



*"Flygirls of Michigan, Inc. is dedicated to providing women with educational, recreational, and stewardship opportunities in the sport of fly fishing."*



## **Flygirls**

### **Put on your boots & waders It's Fall Outing Time!**

**Flygirls Annual Meeting  
& Fund Raiser**

**September 14-16, 2012  
Gates Au Sable River Lodge**

**Grayling**

**Fishing and Fun! This event is the Flygirls annual meeting and our biggest fund raiser. Be part of the action! Register to stay at Gates Au Sable Lodge, on the mainstream of the Au Sable River. Take a guided float trip in an Au Sable Riverboat. Learn about the Au Sable River system. Just walk out the door, cast, catch fish and have fun! The lodge has a fire-pit for that evening fire. What are you waiting for –join the fun!!**

Fall Outing Information & Registration on pg. 8



## Leader Lines

Ann Miller

**Whew!** Who can remember such a hot and dry summer as the one we are experiencing in 2012? Unprecedented warm temps in March encouraged blue-wing olives and Hendrickson to hatch several weeks early, but then we saw a slow down in insect activity with late season freezes. This put us on schedule for a short while, but then summer came into full force, with temperatures soaring into the 90's even in northern Michigan. This, coupled with little to no rain across the state has resulted in a record drought; crisp lawns, failing crops, low water... but enough doom and gloom! On the positive side, it's a great year for the smallmouth bite!

Flygirls kicked off a busy year in 2012 starting with the Winter Retreat. Our new venue at the YMCA Sherman Lake was great, with outstanding meals and accommodations. We had a good turnout and great programs and hope to be back again next year. A little snow would have been nice for ambience, but the mild weather made for easy travel.

Prior to the trout opener we held casting clinics at three locations in the state, enabling Flygirls from all over to participate and hone their basic casting skills. Our beginning fly fishing school was a big success, held again at Fuller's North Branch Outing Club in Lovells, MI. Judy Fuller pampered us with good food, a well set table, and of course her charm. We needed it too, as we had a steady rain most of the weekend. Spirits were not dampened, however, as new students worked on casting, knots, and bugs. Most students caught and released their first brook trout and all fell in love with the beautiful natural surroundings on the North Branch of the Au Sable River.

We filled the Wa Wa Sum Lodge as we celebrated Flygirls turning 15 years old. Hatches and fishing were good and as always the camaraderie was outstanding. This was our 5th year at the lodge and it is always one of our most successful outings.

Our smallmouth bass outing had to be rescheduled from June to late August due to low water levels. If you have never tried fly fishing for smallmouth, I would encourage you to do so – they are eager to take a fly and are active (and aggressive!) in warm weather.

Also in June several Flygirls assisted with the Great Lakes Council Fly Fishing School held at the Ralph MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake. Dennis Potter was surprised by President Jim Schramm, receiving a well-deserved GLC Achievement Award. Most of us have been touched by Dennis' generosity in some way and we all applaud his due. He received a beautiful Temple Fork Outfitters rod and reel as a thank you. Way to go, Dennis!

We had a great time returning to Fuller's North Branch Outing Club in mid-July. We were up well before breakfast to fish the trico hatch, then conveniently enjoyed our meal after the spinner fall. Afterwards, we packed up for the day and headed back to the river to kayak and/or fish. As usual, we had some interesting adventures along the way!

Our busy calendar will slow down some in August, but be sure to save the date for our annual fund raiser and fall fishing event at Gates Lodge, September 14-16. Look for more information on this event in the newsletter.

As always, Flygirls is successful because of the many volunteers that offer their time and talent. Thank you to each and every one of you that helps to make our organization great. Enjoy the rest of the summer and let's hope for rain and a cool-down. I'm already dreaming of the fall run on the Garden River – time for lots of car washing, leaving the windows down, and lots of rain dances.



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Flygirls is published bi-annual

or as needed in the editing office of Colleen Jenkins (see officers and directors).

Please feel free to send your ideas, artwork, photographs, poetry or other contributions.

# HOT SHOTS!



2012 White River, Arkansas.  
Nice brown - #16 egg fly - 5x tippet  
Julie Neilsen



2011 Manistee River, MI Salmon  
Jenn Klabunde,

Hi Ann,

I just wanted to send you a quick email to say thank you for your web page (<http://www.flygirls.ws/links.html>). My name is Heather, and I volunteer at a library where we host weekend activities for middle school aged children. Every year in March, we have a hobbies and sports celebration day. Your page had some great fly fishing resources that we will be able to share with the kids. Just wanted to say thanks for all the help! :-)

One of the girls in my group, Brittany, found a great resource during computer time that I thought I'd share with you, <http://www.thewaterpage.com/fly-fishing.htm>. Could you add this to your list? She's a little shy around the other girls, so I thought showing them all your page with her link on it would help her stand out a little more. Plus, I thought it would make a great addition to your page for others looking for fly fishing information.

If you have any tips for sharing information on fishing at a children's level, I'd love to hear it. Thanks again, and hope you are enjoying some nice spring weather!

Warm regards,  
Ms. Heather Richardson



Start 'em young and they'll love it more.  
Sharing one of Mimama's passions.  
Pat Rowe

## Victor Edwards is funding Flygirls \$50 at a time.

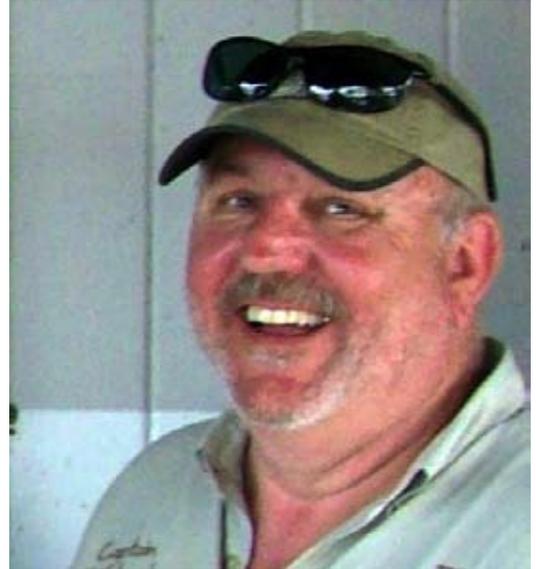
Victor, a member and longtime support of Flygirls, lives in the Grayling area. This year he decided that he would take any Flygirl fishing in his Au Sable longboat, charging them \$50/half day.

And, the money collected for the trip goes to the Flygirls coffers! So, if you are in the area and want to give it a try (alone or with a friend), feel free to contact Vic (VictorTroutBum@gmail.com or 989-745-2553) and make arrangements.

Checks should be made out to Flygirls and mailed to Sarah VanDelfzijl,  
1425 West AB Avenue, Plainwell MI 49080.

Victor prefers to do the trips during the week.

Wow! Thanks Vic!!



## Welcome New Members

Sara Lemmerman Fremont, MI  
 Nome Buckman Pickford, MI  
 Valerie Lafferty Okemos, MI  
 Margaret LeBien St. Paul, MN  
 Pamela Walton Lapeer, MI  
 Sheila Hardy Flint, MI  
 Susan Glomb Clinton Twp, MI  
 Laura Gould Hastings, MI  
 Laura Stockwell Bay City, MI  
 Radona Winters Lansing, MI  
 Kyra Ziomkowski Marquette, MI  
 Rebecca McKenzie Sterling Heights, MI



**Join us on Facebook**

**“ what’s biting on the Au Sable, Manistee, and other rivers, who’s catching...”**

Did you know that Flygirls has a Facebook page? This is limited to Flygirls only and is a great way to poll other Flygirls on locales, what’s biting on local rivers, and who’s catching what. To find us, just search for “Flygirls of Michigan” in GROUPS on Facebook. Request to join and either Ann Miller or Sarah VanDelfzijl will confirm your membership status and approve your entry into the group. Then, post you favorite fish pics, ask questions, find a fishing buddy, or share stories that you think may be of interest. We hope to see you join us soon.

# My Fishing Hero

By Jack Handy, reprinted with permission from Outside Magazine, copyright ©2000, Mariah Publications Corporation.

The greatest fly fisherman I ever knew was a big bear of a man. When he stood up straight he was well over six feet tall. He had powerful, hairy arms and massive, hair covered legs. His body was also hairy. For some reason he kept his fingernails and toenails long and sharp.

He didn't need a lot of fancy equipment to catch fish. In fact, most of the time he didn't even use a rod and reel. He would just wade out in to the river, reach down, and catch a fish with his bare hands. Sometimes he'd just stick his head underwater and catch one with his teeth! He didn't believe in high-fallutin, "politically correct" ideas like catch-and-release. Whatever he caught, he ate-usually right there, while it was still alive. Once I even saw him eat a muskrat. The only thing he liked better than fish was honey. He'd sniff out a beehive and tear it open with those long fingernails of his. Sometimes the bees would sting him and he'd let out a big roar of pain. I'd usually start laughing and he'd charge over and swat me across the head, opening up my scalp. But it was all in good fun. Besides fish and honey (and the occasional rodent), I think the only other thing I ever saw him eat was garbage. It's funny how someone can be so good at one thing, like fly-fishing, and so terrible at other things, like driving a car. That's the way he was. Suffice it to say that whenever he got behind the wheel, nine times out of ten we'd end up rolled over in a ditch someplace, on fire. He didn't say much. In fact, hardly anything. He'd puff and grown if he didn't like a story you were telling, and you'd usually have to play dead until he calmed down. But then, after another bowl of whiskey, he'd be ready for the rest of the story.

He seemed to follow his own set of rules. For instance, he never wore any clothes. And trust me, he didn't like you trying to put clothes on him. Another one of his quirks was, well, he stank. He never bathed and his breath was terrible. Even after you offered him a mint, and he took the whole roll away from you and ate it, his breath was still bad. At least when he would defecate, he'd go in the woods.

Even worse, he had a drug problem. More than once I saw him staggering around, disoriented, with a syringe stuck in his buttock. The authorities would come and carry him away, usually in a new hanging underneath a helicopter. But a few days later he'd be right back, raring to fish. And boy, could he fish! In fact, when the other fishermen saw him coming, they'd usually run away, screaming, because they knew they wouldn't be catching anything while he was around.

After the fishing season ended, he seemed to lose interest in just about everything but sleeping. I think he'd sleep right through winter, if I let him, which I finally learned to do, after repeated skull bites.

People ask what was the most important thing I learned from him about fishing. I guess it would be that you don't need to be a slave to matching the hatch. A lot of times you'll get just as many fish by chasing them into shallow water and pouncing on them. Or by stealing them from other fishermen.

The odd thing is, I never knew his name. Some people would yell out "Griz" when they saw him, but I don't think that was it. I tried calling him "Lonnie" for awhile, but that didn't seem to stick either. When I think back on it, all I can do is scratch my head, and the wince, from the stitches in my scalp.

But this spring I discovered the most surprising thing of all, when I saw him again after the long off season. With him were two of the cutest, hairiest little children I had ever seen. And then it finally hit me: The greatest fly fisherman I ever knew wasn't a man at all, but a woman.



## KIDS KAMP

The first Kids Kamp at Schmidt Outfitters is history. Ten kids from all over Michigan attended, 9 boys and 1 girl. The kids were required to set up their own camp including tents and preparing the camp site. Counselors taught proper use of camp tools, bow saw, hatchet, jack knife (for whittling) and a variety of other essential tools. Kids also participated in preparing their meals, chopping, dicing, peeling and grilling. Kids made their own omelets in the mornings and grilled their own burgers, dogs and brats for dinner.

The kids tied flies, learned to cast, catch and release fish (over 200) tied knots (ranked last on the “like” list) and learned to live with each other for three days.

At the end of the program I asked what things the kids “liked” and “disliked”. They liked.. the food, fly tying, fishing, camp fires and naps. They disliked... knots, learning to cast and cleaning up. Things they would change? They all wanted a longer camp and more nap time!

Kids Kamp was sponsored by Grand Valley Fly Tiers, Flygirls of Michigan, Kalamazoo Valley TU and Schmidt Outfitters. All children attended at no charge.

Ray Schmidt  
Schmidt Outfitters  
Wellston, MI 49689  
[www.schmidtoutfitters.com](http://www.schmidtoutfitters.com)  
1.231.848.4191

# Home in the Jordan River Valley

By Laura Stockwell

Having moved from downstate to the Jordan River Valley in January of this year, my dreams were filled with idyllic visions of fishing after work and on Sunday nights; really getting to know one of my favorite rivers on a daily basis. Unfortunately, as is usually the case, work got to be very busy. With long days and many weekends dedicated to the new job, fishing had to wait.

I Finally managed my first night on the river. Fishing after work is sheer bliss. To stop at the house, change and pick up the dog and get onto those winding dirt roads before the sun is down is simply “the reason” I’d taken the job and moved north.

I quickly pull into my favorite fishing spot, ahh, I never had such a short drive to the Jordan River. I’d always arrived after hours of driving and had to unload camping gear before I ever got on the river. I’d always been a visitor, a tourist. And now here I was, a local, stopping to fish in my favorite river. The thought fills me with pleasure.

I unload the dog, my gear and step quickly into my waders. While lacing my boots up I notice it’s a bit chilly and the sun is dropping over the treeline of the rugged valley hills. I select my flies for the evening, mostly streamers but a few midges as well, just in case. As I stepped down the ledge onto the trail, I thought, “I live here!” echoes jubilantly through my mind over and over again.

Sunlight hits the top of the trees and the occasional shaft drifts down to the squelchy forest floor, illuminating the gnarled roots of river birch and cedars. I hike along the river for awhile then cross, carefully navigating the downed cedars that nearly cover the bottom of the river. The Jordan has knocked me down before and I have never forgotten the strength of the river.

After pulling myself, and one wet dog out on the far bank, we continue upstream, sidestepping marsh marigolds, sinking into mucky spots, balancing carefully on roots and logs. All the while, my eyes are keyed into the river, looking for a likely spot to start this year’s fishing adventures. It has to be the perfect spot you see, I missed steelhead this year and I’m hoping for a nice brown to compensate.

I finally find the perfect spot, tie the dog, kneel down to select a streamer. I tie it on in the quickly shadowing valley, fingers a little cold, fumbling to tie the knot. As I finally snug it down with my teeth and notice the sun is barely brightening the tops of the trees. I step in, carefully, and cast.

Nothing! Cast again, working the fly toward the snaggy cedars. Nothing.

Cast again, work it back past the cedars and into a confluence. Nothing. Again and again and again and nothing. I reel it in and head up river. Time has ceased to matter, all that matters is 9 feet below the fly line, the tug of the current, the sweeping arc of the submerged cedars.

I step in again, positioning myself carefully, running a streamer carefully under the bank, knowing there’s a log there, knowing I will likely snag. There’s a tug on the line as I strip it gently. I try to set the hook and meet no resistance. I cast the fly down under the bank again and again and again. Finally, another hit. I have too much slack and react clumsily. I throw a few more times but nothing.

I come to my senses and realize it’s gloomy out and I have a bit of a way back. The sun is behind the ridge, the water is all one dark mass boiling around downed trees and I need to cross again. I cross where I’m at, carefully inching across the bottom, unable to see how deep my next step will take me. I feel the water inch over my waist and watching the dog clamber ashore ahead of me, I’m jealous and a little nervous about what the next step will bring. I edge a cedar tree along the bottom and hit a drop off that sends water slopping over the top of my waders but my next step rises me into a sandy bar that I follow to the far bank. Cold hands on the alder and cedar saplings lift me clear and I head back to the car in near darkness, tripping occasionally over roots and squelching into muck.

As I turn the heat on in the truck, and flip on the headlights I think, “I live here. I can do this again tomorrow.” And I do. And every day I stay later.



## Flygirls Annual Meeting & Fund Raiser September 14-16, 2012 • Gates Au Sable River Lodge -Grayling

Fishing and Fun! This event is the Flygirls annual meeting and our biggest fund raiser. Be part of the action! Register to stay at Gates Au Sable Lodge, on the mainstream of the Au Sable River. Take a guided float trip in an Au Sable Riverboat. Learn about the Au Sable River system. Just walk out the door, cast, catch fish and have fun! The lodge has a fire-pit for that evening fire. What are you waiting for –join the fun!!

Where: Gates Au Sable Lodge, 471 Stephan Bridge Road, Grayling, MI. There is a full service fly shop on the grounds as well as the best restaurant in the area. The lodge is on the Holy Waters of the Au Sable River, catch and release only. A block of rooms is reserved at Gates Au Sable Lodge until August 24th. After that date, rooms are first come, first serve, if available. Do not contact the Lodge! Reservations are through registration for this event.

Friday night we gather in the Board Room, for light snacks and to check equipment and plan for Saturday. BYOB and bring a snack to share. Not floating, then we can recommend wading spots and hook you up with a friend. I would encourage everyone, staying at Gates or elsewhere to gather. Our mission is to help those new to the sport or unfamiliar with the water. Or hang out waterside with a fire!

Saturday Juice and fruit...trail mix provided for the day. Float trips starting about noon. Breakfast and lunch are on your own if you want more than juice, fruit and trail mix. The Lodge kitchen serves both, and would be glad to pack you a lunch. For those floating, it will be a half-day float trip. (We have guides booked for the day) or fishing on your own. If we have cold nights, then the fish sleep in until about noon, so no need for you to be there before they do their morning stretches. These are classic riverboat guided trips with 2 people per boat. Half-day float trips are 4-5 hours, with no lunch provided. In the morning there will be a casting tune up with Dennis Potter at Gates Lodge.

Dinner on Saturday night will be at the Hungry Fisherman, at Gates Lodge. You pick from the menu item and pay. According to the number eating dinner we will probably have to eat in two shifts. After dinner, we will gather in the Board Room at Gates for the Annual Fund Raiser. Colleen is working on great raffle items. Everyone bring a small item (need not be fishing related) for the raffle tables to donate.

Sunday: Flygirls Board meeting – Gates Board Room at 9 am

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### Registration for September 2012 Flygirls Event

Name(s) of those registering: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Registration: \$10.00 per person (must accompany registration)**

**Lodging – Gates Lodge – Lodging per double room is \$90.00 per night plus tax – A \$25.00 deposit is required to secure a room.**

**Do not call Gates for reservations for we already have rooms reserved.**

**Two nights at Gates Au Sable Lodge (Friday and Saturday) - \$90.00 + tax**

I would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to spend an extra night (Thurs. or Sun): \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Float Trip – two to a riverboat – 1/2 day trip (4-5 hours) \$125.00/per person (plus gratuity).**

I would like to float with: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred day and alternate (Sat, Sun): \_\_\_\_\_ (only one boat reserved for Sunday.

**I will plan on eating at Gates Au Sable Lodge – eating time will be determined by the number wishing to dine and those floating that day. Please DO NOT make reservations on your own, but through the Flygirls for we have made advance reservations.**

You may send your registration info via email to: Belinda Friis- bafriis@comcast.net

However, until your check is received your registration is NOT complete.

Questions: phone Belinda @ 248.592.2581 (home) or 734.693.3442 (cell)

Your registration fee for the event (\$10.00/person) and room deposit for those staying at Gates (\$25.00)

(checks made payable to Flygirls)should be sent to:

Belinda Friis, 7388 Meadowridge Circle, West Bloomfield MI 48322



# WA WA SUM

## Home sweet home for Flygirls.

This marked the Flygirls 5th year at the lodge, and we celebrated the clubs 15th Anniversary. This year we had a total of 29 registered attendees, the largest group to date. Ann Miller & Dorothy Schramm, founders of Flygirls, were on hand to help continue the mission of club. As always we had a great weather, food & fishing. I would like to thank all my little helpers, I couldn't have pulled it together without your help... Thank you!

This year Victor Edwards & Kevin Foerster, both local guides, offered ladies great opportunity to take a float trip at a huge discount. A Special thanks to both of them for their generous offerings. I would like to thank everyone for coming and hope to see you next year. If you have any suggestions or ideas for next year, please let me know. I have confirmed the dates for next year June 3 - 5, 2013. Mark your calendars.! C.



## Fishing Canadian Waters

This year one of our fly fishing adventures took us 2,000 miles north of Toledo, OH to Northern Saskatchewan, Canada to fish Misaw Lake Lodge for northern pike, lake trout and grayling.

We flew from Toledo to Minneapolis and then to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. After over nighting in Saskatoon, we flew the next morning on a turbo prop plane to the landing strip near the lodge. A short five minute boat ride took us to our destination. After a delicious brunch, we spent a half day fishing from an eighteen foot boat with a Yamaha 4 stroke 40 hp motor. Our Guide, Archie, who has guided on this lake for 20 years, is well acquainted with the twenty-six mile lake.

The cabins sleep two to four people and have modern bathrooms. breakfast of your choice and dinner are served in the main lodge. For lunch, you have a choice of taking a lunch with you in a cooler or having a shore lunch. The guide(s) cook a few small fish caught that morning along with corn and potatoes all prepared over an open fire.

All fishing is a catch and release policy except for the lunch pike or lake trout. We used 9 and 10 weight rods with floating line. We also used a variety of streamer flies tied on barbless hooks size 2/0 1/0.

Rather than just fishing the main lake, another option is to take a fly out trip to one of four other lakes.

One day we did portage to another spot for grayling and northern pike fishing. We caught several grayling with the largest on about 16 inches long.

No matter where you fish, the fish come in all different sizes. One of Chris' northern pike was about 38 inches long and weighed about 16 pounds. My largest lake trout was 15 pounds and it took me about 10 minutes to get it to the boat.

As you may agree, fish size and numbers caught are not always the most important part of a trip. Scenery, wildlife, friendship and the serene quietness of the wilderness also play an important part of any fishing journey.

The cost of Misaw Lake Lodge for five day of fishing is \$3450.00 per person plus your airfare to get to Saskatoon. Daily temps in the high 50's to low 60's. For further information, you can contact us or look on the web site at [www.misaw.com](http://www.misaw.com)

May you always have a wonderful time wherever you fish.

Judy & Chris Helm



Judy Helm & Guide Archie  
15 lb. Lake trout.



Chris Helm with a nice 10 lb. lake trout.



Guide Archie with a 16" Grayling.

## Donna Smiths' "Gourmet to-go"

Here's a great recipe that I make for a light lunch or dinner while out fishing. It's simple to assemble and is soooo delicious. Sometimes it is great to treat yourself to a nice "gourmet" meal while you're out for a day on the water. By the way this recipe is compliments of my friend (that some of you may know) Joseph Meyer.

### Orzo Pasta Salad

#### w/ Grilled Chicken or Beef Tenderloin Strips

1 lb orzo pasta, cooked al dente

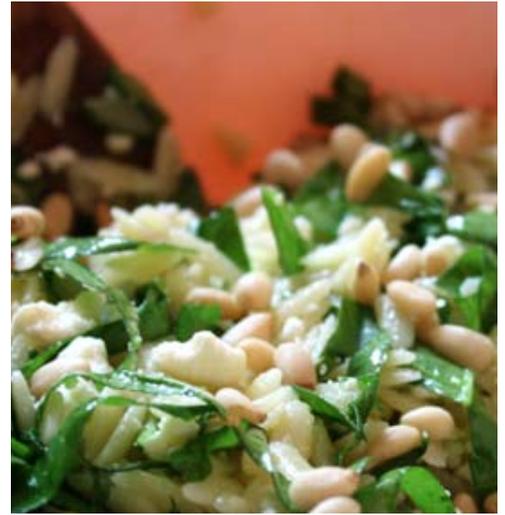
1/2 cup toasted pine nuts or slivered almonds

4 oz feta cheese, crumbled

6-8 oz shredded baby spinach

Grilled tenderloins or chicken breast, venison loins if you have them Mix together the pasta, toasted nuts and spinach. Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar to taste. Top with feta cheese, serve with sliced tenderloin or chicken breast.

To take on the road, I cook the pasta at home and coat with the olive oil so the pasta doesn't stick together. Toast nuts and take along in a ziplock bag. Pre-cook your meat and slice. Baby spinach comes in a bag for convenience and you can purchased feta cheese crumbles (or use any other cheese that you may like). When it is time to eat, you can toss the ingredients together or each person can assemble their own. This is a salad, so you can adjust the amounts of the ingredients as needed. Don't forget the Balsamic Vinegar - this makes the whole dish delish! Enjoy!



## Great Lakes Council Spey Casting Weekend

This year we will be holding a Spey Casting School at Henning Park on the Muskegon River in Newaygo.

Saturday August 11 at 8:30 will be a Basic Spey School. Sunday August 12 at 8:30 will be the Intermediate/Improver School. Both classes will be on the water, so you will need waders unless you prefer to wade wet. All other equipment will be provided or you can opt to bring your own.

The Basic course on Saturday will be a full on program covering equipment, lines, rods, fishing techniques and basic casts. Students will also learn to fish the fly properly on the appropriate line.

The Intermediate/Improver class is for those that have had some instruction or experience with a two handed rod. A review of basic casts to get everyone on the same page and then we will move on to advanced casts. Most intermediate/improver casters need some anchor placement work so this will be addressed. Line selection, fly selection, leader construction will be covered. Students will also learn to fish the fly properly on the appropriate line.

I have Peter Humphreys and Bob Breandle coming to teach this program. Both are FFF Master Casting Instructors. Peter is also an FFF Two Handed Casting Instructor and I expect that Bob will be the next THCI in Michigan. Both of these guys are fantastic instructors and anglers. I learn something whenever I'm around them.

I have room for 12 each day. Lunch is provided as are light refreshments.

The cost is \$100 each day. Please e-mail [rknoles@gmail.com](mailto:rknoles@gmail.com) for a registration form.

Here is the link to register

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cVsEZv1w8oN50b-wOF3rQzJQ0uLKbz4qjBGz3I5pLPQ/edit?pli=1>



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# *Oh Mickey You're So Fine.....*

By Jenn Nelson

I'm not the world's greatest fly tier. I enjoy sitting down for a couple hours and tying a couple dozen flies at a time to fill the voids in my fly boxes.

So November 2010, I decided to take on a bit of a challenge. The St Joseph River

Valley Fly Tyers is a club out of Indiana with the mission to teach and promote fly tying.

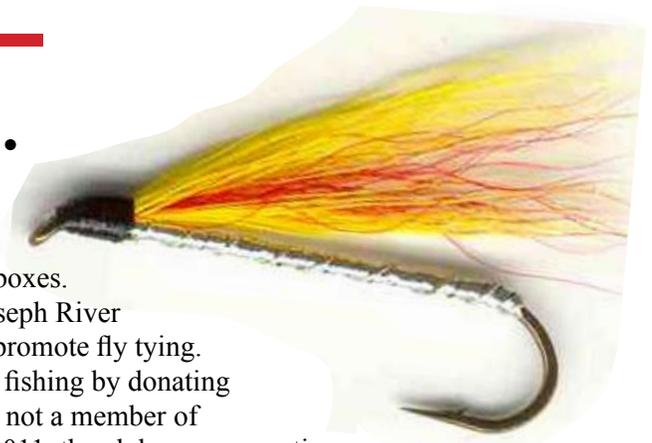
Another mission of the club is to support organizations that promote fly fishing by donating

flies tied by the members at their annual Tie-a-Thon for their use. I am not a member of

this club, but I got word of the Tie-a-Thon thru the Flygirls emails. In 2011, the club was supporting

Project Healing Waters, an organization that provides fly fishing opportunities for wounded and disabled active service

members. Now, I am not going to discuss war, and my views either for or against it. But, what I will discuss is my views on fly fishing and what I think it does for myself and for others.



Fly fishing gets me away from my life: loud, fast-paced, stressful, and its a constant story-problem that needs to be solved. When I jump in a river and start casting, my daily life stops. All is quiet, blood pressure drops, tension releases, and a calm sets in. It's a great escape from life. This is what I was hoping to share with the participants by donating my flies. I'm sure the participants have been thru situations that I can't and don't want to imagine. And some are starting their lives over in a new body due to injuries.

I don't believe fly fishing is going to solve the world's problems and bring about peace on earth, an end to hunger, and a cure to all diseases. For a moment, we might experience it if everyone on the earth collectively jumped in a stream, river, lake, pond, sea or ocean at the same time. And with the participants, I don't believe fly fishing is going to solve anything that might be wrong in their lives, but it will give them an escape, if only for a few hours. Worth it, I'd say.

So, I was given a list of patterns to choose from and asked to tie 100 of the pattern of my choice, and have them done for the Tie-a-Thon in March. Easy enough – tie a couple dozen a week and I'll be done before I know it. I'm not much of a fan of dries, and I know that my hand cramps up after dubbing too much as required for the nymphs on the list, so I decided on the Mickey Finn: an easy, productive streamer...my favorite style of fishing!

I decided to try to get to know my new friend Mickey Finn a little better, seeing we were going to be spending a lot of time together. Who invented you? How old are you? How did you get your name? I went to my ultimate source for flies and streamer information and history – Joseph Bates. I did a quick search thru Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing and that's where I found Mickey Finn. Turns out, Mickey Finn is really old with no recorded birth date, and according to Bates (and an internet search), no one is credited with his creation. Mickey Finn also wasn't his original given name – it's all a stage name. The given name was Yellow and Red Bucktail due to the yellow and red bucktail used to tie the fly – jpretty boring. Turns out, Mickey Finn was made a star back in the 1920's, when a writer from New York went fishing up in Canada and was introduced to the fly by his guide. The writer had a phenomenal day of fishing, and was less than impressed with the name of such a productive fly. The guide and writer decided it was their duty to come up with a name that did more justice for the fly. For a short time, they settled on the name Assassin. But then, a newspaper article on Rudolf Valentino changed lil' ol' Mickey Finn's life forever. Turns out the article was attributing poisoning to Mr. Valentino's early demise. At this time, there was a bartender famous for poisoning his customers who complained about their service, food, or were lousy tippers. If you got on his bad side, he would drug your drink and invite you into his backroom, which was really the back alley, have his goons beat you senseless, and then steal all of your money. The name of the bartender – Mr. Michael Finn, aka Mickey. Now you know the history of the Mickey Finn, and the phrase 'slip you a Mickey'.

On a side note, November 2011, SJRVFT announced their Tie-a-Thon was supporting Casting for Recovery, an organization I've volunteered for a number of years and have experienced first-hand what a few hours on the water can do. I took on a much simpler pattern – the soft hackle – and alas, ran out of time to get acquainted. I encourage you to take the challenge and tie 100 flies and share whatever is fly fishing does for you. Look for an email from the Flygirls around November.





As long as everything goes ok, the Flygirls should be returning to the Garden River once again in September 2013 (our 2012 trip has been filled for a while now). Based on an old email I found in my fly tying stuff, this should officially be our 11 year anniversary on the Garden, although, Ann and I have been debating this for the past couple of years.

So, now that the economy is recovering (maybe?), consider joining us. The Lake Huron salmon fishery is getting stronger compared to years past. The trip should be around \$1,000 which includes 3 days of guided fishing, 4 nights lodging, and lunch and dinner for 4 days. The beauty of the Garden River is the solitude and ability to catch salmon on a floating line or streamer – no slinging heavy lead and bouncing bottom! And, there are rods and reels available if you need to borrow equipment.

For an insider's view (Ann's) on fishing the Garden River, visit the online magazine A Tight Loop (<http://atightloop.com/July2012.html>). Ann's article (with Jon Ray photos) begins on pg. 34. There are lots of photos and discussions from last year's trip (2011) on our Facebook page. Not on FB? Find us by searching "Flygirls of Michigan" in the "groups" section.

If you'd like more information or would like to reserve spot for 2013, email me at [matukajenn@yahoo.com](mailto:matukajenn@yahoo.com).

