



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

August 2007

A night with Scott Bowerman: Rabbit Zonkers and more

by Todd A. Schotts

It was a night of Stripping Leeches, Zonkers, Crawdads and tales of being auctioned off to a 75-year-old lady for a fishing trip/personal fly tying session. And before that, as I was giving the intro, it looked like a comedy show starting out.

Our July speaker was Scott Bowerman of Your Fly Guys, based out of Fremont, MI. An accomplished tyer he also talked (*while tying*) about the Muskegon and White Rivers. His first fly was a Black Stripping Leech using rabbit zonkers. As he tied this wonderful fly, he was showing us easy techniques for tying with rabbit zonkers. For his next fly, he tied the famous Zonker Minnow. He showed techniques that amazed most of us, including how to shape lead tape and make it look like a minnow.

The most unique fly of the night was his new crawdad pattern. And guess what material he pulled out again? If you weren't there but guessed rabbit zonkers, (*as Jackie Gleason used to say*) "You arrre corrrrect, sir." Some would say the night flew by; but with all that rabbit fur in the air, it might be more appropriate to say it hopped by.



Scott Bowerman demonstrated a number of techniques for manipulating zonker strips.

Scott tried out for the USA Fly Fishing Team as a tyer, and finished sixth. He is a fly designer for Umpqua. Besides the tying, he also tried out for the USA Fly Fishing team, but our own Phil Heck finished ahead of him that year.

I would like to thank our speaker, Scott Bowerman for making the trip east to speak at our meeting and to everyone that attended. Hopefully with all of these new and easier techniques for tying these flies, you'll have bass and pike fighting to hook up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS



August 5

Annual Family Day / Pig & Corn Roast, Multi-Lakes Conservation Club, 3860 Newton Road in Commerce Township
Contact: Jeff Parker, 248-529-6122
Beginning at 1 p.m.

August 8

Speaker: Darryl & Kathy Nowacki, Vintners Cellar Canton Winery

Topic: A Taste of Tuscany
See story on page 3
Northville Community Center,
303 West Main, next to the
Northville Public Library.
7:30 p.m.

September (Date TBA)

Speaker: Peter Albertson
Topic: Fly Fishing Christmas Island
Clarenceville Middle School
7:30 p.m.



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MUCC names new Executive Director

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Michigan's oldest and largest conservation organization, has a new Executive Director – Dennis Muchmore.

An avid sportsman with a love for fly fishing, as well as pheasant hunting, Muchmore has long been an advocate for Michigan's great outdoors, serving as a lobbyist on behalf of the MUCC on many conservation issues over the years.

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is a long-time MUCC affiliate.

"The Michigan United Conservation Clubs has worked for seventy years to protect Michigan's important natural resources and great outdoors," said Muchmore. "It has led the conservation movement in Michigan, and is considered one of the great statewide conservation organizations in the country. I want to ensure that we carry that leadership forward. The need for a strong voice for Michigan's outdoors has never been greater."

Muchmore was selected following a search that began in February and was conducted by a committee comprised of members of the MUCC board of directors and executive committee, as well as members of the public at large.

As Director, Muchmore will manage the organization, direct media relations, spearhead fundraising and promote the MUCC's core conservation mission.

Muchmore was a founding partner of Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley & Associates, a leading Michigan public affairs and lobbying firm. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Michigan State University Public Policy Program. He has served as Vice President of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and consultant to the Michigan Senate Select Committee on Municipal Finance.

Anglers of the Au Sable to receive \$125,000 in Kolke Creek costs

The Anglers of the Au Sable, who prevailed in a lawsuit to prevent an energy company from dumping processed wastewater into Kolke Creek at the headwaters of the Au Sable, will receive \$125,000 in reimbursed trial costs under the terms of a settlement agreement with Merit Energy and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

46th Circuit Court Judge Dennis Murphy accepted a settlement agreement last month.

"We're glad to see Anglers assisted in their fight to protect Kolke Creek and the Au Sable system," said Jeff Jocks, attorney for the conservation group.

Rusty Gates, Anglers president, said the settlement money will be used to benefit river projects. "We know how to convert these dollars into habitat for trout. The money is going right back in the river," Gates said.

Murphy previously ruled that Merit Energy's state-approved plan to pump 1.15 million gallons a day of treated wastewater to Kolke Creek was unreasonable. He said it would negatively and permanently alter a delicate ecosystem that forms part of the headwaters of the Au Sable River.

According to published reports, the Department of Environmental Quality will not appeal the judge's decision. Instead, the state is investigating permit qualifications for aerial dispersal of the treated wastewater on a nearby 40-acre parcel owned by Merit.

We're still in summer meeting mode

The MFFC continues in "summer mode" this month. That means there will be only one meeting this month. That meeting is on the second Wednesday of the month – August 8. Summer meetings are held at the Northville Community Center, 303 West Main, next to the Northville Public Library, and begin at 7:30 p.m.

What a way to end our summer schedule: “A Taste of Tuscany”

For our last summer meeting, we are having something out of the ordinary, “A Taste of Tuscany,” presented by award-winning vintners Kathy and Darryl Nowacki. They own Vintners Cellar Canton Winery.

You are probably saying, WHAT, a winery for a meeting, why? What does this have to do with fly fishing?

Well to start with, their house brand of wine is “Rising Trout.” Obviously they have a passion for fly fishing. “Rising Trout,” incidentally is aged in Hungarian Oak barrels, giving the wine a wonderful woody flavor.

Additionally, the Nowackis also have been featured in various publications, including the *Michigan Streamside Journal*.

The winery is located across from Mettetal Airport on Lilley Road, south of Joy, in Canton’s Golden Gate Shopping Plaza. If you stop in, don’t let the smallness of the winery fool you. They have produced some award-winning wines. Last year, they won an international gold medal for their Amarone, scoring with 18.5 points out of a possible 20. In a recent Winemaker magazine-sponsored competition, the Nowackis were accorded six medals -- two Gold, two Silver and two Bronze.

In addition to their presentation, Corresponding Secretary Todd Schotts says we MAY get an opportunity to taste some of their offerings. So get your palates ready for this unique and awesome meeting.

And, if you’re a wine aficionado and can’t wait until our August 8 meeting, they offer free private tasting parties by appointment. Contact them at 734-354-9463 or check out their web site at: www.vintnerscanton.com.



Featured Tyer Doyle Letson drew a crowd of observers at the May Activity meeting.

Hear ye ... Hear ye ... Calling all fly tyers **Share your skill; amaze your friends;** **Step into the spotlight as one of our Featured Tyers**

With the passing of summer, it’s time to get ready for our back-to-normal speaker and activity meeting routine for the upcoming program year. Our featured fly tyers are always a highlight of our activity meetings. We are in need for Featured Guest Tyers for our upcoming Activity Meetings.

Now you are probably saying, I don’t have enough experience.

Perhaps you’ve got a favorite pattern or like using unusual materials? Your favorite quarry doesn’t matter --trout, salmon, steelhead, panfish, bass, bonefish, stripers, pike, tarpon, carp or ‘cuda. If you’ve got a pattern you like to tie for any of them, we’re interested. If you can tie feathers, hair, beads, or foam on a hook, well you are definitely in the running. The ranks of the past featured tyers have include the likes of Doyle Letson, Cindy Center, Kathi Gross, Ron McDonough, Al Bullock, Pat Brazzil, Al Haxton, Jim Weakland, Bill MacArthur, and Jeff McGowan.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Todd A. Schotts at 313-570-7966 or via email at dragoneyeflyz05@yahoo.com.

According to Todd, we have lots of spots available. “But don’t wait too long. I expect once the word is out, these slots will fill in very quickly. So what are you waiting for? Sign up now, before the rush starts,” he said.



Illustration courtesy of Dave Whitlock, www.davewhitlock.com

Have you RSVPed?

Aug. 5 is our Family Day Picnic, Pig & Corn Roast

The emphasis for August 5's MFFC Family Day Picnic is on "family." The fourth annual event is expected to be bigger and better than ever this year.

"I hope to see everyone there; this is a great way to spend a day. This is a family event, so please bring your children and grandchildren to join in the fun," said picnic organizer and Board member Jeff Parker.

The official festivities begin at 1 p.m.

A veteran crew of pig and corn roasters will be tending a 160-pound pig and dozens of ears of corn. There will be plenty of beverages (of the non-alcoholic type) and more food than you can imagine as well as lots of activities for the kids.

Call Jeff at 248-529-6122 to let him know you'll be attending.



There'll be plenty of kids' activities at the Annual Picnic, Pig & Corn Roast.

The event returns to the Multi-Lakes Conservation Club at 3860 Newton Road in Commerce Township.

This is the best part! It's **free** to members' families. "All that we ask," Parker said, "is that you bring your favorite dish to pass, your own adult beverages, your fishing gear (if you like) and your smiling faces."



There is good fishing off the dock or float tubes.

If you're into skeet or sporting clays, check with Multi-Lakes at 248-363-9109 about fees and scheduling.

**Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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