



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

November 2010

If you're thinking steelhead, try Ohio's "Steelhead Alley"

Manhattan has Shubert's Alley. Philadelphia has Elfreth's Alley, the oldest residential street in America. The Sunday funnies had the comic strip "Gasoline Alley." The southern shore of Lake Erie boasts "Steelhead Alley."

Detroit Free Press outdoors writer Eric Sharp described it in a January 2010 article: "A 200-mile stretch of Lake Erie shoreline between the Vermilion River in Ohio and Cattaraugus Creek in New York, where a dozen hookups with the big rainbows is a slow day and 50-fish days are commonplace."

Guide Jim Chamberlin took MFFC members on a whirlwind tour of Steelhead Alley at the club's October 6 meeting. While Michigan Wolverine fans may have difficulty crossing the Ohio border, Chamberlin tempted fall anglers with tales of steelies by the thousands and relatively easy access. Best of all, to get to the start of the Alley's 200 miles of prime fishing, a Detroit-area angler only has to travel about half as long as it takes to get to northern Michigan's steelhead rivers.



Guide Jim Chamberlin and club member Randy Park discuss the best flies for use along Steelhead Alley.

While there are upwards of 30 to 40 streams along Steelhead Alley, the big five are the Vermilion, the Rocky River, the Chagrin River, the Grand River and Conneaut Creek. Several other rivers, including the Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Huron and Black rivers, and Arcola, Cowles, Wheeler, French, Euclid, Turkey, Beaver and Cold creeks also get runs of stray steelhead.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

November 10

(Note: This is the 2nd Wednesday of the month.)

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Peter Albertson

Topic: Fishing Alaska

Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

November 17

(Note: This is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.)

Board Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School Room 107

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

November 24

(Note: Meeting date changed to 4th Wednesday.)

Activity Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

December 1

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: John Pinto

Topic: Saltwater Fly Fishing

Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

December 4

FFF-GLC Fly Tying Expo

Holt High School

Holt, MI (near Lansing)

9 a.m.-4 p.m.



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Need a nametag? Here's how to get one

A "Nametag Sign-up Sheet" is available on the front table at most club meetings. Simply print your name as you want it to appear and put \$5 in the attached envelope. Nametag guru Paul DeJohn will see that your nametag is put on that same front table within 30 days.

D-y-n-o-m-i-t-e! Now, THAT's a Trout Opener

by Todd A. Schotts



Mr. Fabulous



Dynomite

Picture two people pulling in a 10-inch brook trout on virtually every cast.

Now that the season's over, I can reflect back on a magical four and a half hours of non-stop action on that last Saturday in April. WOW! Now that's an Opener!

I headed back to my home waters (the White River) to fish with a great friend, and fellow fly tier Scott "The Fly Guy" Bowerman. The weather was its usual unpredictable self, but we were geared up for rain, cold, or whatever Mother Nature had to offer. Our destination was the waters above the village of Hesperia. After that day's action, Scott and I took a vow of secrecy as far as the exact location might be concerned.

Compared to 2009, the water was way down, which was kind of welcome because it made wading a lot easier.

I chose for my first cast a new fly. I call it "Mr. Fabulous." It's a small bead head nymph. The name was appropriate as I had a taker at the end of my first drift. It turned out to be a real nice brookie.

I wasn't the only one throwing a new fly, though. Scott was now casting a fly he calls "Dynomite." Darned if he didn't hook up immediately, too. He greeted the brook trout on his line with an enthusiastic expletive – "D-y-n-o-m-i-t-e!"

Yes, with all of the fish Scott was catching, just let me say "D-y-n-o-m-i-t-e" was heard the whole way down the river and back up. As the day progressed, I thought I had J.J. Walker (of the 1970s sitcom "Good Times") out on the river with me.

As we waded around the first deep hole and corner, the fish were rising all over. We didn't see any hatch or hatches coming off. So we decided they must be feeding on the emergers, caddis pupa or suspended nymphs. At one point, not too far from the starting point; I was in the lead, catching brookies and small, adolescent brownies and Scott was catching fish almost in my back pocket.

We could have stayed there all day and had all the fun two grown men could legally handle, but I wanted to take Scott to the area where I grew up fishing on this river. Once we got there, the wind picked up, the temperature dropped and the rain got heavier. And if you guessed that the fishing turned right off; well you'd be correct.

We had to work hard for what we were catching, which wasn't much. With the chill and heavier rain we decided to call it a day, but not without fishing the rest of the way back to where we put in. We just couldn't give in, even in the nasty weather. I'm not really sure how many fish we actually landed (I was having too much fun to keep count), but Scott said it was well into double digits for both of us. Our new flies -- "Mr. Fabulous" and "Dynomite" -- helped turn it into a wonderful memory.

Come the Opening Weekend of 2011 I know I'll be looking for J.J. Walker out on the river.

If you're thinking steelhead, try Ohio's "Steelhead Alley"

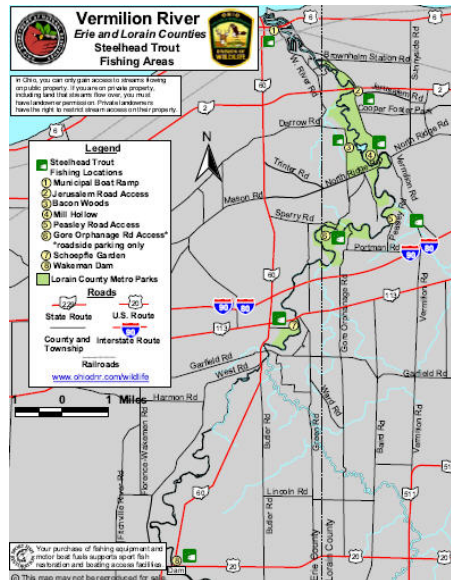
Continued from front page

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Wildlife Division annually stocks five Lake Erie tributary streams with 6-8-inch yearling Little Manistee River (Michigan) strain of steelhead. These fish migrate out into Lake Erie and spend the summer in the cooler part of the lake before returning to streams during the fall through the spring. Steelhead trout caught by anglers in these streams typically average 25 inches in length and weigh five to six pounds. These fish have usually spent two to three summers out in the lake. However, there are a good number of fish that are over 30 inches and weigh more than 10 pounds and have spent up to six summers in the lake.

Here's how Chamberlin describes the three closest rivers. The other two, the Grand River and Conneaut Creek, are east of Cleveland.

The Vermilion: Two to 2.5 hours from Detroit, the Vermilion is at the top of steelhead alley for its beauty. Despite being less than 20 miles from Cleveland, it is heavily forested, offering relatively easy river access and plenty of trails through the public Metro-parks. Lake Erie steelhead flock to the Vermilion River because it offers an ideal shale-to-gravel ratio making it a perfect habitat for steelhead to spawn and winter.

"It has classic riffle and pool areas, solid holes that range from three to seven feet deep and cut shale banks. Upstream portions are mostly made up of gravel and pools and moderate amounts of shale. The middle section has a bit of everything from unproductive shale to a great river turn with gravel above and below a real nice hole.



The lower section is shale and holes with less gravel but solid depth and great cuts," Chamberlin said.

The Chagrin: About three hours from Detroit, the Chagrin River runs through suburban areas of Greater Cleveland in Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Portage counties; transects two Cleveland Metro-parks; and then meanders into nearby Lake County before emptying into Lake Erie. "The Chagrin has every river situation one can ask for. The gradient is very good so you will find plenty of riffle-pool combinations. Access is great because it has two Metro-park areas. If you hike a bit, you can be by yourself staring at bald eagles or blue herons," Chamberlin said.

The Rocky: It is a relatively short river that borders Cleveland and runs through "one of the most underrated of the Cleveland Metro-parks system, the Rocky River Reservation," Chamberlin said. The stream is of moderate grade and is characterized by long stretches of shallow water broken by riffles and occasional deeper pools. "The deeper river pools are few in number and are spaced so that the productive fishing areas are well defined," he said.

Detailed maps to a number of Steelhead Alley rivers are available at www.lakeeriesportfishing.com under the "River Fishing" tab. Tales of big runs, big fish and relatively easy access prompted lots of interest.



Fortunately, metropolitan Cleveland's Metro-parks provide relatively easy access to many prime steelhead streams. In Ohio, private landowners have the right to restrict access on their property and private land ownership includes the streambed. If floating through privately owned land you cannot get out of your boat and stand on private property to fish unless you have the landowner's permission.

What patterns should the visiting Michigan fly angler fish? Fly anglers using six- to eight-weight rods and weight-forward lines prefer larger, weighted fly patterns, such as nymphs and streamers like woolly buggers, princes, egg-sucking leeches, stonefly and shiner patterns and Clouser-style minnows. Egg fly patterns (single eggs or cluster patterns) work well as a single fly or in tandem with a nymph or streamer once the fish move upstream. Eggs can be bounced along the bottom with the current or fished at or near the bottom suspended under an indicator, Chamberlin said.

Ohio nonresident fishing license fees are \$11 for one day, \$19 for three days and \$40 for the year.

Anglers of the Au Sable seeks funds for matching grant

The end of the year is a prime fundraising period for many charitable and non-profit organizations as they try to attract contributions from donors intent on maximizing their income tax deductions. The Anglers of the Au Sable has a special motivation for its end-of-year fundraising appeal this year. An anonymous donor has generously offered to give the organization \$20,000 IF it can raise \$20,000 in other contributions by 1 January 2011.

That means if a donor gives \$100, it becomes \$200 for the Anglers of the Au Sable. But hitting the \$20,000 mark is the key. According to the organization, "If we don't make the total, we don't get the matching funds, and that would be a waste."

The Anglers will then use the dollars to fund the very projects that are at the forefront of Michigan conservation. From fighting gas wells in pristine areas, to water rights, to fishing regulations, to such grassroots projects as erosion control and the placement of trout structures, the Anglers of the Au Sable is known as an organization that gets things done in Northern Michigan.

All donations are tax deductible.

Make checks out to Anglers of the Au Sable. Write "Challenge Matching Grant" on the memo line.

Send check to:
Anglers of the Au Sable
P.O. Box 200
Grayling, MI 49738



Ray Geitka kicked off the 2010-11 Featured Tier Season with the Sedgemoor.



Hook: Shrimp/scud Tiemco 2487, Mustad 80250 or Daiichi 1130, sizes 12, 14, 16
Body: Strands of Flashabou (green, apple green, pearl)
Underwing: Poly or HiVis
Overwing: Deer or elk hair
Head: Hare's ear dubbing (tan, brown, olive)

FFF-GLC Tying Expo 11 set for December 4

The Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will host the 11th Annual Fly Tying Exposition at Holt High School in Holt, Michigan, on Saturday, December 4, 2010. The expo will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The GLC will be celebrating its 30th anniversary at this event. More than 80 tiers will be on hand. FFF Buz Buszek Award recipients Jeff "Bear" Andrews and Chris Helm will be with us.

Returning tiers also include; Oscar Feliu, Dennis Potter, Ray Schmidt, Dick Walle, Julie Nielsen and Chris Soule,.

Fly tiers will be tying a vast selection of patterns including trout flies, bass bugs, saltwater flies, streamers, emergers, dries, wets and others. Once again, tiers will have the opportunity to sell their flies and fly tying associated goods from their table. The area for vendors will be greatly expanded with vendors offering a wide variety of fly tying, fly fishing and related products.

A number of events will be featured throughout the day including door prizes, silent auctions, bucket raffle, rummage sale and a live auction during the lunch hour. In addition to artwork, fly rods, guide trips, and fly fishing/tying items, the auction will have some special items this year. A special fly plate will be auctioned featuring Rusty Gates and his friends. There will be flies from Rusty and 14 outstanding fly tiers from the GLC. We will also be having a special auction of Chauncy Lively flies and books. The auction starts at 1 p.m.

The admission fee for the event: \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens 13-18; children 12 and under are free.

Contact Karen Harrison to nominate a tier for invitation to tie at the event at wwgcp@verizon.net. Visit the GLC website for the latest information at www.fffglc.org. (NOTE: Tiers must be members of the Federation of Fly Fishers)

Yellowstone 2011: It's not too early to begin planning

by Al Haxton

Ahhhhhhh, Yellowstone National Park.

I must admit that just the name of that place brings a smile to my face. During each of the past few winters I have spent some fine time remembering my visits to Yellowstone National Park. I cannot begin to share all the tales of fun and laughter, all the stunning fish and scenery I have enjoyed while I have visited that place. But I will try a bit, to share some of the fond memories of my last visit, to maybe interest you in a future visit to the first national park in history, to visit Yellowstone National Park.

Each August members of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club visit Yellowstone for a week of fishing, sharing meals and fish stories and just all around having fun. This trip, which was founded by Phil Heck eight year ago, has become my "look forward to" trip of the year. I spend time each winter tying flies for "the trip." I review notes from previous visits and look at photos of the mountains, the wildlife and of course, of the fish caught and released. I must say that I do get a little "geeked" about this trip each year.

This year (2010), 20 club members visited the park and enjoyed the nicest weather that we have ever had during our visit. For only the second time we went snowless during our weeklong visit.

Each morning our group scattered to fabled rivers such as the Madison, Soda Butte, the Lamar, the Gallatin, Slough Creek and others that shall remain nameless in print. Each evening we shared dinner at our lodge and told fish stories and shared laughter and



plans for the following day's adventures.

During our visit we drove hundreds of miles in pursuit of the wily trout, and saw wildlife and scenery that took our breath away many times over. We drove roads that wound around mountains and bubbling springs and geysers. We stopped to let bison cross the road and in some cases even had to back out of the way of a battle between two rather large male bison, right on the road in front of our cars. We all caught fish and had a wonderful time.

Perhaps the best memory of this year's trip, for me, was the actual sighting of a grizzly bear. While I will admit that the bear was a far distance away, it was still the very first real sighting that I have had during my eight visits. The bear was in the Lamar Valley and was about a quarter mile away from where I viewed it. As I look back on the experience I will admit that a quarter mile does not sound too close, but I was comfortable with that distance, as were about 300 others. And, after looking around at all the other folks, I figured that if the bear attacked, well there were many folks older, and slower, than I. Just kidding. So I felt safe with that distance.

You might notice the fly fisher in one of the photos accompanying this story. Rest assured, this guy was not attacked and he was NOT a member of MFFC. He quite obviously was rather intent on his fishing, however, as he didn't notice the bear.

Next year another group will visit Yellowstone National Park. The dates for next year's trip are Saturday, August 13, through Saturday, August 20. The cost of lodging for this trip is about \$350 per person, including breakfast and dinner each day. Airfare to Bozeman runs about \$500 per person. Car rental adds about \$200. License fees add another \$50. So your cost for all the essentials is about \$1,100 for the weeklong visit.

Of course we also spend some money on flies, perhaps a guided trip on one of the bigger rivers, lunches during our fishing days, and souvenirs aplenty. If this trip sounds interesting to you please come over and ask questions at any meeting. Reservations for this trip will be taken on the first Wednesday of December at the regularly scheduled meeting of The Michigan Fly Fishing Club. A deposit of \$150 will hold your spot, but is not required that evening.

MFFC Board Meeting Minutes May 12, 2010

Call to Order: B. Kramer called meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: P. Brazzil, C. Hunter, R. Gokenbach, A. Bullock, S. Freeburg, B. Kramer, J. Telinda, T. Schotts, J. Long

Review April 21, 2010 Minutes:

Corrected as directed by board.

Motion to accept as corrected by P. Brazzil and seconded by A. Bullock, **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Agenda: Additions and changes to the agenda were made. Motion to accept the agenda as amended, P. Brazzil and Seconded by T. Schotts, **Motion Passed.**

Officer Reports:

President – Brazzil: First, Pat wanted to apologize for missing the last meeting but was thankful those select few were able to convey his wishes. He and the MFFC board also wanted to thank Jim Aitken for all of his hard work entering all of the EXPO admission ticket data that was not completed at the EXPO and Tiffany Davis as well as many other club members who worked entering the data. Pat and the MFFC Board offer their condolences to Fred Field a long time member and past board member on the passing of his wife. Pat would also like to thank the election committee for their fine work. Todd Fuller has put on The Michigan Fly Fishing Festival for several years and has offered the MFFC a booth for free and we would need volunteers July 17-18, 2010, to man the booth. Al Bullock will run the booth at Fullers. Pat is looking for a co-chair for the family outing at Wa Wa Sum. Another interesting note, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) they are looking to team up with MFFC to have an annual Women's Fly Fishing School. Sue Tabor is

looking for MFFC help and the event is sponsored by the Michigan DNR, the location and date is TBD. The request for a chairman for this will go out with the banquet emails and anyone interested contact Pat Brazzil for more information.

Treasurer – Freeburg: The budget is looking good at this time with the raffle and all other self-funded events are doing well. Scott will set up a meeting with Jim Telinda and the Club's accountant to go over the handoff to Jim.

A motion by S. Freeburg for the special grant request for Reeling and Healing, Reeling and Healing Midwest and Project Healing Waters for \$ 1000 each was made and seconded by J. Long, **Motion Passed.**

Pat had requested Scott to put together some numbers for what we need to have in savings to operate the club for one year. Scott and Pat had some numbers and there was extensive discussion on this matter. The board will take a very close look at the best and worst case scenario and determine what savings we need to survive one year.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by A. Bullock, seconded by T. Schotts, **Motion Passed.**

Corresponding Secretary – Kramer:

Hatch – All is well

Speakers – Speaker is all set for the Banquet

Website – S. Freeburg noted the bill for the domain name is due.

Membership – Telinda,

Membership is at 377 paid as of today.

Events and Outings

Summer Meeting Schedule – B. Kramer – June 9, 2010 is at the Orvis store on Woodward at 6-9 p.m. The July 22 meeting is at the Costic Center at 28600 11 Mile Rd. The August 11 meeting is at the Rochester Community House on the banks of the Paint Creek.

Youth School – A.L. Bulszewicz – The school has 15 students at this time but Terry Drinkwine has placed an article in the paper and A.L. expects to fill the school at 20. Public School – Peter Albertson – There are five people signed up and there is a need for a few more volunteers.

Smallmouth Outing – Todd Schotts We have 10 including a few new people.

New Business:

Al Bullock – Possibility of having a Grayling branch of the MFFC. The MFFC constitution has no provision for a branch but there is the possibility of creating a committee. The board would require additional information and a chair person before any other consideration.

Old Business:

2010-2011 Meeting Schedule B. Kramer – The Wednesday November 24 meeting before Thanksgiving will be dependent on the custodial services at the school. The February meetings will be the 2, 9 and 16 and the East side meeting will be the 23rd.

Re-publication of the Constitution – J. Telinda The constitutions have been updated and there are extra stickers available from Jim.

Pat Brazzil wanted to commend this board for doing a wonderful job this past year with special thanks to Scott Freeburg for fine tuning the treasurer's report and making it so simple even he can read it and Jim Telinda for all his work getting our membership close to 400. Thanks to Joe Sprys for all of his hard work albeit remotely, Bruce Kramer for staying under budget, Chris Hunter for maintaining a high standard, keeping the board meetings on subject and timely. On a final note Pat said this board is the best he has been a part of, nothing was personal, everyone followed the

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MFFC Board Meeting Minutes May 12, 2010

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Club's Mission Statement and truly kept the club's best interest in mind at all times.

Adjournment: Motion: The motion to adjourn by R. Gokenbach and seconded by Al Bullock and carried at 9:12 p.m.

MFFC Board Meeting Minutes September 15, 2010

Call to Order: C. Hunter called meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: B. Kramer, C. Hunter, D. Finstad, R. Gokenbach, J. Telinda, T. Drinkwine, A. Bulszewicz, M. Duchin, T. Schotts **Absent:** P Brazzil

Review May 12, 2010 Minutes: Moved as published by J. Telinda and seconded by M. Duchin, **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was modified. Motion to accept by B. Kramer; seconded by T. Schotts. **Motion Passed.**

Officer Reports:

President – Kramer; First, introduced Stephanie Boles from the American Red Cross who gave an overview of the First Responder service her organization will provide for the Expo for both days. This will include taking over the liability for providing First Responder services.

Second, Mike Matuszewski will conduct the club audit with the help of several members who will be asked by M.M. Asap.

Third, S. Freeburg will take over the Photo Showcase / Competition. Details to be announced.

Fourth, Sue Tabor of the DNRE spoke regarding involving the MFFC in a DNRE program to introduce women into the sport of fly fishing. Scenarios were discussed. Motion by Kramer, seconded by Duchin to table. **Motion Passed.**

Motion Passed.

Fifth, discussion regarding the purchase of license plate holders with MFFC insignia. Motion by Kramer and seconded by Telinda to purchase 250. **Motion Passed.**

Treasurer – Telinda; First, gave financial report. Motion by Gokenbach and seconded by Finstad to accept. **Motion Passed.**

Second, Telinda said all bills need to be turned in through the chairperson of an event within 2 weeks after the event.

Corresponding Secretary – Finstad, reported a good turnout for the summer meetings and announced Mystic Rod reps would attend a December meeting. Also a saltwater night is scheduled for Dec. Discussion was also had on improving the website.

Membership – Gokenbach, reported 187 paid memberships.

Events and Outings:

B. Kramer announced the October 20 meeting is changed to October 27 due to a conflict with the school calendar. Also, a conservation chair is needed.

New Business:

2010–2011 Outing Calendar to be forthcoming.

No other business was forthcoming.

Motion by Gokenbach and seconded by Duchin to adjourn. **Motion Passed;** meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Nov. Featured Tier: Terry Herron

by Todd A. Schotts

Once again stepping into the spotlight as our featured tier in November is Terry Herron. He will be demonstrating two flies that every Michigan fly angler should have in their fly boxes – the Yellow Sally and LaFontaine's Deep Sparkle Pupa.

If you are unfamiliar with Terry, he has been our Featured Tier several times in the past, demonstrating such flies as the BWO Spinner, BWO Emerger, a Foam Hopper (*from Fly Tyer Magazine*) and Jack Gartside's famous Sparrow.

Terry is a retired school teacher who resides in Royal Oak. He's easily one of the club's most active members, lending a hand teaching tying at the Boy Scout School, Youth School, Public School, and Project Healing Waters. He also chairs the Tying Area at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo's Kids' Korner. He is also a fixture at our Youth Tying tables at Outdoorama and the Ultimate Fishing Show.

He took his fly tying skills outside southeast Michigan earlier this year when he participated in the Grand River Fly Tiers' "Celebration of Fly Tying 2010."

Yellow Sally

Hook: *Size 12-14*

Thread: *6/0 or 140 denier brown*

Tail: *Deer hair*

Tag: *(optional) Red dubbing*

Body: *Yellow foam*

Underwing: *Krystal flash*

Wing: *Deer hair*

Legs: *Rubber legs*

LaFontaine's Deep Sparkle Pupa

Hook: *Scud hook size 12-18*

Weight: *Lead wire*

Underbody: *Dubbing*

Overbody: *Sparkle yarn*

Hackle: *Partridge or wood duck*

Head: *Dubbing or marabou*



Good Scouts: MFFC members spread the word about fly fishing

On September 25 Howard Geller, Brian Tabaka and Norm Tabaka attended the Boy Scouts of America Great Lakes Council's 100th year anniversary Rendezvous Camporee. More than 6,500 scouts and scout leaders from Southeast Michigan and Canada gathered for a fun filled weekend. Howard and Brian demonstrated their fly tying skills throughout the day while Norm answered questions about the MFFC and its Fly Fishing Merit Badge school, which is conducted annually each spring. "The class is going to fill fast this spring!" Norm predicted. "We received many thank yous from scouts and leaders on the great time and training they had during our classes." The MFFC trio set up a display of different flies, tying materials, and fish posters as well as photos from past MFFC merit badge schools. We shared a tent with many corporate and local sponsors, including Safari International, MDNR, Detroit Zoological Society and many others.

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