

GLC FLYLINE



Spring/Summer Issue www.fffglc.org April 2003

Publication of the Great Lakes Council / Federation of Fly Fishers

President's Column.

This issue contains the information for our GLC Fly Fishing School & Conclave held at the Ralph MacMullen Center on North Higgins Lake. This is a great event for the entire family and I urge everyone to consider attending. This event has something for everyone. We will not be making a direct mailing for this event and the only registration material and sweepstakes tickets you will receive in the mail are in this issue. We will be posting the information on our website. I encourage you to make copies of the registration material and sweepstakes tickets and share with other fly fishers or have them visit our website. The School is a great way to introduce fly fishers to the Federation. Note that we have added Conclave back to the name of the event. This is to let everyone know that they are welcome to come federate, fish, etc. and this event is more than just a school.

Also this issue contains information on the GLC's Awards Program. These awards are presented Saturday afternoon at the GLC Fly Fishing School & Conclave. This is an opportunity to recognize those individuals and organizations that have contributed the achievement of the Federation of Fly Fishers' goals and mission. Please send me your nominations.

There is also a action alert in this issue dealing with the nominations of the Pine River and Upper Manistee River for protection under the Michigan Natural Rivers Act. We need your help as there is opposition by uninformed and misguide individuals. Please take time to attend one of the public hearings if you can. As a minimum we need to have you send a e-mail to the MDNR.

The GLC Board of Directors meeting was held Sunday morning at the Southfield Civic Center during the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition. We had a good turnout by our directors the 2 ½ hour meeting was very productive. Our thanks to Michigan Fly Fishing Club for permitting us to have this meeting during their show. We had a busy two days at our booth during the show signing up new Federation members and answering questions about our activities.

The GLC with the help and support of several of our Ohio Clubs took on manning a booth at the Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show in Cleveland, Ohio from March 15 to 23. This was a big undertaking and big thanks to John Lincoln who was our chair for this event. Initial reports from John indicate that our efforts at this show were well received by the public and many new members were signed up for the Federation and our Ohio Clubs.

Plans are also under way for our 2 events this fall. The Steelhead Outing at Barothys Lodge on November 6-9, 2003 and the Fly Tying Expo on December 6, 2003. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend these great events.

Jim Schramm

The GLC FLYLINE is an official publication of the Great Lakes Council (GLC) of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), and is solely responsible for its content. Subscription is by membership in the FFF, the GLC FLYLINE is published four times yearly in February, April, September and November. Deadlines for submissions are six weeks prior to the first day of the publication month. We are interested in articles regarding your local club activities, conservation project, educational event, etc., as well as fictional articles. Articles should be sent to the Editor via E-mail, or sent on diskettes through the mail. Send all articles in MS Word, Word Perfect or Text formats, and all pictures in JPEG, TIFF, or PDF formats only. Do not send BMP files, photographs or typed sheets. Send to the Editor, Joe Valencic, at the roster address listed on page 11.

ACTION ALERT

A Call to River Users Statewide

The DNR has announced Public Hearings for the Pine and Upper Manistee to be considered as our 15th and 16th Natural Rivers. The only way that the DNR is going to consider this program is if the voices of the river's users are heard. The Natural River Program allows all the townships and counties in a river's watershed to manage new development favorably for the river. Through setbacks for new construction and vegetation buffers, we can help keep these rivers running cold, clean and full of wildlife. The Pine and Upper Manistee Rivers are excellent coldwater resources that are used by individuals all over the world. We can make a big difference by attending one of the public hearings to voice our support for this program. Go to page 9 of this issue or visit the GLC or MDNR Website for the schedule of public hearings. If you are unable to attend, send an e-mail to Steve Sutton, MDNR Natural River Program Manager suttonsl@michigan.gov, stating you support the designation. All e-mails should be sent during the public hearing period. Then they are considered a permanent part of the record and are forwarded on to Director Kool for him to make the decision to designate them as Natural Rivers

NATURAL RIVER FACT SHEET

- The Natural River District is 400 feet from the rivers edge on both sides of the river. This is NOT the setback for buildings, vegetation strips or septic systems.
- The building setback standards for the Pine River are:
 - 150 feet for building (100 feet on tributaries)
 - 50 feet from the crest of a bluff (25 feet on tributaries)
- These building standards are for new development only. All existing structures are grandfathered into the plan.
- The plan takes into account not all structures may meet the standards. A zoning variance may be requested from a local zoning review board.
- Local Review boards are composed of local individuals. Review boards have the following individuals:
 - 2 County Representatives
 - 1 local Township Representative
 - 1 Representative from the Soil & Conservation District
 - 1 Local DNR Official
 - 2 Citizens at large from the surrounding community
- The Vegetation buffer is 100 feet (50 feet on tributaries). This is NOT a no cut zone, there is cutting allowed for a filtered view of the river.
- Agriculture activities are allowed in the river district, not in the vegetation buffer. All existing agriculture activities are grandfathered into the plan.
- Docks may be constructed not to exceed 4 feet in width, no more than 12 feet long and no more than 4 feet out over the river.
- Stairways to the river are permitted.
- Additions and remodeling to existing structures not meeting the setback standards are allowed, as long as they occur landward of the river.
- Private property remains private. Landowners have the right to exclude trespassers.

**GREAT LAKES COUNCIL
FLY FISHING SCHOOL & CONCLAVE
June 13-15, 2003
JOIN US TO LEARN, HAVE FUN
AND FEDERATE**

The GLC FLY FISHING SCHOOL & CONCLAVE is held at the R.A. MacMullen Conference Center located on the north side of Higgins Lake near Roscommon and Grayling, Michigan. Adjacent to the Center is one of Michigan's most popular parks, N. Higgins Lake State Park.

Educational programs will be offered for aspiring fly anglers as well as those experienced in the sport. Simultaneous programs and workshops for beginners, intermediate and advance anglers will be offered Friday starting at 1:00 p.m. and all-day Saturday. Dennis Potter, Chis Helm and Jeff Andrews will be offering fly tying workshops Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. Details of their fly tying workshops will be posted on the GLC website as they become available. You are encouraged to bring your fly tying equipment or you can just come and watch. Other featured instructors include Bruce Richards, John VanDalen, Dorothy Schramm, John Breslin, Jon Ray, Steve Taylor, Steve Southard and members of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers and Flygirls.

Fishing opportunities in the area include not only the famous AuSable and Manistee River and their tributaries but also float tubing on nearby Wakely Lake, a catch and release lake with outstanding fishing for Bass, Bluegill, and even Northern Pike. A special program will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday on where to fish and to match you up with a fishing partner if you desire.

FFF Casting Certification will be available on Saturday. John VanDalen and Bruce Richards will head up the certification team. Cost is \$50 to take the test. Preregistration with National FFF is required with a limit of 6 participants. Contact the National FFF at (406)585-7592 for information and registration.

Fly tying demonstrations and federating along with the raffle & auction display will be ongoing in the Lower Education Building on Friday and Saturday. If you just want to fish and federate you are still invited to attend.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO ANYONE

LODGING accommodations are provided at the R.A. MacMullen Conference Center located at the north end of beautiful Higgins Lake, with sandy beaches and activities for the entire family. Adjacent to the MacMullen Center is the popular North Higgins Lake State Park which boasts shaded campsites and a sand beach. Other lodging is also available and information on private campgrounds and nearby motels will be provided upon request. Reservations for the MacMullen Center will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. Room rates are \$50 per night for shared accommodations or \$80 for a single. Special package rates are available (\$160 double occupancy and \$195 single occupancy) which includes registration, two nights lodging, all meals Friday evening through Sunday morning, the special luncheon and Saturday evening steak cookout. See the registration form for special rates for spouses and children. If you are not staying at the Center, you can still register for meals at the Center. **Advanced Registration for meals is required to be guaranteed availability.**

The GLC Annual Membership Meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m., Sunday, June 15, followed by the Annual Board of Director's Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings, with the key business being the election of directors and the coming year's officers.

For more information regarding the School, contact Jim Schramm (231) 869-5487, e-mail jdschramm@oceana.net or you can visit the GLC website www.fffglc.org

**FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS
GREAT LAKES COUNCIL
FLY FISHING SCHOOL**

Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center

Roscommon, Michigan

June 13-15, 2003

PROGRAM

Friday, June 13

12:00 p.m.	Registration	Upper Education
1:00-4:20 p.m.	Fly Tyers/Raffle & Auction Display	Lower Education
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Hospitality	Upper Education
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	Beach (Weather Permitting)

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

1:00-1:50 p.m.	“Assembling an Outfit” * U	Upper Education.
1:00-3:50 p.m.	“Fly Tying Workshop” with Dennis Potter, Chris Helm & Jeff Andrews (Bring your fly tying equipment or just come and watch)	“Straits” Bldg.
1:00-3:50 p.m.	“Fly Casting Instructors Workshop” **, Bruce Richards (For advanced casters) (Preregistration Required)	Main Building Lounge
1:00-3:50 p.m.	“Intermediate Spey Casting Workshop”,** John Breslin (Preregistration Required)	Dinning Room
2:00-3:50 p.m.	“Introduction to Fly Casting”** (Rods provided or bring your own)	North field across from Conference Center
2:00-2:50 p.m.	“Introduction to Warm Water Fly Fishing”*	Upper Education
3:00-3:50 p.m.	“Fishing Brown Drakes & Hexs”**	Upper Education
4:00-3:50 p.m.	“The HatchLine” (Report on current Fishing), Steve Southard	Upper Education

*Under 10 yrs must be accompanied by an adult

**Preregistration Required.

Saturday, June 14

7:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:30 a.m.	Registration	Upper Education
9:00-4:00 p.m.	Fly Tyers/Raffle & Auction Display	Lower Education
9:00-4:00 p.m.	FFF Casting Certification (Advance Registration Required)	Lake Superior
Noon	Lunch	Beach (weather permitting)
4:15-6:00 p.m.	GLC Hospitality	Upper Education.
4:15-6:00 p.m.	Awards, Auction & Sweepstake winners	Upper Education.
6:00-	Steak Cook-Out	Beach (weather permitting)

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

8:00-11:50 a.m	“On-stream Workshop, Tactics for Beginners”** Dorothy Schramm (Pre-registration Required) (Requires waders, flyrod & reel, and sunglasses)	Meet outside Dining Room
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8:00-11:50 a.m.	“On-stream Workshop, Nymph Fishing Tactics”** Jon Ray (Pre-registration Required) (Requires waders, flyrod & reel, and sunglasses)	Meet outside Dining Room
9:00-11:50 a.m.	“Fly Tying Workshop”* with Dennis Potter, Chris Helm & Jeff Andrews (Bring your fly tying equipment or just come and watch)	"Straits" Bldg.
9:00-11:50 a.m.	“Beginning Spey Casting Workshop”** John Breslin (Advanced Registration Required)	Dinning Room
9:00-9:50 a.m.	“Beginning Knots” *	Upper Education
10:00-10:50 a.m.	“Intermediate Knots and Rigging” *	Upper Education
10:00-11:50 a.m.	“Fly Casting Clinic”* (Active Participation) (Rods provided or bring your own)	North field across from Conference Center
11:00-11:50 a.m.	“Reading Trout Water and Fish Behavior”**	Upper Education
11:00-11:50 a.m.	“Advanced Fly Casting”, Bruce Richards	Lawn by “Straits” Bldg.
Noon	Lunch	Beach
1:00-3:50 p.m.	“Fly Tying Workshop”* with Dennis Potter, Chris Helm & Jeff Andrews (Bring your own fly tying equipment or just come and watch)	“Straits” Bldg.
1:00-3:50 p.m.	“Introduction to Fly Tying”**	Dinning Room
1:00-2:50 p.m.	“Introduction to Entomology”*Steve Taylor	Upper Education
3:00-3:50 p.m.	“Fly Fishing in County Donegal, Ireland”**, John Breslin	Upper Education
4:00-4:15 p.m.	Kelley Smith, Chief of Fisheries, MDNR	Upper Education.

Sunday, June 15

7:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:30 a.m.	GLC Annual Membership Meeting	"Straits" Bldg.

Salmon In The Classroom

Salmon in the Classroom is a program designed to help teach students about Fisheries, Stewardship, and Resource Management. The Great Lakes Council along with the Red Cedar Fly Fishers have joined forces with Mr. Daved Chapman to put this program in Okemos High School's Human Ecology course. Mr. Chapman has used grant money from the two organizations to purchase equipment for the program. The Michigan DNR has provided the fertilized eggs, the food, and the instructions necessary to raise the Salmon to be released into a river to be named later. The program has been a big hit with many of the students as they have counted, measured, charted growth and studied the progress of the fish. Mr. Chapman says; "Students who aren't even in the class have taken an interest in the program, stopping by to see what has been happening."

If you would like to see a program like this in your community we may have the help you need. You can contact me at (517) 694-7932 or E-mail JROSS53153@MSN.com

John Ross
Education V.P.

FFF & GREAT LAKES COUNCIL AWARDS

Each year the Executive Board of the Great Lakes Council reviews nominations for council awards and national FFF awards. The GLC awards criteria are contained in this article and the basic criteria for FFF awards are available on the Web (<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>). The deadline is May 20 for council awards to be submitted to Jim Schramm. We need to send FFF awards nominations to national by May 1, 2003. If you need more information concerning a particular award and to submit nominations, contact Jim Schramm.

Great Lakes Council Awards

The Order of the River Keeper. This is the Great Lakes Council's highest honor. It is reserved for those rare individuals whose constant contribution and sacrifice demonstrated the pinnacle of devotion to the council and the goals of the Federation of Fly Fishers. This is not an annual award.

Requirements:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
2. The nominee must have been active in Council affairs for a minimum of 5 years and have made outstanding contributions to its success.
3. The Council must have already exhausted all other ways of expressing its gratitude and as a minimum, the nominee must have already been the recipient of the Great Lakes Council Award of Excellence.
4. Nominees must be unanimously approved by the GLC Executive Board.

The GLC Achievement Award sponsored by the Harris Reel Company. This award recognizes anyone in the Great Lakes Council region who best represents that person who has made outstanding contributions to the goals of the GLC and the Federation of Fly Fishers in conserving, restoring, educating through fly fishing.

Requirements:

1. Person preferably, but not required to be a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
2. Contribution must be in agreement with the goals of the Federation of Fly Fishers and the Great Lakes Council: Conservation, Education and Restoration.
3. The nominee must be approved by a majority vote of the GLC Executive Board.

Council Award of Excellence. This is an annual award presented to those individuals in each council who have made outstanding contributions to the Federation at the local or regional level. The criteria is determined by each Council President and the award is given in the name of the Federation by each Council President at the Federation Awards Luncheon.

The Great Lakes Council Club Achievement Award. This award will be presented to a GLC affiliated club which has distinguished itself in the field of conservation, education, FFF improvement, fund raising, and Council participation.

Requirements:

1. The recipient club must be an FFF affiliated club in good standing.
2. The club must have distinguished itself in one of the areas listed above.
3. This is not necessarily an annual award. Past recipients will be ineligible for 5 years after receiving this award.
4. Nominees must receive a majority vote of the GLC Executive Board.

The Great Lakes Council Conservation Award. This award is presented in recognition of an individual, club, organization, agency, etc. that has made outstanding contributions toward the Council's fly fishing resource.

Requirements:

1. The recipient need not be affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.
2. The recipient must have made significant and noteworthy conservation efforts toward improving our fly fishing resources and/or helped preserve these resources for our posterity.

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3. The recipient must be approved by the Council Conservation VP and receive a majority vote of the GLC Executive Board.

Educator of the Year. The purpose of this award is to recognize those individuals who unselfishly donate their time and energies toward teaching others the sport of fly fishing and have made outstanding contributions toward this effort. While this award is intended to be annual, it should only be presented when it is warranted to preserve the integrity of the award.

Requirements:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing in the Federation of Fly Fishers.
2. The nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of education and have done so unselfishly in the purpose of promoting the sport of fly fishing without pay or gratuities.
3. The nominee must be approved by a majority vote of the GLC Executive Board.

The Contributing Artisans Achievement Award. This award is presented to a fly tyer, program presenter, writer, or other fly fishing related artisan who unselfishly shares with others their skills and love of the sport on behalf of the Federation of Fly Fishers, the Great Lakes Council, and/or member clubs.

Requirements:

1. The Artisan must be a member in good standing in the Federation of Fly Fishers.
2. The nominee must have contributed their time and talents on behalf of one or more Council affairs/publications for at least 3 consecutive years without pay or gratuity.
3. The nominee must be approved by a majority vote of the GLC Executive Board.

Bamboo Rod Raffle

Once again the Conservation Committee of the Great lakes Council is pleased to present the 3rd Annual Bamboo Rod Raffle. Over the past two years, fundraising for conservation projects has generated nearly \$2000.00 for stream habitat and water management improvements.

As many of us are aware, many water management programs are in place to improve the quality of our fishing experiences, through streamside erosion control, sand trap management, water quality control, and in river habitat improvements. However, financial resources are always a concern. This raffle is intended to promote water resource management by allowing the grand prize winner to hand select the conservation project that is deemed most important by donating the proceeds raised to that particular management agency. This could include the Michigan Fishing Resource Conservation Coalition, the Pere Marquette sand trap management project, Grayling storm water management project, F.E.R.C. and the South Branch Restoration project just to name a few. The choice will be yours.

The items raffled this year will be a handcrafted 8-0' 6wt bamboo fly rod donated by Brad Reynolds of the Hexfly Rod Co. This is his signature "Force" model complete with rod sock and tube; even guaranteed to be straight this year. Second place is a large net with a bug screen in the bag to trap insects for all the inspiring entomologists, and finally the third award is an F.F.F. fly box that has multiple flies that were donated by the featured fly tiers at the annual fly tying expo.

Consider purchasing as many tickets as you or your club can afford. This is an alternative way to promote the federations' objectives in conservation. If you wish to buy tickets, complete the registration form for to the GLC Summer Fly Fishing School and Conclave and return as indicated, for the raffle will be completed at this time. Thanks again good luck.

Registration form: GLC Summer Conclave, June 13-15, 2003

Name: _____

First name(s) as they should appear on badge(s)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Date Received _____

Special Packages

- Double occupancy \$160 (per person)*
 Double occupancy \$130 (spouse)*
 Double occupancy \$90 (per child)*
 Single occupancy \$195.00*
 * includes lodging, Meals & Registration
 Lodging: \$50 shared; \$80 single (per night)

Meals:

- Friday Dinner @ \$20.00
 Saturday Breakfast @ \$7.00
 Saturday Luncheon @ \$8.00
 Saturday Dinner @ \$20.00
 Sunday Breakfast @ \$7.00
 48 hour notice required for meals to be guaranteed

Registration:

- individual \$20; family \$30 (children under 12)
 youth (12-17) \$10
 Friday Only \$10
 Saturday Only \$15

Other:

- Fly Casting Instructors Workshop, Friday (\$15) (Limit 10)
 On Stream Workshop, Tactics for Beginners, Saturday (\$15) (Limit 6)
 On Stream Workshop, Nymph Fishing Tactics, Saturday (\$15) (Limit 6)
 Beginning Spey Casting Workshop, Saturday (\$15) (Limit 6)
 Intermediate Spey Casting Workshop, Friday (\$15) (Limit 6)
 Donation included for Sweepstakes Tickets
 Please send me ___ raffle tickets @ \$5 each for the Bamboo Rod Raffle

Total enclosed \$ _____. Make check payable to GLC-FFF and mail this form and payment to:

GLC Fly Fishing School, c/o Terry Greiner, 1570 Applecroft, Holt, MI 48854, (517)694-5358
 tlgreiner@attbi.com

2003 Pine and Upper Manistee River Public Hearing Schedule

Date	Location	Time
Monday April 28	Manistee, Manistee Co. Manistee High School Auditorium 525 12 th Street, Manistee, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 29	Baldwin, Lake Co. Hollister Senior Center 1505 Michigan Ave, Baldwin, MI	1-2pm Information Session 2-4pm Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 29	Reed City, Osceola Co. Reed City High School 225 W. Church Ave, Reed City, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Wednesday, April 30	Lake City, Missaukee Co. Lake City High School Auditorium 251 E. Russell St., Lake City, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Thursday, May 1	Kalkaska, Kalkaska Co. Kalkaska High School Auditorium 109 N. Birch St., Kalkaska, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Friday, May 2	Cadillac, Wexford Co. Senior High School Cafeteria 400 Linden St., Cadillac, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Saturday, May 3	Grayling, Crawford Co. Grayling Middle School Cafeteria 500 Spruce St., Grayling, MI	1-2pm Information Session 2-4pm Public Hearing
Monday, May 5	Bellaire, Antrim Co. Bellaire Senior Center 308 E. Cayuga St., Bellaire, MI	1-2pm Information Session 2-4pm Public Hearing
Monday, May 5	Gaylord, Otsego Co. Gaylord Intermediate School 240 4 th St., Gaylord, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Tuesday, May 6	Southfield, Oakland Co. Southfield High School Library 24661 Lahser Road, Southfield, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Wednesday, May 7	Grand Rapids, Kent Co. Central High School Auditorium 421 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing
Thursday, May 8	Lansing, Ingham Co. Okemos High School Kiva	6-7pm Information Session 7-9pm Public Hearing

North Coast Fly Fishers Cleaning Up In 2003!

For the third year in a row NCFF is spearheading river cleanup projects in Northeast Ohio. On May 10th they will be cleaning a suburban stretch of the Chagrin River from Willoughby downstream to Eastlake, and on May 17th they will clean the urban banks and streamsides of the Grand River in Painesville, Ohio. Both of these rivers are tremendous year round fisheries, and both see large runs of steelhead in the Spring & Fall.

Supporters this year include Grand River Tackle (3rd. Year), Chagrin River Salmon Assoc. (3rd. Year), Cities of Willoughby and Painesville (3rd Year), Lake County Engineer (1st Year) & Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District (1st Year). Target Construction Industries of Mentor, Ohio has sponsored lunch for all volunteers of both projects.

For more details visit NCFF's website at www.ncff.net.

INAUGURAL FLY-EXPO IN CLEVELAND BY NORTH COAST FLY FISHERS

On 1-25-03 the doors opened for the first Fly-Expo by the NCF. The location was very well chosen: The atrium of the Clarion hotel right off the freeway. It was easy to get to the expo with ample parking spaces. Furthermore, there was an excellent seafood restaurant right next to the hotel. How much more does one want? The well used parking lot was evidence of the great attendance of the show. Among several other clubs attending as visitors were the GLC and the Flygirls of Michigan. The show was extremely well organized and very well received by an enthusiastic public. As a matter of fact we were surprised to hear only positive comments by people who are obviously fly-fishers present and future "grand stretchers of the truth"!!! Many vendors tempted the Flyfishers to invest in new and additional supplies while the multitude of expert tiers demonstrated their skills and shared their knowledge with all of us in order to create those "sure to catch" trout and steelhead-flies. Don van Buren, Joe Valencic and their troop of many dedicated volunteers outdid themselves to make sure that this event was a perfect one. 1 1/2 hours after the official closing of the show the atrium was still full of visitors who just did not want to leave.

Thanks NCF for inviting us and we are already looking forward to the next show in 2004.

Wolf and Inge Schrey

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Attention FFF/GLC Members
Schmidt Outfitters will donate 5% of all purchases made by FFF/GLC Members to our Conservation Fund. Just let them know when you make a purchase.

River Care Benefits Jordan River

A partnership led by the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) of Traverse City, Michigan recently announced plans to replace the Pinney Bridge over the Jordan tributary Green River later this year. The bridge was one of more than 1,000 "bad actor" road crossings targeted for fixing under CRA's River Care program, an extensive fisheries habitat and watershed restoration initiative benefiting many of Michigan's finest coldwater streams. A grant from DTE Energy Foundation will help fund the repairs.

The dilapidated Pinney Bridge has long been a sore spot with conservationists and resource managers. Year after year tons of excess sand erodes from its approaches and embankments into the river. The bridge's partial collapse in recent years has jeopardized access to the popular Jordan Valley, including access needed to empty several large sand traps used to remove excess sand from the system. The new design, complete with timber deck, will manage drainage and surface sand, removing it before it enters the river, permanently eliminating the sediment problem.

CRA is a private, non-profit organization with a 35-year history of practical, on-the-ground habitat improvement on more than a dozen watersheds in northern Michigan, including premier rivers like the Pere Marquette, Little Manistee, Maple, Pine, and Big Manistee. To learn more or to become involved, visit CRA's website at www.rivercare.org.

Smallmouth Bass Alliance Michigan Chapter Startup

As your new V-P for membership assumes his duties, the first effort will entail the startup of a statewide organization to parallel efforts in several other states to help preserve and protect our vital smallmouth resource. This chapter will be a charter club of the GLC FFF, thus entailing 100% FFF membership. The communications will be run entirely by email to keep costs to a minimum. If you would like to participate, but do not use email, enlist a friend who does.

This startup is also being tentatively used as a Warmwater Committee of National FFF to gauge educational efforts to affect resource enhancement. These educational efforts will concentrate on educating the fishing public on the necessity of protecting nesting fish before and after the season opener and also the responsible catch and release of concentrated wintering fish.

We hope to establish a data base provided by our members thru an email system to see where most people are fishing and what they are catching in respect to method, size, etc. This system is not yet operational but you can email your address and comments to this address mismbal@voyager.net If you have an interest in smallmouth bass fishing and would like to help us get going let us know. We will notify all respondents with data sheets (email) and begin this experiment.

Paul W. Eberhart, V-P Membership

GLC Directors and Officers 2002-2003

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