

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

# 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

[www.Mershon-TU.org](http://www.Mershon-TU.org)

## Meanders A few thoughts from the president *Don Meyer*



*Don Meyer, chapter president*

Another trout season is over. Looking at the weather forecast, winter weather is rapidly approaching. So, now is the time to relive memories and tie a few flies. Also, it's the start of our winter programs: our January Winter Extravaganza the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, this year at Sullivan's on Gratiot Road. Next is the February Grin and Grub, followed in April by the Annual Banquet. More info to follow on these two events.

Fly-fishing expos in Grand Rapids and Warren will also help reduce the winter doldrums and start everyone thinking ahead to spring. Some of the booths at each event will feature volunteer possibilities for Trout Unlimited members. Remember, we are a great conservation group, and upcoming events will help us plan our future projects. There is always lots to do to keep our streams, rivers, and lakes as beautiful as they are.

While floating the Au Sable recently, I said more than once what a beautiful river it is and how lucky we in Michigan are. Thanks to us.

—Meyer

## Grin and Grub at Tri City Brewery

*by Todd Zwetzig,  
 chapter vice president*

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's new location., 4170 Shrestha Dr., in Bay City, on Thursday, February 22nd, 2018, at 5:30 pm.

For your entertainment, we will be having an informal fly-fishing presentation from Author/Guide Bob Linsenman. If you haven't had the chance to meet Bob, you won't want to miss this! Bob has a tremendous knowledge of Michigan's fly-fishing heritage as well as a plethora of tried-and-true tactics to share.

We will also be providing pizza. Come at 5:30 pm 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. ◆

## Upcoming Events

### Winter Extravaganza

**O**n January 15, we will be hosting our Winter Extravaganza at Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot Road in Saginaw (near Center Road intersection, South side). Doors open at 5:30pm with dinner served at 6:30pm.

This year's speaker will be Josh Greenberg, talking about the issues of contamination to Lake Margrethe in Grayling Township from fire retardant in the ground water.

Please do not forget that this is also the annual meeting for the Mershon chapter. We have some directors that will be completing their term limits and will need to be replaced. This meeting will be open to voting for new directors.

So, please come and enjoy the dinner at a cost of \$20 per person. ♦

### 2018 Spring Banquet Update

**P**lanning for our 2018 Spring Banquet is moving ahead, and we wanted to remind you to block the evening of Saturday, April 21, for that event. It will again be held on campus at Saginaw Valley State University. That venue has worked well and has provided us with plenty of space and great food. More details will be coming your way after the first of the year.

Now we ask that you please give some thought to our call for help. We are in great need of members who will step forward and take an active role in planning and bringing about this and future banquets. Working with our committee this year will give you a better understanding of what steps need to be taken to put our banquet together and give you a better perspective as to what ideas should be kept in place and what changes might need to be made in future years. Funds raised at our spring banquets allow us to fund projects that improve habitat on the Au Sable and Rifle Rivers, sponsor campers from our area at the Michigan Trout Youth Camp, and let us provide the equipment needed in local schools that participate in the

Salmon in the Classroom program. But putting our banquet together takes a commitment from a few dedicated members who gather each winter to develop a plan and then execute that plan.

Please give some thought to taking an active role in that process. If you would like to help us make our banquet happen, please call or send an email to President Don Meyer. You will find his email and phone number listed with our officers and board in this issue of the Muddler. ♦

### Fly Fishing with Jac Ford

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. You will first hone your skills with a fly-o, then spend time in the school's gym casting with fly rods. Class fee includes a year's membership to Trout Unlimited except for those who have had a membership any time during the past three years. No extra charge for the bigger-than-life tales!

Location: Arrowwood in Saginaw  
 Class Fee: \$30  
 Days: Thursdays  
 Dates: February 1–March 1  
 Time: 6-8 PM  
 Min/Max: 7/20

### Fly Tying with Jac Ford

Participants in the fly-[tying class learn step-by-step fly-tying methods. When completed, participants will have been exposed to the basic techniques necessary to tie most flies successfully. Equipment, materials and use of the flies are discussed, and of course, there are the usual fishing stories. Class fee includes a year's membership to Trout Unlimited except for those who have had a membership anytime during the past three years.

Location: Arrowwood in Saginaw  
 Class Fee: \$30  
 Days: Thursdays  
 Dates: February 1–March 1  
 Time: 8-10 PM  
 Min/Max: 7/20

## Wm B. Mershon 40th annual fly- fishing and fly- tying classes offered in February

### Self-Taught, Sadly

by Snarly Windknot

I was reading the letter in the last Muddler from one of the young folks we sponsored at last summer's Michigan Youth Trout Camp—an event put together each year by the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited—and thinking what a great learning opportunity it is for those kids who attend. If you were lucky when you were learning to fly fish, you may have attended such a camp, or had someone who coached and mentored you. Or, maybe you're self-taught and just stumbled along like I did. If so, maybe you can relate to this poem.

### That's How It All Began

*(Hundreds if not thousands of dollars ago)*

Like most folks I know who fly fish today  
 I learned to fish when I was a kid.  
 But not with a fly rod and breathable waders,  
 I learned to fish like some of you did.

I used a willow stick and some heavy black thread  
 That I got out of my mother's sewing room.  
 And I didn't use dry flies, or streamers, or nymphs,  
 I used a number 6 hook and a big gob of worm.

And I wasn't after anything as exotic as cutthroat,  
 Or even a bass or a pike.  
 I was after those species we call trash fish today,  
 Shiners and chubs and the like.

I'd go down to the creek, which was really a ditch,  
 And spend the day getting mud on my britches.  
 I rarely if ever caught any fish,  
 But I sure got my feet all covered with leaches.

Now my hair's turned gray and my rod's made of graphite  
 And I wear a vest that's hung with gadgets galore.  
 And there are lots more fish in the creeks I now wade,  
 But in truth I don't seem to catch many more.

## Lesser-known .Orgs

from Bob Kren, Mershon Advisor, and Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

Maybe you don't notice the extensions on websites, things like .com, .bus, .edu, .fyi, and .whatever. Our chapter has a .org designation, showing that it is a non-profit organization, which we repeatedly are reminded of.

There are many more such organizations, like TU.org, or FFI.org, just to be obvious. But, some of the others are a little esoteric, if not downright goofy. Here follows a few that have been brought to my attention. The prose is from their websites, and other, even less reliable, sources.:

- The American Association of FlyFishing Veterans. AAFVe.org dances a fine edge between .org and .taxevasion. The membership has as its motto "Exotic destinations where lectures are delivered, but mostly lots of fishing gets done." The lectures have relevance if you're a veteran of anything, including a bad marriage, excessive alcohol consumption, harassment of any sort, hangnails, or whatever. Because this is a .org, all meeting expenses, including new equipment, can be written off on one's income taxes. Dues are excessive, but deductible, and benefits are great.
- The Church of the Rainbow. CofR.org is not a real church with bricks and a steeple, but an onstream gathering of people who pray that their fishing will get better through divine intervention. Most of them would convert to Islam if it meant they'd catch more fish. "Deity Schmeity!, Whatever Works!" adorns their flag.
- Sitters for the au Sable .org. SftaS.org is a bunch of people who hang out at Skip's, or Paddle Hard Brewery, or at anybody's house "up north," who happens to have beer. Meetings occur at random intervals, and once a year they all get together for some fishing, which always means more drinking, and perilous wading. This group single-handedly provoked the invention of waders with zippers. "Onward, or Shomething," is their hymn, sung after a couple of rounds.
- The National River Association. NaRA.org promotes responsible flyfishing gear ownership, in keeping with our Forefathers' intention that everybody – man, woman, undecided – has the right to pack a rod, anywhere he, or she, or it, wants to. Airport security may have a problem with this right, but the membership sure doesn't. "The bigger the rod, the better," the NaRA says, proudly! Do NOT tell members of NaRA that they are jerks when they wade right in front of you.
- The American Association of FlyFishing Victims. AmAsFVi.org, not to be confused with the first entry, above, celebrates the idea that nothing is our fault, everybody and everything else is out to get us, and a guy just can't get a break. We get skunked because the weather's bad, or too good; the Sun's in our eyes, or isn't; Our motto is "You Shoulda Been Here Tomorrow," when they'll really be biting.
- The Association of Reading Too Much and Not Fishing Enough. ARTMNFE.org gives the devotee of book and magazine accumulation an excuse to go to meetings and waste even more time not fishing. "You can never know too much, or pontificate too little" is the group's proud motto. One of the founders tragically drowned while reading onstream while stepping into a wader-topping hole she didn't even notice, until it was too late! Turns out she had only read about swimming, and never done any, personally.
- International Federation of Flyfishing Zombies. IFFZ.org has a membership that is in constant flux, which is to say, as soon as a new member does a backcast, his, or her, arm falls off, and casting subsequently becomes difficult. Things can only get worse: pulling on waders leads to pulling off limbs; flytying loses fingers (and, strangely enough, toes, too); their motto is something in Latin, but who cares, because Latin is just plain scary.
- Bigwigs With Money to Burn. BiWiMoBu.org rests on the bedrock American principle that anybody with lots of money can buy fun and satisfaction, and especially exclusion and privilege. What we ordinary mortals call "stuff," and spend too much money on, they call "necessities," and spend too much money on. Difference? They get to write all their stuff off on their taxes, and we don't. Buy a river? Why not? Buy a hatchery? No problem!

Well, internet fans, we are not alone as a .org, here at the Mershon chapter. Some of these are embarrassingly close to factual, so watch out! if you type these into your browser. Happy surfing, and excuse me, but I gotta go read a book. ♦



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2016-2017**

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# How to tie the Psycho Ant

by Jac Ford, chapter past-president

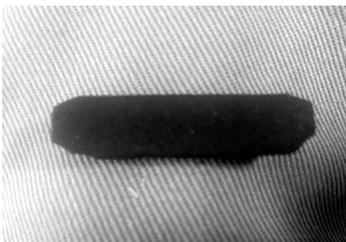
Mid summer when the water gets low, clear, and lacks much bug life, the primary fish food comes from above. The grass, branches, trees, flowers, etcl, hold the answer.

Many terrestrial type bugs are the primary activity. Large trout are looking up, right out in the middle of the bubble line. Usually, the water that you'll get the big trout to come up and smash your dry bug is not too deep, but its deep enough for them to be secure.

During this period, whether wading or drift fishing from a boat, you'll want to fish downstream way ahead of you, and the longer the better. This is not the time to use fine tippets. First of all, it's difficult to turn these larger-than-life morsels with a fine tippet, but if one of these 20-inch trout or a summer run steelhead eat your ant, you'll have little chance of landing it. So, muscle up to 2X tippet. After all, the fly will be going downstream ahead of your leader, not allowing the fish to see it.

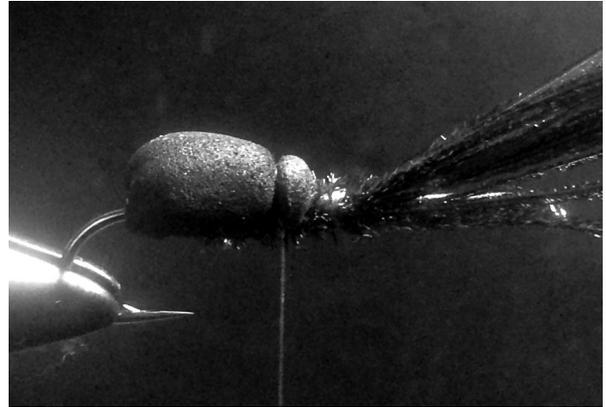
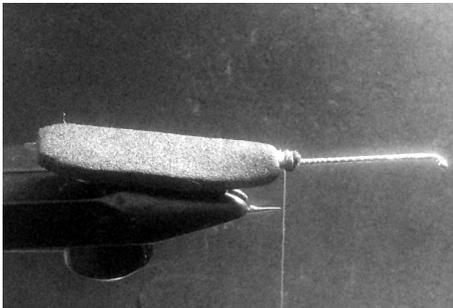
There are many patterns of natural-looking terrestrials that will work, such as ants, bees, house flies, hoppers, beetles, and more. But, don't be afraid of throwing crazy bugs like Chernobyl Ants or the Orvis Psycho Ant you just tied. I do!

**Hook:** Streamer hook 4X long ( 4-8 )  
**Thread:** Streamer strength  
**Body:** Peacock and foam rubber  
**Legs:** Rubber legs two colors  
 flash-a-bou, Antron or EB Fibers, large dry hackle

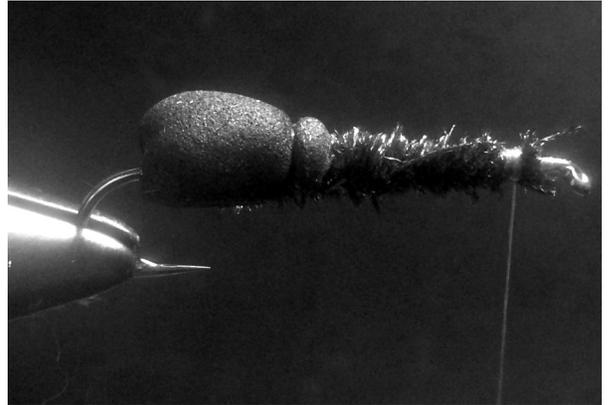


*Step 1: cut a piece of foam similar to what you would use for making a mouse. I use black for all mine, other colors could be used. Trim ends to narrow them up for ease of tying them on the hook.*

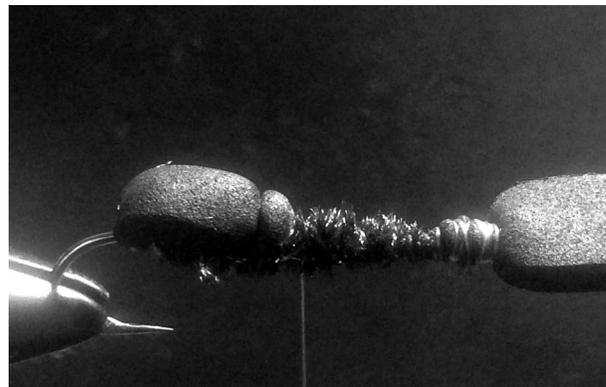
*Step 2: tie in one of the ends of the foam at the beginning of the bend of the hook.*



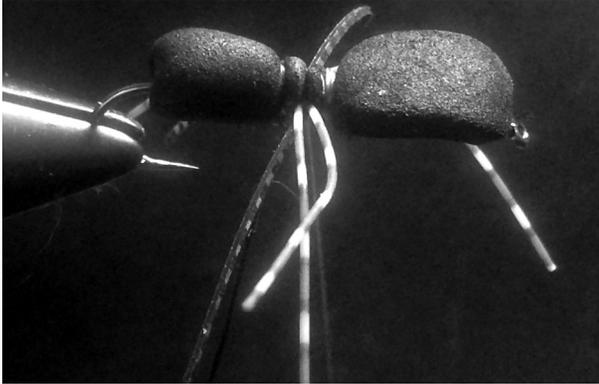
*Step 3: tie in several pieces of peacock where the foam is tied onto the hook. Wind the thread forward a little less than half way of the hook shank. Wind the peacock around the hook firmly to the thread. Tie off the peacock and cut it off; then fold the foam down, tie it off with the thread and cut the foam off.*



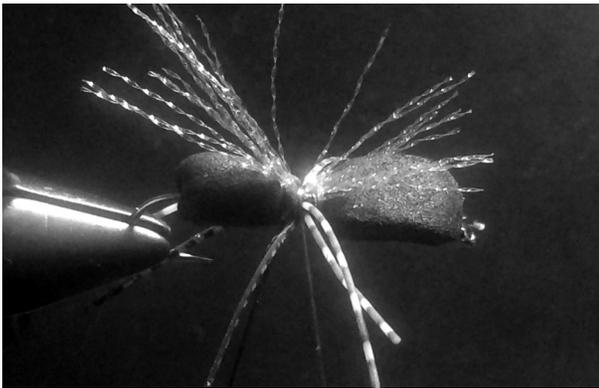
*Step 4: tie in more peacock, wind the thread forward then the peacock and tie off/cot off.*



*Step 5: fold the foam that is sticking out past the front of the hook back over the hook and tie in place.*



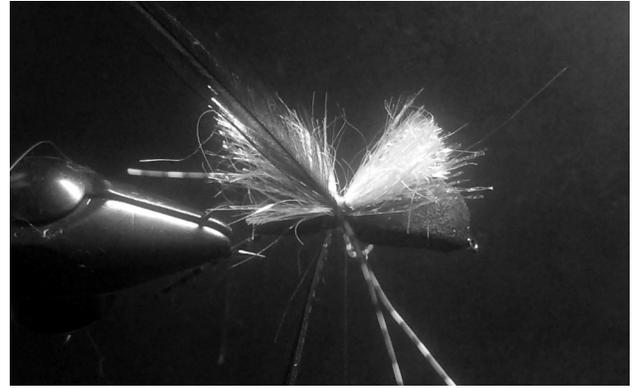
*Step 6: tie in two different colors of legs on the side of each hook.*



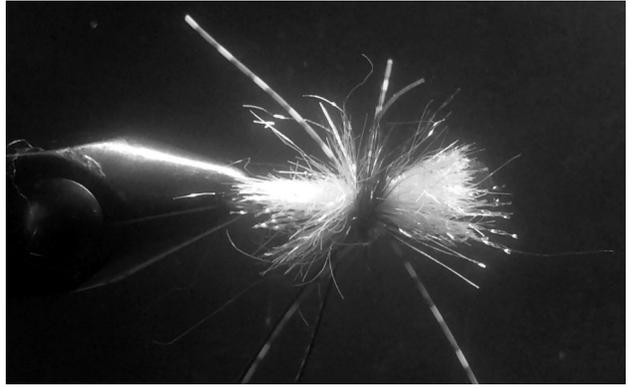
*Step 7: tie in a clump of flash on top of the hook.*



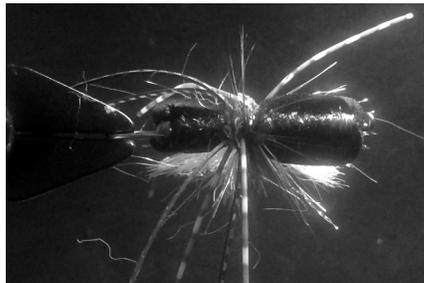
*Step 8: tie in a short clump of Polly yarn or something more flashy like Antron or EP fibers. Trim end square.*



*Step 9: tie in a large black hackle feather after trimming the soft hackle end off.*



*Step 10: wind the hackle feather a couple times and tie the hackle feather tip off; whip finish with about three turns and cut off the thread. A drop of head cement might be a good idea.*



*Bottom view*

*Side view of the Psycho Ant. Notice it's quiet large. In this case, a size four 2x long hook.*



## 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.



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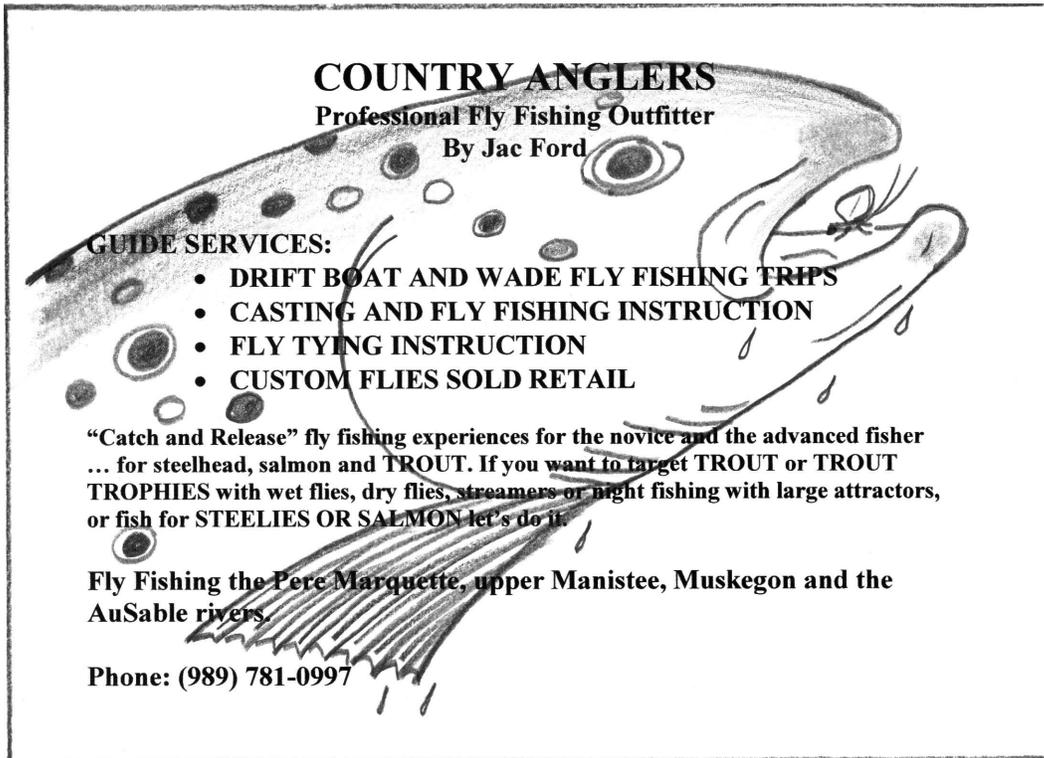
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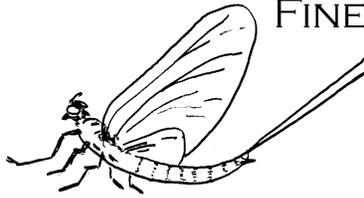
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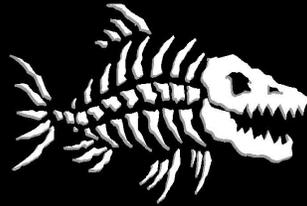
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WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

*All Board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month  
at 5:30 p.m. at W.L. Case Funeral Home, 4480 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw*

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

*—No meetings during summer months—*

**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.**

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

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## 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](http://www.mershon-tu.org) and on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/mershon.tu](http://www.facebook.com/mershon.tu).)

### Winter Dinner and Annual Meeting

*Sullivan's Restaurant in Saginaw at 5:30pm*

*Monday, January 15, 2018*

### Fly-Fishing Classes

*Arrowwood Elementary, Saginaw, from 6-8pm*

*Thursdays, beginning February 1, 2018*

### Fly-Tying Classes

*Arrowwood Elementary, Saginaw, from 8-10pm*

*Thursdays, beginning February 1, 2018*

### Grin and Grub

*Tri City Brewing Co in Bay City at 5:30pm*

*Thursday, February 22, 2018*

### Spring Banquet

*Saginaw Valley State University*

*Saturday, April 21, 2018*

**Monthly Board Meetings:** 5:30 – 7:00 pm,  
1st Wednesday of each month  
at *W.L. Case Funeral Home, 4480 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw*  
(No meetings during summer months)