

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

www.Mershon-TU.org

THE M E R S H O N 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
Todd Zwetzig

As I write this, I am seeing the first trees starting to turn color, indicating fall is coming once again. If you are an outdoorsman, there is no better time to be outside! With Fall brings the closure to many of our rivers to give the fish a chance to spawn in peace and rest for the winter.

For some of us, winter is our only time to fish, and, thankfully, there are still many miles of river open to fishing throughout the winter.

When you are out fishing this fall, please leave the spawning brown and brook trout alone to do their business and steer clear of redds when wading. These fish are very vulnerable during this time and deserve to be left alone.

Your Michigan Trout Unlimited leadership has been very active this summer dealing with the fish farm on the AuSable River, diminishing populations of trout on the North Branch, and the growing concern of Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in our lakes and rivers. Although there are not many answers for the North Branch or PFAS as of now, there has been a resolution to the fish farm. As of this writing, the fish farm is no more and has ceased operation, and the future threat of another taking its place is gone as well. This was a huge victory for the AuSable River and all parties involved. This was a collaborative effort amongst many organizations with TU being there from start to finish.

Your board of directors had their first meeting in September, and I'm so thankful to be able to work with this fine group of individuals. Because of their dedication and commitment, we have numerous opportunities to get together, have some fun, improve our rivers, and raise money for the improvement of our cold-water fisheries. A lot of work is going into making these events successful and enjoyable. You can thank your directors for these events, because they would not happen without their hard work. Thank you, directors, for working together as a team and making the Mershon chapter so great! They have some great stuff in the works for this upcoming year. Stay up-to-date via our electronic newsletter, Facebook, and through our website. I look forward to meeting all of you at one of our upcoming activities.

I hope you have a great fall and get a chance to enjoy the rivers you fight so hard to preserve and protect.



Todd Zwetzig, chapter president

—Todd Zwetzig, chapter president

Fly-fishing and fly-tying instructor Jac Ford ready to pass the baton after 40 years

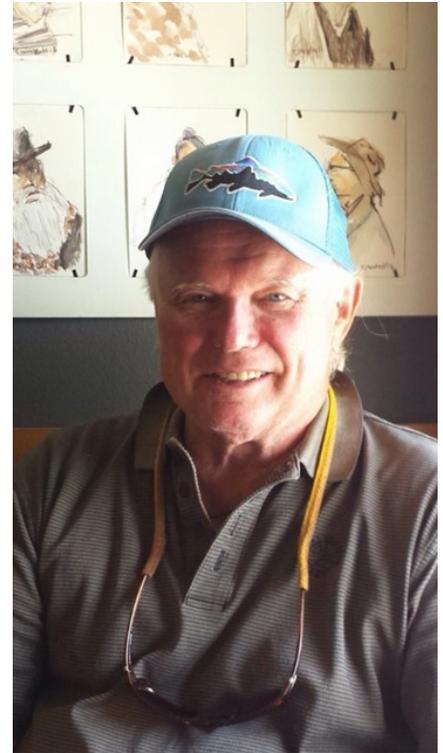
by Don Meyer, chapter past-president

After 40 years, we are looking for a new teacher for our fly-tying and fly-fishing classes. In January of 1978, Jac Ford started these classes and now would like someone else to teach them. Although his daughter filled in occasionally, and Carl Hubinger taught a few of the years, Jac has taught almost all of those 40 years.

While classes years ago averaged 25 students, they are now down to about 8 per session. Our chapter still has the tools to outfit many students in both classes. Some of the original vises were bought from Art Neumann's shop, and we now have used fly-o's purchased from Orvis, along with the ones made with packaging yarn from years ago.

Through the years, many of our chapter members came from the ranks of these class students. Many of the chapter members helped out with teaching, include yours truly--I took both classes, helped teach, and have since served as president of the chapter.

So, if you have the desire to teach either or both of these classes, contact Todd Zwetzig or any board member. But, don't forget to thank Jac for all the years of dedication. ♦



Jac Ford has taught our fly-fishing and fly-tying classes for 40 years! We're grateful for his dedication to our cold-water resources and to educating the next generation of resource guardians.

Food and drink served up to support the chapter

by David Oeming, chapter director

The Maple Grille of Hemlock has graciously offered to support our chapter's cold-water conservation work.

The date of the event is Wednesday, December 05, 2018, from 4:00 pm until closing. A portion of the proceeds from the day will be

donated to the chapter. There will be no program, raffles, or prizes—only great food and beer.

Check the Maple Grille website, www.TheMapleGrille.net, for a typical daily bill of fare.

No reservations are accepted and food is served only until it's gone, so plan to get there early. The Mershon Officers and Board of Directors looks forward to a convivial evening of feeding, fellowship, family, and fishing tales with friends. ♦



Official State Sports

by Bob Kren, Mershon Advisor, and Mr. Flyfisherpersongy

Well, sports fans, Jerry “Moonbeam” Brown has named surfing as the official state sport of California. Here’s a couple of suggestions for other states. Tropes, anybody?

- New Mexico (state motto “Presse Uno por Español”) Favorite sport is welcoming illegal aliens with arms. And with barbed wire enclosures, and tent cities. Honestly, isn’t there enough desert and desolation to go around? Exactly who, other than politicians running for office, cares if others take over the countryside, just as long as you don’t give ‘em any water, or “agua,” as one increasing must say.
- Michigan (state motto “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, plug your ears”). Gotta be “Driving Noisy Outdoor Vehicles.” Whether it’s snowmobiles blasting through a forest, or ATV’s abusing the calm of a dune, we’re all for motorized anything. Why, just imagine revving up a 20 hp flyrod, yanking them fish in in seconds, sailing a cast two counties over, pulling down a tree that snatched a fly.
- Alabama (state motto “A Mind is a Terrible Thing”). The approved state sport for this flyover state is watching ‘Bama football. For most of the fans, the only way they’d get into college is in a vat of formaldehyde, but that doesn’t prevent good ol’ boys from painting their faces red, guzzling antifreeze, taking off most of their

clothes, and cheering like, well, good ol’ boys. The fact that U of A has a flyfishing team likely escapes them. True story—met a few team members down on the Norfolk. Those good young boys sure could catch fish!

- West Virginia (state motto “A Mine is a Terrific Thing”)’s fave is “Polluting in a Good Way,” if by “good” you mean “for me.” Got a streambed that needs sulfuric acid? We’re here for you. Mountaintop that pleads for scalping? We’re right on it, say these holler dwellers. Black lung is a great aid to x-ray reading, makes a nice contrast agent.
- Arkansas’ (state motto “Nice Tooth”) favorite sport is “Chasing Away Yankees.” If it weren’t for the great tailwater fishing, nobody from “Up North” would ever put up with the locals’ idea that the South, or Dear ol’ Dixie, actually won the Civil War, all other reports being Yankee fake news from 153 years ago. Having attended a meeting of TU Chapter 698, Mountain Home AR, I can personally vouch for the accuracy of this entry.
- Washington (state motto “We’re not California but We Pretend That We Are”): coffee drinking, despite the fact that nobody can taste the difference between the various roasts and varieties. Grunge bands, poor imitations of Silicon Valley, martinis—wait! There’s much more to Washington than just Seattle, but you’d never know it, to read the news from out there. Just wait for the Cascadia fault to let loose, there’ll be tons of broken glass. My wife and I were in Aberdeen WN when the Satsop quake let loose, back in 1999. Rock and roll!

- Montana (“Billionaires Welcome” is on their license plates) What a choice of sports!: flyfishing, hunting, horseback riding, skiing, skinny dipping—but the most favoriteist sport is fishing for huge trout with worms. Brookies, browns, cutthroats, cutbows, and rainbows are all just protein out there. Second most favorite is looking over your shoulder to see if’n the game warden is sneakin’ up on you: you, and your twenty-seven-fish-over-the-limit stringer of trout.
- Pennsylvania (“The Keystone State” Huh?) This swinging state, where people go to New Jersey for vacations, has claimed gerrymandering for its favorite sporting activity—other states are good at it, too, but nobody does it better. I often wonder how TU chapters are assigned territories here, probably by the shape of trout—a district shaped like a leaping steelie—or resembling a particular fly, like the Marabou Muddler, or one of Kelly Galloup’s creations, never mind which one.
- Utah (state motto “You Won’t Believe Our Sand”) The state sport is going door to door, spreading pamphlets and invitations, and spoiling afternoon delights. White shirts and black ties dominate the activity, or long frumpy dresses with high collars for the occasional woman not home with the kids. I’ll drink to that. There is alleged to be some really good trout water, which is hard to believe exists in this sun-baked state.

That comes nowhere near finishing out the list of fifty states, but you can probably fill in the blanks with your own faves.

—Bob K



2018 Mershon chapter campers give thanks

Each year the Mershon Chapter provides funds for young teens to attend the Michigan Youth Trout Camp in northern Michigan. Here are their thought and thanks.

Thank you Trout Unlimited!

I had an amazing time at the Trout Unlimited Youth Camp. There were several great things that we did that made Trout Camp so much fun. The food was amazing, every breakfast, lunch and dinner tasted homemade and the cookies were Great!!

The activities we did were super fun, inspiring and educational. The stream restoration was amazing and my favorite part of the experience. I love cleaning and preserving the environment, doing that has inspired

me to join the ecology club at my school. I would like to thank the William B. Mershon chapter for allowing me to be part of this amazing camp and supplying me with the Rod and reel to learn with as well as the camp fees. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Robb Smith who offered me the opportunity to attend Trout Camp, without him I would not have known about or been able to attend this amazing camp.

Sincerely,
Cale Douglas

I overall had an amazing time at the Trout Unlimited camp. I learned more about fly fishing within the first 10 minutes then I did in my entire life. The best part was the counselor to camper ratio, by that I mean there was enough campers for every counselor to personally instruct and make sure everybody was learning and catching fish. The counselors truly cared about the campers and wanted them to succeed. They were overall awesome.

Every time we entered a new part of the lake we cleaned our waders to prevent invasive species. All fish where catch and release no matter what. One day we even built fish cribs so the fish would have a better chance surviving. Our schedule was jam packed every day from seven o'clock till eleven o'clock so we were always doing something from learning to catching fish. Overall the camp was very ecofriendly and cared about the environment.

We learned how the river worked and where to find fish. We were also taught about the ecosystem of the river. Around the second and third day we made our own flies, I had a hard time with it but I eventually picked up on it like everybody else. Every day we learned so we could use that knowledge to better our fishing. If that wasn't enough the food was always very good every time. I would recommend this camp to anyone it is fun, environmentally friendly, and very educational about our lakes and streams.

Dawson Sanderson



Chapter members, Don Meyer (far left) and Bill Adams (far right) with campers Kale Douglas (left) and Dawson Sanderson (right) at the 2018 Michigan Trout Youth Fly Fishing Camp.

Wading Wet

There's a lot to be said for today's breathable waders. If you treat them halfway right, you can wear them day after day, and they'll keep you dry and reasonably comfortable, even on hot days. Whether you wade in water to your knees or to your waist, they keep you dry inside and let your perspiration escape so that you stay cooler as well. But, you have to be careful because they can lull you into a false sense of security. I've learned that, even with a good wader belt on, if you lay down in the river you are going to get wet. This isn't just a theory, either. I have tested this one out several times. And, this experience, or rather these experiences, have taught me that spring, summer, or fall, if you take a few gallons of river water down the front of your waders, breathable though they may be, they are not as comfortable until you get out of them, get dried out and get your waders dried out. Now, if you came prepared with a change of dry clothes, or if it's a nice warm sunny day, it won't ruin your fishing trip. It will, however, quite likely literally dampen your spirits a bit.

This poem describes one of those trips I just mentioned. I worked my sister in right at the end so she can't say I've never mentioned her in any of my poems.

Just Another Day

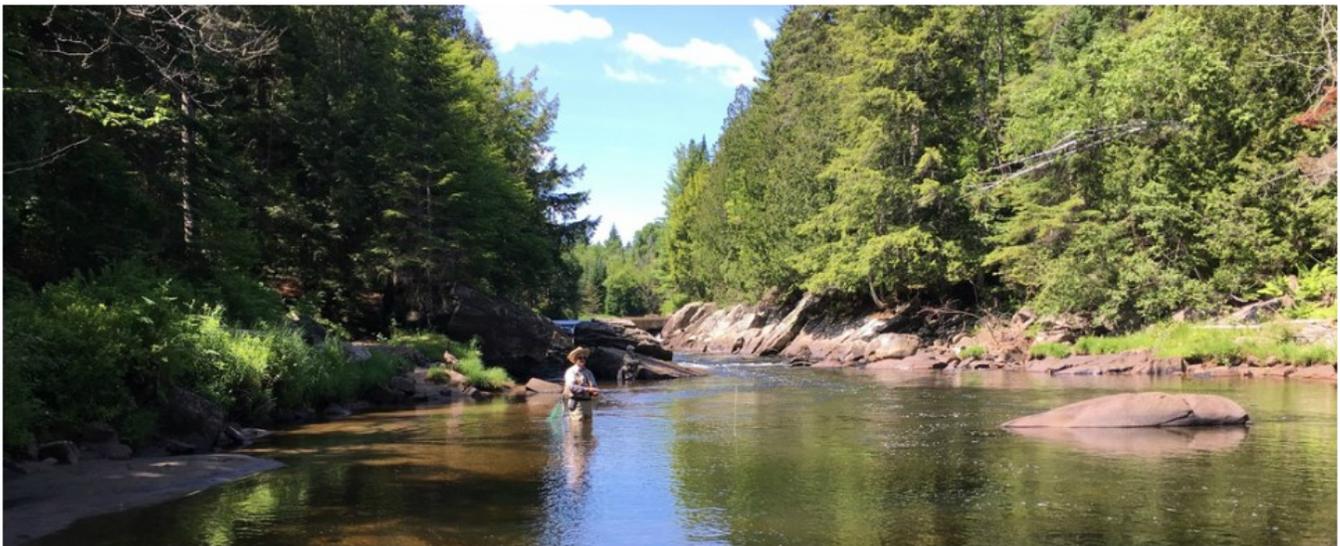
By Sharly Windknot

The current was fast, and the rocks were all slippery,
Each one was like stepping on a greased bowling ball.
I was wading very slowly and being extra careful,
But like Humpty Dumpty I took a great fall.

My feet flew out one way, my arms out another.
I went down with all the grace of an NBA flop.
I kept my rod from going to the bottom,
But the river filled my waders right up to the top.

Now you might think that was the end of my fishing,
That I packed up my gear and called it a day.
But I've done it so many times it didn't even phase me.
I just wet-waded instead. Heck, it was cooler that way.

The lesson to be learned is that not every day is perfect.
In fact, some days are far less perfect than others.
But, if you ask my sister, she's going to tell you
The same can be said about older brothers.



How to tie the Meyer X

by Don Meyer, chapter past-president

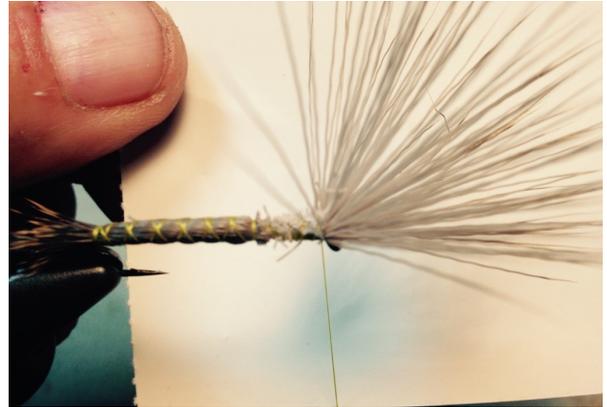
This fly, which was first tied for a tie-a-thon last year, floats well and imitates a grasshopper.

Materials Needed:

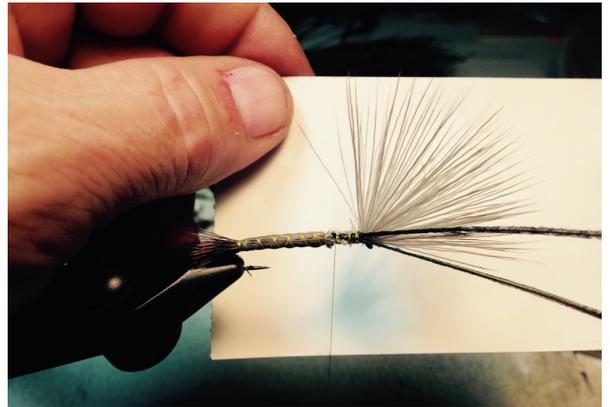
Hook: 2x long number 6 hook
Thread: 140 yellow thread
Body: deer hair, peacock herl
Legs: fine white rubber legs
 orange foam; 2mm



Step 1: clean and stack clump of deer hair, 3/4" long. Position on evenly around hook leaving about 5/16" behind eye of hook. Tie down with thread using x wraps.



Step 2: tie another clump of clean and stacked hair facing forward; tie down well.



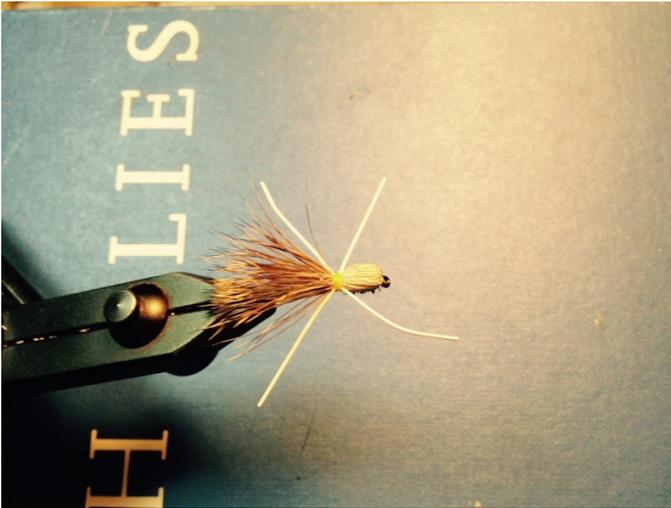
Step 3: tie in 2 peacock herl.



Step 4: wrap herl towards back of hook. Leave thread dangle where body starts.



Step 5: fold forward-facing hair backwards over thorax making bullet head and tie down with an 1/8" tie-down area.

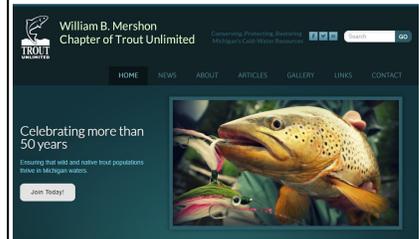


Step 6: tie in 2, 1 3/4" fine rubber legs



Step 7: tie in orange vee'd foam piece which holds hair in place and acts as sight indicator. Tie off thread and apply a slight amount of glue to hold thread wraps and legs in place. Go fish.

Check out the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited online



Find us on the web at
Mershon-TU.org



wbmershontu
@wbmershontu

Find us on Twitter
@wbmershontu



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/Mershon-TU

**WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER
OF TROUT UNLIMITED
2018-2019**

Officers

President

Todd Zwetzig
989-225-2478
toddzwetzig@gmail.com

Vice President

Laurie Seibert
lbeachteacher@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dave Case
642-5286
dsbec53@chartermi.net

Secretary

David Cozad
benthos1@aol.com
989-684-7947

Past-President

Donald Meyer
989-245-0662
donalddmeyer@aol.com

Membership Committee Chair

Andy Ludy
ajludy@gmail.com
wbmershontu@gmail.com

Directors

Joe Albosta
albastaj@gmail.com

Don Albrecht
989-245-5819
Albrecht.don@sbcglobal.net

Corey Anderson
989-492-1163
coreyanderson01@gmail.com

Kris Cincinelli
989-793-6712
fishingkris@yahoo.com

Dan Haven
989-750-3211
peachpeople@netzero.com

Howard N. Johnson
989-280-0381
hnjohnson@aol.com

Jim Lewis
790-3151 (H), 989-751-0344 (C)
jim_lewis@chartermi.net

Andy Ludy
ajludy@gmail.com

Chris Myers
989-332-0625
crcasemyers@gmail.com

David Oeming
989-692-0322
dfoeming@sbcglobal.net

Advisors

Bill Adams
989-860-2090
adamsbillchar@charter.net

Lou Albosta

Bo Brines
989-832-4100 (W)
989-832-9528 (H)
bo@littleforks.com

Joe Bula
781-2047 (H)
joenette@mybluelight.com

David Fisher
781-4932 (H), 792-9641 (W)
djfisher@smithbovill.com

Jac Ford
781-0997 (H/FAX)
canglers@aol.com

Carl Hubinger
642-5487 (H)
ccarlhubinger@msn.com

Risty Kalivas
790-8614 (H)
ristydo@aol.com

Rich Kemerer
781-5220 (H)
jrfishbag@aol.com

Bob Kren
810 659-8470
rmkren@umflint.edu

Paul Morand
989-893-7132
pmorand@hotmail.com

Christopher J. Radke
249-6420 (H)
cradke@shinnerscook.com

Jake Shinnars
781-3003 (H), 752-7700 (W)
shinnars@mistequaygroup.com

Robb Smith
989-893-3792 (h)
989-233-1922 (cell)
rssmithsr@chartermi.net

Starland Smith
989-894-7827
baycitystar@yahoo.com

Bob Spence
799-6617 (H)
rsspe2@chartermi.net

Greg Stansbury
751-3925 (H/FAX)
papertube66@gmail.com

Nick Thomas
989-450-6869
nickthomas8@hotmail.com

Newsletter Layout

Teri Skidmore
781-0040
TeriSkidz@gmail.com

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.

409 Adams Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
793-9700

5700 Dixie Highway
Saginaw, MI 48601
777-0300

201 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
781-1070

125 E. Saginaw Street
Merrill, MI 48637
643-5990

W. L. CASE AND COMPANY

Case

4480 Mackinaw Rd.

Saginaw, MI 48603

989-793-9700

www.casefuneralhome.com

Funeral Directors & Insurance Agents

COUNTRY ANGLERS

Professional Fly Fishing Outfitter

By Jac Ford

GUIDE SERVICES:

- DRIFT BOAT AND WADE FLY FISHING TRIPS
- CASTING AND FLY FISHING INSTRUCTION
- FLY TYING INSTRUCTION
- CUSTOM FLIES SOLD RETAIL

"Catch and Release" fly fishing experiences for the novice and the advanced fisher ... for steelhead, salmon and TROUT. If you want to target TROUT or TROUT TROPHIES with wet flies, dry flies, streamers or night fishing with large attractors, or fish for STEELIES OR SALMON let's do it.

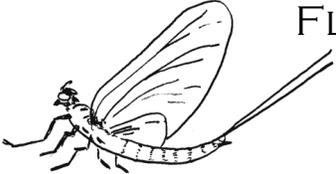
Fly Fishing the Pere Marquette, upper Manistee, Muskegon and the AuSable rivers.

Phone: (989) 781-0997



little forks
OUTFITTERS

QUALITY OUTDOOR CLOTHING
INSTRUCTION AND CLASSES
FINE FLY FISHING TACKLE
FLY TYING SUPPLIES
SPORTING BOOKS



143 East Main Street - Midland
989-832-4100 Tollfree 877-550-4668
www.littleforks.com

ORVIS
SPORTING TRADITIONS
Since 1856

patagonia
EXOFFICIO
The Ultimate Clothing to See the World In.™



20-Plus

Streamer Club

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

**Contact Jac Ford
for more information
or to sign up for the next event**

Call or text Jac Ford for more info: 989-280-3238.
20plusclub.weebly.com | facebook.com/20PlusClubMI



AuSable Troutfitters
 Guided Fly Fishing for Trout, Steelhead, Bass
www.ausabletroutfitters.com
 Capt. Todd Zwetzig 989.225.2478

WILLIAM B. MERSON 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, October 3, 2018
 Wednesday, November 7, 2018
 Wednesday, December 5, 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.**

THE MERSHON MUDDLER

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

P.O. Box 6920 Saginaw, MI 48608-6920

Address Service Requested

Clip and Save: 2018-2019 Mershon Event Calendar

(More complete information and updates will be found on our website,
www.mershon-tu.org/news and on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/mershon.tu.)

Winter Dinner and Annual Meeting

5:30pm at Sullivan's Restaurant, Saginaw

Monday, January 21, 2019

Maple Grille Fundraiser

Maple Grille, Hemlock

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Fly-Fishing Film Tour

State Theater, Bay City

Date TBA

Spring Banquet

Saginaw Valley State University

Thursday, April 25, 2019

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)