

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

THE MERSHON MINNOW

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

WWW.MERSHON-TU.ORG



IMPORTANT DATES:

Saturday, June 16th Rifle River Cleanup

9am-2pm
Meet at the Riverview
Campground and Canoe
Livery.

Help clean up the beautiful Rifle River by joining this annual cleanup event hosted by the Rifle River Restoration Committee. We're planning for a 2-3 hour (estimated) float for volunteers, but times may vary depending on the cleanup need and conditions.

You can register at to attend www.rifliveriver.org/cleanup-events.

Mershon Chapter Monthly Board Meetings

1st Wednesday each month

5:30-7:00 pm,
at Case Funeral Home,
Mackinaw Road, Saginaw
(No meetings during summer months)

Fall Board Meeting Dates:
September 5, 2018
October 3, 2018
November 7, 2018

(More information and updates, including any fees, will be found on our website and Facebook page.)

A Message From Our New President

Greetings. As summer has finally begun, I am looking forward to being your president for the next two years. I am excited to work with our great board of directors and advisors to continue the traditions of Trout Unlimited in protecting and preserving Michigan's coldwater fisheries.

I'd like to thank Don Meyer for his leadership the past two years. He guided us through many activities and helped make the Mershon chapter one of the best chapters in the state.

This fall, we are supporting the clean-up efforts on the AuSable River and encourage all of you to join in. Our streams are only as good as we keep them, so help us keep the rivers clean and cold. We are also planning some new and exciting social events this year to help bring members together, promote

coldwater fisheries, and have fun. Please visit our website, Facebook page, and Twitter Account often to stay informed and current on all things related to Michigan's cold water fishery and all the exciting events the Mershon chapter has planned for you this year.

As I write this, I'm closing out another school year, throwing and catching countless softballs and baseballs with my daughter and son's ball teams as our travel season is off and running, the bugs are going strong, and guide season is in full swing for me. This is my crazy season. The season I wouldn't trade for anything. The season when we get to enjoy all the hard work that went into protecting and cleaning our fisheries last fall and winter. I hope you are able to get out and take full advantage of the many fishing opportunities we have in Michigan.

This week, I will find myself staged on a long glassy slick with clients looking for trout sipping on spinners as the light fades away and listening for the subtle popping sound of a trout eating sulphur spinners after dark.

We are extremely blessed to have such a world-class fishery within a couple hours of our doorsteps. Take some time away from your busy schedules to get out and enjoy the summer. Tight lines!

—Todd Zwetzig,
Chapter president

2018 spring banquet netted funds for Michigan's coldwater resources

Our annual spring banquet, held April 21, was both a social and financial success. If you were unable to attend, you missed a really fun and informative evening. While all the numbers are not yet in, we can comfortably say we raised enough money to carry

out our planned projects and programs in the coming year.

This year's rod raffle was especially successful thanks to the outstanding Scott fly rod outfit donated by Little Forks Outfitters. The rod was won by Larry Hadden of AuGres, and Larry added to the event's

financial success by telling us to auction off the rod yet that evening and add those dollars to our fundraising effort. Thanks Larry! ◆

Women In Waders gain flyfishing skills and social media contacts



The 3rd annual Women 'n Waders event was another success, despite the rain. Women from all over the state met at Saginaw Bay Visitor's Center on Saturday, May 19 to spend the day learning everything they need to know to get started in the sport of fly fishing. This was the first year the event was hosted in cooperation with the DNR's Outdoor Skills Academy.

Volunteers from the Mershon Chapter worked to teach knot tying, gear selection, and where to fish. Each of 34 women left with an elk hair caddis they tied

themselves. Two casting sessions were given to each woman, giving them practice in overhead and roll casting. A new and popular session this year was the Potato Putt Putt course, where women used the same physics in casting to flick potatoes from forks to try to hit targets.



All the women were happy with the skills they learned, but are eager to get some more experience actually on the water. A Facebook group has been formed to encourage the women to get together for more practice casting, tying flies, or just telling fish stories. All women who would be interested in joining the group are encouraged to check out Women 'n Waders on the Mershon Chapter's Facebook page. ♦

Ever wonder what projects we support?

Each year proceeds from the annual spring banquet are used to fund various conservation and education projects as well as provide funds for the yearly operation of the chapter. Here is a summary of how the monies raised during the 2018 banquet are being dispersed.

MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED REQUESTS FOR FUNDING 2018

Applicant/Contact	Project	Purpose	Mershon Funding
Huron Pines	Rifle River & E. Branch AuSable Watershed Restoration Project	Support of Huron Pines stream bank restoration efforts	\$1000
Kalamazoo Valley Chapter TU	Michigan Youth Trout Camp	Fund counselor costs , transportation costs, and other miscellaneous costs	\$700
Cedars for the Au Sable	Upper Au Sable and Manistee Rivers cedar plantings	Funds requested to purchase northern white-cedar seedlings and protective enclosures for planting	\$500
MITU Council	MITU State Initiatives	Support for the social, legislative and environmental work performed on your behalf by MITU's professional staff, Executive Director Bryan Burroughs and Aquatic Ecologist Kristin Thomas.	\$1000
Anglers of the Au Sable	Au Sable River Annual Clean Up	Purchase materials related to the annual Au Sable Clean Up Project (Lower River Cleanup)	\$400
Mason-GriffithFounders Chapter TU	E. Branch of the Au Sable water quality monitoring	Monitor water quality and collect baseline data below fish farm	\$500
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy	Becoming Outdoor Smart in Summer Program (BOSS)	Youth Education Program and Newsletter	\$834
Rifle River Clean Up Cole Canoe Camp BSA	River Clean Up May-August 2018	Funds will be used to purchase supplies related to cleanup and provide dumpsters for trash	\$250
Total Funding			\$5184

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