also. I did make a lot of friends with other FFI Clubs and fellow FFI Members all over the United States and World like I mentioned earlier, not just for myself but also for our club. Both days I was slinging bobbins, tying my frog patterns and it was a huge success with everyone that was there. You could say the flies were just hopping off the vise.

I do want to thank the Great Lakes FFI and the FFI Headquarters for letting the Michigan Fly Fishing Club to have a table there and for letting myself to be able to tie along with some of the best tiers in the U.S. and World. The saying that weekend for the FFI was "Why FFI?" Think about it, we could say the same thing here at the MFFC, with both club being almost identical with conservation projects and educational teachings for members or schools; plus having fun. Thank you again FFI!!!

October 2025 Speaker – Al Haxton Volunteerism

"The act of freely and willingly offering your time, energy, and skills to help others or support a cause without any expectation of financial reward"

We had the pleasure of our long time Club member, Al Haxton, talk about his experiences in volunteering with the club and the wonderful times he has experienced. The Club has at any given time over 3-4 events per month. This could never happen without the enthusiasm and volunteering of our Club members. Al suggested having co-chairs for events, would also help spread responsibility and it's always good to have two folks who know what's involved in case of an unexpected event. And there are many ways to volunteer, it's not only running an event, we have many opportunities such as, assisting with the Raffle, Website & socials media management, audits, running Zoom for our meeting nights, The Expo, assisting on activity nights with tying and casting.

We would like to thank Al for his insights, and it was wonderful to see him in person! (Al & Joyce normally attend our club meetings via Zoom from their home in Grayling).

If anyone would like more information, please feel free to reach out to any board members or anyone who is involved with an activity you're interested in.



Editor's Note: both Joyce and Al volunteer for several events / tasks such as:

- Hosting our summer trips to West Yellowstone, MT
- Hosting our Opening Day Weekend Festivities at Gates
- Joyce is our Facebook Administrator, also co-chair on our club's banquet
- Both help out wherever they are needed at our Expo and our other club functions
- Both are **true volunteer ambassadors** for our Club



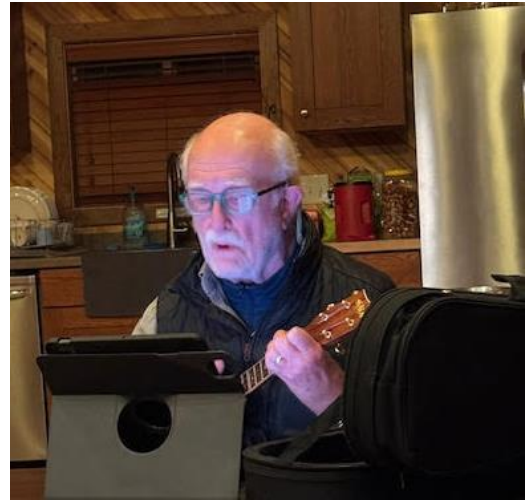


Recent Pics and Stories from Recent Club Outings and Events

More Pictures from the Driftless (WI) Outing



Pictured left to right: "The Dirty Dozen" Mike Thomasian, Ed Jones, Glen Easterbrook, Jess Farris, Al Haxton, Joyce Haxton, Karl Gross, Bill Yaw, Phil Heck, Jerry Deputat, Tom Coleman, Peter Albertson (not pictured Corey Thelan, photographer)



**A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"**

October 02, 2025, Introduced by Reps. VanderWall, Borton, Wozniak, Fairbairn, Markkanen, Frisbie, Prestin, Bohnak, Cavitt and St. Germaine and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Tourism **House Bill No 5093**

Editor's Note: pertinent Sections are presented

Sec. 43523b. (1) The fee for a resident combination hunt and fish license is ~~\$75.00~~ **\$78.00** and includes all of the privileges conferred by all of the following:

- a) Resident base license.
- b) Two deer licenses.
- c) A general fishing license.

(2) The fee for a nonresident combination hunt and fish license is ~~\$265.00~~ **\$268.00** and includes all of the privileges conferred by all of the following:

- a) Nonresident base license.
- b) Two deer licenses.
- c) A general fishing license.

Sec. 43532. (1) An individual 16 years of age or older shall not take or possess an aquatic species, except aquatic insects, in the waters over which this state has jurisdiction without a license.

(2) A general fishing license entitles the licensee to take and possess all aquatic species as prescribed by law, other than chinook salmon, coho salmon, Atlantic salmon, steelhead, lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, walleye, splake, pike, lake sturgeon, and musky. **The fee for a resident general fishing license is \$28.00.** The fee for a nonresident general fishing license is \$78.00.

(3) An individual shall not take or possess chinook salmon, coho salmon, Atlantic salmon, steelhead, lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, walleye, splake, pike, lake sturgeon, or musky without a **hatchery stamp**. **The fee for a hatchery stamp is \$5.00.** All money generated under this subsection must be allocated to the fisheries division of the department and be used for aquatic species production and stocking, including aquatic species not listed in this subsection.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual under 16 years of age may take and immediately release aquatic species in the waters over which this state has jurisdiction without a general fishing license. An individual under 12 years of age must possess a youth fishing license in order to possess an aquatic species harvested from the Great Lakes. An individual at least 12 years of age but less than 16 years of age must possess a youth fishing license in order to possess an aquatic species but may catch and immediately release aquatic species without a youth fishing license. **The fee for a youth fishing license is \$5.00.**

[Hyperlink for entire HB-5093](#)



PFAS Cleanups Delayed by Years at Michigan Military Sites

Written by Kelly House, Bridge Michigan

The Pentagon has delayed cleanups at more than 100 contaminated military installations nationally, including six in Michigan. Michigan's longest delay is 7 years at the former KI Sawyer Air Force Base in Marquette County. PFAS activists said the unannounced changes fit a pattern of poor transparency about cleanups at military sites

The US Department of Defense has extended by years cleanup timelines at several Michigan military sites contaminated with PFAS "forever chemicals," drawing criticisms from lawmakers and community advocates. With no public announcement, the Pentagon recently updated an online timeline that shows when it expects to complete investigations that are a prerequisite to final cleanup plans for 723 sites nationwide. The new timeline, which replaced the version from December, includes multi-year delays at more than 100 sites across the country.



At some sites, military officials in charge of cleanups are pursuing stopgap measures to keep contamination from spreading in the meantime. And residents with contaminated drinking water wells have generally been provided with a source of clean water. But uncontained plumes of polluted groundwater pose a continued risk to humans and the environment. The longest extension in Michigan is at Marquette County's KI Sawyer Air Force Base, where the Pentagon now says remedial investigations won't be complete until 2033, seven years later than the public estimate just months ago.

Other delays include:

- Wurtsmith Air Force Base (Oscoda): July 2027
- Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township: September 2033
- Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center: 2031
- Kellogg Air National Guard Base (Battle Creek): 2031
- Kincheloe Air Force Base (Chippewa County): 2031

Timelines for the Camp Grayling National Guard training facility, the Grand Ledge Army Aviation Support Facility and US Army Detroit Arsenal remained unchanged, while a timeline has not been set for a contaminated site in Lansing. A spokesperson for the Department of Defense, did not immediately respond to a request for comments.

Called "forever chemicals" because they don't readily break down in the environment, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) have been linked to cancer, thyroid problems and a host of other health challenges. Contamination is widespread at military sites, where firefighting foam containing chemicals was widely used in training exercises for decades.

[Hyperlink to entire Bridge Michigan article](#)



Conservation - Fly Fishers International Affiliation & Education News

Fly Fishers International: Learn About Fly Fishing

Welcome to FFI's fly fishing information center, your first stop to learn about fly fishing. Do we have all the answers? Absolutely not! One of the exciting things about fly fishing is that it's a continuous learning process. There are always new places to fish, new techniques to try, gear improvements, and new fly designs and materials. Your favorite fishing spot changes every day with weather and water conditions. Many opportunities to try something different.

Just getting started? Check out the [Learn to Fly Fish](#) video to get a quick overview of the sport. Ready to learn the fundamentals of the sport and how all the pieces fit together? Dig into Fly Fishing Fundamentals. It is a foundation program designed to help you learn why we do what we do so that you are prepared to find what works best for you. Check out Kids Teaching Kids and Youth Education for information geared to youth

If you want to learn about more specialized fly fishing techniques, take a more in-depth look at a topic, or explore fishing in some general regions, check out Special Topics. What is "advanced" information varies by where you are located and the kind of fly fishing you enjoy. Just want a quick definition or description, check out the Fly Fishing Glossary.

Learn About Fly Fishing is designed for you, the online learner. But we encourage you to connect with a fly fishing club or fly fishing friend. The fly fishing community is a sharing community that can enhance your learning experience.

Editor's Note: during the following months, the Evening Hatch will be adding similar content from Fly Fishers International:

By clicking on the hyperlink [Learn to Fly Fish](#) the following content will appear: Fish Where You Are

Learning to fly fish is something anyone can do, no matter where you are. Even more than catching fish, fly fishing is a fun way to enjoy being outside and meeting others. The FFI community welcomes beginners and seasoned anglers alike, fostering a community where knowledge is shared generously, and friendships are forged through a shared love of the sport.

Learning to fly fish is a fun process including technique and observation and can lead to a new understanding of nature, both near home and farther away. Beginning with understanding equipment like the fly rod, line, and flies, the process evolves into learning the movements of casting, some unique knots and materials, and how fish behave in their habitats.

In our five part series below, you'll be introduced to Kayla and Grant, and join them as Kayla shares her fly fishing knowledge. You'll learn the basics about fly rods and fly lines, as well as the basic equipment needs, and introduction to fishing knots, and some ideas about how to find places to fly fish.



Below are five hyperlinks for the "Learn to Fly Fish" Series ... just hover over the color fields, press the **Ctrl** key and click

Episode 1: [Introduction \(to Fly Fishing\)](#)



Other episodes in this series include:

Episode 2: [Let's Get Started](#)



Episode 3: [Let's Meet at the Fly Shop](#)



Episode 4: [Time to Fish](#)



Episode 5: [Meeting Others can be the Best Part](#)



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

[Hyperlink for eMail](#)

| Outing and Events | Dates | Where | Chairperson(s) |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| AuSable River Cleanup | September 6 th | Gates AuSable Lodge (Grayling, MI) | Anglers of the AuSable |
| Wisconsin Driftless Outing | September 21 st – 25 th | Nature Nooks Retreat (Viroqua, WI) | Jerry Deputat |
| Ultimate Fishing Show | January 8 th – 11 th , ('26) | Suburban Showcase (Novi, MI) | Jim Aitken / Jon Bada |
| Outdoorama | February 19 th – 22 nd | Suburban Showcase (Novi, MI) | TBD |
| White River Trip #1 | February 22 nd – 28 th | White River Trout Lodge (Cotter, AR) | Scott Freeburg |
| White River Trip #2 | March 1 st – 6 th | White River Trout Lodge (Cotter, AR) | Jon Bada |
| Midwest Flyfishing Expo | March 13 th (Fri 1p - 9p) – 14 th (Sat 9a – 6p) | Oakland County Expo Center (Waterford, MI) | Kevin Lipp / Joe Sprys |
| Trout Tune-Up | April 4 th | Walled Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (Walled Lake, MI) | James Harris |
| Members School | April 11 th | Wayne County Community College - Ted Scott (Belleville, MI) | Vern White |
| Opening Day & Remembrance | April 25 th | Gates AuSable Lodge (Grayling, MI) | Al Haxton |
| Dick Schot New Member Outing | May 6 th – 9 th | WawaSum Lodge (Grayling, MI) | Glenn Easterbrook |
| Smallmouth Outing | May 14 th – 17 th | Blue Spruce Motel (Port Austin, MI) | Renée Gall |
| MFFC Banquet | May 20 th | Italian American Banquet Center (Livonia, MI) | Scott Freeburg / James Harris |
| Youth School | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| | | | |
| | | | |



Michigan Fly Fishing Club – the Back Page

BoD Meeting (09/10/25)

(continued from Page 2)

New Business:

- We received a gift from Canadian National to be allocated by the Board.
- Chairpersons: We need chairpersons for the Banquet, Ultimate Fishing Show 2027 (Jon Bada will “shadow” Jim Aitken in 2026, Outdoorama 2027 (we need a shadow for 2026) Jim Aitken will not chair these events after 2026. April 11 is the member school it will take place at the WCCC Van Buren campus need a chairperson, Youth School needs a chairperson. James Harris will run the Trout Tune Up in April, and the Yurt has been paid for.
- The Boy Scout School and Youth school have been poorly attended (less than 20 attendees) lately. A question was raised whether we should continue to offer these events.

Visitors:

- Vern White: reported club hat cost is TBD based on thread count.
- Sybil Hunter reported that website issues are being addressed, Dates and Headings were not updating. There were some difficulties ordering banquet tickets via Pay Pal etc. A discussion followed on a calendar feature plug in update issue that requires us to reset weekly

Last of the pictures from the Driftless



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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