NEW EVENT

WEST MICHIGAN FLY SHOW
JANUARY 14, 2017

Hosted by
GREAT LAKES COUNCIL
of The Internation Federation of Fly Fishers

EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL,
6230 KALAMAZOO AVENUE SOUTHEAST
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

SHOW HOURS: 9 AM TO 4 PM
ADMISSION - ADULTS $10.00 - 12 TO 17 YEARS: $5.00 - 11 OR YOUNGER: FREE

50/50 • RAFFLE • LIVE AUCTION

Visit the GLC website for the latest information at www.fffglc.org.
Welcome: for those who haven’t heard. I was appointed to take over for Jim Schramm as president of the Great Lakes Council. Come next June at our spring meeting I will stand for election.

Our Summer Fly Fishing school and conclave was held this past June at the Ralph A. MacMullen conference center near Roscommon, Michigan. This year was a great success with 38 attendees we had several great classes in tying and casting. One of the new classes in casting was How to Teach a Club member how to cast. This was not a certification class just how to teach the IFFF way.

Our Annual GLC Board of Directors meeting was held on Sunday June 19. The meeting was well attended and business was conducted. We discussed the upcoming West Michigan Fly Show which will be held on January 14 2017 at the East Kentwood High School.

This year we will have 5 Free Seminars on Fishing Rivers in Michigan. We have a Raffle Package for $10.00 per ticket. 5 winners given choice to select a Guided Trip for 2 on one of the following rivers: As Sable, Manistee. Muskegon, Per Marquette, or an Upper Peninsular river.

I would like to thank all of you who renewed or became new members of the Century Club. Please join this club to show support in what we do in the GLC.

I’m placing this request to all board member and all charter club officers to come join us at this year’s fall outing. This year will be different in that we will be having a dynamic strategic planning session. we will be working on goals and direction we as a whole want the GLC to be moving in. We will start this on Sat. Nov. 5 at 10:00 am. We will be at WAWA Sum. We have this facility for 4 days Nov. 3 – 6. Check the registration form later in this fly line. We will have our fall board meeting starting at 3:00 pm at the same place. All who can come please contact Dick Augustine or me with your RSVP. Those staying will have to fill out a registration form and get it of Dick Augustine.

I hope you all had a prosperous summer and looking forward to the upcoming seasons.

Tight lines
Dennis O’Brien
WEST MICHIGAN FLY SHOW
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SEMINAR THEATER: Fishing Michigan Rivers; Five - 45 minute programs
Au Sable System; Josh Greenberg • Manistee; Jon Ray • Muskegon; Kevin Feenstra
Pere Marquette; Brad Turner • Upper Peninsula; Brad Petzke

FLY TYING INSTRUCTION CORNER
5 sessions of hands on Fly Tying Instruction (specific patterns, all incl)
Attendance is by $10 ticket pp for each session. See schedule below.

SCHEDULE:
Fly Tying Instruction Corner and Seminar Theater
10:00 – 10:45 • 11:00 – 11:45 • 12:00 – 12:45 • 1:00 – 1:45 • 2:00 – 2:45

FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION: Pete Humphreys and staff. 30 x 120 ft casting area.

FIELD HOUSE:
Demonstration Fly Tiers • Fly Shops • Guides • Speakers • Vendors • Fly Fishing Clubs • Kids Tying Area

3:00 LIVE AUCTION & RAFFLE DRAWINGS

5 GUIDEDS 5 RIVERS RAFFLE:
5 WINNERS- First winner has choice of one of 5 - Full day guided trips for 1 or 2 anglers with guide/speakers on their designated river.
$10 Tickets available in advance from participating fly shops and clubs.

50:50: Ticketed winner receives 50% of money collected.

LIVE AUCTION: Mark Johnston, Organizer, Glen Blackwood, Auctioneer

For questions contact: Don Sawyer, Show Chair; sawyerdon30@gmail.com

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WE NEED TO HELP!!

GLC Leaders & Members
Your attendance at the Saturday, November 5, 2016 leadership development meeting at Camp WaWaSum is highly encouraged. By attending you will demonstrate your commitment to further the effectiveness of the GLC.

Camp WaWaSum is a Michigan State University facility located on the banks of the Au Sable River, Grayling, Michigan. WaWaSum is located off Whirlpool Road, just South of North Down River Rd, a few miles East of Grayling.

The Camp is available to the GLC from Thursday afternoon (11/3) thru Noon, Sunday (11/6). You are welcome to stay any of the nights, Thursday through Saturday.

Bring sleeping bags, towels, & personal effects. Rooms accommodate 3-4 per room.

Dinner is planned for Friday & Saturday at 7:00 PM. Saturday breakfast will be held at 8:30 AM with the meeting starting NLT 10:00AM. Saturday lunch served during a break from the meeting. All other meals are “on your own”, & BYOB.

Please acknowledge your intent to participate ASAP with an e-mail or phone call to Dick Augustine at rl.aug@comcast.net or 517-242-2603

Dick Augustine
Please file out registration form and mail in ASAP
GLC-IFFF
WAWASUM 2016 RESERVATION

NAME: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP: ____________________________________________

DAYTIME PHONE: __________________________ EVENING PHONE: __________________________

E-MAIL: __________________________

DATES TO RESERVE: __________________________

LODGING: __________________________

(please circle appropriate dates)

(please circle if any of the below apply)

TO ATTEND SATURDAY MEETING ONLY (no lodging)

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
(circle all that apply)

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TOTAL CHARGES: __________________________

Please forward the completed form with payment to: Dick Augustine
ATTN: WAWASUM
1329 Poppy Lane
Dewitt, MI 48820

Please note payment is expected in full. Checks will be held, but not cashed until the second week of OCT 2016. If you cancel your reservation prior to OCT 8, your check will be returned to you. If you cancel after OCT 8, you will be charged a $25 cancellation fee, credited as a donation, with a GLC check for the balance sent to you. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO GLC. DO NOT WRITE CHECK PAYABLE TO ANYONE ELSE! Please return this form ASAP. This will help with food purchases, work plans, and assist in keeping our expenses to a minimum. Thanks much for your understanding & co-operation.

Contact Dick at rl.aug@comcast.net or 517-242-2603 for any clarification.
Chumming Banned in Michigan Trout Streams

After many months of hearing testimony from the Great Lakes Council and many other groups as well as getting background information from Chief Dexter and his staff, the Natural Resources Commission voted on Thursday, July 14, 2016 to “prohibit chumming in Type 1, 2, 3, & 4 streams”. This makes chumming illegal in all coldwater trout and steelhead rivers and streams, which is the position that the GLC has advocated from the start.

The NRC was presented with 5 options: 1) Status quo, no changes; 2) prohibit chumming in Type 3 streams; 3) prohibit chumming in Type 1, 2, 3, & 4 streams; 4) Prohibit chumming in the Manistee, Muskegon and Pere Marquette Rivers; and 5) Restrict possession of chum to 1 pint per person with no more than 1 quart of chum per vessel in Types 1-4 streams. Number 3 was the best the GLC could hope for and was adopted.

This victory is a great example of what our conservation groups (the Great Lakes Council, TU, the Muskegon River Alliance, the Anglers of the Au Sable, the Michigan River Guides Association as well as many individual guides and anglers) can do when we communicate and stick together.

Arctic Grayling Restoration

On Thursday, August 18th, Fisheries Chief Dexter and Frank Beaver, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hosted a meeting to discuss restoring Arctic Grayling to Michigan. The Great Lakes Council participated in the meeting which included over 50 attendees representing university fisheries researchers, fishing groups, conservation organizations and others. The Department is committed to an effort to reintroduce these native fish to selected streams within the next several years.

The meeting included a description of the new technologies being considered for introduction of the grayling, an extensive discussion of research questions and protocols, and the formation of working groups to partner in the reintroduction efforts. Follow up meetings to develop a timeline for the project will be scheduled later in the year. The GLC has agreed, pending Board approval, to assist in education and outreach efforts.

New Zealand Mudsnails Invading More Michigan Rivers—Great Lakes Council Supports Research Efforts

As previously reported, New Zealand mud snails were detected and confirmed in August, 2015 in the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin, MI by DEQ personnel.

At the August, 2016 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission Chief Dexter provided an update on the status of mud snails in other Michigan rivers. The Department has completed more extensive sampling with the following results: No Mud Snails have been found in the Muskegon, White, Betsie, Baldwin, Platte, Rogue, Manistee, and East Branch of the Paw Paw. Snails have been found in the South, Main and East Branch of the Au Sable, the Boardman and the Pere Marquette.

Although the snails have now been found in more rivers, the fact that they are not yet present in a large number of rivers emphasizes the need to carefully clean waders, boots and watercraft. The Department is now taking 15-18 more “snapshots” to see if there are further infestations and is also conducting threat analysis research on the snails which should be available in November or December.

New Zealand mud snails are an invasive snail that is small in size (1/8” long) and therefore can be difficult to identify. New Zealand mud snails reproduce in massive quantities and are extremely resilient (can live out of water for up to 24 hours). Where established, these snails can dominate the bottoms of rivers and streams and exhibit invasive qualities, out competing and displacing macro invertebrates that are vital as food sources for many fish species. In addition, mud snails have no nutritional value for fish.

The DNR and DEQ continue to partner with local stakeholder groups on steps moving forward in an attempt to limit the spread of harmful invaders. Unfortunately, control options for these nuisance organisms are limited and have low effectiveness. Therefore, prevention measures are the most effective management tool. In 2014, the DNR-Fisheries Division initiated conversations with trout angling groups to construct and maintain wader washing stations to promote prevention and outreach for aquatic invasive species. To date, multiple wader wash stations have been constructed and are being maintained at fly shops on the Au Sable River and the Pere Marquette.

The DNR and DEQ continue to increase outreach campaigns to promote prevention actions such as cleaning, draining, and drying all gear and equipment before and after use in lakes, rivers, and streams.

Recently, the Great Lakes Council has agreed to be involved in a Michigan DNR/DEQ Invasive Species grant titled “Citizen Science and New Zealand Mud Snails: Fly Fishermen as Sentinels and Deterrents of Range Expansion” that was developed by Dr. Scott Tiegs of Oakland University. We look forward to working with Dr. Tiegs and other groups if this grant is funded.

Pere Marquette River Sediment Spill at Danaher Creek

Many have likely heard of the sediment spill into the Pere Marquette in the “flies only” section at Danaher Creek. The following is an edited version of an article posted on M-Live written by John Tunison describing the recent incident.
“LAKE COUNTY, MI -- A dam maintenance project near Baldwin has left a part of the Pere Marquette River dark with sediment, sparking outage on social media after a video showing dead fish was posted. The impact on the river’s health is being debated, even by officials with two separate state agencies. Department of Natural Resources biologists say they think the river fish will be fine without any long-term impact. At the same time, a Department of Environmental Quality division supervisor said the sediment is still “pollution” that may cause problems for lower-level organisms.

The problems with river sedimentation began late Friday (August 26) and into Saturday as a multiple-day project to lower the water in Danaher Lake continued, finally getting low enough where muck began to go through the dam gates. Scott Heintzelman, DNR unit manager for central Lake Michigan, said a DNR fisheries biologist, two staff from the Department of Environmental Quality and other authorities were at the dam Saturday to check on the project. The Rod & Gun Club had a permit for the project and followed the plan to lower the lake as directed, he said. The goal is to lower the water enough to perform long-term work on the dam.”

At a meeting of the Pere Marquette River Restoration Committee on Tuesday, August 30, we received a preliminary report that indicated that a initial DNR shocking survey conducted after the spill had not located any dead or dying fish just downstream of Danaher Creek. It was also reported that the river had begun to clear.

This section of the river is in the heart of the “flies only” water and we can expect that the DNR and DEQ will be conducting additional studies and investigations of the incident.

Conservation Grants
Conservation Grants were approved for two projects at the June 2016 GLC Board Meeting:

1) Au Sable Fish Farm Litigation - The Grayling Fish Hatchery is an outdated facility on the East Branch of the Au Sable River originally owned by the DNR. Because it was outdated and no longer useful to the DNR it was deeded to Crawford County to use as a tourist attraction and recreation facility. The county ran the old hatchery during the summer months as a tourist attraction for many years. They decided that it was not economically viable and came up with a plan to keep the tourist attraction running and not continue to lose money.

Without consideration of the comments from stakeholders and the fisheries division of the DNR the county proceeded with their plan and gave Harrietta Hills a contract giving them a twenty year lease of the property with virtually no environmental safeguards. Next, Harrietta Hills obtained a permit from the DEQ to operate the old hatchery. After more public comment and objections from the DNR the permit was issued with minimal restrictions on the operation of the Hatchery.

This is where the Anglers of the Au Sable stepped in. They filed and appeal, hired an attorney and expert witnesses and prepared a case to overturn the permit. This litigation continues and the Great Lakes Council Board approved a conservation grant to support the Angler’s efforts. The IFFF Board will vote on a matching grant in November.

2) Syers Lake Dam Removal - The Conservation Resource Alliance submitted a grant request to support removal of a dam which both impounds Syers Lake and also during most times of the year, dewater Syers Creek downstream of the dam for approximately one-quarter mile. Syers Creek in its lower reaches, after it receives spring and tributary contribution, is a high quality tributary to the Little Manistee River. The effect of the dewatered section of stream and the discontinuity in connectivity impairs the potential for Syers Creek to provide even higher quality habitat for cold water fish species.

Aquaculture
The Great Lakes Council has been collaborating with the Anglers of the AuSable, the Michigan Environmental Coalition (MEC), TU and other groups regarding cage pen culture. The GLC Board approved a position opposing Aquaculture and flow through fish farms.

Our testimony on this issue was presented to the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee on February 2, 2016 where we testified on behalf of HB 5255 which would ban aquaculture in the Great Lakes.

Soon after those hearings, MDNR and MDEQ and the Snyder administration took a firm position against aquaculture in the Great Lakes. As a result, no action has been taken on HB 5255. With the state taking firm position against fish farms it is likely that no legislation will come out of committees for floor action. Unfortunately, none of these actions has resolved the issue of the fish farm on the Au Sable.

Additional Conservation Committee Members Needed
The GLC Conservation Committee includes Jen Kablunde, Terry Lyons, Belinda Friis, Brad Reynolds, John Bebow, Roger Fechner, Jim Schramm, Dennis O’Brien and Dave Peterson. The Committee is seeking additional members. Please contact Dave Peterson at dpeterson3@charter.net if you are interested or know of any GLC members who might be interested in participating.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Peterson  
Great Lakes Council VP for Conservation
New Zealand Mudsnaill
(Potamopyrgus antipodarum)
*Established in some Michigan waters*

Identification:
- Average of 1/8 inch long
- 5-6 whorls on shell
- Shells vary from light brown to black
- Difficult to identify

Habitat: New Zealand mud snails can tolerate a wide variety of habitats, including reservoirs, estuaries, rivers, and lakes. They are most prolific in water bodies with a constant temperature and flow, but are highly adaptable.

Diet: Diet consists of diatoms, detritus, and plant and animal matter attached to submerged debris.

Native Range: New Zealand

Local Concern: While mudsnails are able to reproduce sexually, it is not always necessary. Populations in the U.S. are made up almost entirely of self-cloning parthenogenetic females. In a matter of one year, a single female could result in a colony of 40 million snails. They hold no nutritional value for native fishes, so populations in the U.S. do not fall subject to predation.

U.S. Distribution: Western United States, Great Lakes, and the Chesapeake Bay

Means of Introduction: Possibly via ballast water of transoceanic vessels or game fish imports
The Great Lakes Council would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their generous donations to the 2016 Fly Fishing School and Conclave held at the Ralph McMullen Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan this past June. Through their generous support the Council’s raffles, drawings and auctions raised much needed funds to support conservation, fly fishing education and other Council priorities.

Please thank these contributors by considering their products when you do your fly fishing shopping!
Congratulations to Flygirls of Michigan!

The club celebrated their 20th Anniversary, Sept. 17, 2016
The club was founded in 1996 by Ann Miller & Dorothy Schramm
45 club members attended the celebration at Rockwell Lake Lodge in Luther MI.