



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

May 2010



Coloradan and small fly aficionado Ed Engle is our special guest May 19.

Tickets still available for May 19 Banquet

Ed Engle, who periodically shows up in the essays of notable troutbum John Gierach, will be the featured speaker at the annual MFFC Banquet, Wednesday, May 19 at the Italian American Club in Livonia.

Here's a sample from a column he penned earlier this year for the Boulder (CO) Daily Camera:

"The first thing I did when I returned from a recent 10-day speaking tour on the East Coast was to sit down and tie a fly.

"That might seem a little strange for a guy who had just spent 10 days talking about fly-fishing, demonstrating small fly-tying techniques, teaching

Banquet ticket & tying seminar info

A special tying seminar is scheduled for 10 a.m. May 19 at the Italian American Club. While the participant list is full, the seminar will be open to a limited number of observers.

Dan Finstad is keeping a sign-up list for club members interested in observing the session and seeing Engle work his magic with tiny flies and teaching members to do the same.

Banquet tickets are \$40 and available from Dave Begley and Bill Johnson. Doors are scheduled to open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m.

The address of the Italian American Club is 39200 West Five Mile Road in Livonia

nymphing classes and talking one-on-one with lots of excited fly-fishers. But as it turned out, I ended up getting just as excited as any of them, and tying a fly was a good way to channel that energy.

"And besides, next to taking a nice,

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 5

Activity Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School
7:30 p.m.

May 5-8

Dick Schott

New Member Outing

Wa Wa Sum, near Grayling
Contact: Paul DeJohn

May 12

MFFC Board Meeting

Clarenceville Mid. Sch., 7:30 p.m.

May 15

Wayne County Fishing Derby

Waterford Bend Area, Hines Park,
Northville, 8 a.m. to noon
Contact: Pat Brazzil

May 19

Banquet

Italian American Club, Livonia
5:30-9:30 p.m.

Contacts: Bill Johnson, Dave Begley

May 20-23

Rayburn Outing

Rayburn Lodge, near Grayling
Contact: Rick Gokenbach

June 9

Speaker Meeting

Rich Merlino, Michigan's Hex
Orvis Royal Oak, 29500 Woodward
7:30 p.m.



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Election results

The following individuals were elected for terms beginning May 19, 2010: President, B. Kramer; Vice President, C. Hunter; Treasurer, J. Telinda; Corresponding Sec., D. Finstad; Recording Sec., T. Drinkwine; Membership, R. Gokenbach; Directors, M. Duchin and A.L. Bulsiewicz.

Tickets still available for May 19 Banquet

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long walk or actually spending a day on the river, tying a few flies is the best way I know of to decompress after a long trip. I learned this trick many years ago when I was doing a tour on the West Coast and I stayed with a guy in Los Angeles. He told me that he mellowed out by tying half a dozen flies every morning before he had to drive the freeway.

“I’ve always been a little ambivalent about our year-round fishing seasons here in Colorado, and that only gets amplified when I return from a wintertime trip to the East Coast. On one hand, nothing beats being able to fish any day of the year I want to, and I have, indeed, had some spectacular winter fishing days. But on the other hand, I’ve always been intrigued by the closed trout-fishing season that is in force for many of the Eastern states.

“There is something about the idea of being compelled by law not to fly-fish for trout until April and consequently putting all that energy into tying flies, repairing and building tackle or just dreaming about the upcoming season. I suspect that my fly boxes would be a lot better stocked with well-tied flies if I wasn’t always slipping up to the South Platte River on warm winter days. I also probably would have worked out a lot better imitation for the black caddis hatch that has haunted me for the past four or five seasons. But then again, I wouldn’t have caught all those beautiful Cheesman Canyon rainbow trout during the February midge hatches ...

“If I’ve learned anything as a traveling fly-fisher, it’s that all fly-fishing is regional. And that’s a wonderful thing.”

We hope you make the opportunity to join your fellow club members and Ed in celebrating another year of fellowship and camaraderie.



Rich Merlino, who manages the fly fishing department of Orvis’s Royal Oak store, is the featured speaker for the first of the club’s summer meetings. The meeting will be held at the Royal Oak Orvis store.

MFFC on the Road: Different venues on tap for summer meetings

The club only meets once each month during the summer, and this year we’ll be trying something new ... the venues for the meetings will change from month to month.

June 9: Orvis’s Rich Merlino will give club members the straight skinny on fishing Michigan’s Hex hatch from southeast Michigan to the northern Lower Peninsula. The location is the Orvis Royal Oak store at 29500 Woodward.

July 14: Ron Reinhold’s the speaker. “Predicting the bite” is the topic. The venue for this meeting was being nailed down at press time.

August 11: Make your way to Rochester and Paint Creek for a presentation by Dan Keifer. A dedicated fly angler, Dan is also part of the staff of the Clinton River Watershed Council. The meeting will be at the Rochester Community House, in the Rochester Municipal Park.



Scouts, shivers and snow flurries

Despite weeks of near-record warmth and blue skies, April 17 brought temperatures in the 30s and more than a few bursts of snow flurries. The nearly 60 scouts and 25 MFCC volunteers didn't let the conditions get in the way of the diligent pursuit of fly fishing merit badges. The school drew accolades from participants, parents and troop leaders. Here's one example: "My son, Michael, came home incredibly geeked! He really had a good time plus he learned something, always a bonus! His favorite part was fly tying. He would have liked to do more of that. He said it was one of the best merit badge workshops that he has been to. He would recommend it to his friends."





Trout Tune-Up '10: Big rainbows and bent rods

The annual start to the club's fishing season got underway with a bang April 3 as warm weather, and the promise of thousands of newly planted fish drew throngs to the Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area. Mix it together with pots of coffee, an assortment of donuts and some of Rick Gokenbach's "stewp" and you've got a recipe for success.



MFFC Board Meeting Minutes January 13, 2010

Call to Order: C. Hunter called meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: P. Brazzil, C. Hunter, R. Gokenbach, A. Bullock, S. Freeburg, B. Kramer, J. Telinda, Todd Schotts

Visitors: Peter Albertson, Charlie Gregory

Review December 8, 2010 Minutes: Corrected as directed by board. Motion to accept as corrected, B. Kramer; seconded by A. Bullock. **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Agenda: Additions and changes to the agenda were made. Motion to accept the agenda as amended, P. Brazzil; seconded by Todd Schotts. **Motion Passed.**

Officer Reports

President – Brazzil: Pat wanted to commend our vice-president and corresponding secretary on their performance at the Christmas/Hanukkah meeting. Along with Dan Finstad and Al Haxton directing the Soft Hackle Choir with back up from The Moron Fish & Tackle Choir. Pat also noted the last few meetings have been very well attended. A new show has appeared on ESPN 2 called Pirates of the Flats, starring a few friends of the club and sponsored by BTT (Bonefish, Tarpon Trust). Dnr-gearrestricted@mich.gov this DNR site is accepting ideas for gear restrictions on Michigan rivers, the law allows for 212 Miles of gear restricted waters and we currently have 97 miles of gear-restricted waters. Pat would like to encourage club members to visit the site and make some suggestions, more flies only, barbless treble hooks... The 2010 election committee has been appointed, Joe Sprys will head up the committee comprised of Todd Schotts and Peter Albertson. February meeting is on track but we still need a speaker. Pat is also working on a new and improved club brochure. On the GREEN SIDE: club members are encouraged to take

The Hatch by email or by going to the club's web site it will save the club money and a few trees. Asian Carp are on the move to the Great Lakes everyone needs to get active and contact your senators and congressman. Unfortunately it appears every state surrounding the Great Lakes is on board with the exception of Illinois and Washington, D.C. For updates, visit asiancarp.org. Today was an exciting day at the John Dingell VA Hospital with a large turnout of club members for the first Fly Tying event. Pat as well as the board would like to thank Mike Duchin for all of his hard work to make this happen. The new members' school is February 27, 2010, and lastly condolences to the Rusty Gates family Rusty's wife Julie and Joe Kutkuhn's family and his wife Bobbie.

Treasurer – Freeburg: Income is up and we have paid several large bills for the Expo. The Expo web site has been paid up for 5 years. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by P. Brazzil; seconded by J. Telinda. **Motion Passed.**

Corresponding Secretary – Kramer: Hatch – Changed hyper link to make it more obvious in the emails.

Speakers – Chuck Scribner for February 3 and Brad Petzke for the 10th of March.

Website – All is well and the Expo post card requests are averaging 10 a day.

Membership – Telinda: Membership is at 307 paid as of January 13, 2010.

Need jpg of show pin and the MUCC dues are paid.

Events and Outings

Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award – Gokenbach: Pat Brazzil has acquired a rod from Bob Jacklin (a St. Croix Ultra Legend Fly Rod).

Ultimate Fishing Show – Gokenbach: Rick would like to thank all of the club members for all their hard work.

Attendance was down, but we had a lot of interest in the club. Adam Star from Show Span asked me if our club would like to sponsor a casting pond at next

year's show. We would need a separate chair.

Smallmouth Outing- Schotts: Is the 4, 5, and 6 of June in Port Austin and the cost is \$10 and you make your own hotel reservations. Todd will get the information to Bruce for an email.

Boy Scout / Picnic- Kramer: The flier will be going out soon and the date is April 17, 2010, at Independence Oaks. The format is the same. Kramer is now the picnic chair with more information to follow.

TU / Public School – Peter Albertson: He will be unable to attend 2 TU meetings but reports will be forthcoming on the remainder of the meetings. The public school and the youth school merger is working well and fliers for the public school are done and ready for distribution. The volunteer signup sheets will be at the next meeting.

New Business: Conservation - Has an idea he will get it to Eric for the conservation fund for the purchase of a boat for Lake Superior State. John will get with Lake Superior State for the submission of a conservation fund request.

Old Business: Insurance Issues – Fred Field, Dissolution Clause: To maintain our insurance we need to refine the Dissolution Clause in the by-laws. The recommendation of the board is if the club is dissolved that all assets go to the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). P. Brazzil will work with C. Hunter on the wording and get into *The Hatch*. A motion to table till next meeting by B. Kramer and seconded by S. Freeburg and the **Motion Passed.**

Kwagama Lake Raffle – Long: Tickets are in for the "John Long annual trip" to Kwagama and will go on sale at the next meeting. It will be 2 trips separate trips for one.

East Side Meeting –Gokenbach: Is on track and will get the exact cost to Scott to cut a check for the hall.

Adjournment: Motion: The motion to adjourn by B. Kramer and seconded by T. Schotts and carried at 9:43 p.m.

The scoop from Stroup: Common-sense fly fishing advice

Central Pennsylvania guide and fly shop owner Eric Stroup made his foray into Michigan last month, offering MFFC members insights from his recently published book, "Common-Sense Fly Fishing: 7 Simple Lessons to Catch More Trout."

"Fly fishing is not rocket science, nor does it need to be. At a very basic level, it is the art of delivering the fly using the current." So begins Stroup's book.

His presentation to the Club at the April 14 meeting amplified the theme. While his book enumerates on seven tips, he focused club members' attention on four general areas: drift, casting, line control and rod position, with a nod to a fifth, mending. The other two common-sense areas are reading the water and approach.

Some examples of Stroup's basic words of wisdom: "Get as close to the fish as you can," and "Focus upstream ... you've got a much better chance of getting close if you sneak up from behind the fish."



*Eric Stroup in action at
the April 14 meeting.*



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