Humphreys, Engle, Morris, Currier and Randall headline 2016 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

One of fly fishing’s great ambassadors, a preeminent small-fly specialist, one of the sport’s most prolific authors and tiers, a former member of the U.S. National Fly Fishing Team, and a renowned trout researcher will be making their way to the Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center in Warren to share their expertise with thousands of Great Lakes area fly fishers at 2016’s Midwest Fly Fishing Expo on March 12-13.

“Our cast of headliners brings a blend of familiar names and newcomers,” said Expo Chairman Joe Sprys. “Joe Humphreys leaves us in awe every time we see him. Ed Engle knows how to elicit a strike from even the most finicky fish. Jeff Currier is blessed with the skills of a truly outstanding teacher. Skip Morris is a walking encyclopedia of fly patterns and insights into how to fish those patterns. And Jason Randall brings volumes of knowledge from observing trout in their native habitats and is able to make that knowledge accessible to the rest of us.”

The 2016 Expo headliners offer something for everyone, Sprys said, but the Expo is much more than the headliners. “We have something for every fly angler,” Sprys said. The show will feature dozens of free seminars about fly fishing techniques, fly tying and fly fishing destinations and bring together more than 100 exhibitors, including dozens of fly tiers, rod builders, artists, guides, outfitters and conservation organizations.

Hosted by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, the 2016 Expo is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, and Sunday, March 13. The Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center is located at 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. Admission is $10 per person; boys and girls age 16 and under are free. Two-day tickets are $15. Parking is free.

Joe Humphreys, Pennsylvania: Humphreys has demonstrated his passion for angling, water, and wildlife throughout his life and career as a fly fisher. Fortunately for us, Sprys said, Humphreys enjoys sharing his knowledge and skills, doing so through his works as an educator, author and conservationist.

Humphreys has taught fly fishing for more than 40 years and still loves to share his insights. In fact, he is the subject of a documentary – “Live the Stream” – currently in production. The film focuses on Humphreys’ lifelong journey to share the sport he loves while inspiring a greater respect for his home waters near Penn State.

He has authored two highly acclaimed books, “Joe Humphreys’ Trout Tactics” and “On the Trout Stream with Joe Humphreys,” as well as many articles in regional and national periodicals. He has also hosted a nationally broadcasted fly fishing series on ESPN, been featured on three fly fishing videos (The Fly Fishing Series), and has produced and been featured in four other videos.

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In the course of his more than four decades teaching fly fishing, he spent 19 years directing Penn State’s angling program, succeeding the legendary George Harvey. Some high-profile pupils include former President Jimmy Carter, former Vice President Richard Cheney, and retired basketball coach Bobby Knight. He currently teaches a weekend course at the Yellow Breeches Creek at Boiling Springs, PA, hosted by the Allenberry Resort located directly on the creek.

**Skip Morris, Washington State:** Morris, as one of the sport’s most prolific fly fishing and fly tying authors, is known to anglers around the world.

He has written more than a dozen books on fly fishing and tying, including the volume that set the standard for beginning fly tiers, “Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple.” He also penned “The Art of Tying the Bass Fly,” “Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes” (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), “Concise Handbook of Fly Tying” and “Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches.”

His videos and DVDs range from instruction for tying nymphs and bass flies to tying and fishing flies for sea-run cutthroat trout.

Morris, who calls Washington State’s Olympic Peninsula home, has published more than 250 articles on fly fishing and tying in magazines from Fly Fisherman to American Angler. For three years he was among the hosts of the “Fly-Fish Television Magazine” show. Among fly anglers he is well known as an entertaining, concise and knowledgeable presenter, with a sly sense of humor and an easygoing manner that draws in the audience.

**Ed Engle, Colorado:** Engle says he got into fly fishing the same way many fly anglers did.

“*My parents,*” he recalled, “*gave me a ‘starter’ kit that included a rod, reel, backing, line, and leader. There weren’t a lot of people teaching fly casting at the time, so I pretty much taught myself. I paid for that later on, too. Fortunately, I was lucky to make friends with some great casters who helped me correct some of my idiosyncrasies. My first fly fishing trips were to the South Platte River about a 45-minute drive from my house. Even then the South Platte was known nationally as a ‘technical’ river. Catching trout required small flies and good presentations. I’d go up to the river by myself and flail around trying to learn as much as I could. Once in a while I’d run into a more experienced angler who would give me a tip. I fished the river for four months before I caught a trout. By that time I was tying my own flies because I couldn’t afford to keep replacing all the store-bought ones I was losing. I actually caught my first trout with a fly I’d tied.*”

Engle said he didn’t stop with “just” catching some trout on a fly rod. He began working part-time for Kent Brekke at the old Angler’s Covey in Colorado Springs and writing a fly fishing newspaper column for the Colorado Springs Sun. Before long he was writing magazine stories for many fly fishing publications and guiding anglers on the South Platte. Next came his first book, “Fly Fishing the Tailwaters.” After that, he said, he began making presentations to fly fishing clubs and became “a struggling ‘professional’ fly fisherman.”

“A lot of water has gone down the river since those early days,” he said. “I still think the point of fishing is to catch fish, but I’m not as possessed by it now as I was when I started out. I like everything about fly fishing—the water, the places I go to catch fish, the casts, flies, boats and the friends I’ve made. And more than anything, it has always come down to the fish themselves for me. Whether it’s a trout, king salmon, bonefish, permit or bluegill. I just like looking at them, watching them swim, seeing what they do and how they act. And I like sharing all of this with others through my books, magazine stories, presentations, classes and shows like the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.”

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[www.mffc.org](http://www.mffc.org)  [www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com](http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com)
Engle still counts rivers like the South Platte and Frying Pan among his “home waters.”

**Jeff Currier, Idaho:** Currier was born in Massachusetts and grew up fly fishing throughout New England, but he now calls the Northern Rockies home. He may reside in Victor, ID, but he fly fishes the world. An active member of the R.L. Winston Rod Company Professional Advisory Team, he also is affiliated with Simms, Scientific Anglers, Ross Reels and Abel Reels. Currier is a “Fishing Ambassador” for Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, hosting exotic trips and exploring new destinations.

In fact, Currier has been fly fishing the world for more than four decades. His adventures to more than 50 countries on six continents and more than 300 fly-caught species make him one of the foremost authorities in fly fishing.

He has penned “Currier’s Quick and Easy Guide to Saltwater Fly Fishing” and “Currier’s Quick and Easy Guide to Warmwater Fly Fishing.”

Currier said his biggest accomplishment involved leading Team USA to its first ever top-10 finish in the World Fly Fishing Championship in Jaca, Spain. During the competition he placed third in the individual standings, becoming the only American ever to take home a medal in the 30-year history of the Championships.

**Jason Randall, Illinois:** A veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine, a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and a member of the Society for Freshwater Science, Randall has been sharing his science-based insights to fly angling as an outdoor writer for the last 12 years via feature articles in American Angler, Fly Fisherman, Eastern Fly Fishing, Northwest Fly Fishing and many other outdoor magazines.

His first book, “Moving Water: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to Currents” was released in 2012 by Stackpole/Headwater books. It studies the effect of current on trout, their prey species and and angler’s presentation of his or her fly. Randall noted that vertical layers of current create sub-surface drag and require adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

His second book “Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat” was released in August 2013. It focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout’s feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.


As he wrote in “Moving Waters,” “Fly fishing may be an art, but it’s also a science. The more you learn about the scientific aspects of a river and the details of their inner workings, the more success you will have in the pursuit of angling.”

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