



The Evening Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2026 Edition

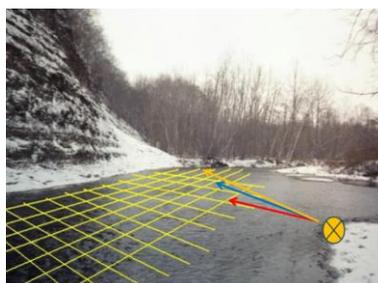
Ohio's Steelhead Alley

(January's Speaker: [Jeff Liskay](#))

Ohio's Steelhead Alley is a series of rivers, streams and tributaries that runs from Toledo, OH, to the east near Erie, PA. This region is known for its productive steelhead fishing, with tributaries that receive two major runs of steelhead in the Fall and Spring. The tributaries are stocked with thousands of steelhead each year to promote and maintain recreational fishing. The stocked steelhead spend about 1 to 2 years in their native Ohio freshwater rivers before returning to Lake Erie to further develop into adulthood.

The primary Lake Erie steelhead streams in Ohio are:

- Conneaut Creek
- Grand River
- Rocky River
- Vermilion River
- Chagrin River
- Arcola
- Ashtabula River



Grid off the river – visual conformation: water temp, clarity = grid size (start close and proceed further towards the far shore)

The prime months to fish for steelhead are late October, November, December in the fall and winter, and March and April in the spring. The eastern Ohio tributaries fish well in both fall and spring, while the central Ohio tributaries fish best in the spring. These tributaries have high shale cliffs and have flows over 1000 cfs during fall, winter and spring months. A recommendation of a downward flow of about 400 – 250 cfs is an ideal stream flows (see chart on next column)



(Continue on Page 6, right column)

Upcoming Club Events

- 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
- 05/14/26: Smallmouth Outing
- 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 December 10, 2025

Roll Call:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

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

Absent: J. Harris,

Approval of the Minutes: minutes from 11/12/25 approved

Approval of the Agenda: agenda for 12/10/25 approved

Officer's Report

President: T. Schotts

- No report provided

Vice President: J. Bada

- Hatch mailings will be 100, Jon will check what minimum quantity is from the printer and if the minimum is over 100 designated for mailing, extras can be made available at meetings or events.

Treasurer: J. Aitken

- We are operating under budget which is to be expected at this point. A second CD has been acquired; it has a 5 month maturity paying over 4%.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Harris

- No report provided

Membership: J. Eriksson

- We had 438 members at the close of the Fiscal Year, July 31, 2025
- New members since July 5th totals 26. There 295 members paid through July 31, 2026
- Ninety one surveys have been returned.
- Sixty seven members paid via PayPal. Donations to Conservation = \$795, Education = \$725, Operating = \$550.
- Rosters should be available at the December 17th meeting.

Visitor's Comments:

- V. White: Vern reported that 20 additional club hats were ordered.

Events and Outings:

- Montana trip dates are Saturday to Saturday: 8/1/26-8/8/26, 8/8/26-8/15/26; 8/15/26-8/22/26 cost tbd.
- The Suburban Place Collection has been renamed the Vibe Credit Union Showplace (for both the Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama)
- Articles for the Hatch must be submitted by the Friday following MFFC Board Meetings
- We need help with fly tying at the Ultimate Fishing Show, folks need to sign up.

Old Business:

- Discussion on whether to take a position on the Consumers Energy sales of 13 dams to a private equity company in support of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition. The Board's position is to remain neutral. Jon Bada made a motion to include a portion of the Michigan TU position as posted in Facebook in the Hatch. "Michigan's rivers face a critical juncture as Consumers Energy plans to sell thirteen aging dams to a private equity firm. This decision poses significant risks to our coldwater fisheries, public safety and the environment." Todd Schotts seconded motion. After discussion the motion did not pass.
- It remains very important to get the word out about the Expo and the new venue

New Business:

- Scott Freeburg has offered to proofread the Hatch prior to release.
- We are waiting for the Expo Pin art prior to printing Expo Cards.
- We need 2,000 Expo Cards for the Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama

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 Board of Directors Page

A Message from the Board of Directors: Upcoming Events on Volunteering Opportunities for Club Members

Outdoorama: *Vibe Credit Union Showplace*
46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI 48374

- Be a mentor for a couple hours with kids – demonstrating how simply it is to tie their own fly
- Co-Chairperson: **TBD**, contact if interested or for more event information
 - Jim Aitken: treasurer@mffc.org
- Thursday, Feb 19th: 1 pm – 8 pm
- Friday, Feb 20th: noon – 8 pm
- Saturday, Feb 21st: 11 am – 8pm
- Sunday, Feb 22rd: 10 am – 5 pm
- **Volunteer sign-up:** <https://volunteersignup.org/8LPA7> or click on the Outdoorama hyperlink (above)



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo: *Oakland Expo Center*
2212 Mall Dr E, Waterford Township, MI 48328

- **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> or click on this Midwest Fly Fishing Expo (above)



Quick Descriptions on 2026 Midwest Flyfishing Expo

Club Set-up: Thursday morning

- Unloads club equipment from previous expos from a storage unit onto expo floor; equipment including curtains, railings, sound equipment, banners, casting ponds, etc

Vendor Move-In: Thursday afternoon and Friday morning

- Assist vendors from unloading their supplies and carts them to their assigned floor spot(s)

Vendor Teardown: Saturday evening

- After the show's conclusion, assist vendors on reloading their supplies back to their vehicles
- Assist on packing the club's equipment back onto the truck to go back to the storage unit

Admissions: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday

- Assist in ticket sales for show attendees

Club Booth: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday

- Main hub for club information and expo assistance
- Assist in Expo's Pin (below left) Sales



Club Room: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday

- Hub area for club members to check-in and get their event name tag/club volunteer's pin (above right)

Kids Korner: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday

- Assist in children's activities (ie t-shirt painting)

Youth Fly Tying: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday

- Using club's equipment, assist children on tying wooly buggers

Security: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday

- Assist expo committee on checking in paid show attendees



Oakland Expo Center's Floor plan (on the left) shows the following areas:

- Entrance on the left side of the diagram (parking lot is south of the building entrance (check out mapping software for address 2212 Mall Dr E, Waterford Township, MI))
- Most likely admissions will be at the Entrance Lobby (and is unheated last time this editor was there)
- Three presentation rooms scattered through out the expo floor
- Two casting pools (at the bottom of the diagram)
- Concession stand and rest rooms are at the back of expo floor (right side of the diagram)



2026 Midwest Flyfishing Expo Presenters

Pat Dorsey:



a native of Colorado, spends well over two hundred days a year on the water, a combination of guiding customers, hosting destination travel-trips, and personal days on the water. Pat is the head guide and co-owner of the Blue Quill Angler fly shop in Evergreen, Colorado. He oversees and trains more than 25 guides, setting the standard for integrity and professionalism in the BQA guide operation. Pat also maintains an online stream report for the Blue, Colorado, South Platte, North Fork of the South Platte, and Williams Fork Rivers. He is a Simms & Fishpond Ambassador, a member of the Sage Elite, Orvis, Yeti & Scientific Anglers Pro Teams/Staffs.

Pat is the Southwest Field Editor for Fly Fisherman Magazine. He has authored: A Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River; Fly Fishing Tailwaters; Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies; Colorado Guide Flies; revised Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River; and Favorite Flies for Colorado: 50 Essential Pattern from Local Experts.

Pat Dorsey is an accomplished fly tier and has originated a number of very effective patterns such as the Mercury series, UV Scud, Top Secret Midge, Medallion Midge and the famed Black Beauty. He once produced over 28k flies in a year. Dorsey is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants and a Pro Team Member for Whiting Farms. Pat Dorsey is a nationally known speaker. He travels the United States sharing his passion for fly fishing at trade shows and private fishing clubs. He is very active in Trout Unlimited and the conservation of cold-water fisheries. His wife, Kim, is an avid angler and often appears with Pat at trade shows and other speaking engagements.

Eric Naguski



has spent the last 40 years chasing trout around Pennsylvania with a fly rod in hand. He owns Riseforms Fly Fishing guide service and a guide for Relentless Flyfishing and TCO Flyshop. He currently lives and guides out of Boiling Springs, PA in the heart of the Cumberland Valley surrounded by legendary Spring Creeks and their notoriously difficult trout. Eric is a bug geek and loves to dry fly fish. To him, sharing the experience of successfully presenting a dry fly to a picky rising fish with a client is most often more fun than doing it himself.

Eric has a biology degree in aquatic ecology and is heavily involved in conservation activities in the Cumberland Valley as a board member of Cumberland Valley TU. He also is the the board of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association working to preserve and promote the history of fly fishing in PA. Eric enjoys fly fishing for saltwater fish and has caught fish on the fly from Massachusetts to Mexico, but his heart lies in the limestone streams of PA.

Jake Villwock



has been an industry professional for over 14 years. Growing up in a commercial fishing family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, fishing has been part of his life from day one – so it should come as no surprise that he has chosen a career in the fishing industry. After graduating from High Point University with a business degree, Jake worked as a deck hand and fly fishing guide in Sitka, Alaska. He spent the winters dog sledding, in both Fairbanks, AK & Deep Creek, MD.

In 2009, Jake worked for TCO Fly Shop (Reading and Bryn Mawr, PA locations) and helped open & manage their newest location in Boiling Springs, PA. After 8 years at TCO, Jake decided to start contract guide service, Relentless Fly Fishing, for three of TCO Fly Shop's locations. Jake guides in PA and NY for trout, smallmouth, and steelhead. He has a true passion for warmwater, it is hard to find him anywhere but a smallmouth river from early spring to late fall. When he is not rowing a boat, he is most likely crawling around a local spring creek chasing picky wild fish. In addition to guiding, Jake is the author of "Smallmouth Bass Flies Top to Bottom", Fulling Mills Signature tier, blog-writer, contributor to Fly Fisherman magazine, and Eastern Fly Fishing magazine, and serves on various pro-staffs of leading industry companies such as Hatch Reels, Scientific Anglers, Simms Fishing, Clacka Craft Drift Boats, Scott Fly Rods, and Regal Vise..

Dusty Wissmath

[contact info](#)



grew up in Missouri, started fly fishing when he was eight years old, and spent his formative years highly distracted by the sport. He began guiding and teaching fly fishing in the early seventies while working on a degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Wyoming. Living in Jackson, he tied commercially for High Country Flies and guided the Snake, Green and New Fork Rivers and in Yellowstone National Park. In 1996 he founded the Dusty Wissmath Fly Fishing School & Guide Service in the hills near Mercersburg, PA where it quickly earned a reputation as a professional, yet easygoing fly fishing school. As well as directing his own school, he is an instructor at the Wulff School of Fly Fishing and served as the lead instructor at L.L. Bean's Fly Fishing School in Virginia. He guides in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Montana and hosts trips to fly fishing destinations worldwide.

Dusty is a Simms Guide Ambassador and a Pro Staff member of Scott Fly Rods, Hatch Reels, Hyde Drift Boats, ARC Fishing and a royalty tier for Holly Flies. His writing and photography can be found in several fly fishing publications.



2026 Midwest Flyfishing Expo Tyers

J.R. Bass:



from Sparta, Michigan and is originally from Rockford, Michigan. He has been in the sport of fly fishing for 25 years. His fly tying started about 8 years ago with tying nymphs, then he went to dries, to streamers, and then to wet flies. You can see his amazing and talented flies on various Facebook fishing and fly-tying pages.

Bruce Derington



took his first tying class in 1978 through a local high school evening course instructed by Hollis Holiday, and later through Challenge Chapter of TU. He also became intrigued in Classic Atlantic flies in the mid 90's and enjoyed sitting at the vise for many hours it takes in construction of the Classic Atlantic flies

Lance Kekel



a Michigan native who now calls Rootstown, Ohio his home. Today he ties commercially for shops in Ohio & Michigan. He was a semi-finalist in the 2020 Norvise Fly Tying Competition, and an invited tyer at the International Fly-Tying Symposium in 2023 & 2024. He is a self-proclaimed dry

fly junkie with an obsession for Michigan Hex and eastern limestone waters harboring Green Drakes. This is almost matched by his fascination with catching toothy fish on the fly. Lance continues to enjoy sharing his passion for tying and fishing through community & club involvement in the waters of Northeast Ohio

Kevin Ramsey



from Bellevue, Ohio and is a retired State of Ohio Wildlife Officer. Kevin is an avid fly tyer and fly fisher. He fishes for trout across the country and also enjoys fishing for stripers on the beaches of Cape Cod, MA. Kevin volunteers for Project Healing Waters

Fly Fishing and Trout Unlimited projects. He ties both trout and saltwater flies. Kevin ties and donates flies to several organizations for their fund-raising campaigns

Jerry Regan



a 3rd generation fly tier; is one of the true keepers of Michigan's Fly-Fishing History; along with being one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Just like Trout Unlimited, Jerry was born along the fabled Trout Waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid he learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's Genuine Legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert.

Alan "Al" Ritt



[contact info](#)

Al grew up here in Michigan where his passion for fishing was born. He started tying flies and fly fishing in the early 80's while living in Northern California. In 2022 he got the highest honor a fly tyer can receive, he received the "FFI Buzssek Memorial Fly-Tying Award". He is currently on the Pro-staff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Clear Goo Glue, Fishing for a Cause, Performance Flies, Daiichi Hooks, and a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. Al is on IFFF Fly Tying Board of Governors and is also a guide on Colorado and Sylvan Dale Ranch just outside of Loveland. Besides with everything above, along with his articles in various magazines, he also published, "25 Best Most Versatile Flies"

Cheryl Scherf



a school teacher in Cleveland, Ohio has been fly tying and fly fishing for 17 years. Cheryl particularly enjoys tying striped bass flies, which she uses fishing the beaches of Cape Cod. She also ties trout flies and enjoys stream fishing for trout whenever she can. She has tied at several fly shows over the past several years.

Steve Wascher



caught his first Trout at the age of 3 1/2, on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third-generation tier from Greenhurst, NY; and received basic instructions and guidance from his father; along with his grandmother in regards to tying. Steve is a well-rounded tier all aspects of the art of fly tying; from creating a unique nymph, wet flies for steelhead, or his famed deer hair bugs for those warmwater surprises. Besides tying Steve guides during the summer months for a wide range of warmwater species and he enjoys writing articles as well; which have appeared along with his flies in Hatches Magazine, American Angler, and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. Steve is on the Pro Staff of Dyna King Vises; plus many others.

Rick Wiesberg

[contact info](#)



from Hereford, Arizona. He is owner of & designer of Oasis Fly Tying Benches; plus, he is current President of San Pedro Fly Casters in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Rick built his first Oasis Bench in the late 1980's. He began making benches full time in the summer of 1998. Rick has been a Guest Tyer at Federations of Fly Fishers Conclaves, plus tying demos at a number of regional and local fly-tying fairs. He has been avid in teaching the sport of fly tying. Rick will be doing a unique at the show as a Guest Tyer, he will be demonstrating his Oasis Dubbing Brush Table and how to make brushes properly with different materials and sizes.

(to be continued Page 6, right column)

Club Event – 2026 Ultimate Fishing Show

Ultimate Fishing Show Vibe Credit Union Showplace, Novi, MI

Over the course of four show days, a total of 346 children tied a wooley bugger with our club members. Some of those kids waited for 15-20 minutes waiting for an available volunteer. Many thanks to the 40 volunteers that manned our booth. The kids' smiles were the best experience of all.



Can't wait to see more smiling and eager faces at next month's Outdoorama and March's Midwest Flyfishing Expo. Sign-up if you want to see those smiling faces as well. See Page 3 for volunteering opportunities at either show.



2026 Midwest Flyfishing Expo Tyers (continued from Page 5)

Matt "Zuddy" Zudweg



can usually be found in his studio creating artful balsa poppers.

[contact info](#)

from Newaygo, MI. He is a USCG Captain and has been guiding on the Muskegon River. since 2003 for Feenstra Guide Service. Matt is best known in the industry for his bass fly "Zudbubler", a modern version of the vintage Gerbubble Bug. When not on the water, he

Todd A. Schotts

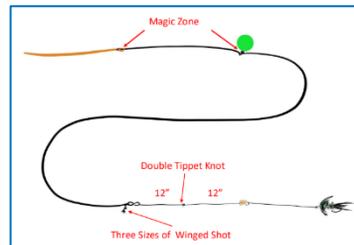


five of his patterns appeared in the spring issue of Fly Fusion Magazine. His passion though, is creating new amazing flies, being a Bass Bum, chasing Panfish in ponds & lakes, and chasing trout in spring creeks or headwaters of amazing waterways. He is on the Pro Staff with Anadromous Fly Company; Team Member (Pro Team) for Nor-vice, Pro Team for UV Craft and TFO Rods

[contact info](#)

a custom production fly tier through Grizzly Flies by Schottsie. In 2015 he was awarded the Michigan Fly Fishing Clubs highest honor "Volunteer of the Year" and is the current President of the MFFC. With the Huron River Fishing Association, he is a past President and is a current Director. With his own designs, two flies appeared in 2 different articles in the Eastern Fly-Fishing Magazine in 2015. Then in 2017

Ohio's Steelhead Alley (continued from Page 1)



90 Degree Indicator Rigging:

- Leader length as long as the rod or longer
- 60/40 leader
- 3 sizes of indicators
- Double tippet knot
- Tagged end off swivel with over hand know so shot does not slide off

Year	Fish Strains Stocked	# Stocked	% STHD
2017	Manistee, Chambers Creek & Ganaraska	442,228	100%
2018	Manistee, Chambers Creek & Ganaraska	478,408	100%
2019	Manistee, Chambers Creek & Ganaraska	509,845	100%
2020	Manistee, Chambers Creek & Ganaraska	469,265	100%
2021	Rainbows only: Shanta & Fish Lake	498,972	0%
2022	204k (SH), 65k (FL), 201k (LMR)	470,912	43%
2023	174k (LMR), 155k (WI), 133k (SH)	464,898	71%
2024	302k (LMR), 165k (SH)	466,520	61%
2025	250k (WI), 10k (PA), 190 (SH)	450,000	58%

2017 – 2026 Ohio Steelhead Stocking Analysis

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

 [Hyperlink for Volunteer Sign-up](#)

 [Hyperlink for eMail](#)

Outing and Events	2026 Dates	Where	Chairperson(s)
Outdoorama	February 19 th – 22 nd	Vibe Credit Union Showplace (Novi, MI) https://volunteersignup.org/8LPA7  Volunteer - Outdoorama	Jim Aitken / Dave Nowicki
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) https://volunteersignup.org/XJQRM  Volunteer - Midwest Flyfishing Expo	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
Wawa Sum: 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 – 8 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 15 th – 22 nd	Driftwaters Resort (Cameron, MT)	Al Haxton
Scouting Merit Badge	TBD	TBD	Norm Tabaka / Dave Oakley
Youth School	TBD	TBD	Chairperson Needed

 **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

Event Update: Bourbon & Browns



Submitted by Tom Coleman
[\(click for event information\)](#)

Once again, it will be the kind of summer morning Hemingway would write about- cool air rising off the Holy Waters of the famed Au Sable, the river moving lazy and patient, as if in no particular hurry. The WaWa Sum Lodge stands stoic and timeless on the banks, a rugged sanctuary for the anglers who will gather there for MFFC's 2nd Bourbon and Browns Summer Outing: a celebration of trout, fellowship, and that sweet amber spirit.

July 16th through 19th, 2026, will mark four days of easy living, the sort of days that make you wish the clock would slow down and let the river speak. This year brings a few changes. They are small. They keep things simple. They keep the focus on fishing and the community.

- Continental Breakfast - will be available each morning: donuts, bagels, coffee, OJ, cereal and frozen microwavable breakfast sandwich

(to be continued on Page 8)

Michigan Fly Fishing Club – the Back Page

Bourbon and Browns (continued from Page 7)

- Lunch will be on your own - enjoy the opportunity to explore and support the local restaurants and community
- Dinner - We will have three dinners. Each night a different group of anglers will cook a hearty meal

Back to Mr. Hemingway. The rhythm of the river remains unchanged: a rod in hand, the soft whisper of line cutting the air, a perfect presentation, the hope of a rise, and the tug of a tight line. By evening, the lodge will glow with the amber light of bourbon, conversation and the camaraderie of shared meals with friends both old and new will be as satisfying as any catch of that day

The secrets of the Holy Waters will be shared by those who know this stretch of Michigan better than their own backyards. Competitions remain friendly - Catch,

Photo, Release (CPR) will still be the only contest that matters, with the largest fish measured in grins, not inches.

Bourbon and Browns isn't just an event; it's a reminder to slow down, listen to the river and laughter of friends, and savor the simple joys of life. The Au Sable River will be the stage, the lodge the backdrop, and the anglers the players in this timeless tale.

The cost will remain at \$250 per person for the 4 day / 3 night event. A \$50 deposit will reserve your spot.



Nearby Flyfishing Related Events

Paul Young TU Chapter – Film Night

[Link to 2026 Film Programs by F3T](#)

- Thursday, March 12th at 7:00pm
- Emagine Theater, 44425 W. 12 Mile Road, Novi, MI
- Tickets are \$30 and doors open at 6:30pm; [buy tickets ahead of time](#)
- Contact info: [Bob Batchik](#)

Fly Tying at Willow Spice Company (with Todd Schotts)

The Willow Spice Company is bringing Fly Tying with Todd “Griz” Schotts from Grizzly Flies by Schottsie to their Farm Shop in New Boston, MI on March 21st. Reservations contact Willow Spice Company at 734-658-0554

This will be a 6-hour day of fly tying with lunch, water, coffee, and pop being supplied by Willow Spice Company. You will have to supply your own fly-tying vise, tools, and thread: but the materials will be supplied by Todd. The cost is \$75.00 per person and there is limited seating.



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