WEST MICHIGAN FLY SHOW

Hosted by Great Lakes Council

JANUARY 13 & 14, 2018

East Kentwood High School
6230 Kalamazoo Avenue Southeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Show Hours:
Saturday: January 13, 12 pm to 6 pm
Sunday: January 14, 9 am to 3 pm
President’s Column

Dennis O’Brien

Welcome all:
I hope everyone has had a great summer. We have been very busy. First, I want to thank all of you who voter in the national elections. I was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. I will be manly working on the new Education Committee. So, thank you again.

We are finalizing the details on our upcoming winter show. Jan. 13, & 14 we will be holding the Western Michigan Fly Show at E. Kentwood High School. 6230 Kalamazoo Avenue Southeast. Check the web page or Face Book for times.
We will be needing volunteers, anyone want to help either Sat. or Sun please contact Don Sawyer at sawyerdon30@gmail.com.

We have started working on our Summer program, to be held in the Roscommon area.
One of the objectives I wanted us to accomplish this year was to get our name and who we are out in the public more.
We set up a booth this year at Spey Fest in Newaygo. This was sponsored by the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company.
While we were there we talked about the direction that national and the GLC are going and all that we do for the sport of fly fishing.

One last thing to bring up is our Development Program. We need all member to think about donating to this tax-deductible program to help further the work and programs that the GLC is working on.

Thank You: Dennis O’Brien

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE GREAT LAKES COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS, INC.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following draft of proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. will be brought before the General Membership of the Great Lakes Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. for approval at the June 17, 2017 General Membership Meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:
Current Name:
THE GREAT LAKES COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS, INC.

Proposed change to Name:
THE GREAT LAKES COUNCIL OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
West Michigan Fly Show
January 13 & 14, 2018
Hosted by The Great Lakes Council of FFI

East Kentwood High School
6230 Kalamazoo SE • Kentwood, Michigan 49508

SEMINAR THEATER
FISHING MICHIGAN RIVERS

FLY TYING INSTRUCTION CORNER
Hands on Fly Tying Instruction workshops
$10 ticket per session, purchased on site.
Sponsored by Nomad Anglers

FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION:
Paul Drewry and staff.

KIDS TYING AREA:
Sponsored by ST. JOSEPH RIVER VALLEY FLY FISHERS

SEATING: 100 max per session, open attendance.
Bob Ceru Moderator

Six - 50 minute programs will be presented by invited speakers, 3 Saturday, 3 Sunday.

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE $10 EACH.
2:15 pm Sunday, drawing starts.
Winners must be available on site or by cell phone 2:15 – 2:45 pm as listed on the ticket stub.

KAYAK: CARD RAFFLE:
Custom made 16 ft Cedar Strip kayak on-site.

Registration: Tickets entered into Raffle Bucket drawn at end of each day

GENERAL RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE BAYMONT January 12th and/or 13th
A block of rooms has been reserved@$114 plus tax 2 Queens or 1 King at the Baymont Inn & Suites, Byron Center, located 7 minutes and 7 miles from the High School. Left on Kalamazoo from the High School, right on M-6, exit south M-131 to 84st exit, right at the light on 84th, first right, Baymont Inn. Call 616-583-9535 with the code name “West Michigan Fly Show”. Reservations must be received by the Baymont not later than December 2, 2017.
**Michigan, A Fly Angler’s Paradise**

**1:00- 1:50**

**Presented by Ron Barch**
**Alder Creek Angling, Hastings, MI**

Ron is a master split bamboo rod builder and instructor. With 40 years of fly fishing experience, he will share his knowledge of where to fish for native brook trout, bruiser browns, chrome steelhead or any one of the warm water species that take a fly. Michigan has a lot to offer.

**Pere Marquette River**

**3:00- 3:50**

**Presented by Jeff Hubbard**
**Outfitters North, Baldwin, MI**

Jeff grew up in West Michigan with a real love for the outdoors and became a professional guide in 1998. Fly fishing still remains a real passion and he will talk about the great adventures as one travels down the PM, one of the most pristine rivers Michigan has to offer. There is more to fishing than just the casting a fly line according to Jeff and he will share his knowledge and experience of this most enjoyable sport.

**Bear Creek, Little Manistee and Pine Rivers**

**4:00- 4:50**

**Presented by John Gouker**
**D Loop Outfitters, Wellston, MI**

With his easy going manner and much laid back personality, John Gouker really gets excited when a fish takes a fly and he puts it in the net. John is well experienced as a full time fly fishing guide previously at Schmidt Outfitters, now D Loop and will have plenty to say and show about fishing these special rivers in the northwest Lower Peninsula.
Big Manistee River
10:00 -10:50

Presented by Jon Ray
Hawkins Outfitters Fly Fishing, Manistee, MI

Captain Jon Ray has been fly fishing for more than 26 years and has guided fly anglers in Michigan with Hawkins Outfitters for the past 15 years. Jon’s first love is chasing trout, steelhead, Smallmouth Bass and Muskie. Jon guides anglers with single or two-handed rods with a variety of techniques. He will be talking about the Lower Manistee, also called the Big River and is among Jon Ray’s most favorite rivers to fish.

Grand River
12:00 - 12:50

Presented by Brain Bielecki
Nomad Anglers, E. Lansing & Grand Rapids, MI

Brian Bielecki, owner of Nomad Anglers, grew up in Grand Rapids Michigan and has been fly fishing the Grand River and its tributaries since the mid-90s. In 1999 he started working in a fly shop while in school at Michigan State University. In 2005 he took over that shop and in 2011 he opened his second fly shop in Grand Rapids. Brian loves chasing fish all over the state, country and globe.

Muskegon River
1:00 - 1:50

Presented by Kevin Feenstra
Feenstra Guide Service, Newago, MI

Kevin grew up in Grandville and after graduating from Calvin College in 1995, he followed his passion of fishing steelhead and Smallmouth Bass. Two years later, he started Feenstra Guide Service and has been guiding ever since. He loves all kinds of fishing, but specializes in Spey casting for steelhead. He also has a passion for nature and fishing photography.
CONSERVATION UPDATE

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

GREAT LAKES COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Conservation Grants
At our last meeting, two grants were approved: Technical Review of WETLAND permit application (Aquila Back Forty Mine) and Boswell Creek Restoration/Urka Dam Removal. However, funding was only available to fund the Aquila grant. The Aquila grant also received subsequent matching funding from FFI national. We plan to fund the Boswell Creek Restoration grant when the new budget year starts in January. No new grants have been received as of the date of this report.

GLC Comments on Third Draft of Resident Trout Management Plan
Through our participation on the MDNR Coldwater Resources Steering Committee, the Council had the opportunity to comment on the third Draft of the Resident Trout Management Plan being developed by the Fisheries Division. Since the first draft, the DNR has removed almost all of the onerous comments regarding catch and release fishing as recommended by the GLC. As a result, the comments we submitted supported the third draft as presented.

AuSauble River Fish Hatchery Update
The GLC and FFI national provided Conservation Grants to the Anglers of the AuSauble to fund their fight against the Harrietta Hills Fish Farm. The Anglers recently reported that Judge Metz rejected the effort of Harrietta Hills to dismiss the lawsuit. This is a positive development in this ongoing litigation.

Arctic Grayling Restoration
On October 23, 2017, Jim Schramm will represent the GLC Conservation Committee at another meeting devoted to the restoration of the grayling. The GLC joins others representing university fisheries researchers, fishing groups, conservation organizations, etc. At this point, it looks like the first reintroduction efforts will be in tributaries to the Manistee River. We plan on being involved in this effort for many years to come.

Net Pen Aquaculture Bill Introduced
U.S. Representative Kildee has introduced a federal bill that would ban net pen aquaculture in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Council and FFI national signed on to a letter from angler groups supporting this legislation. Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee Jim Schramm and I represent the GLC on the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee which met in Grandville on October 17th. A great deal of time was spent discussing Lake Michigan stocking and a new approach to managing the lake which is called “zone” management.

Aquila/Back Forty Mine Threatening the Menominee
In September, the GLC sent a letter to the Michigan DNR officially opposing a proposed land swap between MDNR and Aquila Resources, the mining company with the proposed project on the Menominee. Other Issues Addressed This Year As reported earlier the following activities have occurred earlier this year: Cormorant Letter The Great Lakes Council wrote all members of Michigan’s U.S. Congressional delegation and our two senators regarding the interruption of double-crested cormorant control in the Great
Lakes. We asked that Congress intervene by directing the US Fish and Wildlife Service to expedite the necessary environmental reviews to fully restore depredation permits and/or a Public Resource Depredation Order for cormorant control for fisheries benefits. If necessary, we suggested including this directive in the current budget bill tying their funding to this call for action.

Nestle Waters Water Withdrawal Proposal
The Great Lakes Council wrote a letter to the MDEQ strongly urging that the agency deny Nestle Waters request to increase groundwater withdrawal at the corporation’s White Pine Springs site in Osceola County. The Nestle proposal would increase groundwater withdrawal over 160%, from 150 gallons per minute to 400 gallons per minute. This new attempt by Nestle to pump more groundwater represents one more assault on Michigan’s greatest natural resource, its fresh water. The long term implications of these water withdrawals on Michigan’s aquifers are largely unknown and continuing to increase these withdrawals without more measured study has the potential to irreparably damage our streams and the fisheries they support. Nestle’s proposal failed to meet standards established by the DEQ’s own Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool models. Yet, at Nestle’s request, the DEQ conducted a state specific review, considered data provided by Nestle and concluded with a recommendation to move this project ahead. The GLC recommended that the data should be reviewed by independent hydrologists before any final decision is made.

Big Manistee Weir Proposal
As previously reported, The GLC recently took a strong stand against a U.S. Forest Service proposal to grant a permit requested by the Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians to install an anchoring system in the Big Manistee River which would have been used to anchor a temporary resistance board weir across the river. This aluminum weir would have spanned the Big Manistee providing only a narrow passage for water craft and could disrupt the passage of migrating steelhead and other fish. The Little River Band wants the weir to study the impact of Sturgeon restoration efforts.
We are pleased to report that the United States Forest Service has announced that this proposal has been withdrawn for the time being and that the Little River Band has been asked to draft a revised proposal for further consideration. Again, the combined efforts of many conservation groups headed off another threat to one of our great rivers. The GLC Conservation Committee will monitor any future proposals.

Aquila/Back Forty Mine Comments
The Great Lakes Council recently sent comments to the Michigan DEQ strongly opposing development of an open pit sulfide ore mine on the banks of the Menominee River in the Upper Peninsula. Known as the Aquila Mine/Back Forty proposal, this mine has the potential to pollute both the Menominee River and Lake Michigan, destroy a pristine fishery, and place Michigan’s citizens at risk. As of this date, the DEQ has not issued any further decisions on the mine.

Conservation Committee Members
Conservation Committee members include Wayne Anderson, Jen Kablunde, Terry Lyons, Belinda Friis, Brad Reynolds, John Bebow, Roger Fechner, Jim Schramm, Dennis O’Brien and Dave Peterson. The Committee is always 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
2018 Tie-a-thon flies will go to Casting for Recovery Indiana and Anglers of the Au Sable Youth Program

The 12th Annual Tie-a-thon will surpass 100,000 flies donated

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - For Immediate Release – 10/13/17 – On April 21st, fly tyers from various Fly Fishers International and Trout Unlimited Clubs from around the Great Lakes region will come together for the 12th annual Tie-a-thon to tie and donate flies benefitting Casting for Recovery of Indiana and the Anglers of the Au Sable Youth Program.

The event is being held at the Elkhart, Ind. Conservation Club, which has donated their use of their facility again.

This Tie-a-thon will mark a special milestone. This year tyers will surpass a total of 100,000 flies donated by individual tyers over the past 12 years. In the 12 years of the Tie-a-thon, tyers have donated 98,458 flies which leaves us 1,542 flies short of 100,000 flies. This year, we expanded the list of flies to include more bass and bluegill flies.

About the Recipients

Casting for Recovery, Indiana (CFR)
The mission of Casting for Recovery (CFR) is to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique retreat program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing. The program offers opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life and experience healing connections with other women and nature. CFR serves women of all ages, in all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery, at no cost to participants.

The concept of Casting for Recovery is unique. On a physical level, the gentle, rhythmic motion of fly casting is similar to exercises often prescribed after surgery or radiation to promote soft tissue stretching. On an emotional level, women are given the opportunity to experience a new activity in a safe environment amongst a supportive group of peers. The retreats provide resources to help address quality of life issues after a breast cancer diagnosis, and a new outlet – fly fishing – as a reprieve from the everyday stresses and challenges of their cancer.

Casting for Recovery provides free fly fishing retreats for women with breast cancer. 70% of the women who attend Casting for Recovery retreats have never been to a support group. CFR currently offers 55 retreats across the country, serving 800 women each year. To date, 8,000+ women have been served. CFR relies on the support of more than 1,600 volunteers nationwide, including medical and psychosocial professionals, fly fishing instructors and alumnae.
For more information check out: castingforrecovery.org/breast-cancer-retreats/indiana/.
Anglers of the Au Sable Youth Program - After the Marathon Clean Up

The Anglers of the Au Sable ("Anglers") mission statement is to preserve, protect and enhance the Au Sable River System for future generations of fly fishermen. We are pleased to collaborate with Crawford County personnel in a way that fully satisfies our mission by educating the youth of Crawford County to appreciate and maintain the special resource that is the Au Sable River, through a river clean up and fly fishing program.

While the Au Sable River is, for many, the center of Crawford County life, sometimes young people in the community grow up without really understanding the importance of the river and how it can enhance their lives.

On Monday, July 31, 2017, the day after the conclusion of the canoe marathon, Crawford County staff, local Grayling kids and Anglers members gathered to clean up trash at the McMasters, Wakeley and Stephan Bridge landings. This the third year in a row that the Anglers have joined Crawford County officials to organize this opportunity for young people.

Before the hard work began, a discussion with the kids was held on the importance of the Au Sable River to the Grayling community. The river is not only beautiful but it creates jobs in the form of restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, art studios, gas stations, fly shops, sporting goods stores, souvenir shops, biologists, real estate agencies and canoe liveries. To maintain these job opportunities, the river’s beauty must be preserved. With this knowledge imparted upon the kids, all the volunteers set about picking up trash. The bridges and landings were picked up over 5 hours.

After the clean-up, Angler volunteers broke the kids up into groups and showed them how to fly fish. At one point, Nicole Watson saw a fish rise, and moments later, one of the youngsters heard the call, “fish on”. The trout came to hand amidst cheers and smiles. There is no doubt in my mind that we have cultivated some future fly fishers! The exact location will not be revealed to protect the secret fishing spot.

At the conclusion of the day, each child was given a new Orvis Encounter fly rod, reel, flies and t-shirt for participating, courtesy of funds raised through Anglers. Perhaps one of these children will grow up to become the next Rube Babbitt, Rusty Gates, Joan Wulff, Art Neumann or even Ernest Hemingway to name a few famous fly fisher people.

The Anglers plan on conducting this project again next year. If you would like to donate to support this program or participate, send an email to bpregler@frplaw.com to receive further information or check out; www.ausableanglers.org.

What is the Tie-A-Thon?
The premise of the Tie-A-Thon is like an old fashion barn raisin’ where several tyers tie as many flies as they during the Saturday, April 21 event. Along with members of the St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers and Kalamazoo Valley TU chapter, other groups are joining forces again this year to tie flies including The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, Reel Women - Reel Men of Indianapolis, Grand Rapids Fly Tyers, Flygirls of Michigan, Anglers of the Au Sable, Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Three Rivers Fly Fishers of Fort Wayne, Duneland Fly Fishers, and many more individuals from all over the country.

The tiers will come together to tie 100 flies each on April 21st starting at 8 am, and at the end of the day – tying ends at 5 pm, will try their very best to surpass 13,000 flies which would bring the Tie-a-thon life-time total raised over 100,000 flies!
Tie-A-Thon press release continued –

If interested in participating, pick just one pattern to tie, buy a box of 100 hooks and needed materials and get tying! At the April 21st gathering in Elkhart, Ind., Terry Wittorp, Tie-A-Thon head chef, will have a spectacular lunch for all the tyers - which is worth at least 200 flies, but we will give you a break. To keep the excitement level up while tying, we will have a guest tyer every other hour to show off special patterns. A video system set up will make it easy to see from your tying station.

You are welcome to tie 100 flies or more or you can send them to us if you cannot join us. If you are not a fast tyer and don't think you can complete your 100 flies during the allotted time, it's OK to get a jump on your tying prior to April 21. Plus, the organizers will certainly take more than 100 from anyone if they are ambitious and want to tie flies in advance. If you cannot make the April 21st event, you can always mail flies in to us; a mailing address it listed at the end with all the contact information. You don’t have to be an expert tyer to donate flies. Many first-time fly tyers have participated, with the Tie-A-Thon giving them a chance to become very good tying at least one fly. For those who need some assistance on learning a pattern to tie, contact Tim Scott via email at timelscott@gmail.com.

The more than 98,000 flies from previous Tie-A-Thons have been donated for use at youth camps conducted by the Kalamazoo Valley TU chapter and the Brotherhood of the Junglecock, plus fly-fishing event organized by Reel and Heal of Toledo, Ohio, Casting for Recovery of Indiana, Project Healing Waters, Reel Recovery, National Fishing Program, Warriors and Quiet Waters of Montana, Casting for Recovery of Michigan, Flyin’ Heroes of Muskegon, MI, Illinois Chapter of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp and Trout Unlimited National Teen Summit.

Pick a pattern, tie it up and donate to the Tie-A-Thon!

These are the flies the organizers ask to be tied - tie 100 flies of one pattern -

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<tr>
<th>Flies</th>
<th>Hook Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ants</td>
<td>18-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beetles</td>
<td>14-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>BWO Emergers</td>
<td>18-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clouser Minnow</td>
<td>4-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elk Hair Caddis</td>
<td>14-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffith Gnat</td>
<td>20-22</td>
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<td>Here's Ear</td>
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<td>Hoppers / Madam X</td>
<td>6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mattress Thrashers / Stone fly dry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meatgazers / Jimmy's Rubber legs</td>
<td>4-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murditch Minnows</td>
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<td>Patriots</td>
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<td>Pheasant Tail</td>
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<td>Poppers</td>
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<td>Trico</td>
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<td>Soft Hackles</td>
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<td>Spiders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woolly Bugger</td>
<td>6-10</td>
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For more information and questions or to mail in flies; contact Tim Scott, 711 Forest Ave, South Bend, IN 46616 at (574)-538-1936 or at timelscott@gmail.com,

Terry Wittorp at (269)-424-5138 or terryflyfish@hotmail.com

or visit the club web sites at
For directions to the Elkhart Conservation Club, visit - http://www.elkhartconservationclub.org/locations/.