



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

May 2008

2008 Banquet features fly tying, tales ... and tunes?

by Todd A. Schotts

The MFFC has long attracted fly angling celebrities to its events and meetings, but how often can we boast of having as our guest a speaker who is not only a remarkable fly tier, but also a world renowned singer?

Not often, I'd say. (Apologies are extended to our resident rocker, Doyle Letson.) But on May 21, the MFFC banquet will, indeed, have that distinction. It is my great honor to bring in an *internationally* renowned headliner for the banquet. Oscar Feliu will offer an appropriate fly fishing themed presentation and will regale attendees with his music and singing voice.

Oscar currently resides in Florida, but is very well acquainted with Michigan and its blue-ribbon trout streams. In addition to attending Central Michigan University, he also attended University of Chile as well as Chile's Conservatory of Music. His repertoire includes arias from great operas, including his personal favorite "Granada," to pop classics from the likes of Elvis and Johnny Mathis. In fact, there's a tradition at Federation of Fly Fishers International Conclaves in



Chilean-born Oscar Feliu is a man of considerable talents, from fly tying and fly angling to music.

which Oscar puts on an informal concert to close out the event.

Indeed, Oscar is a regular at FFF events around the United States, including the Great Lakes Council's annual Fly Tying Expo in Mason.

In addition to appearing at the Banquet, Oscar will also conduct a day I of fly tying instruction. Oscar will lead a group of pre-registered club members in tying five caddis patterns. The tying session begins at 10 a.m. and will finish at 3 p.m.

Continued on page 3

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 3: Youth School

Multi-Lakes Conservation Club
3860 Newton Rd., Commerce Twp.
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Contact: Jeff Parker

May 7

Business Meeting:
2008-09 Budget Presentation
Clarenceville Mid. School, 7:30 p.m.

May 7-10

Dick Schott
New Member Outing
WaWaSum Lodge, Grayling
Contact: Jeff Parker

May 14

Board Meeting
Clarenceville Mid. School, 7:30 p.m.

May 17

Wayne County Fishing Derby
Waterford Bend Area, Northville
8 a.m. – noon Contact: Pat Brazzil

May 21: Banquet

Special guest: Oscar Feliu
Italian American Club, Livonia,
Contacts: Todd Schotts and Rick Gokenbach

May 30-June 1

Smallmouth Outing
Port Austin, Contact: Todd Schotts



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Peter Albertson, at the head of the room, led club members on a remarkable tour of scenery, memories and potential future fishing forays at the April 2 meeting.

Take the A-train on a tour of Y-stone country

If you've never visited or fished the area around Yellowstone National Park, you got a sense of what it's like.

If you're a veteran of MFFC expeditions to the Slash E Ranch near West Yellowstone, MT, you had plenty of reasons to smile and remember past experiences.

It was all courtesy of Past President Peter Albertson, whose April 2 presentation was a travelogue of "Greater Yellowstone." It was a grand tour of some of the very best trout water in North America – the Henry's Fork, the Madison, Slough Creek, the Lamar, Soda Butte, the Gallatin, the Taylor Fork of the Gallatin, and other small, lesser known but equally tantalizing bodies of water.

Along with the picturesque scenery and photos of various club members,

Albertson offered insights from past trips.

- On "gulper fishing" on Hebgen Lake: "There are either bugs on the water or there ain't. The fish are there, or they ain't. That's just the way it is."
- On the Taylor Fork: "It's the epitome of what I expected a Western trout stream to be."
- On Slough Creek: "It's like watching fish watch a movie. You see them look at your fly and just watch it float by."



Bill Shannon with one of last year's Fishing Derby participants.

Trout Tune-Up for kids May 17 in Northville

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is teaming up with the Plymouth Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and Northville Parks and Recreation Saturday, May 17, for the annual Wayne County-Waterford Bend Fishing Derby in Hines Park.

All children ages 12 and under are welcome to have some fishing fun and win prizes. The Rouge River will be stocked with rainbow trout and a casting contest will take place. The event runs from 8 a.m. to noon.

President-Elect Pat Brazzil, who coordinates the club's involvement in the event, says "We need volunteers to help kids tie flies after they trout fish. It gets pretty busy around 11 a.m. after the kids have all limited out."

In addition to tying flies, club members will teach some basic fly casting and helpers are needed.

Club selects officers, board members for 2008-09

Club elections were conducted at the April 2 meeting. Elected by acclamation were: Pat Brazzil, president; Bruce Kramer, corresponding secretary; Eric Center, membership chair; Rick Gokenbach, recording secretary; and Scott Freeburg, treasurer.

The positions of vice president and at-large director had multiple candidates. Jeff McGowan edged Jeff Parker for the VP position. Al Bullock and Chris Hunter were elected to two-year director terms. An objection was raised at the April 16 meeting. A special committee consisting of four past presidents and the current treasurer has been formed to examine the objection.

John Long is the remaining at-large director. Appointed earlier this year to fill the vacancy created by Paul DeJohn's health-related resignation from the Board, Long will serve the remainder the term which ends in 2009.

MFFC Board Meeting Minutes February 13, 2008

Present: P. Brazzil, C. Center, E. Center, S. Freeburg, K. Lipp, J. Parker, J. Sprys

Visitors: John Long, Bruce Kramer, Mark Mitchell

VP Brazzil called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

John Long reported that \$715 in tickets have been sold for the Kwagama Lake raffle that is scheduled to be drawn on April 4, 2008. It was decided that an email should be sent to promote the raffle.

Minutes of the January 16, 2008 Board meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes as presented made by J. Sprys, seconded by S. Freeburg. Motion carried.

Officer Reports

President: Pres. Sprys announced that Paul DeJohn submitted his resignation from the Board, due in large part to his recent health problems. After discussion, and considering that his term of office runs until May 2009, E. Center made a motion, seconded by S. Freeburg, that the Board appoint John Long to fill the vacated position. Motion carried. The Board welcomed John and thanked him for allowing his name to be submitted for consideration.

Treasurer: No report. J. Sprys reported that the MFFC tax return has been filed, and that he has been in contact with B. Shannon about his ability to resume responsibilities as Treasurer, in light of his lengthy recovery from heart surgery.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Sprys reported that T. Schotts is recovering from dental surgery, but that speakers have been lined up through the end of the Club year, and the website is being updated daily with information about the Expo.

Membership: E. Center reported 306 paid members. P. Brazzil reported that

he and Mike Matuszewski are redesigning the MFFC brochure to include an application for membership. E. Center expressed interest in working with them on the design.

Events and Outings

Members' School: P. Brazzil reported that the school will be held February 16, 2008 at Northville High School, and that for the first time there is more interest in the experienced sessions than those for beginners.

Youth School: J. Parker reported that the event will be held May 3, 2008 at Multi-Lakes. His plan is to limit the school to 25 participants, and begin registration next week. He also expressed the hope of working with someone willing to take over leadership of the school in the future.

Dick Schott New Member Outing: It was announced that J. Parker will step in as Chair for P. DeJohn this year. The event will be held May 7 – 10, 2008, and registration will begin next week.

Boy Scout Merit Badge School: Bruce Kramer distributed an impressive report, including timeline, projected budget, and volunteer list for the event to be held at Independence Oaks on April 19, 2008.

Club Banquet: P. Brazzil reported that no one has stepped up to Chair the banquet.

Old Business

MUCC Affiliation: Since Dennis Muchmore, MUCC Executive Director, will speak at the Club activities meeting on February 20, 2008, it was decided to eliminate or abbreviate announcements at that meeting in order to allow sufficient time for our guest.

Sale Items: S. Freeburg reported that he has an inventory list from Rich Lundgren of rods for sale at 50% off to the Club or its members.

Kudos: The Board gave thanks and recognition to Terry Drinkwine for the article he submitted to the Royal Oak Tribune about the Club, and to Chuck and Linda Scribner for their valiant attempt to get to Club meeting on

February 6, 2008, in the face of a terrible storm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

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Continued from front page

The cost is \$30 and includes all materials for the patterns, a "Tying with Oscar" instructional DVD featuring 11 patterns, an Oscar-tied fly with a signed "tied-by" card for use in a shadow box or fly plate. Contact me if you're interested in participating in the tying session.

Club members also are welcome to observe the tying symposium. If you intend to observe, please contact me. I'm looking for a head count for lunch which will be supplied.

If you are unable to attend the tying during the day, hopefully I will see you at the banquet.

Tickets to the banquet are available. Banquet tickets are \$40 and may be purchased from Rick Gokenbach. Rick can be reached via email at richard.gokenbach@chi.frb.org. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for the banquet. Dinner is at 7 p.m.. The Italian American Club is located at 39200 Five Mile Road in Livonia.

Special drawing benefits Club conservation fund

Terry Drinkwine is headed north ... not to Alaska, but to Chadwick's Kwagama Lake Lodge, located in northern Ontario.

Terry was the winner in a special club member-only drawing to benefit the MFFC Conservation Reserve Fund. The Lodge, a regular exhibitor at the annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, offers fly angling for trophy-sized brook trout.

Congratulations, Terry.



Annual Boy Scout School draws merit badge aspirants

More than 50 Boy Scouts from 20 troops across southeast Michigan gathered at Independence Oaks County Park on April 19, in their quest to acquire fly fishing merit badges. The attendees took in information about the many aspects of fly angling, from flies to filleting, from the basics of fly casting to good on-stream etiquette.



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