



The Evening

Hatch

THE NEWSLETTER of the MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB May 2005



Jerry Regan (right), a walking encyclopedia of AuSable fly tying history, chats with club members (l-r) Randy Park, Ray Geitka and Bill Cusumano.

A “Michigan Original,” Tier Jerry Regan brings AuSable lore to Livonia

Writing in a recent edition of *Michigan's Streamside Journal*, Dirk Fischbach described the MFFC's April 6 speaker as: “A Michigan original — as authentic as Mackinac Island Fudge or an Adams tied with muskrat dubbing. A third-generation AuSable River fly tier, he embraces the history of the region in the flies he ties and the memories he freely shares about the people and fishery that defined the

Grayling area.”

Of course, he's talking about Jerry Regan, the affable Swartz Creek barber and unparalleled keeper of greater Grayling's fly tying and fly fishing heritage.

For many years a fly tying fixture at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, he brought his infectious enthusiasm and advice gleaned from decades on Grayling's rivers to Clarenceville Middle School to share with more than 120 members and prospective club members.

Regan's presentation was a tasty stew concocted of excerpts of his near-encyclopedia knowledge of Grayling's legendary guides and tiers; his experiences growing up in this hotbed of Michigan fly fishing; advice gleaned from years of pitching flies and guiding clients along the AuSable and Manistee systems; and down-home, aw-shucks observations.

Continued on next page

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS MAY 4

Business Meeting

Presentation of 2005-06 Budget
Clarenceville Middle School
Meeting begins 7:30 p.m.

MAY 11

Board Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School
Meeting begins 7:30 p.m.

MAY 18

Banquet

Vladimir's Banquet Hall, 28125
Grand River, Farmington Hills
(north of Eight Mile Road, across
from Botsford Hospital)

Featured Speaker: Dick Talleur
Hall opens at 5:30 p.m.

Fly tying & casting program
featuring Dick Talleur
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch provided



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Summer Meetings

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each summer month at Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills (north of Eight Mile Road, across from Botsford Hospital). Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Dates

June 8
July 13
August 10



Corresponding Secretary Pat Brazzil (right) presented April's speaker, Jerry Regan, with a certificate of appreciation and a box of trout-shaped chocolates following Regan's presentation.

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Continued from front page

Just for emphasis, he told of a conversation allegedly overheard while he was a "young-un." As the story goes, a fisherman who was having a good day was asked what he was fishing with. The angler replied, "Fighting worms." Perplexed, the bystander responded "Fighting worms! What are fighting worms?" "Baby rattlesnakes," came the reply. "It just goes to show that those of us who fish were taught to lie at a very young age," Regan said, eyes atwinkle.

He recounted the area's legendary tiers and guides – Earl Madsen, Marion Birch, Aggie Bugby, Sailor Bill Huddleston, Clarence Roberts, Cal Gates, the Stephans, Jimmy Wakeley and others.

He shared images of the classic Grayling-area patterns, few of which ever "escaped the area." Included were a flurry of Earl Madsen patterns:

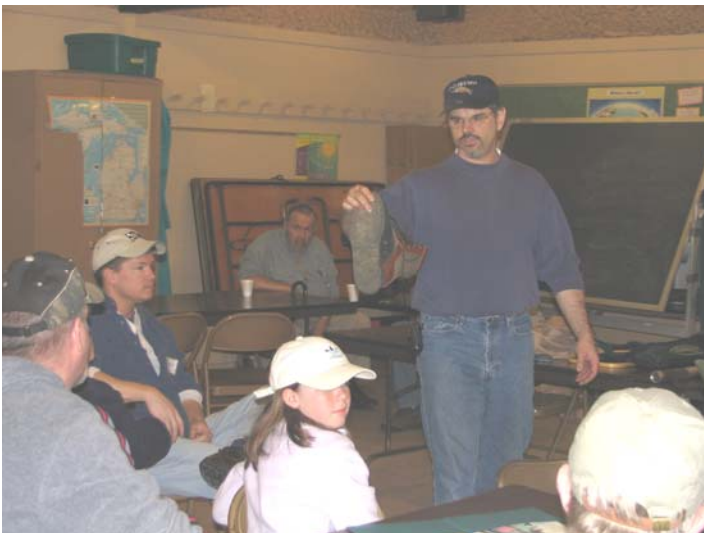
the Buzzsaw, Skunk, Game Warden, Barber Pole, Red Drake and Hairy Drake, as well as lesser-known flies like Charles Roach's Roxey Specials, Aggie Bugby's Badger and Glen's Deadly Streamer, which was described "conceived in 1955, born in 1956 and outlawed in 1957."

Regan offered sage words of wisdom drawn from personal observation and experience: "If you've got a heavy flight (a lot of spinners in the air and on the water), just sit down. Don't even try to fish. Wait until it calms down. You're going to have bugs on the water all night."

He shared admonitions from another modern master, Sam Surre: "It shouldn't take longer to tie a fly than to lose one."

He left Club members with a key piece of advice: "Never wait for a hatch. A hatch is a bonus."

And a Jerry Regan visit to the Club is not only a bonus but a special delight to be savored.



Annual Youth School draws a crowd

More than 30 children and teens, joined by their parents and guardians, received the full attention of a dedicated group of MFFC instructors April 2 at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center for the 10th annual MFFC Youth School. As in the past, the school was held in conjunction with the club's annual Trout Tune-Up.

Anticipation, Fish Parts, Involuntary Strikes and Other Angling Pleasures

by Kevin Thomason

Carly Simon had it right...

"A-N-T-I-C-I-P-A-T-I-O-N... You're makin' me wait."

Who among us is without anticipation this time of year? How sweet it is! Given little credit as a skill for the *Complete Angler* (pun intended), anticipation is essential for rounding out the skills and character of the serious fisherman. Anticipation for the coming season is a critical antidote for winter's cabin fever, a lovely sedative for insomnia, and the perfect complement to a low-carb mental meal of planning and reminiscing. In a sport capable of draining wallets and maxxing credit cards, anticipation is a free trip to the perfect stream, a blanket hatch, flawless roll-tuck-triple mend-shadow casts, and self-indulgent trout of epic proportions. But, be careful! Habitual users are prone to anticipation at inappropriate times, i.e. business meetings or when your spouse is telling you about their day.

It is rather uncommon to see an entire fish when sight fishing. Sure, a twenty pound salmon over polished gravel is akin to spotting a **FREE BEER** sign. But most times the best we can hope for is "**fish parts**," a waving tail, white mouth, color contrast, the flash, moving shadows or a shadow on the stream bottom. The subtle transition from looking for whole fish to looking for fish parts is the primary reason some anglers seem to have x-ray vision. First, get good polarized glasses. Once you do, you'll never fish without them. Make time an ally. Slow down, stand still, read the water and stare. Be a heron, not a sparrow. The first time you locate a fish from a "fish part" you'll be so happy and proud catching the fish will become a secondary concern.

The opposite end of the spectrum is the **involuntary strike**. This Zen-like

predatory act is nothing short of genius. Sounds overstated but you'll swear you "is" one when you've executed the involuntary strike and hookup. The down side is that the involuntary strike instinct manifests itself only after hundreds of successful voluntary, or intended, strikes. You've got to pay your dues. No teaching it, no practice for it, and no planning, otherwise it's not involuntary. In fact, when it happens you'll momentarily be so stunned that fish fighting skills will have vanished. So what, even if you lose the fish you can utter the timeless line, "I don't know, I just struck and the fish was there!" Classic, pure angling joy.

Our next topic has a value that goes beyond "lesser joy" and receives too little press in favor of where, when and how. The **fishing buddy** can't be bought and is priceless anyway. The abbreviated recipe includes the following (in progressive order of importance): competitive but not overzealous, similar endurance, enthusiasm for and appreciation of the sport, sense of humor, knows how to net a fish, and pays share of bar tab. A fishless day alone is at best melancholy. A fishless day with fishing buddies is at worst a riot. My first drift boat was purchased with a fishing buddy a few years back to cover more water and catch more fish. The boat is a winner on both fronts but the unforeseen bonus value is full-time proximity to fishin' buddies. Three men in a tub was funny as a nursery rhyme and funnier in real life. A day in the boat is a dizzying barrage of one-liners, second-hand smoke, bodily noises and a graduate course in fishing via shared observation. Here's the litmus test. If you are fishing with someone and they suggest you fish over a fish they spotted first, that's a fishing buddy. Enough said.

Is it just me? Isn't the "**last cast** before we go" more likely to catch a fish than other casts?

Statistics haven't cropped up to support such a theory. Maybe we just remember those "last cast" fish because that cast stands out. You must

admit, every last cast represents the culmination of our entire fishing experience. And, it also represents that day's fishing quiz with the most questions previously answered. We certainly choose the perfect spot for the last cast. Who in their right mind would squander the last cast on marginal water?

Maybe we're casting to a fish previously spotted. Is the concentration greater? The preparation longer? The execution more refined? Who knows? I wonder.

Speaking of wonder... There are moments when we've caught the last fish of the day or landed the big one or been summarily skunked or just got tired. Each of these circumstances may be followed by what I like to think of as **the afterglow**. Fishing is over for the time being, nothing else to prove. The fly is snipped off or rests on the keeper. The spine straightens, chin up, eyes focus wider, breathing slows, a scene both real and surreal. We are suddenly aware of everything around us. Oh, the wonders around us, Au Sable, Manistee, Escanaba, Madison, Henry's Fork, River X, County Creek, Farm Pond, sky, pines, sage, dew, whippoorwills, color, light, scent, air.

Yeah...you know...wonder.

In need of a nametag? See Paul DeJohn at an upcoming meeting

If you're among those craving an official Michigan Fly Fishing Club nametag, read on.

Paul DeJohn has taken on the mantle of responsibility as nametag czar. An order form will be available at future meetings.

The cost is \$5. That's "Five bucks!!!" in MFFC parlance. For more information, see Paul at a meeting.

Officers, board members for 2005-06 elected

Michigan Fly Fishing Club members at the April 6 meeting elected officers for the upcoming year.

Elected were:

- **President:** Kevin Lipp
- **Vice President:** Joe Sprys
- **Recording Secretary:** Mark Kachadurian
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Pat Brazzil
- **Treasurer:** Bill Johnson
- **Membership Chair:** Paul DeJohn
- **Director-at-Large:** Mark Hendricks

Two directors, Jeff Parker and Scott Freeburg, have a year remaining in their two-year terms. Their seats will be up for election in April 2006.

The Board is rounded out by past president Mike Matuszewski.

The new Board officially assumes office on the night of the MFFC Banquet.



Take a bow ...

The core team behind the annual Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition™ rises to the applause from the club. The 2005 edition of the oldest fly fishing-only show in the country attracted roughly 4,000 men, women and children. Planning is under way for the 2006 event.

Michigan's fly fishing firmament is dimmed by Bob Smock's passing

The world of Michigan fly fishing has lost another legend, Bob Smock, Sr.

Smock, who died in late March at his home in Grayling, had tied flies for more than 50 years and ran Bob's Fly & Hackle Shop from his garage.

He will be remembered for many things: his fly designs, his dedication to the sport, his stories, his willingness to show people – especially youngsters – how to tie the flies the Bob Smock way and the time he devoted to talking with club members who visited his famous garage fly shop at the corner of Erie and Michigan Avenues.

A visit to Grayling wouldn't be complete without a visit to that garage. Once there, you'd typically find Bob sitting at a well-used little desk, hunched over his Regal tying vise. The walls and shelves were adorned by photos and mementos of a life spent in, on or around Grayling's legendary trout streams and with people who count among their best times the days spent in Michigan's northern forests.

The *Traverse City-Record Eagle*, in reporting his passing, quoted wife Barbara as saying: "We're going to leave the shop open to some degree. A lot of people want to come by and see things. If anyone wants to ring the bell, I'll go out there and show them around. People were always coming by to see him and then coming back again and again."

While all of Bob's flies were considered to be effective, he is perhaps best known to MFFC members, and others, for his tangerine-colored sulphur parachute. Dressed with a pale orange dubbed body, it was topped with a halo of neon-orange hackle encircling a white post. It proved to be effective not only in Michigan, but from Montana to New Zealand.



Bob Smock, Sr., with one of his fly plates.

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: March 9, 2005

Meeting called to order: 7:38 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Lipp, Carolyn Rushlow, Pat Brazzil, Joe Sprys, Mark Hendricks, Bill Johnson, Jeff Parker, Scott Freeburg, Mike Matuszewski, Mark Kachadurian

Visitors: Martin Acerbo, Eric Center, Rick Gokenbach, Jeff McGowan

Review of Feb. 19, 2005, meeting minutes: Minutes were accepted as amended.

Officer Reports

President: Kevin Lipp is to attend MUCC presidents' dinner April 4. Elections will be held during the April business meeting. All positions other than two of the at-large positions are up for election.

Corresponding Secretary: April speaker will be Jerry Regan. Banquet speaker is Dick Talleur. He will be at Bueter's Tuesday evening and will do a daytime program the day of the banquet at Vladimir's.

Membership: 305 paid members. Issues with MUCC to be resolved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was accepted. A motion was made to move CD to a high yield account and accepted.

Communications

Hatch: The March *Hatch* is out.

Website: Home phone numbers of the

Board members are still on the web site; to be corrected.

Events and Outings

Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition™: Several vendors have backed out this week. Next year's show will be one week later in March (3/18-19). Next year's speakers will be Lefty Kreh and Bob Clouser.

New Business

Reeling and Healing: Carolyn Rushlow requests \$1,000 for a women's fishing weekend. Joe Sprys' motion to give \$2,000 accepted.

Paul Young TU Banquet: April 17, motion to purchase a half table for the raffle approved.

FFF Conclave Program

Sponsorships: August 8-15, 2005, motion to sponsor outreach programs approved.

Michigan Hydro Re-licensing

Coalition: Request for money was discussed and tabled to a future meeting.

Cookbook: "MFFC No One Has Died Yet" cookbook was discussed. Maralynn Tanner and Rick Gokenbach are both looking into putting together a club cookbook.

Old Business

Conservation requests: Conservation requests were presented to the board. To be presented to the membership at the next meeting and voted on at the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9:55 p.m.

Fly rod auction: More used rods will be looking for good homes

Five more of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's more "experienced" fly rods will be sold, "Dutch" auction style, at the May 4, 2005, meeting.

Available will be:

- Two 8 foot-6 inch, 5-weight Diamondback rods.
- Three 9-foot, 7-weight Loomis rods. Each Loomis rod will be accompanied by a Pflueger reel.

Some are fly rods the Club has used at our Fly Fishing schools over the past decade. Some are excess rods that we no longer are using.

Payment will be due the night of the auction and can be handled with a check or cash.

Proceeds from the auctions will be used toward the purchase of newer rod models to teach casting techniques at upcoming MFFC Fly Fishing schools.

See Fred Field or Scott Freeburg if you have any questions.

Second Annual Pig & Corn Roast slated for August 7

The site's reserved and the pig is ordered for the second annual MFFC Pig & Corn Roast. Mark your calendars for Sunday, Aug. 7, at the Multi-Lakes Conservation Club in Commerce Township. A map will be made available on the web site and on request.

The menu will include pork, baked beans, potato salad and corn. Members are invited to bring a favorite

dish to pass. Adult beverages are BYO; other drinks will be provided. There will be games and activities for children and adults. So, while you're making your summer vacation plans remember to reserve Sunday, Aug. 7, to join your fellow club members and bring your families to what promises to be a great time for everyone.

Event organizer Jeff Parker asks members to contact him to let him know how many will be coming with them to ensure enough food for everyone. Parker can be reached at:

- Home: 248-682-4495
- Work: 248-674-7107.



The smile says it all ...

Aidan and Payton Brazzil (l-r) are pictured at last year's inaugural Pig & Corn Roast.

Have a special recipe? A unique fly pattern? We want to know

Maralynn Tanner and Jeff Parker have put out an all-points-bulletin for recipes of all kinds. Why?

They're heading up the effort to assemble a brand new item for the Club ... a cookbook. The working title? The "Michigan Fly Fishing Club Nobody's Died Yet (that We Know of) Cookbook." The plan is to produce the book in time to have it ready for sale at the Club Booth at the 2006 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

With all the campfire cooks, shore-lunch chefs and intrepid, adventurous fly tiers that prowl the Club, we shouldn't have a problem not only filling the book, but creating something that every fly fisher will want to have in their library or up at the cabin.

Please email the recipes to Maralynn at mnt715@sbcglobal.net or give them to either Maralynn Tanner or Jeff Parker during one of our MFFC meetings.

Please avoid providing any food or fly tying recipes that may be copyrighted.



Hendrickson's pool on the Beaverkill is just one of the fabled spots MFFC members will visit on the second annual trip to the Catskills.

Fish the East's most fabled rivers on NY pilgrimage

If you've ever wanted to fish the fabled trout waters of the East, you've still got a chance. "Catskill Joe" Sprys reported having several openings for the club's second annual trek to Roscoe, NY, and the Beaverkill, Willowemoc and Delaware rivers.

The trip is scheduled for June 8-12.

Roscoe, birthplace of fly fishing in the U.S. and home to the Catskill style fly, is 90 minutes from New York City.

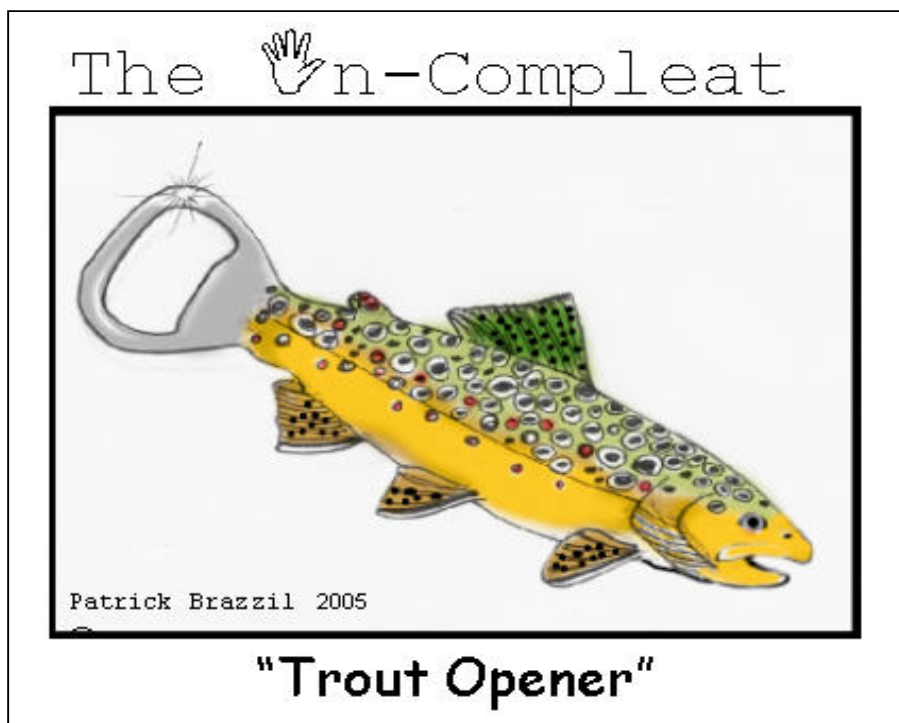
"Last year we saw plenty of rivers and nice numbers of fish during our five days in the area," Sprys said. Also on the agenda are trips to the local fly shops and sightseeing at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. "There was plenty of fun and great camaraderie," he said.

Here are the details:

- Accommodations at the Reynolds House Inn
- Drive time is approximately 10 and a half hours
- Budget – plan on \$400 per person. It includes food, lodging, fuel, some beverages and snacks. It does not include guide fees (if a guide is desired), equipment purchases, and flies. Lodging and fuel are the only items paid for as a group. Everything else is pay as you go, Sprys said.

"Last year we left Detroit EARLY on Wednesday morning – 4:30 a.m. and had time to fish on our arrival in Roscoe. We arrived back in the Detroit area Sunday at about 9 p.m. The plan is to do something similar this year," Sprys said.

To reserve one of the few remaining spaces or for more information contact Sprys at 248-753-3082.



Noted tier Dick Talleur headlines Annual Banquet May 18 at Vladimir's

The MFFC continues its tradition of attracting the biggest names in fly fishing as Dick Talleur has been booked as our banquet speaker.

Banquet tickets are priced at \$38 and are available from Rick Gokenbach.

An author and photographer, a teacher of fly tying and fly fishing, one of the most sought after speakers on the fly fishing show circuit, Talleur will bring his wit and wisdom to Vladimir's Banquet Center Wednesday, May 18.

In addition, Talleur will preside at a special late morning-early afternoon fly tying session. A group of 20 Michigan Fly Fishing Club members have enrolled for the hands-on session with Talleur, but all club members are invited to come on down to Vladimir's to watch and listen. Lunch will be provided.

A noted author and instructor, Talleur's newest book is *"Inside Fly Tying – 100 Tips for Solving the Trickiest Fly Tying Problem."* His other works include: *"Mastering the Art of Fly Tying," "The L.L. Bean Beginner's Fly Tying Handbook," "Talleur's Dry Fly Handbook,"*

"Modern Fly Tying Materials," "Pretty and Practical Salmon Flies," "Basic Fly Tying: A Beginner Benchside Reference," and *"Fly Fishing for Trout,"* as well as several others. He has also made many fly tying videos with Jim and Kelly Watt of Fly Fishing Video Magazine.



Dick Talleur, one of the biggest names in fly fishing, will be spending the day with MFFC members on Wednesday, May 18. He'll be doing a fly tying session during the day and will be featured at the annual Banquet that evening.



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