



*The Evening*

# Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

April 2010



### ***Taking aim at the Expo***

*Joe Humphreys, looking more the archer than a fly fisher, demonstrates a flip cast, a technique for dealing with tight, brushy streams. For more photos from the 32nd Annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, see inside.*

*(Photo by Eric Zadorecky)*

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**April 3**

#### **Trout Tune-Up**

Walled Lake Outdoor Ed. Ctr.  
The Yurt, 3577 Sleeth Ct.  
Commerce Twp., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**April 14 (Note: 2nd Wed.)**

#### **Club Elections**

**Speaker: Eric Stroup**

**Topic: Common-Sense Fly Fishing: 7 Simple Lessons to Catch More Trout**

Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.

**April 17**

#### **Boy Scout Merit Badge School**

Independence Oaks County Park,  
9501 Sashabaw Rd., Clarkston  
8:50 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**April 21**

#### **MFFC Board Meeting**

Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.

**April 24**

#### **Trout Opener**

Gates Lodge Boardroom, Grayling  
9-11 a.m.

**April 28 (Note: 4<sup>th</sup> Wed.)**

#### **Activity Meeting**

**Featured Tier: Dan Walker**

Clarenceville Middle School  
7:30 p.m.

## **2010 Banquet to feature Ed Engle**

Ed Engle got into fly fishing the same way many fly anglers did. His parents gave him a “starter” kit that included a rod, reel, backing, line, and leader. “There weren’t a lot of people teaching fly casting at the time, so I pretty much taught myself. I paid for that later on, too,” Engle said. He’ll be sharing some of that wisdom and his perspectives on our passionate pursuit at the 2010 MFFC Banquet, May 19, at the Italian-American Club in Livonia.

**Tickets are \$40 and available from Dave Begley and Bill Johnson. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m.**

Engle’s early home water was Colorado’s South Platte River, which he said was about a 45-minute drive from his house.

“Even then,” he said, “the South Platte was known nationally as a ‘technical’ river. Catching trout required small flies and good presentations.

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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.



The Ed Engle collection will see an addition later this year with the publication of "Trout Lessons: Free-Wheeling Tactics and Alternatives for the Difficult Days" in August.



Ed Engle, pictured at the 2005 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, will headline the club's annual banquet next month.

**2010 Banquet to feature Ed Engle**

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"I'd go up to the river by myself and flail around trying to learn as much as I could. Once in a while I'd run into a more experienced angler who would give me a tip. I fished the river for four months before I caught a trout. By that time I was tying my own flies because I couldn't afford to keep replacing all the store-bought ones I was losing. I actually caught my first trout with a fly I'd tied."

He went on to work at the old Angler's Covey in Colorado Springs and write a fly fishing newspaper column for the *Colorado Springs Sun*. That led to writing magazine stories for many fly fishing publications and guiding fly fishers on the South Platte River.

Next came his first book, "Fly Fishing the Tailwaters." That led to doing presentations for clubs and, he said, "all of a sudden I was a struggling professional fly fisher."

Other books followed, "Tying Small Flies," "Fishing Small Flies," "Splitting Cane," and "Seasonal: A Life Outside."

His newest book, "Trout Lessons: Free-Wheeling Tactics and Alternatives for the Difficult Days," is scheduled to be released in August.

"A lot of water has gone down the river since those early days," Engle said.

"I still think the point of fishing is to catch fish, but I'm not as possessed by it now as I was when I started out. I like everything about fly fishing – the water, the places I go to catch fish, the casts, flies, boats and the friends I've made. And more than anything, it has always come down to the fish themselves for me.

"Whether it's a trout, king salmon, bonefish, permit or bluegill, I just like looking at them, watching them swim, seeing what they do and how they act. And I like sharing all of this with others."

Go yurt ...

## Trout Tune-Up on tap for April 3

The Trout Tune-Up, one of the MFFC's oldest events, is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 3, at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center, 3577 Sleeth Court, in Commerce Township.

Home base is a structure called the Yurt. The club provides food and beverages and a place to get warm. This outing makes for a great time to flex those casting muscles, work on some of the techniques learned at the Members' School or test any new equipment you may have acquired at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

Down a trail from the Yurt is the Huron River.

"The Huron River will have been recently stocked by the DNR with trout from a nearby hatchery," said Scott Freeburg, who has organized the event for the past several years. "The DNR usually puts in 2,000 to 3,000 brown and rainbow trout between the Moss Lake dam and Wixom Road bridge." Special trout regulations (flies only) are in effect for that stretch from the 1st through the end of the month of April.

"Sometimes, if we're lucky, the DNR will have released some of their 'breeder stock.' These fish are usually very large and very strong. Catching one of these guys can sometimes be one of the largest fish you catch all year," Freeburg said.

The yurt is a semi-permanent structure which was used by the Mongolian Nomads. It is the Asian version of a tepee. The Education Center's Yurt is 30 feet in diameter, built on a 36x50-foot deck, and can accommodate up to 50 people.

**Don't forget your 2010 fishing license; your 2009 license expires March 31.**



Brad Petzke gets rapt attention at the March 10 meeting.

## Take it really north and experience fly fishing in the UP

Michigan's Upper Peninsula has a mystique all its own, especially for fly anglers. It is the land of tall pines and cold, clear waters. It is the land of John Voelker (a.k.a. Robert Traver) and Ernest Hemingway.

It represents one-third of Michigan's total land mass but it is sparsely populated and, according to UP guide Brad Petzke, lightly fished. In fact, the motto of his Rivers North Guide Service, which he says is the UP's only full-time guide service, is "Fight the fish, not the crowds."

Petzke brought his insights into UP fly fishing to the March 10 meeting.

The UP offers something for every fly angler, Petzke said.

Lake Superior tributaries offer steep gradients and that means whitewater pocket fishing. Lake Michigan tributaries have less grade.

The Escanaba is a western style river with its upper reaches secluded, sporting minimal development and "minimal fishing pressure."

There are hike-in lakes – accessed by walks of as little as a quarter mile to as long as three miles – that provide opportunities to catch trophy brook trout on streamers and nymphs, he said.



Mike Duchin (right) seeks more info about UP opportunities.

The St. Marys boasts the strongest population of Atlantic Salmon in the U.S. and provides opportunities for fly anglers to catch Atlantics as well as several varieties of salmon (Coho, Chinooks and Pinks) and trout.

There's one thing to keep in mind if you're a dry fly angler: Hatches typically are a week or two behind what we're used to seeing in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Here's a thumbnail guide to the UP's peak "seasons":

**Spring steelhead:**

April 10-May 10

**Inland lakes trophy brook trout:**

May 5-June 10 and Sept. 15-Sept. 30

**Dry fly and streamer action:**

May 20-June 20

**St. Marys River Atlantic Salmon:**

June 25-Oct. 1

**Coho, Chinooks and Pinks:**

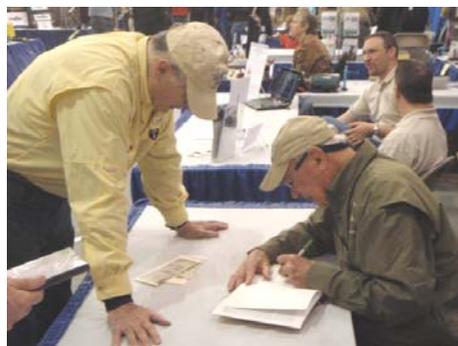
Sept. 20-Oct. 25

**Late-fall steelhead and lake-run**

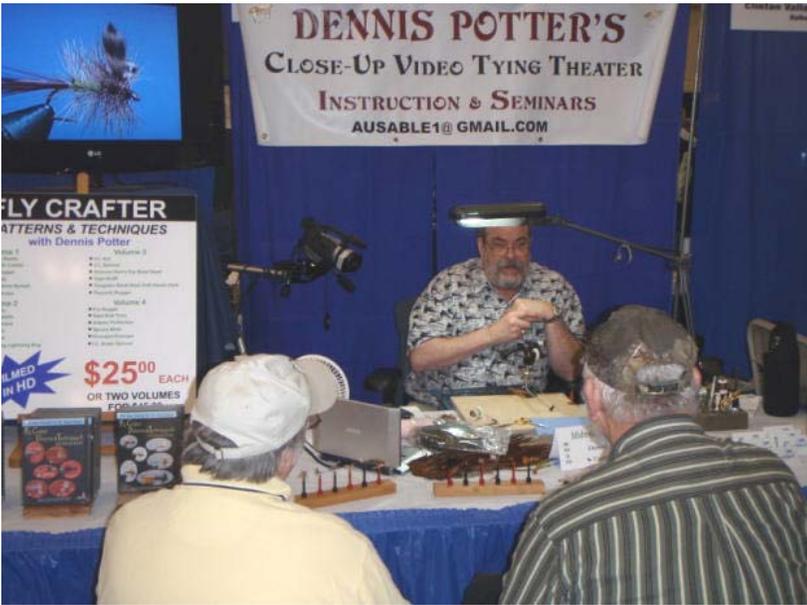
**brown trout:** Oct. 15-Jan. 1



Brad Petzke displays Jack Lotz's 16 1/2-inch brown taken on a UP river.



*Here's a sample of photos from the 2010 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo ... A chance to make and renew friendships and learn new insights. An opportunity to talk one-on-one with some of the most notable fly anglers on the planet. A chance to introduce youngsters to the world of fly angling. Enjoy the retrospective. Photos by Mike and Jan Matuszewsk, and Eric Zadorecky.*



## 2010 Trout Opener Memorial Breakfast: April 24

by Al Haxton

While opening day of the Michigan Trout Season is about as early on the calendar as possible, the day is rapidly approaching. I could share the true count of days until the rods will be uncased, fly lines straightened and new winter tied flies appear on the ends of tippets, but I think I will make you count the days for yourself. Trust me, it is time to begin making plans.

I hope this year you will plan on joining other MFFC members and guests at our annual Opening Day Memorial Breakfast. Each year many of us gather at the Gates Au Sable Lodge Boardroom to share fishing stories, some coffee, bagels, donuts and perhaps a famous Bloody Mary, that starts the day so well. We gather there to share good times and also to remember past members who are no longer fishing with us. For a few moments each year we recall the likes of Bud Crudder, Past President Tony Yuhas and far too many others. We fondly remember past experiences shared with these and other members, and share new experiences with friends and fishing buddies. This year will be especially tough with the loss of Rusty Gates and Joe Kutkuhn, two superb friends of the resource.

As in past years the Boardroom will be open to us from about 9 a.m. until about 11 a.m. Only one rule must be observed, as in the past, it is requested that we park in the Stephan Bridge Road public access parking lot. With just a short walk you will be welcomed to our 2010 Trout Opener Memorial Breakfast.

I hope to see many smiling faces again this year. Please plan on joining us for this fun and thoughtful opening day celebration.



### *In search of a fly fishing fix ...*

*During free periods of a two-week assignment in Shanghai, Dan Finstad got off the tourist trail to go hunting for fly angling shops and fly fishers. His discovery? While there may be tackle stores, fly fishing is not a widespread pursuit. Photos by Dan Finstad.*

## **Circle June 5 on your calendar: Youth School and Public School seek volunteers**

Circle June 5 on your calendar. That's the day the MFFC turns the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association facility into a fly angling academy. Both the Youth School and our Public School will be in session that day.

You are needed to make the schools a success.

If you're interested in assisting with the Adult Public School, it is a full day of instruction and insight. It will be comprised of three class segments over a full day.

The first segment will be "Equipment, Knots and Stuff." In this segment, we'll review basic equipment needed to spend a day in the stream and how it is put together; knots for connecting the system components - backing, line, leader, tippet, fly; and general accessories or "stuff" to complement your stream side activities.

Segment two will feature Michigan entomology or "bugs," basic fly tying equipment, material and learning to tie a few flies.

Casting is the Third segment. We will cover the grip, stance, form and posture, rod plane and loop development as well as the basic components of a standard "pick-up-and-lay-down" cast, false cast, roll cast, wiggle cast, and off-shoulder cast. We also will review practice techniques and provide some advice about how to trouble-shoot some common casting problems.

The MFFC is providing all equipment and materials and food. Students, you just need to sign up and plan on spending the day with our experienced fly fishers, each instructing in their areas of interest.

The cost is \$50 for adults and \$15 for those under 18 accompanied by a paid adult. Interested instructors are reminded to place the date on their calendars and refurbish their curriculum to make this day an exceptional experience as in the past.

For more information, contact A.L. Bulszewicz about the Youth School and Peter Albertson about the Public School.



### ***East meets West in St. Clair Shores***

*Gray Drake Lodge owner and renowned guide Matt Supinski brought the wisdom of the west – specifically the Newaygo area --, to the East Side in February for the MFFC's second annual special East Side Meeting. He updated club members and other east siders on the Muskegon River's resurgence of insect reproduction and trout growth, thanks to new water management tools being employed at Croton Dam.*



### **Bowerman steps into the Featured Tier spotlight**

*Professional tier Scott Bowerman brought his wealth of experience tying steelhead patterns to February's activities meeting as the evening's featured tier. His appearance came just in the nick of time for all MFFC members itching to get in some spring steelheading action. Photos by Peter Albertson.*

## **One of our busiest times of the year is fast approaching**

Spring is one of the busiest times of the year for Michigan Fly Fishing Club members. So with that in mind, make note of some of these dates and activities.

### **April 17**

Boy Scout Merit Badge School  
Independence Oaks County Park

### **April 23-25**

Trout Opener Weekend  
Rayburn Lodge, Grayling

### **April 24**

Trout Opener Breakfast  
Gates Lodge Boardroom, Grayling

### **May 5-8**

Dick Schott New Member Outing  
Wa Wa Sum, near Grayling

### **May 15**

Wayne County Fishing Derby  
Waterford Bend Area, Hines Park  
Northville

### **May 19**

2010 MFFC Banquet  
Italian-American Club  
Livonia

### **May 20-23**

Rayburn Outing  
Rayburn Lodge, near Grayling

### **June 4-6**

Smallmouth Outing  
Port Austin area

### **June 5**

Public/Youth School  
Multi-Lakes Conservation  
Association  
Commerce Township

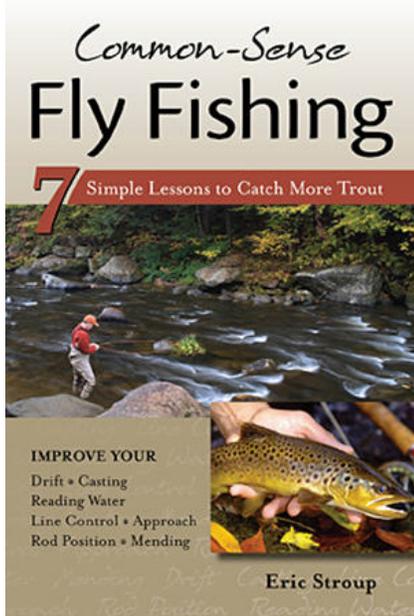
### **June 9**

Summer Meeting  
Northville Community Center



## ***Common-Sense Fly Fishing?*** **Get the scoop from Stroup** **at our April 14 meeting**

The April 14th meeting will bring a new face to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club – Eric Stroup, the author of the recently released book “Common-Sense Fly Fishing: 7 Simple Lessons to Catch More Trout.”



Stroup is the founder, owner and operator of the Spruce Creek Fly Co. in Spruce Creek, PA, southwest of State College. A disciple of Charlie Meck, one of Pennsylvania’s best known fly anglers, Stroup, is building a reputation as one of the premier guides in the East.

Years of repeat customers are testimony to his ever evolving techniques and skill. His dedication to the great sport of fly fishing is confirmed each year by an average 100 guiding days in central Pennsylvania and southwest Montana. Eric’s knowledge and passion extends, however, well beyond guiding. He also is an instructor for the Regal Engineering Fly Tying School in Pennsylvania and the USA Youth Fly Fishing Team.

His tying techniques are also available on his DVD “Practical Fly Patterns that Catch Trout: Volumes I & II” with Charlie Meck. In addition, An accomplished writer, Eric also has had feature articles in Fly Fisherman Magazine, Eastern Fly Fishing, and he is a regular contributor to the Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. He was recently named Managing Editor of Kype Magazine.

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