



The Evening

Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

July 2011



*Ferocious strikes
and bent rods made
for a memorable
Smallmouth Outing*

Two days, 32 anglers, more than 200 fish ... Welcome to 2011's slammin' Smallmouth Outing

by Todd A. Schotts

The annual Michigan Fly Fishing Club Smallmouth Outing for 2011 can only be described as a slammin' success!!

When I took over the Smallmouth Outing quite a few years ago, I only had six people show up for the outing. I thought that was great, considering the year before the outing had been cancelled. That was the year I went Smallmouth fishing with guide Steve Kunnath on Lake St. Clair.

After that outing I approached Joe Sprys, who was president at the time, and asked if I could resurrect the outing. After the first year, the attendance almost doubled. Then it hit 15 members, even though the weather could be a tad unpredictable. We experienced sun, fog, rain, and high winds all in the space of two days. Then participation jumped to 20 members and then 23. This year we had 32 participants. To everyone's benefit the weather was so much in our favor. With the exception of a few fog patches, the sun was out in force most of the time.

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UPCOMING EVENTS.



Noted Huron River Guide Dirk Fischbach (right) is a mainstay at the Club's annual Boy Scout Fly Fishing School. He'll be talking about the Hex hatch at our July meeting.

July 13

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Dirk Fischbach

Topic: The Hex Hatch

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

August 10

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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



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MFFC Board Meeting Minutes April 20, 2011

Call to Order: Hunter at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Kramer, C. Hunter, D. Finstad, R. Gokenbach, J. Telinda, T. Drinkwine, A.L. Bulszewicz, M. Duchin; Absent: T. Schotts, P. Brazzil

Review of Minutes: Motion to approve by Gokenbach / Duchin; approved

Approval of Agenda - Gokenbach / Duchin; approved

Officer Reports

President – Kramer:

- Member of year – Will follow up at next meeting.

Vice President – Hunter:

- Featured Tier Chairman needed.
- Youth School Chair needed.

Treasurer – Telinda:

- Expo surplus reported.
- March treasurer's report – Motion by Gokenbach / Duchin to accept treasurer's report; approved
- Conservation Fund – Motion to table by Kramer / Bulszewicz; approved
- Budget Proposal – Discussion with CPA John Kuderik and discussion on budget. Motion to approve budget by Duchin / Finstad; approved

Corresponding Secretary – Finstad

- Hatch – Being sent to most members electronically

- Speakers – Chris Helm in May
- Website – Work in progress

Membership – Gokenbach

- 356 members
- Al Bullock new membership chairman

Events and Outings

- Al Haxton – Opening Day: Would like to be replaced as Opening Day Chair beginning next year. Offered to chair featured tier.
- Joe Sattler – MUCC Fundraiser / Membership: Asked for donation. Motion to donate \$500 by Gokenbach / Kramer; approved. Asked that club membership be updated
- Dan Finstad - Garage Sale: Motion by Kramer / Telinda to hold garage sale with 2 email notifications; approved. Casting is to be offered before banquet. Venue needed.
- June, July, August meetings: To be held at Kostic Center on 11 Mile in Farmington. Needs speakers for summer meetings.

New Business

- Fred Field – Insurance primer (cancelled - Field not available)
- Insurance Renewal (invoice attached) – Kramer signed new binder. Motion to approve by Duchin / Telinda; approved

Old Business: None

Visitor Comment: None

Adjournment: Duchin / Telinda at 9:50 p.m.

Help wanted

We need someone to step up as a Membership Chair. You may recall that Al Bullock graciously volunteered the night of the club election. Since then employment-related conflicts have arisen and he will not be able to serve as our Membership Chair. If you have questions about the job and would be interested in serving please let me know.

Also, A.L. Bulszewicz, who has done a great job with the Youth School in recent years, has had some interesting opportunities come her way and will not be coordinating a youth school in 2012. If you have any questions and an interest in organizing and coordinating the event please let me know.

Al Haxton has done a marvelous job in creating and hosting the annual Trout Opener event in Grayling each year. For 2012 he would like to step aside and have someone pick up the tradition. If you have any questions and an interest in organizing and coordinating the event please let me know.

Contact Bruce Kramer at 248-672-9056 or via email at brucekramer@hotmail.com.

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So were the Smallies.

We had never before seen beds as huge as the bronzebacks of Eagle Bay were making.

I tried to get a photo of what it looked like, so you could actually see, but unfortunately I was unable to due to the glare of the sun on the water; oh that that sun.

The smallmouth went from "pre-spawn" to "spawn," and then into "post-spawn" during our outing. With all these fish working the beds, we also saw a few Gar Pike. They looked like broomsticks swimming around. We later found out that the Gar Pike were really interested in the eggs on the beds. I think on Sunday we played the role of bouncers, chasing the Gar Pike away from beds and eggs. We know that Mother Nature has her ways of doing things like this, but we wanted the Smallies to have a chance.

Among all that action, we actually caught some fish. The count totaled more than 200 bronzebacks. The average size ranged from 13 to 16 inches with a few in 18-inch range and one stretching the tape at 21 inches.

New Board member Bruce Strachan ended up landing two roughly 27-inch carp.

This had to be one of the most memorable outings in a long time. We had quality fish, nice weather, and great participation. For the first time since I have been going up to the Port Austin area, we actually got to have a bonfire on Saturday night. It was mighty relaxing after a hard day of fishing.

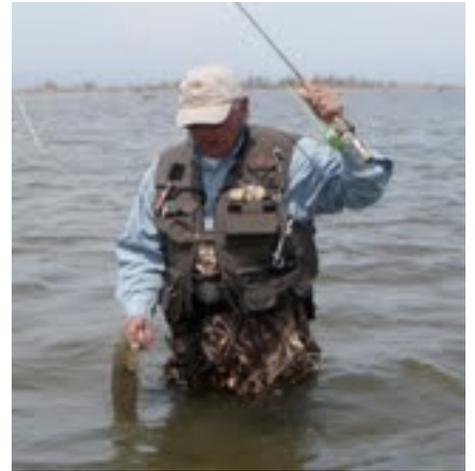
The food is always a highlight and this year's menu upheld that tradition. Friday night's meal featured BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, homemade Polish sausage, coleslaw, potato salad, cornbread muffins, salad and some really spicy beans. Saturday's menu featured BBQ country-style pork ribs on the grills, two different marinated pork loins, grilled veggies, sautéed asparagus, corn on the cob, dinner rolls, noodle salad, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, brownies, and Steve's Fluff Pineapple Stuff as well as cubes of watermelon, bar cheese and crackers, two kinds of homemade dip/crackers, and John's Chili Dip for appetizers.

I want to thank everyone for bringing up a dish to pass, and especially would like to thank John Pattee for helping me out with the cooking on both days (but especially Saturday).

As usual our lodging host, the Port Austin Motel, was awesome and very accommodating.

Again, I would like to thank all the attendees who helped to make this the most memorable Smallmouth Outing to date. After much discussion with our usual cast of flat wanderers the 2012 Outing has been scheduled -- the weekend before Memorial Day Weekend.

Mark it down on your calendar. I have.



Notes from the Scouts' parents and leaders ...

What an excellent event. I have been raving to anyone who would listen. My son had a great time and learned a lot - seeing him filet a fish for the first time was priceless! I could tell that the MFFC volunteers enjoyed it too. Over the past 5 or 6 years I've been to a lot of Cub Scout and Boy Scout teaching programs and this was the best.



At least one Scout succeeded in the weeks following the school.

I thought that the event was excellent. It was well organized and quite enjoyable. Justin loved the whole day. He was exhausted on the way home. He loved everything about the event. He enjoyed fishing and really liked the gentleman that helped him. He really spent a lot of time with Justin and he liked that a lot. Justin's only regret was that he didn't get to fish longer and that he didn't catch a fish. Otherwise the event was a huge success for him.

Your crew did a bang-up job with the session - I've never seen such a well-organized volunteer group, ever. I was impressed at how well the session was managed....a great day, and my son's confidence in his fishing increased exponentially. We had a great day, despite the initial cold and wind, and the instructors were very supportive to a first-time fly fisherman (Thomas) and attentive. We're looking forward to his first catch, so we can get his blue card signed off and he can earn his first Merit badge.

Kyle had a great time, especially tying the flies and learning to cast. He wasn't so excited about cleaning the fish, but it was good for him to learn to do that. I thought everything was well run, the instructors did a great job and the weather couldn't have been better for April. Great job to you and the other volunteers. Thanks for taking the time to set this up and work with the boys. This was a great experience for my son and he can't wait for our troop's fishing weekend in May. It sounds like we are going to be looking for a beginning fly rod for him this weekend.

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MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB