



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

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/166505544798>

From the President by Ann Miller

Inside this issue:

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Flygirls is a 100% Fly Fishers International club

Spring is such a frustrating and promising season. Too much rain, not enough rain, snow... no! Damp, cold, mid-80s, more snow... stop! We Midwesterners are used to this seasonal tease and know that we have to just be patient: before long, orange cones will announce the arrival of construction.

In the meantime, trout season is here! It's time to clean up from fly tying season and get fly boxes, vest, pack, and other gear ready. Here are two tips that I've adopted from good friends and am passing along. The first is from Jenn Nelson: always carry a plastic grocery bag to pick up trash that inadvertently gets left behind. The second is from Dorothy Schramm: put your emergency contact info on a copy of your fishing license and put it in a Ziploc bag (or laminate it) in your vest. If you have multiple vests/packs for trout, steelhead, or panfish, put a copy in each bag. This one is from me: put your name and phone number on your fly boxes—in the event you drop one, a good angler will make sure you get it back.



May in Michigan is such an exceptional month: besides the anticipated mayfly hatches we also get to hunt for morels. After years of hunting under elms, white pines, fruit trees, dead trees, and other prime habitats, I started to search more in grassy lots, waste areas, and drainages to waterways and wetlands. Holy cow don't tell anyone, but that's where I find them! I predict that this will be a banner morel mushroom year with all of the rainfall we've had so far. I hope you also find success this season.

Flygirls has some outings coming up this spring and summer, including the Hendrickson Outing at Fullers (currently full but watch for openings on our Facebook page in the event of a cancellation), a camping trip, and a panfish trip. Look for detailed information in this newsletter. The Casting for Recovery retreat usually needs river helpers on Sunday, August 28th. If you would like to help with this, contact me at info@flygirls.ws. It is a very rewarding experience for both students and mentors.

We will be rebuilding our website in the next couple of weeks/months. If you have photos or articles that you think might be helpful on the website, feel free to share those. As always, if you would like to be involved with the club, perhaps helping with an outing, please contact me at [info@flygirls.ws](mailto:info@flygirls.ws) or any of the board members.

Enjoy your month of May and I hope to see you on the river this year!

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Event	Location	Cost	Date	Contact
Winter Retreat	Pere Marquette River Lodge Baldwin, MI	\$200	<b>CANCELLED</b>	Sheila Bergdoll sbergdoll@msn.com
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo	Warren, MI	Volunteers Needed	March 12 – 13	Lisa Paisley lmpaisley@yahoo.com
Spring Steelhead with Feenstra Guide Service	Gerber Guest House Fremont, MI	\$415	April 1 – 3	Susan Sears sstefano.54@gmail.com
Southeast Tie-a-Thon	TBD	Volunteers Needed	<b>CANCELLED</b>	Lisa Paisley lmpaisley@yahoo.com
Fullers Hendrickson Trout Outing	Fullers NBOC Lovells, MI	\$210	May 20 – 22	Joy Lind Joy@spectero.net
Wa Wa Sum	Wa Wa Sum Grayling Twp, MI	\$225	<b>CANCELLED</b>	Colleen Jenkins crowjenkins@comcast.net
Camping Trip	Northern Exposure Campground	TBD	June 10 – 12	Karen Kleinheksel K2edits@gmail.com
DNR Fisheries Day	DNR Adventure Center Detroit, MI	Volunteers Needed	June 25	Jenn Nelson Matukajenn@yahoo.com
Grayling Panfish and Au Sable Trout	Old Au Sable Fly Shop Grayling, MI	\$85	July 22-24	Lisa Paisley lmpaisley@yahoo.com
Casting for Recovery	Barothy Lodge WalHalla, MI	Volunteers Needed	August 28 8am-3pm	Ann Miller AnnRMiller@aol.com
Au Sable River Clean-up	Gates Au Sable Lodge Grayling, MI	Volunteers Needed	Sept 10	Mindy Barricklow-Vesoulis sweetmindylee@gmail.com
Fall Fishing Event	TBD	TBD	TBD	Michelle Yelovina kcyel@msn.com
Fall Steelhead Outing	Pere Marquette River Lodge Baldwin, MI	TBD	TBD	Lindy Ihrman lindy.ihrman@gmail.com

**BY PROVIDING A DEPOSIT YOU ARE COMMITTING TO AN EVENT. IF YOU CANCEL, YOUR DEPOSIT MAY BE FORFEITED IF YOU OR FLYGIRLS CANNOT FIND ANOTHER PARTICIPANT FOR THE EVENT.**

## Camping Outing June 10—12

This year we will be camping at a new location! The dates are June 10-12, 2022, at Northern Exposure Campground in Mesick, MI. [www.northernexposureinc.com](http://www.northernexposureinc.com)



The campground is right on the Hodenpyle Pond (Manistee River). I camped there last fall to check it out, and it's a beautiful campground, with large sites and lots of trees. The sites I have reserved (91-94) are close to the water - perfect for our kayaks. There is a boat launch, too, if you are bringing a boat. Species include bluegill, walleye, bass, pike, catfish & sunfish.

For wading, it is a short drive to fish the Manistee River. I will have more info on that, and maps, too.

Each campsite has water and electricity (a request made by White Cloud campers tired of roughing it). Each site will accommodate two camping units, i.e., one trailer and a tent, or two tents (but not two trailers). The cost per site is \$70 for the two nights. Each site comes with one vehicle pass, and additional vehicle passes are \$5.



I will figure out cost of meals later - dividing cost for Friday and Saturday dinners, and potluck for breakfasts, lunch on your own.



**Please email me ASAP, Karen Kleinheksel at [kkleinheksel@yahoo.com](mailto:kkleinheksel@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot.**

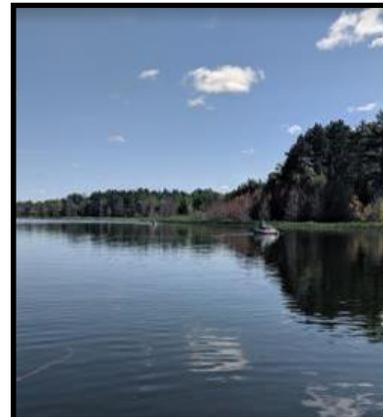
Please also let me know what you'll be camping in (ie camper, tent, car).

## Panfish Outing July 22—24th

We'll be in Grayling to fish KP Lake for bass and bluegills (Saturday) and Wakeley Lake (Sunday) over the weekend of July 22 – 24th. Expect to fish the Au Sable for browns on Friday and Saturday nights.

We are switching it up a bit and heading to KP Lake on Saturday. We can park our cars and unload our gear right next to the access point! KP Lake is easier to get to than Wakeley, as you move directly from parking lot to a gravelly lake bed at the access point. KP Lake

is a small, long, thin lake, located near Jones Lake campground and Fullers.



The launch area of Wakeley Lake was improved a year or two ago, and the submerge concrete sections provide a firm area in the soft bottom at the launch.

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We have two nights lodging at the Old Au Sable Fly Shop from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning. The cost is

\$85 for two nights lodging, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast. Plan for pocket money for lunch or dinners out. A few Grayling area Flygirls have suggestions for dinner and may join in. If you prefer to camp - Keystone and Hartwick Pines are popular places. If you're not staying with us, let me know by July 19th if you're going to join us at just for Friday night dinner (\$5) or just for Saturday lunch (\$5).

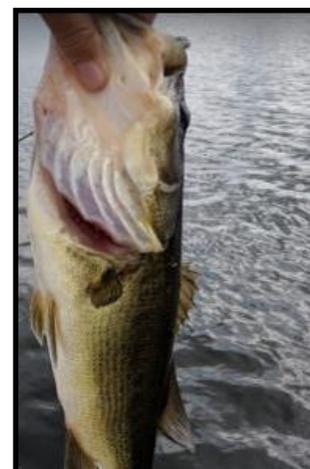


We can carpool from Old Au Sable to the lake.

KP Lake requires a Michigan Recreational passport (available when renewing your driver's license, or at the DNR). I recommend it as local lakes and access areas for the Au Sable River require it.

We typically split up on Sunday morning – either checking out Grayling or fishing a favorite spot. I plan to head to Wakeley Lake on Sunday, and all are welcome to join me there. Wakeley Lake is located 1/3 of a mile from the parking. We will use wagons to transport our gear.

Hope you can join us at the Old Au Sable Lodge! Contact Lisa Paisley, [lpaisley@yahoo.com](mailto:lpaisley@yahoo.com) to secure your spot with a \$45 deposit.



## Midwest Fly Fishing Recap *by Lisa Paisley*



Don Mills opening the event

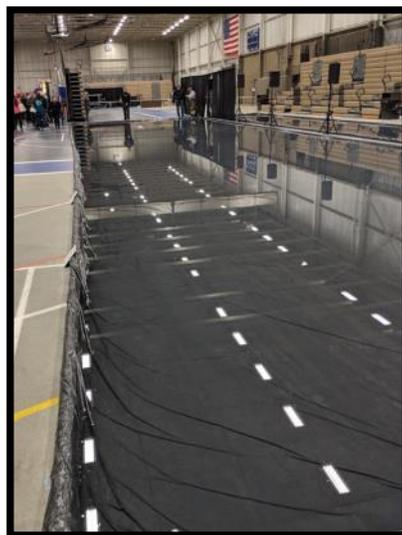
It was wonderful to see the return of the annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo with 80 vendors participating. The Expo has been the major fundraiser for the MFFC and has allowed them to many projects over the years. There was a respectable turnout after 2 years, and so nice to see so many Flygirls attend.

It was great to see and hear Don Mills each morning at the opening as he played the bagpipes while walking through the venue. There were many seminars, including nymphing and spey casting. Headliners included: Jason Randall, Whitney Gould, Devin Olsen and Ed Engle.



Flygirls booth

It's important that we participate in the Expo as it is "THE" event for fly fishing and is an opportunity for so many to learn about Flygirls - the fun we have and the good work we do. Each year several new members join at the Expo.



Two 100-ft Casting Ponds

Raffle ticket sales were solid at \$5 for a float trip with Feenstra's Guide Service. April Tsang's son drew the winning ticket. We were thrilled that Flygirl Jen Klabunde won the float trip. Thanks to booth volunteers: Collen Jenkins, Belinda Friis, Jen Klabunde, Joy Lind, Alys Constantino and April Tang. I had a lot of fun and hope you did too.

Many of our volunteers are also members of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club and did double duty volunteering both for Flygirls and for MFFC. At a recent MFFC meeting I learned that the MFFC has secured the same Macomb Community College venue for the next 3 years.

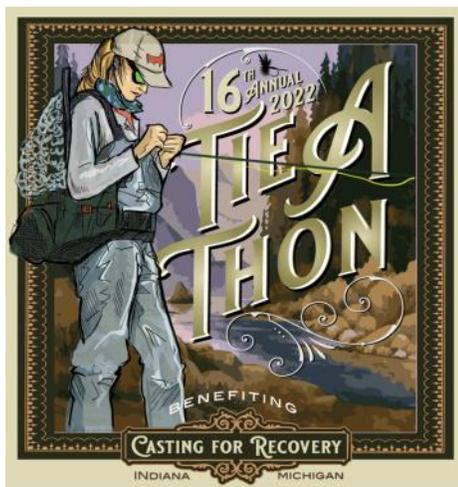
The Expo is always a great opportunity to attend a seminar, try out a rod on the 100-foot indoor casting pond, buy some new equipment, or try on new gear.

Every year I plan out several purchases to support our sponsors. I encourage you to do the same. Looking forward to next year!



Kids painting the casts and stamping the t-shirts

## Tie-a-thon 16 Wraps Up by Ann Miller



The 16th Annual Tie-a-thon was wrapped up on April 23rd at the Elkhart Conservation Club in Indiana. About 40 people gathered to finish flies, socialize, and enjoy a fabulous gourmet lunch. Nearly 35,000 flies were pledged to this year's event and about 31,000 were in house and are pictured here. The flies will be donated to Casting for Recovery Indiana and Michigan for use at future retreats for women recovering from breast cancer.

Representatives from CfR Indiana and Michigan were on hand to enjoy the day and receive the flies. Co-coordinator Karen O'Briant commented, "I'm

blown away by the effort and generosity of the strangers and friends in the fly tying community." Karen will be helping Sandy Thomley with the Michigan CfR event this year.

This year's flies were donated in the memory of long time fly tyer Bob Smith. Bob and Mary Smith founded CfR Indiana in 2003 and have been organizing 2-3 retreats per year. Bob passed away this past year and Mary has since passed the reins to Tracy and Wayne Woods. She and other organizers, Barbara Simpson and Penny Myers, are carrying on and/or assisting with new retreats in Indiana. Bob will be missed, but his spirit was certainly present at the event.



Multiple individuals from Flygirls have contributed over the years to the Tie-a-thon and this year was no exception. Thanks to all of you that took the time to make a difference. The flies were truly outstanding. (It's not too late to get your flies in either!)

This year the Tie-a-thon became a 501(c)3. As a non-profit, TAT soon begin to fundraise to offset the cost of T-shirts and their mailing. Donations (and flies) are welcome and can be mailed to: Tie-a-thon, 711 Forest Avenue, South Bend, IN 46616.



## Huron Pines *by Chris Engle*

### Huron Pines managing invasive species on the North Branch Au Sable River

At Huron Pines, our focus on healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities is rooted in our belief that the land, water and people of Northern Michigan have an equally important role in protecting our most precious wild places. The Au Sable River is a perfect example of a celebrated resource supported by the land that surrounds it and the people who love it.

In August 2021, Huron Pines joined a group of enthusiastic volunteers with the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation for two days of invasive species treatment. Volunteers worked with members of our Restoration Team hand-pulling purple loosestrife or clipping and bagging its purple blossoms, effectively keeping this prolific invasive species from going to seed.

This was the third consecutive year we've partnered with the foundation on this stretch of river between Lovells and its confluence with the Main Branch, and the impacts of that work are starting to show.

"There was a noticeable reduction in the presence of purple loosestrife there this year which was really rewarding to see," said Shelby Bauer, Stewardship Program Coordinator for Huron Pines.

The conservation nonprofit organization will be leading volunteer invasive-species removal days this summer and fall around Northeastern Lower Michigan. You can keep up with volunteer opportunities on our social media channels or by signing up for our eNews at [huronpines.org](http://huronpines.org).

### Reconnecting the Black River

Huron Pines will soon replace two problematic road/stream crossings within the Upper Black River Watershed, a renowned brook trout fishery in Northern Michigan.



The existing crossing of the Black River at Sparr Road consists of two pipe culverts that are severely undersized for the stream, causing a choke point in the river and contributing to erosion and seasonal flooding. Huron Pines will install a much larger bottomless arch culvert to reconnect that stretch of river.

The crossing at Sparr Road consists of twin pipe culverts that are severely undersized for the stream. This choke point causes water to flood over the road surface during high-water events. Fast water exiting the culverts on the downstream side contributes to erosion and sediment input into the stream, and prevents fish from accessing upstream habitat.

HURON PINES CONTINUED

“The Black River Watershed is one of the best brook trout fisheries in Northern Michigan and perhaps the world,” said Josh Leisen, Senior Project Manager for Huron Pines. “It’s a high priority for natural resource agencies like ours to make sure this fishery remains healthy well into the future. Having a well-connected river is really important for brook trout.”



An undersized and perched culvert on a tributary of the Black River at Johnson's Crossing will be replaced with a larger culvert to allow trout to access upstream habitat.

Huron Pines is working with the Otsego County Road Commission to replace these pipe culverts with one larger bottomless arch culvert that will allow adequate space for water to flow and for fish to move freely through the crossing. Another culvert on a small tributary stream at nearby Johnsons Crossing Road will also be replaced with a larger structure to address similar issues. Both projects are slated for late 2022 or 2023.

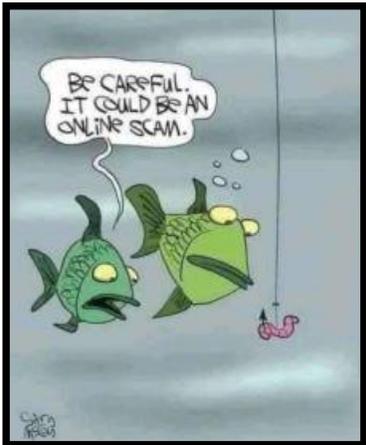
Funding comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes Program.

In 2020, Huron Pines replaced an undersized crossing of the East Branch Black River at County Road 622, known as the Shingle Mill crossing. A 27-foot bottomless arch culvert was installed at that site, reconnecting 20 miles of upstream spawning and refuge habitat and addressing long standing issues with spring flooding.

*Huron Pines is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1973 to conserve and enhance Northern Michigan’s natural resources to ensure healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities. With offices in Gaylord and Alpena, Huron Pines improves economic, environmental, educational and recreational opportunities throughout Northern Michigan. To learn more, visit [huronpines.org](http://huronpines.org).*



Huron Pines installed a bottomless arch culvert over the East Branch Black River in 2020, reconnecting 20 miles of upstream habitat. A similar project is slated for the Black



## ATTENTION:

If you have a story you would like to share about a Flygirl experience or how/why you started to fly fish, sent it to Lou Rogala at [mrogala07@gmail.com](mailto:mrogala07@gmail.com).

### Fly Fishing Clubs in Your Area

Flygirls! There are many regional fly fishing clubs that meet monthly or bimonthly that you might want to check out. Many offer fly tying classes or even casting classes. Here are a few that you might want to consider. This is by NO MEANS a comprehensive list and we hope to grow it with subsequent newsletters (so send us your submissions if a club you frequent is not listed!).

Michigan Fly Fishing Club: <https://mffc.org/news> Offers speaker/presentations as well as activity nights. Meets in Livonia.

Red Cedar Fly Fishers: <http://redcedarflyfishers.org> Monthly meetings on the campus of Michigan State University.

West Michigan Hacklers: <https://www.facebook.com/westmichiganhacklers> Primarily a fly tying club, meets bimonthly at Crystal Valley Township Hall (Pentwater area).

Michigan Trout Unlimited: <https://www.michigantu.org/> Select the Michigan Chapters tab to find a chapter near you.

### Membership Info:

To become a Flygirl you must first be a member of Fly Fishers International. To join FFI, go to the website [flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org) and click on the link at the top of their page to JOIN. You will be issued a card in the US Mail with your FFI# that is needed to join Flygirls. Sign on to the Flygirls website and provide your personal contact information there. There is no cost to join Flygirls after you have paid to be a member of FFI.

### Flygirls Policy on Event Deposits:

When Flygirls runs an event it often has to commit to lodging and/or guides well in advance of the event and make down payments toward the final cost. We then ask for deposits when you sign up for an event. In the event you decide to cancel your attendance at an event, your deposit will only be returned to you if you or Flygirls is able to secure another participant for the event.