

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

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

It's March, and I'm in Florida enjoying the warm weather. But, my thoughts continually turn to comparisons with my beautiful home state—where rivers run clear, you can see the fish, and bottle laws are in effect!. What? Yes, some states still don't have bottle laws. Another whole big point of discussion.

The past two years, I have served as the president of our chapter. Yes, it was a rewarding time; but oh yes, it's a lot of work. Thanks to a great board and group of advisors.

Thank-you chapter members. Through our efforts, we have made a difference in this state's future. Please give our next president, Todd Zwetzig, the backing and help that you have given me.

Thank-you for the opportunity to serve,  
—Meyer



*Don Meyer, chapter president*

## Spring Banquet Update

*by Jim Lewis, chapter director*

This year's spring banquet is shaping up to be another grand, enjoyable affair. The committee has been working hard to bring all the details together. If you have not yet received your invitation/ticket order form, it should be in your mailbox shortly. Again this year, thanks to Andy Ludy's hard work and tech savvy, you will be able to use your credit card when ordering tickets.

Featured at this year's banquet will be an extensive look at what the Mershon chapter does with the dollars we raise at our spring banquets and an effort on behalf of our officers and board members to determine what your priorities for future chapter funds may be. We really want to spend the dollars you help us raise on projects that you feel are a wise use of our limited funds. We'll also look at the projects that represent lots of volunteered hours by you and your fellow members. Here again, we hope to get feedback from you as to what projects you want to see the chapter undertake in future years.

I need to draw your attention to a special offer that accompanies this year's invitation. Thanks to the generosity of Erick Johnson and Scientific Anglers, the first 50 pre-paid tickets sold will earn the buyer a free Scientific Anglers assorted tippet pack—fresh tippet for opening day spooled on SA's unique tippet-cutter spools. So, be sure to buy your tickets to this our 55th annual spring banquet early. The date is Saturday, April 21, with doors opening at 5:30pm. The location is Curtiss Hall at Saginaw Valley State University, as it was last year. Be sure to reserve April 21 on your calendar. ◆

## Attention: your advocacy is critically needed now

*The following information was first published in the Michigan Trout Unlimited "In the Stream" monthly newsletter. It is an issue vitally critical to the cold water resources in Michigan.*

New legislative **House Bill 5638** ([http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(zin5stf1gmmknfskaqs4l5dl\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2018-HB-5638](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(zin5stf1gmmknfskaqs4l5dl))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2018-HB-5638)) would fundamentally undermine Michigan's large quantity water withdrawal regulations. The bill had a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, in the House of Representatives' Natural Resource Committee.

This bill, was introduced by Representative Aaron Miller and backed by the Michigan Farm Bureau. It is structured to fundamentally make Part 327, the regulatory program for Large Quantity Water Withdrawals, ineffectual. Currently, new large withdrawals must be screened through the online water withdrawal assessment tool, and those that are predicted to cause unlawful adverse resource impacts, or those believed to be approaching that level, are required to undergo a site specific review process. (For more information on all of Part 327 and its underpinnings visit tutorials at <http://www.michigantu.org/index.php/michigan-tu-contacts-2/michigan-tu-contacts-4/water-withdrawal-a-use-policy>) During the process, additional site-specific data can be considered in evaluating the level of impact the new large withdrawal is predicted to have. HB5638 proposes to give approvals for all new requests (even those predicted to cause adverse resource impacts) if the applicant's consultants submit data about the withdrawal. That's right, if they submit data, period. The bill would give the DEQ 10 days to evaluate and notify if the proposed withdrawal would cause adverse resource impacts. If they do, the applicant still gets a "provisional" approval, and basically it's up to the DEQ to try to prove it had the impact. Any data submitted in the process would be except from public transparency through a freedom of Information Act exemption the bill proposes. The result, is that none of us would ever get to know anything about new large quantity water

withdrawals, the impact they are causing, or the manner in which they were approved.

Further, the bill contains several other provisions intended to allow gaming of the system by applicants, in ways that will lead to adverse resource impacts across the state's waters. The bill is proposing to allow automatic approvals for any wells intended to be drilled into bedrock. This is despite Michigan science showing that these are not routinely separated from streams and without depletion consequences for them. The State Water Use Advisory Council ([http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313\\_3684\\_64633---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3684_64633---,00.html)), is a committee of water user groups and conservation interests, and includes numerous scientific experts on all various related fields. This group was charged with making recommendations for the program's development, and has done so in public report. Farm Bureau is a participating voting member, and co-chair for the WUAC, and approved all of the nearly 70 consensus recommendations from its last report. Two of those recommendations specifically addressed issues of their concern, like the bedrock issue, and development of guidelines for new data and modeling tools. But despite their involvement, their bill specifically contradicts several of those recommendations they participated in developing, on the exact issues they pertain to.

Since 2009 (when the existing law took effect), there have been over 4,000 new large quantity water withdrawal requests (roughly one every other day for the last decade), approximately 90% of which have been for agricultural irrigation. Of the 4,000, only approximately 40 have been declined (due to predicted adverse resource impacts). This is despite intense demand concentrated in southwest Michigan in the same heavily demanded watersheds, where lucrative seed production contracts have driven the new withdrawals. Apparently, 40 denials out of 4,000 is too many for those looking to cash in

## *Advocacy, continued*

on seed contracts. Apparently, the law (which had the support of water user groups including Farm Bureau) was supportable only if it never actually applied to anyone.

Now that the protections afforded by this law are becoming, in some areas, more than a hypothetical limitation, this bill seeks to change the rules and ensure that the protections afforded by law are never applied, impacts never proven, and that all of us never see what happens. If this bill passes, it will result in frequent adverse resource impacts, excessive withdrawals, unenforced illegal stream depletions, and will diminish fisheries. This is about the very groundwater that makes trout streams

possible, this is of paramount importance to our coldwater fisheries.

### **What You Need to Do to Help**

1. If your Representative happens to be a member of the House Natural Resource Committee, make sure to contact them immediately to express your concerns. The committee members include Gary Howell, Beau LaFave, David Maturen, Joseph Bellino, Daire Rendon, Curt Vanderwall, William Sowerby, Stephanie Chang, and Sara Cambensy. (<http://house.mi.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=436>).
2. Contact your Representative to voice your concern about HB5638. (find your Representative at <http://www.house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/fmFindaRep.aspx>).
3. Contact your Senator to voice your concern about HB5638 (for right now this is still in the House, but could be moved out quickly). (find your senator at <http://senate.michigan.gov/>).
4. Contact the Governor's Office to express your concern about HB5638 and urge him to veto the bill should it be sent to his desk by the legislature. (<https://sombgovweb.state.mi.us/GovRelations/ShareOpinion.aspx>). ♦

The third annual Women 'n Wader event is being held at the Saginaw Bay Visitor's Center, near Bay City Recreation Center, on Saturday, May 19. From 8:30 to 3:00 women of all levels will receive instruction on casting, fly tying and selection, purchasing gear, and knot tying. Although the class is geared toward the beginner fly fisher, all participants have had a wonderful time and have learned a lot.

The class is being promoted through the DNR's Outdoor Skills Academy.

Scientific Anglers is helping with some prizes, along with Michigan Trout Unlimited. The cost is \$20.00, which includes lunch, shirt, and all materials and supplies. To register, go the Michigan DNR website and click on the calendar tab. The registration page is located under the "classes and events" section. Any questions, please call Laurie Seibert, 989-205-3763. Updated information is also on the Merhsion Chapter Facebook page under the Women 'n Waders group. ♦

## **2018 Women 'n Waders event planned for May 19, 2018**

The Michigan Trout Youth Fly Fishing camp is planned for June 24th–28th at the Ralph A. McMillian Center on Higgins Lake. Our Merhsion chapter will participate again this year. We have traditionally sponsored three (3) campers.

The camp this year is for 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds. Our chapter will pay the \$350 tuition and furnish a quality fly rod. In addition, the camper will need waders (not hip boots), a wading belt (any belt), and eye protection (sun glasses okay). Campers should be able to tie on a

tippet with a surgeons knot and a fly with a clinch knot. A camper that has never fly fished should be mentored in basic fly fishing. Perhaps, the camper could get some help from a chapter member near his home. We anticipate a camper entering with basic skills, and finish at a higher level.

For information, contact Merhsion chapter members: Don (989) 245-0662, Paul Morand (989) 893-7132 or myself (Bill Adams) (989) 860-2090. Email addresses are in the Muddler. For Applications go to [KVC.TU.ORG](http://KVC.TU.ORG).. ♦

## **Youth fly fishing camp slated for June 24-28**

## You Know You're a Flyfisherman if . . .

*from Bob Kren, Mershon Advisor, and Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy*

**S**hould you care to rummage around, you might find an article of mine about a twelve-step program for embracing and improving, maybe even curing, your flyfishing addiction. But, that leaves the question, "Just how do you know if your flyfishing has gotten out of control?" Hey!, no use wasting time on any curative steps—unless one of them is eliminating those #1&^ tailing loops—if you don't really have a problem. I'm here to help. What follows is a brief list of warning signs that things may be out of control.

- You practice casting on your front lawn, or in some other public place, to attract the attention of innocent bystanders, especially the lady who lives across the street, or in the hope that some itinerant casting instructor will see your thrashing and offer help.
- Every animal, leashed or not, flying or not, flattened or not, is viewed as potential flytying material. Why buy synthetics when so much can be gotten for free? The "best if used by" date is inappropriate, when roadkill ripeness is overly evident.
- All your shirts, dress- or not, have multiple expanding pockets, Velcro® patches and flaps, vents and drainage holes, too many buttons, forest-y colors, too few buttons, and UV-

protective coatings. All are nice, with the appropriate camo tie.

- You have purchased things you'll never need, at exorbitant prices (300 clams for a pair of pliers? Why not get two?), for occasions that will never arise (Forty colors of chenille in three sizes, each? Sure, I'll tie that many woolly buggers. Now, I need forty different color hackle capes.) And when you really need a piece of such exotica, it'll be back at the car, or at home, safely tucked away with your Rolex.
- You have tried on at least one occasion to take everything onstream that you might need, only to find that Arnold Schwarzenegger couldn't carry that heavy a vest. Does "I've fallen, and I can't get up, blub, blub" sound familiar?
- You have an expensive pair of sunglasses for every light condition; but, when you're fishing and far from your car, the weather will change and you'll have worn the exactly wrong pair for the new light levels. Pity. Never happens to me. Much.
- Your biceps and forearms are weak from holding small fish way out in front of you, with their heads toward the camera, for a photo shoot that makes a minnow look like a mako shark. A wide-angle lens on the camera makes the fish look suspiciously distorted, but HUGE! Everybody does it, nobody's fooled.
- You have books on flyfishing that duplicate all your other books on flyfishing, with few exceptions. The ones on display are the most recent ones, and the

biggest, with all the beautiful pictures; the ones in the back are the ones that gave the advice, or tying instructions, for the first time, and are yellowed with age and use. We are the readingest sportspersons of all, despite our small numbers.

- The number of flyboxes you have exceeds the total number of stars in the Universe, plus one. We flyfishers, solely, support an entire polyethylene plant down on Texas' Carcinogen Coast. You're welcome, Bubba.
- You lament things that have no meaning, like the demise of the Girl Scouts' flyfishing merit badge, which was awarded less often than the merit badge for raccoon milking, or termite breeding.
- In line with that last item, you take up the cudgel for every worthy cause, diluting your efforts and muddying your thinking to the point that all causes are equally important and thus, equally trivialized.
- You just can't seem to get rid of old flyfishing magazines, despite the fact that the contents recycle their topics every five years.

If you have more than two of these symptoms, and you know you do, then get thee to a 12-step program, or take drugs, or just don't worry about it—your choice. I'm proud of my addictions, and you should be proud of yours, too. ♦



# The Force

by Snarly Windknot

This particular poem owes its existence to too much time spent watching television. It was in those deep winter months a couple years ago when one of the cable channels ran this seemingly endless "Unexplained Phenomena- UFO/Alien Encounter- Conspiracy Theory" marathon. There is no plausible explanation as to why I got hooked into it, maybe I ran out of size 16 dry fly hooks or maybe I wanted to see how many hours you had to sit in a recliner before the hair on the back of your legs started to grow into the upholstery. But regardless of how it came about, I did spend too many mind-numbing hours watching those programs. And somewhere about three weeks into it I became especially fascinated with the mysterious forces of the Bermuda Triangle. Not really that location, but the mysterious forces themselves. It got me thinking about a particular stream in Idaho that I have fished on a number of occasions. Now, the first couple times it was a planned destination, but the other times I just happened to find myself within a half-day drive (or a day and a half drive) of this stream and, even though it was not on my itinerary, I felt compelled to depart from my well-planned and tightly-packed schedule and put in the necessary road hours to get to this stream to try one more time to catch one of the hook-jawed rainbows I was certain were lurking there. Why this particular stream was so compelling and why I was so convinced the fish I had never caught or seen were there remains a mystery. But an unseen force drew me back to that same stream again and again. Was there a force field buried deep in that mountain? Or perhaps some time in the past visitors from another planet abducted me and planted this device in my head that when triggered pulled me back to that mountain and that stream. To this day it remains a mystery, but I hope this poem will help some of you who live with the same gnawing dread that at any moment that stream that draws you in, that mysterious force that you are helpless to resist, will again call you back to the source of your innermost fear.

# The Force

There is something way up on the mountain,  
or perhaps deep inside it.  
A source of power.  
A force greater than the earth's magnetic field.  
It is transmitted, or it radiates  
from this hidden, unseen source.

Perhaps it was placed there by some alien life form.  
Intergalactic travelers  
come here from a distant world we have not yet discovered.  
Or perhaps it is yet another government conspiracy.  
One intended to enslave those of us who are  
caught by its force field,  
our feeble brains unable to resist  
while those conspirators who are in control bring into being  
the long planned New World Order.

This force beckons me to come, draws me to it  
and I am helpless to resist.  
I go up the mountain until I come upon a stream  
at a location that seems preordained.  
There, as though in a trance,  
I wade in and stand knee-deep in the rushing water.

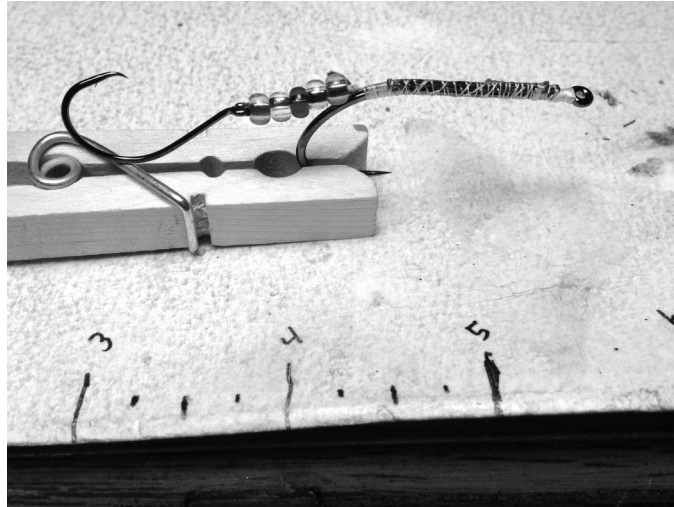
I wear garments adorned with talismans, amulets  
fraught with symbolism.  
In my hand I hold a totem, a scepter,  
fashioned from a stalk of sacred bamboo.  
Near silently I wave this scepter and whisper sacred oaths,  
while, as if in a hypnotic state,  
I watch the offering I have cast upon the river drift by,  
waiting to see if the gods will approve.  
Will they accept this crude, poorly crafted gift that I have  
presented and reward me with a great and angry fish?  
Or will they force me to once again leave the mountain and  
go back down to the valley unfulfilled.

Each time I leave the mountain it is with  
a sense of foreboding that I will be called again.  
Perhaps tomorrow, or perhaps on the day that follows,  
But clearly before many days have passed  
I will again feel the force summoning me.  
I will again be called to that mountain stream.

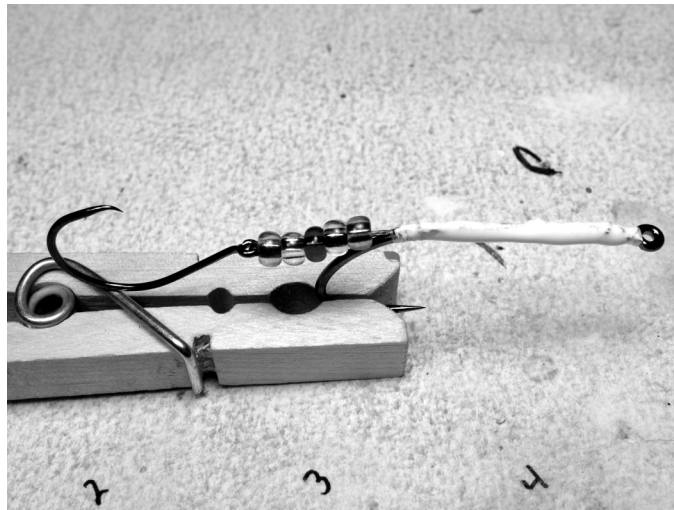
## How to tie the Meyer's Minnow

*by Don Meyer, chapter president*

This is a very simple streamer that has caught trout to 23 inches for us.



*Step 1: I attach a Number 4 Gamakatsu Circle Hook to a Number 1 Gamakatsu B10s stringer hook with 50 lb. braided line with 5 beads in between to set length.*



*Step 2: next, the attached line is painted with Sally Hansons nail polish of the appropriate color for the streamer. This not only paints the line, but also glues the thread wraps and line down for additional strength.*



*Step 3: our Zonker is then attached to the hook; I cut my own to get wider strips and I use strips cut from the center of the hide which has thicker leather.*





*Step 4: the front of the fly is a 1/8th inch wide strip of rabbit hide (and hair) wound around the fly to bulk up the head. Some people use cross cut hair, but I like straight strips that will allow for more "puff" when the fly is stripped.*



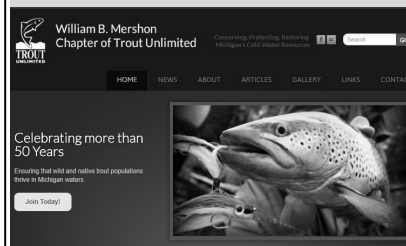
*Step 5: next is 3 strips of lateral flash on each side of the fly with 2 strips of red across the top.*



*Step 6: we then add eyes with lots of nail polish to glue them on and to fill in where the eye is bigger than the head. Go fish.*



## Check out the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited online



Find us on the web at  
**Mershon-TU.org**

for event information, an archive of articles, including the Muddler, and a history of the founding of Trout Unlimited.

## facebook

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

Event reminders, interesting articles, and photos of gatherings and outings.

# Trout Unlimited Supports Education Effort

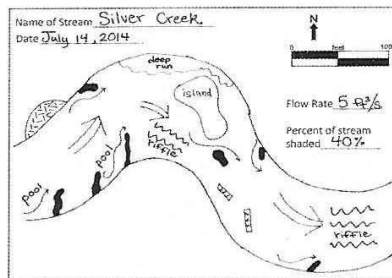


Two chapters of national organization dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring cold-water fisheries and their watersheds.

are now supporting the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy's *Becoming Outdoors Smart*

In Summer (BOSS) Program. The William B. Mershon (Saginaw area) and the Leon P. Martuch (Midland area) chapters are sponsoring one of the BOSS Guidebook's ten education units. "Something Fishy: Analyzing Stream Habitat For Fish" teaches kids and their parents how to "read the water" of our state's rivers and streams, learning how channels change over time, and about the food chain that includes aquatic insects and other

**BOSS participants learn to map sections of streams using examples like the one below.**



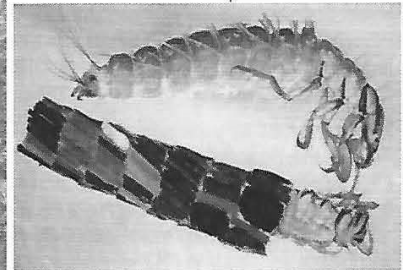
## Legend for Stream Map

- Stream improvement structure or natural log jam
- Shoreline
- Submerged log(s)
- Current direction - width of arrow represents relative force of current
- Plant Bed
- Eroded bank

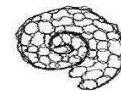
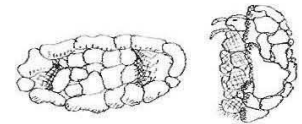


**Above: Children "read the water" of a stream as they look for aquatic insects.**

Trout Unlimited was founded in Michigan and has more than 150,000 members organized into about 400 chapters from Maine to Montana to Alaska. Michigan Trout Unlimited has 23 of those chapters.



**BOSS students learn to find and identify caddisfly nymphs in streams. These aquatic insects often live in self-made cases made of tiny stones or wood. You can tell you have different species inside if the cases look different.**



## COUPLE HELPS TROUT UNLIMITED, KIDS

While two chapters of Trout Unlimited stepped-up to support the Becoming Outdoors Smart In Summer (BOSS) program, a Dewitt area couple also boosted BOSS. Richard and Marilyn Augustine matched part of the donations of the William B.

Mershon (Saginaw area) and Martuch (Midland area) TU chapters.

Richard and Marilyn are long-time members of the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy. Richard has served in a variety of positions with the Lansing

area chapter of TU and is a member of the National Property Management Board of TU. The Augustines believe strongly in the value of conservation education and have supported several efforts to introduce kids to fishing.





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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.



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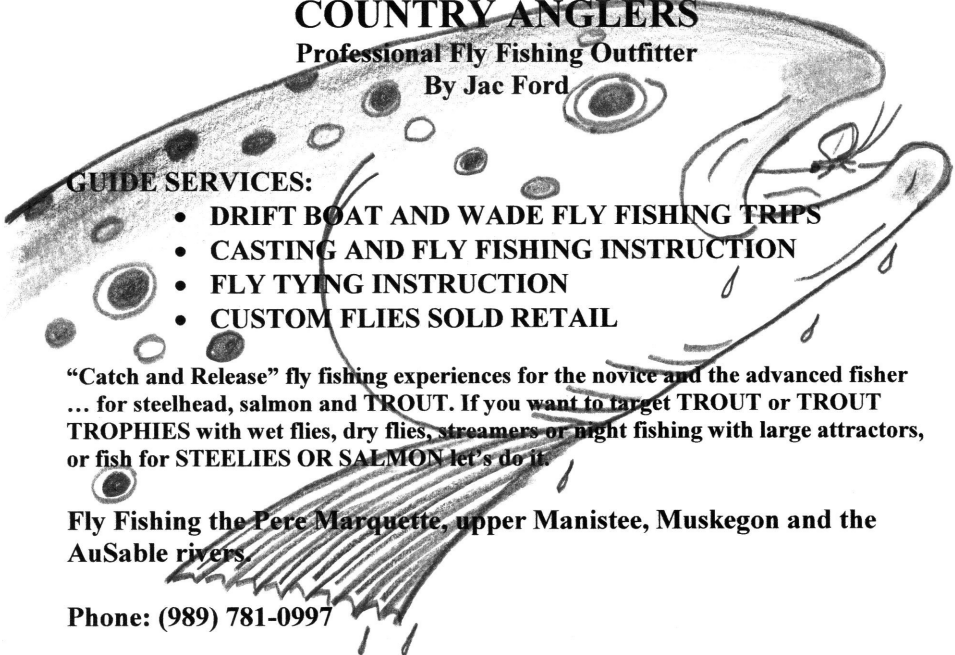
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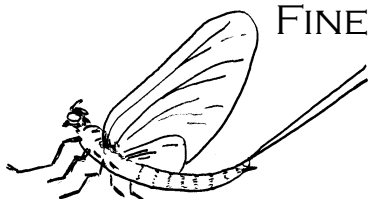
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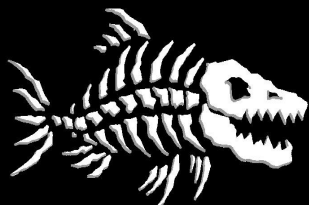
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## Streamer Club

*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](http://20plusclub.weebly.com) | [facebook.com/20PlusClubMI](https://facebook.com/20PlusClubMI)



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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, April 4, 2018  
Wednesday, May 2, 2018  
Wednesday, September 5, 2018  
Wednesday, October 3, 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: 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).)*

### **Spring Banquet**

5:30pm at Curtis Hall at SVSU

*Saturday, April 21, 2018*

### **Women In Waders Event**

Saginaw Bay Visitor Center, Bay City

*Saturday, May 19, 2018*

### **Michigan Trout Youth Fly Fishing camp**

Ralph A. McMillian Center on Higgins Lake

*June 24-28, 2018*

### **Opening Day**

*Saturday, April 28, 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)