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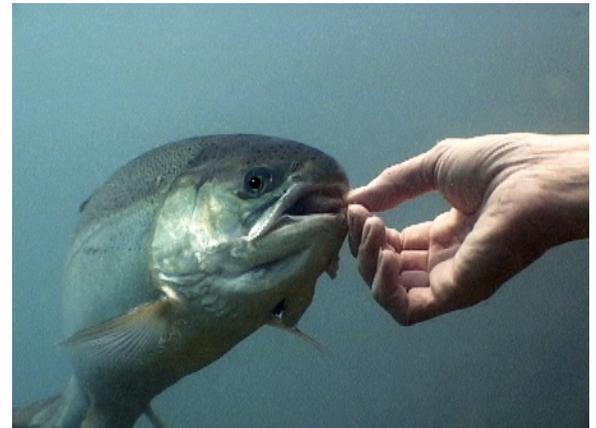


*The Evening*

# Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

August 2011



## *Eye to eye, fin to fin*

### August meeting to feature a fresh look at Michigan's steelhead

Michigan Fly Fishing Club members attending the August 10 meeting will be treated to a whole new perspective of one of Michigan's most popular sportfish -- eye to eye in their underwater world.

Thanks to divers Kathy Johnson and Greg Lashbrook of Gregory A.D. -- short for "Absolute Diving" -- MFFCers will see steelhead in a way that they likely have never seen before.

"We have really good footage of the adults running up the Little Manistee River, egg collection and fertilization by the DNR, stocking in Lake Huron and hand feeding by divers. It should make for a nice program," commented Johnson, Gregory A.D.'s chief executive officer.

Johnson has worked on behalf of Great Lakes restoration for more than two decades. As a diver, writer and public speaker she has traveled across the country raising awareness about the importance of freshwater marine life.

During the 1990s Johnson worked as a commercial hard-hat diver and as a volunteer for the St. Clair County Sheriff Department Dive Rescue and Recovery Team. She was trained in a wide range of skills including advanced dive certifications, job operations management and underwater report documentation.

Gregory A.D. has one of the largest freshwater marine life stock libraries available. Filming primarily in the Great Lakes basin, the company provides broadcast quality footage from the smallest species such as mosquitoes to the majestic Lake Sturgeon, Johnson said.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS.

**August 6**

### **Club Picnic**

Multi-Lakes Conservation Association, 3860 Newton Rd., Commerce Township 48382  
Noon-5 p.m.

*See story on back page*

**August 10**

**Speakers: Kathy Johnson & Gregory Lashbrook**

**Topic: MI Steelhead**

Costick Center, Shannon Room, 28600 Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

**September 14**

**Speaker: Mike Schultz**

**Topic: Rigging, Gear & Techniques for Warm-Water Fly Fishing**

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



The Evening

# Hatch

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## Who's up for an end-of-January bus trip? America's largest fly fishing show beckons

Anyone up for a winter road trip?

That's the question that Bill Shannon and Al Haxton are asking.

And just where would a group of shuttered-up trout bums be off to the last weekend of January? No, not Key West, the Bahamas or Mexico's Ascencion Bay ... well, certainly not by bus, anyway. The destination is New Jersey ... the Garden State Convention Center in Somerset, New Jersey, to be specific.

That's the location of what is arguably North America's largest fly fishing show, appropriately named The Fly Fishing Show. Think our own Midwest Fly Fishing Expo ... only on steroids.

Each year a group of MFFC members have piled into a couple of SUVs and headed East to sample the show. For the 2012 expedition, Shannon and Haxton are proposing that if enough club members are interested, the group would trek there in style ... well via bus.

The three-day Somerset show runs January 27-29, 2012, and the tentative plan is to leave the Detroit area the evening of Thursday, January 26, and arrive in Somerset the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>. That will allow club members to spend all of Friday and the better part of Saturday at the show before re-boarding the bus for the return trip to Michigan.

The Somerset show features several hundred exhibitors, dozens of speakers, fly tiers and seminars. Attendees will find exhibitors from across North and South America and the Carribean as well as Europe, as well as all manner of fly fishing-related products for fresh and saltwater pursuits.

The early estimated cost is \$200-\$250 per attendee. For more information, contact Bill Shannon or Al Haxton.

If there's enough interest, folks will have plenty of time to get their road trip singing voices in tune. How about the heart-rendering rendition of those haunting lyrics, "One hundred bamboo rods on the wall ... take one down, pass it around ... 99 bamboo rods on the wall"?

THE Fly  
FISHING  
Show



## ***Becoming a “Hexa-genius”*** **Fischbach offers path at July’s meeting**

The end of June ushers in a period of high anticipation for Michigan fly anglers -- Hex season. The time of year when the big mayflies hatch in the dead of night and big fish come out to dine.

Noted Huron River guide Dirk Fischbach, head guide for Colton Bay Outfitters and an acknowledged “Hex-ologist,” offered club members a primer in Hexology at the Club’s July meeting.

When Michiganders think of the Hex hatch, they usually think of *Hexagenia limbata*, the largest of North America’s mayflies. Who knew that Michigan was host to five different varieties of *Hexagenia*. That was one of the pieces of information offered to help club members attain the title “Hexa-genius.”

While Northern Michigan’s Hex Hatch has been an on-again/off-again kind of affair this year, Fischbach said there are rivers where the hatch is less unpredictable. Truth be told, the fabled Hex hatches on the Au Sable and Manistee rivers do tend to be “erratic.” The hatch on the Huron is almost like clockwork, Fischbach said. “Warm water Hex emergences are more predictable. Every day from the last day of July to the first day of September you want to be on the water at 8 o’clock.

“Fish on the Huron tend not to be as picky” as fish on northern Michigan rivers,” he said.

While offering insight into the burrowing -- they prefer mucky, silty surroundings and create U-shaped burrows -- and molting behaviors of Hex nymphs -- they’ll molt 30 to 50 times before their emergence -- he also offered advice about leaders, fly lines, flies and on-water strategies, otherwise referred to as practicing “safe Hex.”

**Leaders:** Fischbach recommended the Borger Nymph Leader. Here’s the recipe: four feet of .020 Maxima; one foot of .013 Maxima; 3 feet of 2X tippet; 10 inches of 3X tippet; and 10 inches of 4X tippet. “It’s a leader that’s built for quick changes,” Fischbach said. As the night progresses, he advised, simply trim off the 4X and 3X tippet sections.

**Fly lines:** Fischbach favors a double-taper line. Not only does a double taper appeal to the frugal -- when one end wears out, simply turn it around -- it also “makes for a perfect, delicate presentation.”

**Flies:** “A nymph and a spinner will be all you’ll need,” he said.

**Practicing “Safe Hex”:** “Only wade areas that you’ve checked out in daylight. Prepare your equipment. There’s a time to check out you gear and it’s not streamside at 8 p.m.,” he said. “Get in proper position. Ensure that you’ve got good sight and casting lines. Pre-think the fight. Where will the fish want to go once you’ve got him hooked up? Plan for fight.”



*Corresponding Secretary Dan Finstad (right) and July speaker Dirk Fischbach.*

## **August meeting to feature a fresh look at Michigan’s steelhead**

*Continued from front page*

Greg Lashbrook, the firm's lead cameraman, is one of the Great Lakes’ leading divers, having spent thousands of hours filming underwater across the entire basin. His passion for freshwater marine life began at a young age when he received his first underwater camera

as a teenager. After graduating from high school he began a 15-year career as a commercial hard-hat diver.

By the 1990s Lashbrook was working primarily with Great Lakes basin researchers documenting invasive species and establishing himself as a freshwater underwater specialist. For the past decade his reputation as a cameraman and fine artist has allowed him to work for a diverse group of organizations. The short list includes; National Geographic, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and TV Japan.



*Gregory A.D. Chief Executive Officer Kathy Johnson and friend.*

# Picnic ... Picnic ... Picnic ...

## Circle August 6 on your calendar

There are few things that say “summer” more than a picnic.

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club will be saying summer in a big way on Saturday, August 6, when it resurrects its summer picnic at the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association in Commerce Township. The event’s “official” hours are noon to 5 p.m., but club members and their families are invited to “come early and stay late.”

Picnic poobah Mike Doyle promises loads of good food -- to be served at roughly 2:30 p.m. -- and camaraderie ... as well as a few sporting endeavors. The “main course” includes roasted pork, corn on the cob, fried chicken, smoked turkey, hot dogs and cole slaw.

There is no cost to club members, but attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass around and their own beverages of choice.

Additionally, interested club members are invited to sign up to participate in a special “Baked Bean Cook Off” that will be judged by the members of the Board of Directors.



*Randy Park mans the grill at an earlier picnic.*

