

Flygirls History 1996-2021

1996

In late fall of 1995 Sue Hull, Dorothy Schramm, Sherry Shore, Ann Miller and Marlene Osborn agreed to explore developing a Michigan based organization to bring women into the sport of fly fishing. We crafted a survey that was sent to women from lists from Ann Miller and Dorothy Schramm's Fly fishing classes, fly shops and Michigan fly fishing clubs. An overwhelming enthusiastic response indicated that such an organization was needed and the women hoped it would provide education, networking and opportunities to share the sport at different destinations. The survey asked for suggestions as to what we would call it and two suggestions from far corners of the state suggested Flygirls.

Upon receiving survey results, Ann Miller hosted an incorporation meeting at her home in Stevensville, MI. The meeting was held on a Saturday in February during a brutal snowstorm. Planners at that meeting were Dorothy Schramm, Sherry Shore, Marlene Osborn, and Ann Miller. Sue Hull started off to join us and had to backtrack due to bad weather. Initially, we planned that we would be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that would be a women's fly fishing 'network'. We came up with our mission statement that day, 'providing women with opportunities in educational, recreational, and stewardship opportunities in the sport of fly fishing.' We knew right away that we would not discriminate on any basis, including gender, but our focus would be on getting women into the sport. Our initial board of directors was: Dorothy Schramm, President; Sherry Shore, President-elect; Marlene Osborn, Secretary; Ann Miller, Treasurer/Newsletter Editor; Sue Hull, Director. They bylaws were written/adapted by Jim Schramm.

Within 6 months we had a board shake-up due to a personal reasons/family move. Kathy Smart came on as Secretary and Gina Lyons as Director.

Our first year we coordinated fishing outings on the Muskegon and Pere Marquette River, casting and fly tying clinics, and a rod building workshop.

Our first newsletter was mailed to women who had been involved in fly fishing workshops put on by Dorothy and Ann. We asked for ideas for a name for our group. Flygirls was submitted and was immediately accepted by the board. We then asked our group for ideas for a logo. Susan Rumsey used a turkey quill dipped in ink to write out 'Flygirls' in script while Grainger Sanden submitted the 'female sign' with the fly. We liked them both and decided to merge them together for our logo.

We received donations from a couple of Great Lakes Council clubs, including the Red Cedar Fly Fishers and the Flint Muddler Minnows as well as M. Chance Fly Fishing.

We started selling hats with our logo as our first fundraising effort and we were off and running!

1997

Board:

President: Dorothy Schramm

Secretary: Kathy Smart

Treasurer/Newsletter Editor: Ann Miller

President-elect: Sherry Shore

Executive director: Lindsay Korth

Directors: Gina Lyons, Mary Sherzer, Jennifer Bandurski, Sue Fries, Sharon Champion, Carol Rob, Carol Garlinghouse.

Our board meeting was held at the historic Wellston Inn. We boasted **150 members** and had a cash balance of \$1124.95. We began new fundraising endeavors including t-shirts with our logo. Ann devised and trademarked Bug Boards, interactive life cycle boards with artificial flies which were sold for fundraising. Julie Nielsen tied flies for the Bug Boards.

Events:

Winter Retreat - Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI

Muskegon River - Trout Outing

Panfish Outing - Lansing, MI

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Wellston, MI

Miscellany:

Ann Miller and Nancy Lounds both gave birth to baby girls (Aiden and Kellie).

Sherry Shore received the GLC Award of Excellence.

Dorothy Schramm and Ray Schmidt received the Lefty Kreh Award at the FFF Conclave.

Sue Halblom received the Woman of the Year Award at the FFF Conclave.

Ann Miller published an essay in Michigan Seasons, entitled *Under the Weather*.

The FFF conclave is held in Grand Rapids, MI and Flygirls directs a Women's Fly Fishing workshop on the Muskegon River.

1998

Board:

President: Kathy Smart

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer/Newsletter Editor: Ann Miller

President-elect: Ann Miller

Executive director: Lindsay Korth

Communications: Nancy Lounds

Directors: Gina Lyons, Mary Sherzer, Jennifer Bandurski, Sue Fries, Carol Rob, Terry Blask, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen, Sherry Shore

Our **membership** has grown to **210** while our checking account has grown to \$1875.27.

Events:

Winter Retreat - Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI

Fly Tying Bees: Dennis Potter, Sue Fries

“On the Mend” - cancer recovery/fly fishing workshop with Carol Garlinghouse

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Panfish Outing - Lansing, MI

Smallmouth Bass Outing - Pentwater, MI

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Wellston, MI

Miscellany:

Trips organized and executed - Costa Rica with members Sherry Shore and Adrienne Rudich. Montana Fly Fishing School with Maggie Merrimen - Flygirls attending include Dorothy Schramm, Anna Gall, Claudia Alexander, Rosanna Laude, and Joan English.

Dorothy Schramm is awarded “Woman of the Year” at the FFF Conclave.

Ellen Beyerlein is crowned Trout Queen at National Trout Festival in Kalkaska, MI.

1999

Board:

President: Kathy Smart

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Ann Miller

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Executive director: Lindsay Korth

Directors: Gina Lyons, Mary Sherzer, Jennifer Bandurski, Sue Fries, Carol Rob, Terry Blask, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen

Events:

Fly Bees led by Julie Nielsen; Dennis Potter; Lindsay Korth; Sue Fries; Sue Hull

Bass Outing - Pentwater, MI

Wakeley Lake & Hex Hatch Outing - Grayling, MI

Muskegon River Outing - Newaygo, MI

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Paradise Cove - Wellston, MI

Miscellany:

Flygirls team with Lansing Chapter of TU for local stream improvements. Victor Edwards sponsors the Trout Bum BBQ (which becomes legend).

The FFF Conclave is held in Gatlinburg, TN; Ann Miller interviews Joan Wulff for Midwest Flyfishing magazine.

Jeff "Bear" Andrews receives the Buzz Busek Fly Tying Award at the FFF Conclave.

Lory Warfield becomes Michigan's only licensed fly fishing guide and opens her own online apparel shop, Streamside Woman.

Ann Miller crowned Trout Queen at the National Trout Festival, Kalkaska, MI

Donations:

\$1000 Casting for Recovery

\$100 Tie-a-thon

\$1100

2000

Board:

President: Kathy Smart

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Ann Miller

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Executive director: Lindsay Korth

Directors: Gina Lyons, Mary Sherzer, Jennifer Bandurski, Sue Fries, Carol Rob, Terry Blask, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen

Events:

Fly Bees led by Julie Nielsen; Dennis Burck; Dorothy Schramm

Bass Outing - Pentwater Lake

GLC Conclave

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing

Muskegon River Trout Outing

Salmon/Steelhead Outing (Paradise Cove - Wellston, MI)

Miscellany:

We are now selling hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and Bug Boards for fundraising. Ann Miller travels to Ambergris Caye in Belize with Ray Schmidt/Schmidt Outfitters.

Donations:

\$1000 Casting for Recovery

[total donations to date: **\$2100**]

2001

Board:

President: Kathy Smart

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Ann Miller

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Executive director: Lindsay Korth

Directors: Gina Lyons, Sue Hull, Corinne Merrill, Sue Fries, Tina Straw, Terry Blask, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen

Members are approximately **250**.

Events:

Fly Bees led by Julie Nielsen; Tina Straw

Winter Retreat - Berrien Springs, MI

Michigan Fly Fishing Show - Southfield, MI

Bass Outing - Pentwater, MI

GLC Conclave - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Paradise Cove - Wellston, MI

Fly Tying Expo - Lansing, MI

Miscellany:

At this winter retreat we held classes in fly tying, jewelry making, knots and rigging, entomology, fly casting, aromatherapy, reflexology, fishing in Yellowstone, creative memories.

Joan English takes on world travel, trekking to both New Zealand and Montana this year.

The GLC launches the Fly Tying Expo and several Flygirls help to implement the startup.

Casting guru Bruce Richards teaches an intermediate/advanced casting clinic to 17 Flygirls.

The Flygirls Board commits to taking members to the next level so that the entire board can help with fly fishing education. "Train the Trainers" is formulated by the board and implemented by Ann Miller, initiated by Bruce's first casting class.

Our website is launched: www.flygirls.ws by website designer Annette Weathers. Many members have wondered why we chose the '.ws' (which stands for website). The reality is that .com, .org, .net were all taken - and still are. Annette ran the website for many years before she launched a restaurant in Ypsilanti.

The FFF awards Flygirls with the McKenzie Cup for its outstanding contributions - only one club in the country wins each year. Pretty terrific for a club that is only 5 years old!

Monies raised this year are used to purchase 5 rod/reel sets for club use and 6 fly tying vises/tool kits for teaching.

2002

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Tina Straw

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Executive director: Kathy Smart

Directors: Sue Hull, Corinne Merrill, Sue Fries, Terry Blask, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen, Kim Clark, Lindsay Korth, Jenn Nelson

Events:

Fly Bees led by Julie Nielsen, Dennis Potter, Jeff 'Bear' Andrews (held a weekend 'tie-inn')

Winter Retreat - Howell Nature Center, Howell MI

Spring Casting & Entomology Tune-ups

MFFC Show - Southfield, MI

Bass Outing - Pentwater Lake

Train the Trainers Program - northern MI

Wakeley Lake & Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

GLC Fly Fishing School - Roscommon, MI

Muskegon River Outing - Newaygo, MI

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Serenity Cove, Irons, MI

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

The Board commits to significantly upgrading our donations (up to 20%) of our 'budget'.

Train the Trainers is held in June over 3 1/2 days for board training with the intent to increase and hone skills which in turn will be shared with other members and enable all board members to respond to the multitude of teaching requests. Flygirls this year taught at YWCA Camp Cavell, Eborsole Environmental Center, Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Chippewa Nature Center, Schrems Chapter TU, Fairwinds Girl Scout Council, GLC School, Orvis Royal Oak.

Trout Queen this year is Kim Clark, who joins the ranks of other crowned Flygirls, including Ann Miller, Ellen Beyerlein, Dorothy Schramm, and Sharon Champion.

Travels: Jenn Nelson gets around to Oak Orchard, NY with famed Jim Teeny; Bow River in Alberta with guide Dave Brown; and to the Elk River in British Columbia with Ann Miller. Adrienne Rudich travels to the Missouri River in MT. Additional FG trips to Slough Creek, MT and the UP.

Flygirls and Bug Boards™ become part of a permanent exhibit at Michigan State University fish hatchery.

Donations:

\$925 - YWCA Camp Cavell for fly fishing equipment

\$1000 - Girl Scout Council - scholarship fund

\$750 - Casting for Recovery

\$2675 (**\$4775 to date**)

2003

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Tina Straw

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Executive director: Kathy Smart

Directors: Sue Hull, Corinne Merrill, Sue Fries, Terry Blask, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen, Kim Clark, Lindsay Korth, Jenn Nelson

277 members

Events:

Winter retreat - Howell (with Nancy Washburne, famed woman that swims/snorkels with fish)

MFFC Show - Southfield, MI

Casting & Entomology Tuneups/clinics

Bass Outing - Pentwater, MI

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake & Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

Brown trout on Da Escanaba - Escanaba, MI

Muskegon River trout outing - Newaygo, MI

Slough Creek Horseback Trip, MT

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Serenity Cove, Irons, MI

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

Winter retreat classes include science of bugs, fly tying, 2-fly rigs, fly casting, knots, writing seminar, blue jean tote, fishing journal, bead/fish necklace, embossed card making.

Julie Nielsen receives the Contributing Artisan Achievement Award from the GLC.

Flygirls goes to an Online Data Management system.

Julie Nielsen and Dennis Potter begin work on a Flygirls Fly Plate.

Wright and McGill give Flygirls a licensing fee of \$5000 for the use of our name in their newly launched line of women's fly fishing equipment.

This year Flygirls taught at Eagle Village (residential teen center for troubled youth), Becoming an Outdoor Woman (two locations), Kalamazoo Nature Center, Chippewa Nature Center, GLC School.

Travels: Ann Miller, Jenn Nelson, and GERALD Monfils head to the Garden River in Ontario with Hawkins Outfitters.

Donations:

\$100 Native American Defense Fund

\$100 Au Sable River Grayling Runoff

\$100 All Fish, All Waters

\$100 International Fly Fishing Center

\$250 Casting for Recovery

\$100 Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$750 (**\$5525 to date**)

2004

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Tina Straw

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Executive director: Kathy Smart

Directors: Sue Hull, Corinne Merrill, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen, Kim Clark, Jenn Nelson, Kathy Grantz, GERALYN Monfils, Kris Nichols, Inge Schrey

298 members

Events:

Fly Bees: led by Nancy Lounds, Wolf/Inge Schrey, Dennis Potter

Winter Retreat - Howell Nature Center, Howell MI

MFFC Show - moves to Warren MI

Bass Outing - Pentwater Lake

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

Flygirls 2-fish Contest - Grayling, MI

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - ?x? where

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

Travels: Flygirls return to Garden River.

Our online data base management goes live! We also begin plans for making the newsletter electronic.

Flygirls begins plans for our first 'Beginners Fly Fishing School - for Women, taught by Women'.

Teaching requests from: Eagle Village, GLC School, Girl Scouts, Becoming an Outdoors Woman.

Flygirls sends a set of Bug Boards to Joan Wulff to use in her fly fishing classroom.

Donations:

\$100 - FFF Discovery Center - Lewis & Clark Project

\$100 - DNR night vision goggles

\$500 - Reeling and Healing

\$100 - Casting for Recovery

\$370 - Eagle Village

\$1170 (**\$6695 to date**)

2005

Board:

President: Jenn Nelson

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Tina Straw

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Past President: Ann Miller

Executive director: Kathy Smart

Directors: Sue Hull, Corinne Merrill, Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen, Kim Clark, Kathy Grantz,

Geralyn Monfils, Kris Nichols, Inge Schrey, Joan English

??? members

Events:

Fly Bees led by Wolf/Inge Schrey, Dorothy Schramm, Sue Hull, Dennis Potter

Winter Retreat - Kettunen Center, Tustin MI

MFFC Show - Warren MI

Beginners Fly Fishing School - Grayling

GLC School

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing

Flygirls 2-fish Contest

Muskegon River Trout Outing

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Little Mary's, Wellston MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

Our online Bulletin Board is established (pre-Facebook era) - great idea but not all that successful. However, the online system has been useful for members making changes in their personal data. Newsletter is sent electronically, reducing costs and saving trees.

The first Fly Fishing school was a great success and netted Flygirls just over \$1000.

As we approach our 10 year mark, the board begins discussions on our future: what do members want, directions to take for the next 10 years. Planning committee established.

Teaching requests: Girl Scouts, GLC School, Eagle Village.

Donations:

\$200 - FFF

\$300 - Native Defense Fund

\$300 - Reeling and Healing

\$300 - Casting for Recovery

\$375 - Eagle Village

\$1475 (**\$8170 to date**)

2006

Board:

President: Jenn Nelson

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Tina Straw

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Past President: Ann Miller

Member-at-Large: Kathy Smart

Directors: Nancy Sikkenga, Julie Nielsen, GERALYN Monfils, Kris Nichols, Inge Schrey, Joan English, Mandy Hetfield, Colleen Jenkins

332 members

Events:

Winter Retreat - Kettunen Center, Tustin MI

MFFC Show - Warren MI

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Bass Outing - Pentwater, MI

Beginners Fly Fishing School - Grayling, MI

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

Flygirls 2-fish Contest- Grayling, MI

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Bass Outing - Traverse City area

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Little Mary's, Wellston MI

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

Flygirls turns 10 years old! A fine celebration is held in Wellston, MI at the Community Center. Raffle prize is a bamboo rod won by Dennis Potter.

We purchased a data projector for use with program presentations. A 'No-Pets' policy is enacted at Flygirls events. Plans are made for a 'policy and procedures' manual - Dorothy Schramm agrees to take this on. We also purchased 4 salmon/steelhead rod/reels for club use.

Travels: Several Flygirls went to Patagonia on a trip put together by Victor Edwards and Southern Cross Outfitters (now Andes Outfitters). The group consisted of Ann Miller, Dorothy Schramm, Joan English, GERALYN Monfils, and Trish DeMarzo.

Donations:

\$300 - Native Defense Fund

\$300 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$500 - Reeling and Healing

\$100 - Reeling and Healing - Midwest

\$100 - Casting for Recovery

\$500 - Camp Cavell

\$200 - Pere Marquette Watershed Council

\$2000 (**\$10,170 to date**)

2007

Board:

President: Tina Straw

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Kris Nichols

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Past President: Jenn Nelson

Member-at-Large: Ann Miller

Directors: Joyce Burby, Julie Nielsen, Kate Clark, Inge Schrey, Joan English, Mandy Hetfield, Colleen Jenkins, Dennis Potter, Fran Hocking, Karen Harrison

270 Members

Events:

Fly Bees: Julie Nielsen

Winter Retreat -

Great Waters Expo - Itasca, IL

MFFC Show - Warren MI

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Beginners Fly Fishing School

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Bass Outing - Traverse City area

Au Sable River Clean Up

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Little Mary's, Wellston MI

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

This year's raffle prize was donated by Wasatch Tying Tools and is a complete set of 32 hand made fly tying too in a custom carved and painted box. Ann Miller wins it!

Many Flygirls travel to Montana this year!

Donations:

\$500 - Native Defense Fund

\$500 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$500 - Reeling and Healing

\$100 - Reeling and Healing - Midwest

\$100 - Casting for Recovery

\$1000 - Girl Scout Camp - Fairwinds Council

\$2700 (**\$12,870 to date**)

2008

Board:

President: Tina Straw

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Kris Nichols

Newsletter Editor/Communications: Nancy Lounds

Past President: Jenn Nelson

Member-at-Large: Ann Miller

Directors: Joyce Burby, Julie Nielsen, Kate Clark, Mandy Hetfield, Colleen Jenkins, Dennis Potter, Fran Hocking, Karen Harrison

Events:

Fly Bees: Julie Nielsen

Winter Retreat - Howell, MI

Great Rivers Fly Fishing Show - IL

MFFC Show - Warren MI

Casting Clinics

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing - Grayling, MI

Intermediate Fly Fishing School - Grayling, MI

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

One-Fly Contest - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Bass Outing - Traverse City area

Au Sable River Clean Up

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Salmon/Steelhead Outing - Irons, MI

Fly Tying Expo - Mason, MI

Miscellany:

The raffle item this year is a bamboo rod, reel, and line donated by Dennis Potter and is won by Pam Davis.

Because of the length of meetings, we decide to go to 2 meetings/year, fall and spring.

Travels: Several Flygirls trek to the Catskills Mountains and to Montana.

Flygirl Jim Haeck officially 'donates' half of his artwork to Flygirls in his will! (the other half goes to the Pine River Chapter of TU).

Donations:

\$500 - Native Defense Fund

\$500 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$100 - Reeling and Healing

\$100 - Reeling and Healing - Midwest

\$500 - Casting for Recovery

\$1000 - Girl Scout Camp - Fairwinds Council

\$2700 (**\$15,570 to date**)

2009

Board:

President: Tina Straw

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Kris Nichols

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Colleen Jenkins

Past President: Jenn Nelson

Member-at-Large: Ann Miller

Directors: Julie Nielsen, Kate Clark, Mandy Hetfield, Dennis Potter, Fran Hocking, Karen Harrison

Events:

Fly Bees:

Winter Retreat - Howell, MI

MFFC Show - Warren MI

Casting Clinics

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing - Grayling, MI

Beginners Fly Fishing School - Grayling, MI

GLC School -Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

One-Fly Contest - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Trout Outing - Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fly Tying Expo - Holt, MI

Miscellany:

The raffle item this year is the Flygirl Fly Plate - years in the making!

Fran Hocking convinces us to get a better looking booth exhibit and wow, it's awesome! We look good at shows now.

Flygirls completes the legal trademarking of its name/logo.

Donations:

\$200 - Huron Pines

\$1000 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$500 - Reeling and Healing

\$100 - Reeling and Healing - Midwest

\$500 - Casting for Recovery - MI

\$100 - Anglers of the Au Sable

\$2400 (**\$17,970 to date**)

2010

Board:

President: Tina Straw

Secretary: Dorothy Schramm

Treasurer: Kris Nichols

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Colleen Jenkins

Past President: Jenn Nelson

Member-at-Large: Ann Miller

Directors: Julie Nielsen, Kate Clark, Mandy Hetfield, Dennis Potter, Fran Hocking, Karen Harrison, Kris Nelson, Sarah VanDelfzijl, Sandy Hellmann, Viola Wilson

Events:

Winter Retreat - Howell, MI

MFFC Show - Warren MI

Casting Clinics

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing - Grayling, MI

Beginners Fly Fishing School - Grayling, MI

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Wakeley Lake/Hex Outing - Grayling, MI

One-Fly Contest - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Hex Fly fishing Frenzy - Grayling, MI

Muskegon River Trout Outing - Newaygo, MI

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Trout Outing - Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fly Tying Expo - Holt, MI

Miscellany:

The raffle this year is 25 dozen flies tied by Dennis Potter that can be used ANYWHERE!!

Rusty Gates, proprietor of Gates Au Sable Lodge/Fly Shop and river keeper dies after a battle with cancer.

Donations:

\$1000 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$1000 - Reeling and Healing

\$500 - Casting for Recovery

\$2500 (**\$20,470 to date**)

2011

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Nancy Lounds

Treasurer: Sarah VanDelfzijl

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Colleen Jenkins

Past President: Tina Straw

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Kate Clark, Dennis Potter, Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Kris Nichols, Karen Harrison,

Kris Nelson, Sandy Hellmann, Viola Wilson, Sandy Hellmann, Laura Stockwell

357 members

Events:

Fly Bees: Julie Nielsen, Dennis Potter

Winter Retreat - Sherman Lake YMCA, Augusta, MI

Fly Tying School - Grand Rapids, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Casting Clinics

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing - Grayling, MI

GLC School, Roscommon, MI

Huron River Bass Outing

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Trout Outing - Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fly Tying Expo - Holt, MI

Donations:

\$1000 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$100 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$1100 (**\$21,570 to date**)

2012

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Nancy Lounds

Treasurer: Sarah VanDelfzijl

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Colleen Jenkins

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Jenn Nelson, Sandy Hellmann, Viola Wilson, Laura Stockwell, Belinda Friis, Mary Pearce, Julie Capra

232 members

Events:

Fly Bees: Dennis Potter

Winter Retreat - Sherman Lake YMCA, Augusta, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Casting Clinics

Steelhead/Trout Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing - Grayling, MI

Beginner's Fly Fishing School - Grayling, MI

GLC School -Roscommon, MI

Grayling Fishing Frenzy - Grayling, MI

Huron River Bass Outing

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Trout Outing - Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fly Tying Expo - Holt, MI

Miscellany:

The raffle item this year is 'First Fish' by artist Bob White - it is a framed first print and was donated by Lynn Roose.

Ann Miller receives the Lew Jewett Award from the IFFF for her contributions to fly fishing.

Flygirls newsletters are now strictly electronic. A Facebook closed group has been created by Sarah VanD and is becoming more popular. Laura Stockwell has created a new website.

Donations:

\$1000 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$400 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$500 - Kids Kamp (to be held at Schmidt Outfitters)

\$400 - Huron Pines

\$500 - Reeling and Heeling

\$200 - Catskills Museum

\$3000 (**\$24,570 to date**)

2013

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Nancy Lounds

Treasurer: Sarah Ehinger

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Belinda Friis

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Jenn Nelson, Laura Stockwell, Mary Pearce, Julie Capra, Chris Reese

253 members

Events:

Winter Retreat - Sherman Lake YMCA, Augusta, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Ultimate Sports Show - Grand Rapids, MI

Casting Clinics

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Family Fishing Fair - Plainwell, MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

Beyond Beginner's Fly Fishing School, FNBOC, Grayling MI

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Grayling Fishing Frenzy/Wakeley Lake - Grayling, MI

Smallmouth Float - Flint River - Schultz Outfitters

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Trout Outing - Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fall Steelhead Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Fly Tying Expo - Holt, MI

Miscellany:

Duane McKenzie builds us a bamboo rod to be used as a donation. Fly donations by various tyers to Jenison High School Club and also to the Tyathon. Kalamazoo Valley Trout Unlimited loans us four 5-wgt trout rod/reel combos for teaching use. We now own 10 teaching rods and 4 salmon outfits. We have lots of tying material, fly tying kits, and a data projector. We plan to store all equipment now with Nancy Lounds in Grand Rapids for central availability.

Donations:

\$1000 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$500 - Huron Pines

\$500 - Casting for Recovery

\$2500 (**\$27,070 to date**)

2014

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Chris Reese

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Belinda Friis

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Laura Stockwell, Mary Pearce, Julie Capra, Sarah Ehinger

Events:

Winter Retreat - Hankerd Inn, Pleasant Lake, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Fly Tying School, Grand Rapids, MI

Ultimate Sports Show - Grand Rapids, MI

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Driftless Region - Wisconsin

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Smallmouth Float - Flint River - Schultz Outfitters

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Trout Outing - Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI

Garden River Trip - Hawkins Outfitters

Fall Steelhead Outing - Schmidt Outfitters, Wellston, MI

Fly Tying Expo - Lansing, MI

Miscellany:

Dorothy Schramm receives the Arnold Gingrich Memorial Life Award from the IFFF for her contributions to fly fishing. Her husband, Jim Schramm, is honored by American Rivers as a River Champion.

Flygirls transitions to MailChimp for our electronic contact with membership. We have created a new postcard and business card for 'spreading the word' about our club. Postcards have a QR code that scanned directs the user to our website.

Our fly tying kits and vises are upgraded.

We can now accept payment with credit cards via Square technology.

Donations:

\$1000 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$400 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$500 - Huron Pines

\$500 - Reeling and Heeling

\$300 - Upper Manistee River Association

\$2700 (**\$29,770 to date**)

2015

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Chris Reese

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Belinda Friis

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Julie Capra, Sarah Ehinger, Deb Freele, Christina Pellerano, Lisa Paisley, Joy Lind

254 members

Events:

Winter Retreat - Hankerd Inn, Pleasant Lake, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Ultimate Sports Show - Grand Rapids, MI

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing - Grayling MI

Beginning Fly Fishing School - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Camping/Fishing - Pere Marquette River

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Smallmouth Outing - Coyote Crossings/Hawkins Outfitters

Smallmouth Float - Flint River - Schultz Outfitters

Au Sable River Clean Up

Fall Outing - Schmidt Outfitters

Fly Tying Expo - Lansing, MI

Miscellany:

This was a difficult year for Flygirls: longtime member and director Joan English died from complications due to ALS. Lou Burhart passed away from complications from cancer. Lou and his buddies attended several fall outing raffles, winning some goodies as well as donating some memorable fly collections, handmade nets and fly boxes. Friend and supporter Oscar Feliu passed away after a sudden heart attack while hunting in upstate New York.

This year's raffle includes a float trip donated by Kevin Feenstra, hand made net by Sam Lacina, wooden fly box by Lou Burhart and hand tied flies by Oscar Feliu.

Donations:

\$500 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition

\$500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$500 - Huron Pines

\$500 - Reeling and Heeling Midwest

\$500 - Pere Marquette Watershed Council

\$500 - Cast for Recovery - Michigan

\$500 - Au Sable River Watershed Committee

\$500 - Anglers of the Au Sable

\$4000 (**\$33,770 to date**)

2016

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Chris Reese

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Belinda Friis

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Julie Capra, Sarah Ehinger, Deb Freele, Lisa Paisley, Joy Lind

257 members

Events:

Winter Retreat - Hankerd Inn, Pleasant Lake, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Ultimate Sports Show - Grand Rapids, MI

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

Camping/Fishing - Pere Marquette River

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Lake Fishing - Joan English Memorial Event - Grayling, MI

Smallmouth Outing - Coyote Crossings/Hawkins Outfitters

Learn to Spey Cast

Au Sable River Clean Up

20th Anniversary Event - Rockwell Lake Lodge, Luther MI

Miscellany:

Lots of excitement and activities are underway for the 20th Anniversary Celebration!
Duane McKenzie donates a beautiful bamboo rod for our raffle again.

Donations:

\$5000 - Anglers of the Au Sable

\$1000 - Casting for Recovery

\$ 500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$ 500 - Huron Pines

\$ 500 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing

\$7500 (**\$41,270 to date**)

2017

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Chris Reese

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Belinda Friis

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Kelly Smith, Donna Smith, Julie Capra, Sarah Ehinger, Deb Freele, Lisa Paisley, Joy Lind, Mary Fox, Mary Lou Rogala

246 members

Events:

Winter Retreat - Turkey Lodge at Barothy's, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

Camping/Fishing - Traverse area, flats and rivers

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Lake Fishing - Joan English Memorial Event - Grayling, MI

Au Sable River Clean Up

Annual meeting and Steelhead fishing - D-Loop, Wellston, MI

Miscellany:

In addition to all of the fishing and teaching events, Flygirls is becoming more active with tying and donating flies to the Tie-a-thon. Long term board members Chris Reese, Kelly Smith, and Belinda Friis will step down after this year. A credit card has been secured for the strict usage of website/hosting payment.

Donations:

\$ 500 - Anglers of the Au Sable

\$1000 - Casting for Recover/Michigan

\$ 500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$ 500 - Huron Pines

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\$2500 (**\$43,770 to date**)

2018

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Lisa Paisley

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Belinda Friis

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Kelly Smith, Deb Freele, Joy Lind, Mary Fox, Mary Lou Rogala, Michelle Yelovina

289 members

Events:

Great Lakes Fly Fishing Show (GLC)

Schultz Tie-a-thon - Ypsilanti, MI

Winter Retreat - Barothy Lodge, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Spring Steelhead event - Muskegon River/Feenstra Guide Service

Intro to Fly Fishing

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Beaver Island Carp and Smallmouth

Boardman River Outing - Ranch Rudolph

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

Camping/Fishing - Traverse area, flats and rivers

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Lake Fishing - Joan English Memorial Event - Grayling, MI

Casting for Recovery - volunteers needed on Sunday

Au Sable River Clean Up

Annual meeting and trout fishing - Gates Lodge

Fall Steelhead

Miscellany:

A successful one-day (6 hours) fly fishing school was held at May Fox's home association pond and pavilion. Lunch was ordered and delivered by Jimmy Johns. Tie-a-thon continues to draw new tyers and volunteers, including a group on the SE side of the state. Mary Fox takes over as Merchandise Chair from Kelly Smith. We obtain a new trademark attorney Robin Asher of Miller Canfield (Detroit, MI).

Donations:

\$1000 - Casting for Recovery/Michigan

\$ 500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$ 500 - Huron Pines

\$ 500 - Michigan Hydro Relicensing

\$2500 (**\$46,270 to date**)

2019

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Lisa Paisley

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Mary Lou Rogala

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Deb Freele, Joy Lind, Mary Fox, Michelle Yelovina, Gayle Yerge-Cole, Sheila Bergdoll, Lindy Ihrman

267 members

Events:

Schultz Tie-a-thon - Ypsilanti, MI

Winter Retreat - Barothy Lodge, MI

MFFC Show - Warren, MI

Spring Steelhead event - Muskegon River/Feenstra Guide Service

Intro to Fly Fishing

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Beaver Island Carp and Smallmouth

Boardman River Outing - Ranch Rudolph

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

Camping/Fishing - Traverse area, flats and rivers

GLC School - Roscommon, MI

Lake Fishing - Joan English Memorial Event - Grayling, MI

Casting for Recovery - volunteers needed on Sunday

Au Sable River Clean Up

Annual meeting and trout fishing - Gates Lodge

Great Lakes Fly Fishing Show

Miscellany:

We receive donations of fly tying materials from Inge Schrey and Judy Schmidke, artwork from Jim Haeck and Bear Andrews, and two hats from Peri Griffiths, wife of George Griffiths of Trout Unlimited. Another successful one-day fly fishing school was hosted on the SE side. Flygirls member Katherine Hammons passed away; a donation of \$500 was made by Bernadette Harkness to establish a scholarship fund. The Mayfly Project is getting established in Michigan and is looking for volunteers. Volunteers helped at Fisheries Day at DNR Adventure Center in Detroit.

Donations:

\$1000 - Casting for Recovery/Michigan

\$ 500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$ 500 - Huron Pines

\$ 500 - Grayling Hatchery (now an education center)

\$2500 (**\$46,270 to date**)

2020

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Lisa Paisley

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Mary Lou Rogala

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Deb Freele, Joy Lind, Mary Fox, Michelle Yelovina, Gayle Yerge-Cole, Sheila Bergdoll, Lindy Ihrman

278 members

Miscellany:

All of the events of 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic and spread of Covid-19. Many members join in Zoom calls with prominent speakers. Saturday morning fly tying with Tim Scott and Ann Miller is popular during winter months via Zoom technology. Progress was made on our trademark defense. First attorney only patented the logo, not the name. Now our name is patented well. Trademark renewal must occur every 10 years. Donations of artwork from Jim Haeck and magnifier/light sets from Paul Blanch of Alert Stamping. Dennis Potter donated fly tying materials. We have an Orvis Helios-3 Rod and Mirage IV reel for fundraising. Hopeful plans are underway for the 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2021.

Donations:

Due to no fundraising activities, no donations were made.

Total funds donated thus far: \$46,270.

2021

Board:

President: Ann Miller

Secretary: Lisa Paisley

Treasurer: Jenn Nelson

VP Education: Nancy Lounds

VP Communications: Mary Lou Rogala

Member-at-Large: Dorothy Schramm

Directors: Colleen Jenkins, Deb Freele, Joy Lind, Mary Fox, Michelle Yelovina, Gayle Yerge-Cole, Sheila Bergdoll, Lindy Ihrman

236 members

Events:

Spring Steelhead event - Muskegon River/Feenstra Guide Service

Trout Opener - Fullers North Branch Outing Club, Grayling MI

Wa Wa Sum Trout Outing, Grayling MI

Camping/Fishing - Traverse area, flats and rivers

Lake Fishing - Joan English Memorial Event - Grayling, MI

Casting for Recovery - volunteers needed on Sunday

Au Sable River Clean Up

25th Anniversary Celebration - Rockwell Lake Lodge

Steelhead event - Pere Marquette River Lodge

Miscellany:

Founders Brewery awarded us a grant of \$1000; committee established to determine how to administer and grow scholarship funds (also to go with Katherine Hammons funds). Flygirls rolled \$10,000 CD into bank account as it was no longer bringing in any income. After many years, Jenn Nelson is stepping away from being Treasurer; job will be taken on by Nancy Lounds. Flygirls will organize online Saturday morning fly tying classes beginning in January, 2022 and lasting into April; students will be asked to enroll for a nominal fee and all materials and hooks will be shipped in advance.

Donations:

\$1500 - Casting for Recovery/Michigan

\$ 800 - Mayfly Project - Michigan

\$1500 - Conservation Resource Alliance

\$ 500 - Huron Pines

\$ 700 - Lovells Fly Fishing Museum

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\$3000 (**\$49,270 to date**)