The Expo committee is once again hard at work planning this year’s GLC Fly Expo on December 7th. The Expo will again be at Holt High School in Holt, Michigan. The committee has started assembling a new lineup of seminars and celebrity tyers to go throughout the day.

This is an opportunity to watch some of the best fly tyers in the region and a major fund raiser for the Great Lakes Council. In addition to the many tyers and vendors on hand, there will also be the usual bucket raffles, silent auctions and live auction at 1:00 P.M. Further information will be posted on the GLC website as we get closer to the event. Mark your calendar now so you don’t miss this always fun event!
Our summer Fly Fishing School & Conclave held this past June at the Ralph MacMullen Conference Center near Roscommon, Michigan was a great success. Our school format continues to introduce new people to the sport and also provide a means for the experienced to improve their skills. The fishing was excellent, the federating was great and we made money for education and conservation. Many thanks to all the volunteers, donors and instructors whose hard work and generosity made it possible. Plans are already underway for next year and you should start making your plans now. The dates for next year’s school and conclave are June 13-15, 2014 at the MacMullen Center.

Also check out the information in this issue for the 14th annual Fly Tying Expo scheduled for December 7 in Holt, Michigan, at the Holt High School just south of Lansing. We are excited about the plans for new programs. We are looking for help in putting on this event. If you can help at the show please let me know. We are also looking for volunteers to take over chair of some of the committees. If you are interested, let me know. Also the invitations to the fly tiers will be sent out in early September. If you don’t receive your invitation please contact Karen Harrison at wwgcp@frontier.com. A reminder that you must be a member of FFF to tie at the Expo.

We had our election of Directors for two year terms at the June Annual Meeting. You can view the list of the GLC Board of Directors on the GLC website. The Board is always looking for new members so if you are interested please contact me.

Thanks to Michael & Janice Matuszewski, Lynne Roose, Wolf and Inge Schrey, John Van Dalen, Roger Fechner, Hank and Terri Milius, and James Truchan for renewing or becoming new members in the Century Club. I encourage other Century Club members to renew their membership. Please consider joining the Century Club and show your support for our efforts on your behalf.

The Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (MHRC) continues to be busy with hydro dam issues in Michigan. Brownbridge Dam on the Boardman River has been removed and plans are proceeded to remove the Boardman and Sabin Dams. Work continues with hydro projects throughout the State. The MHRC continues to need financial support for its work. I encourage all clubs to consider supporting the important work of the MHRC with a grant. Grants of any amount are welcome.

I also encourage you to attend our fall event at Wa Wa Sum and the many events being hosted by our affiliate clubs. These are great opportunities to get information, federate and hone your fly fishing skills. This information is posted to our website (if provided by the club). If your club has not provided this information to the GLC and would like to do so, contact Colleen Jenkins, VP Communications.
Many thanks to all the volunteers and instructors whose hard work and generosity helped make the 2013 Fly Fishing Fair & School a great success.

The Great Lakes Council would like to sincerely thank the following donors for our June fly fishing fair & school’s auctions and raffles.

With their generosity our fund-raising efforts were very successful. Please take the time to thank and support them the next time you visit their website, store, or personally meet up with them at an event.

BT’s Fly Fishing & Photography
Fairbank Enterprises
Angler’s Book Supply
Pelican Products
V.R.M. Company
Jim Teeny, Inc.
Angler Sport Group
Fisherman Eyewear
Whiting Hackle
3M Scientific Anglers/Ross Reels
Solitude Fly Company

Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company
Montana Fly Company
Krieger Enterprises
UNI Products
METZ
Frank Amato Publications
Chota Outdoor Gear
Marshy River Fly Company
Jays Sporting Goods
Mag Eyes
Jim & Dorothy Schramm
Red Cedar Fly Fishers June Activity
By: Mark Johnson

At our last meeting in June before we break for the summer, The Red Cedar Fly Fishers held an instructional meeting with the Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program. The Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program is run by the Mid-Michigan Steelheaders and introduces kids of all ages to fishing. They get a number of donations of rods, tackle etc. for the kids to have and over the course of a few Saturdays each year give hands on introduction and training to kids to teach them how to fish. For our meeting this past June, they scheduled one of their fishing outings the same night as our meeting and we met at a pond stocked with fish behind the Meridian Township Offices in Okemos, MI. Our purpose that night was to introduce the kids to fly fishing and fly casting. We had several members show up and were able to give them one on one instruction with our club rods on how to fly cast. Then the kids were able to take the rods to the edge of the pond and cast various foam spiders and flies to the bluegills. The weather was perfect for the evening, the mosquitoes non-existent, and a fun time was had by all. Even one of the kid’s parents took a turn at learning to cast a fly rod. The pictures with this article are from that evening and show some of the kids with our members trying their hand at fly casting on the lawn.
On June 30, 2013, I had the opportunity to fish the Thornapple River in Hastings, Michigan, a tributary of the Grand River located in West Michigan. Mike Zalewski was my guide for the day, the trip was generously donated to the GLC’s Expo live auction in Holt by Mike.

Sunday afternoon we meet-up at a public access just down stream from Thornapple Lake. You could say this was Mike’s home waters having fished this area for 30 years. The Thornapple River is well hidden within a tree lined banks and surrounding woodlands. We loaded up the beautiful handmade wooden boat made by Mike, along with a few Shelbyville rods which were also made my Mike, Owner of the rod company.

The weather was perfect and all we needed was for the fish to corporate. The day started of with several large rock bass, man do they hit the fly hard and fight. As we worked our why downstream I asked Mike to fish with me, he was working on a new twist on the Murdich minnow to try-out, on the first cast Mike hooks into a nice fish with the new bug. I think he felt bad I hadn’t caught the fish, but I really enjoyed watching him hook a trophy, then on about the forth cast Mike lands another 18’ plus fish... I think he got the right twist on the fly. Thanks for a great day Mike.

Colleen Jenkins
September 2013 Conservation Update

DNR License Package: After months of political wrangling in the legislature the Governor has signed the License Fee Package into law. The new license fee structure will go into effect for next year’s licenses. The increased fees will generate over eleven million dollars of new revenue for the DNR to use for all of its programs. While the increased fees will commence in 2014 the funds will not be available immediately. Current Fishing licenses do not expire until the end of March and most hunting licenses are purchased in the fall of the year, this will provide some new revenue for next year but the full impact of the license increases will not be apparent until 2015.

Fisheries Division will receive over two million dollars of new revenue annually. Habitat Grants to stakeholder groups will be one of the principal benefits of this legislation. Additional fisheries staff will be addressed in future years.

This subject is included in the Fisheries Strategic Plan.

Another benefit that is mandated by the License Package Legislation is the development of a Fisheries Division Tactical Plan. This plan will provide specific information on how Fisheries Division is going to implement its Strategic Plan that was released earlier this year. This plan will be posted to the website soon.

In response to a request by the Conservation Coalition, the DNR is also developing new reporting procedures to provide more transparency of how license revenues are being spent. These new procedures will illustrate how projects are progressing and where the expended funds came from.

Wildlife Public Education: One of the last additions to the License Package Legislation was a one-dollar surcharge to create a fund to be used to educate the public about Hunting and Fishing issues. Representative Jon Bumstead will be introducing legislation to create the Michigan Wildlife Management Public Education Fund that this revenue will be deposited into. The legislation will also create the Michigan Wildlife Council that will oversee its use. The Council, appointed by the DNR Director, will develop, in conjunction with a third-party marketing or advertising agency, a comprehensive media-based public information program to educate the state’s general public about the benefits wildlife, wildlife management, and the important role sportsmen and women play in wildlife and wildlife management. There was discussion at the Conservation Coalition meeting to make sure that this legislation is modified to include fishing and trapping in the MWC’s objectives. This program is modeled after a successful one that was implemented in Colorado.

Scientific Management of Wildlife: Last year Senate Bill 288 and House Bill 4552 authorized the listing of Wolves as a game species and gave the Natural Resources Commission more authority to scientifically manage Fisheries and Wildlife. The Humane Society of the United States is currently working to mandate a referendum in the fall 2014 elections to overturn these actions. The Conservation Coalition is developing a two-pronged plan to head off this challenge. The first action will be to develop an information program to refute the claims of the HSUS and defeat the referendum. Secondly they will be working with the legislature to pass legislation that will reinforce the previously passed bills and include appropriations that will disallow a referendum on the issue. We will be hearing more about how to assist with this effort as plans are formalized.

Land Management Plan: The land Cap Bill was passed by the legislature last year. This law requires the DNR to develop a Land Management Plan in order to remove the “Cap” placed on Northern Michigan public lands managed by the DNR. A draft of this plan and the appendices is available on the DNR website and will be sent to the Legislature for approval soon. There is a lot of info contained in this Draft Plan. One issue of concern to us is the section regarding the Oil and Gas Lease process. These lease auctions are conducted periodically and leave little room for public comment or a method for the restricting of leases in sensitive areas. Currently parcels are nominated by a potential lessee and are then auctioned. We would like to see certain areas that are “off limits” such as river corridors or other sensitive areas. A parcel was nominated for lease in the upcoming auction that spans the upper Au Sable River and includes the land beneath the River. We would like to see provision that would prohibit this type of parcel from being included in the auction process. We will keep you updated on this process and opportunities for public comment.
Conservation Resource Alliance and the Boardman Dams Implementation Team (IT) recently celebrated the reopening and rebirth of 2.5 miles of the Boardman River as project partners, stakeholders and supporters gathered at the former Brown Bridge Dam site. The message was one of goodwill and collaboration as so many partners and community members deserve credit for the realization of this project. We were lucky enough to take a break and honor the great work that has been done and continue the momentum for what’s to come.

Next up is the removal of the Boardman Dam, replacement of the bridge at Cass Road and restoration of that stretch of river. The IT anticipates the engineering firm URS to head up engineering for this phase and is currently working through contract negotiations. In addition to engineering and design for the Boardman Dam removal and new Cass Road bridge, we expect URS will also complete survey work on Sabin Pond and help get ready for the dam removal at Sabin Dam. The Grand Traverse County Road Commission will also play a key role in this phase as the new Cass Road bridge is developed and installed. 2014 will bring a surge of data acquisition as crews collect on-the-ground information for designs. The major construction on Boardman Dam and Cass Road is expected to begin in 2015 – early work to excavate the channel may begin in late 2014.

Fundraising efforts are also in full swing. The cost of both the Boardman Dam and Sabin Dam removal is estimated at $10 million with an additional $3 million for the Cass Road bridge construction. Grand Traverse County has a $3 million award from the Michigan Department of Transportation that will help fund the Cass Road bridge. The IT also has a solid foundation of funding from partners including the Bureau of Indian Affairs through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Frey Foundation, Michigan DNR – Dams Management Program and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.

While we have our eye on the next phase, we are also carefully watching changes at Brown Bridge where the dam was removed last fall. The river has been closely monitored and we are happy to report the fishery is doing well – initial news shows a decrease in water temperature downstream of where Brown Bridge Dam once stood as well as brook and brown trout using the new habitat. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to check our website or the dedicated project site www.theboardman.org for the latest information.

Experience the area for yourself! By foot or by boat, the Boardman River offers a wonderful place to pass the hours exploring. The Grand Traverse Conservation District manages several park lands with many miles of riverside trails through marshes, forests and ponds. Be sure to visit the Brown Bridge Quiet Area and the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve. Details are available at www.natureiscalling.org.
GLC FLYLINE

Special Update from Conservation Resource Alliance

Restoration at the Heart of the Betsie and Platte Rivers

CRA recently received great news! We were awarded a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Sustain Our Great Lakes program for work on the Betsie and Platte rivers to restore aquatic connectivity and improve in-stream habitat. This grant will help fund conservation work in these watersheds through 2015.

We are eager to usher in the next chapter of watershed restoration in Benzie County. CRA and partners have been working on a variety of projects over the years. We are now targeting important feeder streams including the Little Betsie, Dair and Red Creeks, North Branch of the Platte River and Woodcock Creek where forested corridors and coldwater temperatures prevail. These tributaries are often underestimated in their ecological value to a main river and overlooked by local municipalities due to their rural locations and need for expensive solutions. In total, four road stream crossings will be redesigned and constructed as well as stream stabilization work and the placement of large woody debris.

We’d like to thank the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Sustain Our Great Lakes program for their support.

GREAT LAKES COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

Every gift regardless of amount is greatly appreciated and will be used to support projects and events within the Great Lakes Council. This is not limited to the three categories listed on the Donation Form but rather is a place to start for conserving, restoring and educating within the sport of fly fishing. To qualify for a tax deduction, contributions must be made by December 31st of that year and will give the Council a push for the year ahead.

Contributions at the Lake Michigan level may be designated for specific projects supported or promoted by the GLC. Fund Categories are listed as follows and specific descriptions of each can be found on the GLC web site www.fffglc.org:

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<th>FUND CATEGORIES:</th>
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<td>Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition Fly Tying Expo</td>
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Benefactors at the Century Club and Lake Michigan levels are entitled to free admission and/or registration at all GLC events (currently the Fly Tying Expo and Fly Fishing School and Conclave). Members will also receive a 10% discount on GLC merchandise which includes pins, T-shirts, shirts and anniversary prints. Those giving for the first time will receive the GLC 25th Anniversary Print by artist David Ruimveld.

DONATION FORM

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Makes check payable to GLC FFF

Return this form to:
Don Sawyer, VP Development,
2031 Tomahawk Rd., Okemos, MI 48864

Great Lakes Council, FFF is a nonprofit 501(c)3, IRS corporation. Your donation is tax deductible pursuant to IRS rules governing charitable contributions.