2009 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

to feature Borger, Teeny, Jacklin and Feliu

Borger, Teeny, Jacklin and Feliu … No, it's not a high-powered law firm, but this quartet is sure to put lots of information and advice into the hands of fly anglers when they visit southeast Michigan in early March.

Pioneering author Gary Borger; steelheading specialist Jim Teeny; Bob Jacklin, the dean of West Yellowstone fly angling; and Oscar Feliu, a Florida-based angler of many talents, will headline the 2009 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo March 7-8 at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center in Warren, MI.

Presented annually by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club (MFFC), the Expo features a wide array of tackle dealers, rod builders, guides, fly tiers, artists, authors and conservation organizations, all specializing in one or more of the many facets of fly fishing.

The Expo features dozens of free seminars about technique, fly tying, equipment, and fly fishing destinations. Children, teens and the young at heart will get an opportunity to tie their first flies at a special fly tying area with instruction provided by MFFC volunteers. A 100-foot casting pond provides ample room for Expo attendees to test new fly rod offerings from an array of rod manufacturers.

“For 30 years the Michigan Fly Fishing Club has been able to bring in some of the biggest names in the world of fly fishing. This year is no exception. We think we’ve got an awesome lineup,” said MFFC President Pat Brazzil. “Gary Borger and Bob Jacklin are names known to virtually every trout angler in America. If you’re into chasing steelhead, whether it’s in Michigan rivers or the big, brawling rivers of the Pacific Northwest, you’ll likely have sought out articles about or by Jim Teeny. And Oscar Feliu is a Michigander turned Floridian who’s at home with flies and techniques for virtually any style of fly angling from tying and casting flies to trout or bass or bonefish.”

Expo hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, March 8. Admission is $10 for adults. Children and teens age 16 and under are admitted free. Two-day passes can be purchased for $15. Parking is free. The club’s web site is www.mffc.org.

The Expo is the MFFC’s only fund-raising event. The proceeds from the Expo help fund the club’s education and conservation activities. Since the Expo’s inception, the MFFC has directed more than $400,000 to conservation efforts on such blue ribbon trout streams as the Au Sable, Manistee, Pere Marquette and Boardman as well as the Huron and Clinton rivers and Paint Creek in southeast Michigan.

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The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is home to roughly 400 members and is based in Livonia, MI, although its members hail from across the state and several other states. In 2007 it was honored by Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm with a special resolution in recognition of the organization’s many contributions to Michigan’s outdoor heritage and resources. In 2006, the MFFC was awarded the McKenzie Cup by the international Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) as its “Club of the Year.” It was named Michigan’s “Conservation Organization of the Year” by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) in 2005.

Headliner background

**Gary Borger:** Known as much for his skill with words as with a fly line, Gary Borger has written five best-selling books on fly fishing: “Nymphing,” which was named one of the most influential fly angling books of the last half century by Trout Unlimited; “Naturals;” “The Borger Color System;” “Designing Trout Flies;” and “Presentation.” He pioneered fly fishing video instruction with his release of “Nymphing” in 1982. Since then he has appeared in a number of videos for the 3M Company and, in cooperation with the Federation of Fly Fishers, produced the environmental video “Where the Trout Are.” His video production company has produced an additional 21, internationally acclaimed videos in the “Skills of Fly Fishing Series.” He and son Jason served as consultants on Robert Redford’s acclaimed film adaptation of Norman Maclean’s classic, “A River Runs Through It.” He is a recipient of the Ross Allen Merigold Complete Angler Memorial Award, the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Award, the Joan and Lee Wulf Conservation Award, and was presented with the Lew Jewett Memorial Life Membership by the Federation of Fly Fishers in 1979 in recognition of his conservation activities.

**Jim Teeny:** Described as one of fly angling’s most prolific innovators, Jim Teeny turned a fly pattern, the Teeny Nymph, into an enterprise. Designed at age 16 to cast to cruising trout at Oregon’s East Lake, the Teeny Nymph led to the founding in 1971 of the Teeny Nymph Company, which like a nymph has metamorphosed into the Gresham, Ore.-based Jim Teeny, Inc. He has developed innovative sinking fly lines now used by fly anglers chasing sea- and lake-run steelhead as well as saltwater anglers. He is perhaps best known in the Midwest as a steelheader. He was featured in an award-winning video “Catching More Steelhead,” which was produced by Scientific Anglers.

**Bob Jacklin:** A member of the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, Bob Jacklin has been an ardent fly angler, fly tier and conservationist from his early days as he began working on trout stream improvement projects as a teenager. He started tying flies commercially in 1963, developing many unique and widely accepted patterns. Along with his many custom patterns, he was complimented by the late Lee Wulff, who celebrated the quality, durability, and pattern identity of the Wulff series of flies as tied by Jacklin. Now recognized as the dean of Yellowstone-area guides, he began fishing in Montana in the mid-1960s. By 1970 he was a full-time guide and fly-fishing instructor for the Bud Lilly Trout Shop in West Yellowstone, Montana. This year, Jacklin celebrates his 38th consecutive year as a fly fishing guide and outfitter in the Yellowstone area. His many years of dedication to instruction and conservation were honored by the Federation of Fly Fishers, which named Jacklin its “Man of the Year” in 2004. That same year he was inducted to the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in the heart of the region acknowledged as the birthplace of American dry fly fishing.

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Oscar Feliu: Chilean-born, Michigan-raised and Florida-adopted, Oscar Feliu is a legend among the ranks of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), where he has helped hundreds – if not thousands -- of anglers hone their fishing and tying skills. He is renowned for his entertaining style and perfectionism. Feliu came to the U.S. in 1969 and has been doing tying demonstrations and workshops for the FFF for more than 30 years. His fly tying has taken him throughout North America and Europe. The Michigan Fly Fishing Club has long attracted fly angling celebrities to its events, but how often does one have the opportunity to hear from someone regaled as one of Florida’s best fly tiers as well as an internationally renowned singer. While he currently resides in Florida, having attended Central Michigan University he is very well acquainted with Michigan and its blue-ribbon trout streams. He also attended University of Chile as well as Chile’s Conservatory of Music. His vocal repertoire includes operatic arias, including his personal favorite “Granada,” to pop classics from the likes of Elvis and Johnny Mathis.