President’s Message - December 2019

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and didn’t eat too much. I know I did, but it is easy to over indulge at this time of the year.

So let’s talk about eating some more! Our annual Holiday Gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00pm at Coral Gables in East Lansing. You can enter in the back of the restaurant as we will be eating in a separate room from the rest of the main dining area. Spouses are welcome to join us this evening and you can order food & drink off the menu and enjoy a relaxing evening.

After dinner, Nomad Anglers will again present us with some great Christmas ideas from the shelves of their store. Be sure to join us for this always fun event.

Our annual raffle is underway, tickets are available and you can pick some up at the December meeting. We are looking for a lot of club participation in this raffle to help fund our many worthwhile projects such as our scholarship, Bill Earl kid’s program and some club fishing outings. We also have a great selection of prizes again this year.

Our Fly Tying Sessions will be getting underway in December, specifically the 17th at the Giltner hall meeting room. We’ll tie pheasant tail nymphs, wooly buggers, and elk hair caddis for beginners, and for all others feel free to bring material to tie the other flies on the list for the Tie-A-Thon. We’ll move to Coral Gables starting in January. Check out the newsletter for the start time for this month.

Hope to see everyone at the December Gathering

Mark
November 4, 2019

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite:

On behalf of the state of Michigan, thank you for your leadership in preventing invasive species and bighead, black, and silver carp specifically from moving into the waters of the Great Lakes. We look forward to energetically supporting Congressional authorization of the Chief's Report for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam and initiating the Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED) phase of the project. Additionally, I wanted you to be aware of and to memorialize in writing several important features of Michigan’s support for this project at large.

First, Michigan supports the state of Illinois in its role as non-federal sponsor of the project and we are committed to working with and generating support among other jurisdictions for their support as well. The Great Lakes states have a long history of working productively and collaboratively on complicated invasive fish species (e.g. sea lamprey) as well as on issues which support maritime navigation (e.g. the Soo Locks). These prominent but not exclusive examples demonstrate a capacity for supporting long-term solutions to difficult problems that benefit citizens in the region as well as the nation as a whole.

Second, the state of Michigan is prepared to financially support the PED phase of the project. Specifically, through recent appropriation, $8 million has been dedicated for the Brandon Road project. Our State Budget Office, at our request, has confirmed that these funds may be used as non-federal match for the PED.

Third, because of our readiness to contribute substantially to the non-federal match component of the PED, it is our strong desire to participate in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) coordination calls related to the Brandon Road project. Doing so recognizes the state of Michigan as a partner rather than an interested party.

Fourth, Michigan is fully supportive of the design outlined in the Chief's Report, including all technological elements identified therein. We also acknowledge that the electrical barrier is an effective means for preventing the movement of fish and believe that existing electrical barriers should remain operational and in use prior to, during, and after the development of the physical barrier, until such time other technology is proven at least equally effective to the electrical barrier.
Lastly, we have made a standing offer to the state of Illinois to serve as a convener of basin-wide collaboration concerning the Brandon Road project. This commitment includes securing a facilitator, conducting regular updates, and soliciting input from partner jurisdictions throughout the basin as the project progresses.

Let me again convey our appreciation for the efforts the USACE and you personally have taken to ensure that the Brandon Road project prevents invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes. We agree with the USACE that the proposed project represents the only long-term solution to this threat, absent full hydrologic separation.

If, in addition to the items described above, you are aware of any other ways that the state of Michigan can assist this project moving forward in the swiftest possible manner, please know we are fully ready to embrace those opportunities. Should you or your team require any additional information, or should you have any questions regarding the state of Michigan’s position as it relates to this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Eichinger
Director
517-284-6367

cc: Colonel Aaron Reisinger, USACE
Colonel Steven Sattenger, USACE
Ms. Jessica Himes, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Illinois
Ms. Colleen Callahan, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Ms. Kara Cook, Policy Advisor on Energy and Environment, Office of the Governor, Michigan

Don Sawyer with a couple of great steelhead from the Manistee. Caught on a spey rod in 32 degree air temps.

32” - 16 lbs.

28” - 11 lbs.
Michigan: Over 21 Million Fish Stocked in 2019

Brown trout, coho salmon, steelhead, walleye and nine other species and one hybrid were among the 21,281,411 fish stocked in Michigan’s public waters so far this year. These fish weighed a combined total of 311 tons.

DNR staff made 449 stocking trips to 857 stocking sites, including Great Lakes, inland lakes and rivers. Eighteen specialized stocking trucks traveled 106,000 miles over the course of 2,693 hours to get the job done.

Each hatchery stocked the following fish (details on weight and sites are available on the DNR’s website):

- Harrietta State Fish Hatchery (west of Cadillac) stocked 916,630 brown and rainbow trout.
- Marquette State Fish Hatchery (near Marquette) stocked 377,076 yearling lake trout, brook trout and splake (a hybrid of lake trout and brook trout).
- Oden State Fish Hatchery (near Petoskey) stocked 647,699 brown and rainbow trout.
- Platte River State Fish Hatchery (near Honor) stocked 3,090,753 fish that included yearling Atlantic and coho salmon, spring fingerling chinook salmon and walleye fry.
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery (near Manistique) stocked 6,944,722 fish that included yearling steelhead, spring fingerling chinook salmon and walleye fry.
- Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (near Kalamazoo) stocked 6,233,314 fish that included yearling steelhead, spring fingerling chinook salmon, Great Lakes strain muskellunge, walleye fry and channel catfish obtained from the Ohio DNR.


The total includes more than 3 million walleye spring fingerlings. These fish are reared in ponds by the DNR and tribal partners, with extensive support provided by local sporting organizations. Also included are 14,544 lake sturgeon fingerlings reared at stream-side hatcheries and released in various inland and Great Lake tributary streams.

Learn more at MichiganDNR.com/FishStock or by contacting Jan VanAmberg, 906-341-5587, ext. 202 or 906-249-1611, ext. 306 or Elyse Walter, 517-284-5839.

----------The Fishing Wire.com
GATCH & RELEASE IS MUCH LIKE GOLF.... YOU DON'T NEED TO EAT THE BALL TO HAVE A GOOD TIME

Rick Lewandowski with a nice rainbow from the St. Mary's on Oct. 24 of this year.
How Close can you get to your Target? Trout Fishing Edition

Weather is a major factor in controlling where you should cast from.

This is an important criteria to consider regardless of your target species. Ideally you want to stand as close to the fish as possible without spooking them. But what controls this distance? There are a range of factors and we break them down here.

1. **Water clarity.** Are you fishing a shallow spring creek or a freestone post runoff? The clearer the water, the spookier the fish will be. If the water is muddy or off color, you can stand much closer to your target. When you can’t see a fish due to the muddy water, you can do things like “high stick” your rod right above a likely holding area and not risk spooking anything.

2. **What type of water are they sitting in?** Are they in a shallow riffle or a deeper, choppy run? The moving water over the top of the fish does a great job of providing you some cover. The faster the water they are sitting in, the closer to the fish you can get. Another thing to consider is how deep in the water column is the fish? Fish can see great straight ahead of themselves and straight up, but cannot see much directly behind them so keep this in mind as you plan your approach.

3. **Weather.** Is it sunny or cloudy? The brighter the sun and more distance you will need to give the fish. The sun also controls your shadow. You always need to be aware of where your shadow is. Most trout are kings of their underwater domain. Their predators (people and birds) come from above. So a shadow on top of a fish is a great way to spook that fish and send him to cover. It is not just your shadow you have to worry about. The shadow of your rod can spook them, as can something completely outside of your control, like a bird flying above. Rain is another factor to consider. Rain allows you to get much closer to your target. You don’t have to worry about shadows and the extra surface disturbance from the raindrops help provide you cover as well.

4. **How much pressure are these fish used to seeing?** Depending on where in the world you are fishing, fish see a range of angling pressure. If you are in the backcountry of New Zealand, fish are not used to see a person so they will be very spooky if one comes into their view. Are you fishing a crowded Colorado tailwater? Here fish see fisherman everyday and have become accustomed to seeing them. This does not mean you want to make yourself known but you can get closer to the fish without sending them off.

The overall goal here is to position yourself to get the best possible drift without spooking the fish. Experiment with the above factors, make notes of what what spooks them on your local river, and then watch you hook up rate increase!
Helen Shaw was proclaimed to be the “First Lady of Fly Fishing” by Arnold Gingrich, the founding editor of Esquire magazine. She learned to fish with her father at a young age, and began tying as soon as possible. Her groundbreaking book “Fly Tying: Materials, Tools, and Techniques” was a massive success and one of the first fly tying books written by a woman. Images were taken from the fly tiers perspective, making it easier for the reader to understand the process. While it seems common practice nowadays, it was very new when the book came out in 1963.

Ever have the need to label some of your fly boxes because you forgot the names of some of the flies that you don’t use very often? If so, here’s a link that offers a novel method to do just that. You can pick the font and size to suit your needs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjhNzORoV70
Landslide Risks Highlighted in New Online Tool

A new web-based interactive map helps define areas at higher risk for landslides, useful for backcountry anglers, hunters, campers and RV enthusiasts as well as land managers and emergency planners.

The U.S. Geological Survey today unveiled a new web-based interactive map that marks an important step toward mapping areas that could be at higher risk for future landslides. In collaboration with state geological surveys and other federal agencies, USGS has compiled much of the existing landslide data into a searchable, web-based interactive map called the U.S. Landslide Inventory Map.

“Although landslides occur in every state, our understanding of landslide hazards at the national scale is limited because landslide information across the U.S. is incomplete, varies in quality, accessibility and extent and what is known is not collected in a central location,” said Jonathan Godt, USGS program coordinator for Landslide Hazards.

Until now, no federal agency sought to undertake the monumental task of systematically cataloging landslide occurrence across the U.S. Existing digital data on landslide occurrence are held by a range of federal, state, and local government agencies, and no central point of access has previously been available.

Where data are available, the searchable map provides links to original digital geospatial files for further information. The current landslide inventory is not comprehensive as further mapping is needed in many parts of the country. For example, absence or sparseness of mapped landslides in areas of steep topography points to locations where the knowledge of landslide history and activity is likely poor. Periodic updates of the database are planned as new or improved data become available, increasing the usefulness of the product.

“The database provides centralized access to information about landslide occurrence and a starting point for the public, land managers, emergency planners and researchers interested in landslide hazards” said Godt.

Alaska, the U.S. West Coast and Rocky Mountain states, and Puerto Rico experience numerous landslides each year and other parts of the U.S., including the Midwest, Appalachia and Northeast are also often impacted by landslides.

Landslides have had disastrous impacts to communities in recent years, for example in March 2014, a large landslide near Oso, Washington, killed 43 people and caused millions of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure. In January 2018, debris flows originating from hillsides burned by the Thomas Fire in Montecito, California, killed 23 people, damaged more than 400 homes, and impacted businesses and infrastructure.

https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae120962f459434b8c904b456c82669d

Just in case you decide to head out to fly fish in areas where these landslides may occur. Don’t everyone rush to the ONE spot highlighted in Michigan.
The club will hold the first of several tying nights with the first at our Giltner Hall meeting room. Beginners are welcome to join in where we’ll supply material to tie three easy flies to learn the basic techniques of the Elk Hair Caddis, Pheasant Tail Nymphs, & Wooly Buggers.

All others are welcome to bring material to tie any of the patterns below. We’ll add them to the club totals and donate all to the Tie-A-Thon. See the info below as to who the flies are intended for and how they'll benefit.

You don't have to be an expert tier to donate flies. Many first time fly tiers have participated; this gives you a chance to become very good tying at least one fly.

All the flies tied from the Tie-A-Thon 14 will be distributed to Reel Recovery, who help the emotional rehabilitation of men dealing with cancer.

Reel Recovery was founded in 2003 by a group of avid fly fishers, inspired by their fishing buddy’s on-going battle with brain cancer. Witnessing first-hand the beneficial impact fly fishing provided their friend; they created Reel Recovery to provide the same opportunity for other men battling the disease. Combining expert fly fishing instruction with directed “courageous conversations,” the organization provides men with all forms of cancer a unique opportunity to share their stories, learn a new skill, form lasting friendships and gain renewed hope as they confront the challenges of cancer.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fly Patterns</th>
<th>Hook Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beetles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Winged Olives</td>
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<td>Clouser Minnows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copper John</td>
<td>18 - 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elk Hair Caddis</td>
<td>14 - 16</td>
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<td>Griffith Gnats</td>
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<td>Hare’s Ear Nymph</td>
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<td>Hoppers / Madam X</td>
<td>10 - 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy’s Rubber Legs/  Meatgazers</td>
<td>10 - 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mickey Finn</td>
<td>4 - 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pheasant Tail</td>
<td>14 - 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince Nymph</td>
<td>18 - 14</td>
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<td>Soft Hackles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wooly Buggers</td>
<td>6 - 10</td>
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The previous 13 Tie-a-thons distributed over 129,000 flies to the following 15 groups: Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp, The Brotherhood of the Junglecock Youth Program, Reel and Heal of Toledo, Casting for Recovery of Indiana, Project Healing Waters, Reel Recovery, National Fishing in Schools Program, Warriors and Quiet Waters, Flyin’ Heroes of Michigan, Casting for Recovery of Michigan, Illinois Trout Unlimited Youth Camp, Trout Unlimited Teen Summit, Anglers of the Ausable Youth Program, The Mayfly Project and Camp Kita.
Lewistown man creates wheelchair-accessible drift boat

Hanging on the wall in Brett Nienhuis’ living room are three 8-inch-by-12-inch photos of an angler in a wheelchair reeling in a fish from a drift boat — an aluminum boat that Nienhuis built in his Lewistown shop. The 16-foot boat, named the Inspiration model, was fitted with a door on the port (left) side to which a hideaway ramp can be fitted to roll a wheelchair on board. Once on the craft, the wheelchair can be fastened down on a non-skid floor. A seat to the left of the wheelchair allows a guide easy access to help the angler fish. ..........Billings Gazette
Idyllic. Or Not. (Too many flyfishing truths -- RMK) by
Bob Kren RCFFer and occasionally Mr Flyfisherpersonguy

If we were naïve enough to believe the depictions of fishing, in ads, nobody does any kind of fishing other than flyfishing, for trout: chubs, if caught, are released offcamera and encouraged to jog back to the river, though few do. Admit it: no advertiser wants us to look at some dentally-challenged GOB (Good Old Boy) sweatily hauling old bucketmouth out of some murky slop.* No, it's got to be a perfect rainbow trout, sharp focus (soft focus is for making people look better than they really are, trust me, I know), lovingly cradled, often documented in slow motion, never slippery, always compliant until released, slowly. Ha!

Just think of those beautiful waters, clear, wadeable, always sparkling. Not a hint of the slick spots, or the bowling-ball-size rocks that grab feet and sprain ankles, or the greenery that snatches at your fly, or what happens when there's runoff from a storm, or an unexpected release from a dam upstream to send you scuttling and hollering. There's always only one flyfisherperson in the picture, no crowds hunkered at the only honeyhole within 50 miles, nobody wading through the best water just to get to something that only looks better.

Don't get the wrong impression about our onstream clothing from ads, and just because your personal Savile Row haberdasher has the name J. C. Penney, or Goosey Mountain doesn’t mean that some folk can afford to look like a picture from GQ. Patches on elbows? Nah. My elbows are callused, at best

And the scenery! -- mountains, forests, no houses in sight, no barbed wire, no domestic herds all turned toward the intruder in the river, or dogs abay and snarling, no signs threatening death upon trespass, never the creepy feeling you're being watched by half the hillbilly cast of “Deliverance” (and no banjo music, ever!). No guideboats, kayaks, canoes, or bulky drunks in inner tubes, hollering and mooning. All wild critters are at a safe distance, doing wild critter stuff that’s non-threatening – do bears eat only berries? I don’t think – and maybe even Bambiesque poses for big beastsies.

All fishing is done with big, bushy, easily-seen dry flies only, and every take is splashy and obvious. The hooksets are sudden and textbook, never missed and winding up in your hat, or face, and certainly never a foulishhook. Every rod is bent perfectly, every closeup of a reel shows it spinning merrily, sometimes with spray flying off during a particularly long run (or not -- just as likely some lackey is sprinting along the shore, pulling out line. Just sayin'). Every netting of a prey is ideal, never the flub that makes quarry runawayfast, or break off, or wrap itself in most of the leader, or snag the bag, or itself. Every release is effortless, never resulting in a hook buried in your hand, or clothing, or cameraperson.

All days are nice days, clear heavenly blue skies, sun never in your eyes. There’s never the thundercloud that races over the canyon walls and, with no warning, drives you to the shelter that isn’t there: fear of electrocution can make for some inventive improvisations of “shelter.” Just how good an electrical conductor IS a graphite rod? I’m willing to let you find out, but my rod is over there, on the ground, um, I mean rocks or dirt.

You’ll never see any bugs but the ones you want to, and they’re always mammoth mayflies, or caddis. Apparently, the good bugs have forced the biting and stinging and just downright ugly bugs out of the neighborhood, so there can be no welts on faces or extremities. Trout eat only big visible pretty bugs, and that’s that!

Every cast is a huge booming, Brad Pittlike cast. We never see the castus interruptus, as streamside alder or redwood grabs the fly. We never see a beautiful pile/puddle/parachute cast, just as we never see fishing with nymphs or streamers. We’ve just gotta keep up that image of flyfishing as the only kind, perfect in every way. Again I say Ha! Bob K

* OK, there was an ad on the telly a while back, with a burly GOB kissing a bass on the lips, with a long strand of slime between the two to complete the image and the smackeroo. Let’s hope that, at least, it was a female bass.
True or an Old Wives Tale?

There’s nothing worse than watching a big beautiful wild fish bleed out from a damaged gill.

I found myself in just that situation with a big brown trout one day. Watching helplessly as the water turned red.

Thank God Kent was with me. Thinking fast he said, “hey, did you finish that Coke?” I had not and he showed me a great trick. He opened the fish’s mouth and poured the Coke down her throat.

As soon as it hit the injured gill the bleeding stopped. It was like magic. I’m not sure if it’s the carbonation or the acid but something in the Coke cauterized the wound. It saved that fish’s life. I know it for a fact because I saw her in that same pool several weeks later, although she was wise to me by then. I’m certain it was the same fish. There couldn’t be two just alike in that little pool. It’s one more thing to carry but having a Coke on hand is a great idea. The fish you save might be your own.

Ever wonder how many hook manufacturer’s there are: ....more at flyhooks.org

A. Jenson  A. Jenson  Abbey & Imbrie  Ahrex  Akita
Alec Jackson  A. Jenson  Allcock  Allen  Ashima
Blue Heron  A. Jenson  Caleri  Claw  Congress Tackle
Dai-Riki  A. Jenson  Daichi  Demmon  Devaux
Dohiku  A. Jenson  Eagle Claw  Elephant Proof  Dohiku
Fulling Mill  A. Jenson  Gaelic Supreme  Gamakatsu  Eagle Claw
Hanak  A. Jenson  Hends  Herter’s  Elephant Proof
Kamasan  A. Jenson  Ken Sawada  Kingfisher Mills  Ellipse
Kumho  A. Jenson  Maruto  Midgar  Elephant Proof
Mustad  A. Jenson  Otava  Ouchless  Elephant Proof
Partridge  A. Jenson  Pflueger  Phoxinus  Elephant Proof
S&E. G Messeena  A. Jenson  Sealey  Sinfalta  Elephant Proof
Talon  A. Jenson  The Fishing Collection  Tiemco  Elephant Proof
Turrall  A. Jenson  Varivas  VMC  Elephant Proof
Wm. Frankfurth Hdwe. Company  A. Jenson  W.S. Jr. Company

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</table>
**Christmas tree for sale:** Once lit you will see ~ 3 Wise Men, 6 turtle doves, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 1 Simms GX4 waders, 2 Sage graphite rods, 1 Orvis fly reel, an Adipose drift boat w/trailer, large brown trout all the time, and a partridge in a pear tree!

Here’s hoping the guy in the red suit slides down your chimney and fills your stocking with all kinds of goodies for the upcoming season.
When ya just gotta float the lake
Christmas idea:

If you’re looking for the perfect gift for your newsletter editor this coming Christmas!!!!!!

Emily Dean with a very nice steelhead from one of our Michigan rivers.
Field Notes:

- Minnesota DNR Unlikely to Approve Water Transfer to Western States: The DNR is aware of a proposal by Empire Builder Investments to supply groundwater from Minnesota to the western United States by railcar.

- New pothole repair product from MDOT:

- Mepp's Calls for More Squirrel Tails: Mepps buys fox, black, grey and red squirrel tails and will pay up to 26 cents each for tails, depending on quality and quantity.

- Like the outdoors, love to wear a uniform, want to meet new people and willing to work odd hours……then Michigan is looking for Conservation Officers. Their 10th academy will begin on July 12, 2020. Learn more at: Michigan.gov/ConservationOfficers.

Refrigerator Reminders

**December**

7th - Great Lakes Fly Fishing Show - Deltaplex Arena, Grand Rapids ~9:00 - 5:00  more info at: ffiglc.org

10th - Club meeting at Coral Gables in East Lansing.  6:00 start time for our annual Christmas party. Holiday gift & new product ideas. Presented by Nomad Anglers.

12th - National Ding-A-Ling day….keep your eyes alert & ready to react as you never know…..

17th - Club tying night, Giltner Hall - 6:30 - 8:30.  See details on page 9

**January**

8th - National Take the Stairs Day - or, how to get yourself in shape for wading this year.

14th - Club meeting Giltner Hall on MSU campus room 273.  6:30 hospitality, 7:00 general meeting

22nd-25th - Buccaneer Cup Sailfish Tournament, Palm Beach, FL.
Great Lakes Fly Fishing Show
presented by the

Saturday, February 2nd, 2019
9:00am to 5:00pm
at the Deltaplex in Grand Rapids, MI

Costs include all of the following events!

Watch expert fly tiers in action
Learn how to tie flies
Vendors with the latest fly gear
Enjoy refreshments while learning about fly fishing
Watch informative presentation on how to catch fish from experts including:
9:30 am: Chris “Uber” Raines, Pere Marquette River Lodge
10:30 am: Kevin Feenstra, Feenstra Guide Service
12:00pm: Women’s Forum – for the first time ever - learn from women who fly fish!
1:00pm: Mike Schultz, Schultz Outfitters
And so much more to be announced!

Admission Costs and Fees:
Adults: $10
Kids 12-17: $5
Kids under 12: Free
Parking: $5

The Deltaplex is located at 2500 Turner Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544

Stay tuned for more details at https://www.facebook.com/FFFGLC/, https://www.ffiglc.org/, or follow us on Instagram @Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers