

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF
AMERICA'S LEADING NONPROFIT
COLDWATER FISHERIES
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

THE MERSHON MINNOW

◆ Newsletter of the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter of Trout Unlimited ◆

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MERSHON-NEUMANN HERITAGE
TROUT UNLIMITED

BOARD WELCOMES NICK THOMAS AS NEW VP

Nick Thomas was appointed Vice President of the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter by the board of directors at the May 6, 2020, meeting. Nick has served as a board member from 2011 until his second term expired in 2017, at which time he was elected as an Advisor. In 2019, Nick was asked to return to a more active role as a director once again. Nick has also served on the banquet committee since 2011.

Nick begins his new role with skills valued highly by the board. We can look forward to using Nick's ability to make informed decisions considering all aspects of a problem, speaking thoughtfully and concisely while interpreting various options, and completing tasks well within the time frames asked. Congratulations to all members of M-NHCTU for appointing such a strong leader. ◆

A Message From Our President

My first message from the president. It is surreal to think I will be privileged to lead this group for the next two years. There is no way I could take on such responsibility if I didn't know firsthand what exemplary people are involved. I'm going into this with the support, guidance, and experience of a varied and giving group.

First, I know I can rely on the Trout Unlimited organization as a whole. National and Michigan Trout Unlimited provide many opportunities and resources we can use to achieve our goals. Whether we want to join an existing project or program or are looking to start something new in our area, there are people at all levels of the organization ready to help. If you're interested in getting a new rod, learning a new casting technique, or want to find out what guide to use in New Zealand, there are people online ready to tell you! Explore their webpages.

Second, the board of directors and the advisors of the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter are some of the most generous and talented people I've ever met. Todd Zwetig, president for the past two years, is leaving our chapter in good shape. We have a board with varied fishing backgrounds, levels of education, and styles of getting things done—but they all want our chapter of Trout Unlimited to make a difference. And, they work endlessly to achieve that goal.

Third, we have more than 400 members to use as resources. Nothing demonstrates the type of person who joins TU better than how our members have handled the past few months. People are giving even when they have less. The openness to try new things, such as the Zoom meetings, show that we are still a community that cares about each other. Attendance at new events over the past

few years shows us that we are people interested in doing and having new experiences.

And, this is where we need to keep the momentum going. I encourage you to make your involvement with Trout Unlimited what you need it to be. Grab some friends and come to an event. If you have an idea or concern, please come to a board meeting and let us help. If you can't make the meeting, email or call one of us. In the next year, we will be working to make ourselves more accessible through social media. Take advantage of the pool of knowledge our chapter represents.

I am proud to be the newest president of the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter. I'm ready for the challenge—because I know all of you are ready to help make M-NHCTU an organization that matters.

—Laurie Seibert, chapter president

M-NHCTU Zooms into a new era

Spring 2020 has had many opportunities to learn new skills; and, like everyone else, the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter is working to keep pace with the new digital platforms. Members have had three opportunities to connect while still staying safe at home through Zoom meetings.

On April 23, the inaugural Zoom event took place as approximately 25 members

gathered for chapter updates, trivia, and an attempt at watching the fly-fishing film *Mosquitoes and Mayflies*. The internet was not kind that night, and the film had to be stopped, but the group still touted the evening a success. Just being able to see friends and share some information was worth signing onto Zoom.

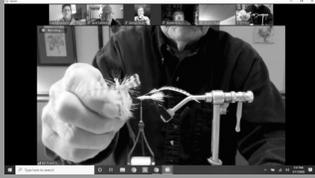
Our first Zoom board meeting occurred May 6. Attended by

almost 20 people, the meeting was productive in establishing new timelines for rescheduled events, adding our chapter's official support to the efforts to stop the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay Alaska, and voting for a new vice president, Nick Thomas.

On May 13, members spent the evening with Bill Priest tying two regional flies—the

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Online Resources Update



Bill Priest tying two regional flies—the spent wing hex and the South Branch yellow muddler—during one of our recent Zoom gatherings.

The 2020 Fundraising Banquet has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 10, at SVSU's Curtiss Hall. Watch the emails, website, and Facebook page for more details.

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We're excited to continue our expansion into electronic media, in order to keep you informed of chapter, state, and national Trout Unlimited activities and opportunities. Our calendar is filling with more digital, as well as in-person, events to provide even more convenient opportunities for you to learn, talk with others, and interact with our chapter. Please make sure to check our online resources for updates, alerts, and for full information about things we are doing—we don't want you to miss anything. Like our Facebook page at facebook.com/mershon.tu, to

see the most up-to-date information on activities, along with pertinent news, tips, and techniques. Our webpage, mershon-tu.org, is well worth visiting: check our News tab for upcoming events; read past and present issues of our quarterly newsletter, "The Muddler"; purchase event tickets; and find links to other conservation organizations. As we begin using our new official name, The Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter, we'll need to make several name changes, and shall let you know when those happen. We want to make sure you

are included in all of our communications. Did you know that only two-thirds of our membership have valid email addresses on file with us? If you have an email account, please share the address with us by sending it to wbmershontu@gmail.com, and we will add you to our emailing list. We will NOT share this information and we will not overwhelm your inbox. Also, please set your spam filter, or preferences, to unblock us, and check your spam folder regularly, too—we want everybody to know what we're up to. Welcome back to your chapter. Thank you. ♦

Dr. Robert E. Nelson leave behind a rich conservation heritage

Chapter member and past-president Dr. Robert E. Nelson passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at the age of 84 years. Bob was our sixth chapter president from 1968–69.

Robert Nelson was born June 21, 1935, in Escanaba, Michigan, husband of the late Jessie Huthwaite Nelson. Bob graduated from Michigan State University and then attended University of Michigan Dental School and obtained his DDS degree. In dental school, he also attended Navy ROTC and upon graduation went into the Navy as a dentist and served on the USS Essex, an aircraft carrier.

He started his dental practice in Saginaw in 1961 and continued to practice in Saginaw until 2019. During his time as a dentist, he also became a fully certified and licensed acupuncturist and practiced holistic dentistry, which included additional studies in the disciplines of homeopathy and nutritional protocols with kinesiology. This multidisciplinary approach to health and wellness allowed him to help many people who had significant challenges with their health.

He loved the sport of fly fishing and became involved in Trout Unlimited during the

organization's infancy. During his tenure as president, he was very involved in work with TU initiatives that required many visits to Lansing to work with the DNR Water Resource Commission on water quality issues and trout fishing laws as we know them now. Most recently, Bob was a guest speaker at the dedication to the Arthur C. Neumann Memorial in Lovells.

A memorial service will be held in the future when the State of Michigan permits a reinstatement of large gatherings. ♦

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spent wing hex and the South Branch yellow muddler. Bill, with 65 years of fly-tying experience, taught the group tips and techniques for handling materials along with the history of the flies. Explanations of different variations of each fly will assure these patterns will be

very popular on Michigan rivers this summer. It is expected that virtual fly tying will be offered regularly in the upcoming year. If you have any interest in being a guest tyer or have a suggestion for a fly, please email us at wbmershontu@gmail.com.

The value of distance learning and meetings is just

becoming known. As our chapter works to provide a more diverse way of connecting with members, you can be sure we will take advantage of digital platforms. Please check our website, Facebook page, and your email in box for future events. ♦