



*The Evening*

# Hatch

The newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2011

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### ***It's Banquet time: Meet Champion George Daniel***

*Sure, sometimes our angling adventures get competitive, but nothing to this degree. Imagine competing for a national title or international honors. You'll get the opportunity to meet 2009 National Gold Medal winner George Daniel at our annual Banquet on Wednesday, May 18. Daniel now coaches the U.S. National Youth Fly Fishing Team. Tickets are \$40 and available by contacting Dave Begley or Bill Johnson. See Event Calendar for time and venue address.*

### **April speaker offers a glimpse into Michigan's Golden Age of fly fishing**

Just in time for Michigan's traditional last-Saturday in April opening day of Trout season, Wayne Snyder offered club members a whirlwind glimpse of the history of fly fishing in the Great Lakes State.

Fly Fishing Team Leader at Bass Pro's White River Fly Shop, Snyder isn't an academic historian, but he is the author of "The Golden Age: Fly Fishing in Michigan 1860-1960. While the so-called Golden Age offers many a great story and churns up many a fond memory, Snyder's work reminds fly anglers, especially those who are interested in the history of the sport, that "the Golden Age was truly fraught with laborious, even tragic events."

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 4**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Chris Helm**

**Topic: All About Feathers**

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

**May 11-15**

**Dick Schott Memorial**

**New Member Outing**

Wa Wa Sum Lodge,  
Grayling, MI

**May 11**

**Board Meeting**

Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, Rm. 107, 7:30 p.m.

**May 14**

**Youth School**

Multi-Lakes Conservation  
Association, Commerce Twp.  
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**May 18**

**Annual Banquet**

Italian-American Club  
39200 West Five Mile Rd.  
Livonia

Tying & Casting: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Cocktails: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m.

**May 19-22**

**Rayburn Outing**

Rayburn Lodge  
Grayling, MI



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## April speaker offers a glimpse into Michigan's Golden Age of fly fishing

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He was motivated to compile the book, he said, because “to not document and celebrate this unique history is to lose it forever.”

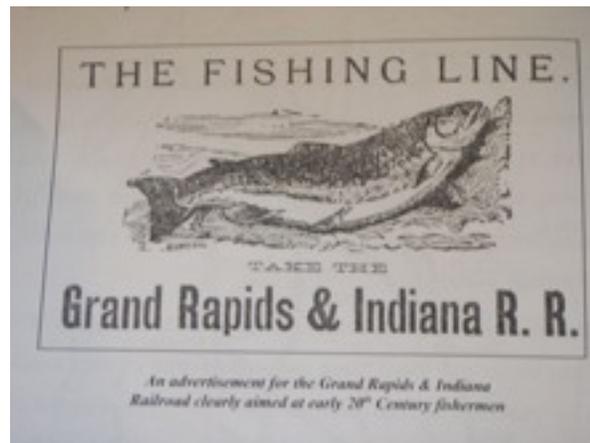
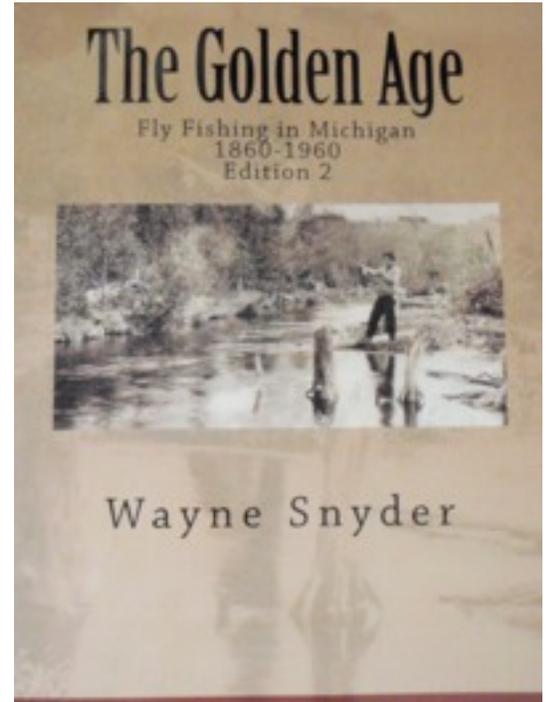
He spoke of Michigan's first era: the prosperity, the time of mineral extraction and the harvesting of Michigan's great White Pine forests. People often don't know, he said, that “the total value of the lumber harvested during the (White Pine) era, exceeded the value of all the gold sifted out of California during the gold rush.” While it brought great wealth to the lumber barons and the state, its legacy was a network of northern rivers scoured clean by shore-to-shore log runs, great swaths of land clear cut, and the demise of the Michigan grayling.

Calling the Michigan grayling, our state's version of the passenger pigeon, whose vast numbers dwindled to extinction, he said the fish finally succumbed to rising water temperatures and a change in river chemistry that didn't support that fish's propagation. The rising water temperature and changed river chemistry, he asserted, were a direct result of logging.

From there, Snyder wound through a series of snapshots of Michigan's Golden Age, focusing on conservationists like George Mason who bequeathed the state the Mason Tract encompassing much of the South Branch of the Au Sable; the Michigan fly tiers who broke away from the classic Catskill-style, up-wing dry fly and classic wet fly

designs; vintage Michigan fly patterns; Michigan-based tackle makers; the writers and artists inspired by their fly fishing experiences in Michigan; and the clubs and lodges that sprang up along the state's blue-ribbon trout streams.

“It's easy to forget when you are standing knee deep in a stream like the Au Sable or Pere Marquette, reeling in a fine fish, what it took to get to this point,” he said, quoting from the book.



The book is available via Amazon as a paperback and for e-readers. It is also available in CD format.

## 2011 Conservation Grant recipients announced; nearly \$30,000 requested, \$12,000 awarded

The MFFC Conservation Committee last month announced the club's slate of \$12,000 in conservation grants for 2011. Nine organizations applied for a total of nearly \$30,000 in funding. Eight grants were approved:



### **Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association, \$1,000.**

The grant will be used to pay its share of an AmeriCorps worker in association with Mason Griffith Founders Chapter of TU. The AmeriCorps worker will coordinate river preservation projects, identify funding sources and implement same.

### **Clinton River Watershed Council, \$1,500**

The grant will be used for Paint Creek public education, to update and re-print river maps and place signage concerning "Restricted Gear Regulations."

### **Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), \$1,000**

The grant will be used for northwest Michigan watershed cleanup efforts by involving school-aged youth (grades 6-10) on high-profile RiverCare projects throughout northwest Michigan.

### **Huron Pines RC&D, \$2,500**

The grant will be used to fund the Rifle River Watershed Project, which consists of removing small dams that restrict fish passage, working with agricultural landowners to prevent soil erosion around tributaries of the Rifle River, preventing storm water runoff in West Branch, continuing stream bank erosion efforts and installing "best management procedures" at road crossings.

### **Huron Pines RC&D, \$2,500**

The grant will be used to fund Pigeon River in-stream habitat restoration with a focus on beginning in-stream habitat improvements involving part of the Pigeon River damaged by dam removal. The project is not dependent on the outcome of continuing litigation concerning dam removal on the Pigeon.

### **Project F.I.S.H., \$500**

The grant will be used to provide training for teachers in six mid-Michigan school districts for direct involvement in local fish and watershed issues.

### **Upper Black River Conservation Council, \$1,500**

The grant will be used for in-stream habitat enhancement, continuing placement of natural debris, tree revetments and deflective logs, as well as controlling beaver destruction.



*(Top) A Paint Creek brown is luminous in the summer sun. (Bottom) A group of CRA RiverCare Kids assemble for a group photo.*



### **Upper Manistee River Restoration Committee, \$1,500**

The grant will be used to place five fish habitat structures in Upper Manistee River.

The members of the 2011 MFFC Conservation Committee were Terry Drinkwine, chair; Mike Darnes; Ray Geitka; Terry Herron; Brian Rippon and Bill Shannon.



*Steve Kuieck (left) talks rigging.*

## **Simplify your steelheading: Try Kuieck's one-rod solution and focus on water temp and flow**

While attempting to unravel the mysteries of trout fishing can keep a fly angler engaged for hours if not an entire season, March speaker Steve Kuieck offered a recipe for simplifying your approach to steelhead.

A 15-year professional guide, Kuieck operates the Muskegon River Lodge and RiverQuest Charters, focusing on the Muskegon, Manistee, St. Joseph, and St. Mary's rivers as well as Grand Traverse Bay.

Kuieck favors a switch rod – that is, the baby brother of a Spey rod – a seven- or eight-weight rod, 11 to 12 feet long. “I’ve become an absolute fan of the switch rod,” he said. “It offers so many advantages – versatility, casting distance, greater line management capability. It allows for more of a drag-free presentation. But probably the biggest single reason I like the switch (rod),” he said, “is its fish-fighting ability. It’s one big shock absorber” when you’ve got a big steelhead on the line.

Getting the fish on the end of the line is the object. He said, it all comes down to water flow and water temperature.

“In the winter pre-spawn period, the water’s very low, the flow is s-l-o-w and very, very cold. Look for slow pools that may be only four to six feet deep. It’s easy holding water,” he said.

“From late March to early May, you’re getting ‘bigger’ water. You’re seeing flows and temperatures increase. When the water temperature gets in the range of 38 to 42 degrees, steelhead are starting to think about moving onto gravel (to spawn). At 42 degrees and above, they’re on the gravel. Fish the deepest, darkest pools and runs nearby.”

Fall steelhead, he said, offer opportunities from mid-October through December. “The water temperatures are still warm and the steelhead will be very aggressive and will begin eating salmon eggs. So find yourself some salmon and look for the dark spots behind them.”

What flies should you carry? Here are Kuieck’s recommendations:

Winter pre-spawn phase: #10 Clown egg (“It’s great in every condition,” he said); #6 and #8 Steelhead Bugger; #8 and #10 Stonefly Nymph (black); #8, #10, #12 Green Caddis Nymph; #8 Crossdresser Fry; and #8 Antron Stonefly Nymph

Spawn phase: #12 Stonefly Nymphs and #12 Green Caddis Nymphs

Fall: Feenstra’s Grapefruit Leech, #2; 2/0 or 4/0 Hubbard’s Leech; 2/0 Hubbard’s Blue Moon



*Steve Kuieck (center) fields questions galore following his presentation.*

# MFFC Board Meeting Minutes March 16, 2011

**Call to Order:** Todd Schotts at 7:26 p.m.

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

**Review of Minutes:** Motion to approve by Duchin/Telinda; approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** Kramer/Duchin; approved

## Officer Reports:

President – Kramer:

- Pin discussion tabled until April meeting.
- Outstanding job by volunteers at expo.

Vice President – Hunter:

- Fred Field will attend April meeting re: insurance update.

Treasurer – Telinda

- Finances are sound. Motion by Hunter/Duchin to approve; approved
- Expo under budget.

Corresponding Secretary – Finstad:

- Hatch: No update
- Speakers: Motion to have 2 speaker meetings in May – Hunter / Duchin; approved
- Website : Has been updated.

Membership – Gokenbach

- 338 paid members.

## Events and Outings

- East side meeting: 68 attended.
- Pinto: Bonefish. Discussion on bonefishing school with FFF in Bahamas.

## New Business

- Gokenbach discussed board members to wear name tags indentifying their office at outings and events.
- Freeburg discussed Photo Contest: 119 photo entrees, 23 photographers. Harry Briggs, third place; Bob Lonzo, second place; Steven Isgrigg, first place. Thanked Jeff York for running booth and Jim McClellan for building display.
- Duchin discussed security liability for MFFC at Expo.

## Old Business

Expo Update: Status from chairs, booth sales. Conservation Committee Recommendations by Drinkwine. Motion by Drinkwine/Hunter to approve; approved.

**Adjournment:** Kramer/Schotts at 8:47 p.m.



## 2011's Public School attracts a crowd

*The MFFC takes its education mission seriously and nearly two dozen prospective fly fishers turned out for the 2011 edition of the Public School. Event Chair Pete Albertson and an all-star cast of volunteers introduced the students to fly fishing gear, knots, insects, flies, the concept of matching the hatch, fly casting and fly tying. The school set the stage for other instructional opportunities including the annual Boy Scout School, Youth School and Dick Schott Memorial New Member Outing.*

## The Chase will be on!

### Club's smallmouth pursuit begins May 20

*by Todd A. Schotts*

What's the official song for the 2011 MFFC Smallmouth Outing? It's "The Race Is On" by Sawyer Brown.

The club's bass anglers will be back up in the proving grounds of Eagle Bay, Grindstone City and other tip-of-the-Thumb locations May 20-22. We moved the dates up to be in the catch-and-release season this year, hoping to have a surprise attack on those awesome creatures of the flats, those bronze backs.

The cost is a mere \$20 to cover the costs of Friday night's post-fishing dinner and Saturday's mid-afternoon (2:30-3 p.m.) lunch/dinner. Also please bring a dish to pass for either one or both meals.

Participants arrange and pay for their own lodging. A list of accommodations, including campgrounds, is posted on the club's web site. Go to the "Outings" page and click on "Smallmouth." I will be staying at the Port Austin Motel and that is where both meals will take place.

So if you want to strip Chartreuse/White Clousers, then come on out and join us in stalking the flats of Lake Huron. There's plenty of room! Tight Lines.



***Trout Tune-Up 2011***  
 Thousands of trout, reasonable weather, and a steady stream of MFFC members at The Yurt helped usher in the special early trout season on a stretch of the Huron River. The event is one of the oldest traditions in the long history of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.