Spring has finally arrived! Glad we all made it through that polar vortex.

In this issue, you will be greeted with a note from our council President. We have many big event announcements as well! Our fly-fishing school is scheduled for June and is now open for registration. Print, sign, and send the registration on page 5 if interested! The Great Lakes Fly-Fishing Show has been re-scheduled for this winter, and we have some important updates on that event to read about. Lastly, the conservation committee has updates on issues addressed in the Fall 2018 Flyline, as well as newer conservation issues in the Midwest.

Thanks for all your support, and enjoy!

Tight lines - Emily Dean
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring updates

Welcome to the first few weeks of spring! I hope you had a nice winter and enjoyed yourselves. I'm sure everyone is gearing up for a great spring and summer of fly-fishing.

The GLCFFI Director's Board had a busy fall and winter. First, I'm sure you all heard that the winter fly show in February was cancelled. Following that message, you were promised that the show will be postponed till later. We made good on that promise! We have re-scheduled the show for December 7th, 2019 in Grand Rapids. I'm glad to tell you that we have worked out a contract with the DeltaPlex, our venue. We will have show set-up on Friday, the 6th, and the show will run from 9 am through 5 pm on Saturday, the 7th. We will have vendors, guest speakers, and much more. We are working on several things to make this show exciting and more open for our vendors and guests.

As for other events, we will hold a fly-fishing school this summer. Instead of the type of school we held at the RAM Center last year, we will be hold a newbies and beginners adult fly-fishing school. The school will be held at the D-Loop Conference Center in Wellston, Michigan on June 14 and 15. Information and registration for the school are in this newsletter (pages 2, 3, & 4).

This year, we would like to hold a kid's fly-fishing school at the Gates Au Sable Lodge in Grayling, Michigan, like we did last year. Some of the goals of the GLCFFI are to promote and extend opportunities for fly-fishing as a sport. Holding a kid's school is a great way to meet both those goals. I will need help to make this kid's fly-fishing school a reality. Specifically, I need someone that can spearhead this project, and that person would receive support from the GLCFFI. I encourage our younger members to take advantage of this opportunity. It is a great way to practice leadership skills that you can apply in your professional lives. I also encourage our other members to take part. We all can look back and remember a wiser, older figure in our lives teaching us how to fish. This could be your opportunity for you to do the same. If interested, please email me at dennissueob@aol.com.

Much thanks to our members for all your support.

Tight lines!

Your President, Dennis O'Brien

MEMBER'S CORNER

Bob and Ron's fly-fishing school in Alpena

We wanted to give a shoutout to GLCFFI members Bob Baughman and Ron Young and their fly-fishing school they are holding in Alpena, Michigan.

The school is a five-week course held through the Alpena Community College's Community Education program. Classes run three hours in the evening once a week, and include classroom lectures and casting practice in the gymnasium. Students are on their fourth and fifth sessions of introductory and intermediate concepts of fly-fishing. Right now they are learning about the basics of casting, like not getting stuck in trees. Students even received complimentary flies and accessories to get started on their fly-fishing journeys.

Below are some pictures from the school.

Students (left) listening to a lecture on choosing the right fly.

Students (right) practicing casting in the gymnasium.
FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

FLY FISHING
SCHOOL
FOR BEGINNERS

JUNE 14 - JUNE 15, 2019
D-LOOP OUTFITTERS
918 SEAMAN RD
WELLSTON, MI
49689
GLCFFI BEGINNING FLY FISHING SCHOOL

General information

Do you want to learn the sport of fly fishing? The Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International will teach you the basics of fly fishing including learning about equipment and gear, knots, casting, entomology, fly selection, reading the water, on-stream tactics, and fly-fishing etiquette. The school will include on-stream instruction.

The Great Lakes Council wants to thank D-Loop Outfitters for hosting this year’s school. D-Loop’s Conference Center and casting ponds provide an ideal location for the school. D-Loop also has a fully stocked fly shop and on-site accommodations for students who wish to stay on-site. The cost of the school is $225.00 per student, with a class size limited to a minimum of 15 students.

What to bring

- All species fishing license
- Waders & boots
- Rod, reel, and line
- Sunglasses
- Nail nippers
- Bugspray
- Rain jacket
- Hat

School schedule

- School starts at 12:30 pm on Friday, June 14, with evening fly-tying, beer/wine social & dinner
- Fish the Little Manistee River Saturday, June 15 (box lunch, some loaner rod and reels available)
- Students can stay till Sunday, June 16 and fish with D-Loop Outfitters guide or on their own

Lodging

- D-Loop Outfitters (231-848-4191)
- Scully’s Manistee Outpost Motel (231-723-7500)
- Black Bear Inn (231-848-4655)
- The Forest Lodge (231-723-7001)
- Other lodging - Manistee, 18mi from D-Loop
GLCFFI BEGINNING FLY FISHING SCHOOL

REGISTRATION FORM

Name___________________________________
Address_________________________________
_______________________________________
City_______________State________ZIP______
Visa/MC #_____________________Exp Date___
Signature________________________________

Mail to: Dave Peterson
6325 Ottawa Lane
Pentwater, MI 49449

Make checks payable to GLC-FFI
Questions? Contact Dave: dpeterson6325@gmail.com
GREAT LAKES COUNCIL
FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

THE GREAT LAKES FLY FISHING SHOW

A fly-fishing enthusiast expo

DECEMBER 7, 2019
9 AM - 5 PM
GRAND RAPIDS DELTA PLEX
THE GREAT LAKES FLY FISHING SHOW

The fly show has a new date!

The 2019 Fly Show in Grand Rapids was moved from February to December this year due to a series of conflicts. The venue will still be located in Grand Rapids.

The official date of the show is December 7th, 2019 and will operate from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Grand Rapids DeltaPlex. The show will be a one-day event, so plan accordingly!

We are very excited that our show is still on this year, and that we were able to secure a spot with the DeltaPlex! The venue can host many more booths with the potential to grow in the future, and the amenities offered are supreme. Our investment in this venue will be sure to pay-off in the following years. The DeltaPlex venue (bottom left) has ample parking, easy access from US-131, and complete concessions with food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)!

What can I expect at the show this year?

- Previous and new vendors with the latest gear!
- Expert fly-tiers with fly-tying demonstrations!
- Fly-fishing professional presentation on the how-to and where-to catch fish species!
- Designated areas to learn to tie a fly!
- Fundraisers and raffles - come check out the amazing prizes!
CONSERVATION UPDATE

The latest news in Midwest stream conservation

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Dave Peterson
Dennis O'Brien
Jim Schramm
Roger Fechner
Wayne Andersen
Jen Kablunde
Terry Lyons
Belinda Frijs
Brad Reynolds
John Bebow
Dana Castle
Emily Dean
AQUILA MINING

An update on the Aquila-MDNR land swap

The fight to stop the Aquila/Back Forty mine on the Menominee River continues as the permits that have been issued are now being legally challenged. This fight is far from over. Aquila plans to build an open-sulfide pit near the Menominee, which would be harmful to the river, its fishes, and other aquatic life. For more information on the effects of mines on streams, head over to this article: https://bit.ly/2uAd0C6.

The Great Lakes Council has sent comments to the MDEQ strongly opposing the mine and also opposing a proposed land swap between MDNR and Aquila Resources, Inc. The GLC and FFI National also provided monetary grants to support efforts opposing the mine.

GRAYLING

An update on their re-introduction in Michigan

In our last issue, we reported that Jim Schramm represented the GLC Conservation Committee at the meeting of the planning committee devoted to the restoration of the grayling in October, 2017.

Recently, Dave Peterson represented the GLC Conservation Committee at the October 2018 meeting of the planning committee devoted to the restoration of the grayling. Additionally, research is being conducted to support restoration efforts: a study on grayling has begun at Michigan State University under the direction of graduate student Nicole Watson.

First reintroduction efforts may be in tributaries of the Manistee River.
Jim Schramm recognized by MHRC

The Great Lakes Council is one of four members of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (MHRC). The other members are from Michigan Trout Unlimited, Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Anglers of the Au Sable.

The coalition, led since it’s inception by former GLC President Jim Schramm, participates as a formal intervener in the process of licensing hydroelectric dams in Michigan. Jim Schramm retired as Executive Director this year. The MHRC formally recognized Jim for his leadership and pioneer efforts to remove dams across Michigan. Bob Stuber has been appointed to succeed Jim as Executive Director. The most recent dam removal is removal of the Sabin Dam on the Boardman River near Traverse City, Michigan (right).

CRAPPY CARP

Keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes

Asian carp have been a scary threat to freshwater ecosystems of the Great Lakes for some time now. Silver carp, bighead carp, grass carp, and black carp are encroaching through a variety of waterways of the Mississippi River system. Asian carp have strong potential to modify the food web and crash populations of desirable fish species, like lake trout.

In an effort to prevent Asian carp species from entering the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes Council, in collaboration with 50 other conservation groups, submitted public comments to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the plan to improve defenses at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to keep Asian Carp out. This letter was also signed by Fly Fishers International National Conservation Committee.
AU SABLE FISH HATCHERY A NO-GO

Goodbye to Harrietta Hills!

In the last issue, we reported on the permit issued by the MDEQ that would allow the Harrietta Hills Trout Farm to proceed if certain additional conditions were met. This was after a suit filed against Harrietta Hills by the Anglers of the Au Sable and the Sierra Club.

Things have changed since then - and for the better. By now, you are probably aware that the grayling fish farm issue on the AuSable has been favorably resolved.

Some of the following text are excerpts from the Anglers of the Au Sable website - the Anglers have been fighting the farm from the start:

"It's official: the grayling fish farm is no more. Harrietta Hills, the company operating the Grayling Fish Farm, has agreed to end its lease, to cease all operations at the Grayling Fish Hatchery by December 31, 2018, and to never again operate any fish farming operation in the Au Sable watershed.

This is a big win for Anglers of the Au Sable, and, more importantly, for the river. There is work to be done, but the threat is over, the pollution will stop."

Joe Hemming stated: "It took more than a village. It took everybody. Everybody who gave, wrote letters, and engaged this issue. It wasn’t as simple as handing over a check. This required pressure from all sides. At some point I think it became fairly obvious to Harrietta Hills that the Anglers of the Au Sable doesn’t go away. To all our members, to all the groups around the state of Michigan and beyond that gave, a sincere thank you."

As an aside, Joe Hemming was awarded Conservationist of the Year (2019).

"The case settled for $160,000, far less than further court fighting would have cost us. This settlement saves the river from thousands of pounds of fish waste, and resultant algae blooms and decreased dissolved oxygen. It reduces the risk of disease, escapement, and invasive species. It protects the river."

The GLCFFI and FFI National had provided grants to fund the Au Sable Anglers in their fight against Harrietta Hills Trout Farm.

The Au Sable River (above), and Joe Hemming (right) from the Au Sable Anglers website
THANK YOU FOR VIEWING

The Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International appreciates your membership. We are always looking to engage with our members. In the next Flyline, we encourage members to submit photos, stories, tips, or anything they would like to see in the newsletter. With your input, we can create a newsletter that meets our member's needs.

Thank you for viewing the Spring 2019 Flyline. See you next time. Tight lines!

Your editor, Emily Dean

Pictured above is GLCFFI member Gary Whelan with his 22in cutbow caught on the fly. We encourage photos from our members. By sharing photos through social media, we can increase awareness of the sport of fly-fishing. We look forward to pictures of our members with their catches in the future.

CREDITS

Creation and editing of newsletter...........................................Emily Dean
Editor's Note....................................................................................Emily Dean
President's Corner...........................................................................Dennis O'Brien
Member's Corner............................................................................Emily Dean
Great Lakes Fly Fishing Show.....................................................Gary Lindquist
Conservation Update...............................................................Dave Peterson & Emily Dean
Full Conservation Report............................................................Dave Peterson