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# Tippets, Tapers & Tales

December 1, 2011

## President's Message

*Greetings from the President:*

I just returned from the FFF-Great Lakes Council's 12th Annual Fly Tying Expo that was held at Holt High School. By all appearances, it was another resounding success. There were approximately 20 vendors, 65 fly tying exhibitors (including some very well-known names), and several hundred attendees. Once again, I was able to watch the various masters tie up-close-and-personal, listen to their advice, and get my many questions answered. I think I learned something new from every single one of them. What a great venue - it has to be one of the best in the country, if not the best!

Special thanks to all RCFF members who helped with the setup and cleanup for the event, as well as to those of you who stuck around throughout the

day on Saturday to keep things running smoothly and help with the fund raising auctions and raffles. An annual event this big would not be nearly as successful as it is without the hard work and dedication of all of you who donated your time and efforts. Thanks everyone - job well done!

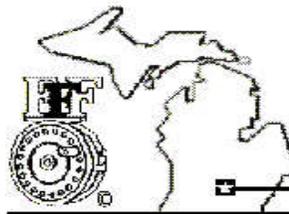
Well, it's hard to believe it is December already. And it's hard to believe it has been two years this month since the passing of Rusty Gates of Gates Au Sable Lodge. He was a true icon and extraordinary river steward for the beautiful Au Sable River. For the past two summers, I've really missed chatting with him in the fly shop at the lodge, and receiving his expert advice on where to fish and what flies to use on any given day. I'm sure he had his secret fishing holes at various locations on the Au Sable River system, but he always took



genuine pleasure in sharing his seemingly limitless knowledge with anyone, from novice to pro, and helping them to have greater success and enjoyment in the many aspects of the great sport of fly fishing.

As many of you know, Gates Lodge is currently owned and operated by Rusty's longtime friend and former employee Josh Greenberg. It's great to see that Josh is continuing to operate the facility in the same time-honored traditions that were established decades ago by the Gates family. Little, if anything, has changed. The lodge still bears the "Gates Au Sable Lodge" name.

*Continued on Page 2.*



## RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

*Okemos, Michigan*

**1981 McKenzie Cup Winners**

**The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers.**

**It's purpose is to promote fly-fishing through Education, Restoration and Conservation**

## President's Message Continued

The sign out front still continues to proclaim the same corny Rustyisms that change throughout the season ("Why Worry About Sex - The River Has Hex!" is one that I recall). The rooms are still quaint, clean, and comfortable and the lodge's Hungry Fisherman dining room still provides a great breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The fly shop remains the premier morning hangout for fly fishers to listen to yesterday's fishing reports and plan the day ahead. And in honor of Rusty's love of classical music, Mozart continues to be heard in the background. The sport of fly fishing is so full of history and tradition that it is only right that the Gates family traditions, enjoyed for generations, continue to be maintained on the banks of the Holy Waters.

The weekly fishing reports that Josh provides on the Gates Lodge website have indicated that the post-season trout fishing on the open sections of the Au Sable has been very good. I spoke with him at the Fly Tying Expo, and he said that

both streamer and indicator fishing have remained very productive through the entire fall season. He was really enjoying having additional waters to fish this year, with the recent changes in Michigan fishing regulations.

Terry Greiner, Jim Robie, and I did some steelhead fishing on the Pere Marquette River a few Saturdays ago. We took our one-man inflatable pontoon boats and fished the section from Green Cottage to Gleason's Landing. We fished hard, from about 9:00 a.m. to dusk, in 41 degree water and air temperatures just a tad cooler than that. Terry managed to land a single small brown trout, but Jim and I were totally skunked for the entire day. No steelhead between the three of us. With the heavy fishing pressure and endless parade of drift boats, the fish must have been hunkered down and lying pretty low. Everyone we spoke with that day was also experiencing very little, if any, action.

## By: Mark Noel

After reading Josh's reports and talking with him about the success that he and others are having with off-season trout fishing on the Au Sable, it makes me wish that Terry, Jim, and I would have headed up there instead of spending that Saturday prospecting for steel on the PM!

*Support Your Local Fly Shop!*

Mark

*On a sad note, not long after I completed this President's Message, I found out that charter club member John Wylie had passed away. Not only was John a founding member of the Red Cedars, he was a longtime and very active member of the FFF-Great Lakes Council and the Anglers of the Au Sable. The next time that you are enjoying a peaceful, serene moment somewhere on the Au Sable, think of John and tip your hat to him for his diligent efforts to keep it that way. A very nice tribute to John was written by Karen Harrison and it is included later in this newsletter.-M.N.*

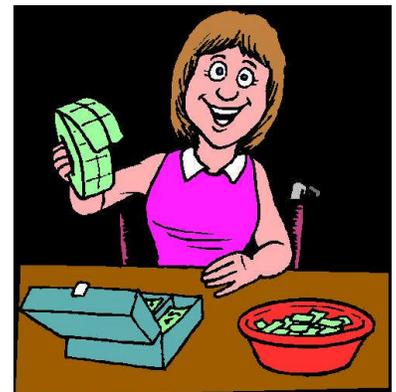


## Annual Banquet and Fundraiser

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers Annual Banquet and Fund Raiser has been scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012, at The Brookshire Inn. The board has decided to move this back into the spring to see if we can get better attendance at the banquet this year. The move will hopefully allow for better weather the night of the banquet and allow many of those members that go south for the winter to be able to attend. It will also give us more time to promote and sell tickets to the banquet as well as solicit donations for our

auctions and raffles. Tickets should be available soon after the first of the year, I would think, but go ahead and mark this on your calendar now so you don't miss, this always fun event.

## By: Mark Johnson

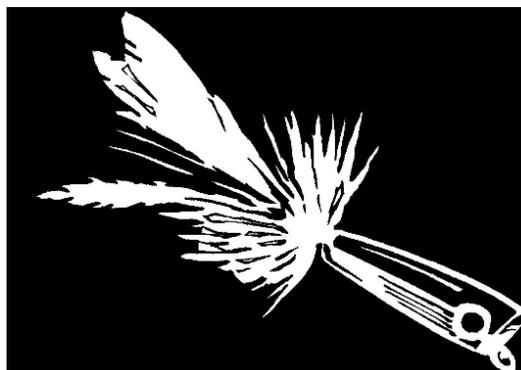


## GLC Fly Expo Wrap up

By: Mark Johnson

It was another successful show for last weekends GLC Fly Expo at Holt High School. Although no final numbers are ready on the money raised for the GLC, it was obvious by the numbers of tyers, vendors and attendees there that this was a popular event. I would like to thank all the Red Cedar Members who were there over the weekend to help setup and take down for this event and the several who stayed all day to help with some aspect of the expo itself or stay and man the Red Cedar Club Booth for the

whole day. Without volunteers, events like this are difficult to pull off and your efforts are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank those that brought flies to the expo for the fly box we raffled off on Saturday at the Red Cedar Club Booth and a special thank you to Jim Buscetta who donated the fly box itself. I believe we raised somewhere in the neighborhood of \$125.00 for the club on the fly box raffle.



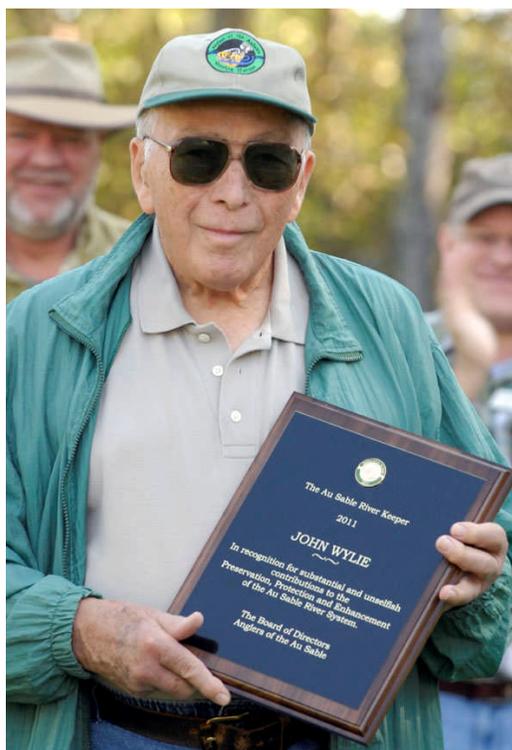
## Tribute to John Wylie

By: Karen Harrison

Generous, committed, thorough, capable, thoughtful. These all describe John Wylie, MD, who passed away on December 5th surrounded by his family. Born in China to parents who were medical missionaries, John received his medical education in California, came to Michigan and practiced at Ford Hospital in Detroit. Later he moved to the Lansing area, where he became the Chief of Surgery at Ingham Medical Center. He retired to the North Branch of the Au Sable in the late 80's, and worked tirelessly to improve the waters around Grayling and northern Michigan. He served on the Board of the Anglers of the Au Sable for 22 years. He was involved in multiple projects and was always a cheery face at River Clean-up. John was a person of few words, but those words were very meaningful. John received the River Keeper award from the Anglers in September of 2011 for his diligent and tireless effort in con-

servation of the rivers in Northern Michigan. John stated in private that this award was the highlight of his life for he didn't know that his efforts were so appreciated. John was the first treasurer for the Great Lakes Council (GLC) of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) when it was formed in 1980 with the split of the Midwest Council. He served as treasurer until 1993 but continued on the GLC Board as a Director until his passing. John also served as treasurer of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Council (MHRC) from 1992 until 2011. John was one of the founding members of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers in 1977. He was awarded the GLC Award of Excellence by FFF in 1983, the GLC Riverkeeper Award in 2000 and the GLC Harris Reel Achievement Award in 2002. John, and his wife Mary raised six children who frequently visited the North Branch, and enjoyed the environment that John worked so hard to protect.

Memorial service will be held at the Michelson Memorial Methodist Church, 400 E. Michigan Ave, Grayling, MI on Saturday, 17 December 2011 at 11 AM.



## December's Presentation

By: Darren Thornbrugh

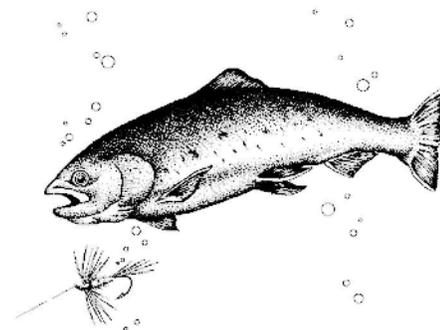
My doctoral research will compare the degree to which human land uses and natural landscape factors are related to changes in fish assemblages within Michigan and across different regions of the United States. Landscape variables like amount of forest, wetlands, agriculture, urbanization, and geology within a watershed play a large role in defining what quality of in-stream habitat and water quality (e.g., temperature) is available for fish and defines what fish communities (e.g. trout and salmon) can live in these streams.

The results of my research will be used to identify streams that should be protected based on vulnerability to future anthropogenic and cli-

mate change activities. These results will also suggest protection or restoration strategies based on threats or stressors to particular stream and river systems and how to preserve regional distinctiveness of these fish communities.

Michigan has a very economically valuable trout and salmon fishery. This fishery is here specifically because of stable, cold, streams heavily dependent on groundwater recharge. Trout are very sensitive to increases in turbidity or sedimentation caused by land use, land cover and climate change. Increase in agriculture, deforestation, draining of wetlands, increases in precipitation or other development in watersheds with valuable trout fisheries would put these fish-

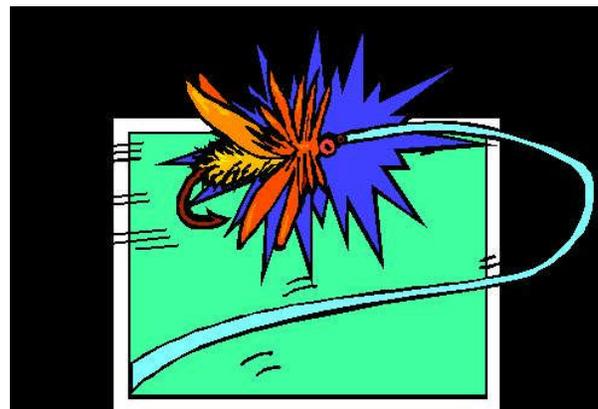
eries at high risk of being degraded or disappearing. This research will highlight specific areas and potential risks caused by human activities to Michigan's economically valuable trout and salmon fisheries.



## Sunday Fly Tying Nights

By: Mark Johnson

We will have our next Sunday Fly Tying Night on December 18th at 6:30pm at Piazzanos Restaurant in the basement banquet room. Plan on stopping by to tie a few flies or just socialize for awhile. We will have some extra vises and tools there if someone wants to try their hand at tying but doesn't have the necessary equipment. We usually meet for a couple of hours or so.



**RED CEDAR  
FLY FISHERS**

P.O. Box 129  
Okemos, MI 48805

[www.redcedarflyfishers.org](http://www.redcedarflyfishers.org)

Pictures from the recent Great Lakes Council Fly Expo at Holt High School taken by Bob Kren



**Refrigerator Reminders**

**December**

13th: RCFF Monthly Meeting,  
Social 7:00p.m., Business  
7:30p.m., Large Group Room,  
Chippewa Middle School.

18th: Sunday Fly Tying Night  
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. Piazzanos  
Restaurant basement banquet  
room.

**January**

10th: RCFF Monthly Meeting  
Social 7:00p.m., Business  
7:30p.m., Large Group Room,  
Chippewa Middle School

Sunday Fly Tying Nights to be  
listed in the January Newslet-  
ter.

