



Hatch

Title

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

November 2025 Edition

Michigan Trout Unlimited - Restoration Work

Submitted by Kristen Thomas
Mich. TU Stream Restoration Director



Michigan Trout Unlimited strives to focus much of our on the ground effort on projects we have identified as being beneficial to a stream based on data collection and analysis. There are certainly times, when we take advantage of opportunistic projects. This happens most often with dam removal projects. If a dam owner comes to us asking for their dam to be removed, we try to make it happen! But we always strive for thoughtful, intentional work. Which means we need to have baseline data about a stream before we can identify the most needed work. We generally use our seasonal summer staff to collect data about stream temperature, habitat, dams, barriers, and fish needed to identify and prioritize work.

When reviewing data for prioritization we try to look for factors that may be limiting a coldwater fishery. That could mean barriers to movement, high water temperature, or poor in-stream habitat. When a potential limiting factor is identified, work to address that limitation can begin. In some cases, projects are both opportunistic and intentional. For example, we may have an opportunistic dam removal that leads to intentional stream habitat improvement work in the area of the dam removal. When assessing in-stream habitat for limitations we look

at substrate composition, stream depth, stream width, the amount of wood and aquatic vegetation present, and the quantity and distribution of run, riffle, and pool habitat. The goal is diversity of habitat – areas of coarse substrate and some areas with fine substrate, deep water and shallow water, areas with wood and aquatic vegetation. Limitations are identified when habitat is monotonous – wide, shallow, and sandy is a common problem in cold northern Michigan streams so let's talk about what can be done to improve these areas. The focus of much of this article is in-stream habitat work, but connectivity is key to stream health. We love to remove dams and often in-stream habitat work is done along with dam removals.

In coldwater streams in Michigan, especially in the lower peninsula, wood is the main driver of habitat diversity. These streams are most often low gradient, sand bed streams without much cobble or boulder present. A diverse stream has a variety of depths and substrates; this variety is created by variation in the direction and speed stream water flows. When the direction and speed of water vary, habitat is created through scour. In the absence of large rock and steep gradients, wood is the primary way to redirect water to create habitat.

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Upcoming Club Events

- 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
- 03/04/26: Club Meeting (Activity)
- 03/06/26: Midwest Flyfishing Expo
- 03/07/26: Expo (Pontiac, MI)
- 03/11/26: Board Meeting
- 03/16/26: White River (AR) Trip #2
- 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
- 07/16/26: Bourbon & Browns
- 07/18/26: Club Picnic
- 08/01/26: Montana Trip Week #1
- 08/08/26: Montana Trip Week #2
- 08/15/26: Montana Trip Week #3

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 October 8th, 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 09/08/25 approved

Approval of the Agenda: agenda for
10/08/25 approved

Officer's Report

President: T. Schotts

- Should we decide to move the club meeting location it would take one to two years; considerations are Livonia PO Box, Non-Profit Paperwork and contract with a new location.
- The MFFC does not have an official position on (13) Dam removals.
- The FFI show in Grand Rapids was very interesting. The FFI is impressed by our club and contact information was shared among leaders.

Vice President: J. Bada

- Hatch (Editor) needs information for articles on the Friday after Board meetings. Ten requests not to receive Hatch mailings have been received.
- The Late October Coho/Atlantic Salmon/ Steelhead trip will likely be cancelled due to lack of (sign-up) support.

Treasurer: J. Aitken

- We have had a slow month, we are underbudget, there are ongoing costs for website security, we just paid for 4 years for the Main and Expo sites. Our budget may allow for \$25,000 or so for a short-term CD investment.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Harris

- The mailing list for Blasts has been updated.
- Kristen Thomas from Michigan TU will be our November Speaker.
- December speaker is James Spica, who will discuss fly fishing in Iceland and a recent trip he took.
- January/February/March speakers are TBD.
- The banquet date is May 20, 2026.

Membership: J. Eriksson

- We had 438 members at the close of the Fiscal Year, July 3, 2025. Membership now stands at 447.
- Renewal letters (438) were sent to on October 1. There are 207 memberships paid as of Oct. 8th.
- One hundred surveys have been received thus far.

Vistor's Comments:

- Scott Freeburg: the Audit Committee (Scott, Bill Magee and Tom Mogford) findings from a meeting they had on Sept. 12th, that everything appears in order, one note was made that expo show set up lunch - attendees names need to be recorded. Jim Aitken made a recommendation for the next treasurer to require attendee names; Todd thanked the committee for their summary.
- Vern White: reported on the (club) hat order.

Events and Outings:

- The new venue for the 2026 Expo Oakland Expo Center. Dates are March 13 & 14, 2026. Set up will be all day Thursday and Friday morning. The Expo will be open starting Friday afternoon until 9pm and Saturday 9am – 6pm. Teardown will be Saturday evening. Letters are out to Speakers. (*Editor's note: see new date changes*)
- There was discussion on promoting the new location and providing printed matter to Bass Pro, Cabela's, all the fly shops in the

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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



A Message from the Board of Directors

Important Date Changes

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo: Oakland Expo Center, Waterford Township, MI; the Macomb Community College venue is undergoing renovation. We are, based on feedback from our vendors and a review of our attendance records, shifting the Expo to a Friday & Saturday show.

From: March 13th – 14th

To: **March 6th – March 7th** (same show hours)

Important Schedule:

- Thursday, March 5th:
 - Club Setup: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Vendor Setup: 1:00 pm- 9:00 pm
 - Friday, March 6th:
 - Vendor Setup: 8am - 1pm,
 - Expo Open: 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 - Saturday, March 7th:
 - Expo Open: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
 - Vendor & Club Teardown: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
 - Volunteer Sign-up: <https://volunteersignup.org/XJQRM>
- Contact: Kevin Lipp [kjlipp@gmail.com]

White River Trip (Week #2): Cotter, Arkansas – due to change in venue dates for the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, this trip will be delayed by two weeks; same cost / itinerary as before

From: March 1st – 6th

To: **March 16th – March 20th** (4 days of guided trips)

Contact: Jon Bada [vicepresident@mffc.org]

**Hook, Line & Bargain: MFFC Annual Garage Sale – Dec 17th**

Submitted by Kevin Lipp

Don't miss one of the Club's favorite events! The annual garage sale is your chance to clear out those fly fishing treasures you just had to have but haven't touched in a few years. Bring along any rods, reels, tying materials, or other fly fishing gear you're ready to part with. This is a great opportunity to add new fly fishing gear to your collection - maybe a nice 3 weight rod or a 5/6 reel.

Please note: This garage sale is for items related to fly fishing, please leave general household "garage sale" items home. Also, no credit card payments accepted: cash only

This garage sale event will take place in place of December Activity Meeting and there will be no club raffle occurs at this event

**Fly Fishers International Affiliation & Education News****FFI Fly Casting Definitions (Part 1)**

[Hyperlink to the Entire Article](#)

These casting definitions are designed to help instructors and others with a serious interest in Fly Casting communicate more clearly with each other. They are not necessarily intended to be teaching terms, and we of course respect our colleagues' right to use terminology they consider suitable for their students. This single set of definitions covers both overhead and anchored casts with all fly rods. Some physics terms pertinent to fly casting are provided as they may help provide a deeper understanding of casting.

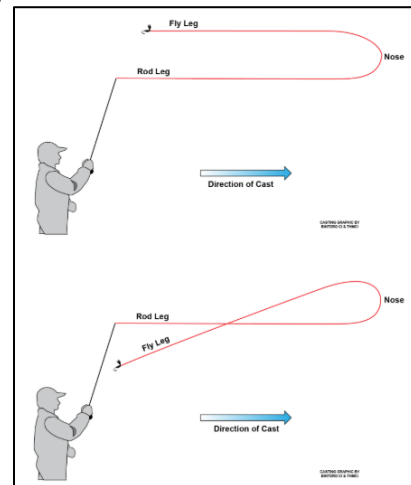
Fly Casting: using a flexible lever to move and unroll a weighted line to propel an artificial lure.

Loop: the shape a fly line assumes as it overtakes the rod tip during a Fly Cast.

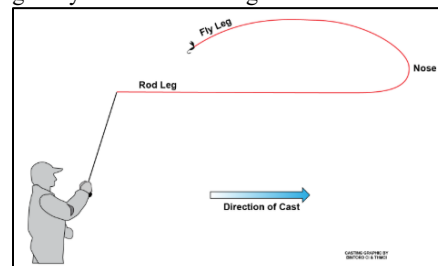
- **Fly Leg:** the moving section of fly line in a Loop from the fly to the start of the Loop Nose.
- **Rod Leg:** the moving or stationary section of fly line in a Loop from the rod tip to the end of the Loop Nose.
- **Loop Nose:** the curved section of fly line at the front of the Loop which is the transition between the Fly Leg and the Rod Leg

Fly Leg Shapes:

- **Straight Fly Leg:** a Fly Leg where the fly line and leader are relatively free from curvature from the Loop Nose to the fly.



- **Convex Fly Leg:** Fly Leg with a dome shaped configuration curving away from the Rod Leg.



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Stories from Recent Club Meetings

Michigan Trout Unlimited Restoration Work (Continued from Page 1)

Therefore, most of our habitat work focuses on using wood to increase in-stream habitat. Adding wood creates cover and places for bugs and food to live, but it also can be placed to increase the diversity of habitat in terms of depth and substrate. To have the biggest impact on habitat diversity possible wood should be placed to work with the morphology of the river which not only increases habitat diversity but also improves stream function. The functions of a stream are transporting water and sediment. A stable, or functional stream, transports water and sediment such that it maintains its shape and profile through time. In simple terms, a functional stream keeps roughly the same overall width, depth, and channel pattern through time. That doesn't mean individual locations change but rather each change is balanced by a counter change in another area. In order to achieve stability, a stream much be able to transport and store water and sediment effectively.



Murray Dam Stream Restoration: Before (left) and After (right)

The goal of many of our stream improvement projects is to restore stream function such that the projects will maintain themselves through time. Of course, we are not always totally successful, but projects are thoughtfully designed to try to improve function. Practically that means using wood or trees to consolidate flow creating deeper water and uncovering coarse substrate while also using wood to capture and store mobilized sediment. Wood meant to scour is placed in areas where the river is working to move sediment and wood meant to capture and store sediment is placed in areas where the river is working to store sediment. In our experience, trying to work with the stream helps structures be more successful more quickly.



Manistee River Wood Cover: Before (left) and After (right)

Successful in-stream habitat enhancement work is evident when we see deeper water in some areas and deposition of sediment in others. When stream banks begin to develop in some areas where wood was placed and deep water and coarse substrate increase in other areas where wood was placed stream function is improving. Monitoring the shape of the river channel and the

size of substrate in fixed locations helps us to gauge the success of projects.

Fishing in project areas is also encouraged, in fact my 10 year old son (Kai Thomas) caught his first brook trout just downstream of a dam removal project we completed the upper Au Sable River. He caught the trout out of some wood that was placed downstream of the dam removal to direct flow towards the center of the channel while also collecting sediment. What a gratifying moment that was!



Kai's first brookie (left) and tree structure – deeper water (right)



More Manistee River wood structure stream enhancement

We are always looking for champions for our work and volunteers to help further our mission in Michigan. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please contact Kristin Thomas (kthomas@mcihigantu.org).



Editor's Note: Kristin was our November Featured Speaker



Topic of Discussion from Great Lakes Chapter of FFI

Consumers Energy Hydropower Projects Sale – Perils and Pitfalls (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)

Recently, Consumers Energy announced that it is planning to sell its 13 hydropower projects as the outcome of its three-year long-term planning. Consumers would sell the physical assets for each project for \$1 and enter into a 30-year power-purchase agreement with the buyer for all the power generated from each project, and in turn sell this power to its customers. The Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International, Anglers of the Au Sable, and Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association) is opposed to this sale for the following reasons:

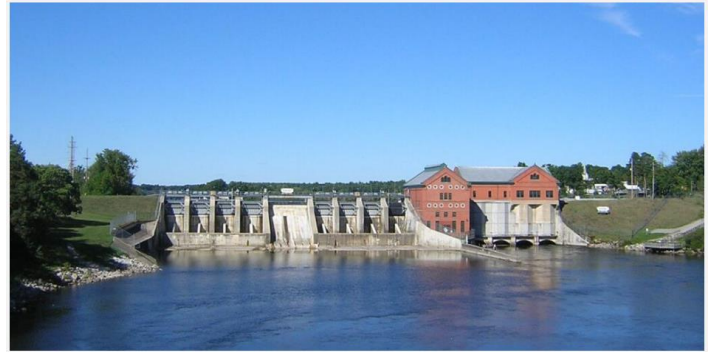
Disincentive for future capital investments in the dams: Since Consumers' hydropower projects produce energy sold directly for its customers, it is a regulated utility that can seek cost-recovery through Michigan Public Service Commission rate hikes. Thus, there has always been an incentive to invest in dam improvements. However, this cost-recovery mechanism will no longer be an option for the new owner given that it would not be selling power directly to the public. The new owner will have no incentive to make long-term investments in the dams.

Economic viability: Consumers acknowledge that these hydropower projects are marginally economical. Consumers is a well-managed corporation, so it begs the question "if Consumers is challenged to turn a profit from these projects, how will another entity be able to, especially without a cost-recovery mechanism?"

Ratepayer "unfairness": While a new owner cannot pass along any future investments to the public, Consumers will be able to pass along the costs of the power purchase agreement to its ratepayers. This is unfair as ratepayers will continue to pay for an expensive renewable energy source, especially to those ratepayers who do not have a local interest in the hydropower projects.

Abandonment of local communities: Consumers has been part of the fabric of these communities for over 100 years. To sell with essentially a "good luck, FERC will make sure that everything will be okay" is washing its hands of corporate responsibility to these communities. Consumers needs to be a good neighbor and not pass the buck.

Water Quality: Six of the hydropower projects currently do not meet state water quality standards for temperature during summer months, impairing downstream fisheries. This impact has to be mitigated by MDNR fish stocking, all paid by fishing license revenues. This water quality issue will make the future relicensing (beginning in four years) of these projects very difficult.



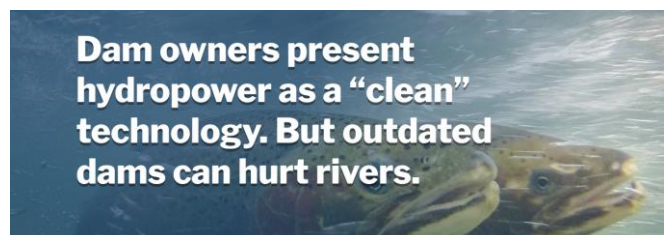
Croton Dam – Muskegon River

Tribal consideration: The Tribes are the longest standing community members associated with these river systems. As such, the proposed sale needs to fully respect and honor Tribal concerns regarding gathering rights, Tribal lands, and species of cultural significance such as lake sturgeon (Nmé).

Post-sale license requirement implementation: Even though Consumers has stated that all existing license requirements go with the projects, and any proposed sale would need both FERC and MPSC approval, there is no guarantee that a new owner will continue to meet all of the requirements. History has demonstrated that new owners of older hydropower projects in Michigan are not as committed. Just remember the Edenville and Sanford catastrophic dam failures and how the public ultimately picked up the tab. And it's happening again at the Upper Peninsula Au Train Project.

"Mining" the Projects: The potential for a new owner to simply "mine" the projects for the revenue from power generation is real. This happened on the Tittabawasee River and contributed to the catastrophic dam failures. And it is currently occurring at the Au Train hydropower project where the owner has failed to invest in mandated safety improvements for 20+ years. In fact, the owner also mined the project's assets, using project lands as collateral to secure financing and now the bank has foreclosed on these lands. This transfer of land through foreclosure is a direct violation of the FERC license requirements. Further, it resulted in the closure of the required Forest Lake campground, now no longer available for public recreation.

Ultimately, after a sale of the hydropower projects, profit may get put before compliance, investments for dam safety, and ultimately anything set aside for the eventual disposition of these aging dams. And the public should not get stuck with the bill when that arises.



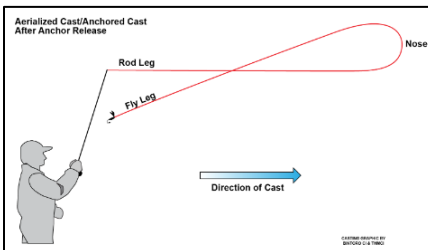
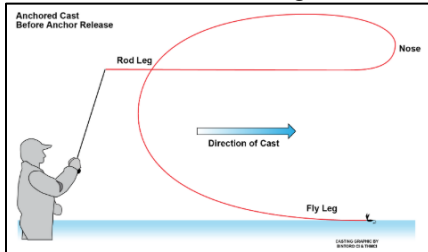
Dam owners present hydropower as a "clean" technology. But outdated dams can hurt rivers.



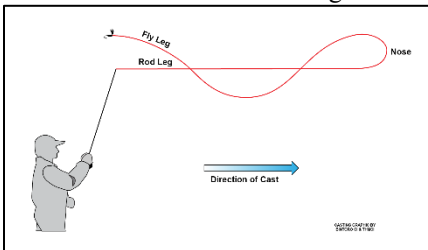
For more updates, you can visit their website:
<https://hydroreform.org/>

FFI Fly Casting Definitions (continued from Page 3)

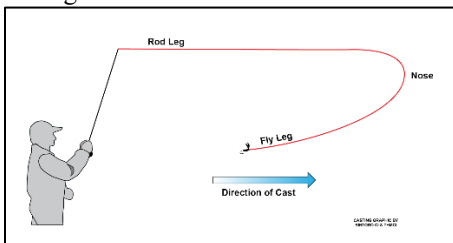
- **Trailing Loop:** a Loop which has a Fly Leg which is not Concave, and crosses the Rod Leg.



- **Tailing Loop:** a Loop with a Concave Fly Leg, which dips towards and crosses the Rod Leg.



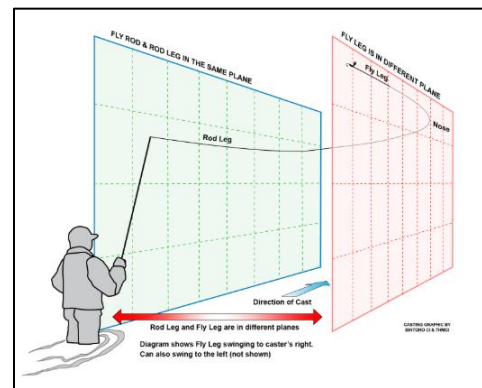
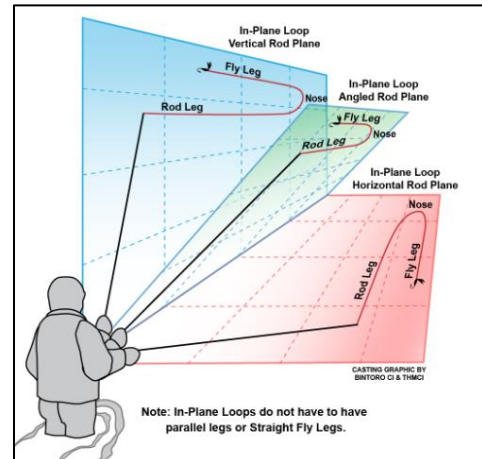
- **Underslung Loop:** a Loop whose Fly Leg unrolls below its Rod Leg.



- **In-Plane Loop:** a Loop whose Fly Leg and Rod Leg are in the same plane (reference next column – top diagram)
- **Out-of-Plane Loop:** a Loop whose Fly Leg and Rod Leg are in different planes (reference next column – second diagram from the top)

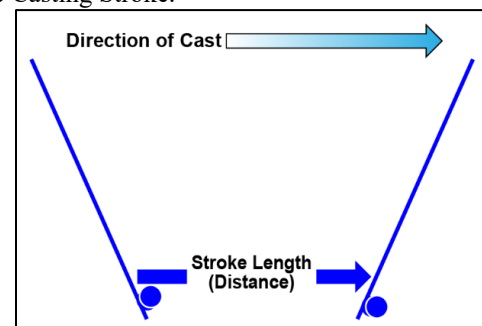
Fly Casting Movements

- **Translation:** a linear change in position of the rod butt.
- **Rotation:** an angular change in position of the rod butt.
- **Casting Stroke:** rotation and/or Translation of the rod butt sufficient to cause Loop formation.

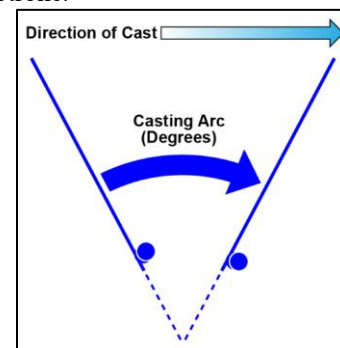


Fly Casting Movements (continued)

- **Stroke Length:** the distance moved by the rod butt during the Casting Stroke.



- **Casting Arc:** the angle change of the rod butt during the Casting Stroke.



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 8 th – 11 th , ('26)	Suburban Showcase (Novi, MI) <i>Volunteer Signup for Ultimate FS</i>	 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
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo	March 6 th (Friday 1pm - 9pm) & March 7 th (Saturday 9am – 6pm)	Oakland County Expo Center (Waterford, MI) <i>Volunteer Signup for Flyfishing Expo</i>	 Kevin Lipp / Joe Sprys
Trout Tune-Up	April 4 th	Walled Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (Walled Lake, MI)	 James Harris
White River Trip #2	March 16 th – 21 st	White River Trout Lodge (Cotter, AR)	 Jon Bada
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
WawaSum: Bourbon & Browns	July 16 th – 19 th	WawaSum Lodge (Grayling, MI)	 Tom Coleman
Club Picnic	July 18 th	Multi Lakes Conservation Club (Commerce Township, MI)	 John Eriksson
Yellowstone, MT Trip #1	August 1 st – 7 th	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	 Al Haxton
Yellowstone, MT Trip #2	August 8 th – 15 th	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	 Al Haxton
Yellowstone, MT Trip #3	August 16 th – 22 nd	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	 Al Haxton

 Editor's Note: to proceed onto the Hyperlinks show above: from your desktop computer- press on the CONTROL key and click over the colored box

2026 Montana Trips - Information



Sign up for the Montana 2026 Trips will be accepted on the first Wednesday club meeting - December 3rd. Please email Al Haxton (infoman984@sbcglobal.net) to secure your date(s) or if you have any questions about the trip.

Here are 2026 Trip Dates:

- Week One: August 1, 2026 to August 8, 2026
- Week Two: August 8, 2026 to August 15, 2026
- Week Three: August 15, 2026 to August 22, 2026



Michigan Fly Fishing Club – the Back Page

BoD Meeting (10/08/25)

(continued from Page 2)

area. We are suggestions for promoting the new venue (location).

- Laura Herberg an outdoor writer from Bridge Michigan will have a piece in Bridge. Kevin Lipp will get information from Norm Tabaka for the article.
- There was discussion on whether we should own or rent pipe and drape for the expo going forward.
- Discussion on moving the items stored at the Hayes unit. The general feeling was that we should wait until after the expo.

Old Business:

- John Aukee reported on Inventory of the 8 Mile storage unit. A spreadsheet was created and posted on the Board Drive. The unit is paid for until May 31, 2026; Todd Schotts suggested we create a sign in, sign out list and noted that the keys and locks need replacement.

Constitution Committee consists of Kevin Lipp, Mike Matuszewski, Kathy Oehring, Vern White and Todd Schotts.

- Chairpersons for Outings & Events
 - Ultimate Fishing Show: Jon Bada will shadow/co-chair with Jim Aitken running it
 - Outdoorama: need for a chairperson
 - Trout Tune Up: James Harris
 - Membership School (April 11th): Vern Smith
 - Trout Opener: Al Haxton
 - Small Mouth Outing: Renee and Bob Gall
 - Scout School: Dave Oakley and Norm Tabaka
 - Montana Outing: Al Haxton
 - Youth School: TBD

New Business:

- Joyce Haxton led a discussion on write ups of Meeting Speakers presentations for the Hatch.

Help Wanted Section:

The Board of Directors are currently looking for volunteer(s) to chair the following functions

- Outdoorama: chairperson needed
- Youth School: chairperson needed
- Social Media: volunteer required to assist or chair

Contact any Board Member either by email or at the meeting if you have an interest in any of these positions

New Club Members: Tight Lines!!

Danielle Kotlarczyk (Livonia, MI)
 Mark Kovach (Lexington, MI)
 Jacob Mack (Ann Arbor, MI)
 Nick Ryan (Grand Rapids, MI)
 Craig Small (Yorkville, IL)
 Thomas Stewart II (Bellevue, MI)
 Michael Thomasian (Livonia, MI)



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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