



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

October 2010



Glenn Weisner (left) and Wayne Samson (right) talk with Cindy and Eric Center, prior to their presentation to the club at the Sept. 8 meeting

No hatch? Try a terrestrial, Weisner and Samson advise

Terrestrials aren't just for the dog days of summer.

That was one of the key insights shared by Glenn Weisner and Wayne Samson, the duo behind Glenn River Flies, at the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's September 8 meeting, the first meeting of the club's new program year.

The pair, which hails from the Toledo, Ohio-area, described their presentation as "a nice mixture of 'bug' information, fly-fishing commentary and fly patterns all focused on land-born insects." They emphasized "field knowledge" versus "book knowledge" in focusing on the importance of ants; beetles; crickets; grasshoppers; lady bugs; and damsel and dragon flies.

Terrestrials, especially ants, will become active once the temperatures warm up. That's why it makes sense to float an ant under a bush or tree that overhangs the water. Fish in that area are accustomed to seeing ants and beetles fall into the water. "Most terrestrials have a near-zero ability to recover when they fall in the water," Weisner said.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

October 6

Speaker Meeting
Chris Reister, Mystic Outdoors

Topic: Fishing Alaska
Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 13

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

October 27

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

Garage Sale Night
Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

November 10

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

Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Steven Kuieck, River Quest Charters
Topic: Simplified Steelhead Fishing

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



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What's Michigan's longest river?

The longest river in Michigan is, appropriately, the Grand River, flowing nearly 300 miles from its headwaters in Hillsdale County to its outlet to Lake Michigan in Grand Haven. The second-longest is the Manistee, at about 200 miles.

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Weisner talked with long-time club member Norm Recla. The Glenn River Hopper was one of the patterns demonstrated.

If you're wondering what color ant to tie on, take a look around for some naturals. If you don't see any, know that they typically take on the color of soil in the area, he said.

And if ants are a go-to terrestrial, beetles aren't far behind.

"They're poor flyers, but survive almost anything," Weisner said. "A big, juicy beetle fishing in the winter will provide surprising results," he added. A low-riding pattern like a beetle can be difficult to see when fished. Weisner recommended using a flashback material for the wing case. "It will pick up the sunshine and be more visible on the water (than a dull or matte-finished wing case)."

While Weisner guided members through the tour of terrestrials, Wayne Samson focused on tying a number of their most successful patterns, including the Glenn River Hopper, a foam- and deer-hair concoction; a cul de canard (CDC) beetle and damsel fly pattern.

Chester "Chet" Goleski 1931-2010

by Gary Johnson



The Club lost long-time member Chester "Chet" Goleski on August 26. He was 88 and a Michigan Fly Fishing Club member since its earliest days.

Chet was introduced to fly fishing at a YMCA class held in Detroit shortly after he returned from the U.S. Navy. During World War II he served on a LCI Landing Craft as a Seaman First Class.

He generously shared his time and knowledge with anyone who was interested in learning. As a Boy Scout leader for his (now deceased) son Joe's troop, he introduced many youngsters to the joys of fly fishing. Club members will remember Chet's enthusiastic participation in the youth fishing schools hosted by our club.

Chet is survived by Thelma, his lovely wife of 66 years. It is reported that she even encouraged his purchase of fly rods, including those built by Paul Young in his shop in the Detroit area! (Greater love hath no man received!)

Along with many members of the club, I was blessed to have had Chet as my teacher and mentor. His enthusiasm and love of all aspects of our beloved sport will be missed by all who called him friend.

What we did on our summer vacation: A view from “over the hill” in Yellowstone

by Bob Luetje

This was my second fishing trip to Montana with the Michigan Fly Fishing Club group and, as last year, I was the oldest. This is an achievement realized without any skill on my part. So, this is my view from “over the hill.”

Twenty of us traveled independently to the Slash E Ranch via the Bozeman airport that is growing every year. The Slash E would not be considered a resort but is a practical and suitable facility on Henry’s Lake near Last Chance, ID, about 15 miles south of West Yellowstone. Al Haxton is our leader and organizer – he could herd cats! We give him a bunch of money and he rents the ranch, and doles out cash each day to the group he has assigned to “cook” dinner for us all. This year’s “cooked” meals were KFC, Chinese, pulled pork, pizza, and subways. The highlight dinner was the baked ham with salad, scalloped potatoes and dessert that WAS actually “cooked” by Cindy and Eric Center.

Our group was paired up two to a car. Every rental car was fitted with the MFFC “yellow dot” decal and an Anglers of the AuSable decal. Every morning, each of the 10 vehicles scattered like mother osprey leaving their nests to search for fish. Our fleet covered over 10,000 miles in the week so you see we visited a lot of water.

It isn’t easy learning the characters of such different rivers as the rowdy Madison and the gentle Gibbon. Then there are places they call hopper water and others where a size 20 nymph is the fly of



choice. The fly shops all offer sound advice bordering on data overload.

Maybe you sense that I didn’t get a lot of fish; yes, I was into no-kill big time!

Bruce Strachan, my partner for the week, was new to this area so he had to suffer with my interpretation of our opportunities. We fished at Three Dollar Bridge Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and only had a pair of 8-inch rainbows for our effort.

As part of the “grand tour” we stopped at Kelly Galloup’s Slide Inn and then made our way to the Visitor’s Center at overlooking Quake Lake, created in 1959 by one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded in the U.S. Our guide who described the event was actually in the canyon with his family the night of the 7.5 earthquake and the landslide and he shared several photos he took the next day. The 80 million tons of rock that slid into the valley killed at least 28 campers; most of whom are still beneath the slide, which dammed up the Madison and created a lake 190 feet deep.

Monday morning we followed Bob Jacklin’s suggestion to fish the trico hatch in the Barns Pool just inside the Park boundary. Apparently Bob didn’t send anyone else this way as we had the place to ourselves most of the morning. At about 10 a.m. fish began to feed and it was remarkable. They were all over the river! We saw nothing

on the water so assumed they were taking the virtually invisible trico spinners. We tied on the small stuff. I was able to get about 15 on a size 18 BWO parachute that I could see. Bruce was having fun, too. However, in the interest of maintaining the honesty of this report, I must say the fish were all whitefish ☹. Whitefish are actually pretty fine fighters, and catching them surely beats false casting all morning.

Lunch on Monday was on the banks of the Nez Perce River watching some cow elk grazing along the river. Continuing the sightseeing mission, we checked out the Firehole Canyon, one of the geyser basins and Old Faithful.

After dinner, I ran back to Three Dollar Bridge on a mission to take some big fish on streamers. Surely that would be effective in the fading light under a fantastic sky, I thought. But not a strike was felt.

Tuesday morning, Bruce and I went to town (about 15 miles from the ranch) and bought some different flies we hoped would improve our luck. The experts tell us the Madison in the Park is too warm due to the influence of the Firehole, which creates the Madison where it joins the Gibbon a few miles upstream. Bud Lilly suggested that we work the Gallatin downstream toward Big Sky. Bruce found a nice pool near mile 30 where we each caught a pair of rainbows. The biggest measured 13 inches.

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What we did on our summer vacation: A view from “over the hill” in Yellowstone

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Our next target was the Taylor Fork, which was new to both of us. It is a small feeder to the Gallatin. We drove about seven miles up a dusty road to try some marginal looking water. Later, we learned that we surely would have taken some fine trout if we had gone to the pool/riffle water that is a few miles farther upstream.

One of the primary attractions of this area is the diversity of rivers, waters and techniques where these trout live. Many of the rivers are characterized by round, slippery rocks and pushy water. Waders are seldom tested because one gets into the danger zone when the water reaches just above your knees. Yet some of the meadow streams are gentle with a gravel bottom and still harbor trout. All are located in the huge open valleys with the ever present “Big Sky” overhead.

I must touch on Wednesday. Bruce got an 11-inch rainbow. That was it! The day was clear but VERY windy. I was fishing a “skittering caddis” by just holding my rod tip downwind!

At dinner we all agreed that this was the most difficult catching year ever. It made us feel better but still a bit incompetent.

Thursday, as is tradition, we traveled across Yellowstone National Park to the northeast corner where we stayed one night at the Roosevelt Lodge in the Rough Rider cabins. This gave us some time to fish the wonderful rivers in this part of the park – Slough Creek, Soda Butte and the Lamar. This is big game country



One of the trout surrendered by a Yellowstone Country-river.

with sightings of buffalo by the hundreds and the occasional antelope and bear. The fishing over here is superb. Everyone reported success.

Success doesn't equal “easy,” though. Bruce and I were eating lunch in the Slough Creek campground when we noticed trout feeding in the pool beside us.

One good-sized cutthroat was cruising round and round in thin quiet water casually sipping invisible insects from the surface. We decided this would be a good place to fish but it would be tough. I decided that Bruce had the skill to face this challenge. He added four feet of 7X tippet, tied on his smallest dry and slipped into the lower end of the pool where he could get a long cast into the cruiser's path.

I could write a few paragraphs about Bruce's skill in presenting the tiny flies but it was all for naught. We resorted to blind casting to risers in the deeper parts of the pool and got four decent sized rainbows. “Decent” fish in Montana are the same as “good” fish in Michigan – about 11 inches long.

But, Thursday wasn't quite over. I took Bruce to a pocket on Soda Butte that Terry Drinkwine and I stumbled across last year. Bruce approached the pool and had three strikes on his first four presentations – one a 14-inch cutthroat! A while later he got a



A somewhat bigger specimen that came to one MFFC fly.

16-inch fish and I got one 13 inches – all from this same little pool!

This is stuff of dreams.

Friday we checked out and had a super breakfast at the lodge before heading back to our “secret hole” on Soda Butte. This time I insisted that I get first dibs on those fish and got a fish on the first cast. A couple more eight-inchers were the best I could do. It was time to head back toward our Slash E Ranch, which was 100 miles away. After a short drive, we stopped at a likely looking spot along the Lamar. I found a corner that now lives in my memory. I saw a couple big cutts come up and refuse my hopper pattern but eventually found that they would eat a PMD emerger. This was the best hour of fishing I can remember! I took an 18-inch cutt followed by two more at 15 and 14 inches. The 15-inch fish is the biggest one I captured on my camera all week.

Saturday morning is the day we stuff all our dirty and wet clothes back in the bags for the trip home. It is a lazy morning as the planes don't leave Bozeman until early afternoon and it is an easy three-hour trip to the airport. Bruce and I sent our stuff back with Charley Stevens and his partners.

It was a most enjoyable trip with a very compatible group of folks. Certainly, there will be another expedition next year if “travel agent” Al doesn't burn out.

FFF-GLC's fall steelhead outing set for Oct. 22-24

The annual fall steelhead outing of the Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is fast approaching. The event is scheduled for October 22-24 in the Wellston area.

The location for this event is Schmidt Outfitters with lodging provided at the Caberfae Resort. Wellston is located a few miles from the Manistee River and is in close proximity to the Little Manistee, Pere Marquette and Betsie rivers.

If you are not familiar with the area, council members will provide a host to assist in all aspects of this event. There will be excellent fishing opportunities, great hospitality, and plenty of time for federating.

Check-in is Friday after 4 p.m. in the Schmidt's Conference Room, where there also will be refreshments, snacks, fishing updates, and dinner. Activities will resume at Schmidt's on Saturday afternoon with refreshments, dinner and an auction/raffle. All meals will be at Schmidt's.

Additionally, the fall meeting of the GLC's Board of Directors will be held Sunday, Oct. 24, at 9 a.m. in the Schmidt's Conference Room.

Lodging (double occupancy) is at the Caberfae Resort, located 15 miles east of Wellston. Cost for full registration is \$165 for the four meals-two-night package (Friday evening through Sunday morning). Saturday's lunch is not included.

Single occupancy lodging may also be available. This is also a fund raising event and proceeds will assist in funding GLC conservation and education programs, so all attendees are invited to bring items with a minimum value of \$15 for an auction/raffle to be conducted

Saturday evening. Because of the active participation of attendees, the raffle has been an outstanding success with great items available. There will be at least one graphite fly rod in the raffle.

Lodging reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact Don Sawyer at dsesi@aol.com or 517-349-0454.

Help protect 45 more miles of Michigan's rivers and streams

If you support increasing the number of miles of river protected by gear restrictions, let your voice be heard.

In 2002, the State passed legislation giving the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment the authority to place gear restrictions on 212 miles of streams. Currently the state has 105 miles covered by gear restrictions.

Studies have shown that those gear restrictions have improved trout numbers in those streams.

The DNRE and groups like the Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and Michigan Trout Unlimited, TU chapters and fly fishing clubs across the state have worked on a proposal for adding 45 miles of river covered by new gear restrictions. The 45 miles include a section of Paint Creek in Oakland County.

The proposal is currently being reviewed by the DNRE for approval. The proposed gear restrictions can be viewed at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/GearRestrictedWatersReview_332448_7.pdf

While only 45 miles are proposed to be added to the gear-restricted total, some groups are circulating

petitions to block the gear restrictions. Your help is needed.

Fly anglers are asked to send a quick email to DNR Fisheries Director Kelley Smith at smithk@michigan.gov. Your email doesn't have to be long or detailed -- just a quick couple of sentences in support of the kinds of flies-only, catch-and-release, gear-restricted fishing on which Anglers of the Au Sable was founded nearly 25 years ago.

As a reminder, FFF-GLC, the Anglers of the Au Sable, TU, and other coldwater conservation groups have worked for more than a year on the special protections.

According to the proposal, all of the previous gear restrictions on the Au Sable's holy waters and elsewhere, including the 10-inch brook trout limit, have been preserved.

The restrictions go before the Michigan Natural Resources Commission for final review later this fall.



Garage Sale Night scheduled for Oct. 27

Mark your calendars because you don't want to miss the club's annual Garage Sale Night. It's a good time to add to your arsenal of rods, reels and other fly fishing "essentials."



A gaggle of MFFC members made their way Up North on September 11 to assist in the annual AuSable River Cleanup. Among the members helping were: Charlie Gregory, Al Haxton, Mark Hendricks, Joyce Kelley, John Lindsay, Jack Lotz, Mike and Jan Matuszewski, Art Mikkola, Larry and Maryann Poole, Mark Rais, Joe Reed and Bill Shannon.



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