

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

www.Mershon-TU.org

THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited* ◆

1989, 1996 & 1997 RECIPIENT OF THE MICHIGAN COUNCIL TU CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Meanders

A few thoughts from
the president
Don Albrecht



Don Albrecht, chapter president

Two thousand fifteen is coming to a close, and the Mershon chapter has had another great year. We started the year with a great Walleye Dinner in January, fly tying and fly-fishing classes, a Grin & Grub at Tri-City Brewing with Mike Bachelder in February, a very successful banquet in April, an awesome workday on the Rifle River in June, an extremely successful Rifle River cleanup day, a great evening of shooting and food at our October outing at the Saginaw Gun Club, and finally, a day of surveying brown trout redds on the south branch of the AuSable River. I hope you had a chance to participate in some of these events, because they are great fun, a good time to meet new friends and help support and maintain our cold-water resources. I'd like to take just a moment to thank all the members who worked extremely hard to make these events successful. Your sacrifice of time and resources do not go unnoticed, and you are to be commended for your effort.

The coming year promises to be an outstanding year, also. In addition to all the same events as last year, we plan on adding new ones this year. One of the exciting items we are planning is a "Women in TU" event. Laurie Seibert is putting together a great day of fun for the ladies who like to fly fish or would like to learn more about fly fishing. Stay tuned for more information about this event, as it promises to be an exciting day!

In the last issue, I talked about the potential problems associated with Aquaculture in Michigan. This continues to be a hot topic that we all need to keep abreast of and let our legislators know about our concerns. Your voice is important.

We also have another concern in our streams—the invasion of the New Zealand Mud Snail. It has now been confirmed in the Pere Marquette River. These snails propagate extremely quickly, and strip the stream of nutrients required for our native aquatic insects. So, what can we do about it? It is EXTREMELY important for us to disinfect our fishing gear before and after being in our streams. This means soaking our boots and waders in a chlorine solution and/or spraying them with "409" to kill the snails. These snails can live on our waders and boots, or in our boats, for two weeks or more without water. So, going from one stream to another can easily cause a new population to be established. Please help stop the transfer of this invasive pest by washing your equipment.

Enjoy your winter. Tie some flies. Clean the equipment. Dream about that special trip next summer. And, I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. ◆

Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting will take place Monday, January 18th, during the winter dinner meeting to be held at the American Legion Hall on Weiss Street. The meeting will be held with the purpose of electing directors and attending to any other chapter business that may arise.

Art Neumann celebrates 99th birthday

by Don Albrecht, chapter president

On October 31st, 2015, Art Neumann celebrated his 99th birthday. Art's family, a small group of friends and guests from Trout Unlimited shared in this special event. Art beamed with joy as he greeted those present, exchanged stories, and listened to the

song "Happy Birthday". All of us at Trout Unlimited, and especially the Mershon Chapter, want to say one more time – Happy Birthday Art!!! And thank you for all you have done over your many years of service. ♦



Art's daughter, Linda MacDonald and TU member Chris Radke share a special moment with Art.



Michigan Trout Unlimited Treasurer Robb Smith congratulates Art.



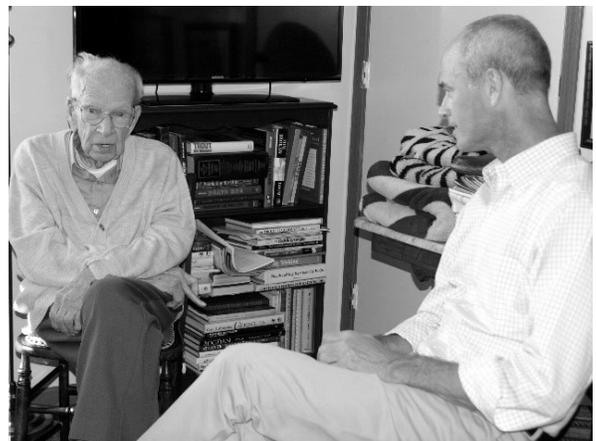
Mershon Chapter President Don Albrecht wishes Art happy birthday.



Chris Wood and Art Neumann stand together with the Philosophy of Trout Unlimited.



"Happy Birthday" rang loud and clear for Art.



Trout Unlimited's national President and CEO Chris Wood made a surprise visit.

A big thanks goes out to all our members who helped make the first annual Mershon Chapter Rifle River Cleanup a success! An even bigger thank you goes to Mike and Brenda Bachelder for hosting this event at their beautiful home.

If you couldn't make it, don't worry, we are planning to do it again on Saturday, September 17th, 2016. The



place and format will be the same. Meet at Mike Bachelder's house, 1040 Gerald Miller Rd., at 8:30am for doughnuts and coffee, sign up for a beat, and pick up trash bags and supplies. We will take care of car spots and directing you where to go.

After the cleanup, around noon, we will provide a BBQ and raffle off some great prizes.

We learned a lot from the first cleanup and expect the next one to be even better! Get it on your calendars now, and help us keep this beautiful river clean. ♦



First annual Mershon Rifle River cleanup recap

by Todd Zwetzig, chapter director



This is the new name for the annual walleye dinner/meeting. The new winter meeting will take place on the same date, Monday, January 18th, and still be held at the American Legion Hall in Saginaw. The big difference is we will be having a Roast Pork Dinner, consisting of roasted pork loin, cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, cole slaw, rolls, fruit, and dessert.

The menu may have changed for this meeting, but the purpose remains the same—meet and socialize with our members, take care of a little business, and learn a little bit about current issues threatening the health

of our rivers. To help us keep up to speed on the many issues currently going on, we will have a couple special guests at this meeting. Josh Greenberg and Tom Baird will be making a stop at our meeting, as they embark on a Fish Farm/Anglers of the AuSable/Ausable River speaking tour. If you have heard all the noise with the proposed "Fish Farm" on the AuSable River and want to learn more about why this is such a bad idea, then plan on attending the dinner to learn how you can help stop this from happening.

As always, your support and attendance at this meeting is greatly appreciated. ♦

2016 Annual Winter Meeting and Social Extravaganza

by Todd Zwetzig, chapter director

Invasive species alert issued

You can help prevent the spread of these dangers to our trout waters.

by Paul Morand, chapter advisor

In September, the Michigan DNR and DEQ confirmed the existence of two new invasive species in Michigan's waters. Of particular interest to trout anglers, both of these species were found in Michigan rivers. The first invasive, *Didymo*, is a type of microscopic algae that can form extensive mats of growth on stream bottoms. *Didymo* has been found in the St. Mary's River near Ste. Sault Marie. Unlike many nuisance algae species, *Didymo* thrives in cold, clean water . . . exactly the type inhabited by trout. *Didymo* is sometimes called "rock snot," and the mats choke out invertebrate life on the stream bottom and cover spawning areas used by trout. In parts of the country where *Didymo* is well established, it presents a serious ecological issue.

The New Zealand mud snail is the second confirmed invasive species. The snail has been found inhabiting waters of the Pere Marquette River, near Ludington. Although tiny—adults are less than one-eighth of an inch long—they can form massive colonies that compete with local snails and macroinvertebrates for

living space and food. The snails are now widespread in many western states and present in Wisconsin. They are easily transported and resilient, and can survive in damp environments for up to 26 days.

It is extremely important that anglers take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of these two dangers to our trout waters. Here are some steps to take:

1. Thoroughly clean boots and waders before leaving the fishing area. A stiff brush may be helpful in



removing any bits of mud or vegetation. Felt soles need particular attention.

2. If possible, completely dry wading equipment for a period of five days or more. Boots should be dry inside and out, and make sure to turn up attached gravel guards on waders. Felt soles can be problematic with

this method, so take extra care to ensure that they are completely dry. *Didymo* can survive for months in a damp environment.

3. A bleach solution has been proven to be effective against *Didymo*, but there is some disagreement concerning its effectiveness in killing the New Zealand mud snail. To prepare the solution, mix a one-half cup of bleach for each gallon of water used. Soak items for 10–15 minutes. Absorbent material like felt should be soaked longer. There is evidence that bleach may damage boots and waders, so caution should be used if this method is used frequently.

4. Soaking in hot water is an alternative to bleach. The water must be very hot (115° or more) and the soak time should be increased to 40 minutes. Dish soap added to the water will increase its effectiveness.

5. A 50% solution of Formula 409 is extremely effective at killing the adult New Zealand mud snail and larva, and research indicates it may be less harmful to boots and waders. To prepare, mix water and Formula

409 in equal amounts. A soak is more effective than spraying your wading equipment.

5. Freezing is also effective against the invaders, but make sure the item remains frozen for 4–6 hours and you get the OK from your significant other before putting your fishing gear amongst the frozen vegetables. ♦

Salmon in the classroom

by Don Meyer, chapter vice-president

Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited is now sponsoring four different locations with Salmon in the Classroom. We have aquariums in Owosso (Mike Raffaelli teacher), Vassar Middle School (Andrew

Tallman teacher), Akron/Fairgrove (Nicole Morley teacher), and Bay City Western (Cindy Altes teacher).

Our teachers have their eggs which have already started to hatch. Students and teachers are excited with the project, and live cams are installed in some of the classrooms. Good luck to the teachers and their students. Mershon T.U. is glad to help bring this great teaching tool into the classrooms. ♦



Fishy News from the Western High Science Department

by Paul Morand, chapter advisor

Biology teacher Cindy Altes recently visited the Platte River State Fish Hatchery to pick up salmon eggs that

will be cared for and raised until the spring, when the young fish will be released into a local watershed leading to one of the Great Lakes. The fish rearing and releasing experience is part of Salmon in the Classroom, a program jointly sponsored by Trout Unlimited and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Students and teachers participate in the program to follow the life cycle of salmon from eggs, to hatchling to smolt. Students will

learn about habitat requirements, the developmental process, the life history of the fish, and the Great Lakes ecosystem. Funding for necessary equipment was provided through a grant from the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and training and eggs were provided by the Michigan DNR. Thanks to these organizations for their support! ♦

What does TU mean to me?

by Laurie Seibert,
chapter director

TROUT live in beautiful places. This means that, whether or not a fish even looks at my fly, a day fishing will be spent in enjoying the best nature has to offer. It is this idea that sometimes gets overlooked when you start thinking about hatches, the best rod and reel combination, and getting a good drift. This concept escapes some fishermen, but not active members of Trout Unlimited. People who are involved in the organization have a respect for the species that is seen not only in how they fish; but how they protect where they fish.

I never started my relationship with TU with the idea of serving on the board. I just wanted to help with the banquet. I liked the idea of being part of a fundraising event geared toward improving trout fishing. And, if I happened to pick up some fishing tips, so much the better!

One of the first things I noticed about the committee was how each person was valued. All ideas were listened to thoughtfully; no one left unheard. Decisions were explained, not dictated. That had not been my experience with other groups, where one or two people dominated the project.

This respect for each other makes more sense as I have gotten to know the members of the Mershon chapter.

They respect each other the way they respect the sport. And, they don't just talk the talk—these people are people of action! They are tireless in efforts to clean rivers, teach fly fishing to beginners, and promote the sport they love. I was honored to be asked to serve as a board member.

Being on the board of directors gives me the opportunity to be around people enthusiastic about trout and their habitats. Their dedication makes me a better, more aware fisherperson. I am constantly learning about taking care of the waters and the fish.

And . . . I have managed to pick up a few fishing tips along the way. ♦

Spring Banquet Update

by Joe Albosta, chapter director

As I write this, the Christmas tree is just going up, and the stockings are being hung from the chimney with care, but it's not too early to start thinking about our annual spring banquet. We've decided as a committee to try out a new venue, and I for one think everyone will be impressed. Saginaw Valley State University will be hosting our chapter on Saturday, April 23, of 2016. As we get closer to the event and put the finishing touches on this banquet, we will give you more details.

The Committee has decided to offer a crossbow package similar to the ones we've raffled in the past. And, we are pleased to announce that Little Forks Outfitters will again be making a generous donation for our rod and reel—say that five times fast.

Our banquet will continue to have a wide selection of silent and live auction items, as well as a bucket raffle and other fun ways to make money for the cause.

We will be contacting all of you over the coming months to help out. We need everyone selling raffle tickets, donating a prize or two, or volunteering on the night of the event to help make this a memorable event. If anyone wishes to lend a hand or two, please contact me via e-mail at albostaj@gmail.com. Your help is necessary and appreciated. ♦



Tie One On

*Fly-Fishing & Fly-Tying
Classes for Beginners*

Five-week Classes
\$60 each, incl. materials
No extra charge for the bigger-than-life tales

<p>Fly-Fishing Classes <i>Starting Wednesday, January 27, 2016 ~ 7-9 p.m.</i> Saginaw Township's Arrowwood Elementary School</p>	<p>Fly-Tying Classes <i>Starting Thursday, January 28, 2016 ~ 7-9 p.m.</i> Saginaw Township's Heritage High School</p>
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More info @ www.stcs.org or www.celighthouse.org

Ask Mister FlyFisherPerson Guy

by Bob Kren, Mershon advisor and still Flyfisherpersonguy

An avid reader writes:
Dear Sir: I hear lots about "reading the water," but can't seem to find consistent advice. Can you help? Also, since a gun is often referred to as a "rod," may I conclude that my fishing is a 2nd Amendment right? I remain, your biggest fan, Davey C, Hemlock.

Ah, Davey—or maybe I should call you "Mister Dave," since I note that you're almost fifteen—reading the water is a skill every flyfisherperson should have, since water is essential to our sport. In the following, we shall assume that you are pursuing trout, in a stream.

First, make sure that you're not fishing in streams that have significant populations of the *michiganensis alligatoris*, the infamous Michigan crocodile. Any of these beasties longer than two inches can be deadly, so, since they move quickly and in packs, it's best to wear Kevlar waders, or at least a Kevlar athletic supporter, even in your sleep. They're everywhere, like candidates for President.

Now, may I ask why you ask? If you want to fish, go fishing, and don't worry about whether there are any fish where you're fishing. We're in it for the sport, not the catching! At least that's what I tell my wife.

Should you look for cars in roadside pullouts, and at the end of muddy two-tracks, the idea being, the more the cars, the better the spot? Wrong! The more cars, the more people, the greater the pressure to perform, and it's all the more likely you'll make a mistake and wind up on YoobTube like I have. Best to avoid crowds,

which only "pressure" the quarry. Walk a ways, trespass just a bit, get chased by a big dog, and you'll find yourself where nobody else wants to fish. That's a place where there could possibly be trout, maybe.

You can be sure that there are no trout in muddy water, and if there are, then they aren't trout.

Trout in streams live in the stream's current. As you can tell from diagram A, below, there are various current types possible and, if there aren't any, then you're in what's called a "lake." The currents, from A to L, are productive sometimes. The "substrate" (stuff on the streambed), can be all rocks, or some rocks, big or small rocks, slick or sticky rocks, or sand or the dreaded "muck." All can be productive, with the right presentation and the right fly. That's another story. Just remember: the bigger the stuff making up a stream, the smaller the bugs; the smaller, the bigger. Simple, no?

Streams can be "rich" or "poor," depending on their mineral content. Streams of Perrier are rich, full of vitamins and ground diamonds; streams coming directly off the tops of glaciers are poor, with nothing but neither nutrients nor bugs. You'll be fishing in waters somewhere between these two extrema (three years of high school Latin weren't wasted on moi), so you decide on what the nature of the stream is, because after all, I won't be there to help you.

Which naturally brings us to the subject of the big T—temperature. Trout live in cold water, and depending on how cold it is, they are either "active" or "passive." Nobody agrees on what "cold" means, unless you fall down in waders, in which case it's always "bleepety-bleeping bleep cold!" Trout avoid water warmer than 69.8°F (or 21.0°C, or 294.2K, or 529.6°R, depending on the thermometer you're using, which you should have, but will forget). Trout

are passive below 68.7°F, or absent above 69.8°F, so their "window" of "activity" is "narrow." Oh, and if you have a fever, stay away from me.

There's more to a stream than just its bottom. You have "pools," "seams," "tailouts," "foamlines," "pockets," "woody debris," "riffles," "runs," and intimate garments discarded by lust-crazed canoeists. These are shown in exquisite, yet tasteful, detail in Box B, below. Just remember "foam is home, knock rocks, wood is good," and you can't miss. Tight lines!

In answer to your second (amendment) question, of course you can openly carry your rod anywhere, including schools, emergency rooms, mosques, the ladies' room, crowded theatres, and such. Just make sure you have your CPL (concealed prod* license) with you. ♦

* Silent "p," as in "pneumonia" or "beer."

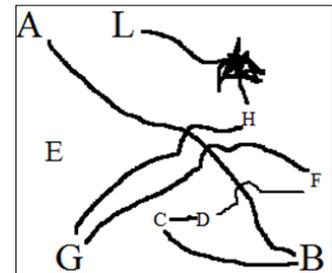


Figure A



Figure B

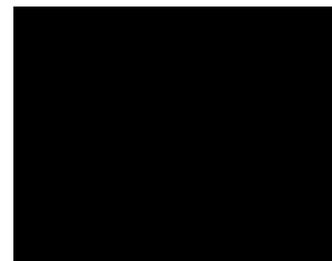


Figure 3

Mershon chapter sponsors youth campers

by Bill Adams, chapter advisor

The annual Michigan T.U. youth fly fishing camp was held July 5th through July 9th, 2015, at the Ralph McMillan Center on Higgins Lake. Twenty-five (25) boys and girls attended the event, with our chapter sponsoring three youth: Heyden Hammerman, Carter Musselmen and



Bo Brueck. These exceptional young people had a great time and learned a lot about the sport. As sponsors, our chapter pays the camper's tuition, and we provide them with a good quality rod and reel package (discounted by "Little Forks Outfitters" of Midland).

The tentative dates for next year's camp are Tuesday,

June 28th, through Saturday, July 2nd, 2016. If you know of someone who is interested in attending this event, please contact any chapter board member, Paul Moran or myself.



We are looking forward to our winter event (held on January 18th, 2016) where we will give a short presentation about the camp. Michigan T.U. Youth fly fishing camp is always a good time and I am looking forward to 2016. ♦

Campers Needed for Michigan Youth Trout Camp

by Paul Morand, chapter advisor

The Mershon chapter is looking for boys and girls interested in attending this year's Michigan Youth Trout Camp. The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the Michigan Youth Trout Camp Tuesday, June 28–July 2, 2016, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, in the heart of Northern Michigan trout country.

The four-day Camp is designed to educate our 12–16 year old boys and girls, who will become our next generation of conservation leaders, about the importance of protecting

our coldwater resources. Campers will learn that how we choose to use our land can affect the health of our streams, our trout, and ourselves. We will have discussions on stream restoration. Campers will collect and learn to identify macro-invertebrates important to trout and learn what they can tell us about water quality and stream habitat. Students will discover what trout need to survive, where they hide, and, with help from some of Michigan's leading conservationists and anglers, how to catch them. No previous fly fishing experience is necessary!

In the evenings, the students will get to test their new skills on all three branches of the famous Au Sable River, casting to beautiful brookies, spunky rainbows, and big brown trout. All of this will be under the guidance of local experts and Trout Unlimited volunteers from around the state. This camp is educational, but is also designed to be fun!

The camp is made possible through the efforts of TU National and the many TU chapters with their volunteers and members. Also included are the MI DNR Fisheries Division, the staff at the RAM Center, Americorp and DEQ volunteers, and many MI and Midwest Angling Guides and other conservationists who have so graciously given of their time and talents to this Camp.

Each year the Mershon chapter sponsors up to three campers and pays in full the cost of attending the camp. If you know someone who may be interested in attending the camp, please contact Paul Morand (pmorand@hotmail.com) or Bill Adams (adamsbillchar@charter.net).

Further information about the camp and applications may be found at www.kvctu.org. ♦

B.S. on Klacking Creek

by David Oeming, chapter director

Some time ago, in the misty age before Huron Pines and third-party grants informed the Mershon chapter's participation in trout stream habitat improvement projects, member Harold Kleinert identified a remediable problem on Klacking Creek. A tribe of unruly beavers had established their claim to a portion of Harold's stream and built a significant dam in the river. The issues were assessed by the proper authorities, parameters were determined, permits were issued, and members of TU were solicited to provide the required work crew. The Rifle River, of which Klacking Creek is a substantial tributary, was my occasional after-work fishing destination, and I offered to help.

My sons were members of Boy Scout Troop #366, and like other dads, I became (was volunteered to be) an assistant scoutmaster. A stream improvement project seemed to be right in our troop's wheelhouse. Several of our scouts were in need of Star or Life service projects, and I felt that some of the younger members should attend to complete skill awards. Our proposal was accepted by the district office, and I got the details from the our chapter's organizer for the Klacking Creek project.

With other assistant scoutmasters, we met early on a sunny spring morning at First Presbyterian Church in Saginaw to allocate troop members among their dads' vans and station wagons for the trip to the Kleinert property. The younger scouts were assigned food prep/firebuilding duties, to meet various skill award goals. Those scouts First Class and above had researched beaver dam removal and had written a short proposal to organize a crew to help

remove the dam. Not everyone had waders, but the parental permission slips allowed "wading" in the stream, and per instruction, everyone had a change of clothes. We gathered provisions (essentially hot dogs and burger/potato/carrot packs in foil packs), and headed for the convenience store on M-33 at M-55 to rendezvous with the TU project leader.

Our caravan arrived *chez* Kleinert, and the scouts lined up for briefing on beaver dam removal. The river was running high but clear, and we could see key logs below the surface. Ropes and come-along winches were set out, waders were donned, and the project leaders waded into the strong current to direct operations. The woody debris reachable near the top of the dam was removed to the streambank, but the interlocking substructure and key logs could not be dislodged by manual effort from the top of the dam, or the edge of the river. Directed effort was required.

It was time to release one of the most destructive forces extant on our planet—a group of young men encouraged to wreak havoc on a defined objective. To paraphrase Fed Ex, and to borrow from the declaration of the U.S. Marines, "If it absolutely, positively must be destroyed overnight, send in the Boy Scouts!" Our charges were up to the challenge, and after consulting with the project leaders, waded into the stream.

Scouts with waders stayed dry until shipping Klacking Creek over the tops; other guys, heedless of the late spring chill, simply waded in as far as necessary to grab, pry, drag, and try to move the underwater structure of the dam. A few of the older scouts even crouched underwater to secure ropes held by team members on the stream bank. It was a marvelous vision—gentlemen ages eleven to fifteen, talking to project leaders about the best way to attack the

structure, directing each other, and repeatedly going into the river to execute their plans. The dam bulk was reduced steadily, and gaps began appearing in the logs.

When the key logs started to move, our young shantyboys scrambled out of the main current and we watched the newly unrestrained Klacking Creek carve a gap through the woody debris on the riverbanks. Troop members gathered and put away the gear, and the structure removed from the stream was hauled into the nearby woods. Those scouts in need of skill awards built three fires and set up the equipment to prepare lunch. Burgers and hot dogs were *les viands* of choice. The Mongol Hordes descended on all foodstuffs within reach, and everything was consumed in short order. After our crew dried off (or at least became less damp) and warmed up, we extinguished the fires and secured the area.

Positive attention from an elder, even by a few years, is desired and probably craved by younger persons. Our members worked directly with the adults; the only restrictions were related to safety issues. The order of the day for all participants, adults and young men, was to "git 'er done." It worked; everyone agreed that the beaver issue was addressed and resolved per plans.

Our troop talked about the great Klacking Creek Beaver Dam removal into the next school year. The labor of our troop with the Mershon chapter and others provided a memorable experience for our young men that informed their appreciation of stream management, understanding of planning and participation in a directed project, and working toward a common goal. That, and the hands-on approach to destruction of a beaver dam with the enthusiastic attention and full approval of everyone present. ♦

Women in Waders

by Laurie Seibert, chapter director

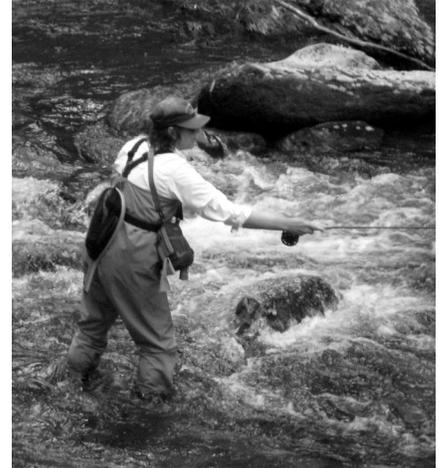
The Wm. B. Mershon chapter is planning its first event geared toward women and fly fishing, to be held Saturday, May 21, at the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center.

Anglers of all levels will enjoy listening to speaker Ann Miller, co-author of *Hatch Guide for Upper Midwest Streams*. Guests will participate in a variety of

activities geared toward fly fishing, such as knot- and fly-tying, beginner and advanced casting, bug identification, reading the river, and gear selection.

Whether you are interested in exploring the sport or have been fishing for years but would like to tweak some of your techniques, put May 21 on your calendar.

If interested, contact Laurie Seibert at lbeachteacher@gmail.com or Jac Ford at canglers@aol.com. Space will be limited. ♦



Grin and Grub gathering slated for February 17

by Todd Zwetzig, chapter director

Once again, The Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to invite all our members to join us for a “Grin and Grub” at Tri City Brewing Co., 3020 N. Water St., in Bay City, on Wednesday February 17th, 2016, at 5:30 pm.

For your entertainment, we will be having a fly-fishing presentation, specific to the Rifle River, from Mike Bachelder. We will also be providing B&C's pizza.

Come at 5:30 p.m. for some food, a great presentation, and a chance to meet and greet with other members of our chapter.

Thanks for being a supporting member of TU. ♦



Peter's Place

by Snarly Windknot

Well, I got the cast off a few weeks ago, and I'm pretty well healed up now, so I guess I can tell this story. Some of you know Peter Jones, some of you have probably had the pleasure of fishing at his place on the Manistee River. Well, I had been trying to wrangle an invitation to fish up there for some time and finally cooked up a plan; I told Peter I had developed this

unusual fly just for brook trout in small water. I sounded pathetic, I'm sure, but I shamed him into an invitation anyway.

Now I was in trouble, however, because I didn't really have a fly just yet. It's more like I was thinking about one. So, I began searching through Randall Kaufmann's *Fly Patterns of Umpqua Feather Merchants*, which is always on my fly-tying desk. It's a great recipe book, and some of you may have a copy. But, the real flash of genius struck

me when I was visiting my brother. He and his wife raise exotic chickens, and they have this rooster with the most unusual feathers I have ever seen. I told my brother I needed just a couple of those feathers, and he said if I could catch the rooster I could have them—plucking one or two wouldn't harm him at all. I should have known from the smirk on his face . . . Anyway, that's how this came about. You'll have to forgive me for stealing the cadence from an old nursery rhyme we all learned as kids. ♦

The Price of a Fish At Peter's Place

This is Peter's place.

This is the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.

This is the guy who tied the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.

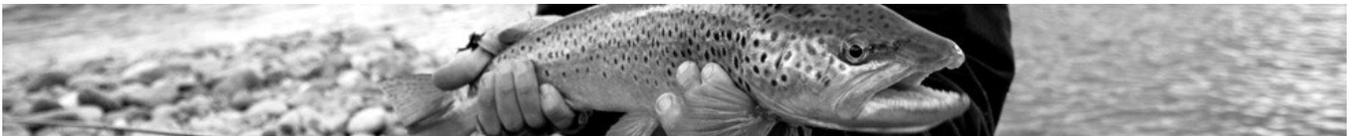
This is the desk and all the mess
That belongs to the guy who tied the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.

This is the hackle that was tied on the hook
Following the instructions in the pattern book
That lay on the desk among all the mess
That belongs to the guy who tied the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.

This is the rooster the guy had to tackle
In order to get the unusual hackle,
The one he tied on the Mustad hook
Following the instructions in Kaufmann's book
That lay on the desk among all the mess
That belongs to the guy who tied the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.

This is the farm where it all took place,
What we jokingly call the great chicken race,
Where this nut chased a rooster he had to tackle
In order to get that particular hackle,
The one he tied on the Mustad hook
Following the instructions in the pattern book
That lay on the desk among all the mess
That belongs to the guy who tied the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.

So that is how it came to pass
That he ended up with crutches and a cast
On this the farm where it all took place,
What we jokingly call the great chicken race,
Where this nut chased a rooster he had to tackle
In order to get the coveted hackle,
The one he tied on the Mustad hook
Following the instructions in the pattern book
That lay on the desk among all the mess
That belongs to the guy who tied the fly
That caught the fish at Peter's place.



How to tie the Mickey Finn

by Don Meyer, chapter vice-president

“One classic, but still popular and effective, bucktail pattern is the Mickey Finn. Designed by John Alden Knight in the 1930s, it was named for the infamous drugged drink.

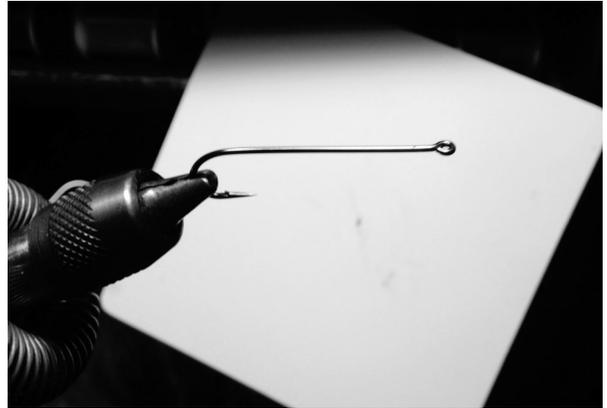
“A streamer is designed to imitate a baitfish rather than an insect. Traditional streamers have hackle-feather wings that extend back, or “Stream,” over the body of the fly.

“The Mickey Finn is an excellent baitfish imitation. The red stripe of bucktail resembles the lateral line of a small minnow or trout. This fly can be extremely productive for salmon, trout, steelhead, bass and even pike” (Art of Fly Tying, by John van Vliet).



Supplies Needed:

- #4 streamer hook 4x long
- 140 denier black thread
- medium copper wire approximately 5" long
- silver 14 flat tinsel
- yellow bucktail
- red bucktail
- black finger nail polish



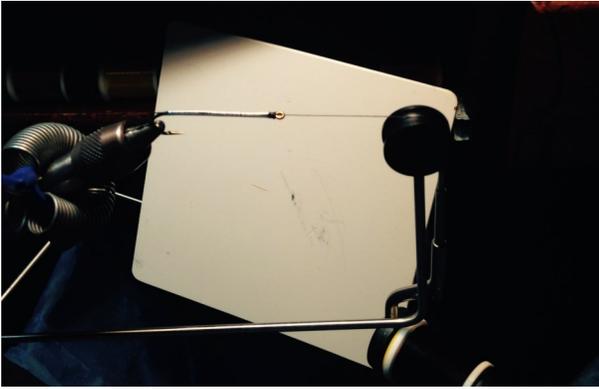
Step 1: Start thread on hook.



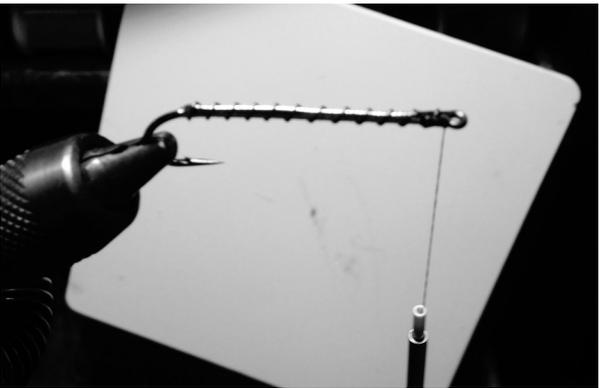
Step 2: Place wire on top of hook, wrap thread over wire smoothly from front of hook to over barb of hook, return thread to front of hook, be sure to flatten thread periodically by spinning bobbin counter clockwise (viewed from above hook).



Step 3: Tie down tinsel tightly behind hook eye; use a half hitch to hold thread to hook while putting bobbin in holder.



Step 4: Run tinsel down and back along hook shank, completely covering shank with evenly spaced wraps.



Step 5: Again 1/2 hitch thread and place bobbin in holder so that wire can be palmered up hook shank and then tied off.



Step 6: Cut, stack a small clump of yellow bucktail, (note: hairs get more curly from base to tip of bucktail; premium hairs are at center), tie hairs to hook behind eye, binding securely.



Step 7: Cut, stack a slightly larger chunk of red bucktail and secure on top of yellow.



Step 8: Cut, stack a slightly larger (again) chunk of yellow bucktail and secure above red.



Step 9: Use black fingernail polish to form a "shiny" head on fly.

Fly-tying and fly-fishing classes starting soon

by Jac Ford,
Mershon chapter vice-president

Your Mershon chapter is planning another series of fly-tying and fly-fishing classes for 2016. These inexpensive classes—which are designed for the novice fly fisherman—are similar to others taught by TU costing several hundred dollars.

Both five-week classes will be held from 7–9 p.m. at Saginaw Township Schools, beginning Wednesday, January 27th, for the fly-fishing class and Thursday, January 28th, for the fly-tying class.

Youth, as well as adults, are invited to attend. There is a \$60 fee for each class, which includes all the materials you will need. No extra charge for the bigger-than-life tales!

Again this year, the classes will be taught by Mershon chapter director Jac Ford, with the assistance of several other chapter members.

Participants in the fly-tying class learn step-by-step fly-tying methods, using videos developed for the class, and receive individual instruction. When completed, participants will have been exposed to the basic techniques necessary to tie most flies successfully.

Participants will tie the following flies: Green Caddis Pupa, Hares-Ear nymph, Comparadun, Elk Hair Caddis, Roberts Yellow Drake, parachute and standard Adams, Egg-Suckin-Leech, floating mayfly emerger, and a poly-wing mayfly spinner. Equipment, materials, and use of the flies are discussed, and of course, there are the usual fishing stories.

The fly-fishing class is a basic class for people who have little or no knowledge of fly fishing or casting. The class teaches the concepts of fly fishing and casting; how to use a rod,

reel, backing, line, tippet, and flies; what the fish sees below and above the water; how to read and fish a river; and trout food (emergence chart for Michigan) and hatches. Students first hone their skills with a fly-o, then spend time in the school's gym casting with fly rods.

If you are interested in either of these classes, contact the Saginaw Township Community Schools at stcs.org or celighthouse.org, or contact Jac Ford at 989-781-0997. ♦



WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

*All Board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month
at 5:30 p.m. at G's Pizzeria, 3823 Bay Road, Saginaw.*

Wednesday, January 6, 2016
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
Wednesday, May 4, 2016

**We welcome you to attend any of the board meetings.
Your input is an invaluable resource in our efforts to serve the resources we enjoy.**

**WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER
OF TROUT UNLIMITED
2015-2016**

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Special thanks to our sponsors:

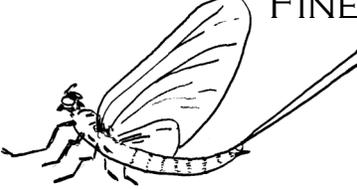
The Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited wishes to extend a heart-felt thank you to these businesses and individuals. Their generous support helps to defray the costs associated with distributing this Muddler.

If you would like to help cover the cost of this publication, please contact Jac Ford at 989-781-0997 or canglers@aol.com.



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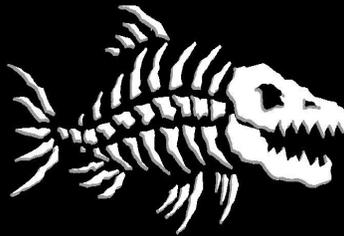
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20-Plus

Streamer Club

An elite club for those fishers who love to throw the big stuff for monster browns and rainbows.

The next streamer "tying & talking" classes will be offered on:

January 9

Small Streamers

January 23

Guest tyer: Russ Maddin

February 9

Guest tyer: Eli Perant

April 2

Guest tyer: Mike Schmidt

Call Jac Ford for more info
989-280-3238

Clip and Save: Mershon Event Calendar

(Additional information, including any fees, will be found in the News section of our website, www.mershon-tu.org and on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/mershon.tu.)

Winter Supper, Social Extravaganza, and Annual Meeting of the Membership *Monday, January 18, 2016*
 American Legion Hall, Post 439, 5190 Weiss St, Saginaw 48603
 5:30 p.m.
Josh Greenberg and Tom Baird will discuss the threat of expanded fish farming on the Au Sable's East Branch.

Fly Fishing Classes *Wednesdays, Jan. 27 to Feb. 24, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.*
 Arrowwood Elementary School, 5410 Seidel Road, Saginaw 48638

Fly Tying *Thursdays, Jan. 28 to Feb. 25, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.*
 Heritage High School, 3465 North Center Road, Saginaw 48603
*These classes are offered through Saginaw Township Community Schools.
 More information at www.stcs.org, and also at www.celighthouse.org.*

Grin and Grub *Wednesday, February 17th, 2016, 5:30 p.m.*
 Tri City Brewing Company, 3020 N. Water St., Bay City 48708
Mike Bachelder will talk about flyfishing on the Rifle River.

Annual Banquet *Saturday, April 23, 2016*
 Saginaw Valley State University Banquet Facility

Women in Waders *Saturday, May 21, 2016*
 Saginaw Bay Visitor Center, 3582 State Park Drive, Bay City 48706
An opportunity for women of any skill level to learn more about the sport of fly fishing.

Rifle River Cleanup *Saturday, September 17, 2016*

Monthly Board Meetings: 5:30 – 7:00 pm, 1st Wednesday of each month
 at Case Funeral Home, 4480 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw 48609
—No meetings during summer months—

<p>409 Adams Street Saginaw, MI 48602 793-9700</p> <p>5700 Dixie Highway Saginaw, MI 48601 777-0300</p> <p>201 N. Miller Road Saginaw, MI 48603 781-1070</p> <p>125 E. Saginaw Street Merrill, MI 48637 643-5990</p>	<p>W. L. CASE AND COMPANY</p>  <p>4480 Mackinaw Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603 989-793-9700 www.casefuneralhome.com Funeral Directors & Insurance Agents</p>
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THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited ◆
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YES! Please begin my one-year introductory membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked at right. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card and quarterly issues of *Trout* magazine with *Action Line*.

Please check membership category:

- New member membership (\$17.50)
- Regular membership (\$35) / r 3 years (\$90)
- Family membership (\$50) / r 3 years (\$100)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$100)*
- Conservator contributor (250)*
- Individual Life (\$1,000) (*No further dues*)*
- Family Life (\$1,100) (*Husband and Wife*)*
- Senior (62 and over) membership (\$20)
- Full-time Student/Youth (under 18) (\$20)
- Business membership (\$200)



All contributions over \$12 are tax deductible.

**Note: special benefits provided for these membership categories.*

***Make checks payable to: TROUT UNLIMITED*

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Mail to: **TROUT UNLIMITED, PO BOX 7400, Woolly Bugger, WV 25438-7400**

(Please remember that board members can help you sign up new members at the membership rate of \$17.50 and that all of this money comes back to the Mershon chapter if the membership application references our chapter #20.)