

# Muskegon Minnow

FEENSTRA GUIDE SERVICE



## Looking Back at the Fall and Ahead to 2007



*A warm, wet fall and winter have brought numerous steelhead into the Muskegon River system. Steelhead, such as the one pictured above, arrived in September. They have been here ever since!*



*Pictured is Jim Chrisler (top) with a September fish and Dave Gavalis (bottom) with a December steelie.*

We also had one of the most unusual fishing situations in recent memory. It was a very warm and wet fall; winter did not arrive in force until mid January. While driving to the river on a balmy December day, I looked at Croton Dam and witnessed something I could not remember ever seeing in the past; two floodgates were open! This is common in the months of April and May but virtually unheard of in the winter.

The rain came regularly and the river was perpetually high. As a result, many steelhead did come in. Unfortunately, the river saw very heavy fishing pressure. There was no ice on any local lake until recently and no snow to snowmobile in. Thus, the only thing to do in this area was fish the Muskegon. This river is a resource we all share and everyone has the right to enjoy it. However, the harvest of steelhead was quite high and many of the remaining fish in the upper stretches of the river have seen a fly or lure before. The fishing is good right now but you really need to know where to look.

As we head toward the spawning season, the many fish in the lower reaches of the river will move upriver and will look to spawn in March

and April. The present numbers of the fish in the river system are sufficient to provide for a respectable run of steelhead. It is possible that a large number of fish still remain in Lake Michigan and Muskegon Lake. If those fish exist, we will have an exceptional run of fish this spring indeed.

The trout fishing in the river this winter is fair. It is difficult to gauge the trout fishing for next spring as the trout have not all moved into their winter lies due to the generally warm and high water of this fall and early winter. Last winter we did not see the numbers of trout and were all wondering how the regular trout season would shape up. It turned out to be one of the best trout seasons in memory. The trout were numerous and the hatches were fantastic! Trout fishing is dependant on the weather. With normal water conditions, the trout fishing is always excellent in this river system. *We look forward to seeing you again this coming season!!*

### What we are offering:

- Winter Guided Trip: \$325/day for two anglers, \$300/day for one.
- Inquire about private fly tying classes during the winter months.
- These prices apply until March 1, 2007. At that time only full day trips are available at the normal rate of \$350/boat.

## The Grapefruit-Head Leech



**Hook:** Daiichi 2461, size 2-1/0

**Tail:** Black Marabou

**Hackle:** Olive Schlappen wound through body

**Body:** Black Marabou feather wound forward

**Flash:** Fuschia, Silver, and Kelly Green Flahshabou

**Collar:** Mallard flank covered with black marabou

**Head:** Three tight wraps of large fuschia cactus chenille followed by a veil of chartreuse dubbing.

**Comments:** A creation from this fall. As the water is high and stained often this year, flies with color and flash produced the most fish.

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*As a member of their respective national pro staff teams, I am proud to support my partners in fly fishing: Scott Fly Rods, Ross Reels, and Daiichi Hooks. They make great products!*

## MEMORIES FROM FALL AND WINTER 2006



Above: Mike Serra, Tom Majchzak, David and Casey Tovey, Rob Depierre  
Below: Joe Mitchell, Mike Patterson, Mike Sargent, Wayne Vierhout

