



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB April 2006



Master class

A gaggle of Michigan Fly Fishing Club members got the benefit of an impromptu seminar with fly fishing legend Lefty Kreh late Friday following set-up for the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. For more photos from the show, see pages 4 and 5.

Get tuned up:

Come on down to the river, the Huron River

We don't know if chill winds will be blowing or if snow will be falling. But we do know that come the morning of Saturday, April 1, we'll be at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center on the banks of the Huron River and the Proud Lake State Recreation Area for one of the very oldest outings in the club's

history – the fabled MFFC Trout Tune-Up.

Early in the club's history, the MFFC teamed up with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to plant trout in a stretch of the river below Moss Lake for a special, early, catch-and-release trout season.

Since that time, 2,000 to 3,000 brown and rainbow trout are planted in the days prior to April 1. Often, two to three dozen brood fish – trophies
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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

April 1

Trout Tune-Up

Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center, 3577 Sleeth Rd., Commerce Township

April 5

MFFC Elections

Speaker: John Colson

Preparing for the Trout Opener

Clarenceville Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

April 12

Board meeting

Clarenceville Middle School, 7:30

April 26

Activity meeting

Featured Tier: Jim Weakland

Clarenceville Middle School, 7:30

April 29

Trout Opener

Gates AuSable Lodge, Boardroom, Grayling, 9 a.m.

May 17

Annual Banquet

Featured Speaker: Bob Jacklin

Vladimir's

Tying Clinic: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Banquet: 7:30



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Editor Mike Matuszewski
editor@mffc.org
248-646-4768

Michigan Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 530113
Livonia, MI 48153

2005 – 2006 Officers

President Kevin Lipp
president@mffc.org
734-837-1100

Vice President Joe Sprys
vp@mffc.org
248-380-6170

Corresponding Secretary
Pat Brazzil
248-344-7470

Recording Secretary
Cindy Center
248-363-3861

Treasurer Bill Johnson
treasurer@mffc.org
313-882-4818

Membership Paul DeJohn
membership@mffc.org
734-420-0809

Immediate Past President
Mike Matuszewski
248-646-4768

Board of Directors

Scott Freeburg 248-366-6783
Eric Center 248-363-3861
Jeff Parker 248-682-4495

2005-06

Meeting Schedule

April: 5, 12 (Board), 26

May: 3, 10 (Board), 17 (Banquet)

June: 14

July: 12

August: 9



First flies at MUCC Outdoorama

MFFC members again helped hundreds of children tie their first flies at the annual Michigan United Conservation Clubs' annual Outdoorama. Woolly Buggers and Woolly Worms of all hues and material combinations were the order of the day. The event took place Feb. 22-26.

Weakland to close out 2006's series of Guest Tier series

by Al "The Hackleman" Haxton

We are rapidly approaching the end of the Guest Tier year. The opening day festivities are being planned and I for one am excited about the coming fishing year. I truly feel the need to wade our beautiful Michigan streams and catch some of our magnificent Michigan trout. I have tied some new patterns for this year and I hope the fish will appreciate my offerings. Many of the new flies I have are copies of patterns that our Guest Tiers have offered. I have every confidence that the offering for April will also find some space in my fly boxes.

For April we have Jim Weakland as our Guest Tier. Jim has been a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for a few years, and I feel he has brought a great attitude and willingness to share information and expertise to our group. I am fortunate enough to have won one of Jim's fly tying stations in our raffle a couple years ago, and I have enjoyed tying with it since then. The item is handmade and finished with a beautiful Rainbow Trout on the bottom. I am sure it has helped improve my tying skills.

Jim tells me he has fished just about his entire life, starting about the age of four. He's moved from fishing the canal behind his childhood home in Keego Harbor to catching walleye with his dad in the St. Clair River. Jim put aside the hardware and started fly fishing when he was about 17 years old. After serving in the U.S. Army for a while he really started fly fishing in earnest, enjoying the challenge of both the fishing and tying his own flies.

Jim has been tying his own flies now for over 30 years and he loves to create his own patterns. He has spent numerous hours pouring over books

and magazines about our sport and has used information collected to create replicas of actual bugs and anything else the fish might eat. I can tell you for a fact that many of his flies look like they might not only walk away, but might also sting you if given the chance.

For our April activities meeting Jim will share one of his own patterns- Jim's Hopper. So, bring your vise and some thread and learn a thing or three from this master of improvisation, Jim Weakland.

Jim's Hopper

Hook: Daiichi #2461, size 6

Thread: Yellow

Body: Yellow art foam

Wing: Turkey or whatever works similar

Legs: Yellow round and yellow hopper legs.

Get tuned up:

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by anyone's calculation – are included in the release.

Some club members attest that the fish they've caught during the Trout Tune-Up are among the largest they catch all year. It's a testament to the event, but not something we want to dwell on because that would mean it's all downhill from there.

So whether you view it as your opportunity to tie into a football with fins, a chance to try out a new toy acquired at the Expo or some time to work out the kinks in your winter-interrupted cast, come out to the Trout Tune-Up. The Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center is located at 3577 Sleeth Road in Commerce Township.

Another Adams on the Two Hearted River

Hmmm. Our list of favorite Adams-es currently includes the many variations of the much-revered dry fly (created right here in Michigan) and the venerable Ernest Hemingway hero Nick, who traveled to the Big Two Hearted River to fish, forget his World War I experiences and try to heal his physical and psychological wounds. We'll have to add Lake Superior State student Chris Adams to the list.

A beneficiary of a 2005 MFFC Conservation Grant to help conduct research on the Two Hearted River in the Upper Peninsula, he briefed club members on the result of that research at the March 15 meeting.

It was titled "Influence of Spawning Salmonids on the Diets of Pre-Smolt Steelhead." Granted, it's not necessarily as engaging as many of the titles of Hemingway's Nick Adams stories ("The End of Something," "The Three-Day Blow" and "A Way You'll Never Be"), nevertheless it was Adams' senior thesis.

To conduct the necessary research, he eschewed the usual fish sampling methodology of electro-shocking a section of the river. "Electro-shocking kills the eggs," he explained. Instead he caught his samples via fly angling at a research site roughly five miles upstream from Lake Superior. The Two Hearted River has a resident population of brook and rainbow trout, spring steelhead and longnose suckers runs and fall runs of pink and coho salmon. Upon catching a fish, Adams explained, he induced the fish to regurgitate and examined the stomach contents.

What did he find? In the spring, "lots of sucker eggs." In the summer, it was 100 percent macroinvertebrates. During fall, 60 percent of the diet of the fish examined consisted of coho salmon eggs. The year 2005 was the off-year for pinks (pink salmon) so not many were present in the river in 2005, he said.

MFFC members overwhelmingly approve additional conservation funds

MFFC members at the March 15 meeting overwhelmingly supported \$1,500 in additional conservation funding to be directed to the Anglers of the AuSable and that organization's efforts spearheading legal challenges to activities involving Kolke Creek and the Mason Tract.

The action raises the amount of MFFC support for conservation programs and projects in 2006 to \$26,500.

At Kolke Creek, which helps form the headwaters of the AuSable, a legal challenge is being mounted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) issuance of a permit to discharge roughly 1.15 million gallons of treated groundwater from the Manistee River watershed. The project is meant to clean up a toxic plume in the Manistee River watershed that reportedly moves six inches closer to residential areas every day. The DEQ approved the plan over the objection of Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries division personnel who opposed the Merit Energy request.

Along the South Branch of the AuSable, legal activity continues, challenging approvals of a proposal to drill an exploratory well for deposits of natural gas and oil that may be under the Mason Tract. While the well would be drilled from a site outside the Mason Tract, which is protected, conservationists fear the activity would have a negative impact on the Tract.

Other projects funded this year were:

♦ **North Branch Au Sable River Bio-Engineering Demonstration Project**, Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council; Project: Repair streambank erosion. An amount of

\$5,000 was requested; \$3,000 was approved.

♦ **Main Branch Au Sable River In-Stream Habitat Improvement Project**, Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council; Project: Create in-stream habitat. An amount of \$5,000 was requested and approved.

♦ **Grayling Stormwater Project**, Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council; Project: Remove pollution from water runoff entering the Au Sable River. An amount of \$5,000 was requested; \$4,000 was granted.

♦ **Cedars For the Au Sable**, Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council; Project: Plant Cedar trees for environmental improvement on the South Branch. \$3,700 was requested; \$2,000 was approved.

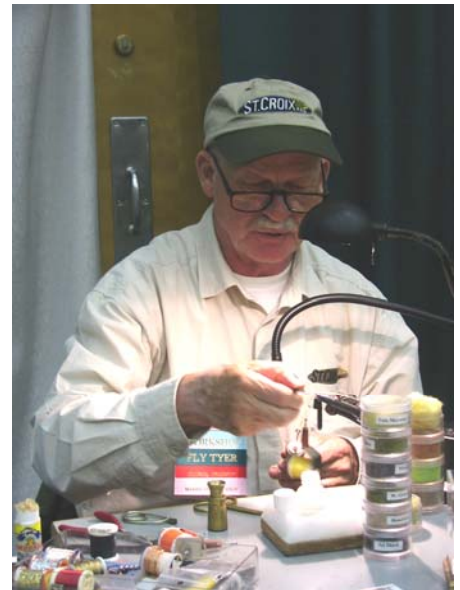
♦ **Bear Creek Streambank Restoration Project**, Conservation Resource Alliance; Project: Stabilize 200 feet of frontage along Bear Creek. A total of \$2,000 was requested and approved.

♦ **Big Sable Watershed Streambank Inventory**, Conservation Resource Alliance; Project: Update the inventory of streambanks that need to be or have been repaired. A total of \$2,000 was requested, of which \$500 was granted.

♦ **Upper Manistee River Restoration and Maintenance**, Upper Manistee River Restoration and Maintenance; Project: Place and service sand traps. A total of \$3,500 was requested and approved.

♦ **Black River In-Stream "Whole Tree Cover,"** Upper Black River Restoration Committee; Project: Place naturally fallen trees into the Black River for Brook Trout habitat. A total of \$5,000 was requested; \$4,000 was approved.

♦ **Conservation Begins with Knowledge**, Linda Scribner along with Susan Wess, Manistee County Librarian; Project: Purchase conservation, ecology and fly fishing books for the Manistee County Library. A total \$1,000 was requested and granted.



West Yellowstone guide and tier extraordinaire Bob Jacklin, pictured here tying at the 2005 Federation of Fly Fishers International Conclave in Livingston, MT, will be our special guest at the 2006 Banquet.

2006 Banquet Alert: May 17 is the date, Vadimir's is the place

Mark your calendars for May 17 and the annual MFFC banquet. The banquet signals start to a new season in the club year – the fishing season.

This year's banquet features another all-star speaker – western legend Bob Jacklin. Recent banquets have featured such luminaries as Dick Talleur; Joe Humphreys, one of the 2006 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo's headliners; Craig Mathews, Fly Rod & Reel magazine's 2005 Angler of the Year; Gary Borger and Jack Gartside.

As has become tradition, Jacklin will present a fly tying "seminar." For club members wanting to pre-register for the tying seminar, there will be a \$20 charge. It will include his video and some new material to tie his patterns (which he will demonstrate). After lunch, he will put on a casting seminar.

Tickets for the 2006 banquet are \$40 and will be available from Banquet Chairman Rick Gokenbach at meetings this month.

Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2006

Present: P. Brazzil, C. Center, E. Center, P. DeJohn, S. Freeburg, B. Johnson, K. Lipp, M. Matuszewski, J. Parker, J. Sprys

VP Sprys called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

VP Sprys announced that President Lipp appointed Cindy Center to fill the Recording Secretary vacancy created by the resignation of Mark Kachadurian.

Minutes of the Jan. 11, 2006 Board meeting were reviewed and amended. Motion to accept as amended made by J. Parker, seconded by E. Center. Accepted as amended without dissent.

Officer Reports

President: Welcomed C. Center to the Board.

Treasurer: B. Johnson distributed report with the explanation that while raffle expense may seem high, it is due to expense from prior year being recently paid, as well as inventory for future meetings. Motion to accept the report made by J. Parker, seconded by S. Freeburg. Accepted without dissent.

Corresponding Secretary: P. Brazzil reported in April John Colson will speak on "Preparing for the Trout Opener." Plans are also being made for the banquet speaker.

Hatch: M. Matuszewski reported that the March issue is being assembled, and that extra copies will be printed to hand out at the Expo.

Website: S. Freeburg reported that Dan Gasparotto is striving to improve the MFFC website, and now has a "School" tab that lists information with the help of the newly formed Education Committee.

Membership: P. DeJohn distributed a Membership Report showing 337 active members (of which 43 are new since September 1, 2005). Dues of \$5,055 (\$15 per member) are being mailed to MUCC.

Events and Outings

Expo: K. Lipp and J. Sprys reported that there will be an Expo planning meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2006 at 2:00 at the Northville Community Center. They also reported that the show looks to be bigger and better than ever, with the addition of several new vendors and manufacturers.

Members School: P. Brazzil distributed the budget for the Members School that will take place on February 11, 2006. He reported that 86 have registered (35 new members), and he will cross-reference with the MFFC Membership List.

New Business

M. Matuszewski distributed a letter from Jim Schramm thanking the MFFC for its support and grant of \$1,132 for the GLC efforts in the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition. In appreciation, the GLC will be providing the MFFC with a 25th GLC Anniversary framed and remarked print with six mounted flies to be used in future fundraising. He will deliver the print to the MFFC at the Expo. A motion was made by J. Sprys that the print be accepted and used as a prize at the MFFC Banquet, seconded by K. Lipp. Accepted without dissent.

J. Sprys distributed an email from Carolyn Rushlow asking for a \$2,000 donation for Reeling and Healing. Discussion followed that as much as the Board supports this group, since this is not a budgeted item, a Membership vote would be necessary to allocate the funds. P. Brazzil moved that this be tabled until after the Expo, J. Parker seconded. Accepted without dissent.

J. Parker reported that 100 copies of "Fly Fishing Tactics" are being made available to the MFFC for education purposes.

Old Business

Logo Vests: S. Freeburg reported that the supplier he planned on using to produce MFFC logo vests is no longer available and he is researching another source.

Recipe Books: J. Parker showed the Board sample bindings from the publisher chosen to produce the MFFC recipe book. Since it will be impossible to have a finished product by the Expo, it was decided that the banquet in May will be the cut off for recipe submission.

2nd New Member Outing: P. DeJohn reported that a second outing will probably not be necessary this year. At this time 20 (of which 11 are new) have registered and paid to attend the New Member Outing. The capacity is 25.

Tax Return: M. Matuszewski distributed copies of the Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, for the year ending July 31, 2005.

Conservation Committee: E. Center distributed copies of the Conservation Committee's list of proposed grants amounting to \$25,000. President Lipp thanked the Committee and accepted its recommendations. E. Center will present to the Membership at the March meeting. He also suggested that since over the last five years the MFFC has granted \$105,000 to conservation projects, perhaps this information should be made available on the website.

MFFC Rods & Reels: K. Lipp reported that old rods and reels have been found and should be made available for purchase and/or raffle to MFFC members.

Motion to adjourn was made by J. Sprys at 9:07 p.m., seconded by E. Center.

Lovells Society to host 4th Annual Trout Opener Events

The Lovells Township Historical Society will host its fourth annual **Trout Opener** on Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, 2006, at its museum complex and the Lovells Township Hall and Grounds, 8405 Twin Bridge Road.

The museum turns its spotlight on **“The North Branch of the Au Sable River: Past, Present and Future.”** The exhibit tells the story of the North Branch from glacial times to the present with artifacts, documents, maps and pictures in ten historical periods: Geography and Geology; Early Animals and Plants; Early Native American Inhabitants; French-English-Native American Conflict; Virgin Timber Lumbering; First Permanent Settlers; Second-Cutting Lumbering and Early Fishing; Twentieth Century Fishing

and the River; Fishing and the River in the Present; and Future Prospects for Fishing and the River. The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Regular hours during the trout fishing season, April 29 to Sept. 30, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is free.

Saturday features:

- ♦ **Bob Linsenman** of Rose City, author of numerous articles and books on the Au Sable River, steelhead and trout fishing; fly tier; fly fishing guide; and part owner of Bob Linsenman’s Au Sable Angler fly shop in Mio, will present an illustrated talk, **“The Au Sable River Watershed,”** in conjunction with the exhibit from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Township Hall.
- ♦ Master Fly Tier **Chris Helm** of Toledo will tie deer hair trout flies from 10 a.m. to noon and large deer hair bugs from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Township Hall.

The Federation of Fly Fishers honored him with the most prestigious award given in the world of fly tying, the Buz Buszek Memorial Award, in 2004.

♦ **Dave Leonhard** will demonstrate his popular fly casting program, **“Dave’s Dozen Do’s and Don’ts,”** from 10 a.m. to noon on the Township Grounds. He is the author of “Shooting Lines;” a master certified casting instructor for the Federation of Fly Fishers; and casting instructor for the Michigan Council Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School. After his demonstration Leonhard will assist participants with their individual casting issues and he urges them to bring their rods.

Several other activities will be going on during the weekend. Back by popular demand is the River Guide’s Camp on the Township Grounds, serving free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and coffee and doughnuts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday. Children will be able to cast vintage bamboo fly rods to trout profiles on the lawn.

**Michigan Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 530113
Livonia, MI 48153**