

2012 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

"Featured Guest Tyers"



Alan "Al" Ritt grew up here in Michigan where his passion for fishing was born. In the early 80's while living in Northern California, just after he started tying flies, he started fly fishing. In 1989 he moved to Northern Front Range of Colorado (Longmont) where he and his wife Diana reside. He is currently on the Pro-staff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Tubeology, Diiachi Hooks, and a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. He is a member of Trout Unlimited, Life Member of FFF, Life Member of FFF Fly Tying Group, and on the FFF Fly Tying Group Board of Governors. Al is also a guide on Colorado and Sylvan Dale Ranch just outside of Loveland. He will be demonstrating various Trout Flies. Alan's web site is: www.alrittflies.com



Dennis Potter started tying over 30 years ago before fishing on the Ausable River in Northern Michigan. After landing the first Trout on his Parachute Hendrickson, his passion and addiction for chasing Trout and Tying Flies took off. In 1987 Dennis and his wife Karen purchased the Riverhouse on the banks of the Holy Waters of the Ausable. He spent 4 seasons at the Gates Ausable Lodge as a Fly Fishing Instructor and he still enjoys teaching fly tying instruction. His fly designs are fished extensively and with great success throughout the U.S. Dennis does have various Fly Tying Videos on the market and he is the owner of Riverhouse Fly Company. You will be able to find him tying at the show, with his well known high resolution video tying Demo show. He will be demonstrating various well known Trout Patterns and fly tying techniques. Dennis's web site is: www.riverhouseflyco.com



Jerry Regan; a 3rd generation fly tyer; is one of the true keepers of Michigan's Fly Fishing History; along with being one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Just like Trout Unlimited, Jerry was born along the fabled Trout Waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid he learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's Genuine Legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert. One thing unique for the patterns Jerry ties, he has never went with synthetics that have flooded the market place, but have stuck with the original materials that were used. Jerry will be demonstrating the flies of the Classic Au Sable fly patterns.



Mike Schmidt is owner & Fly Tyer for Angler's Choice Flies, based out of Dublin, Ohio for more than a decade now; which started out from encouragement and influence from his dad. His fly tying consists of Winged Wet, Warmwater, Coldwater, and Saltwater patterns. Some of the accomplishment's of Mike, would consist of Orvis Fly Designer, Contract and Fly Tying Instructor for Mad River Outfitters, Signature Tyer for JagFly Company/Steelhead Alley, and has articles published in Hatches on line magazine. Mike's web site is: www.anglerschoiceflies.com. Mike will be demonstrating abundance of patterns along with his famed Winged Wet Flies.



Pat Kelly from Ohio is bringing his Musky Flies to our show once again. His company Apex Fly Company was created back in 2009, to have quality flies for Musky fishing. His knowledge of chasing these huge predatory monsters with flies and fly rod has spanned for more than 10 years now His fly patterns have been used and proven successful all over the Great Lakes Region. Pat's email is apexflycompany@gmail.com . You will be amazed at watching when Pat shows off his professional talent of tying monster size, flashy, Musky Flies



Todd Schotts is a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club & has been Fly Tying before he even started fly fishing. He enjoys teaching fly tying at the clubs various schools, along with helping out at various outings and events; and is a past board member. His production fly company "Grizzly Flies by Schottsie" was started 9 years ago, and along with tying the standard fly patterns, he has about 20 of his own design of flies. His passion is for Warmwater flies & chasing Smallmouth's but he also enjoys chasing Trout, and Steelhead His website is: www.grizzlyfliesbyschottsie.com and he will be demonstrating tying various Warmwater Fly Patterns. .



Greg Senyo is a well know and respected guide in Steelhead Alley based out of Ohio. Where he owns and runs JagFly Co. & Steelhead Alley. In 2008 Greg was the Orvis 2008 Fly Tyer of the year and many of his flies are featured in local Orvis Shop. Greg grew up along the banks of Elk Creek in Girard, PA and has perfected his fly fishing and fly tying techniques for over 20 years now. He also writes for several outdoor and sporting publications, besides working with youth organizations for fly fishing and charity events. His website is: www.steelheadalleyoutfitters.com . Greg will be demonstrating his famed Steelhead Fly Patterns.



Julie Nielsen is another one of Michigan's well known commercial fly tyers with Trout patterns that will bring the weariest trout to the fly. Her patterns can be seen in many northern Michigan fly fishing establishments. Her post pattern flies are so durable and so well sought after, that we are glad to have her back for another year. Julie will be demonstrating different parachute fly patterns such as "The Patriot", and many others. You can contact Julie at: tyeri@aol.com



Jim Reed is a world class deer hair tier that is from Howell, Michigan, and has spun many amazing deer hair bugs. Back in 2006 in an FFF competition Jim was awarded 6 world champion medals on all 6 entries of his flies that he submitted. Besides being a master at the spinning of Deer Hair, Jim is also a master in other fly tying areas; as he is a very versatile tier. He has demonstrated and taught around the Great Lakes region & Midwest, plus tying out at the FFF Conclave in Livingston twice, and has demonstrated out at the Somerset Symposium in New Jersey. Jim will be tying his famous deer hair flies along with other patterns.



Steve Wascher caught his first Trout at the age of 3 ½, on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third generation tier from Greenhurst, NY; and received basic instructions and guidance from his father; along with his grandmother in regards to tying. Steve is a well rounded tier, and enjoys all aspects of the art of fly tying; from creating a unique nymph, wet flies for steelhead, or his famed deer hair bugs for those warmwater surprises. Besides tying Steve guides during the summer months for a wide range of warmwater species and he enjoys writing articles as well; which have appeared along with his flies in Hatches Magazine, American Angler, and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. He will be tying his famed deer hair bugs and tube flies.



Corey Thelen is a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club and is a very talented tyer at the young age of 16. He got started about 4 years ago tying flies after he took a class at Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp in Presque Isle, MI. After a few Woolly Buggers he was hooked! That weekend on the way home, he got his first tying vise & materials. And like a few of us tyers, he started tying before he started fly fishing. Even though he does fish for Warmwater fish; fishing for Trout & tying Trout flies are his main choice. You have to stop by and check out Corey's various trout flies that he will be tying at the show.