

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

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



*Jac Ford, chapter president*

The past two years of my tenure as president of this great chapter of Trout Unlimited was very rewarding because of its great officers, board members, advisors, and most of all, members. You all have been outstanding with your support. We have accomplished much the past two years, and it's all because of each one of you. Thank you.

During my time at the helm, the officers and board have allowed me to run the organization in more of a relaxed format and not as structured that it's used to. I'm thinking that over the years, I've just gotten used to being rather casual about managing business or maybe even incapable of doing otherwise. Still, we prospered. Thanks for allowing me to get the job done without being focused on the rules that we usually follow to the tee. I'm certainly committed to our chapter's vision and goals, but a little loose with running things. Thanks for being tolerant.

Our chapter is very proud of its heritage. With that thought in mind, we planned our 50th anniversary festivities. We created the vision to have a great celebration with our active members, while involving many from the past. Having many of the old leaders of this great chapter come to the celebration was very special. By their response, it was special for them, too. This banquet was great and required many people to help with it. Thanks again.

For years, our banquet committee has been very strong and effective. The committee that we have now is exceptional. We have had great leadership in the past, with Howard Johnson and then Don Albrecht. Jim Lewis is the chairman of this year's committee, and there are many volunteers to support Jim. The banquet will again be held at Horizon's here in Saginaw on April 11th, 2014. Make sure you put it on your calendar . . . this, too, will be outstanding.

We have acquired many people from Bay City as members of our chapter—approximately seventy. This is a blessing for our chapter, and we welcome them. We had our last Grin and Grub meeting at Tri-City Brewery in Bay City to facilitate the Bay City people attending, a welcoming gesture from our chapter. Much pizza was eaten, and it was good to see these people, many for the first time.

Our walleye dinners, fly-tying, and fishing classes all went well. We had the most people in the classes in a few years. It was instructional and fun. Interestingly, we had more ladies in the fly-tying class than men; that was good to see.

Again, with the support of many donating to our chapter, we had a great year of funding projects. Each year in May, we put out a report of this funding for everyone's awareness.

(See *Meanders*, page 6)

## 51st Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet is just days away

Friday, April 11, 2014

by Jim Lewis, banquet coordinator

**P**lans for our 51st annual spring fundraising banquet are in full swing, and it is shaping up to be another impressive evening.

Carrying on the tradition of our special 50th celebration last year, we'll be hosting this year's banquet at the Horizon's Conference Center, in Saginaw. The evening will begin with early prize-gazing, generous

bidding, and a lavish spread of hors d'oeuvres, followed by Horizons' sumptuous buffet dinner and a presentation by Fly Fishing Film Tour's videographer, Rob Thompson, debuting clips from his new film on the AuSable River.

We'll have a large selection of outstanding prizes for you to bid on—prizes that have been carefully selected to appeal to anglers and non-anglers, men and women. Our two headliner raffle items are an Orvis Superfine Glass 764-4 Outfit and a TenPoint Carbon Elite XLT Crossbow Package—beautiful items that will draw a tremendous amount of interest! We also have sensational pieces of artwork by artists such as renowned Michigan wildlife artist, David Ruimveld, as well as trips, gear, and many other items you will NEED when spring and summer

finally get here, and we can get on the rivers.

Ensuring the future of our cold-water resources is a responsibility we in Trout Unlimited take very seriously. Because we know you share this commitment, we hope you will accept our invitation to share in this celebration. The banquet will only be a success if you are there. Please save the date—Friday, April 11th—and plan to bring a friend, a new fisherman, or your entire family!

Join us for this evening of fun, camaraderie, and fundraising. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for our favorite sport!

If you have any questions, suggestions, or donations for the banquet, please contact me at 790-3151 (H), 989-751-0344 (c), or [jim\\_lewis@chartermi.net](mailto:jim_lewis@chartermi.net). ♦



**ANOTHER CHANCE TO  
GET DRESSED UP,  
CAST A BID FOR A PRIZE  
AND HOPE YOU  
GET LUCKY.**

51st Annual  
Fundraising Banquet  
**Friday, April 11**  
Horizons Conference Center

Featuring: Fly Fishing Film Tour's  
Rob Thompson, debuting clips from  
his new film on the AuSable River

# Goods You Could Land at the Fundraising Banquet

**ORVIS**  
SPORTING TRADITIONS  
Since 1846

*Superfine* TOUCH



**FLY ROD RAFFLE (\$5/TICKET)\***  
Orvis Superfine Glass 764-4 Outfit  
-includes 7 1/2-ft, 4-weight, 4-piece Full-Flex Superfine Glass fly rod, CFO II disc drag fly reel, now made in the USA, Hydros WF - 4-F Superfine 4-wt Trout fly line, Willow Color, Backing, rod tube, rod sack, and reel case.  
Donated by Little Forks Outfitters

## CROSSBOW RAFFLE (\$10/TICKET)\*

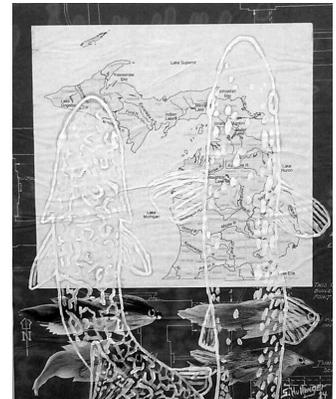
TenPoint Carbon Elite XLT Crossbow Package

Includes: TenPoint Carbon Elite XLT Crossbow, TenPoint RangeMaster Pro Scope, Instant Detach 3 Arrow Quiver, Six TenPoint Carbon Fiber Arrows, TenPoint patented cranking system, Deluxe Soft Crossbow Case

Purchased with the generous support of Bay Archery



*David Ruimveld Artwork*



*Scott Hullinger Artwork*



*Matt Stockton Artwork*



*Jason Fulmer Photography*

## Evening on Big Creek

(with apologies to Ed Zern)

by D. Oeming

March 04, 2014

**M**y cousin, Tom Goodsell, and I had consumed large quantities of roast beast, accompanied by the best vintage Ma Deeter's had to offer. We geared up, and headed for the old footbridge over Big Creek (the Luzerne, not the Warbler's Hideaway, version) near Uncle Jack's place. Tom directed me upstream, and he headed down from the bridge. I tied on a #16 Adams and slipped into the cold, clear stream.

Tom had lured me to his wilderness setting with stories of copious hatches, large browns, and lack of fishing pressure. No flies were evident in the later evening, however, and I saw only a few small rises. I fished around a couple of bends, pulling in a few little fish. Tom was correct about the absence of fishermen; except for my departed guide, I was apparently alone on Big Creek.

The gloaming intensified into darkness, and larger trout started breaking the water upstream. I dressed my fly, and approached a prospective feeder under the cedar tree on the opposite bank. I had not identified the precise emerging insect, and I hoped that the reliable Adams would prove attractive enough to move the fish. I started measuring my casts in the run down

from the sweeper. The evening air was still, trout were rising everywhere I looked, and the auspices were favorable.

Or not. Two large creatures loudly entered the stream around the next bend, apparently from some height, and began splashing upstream. They were fishermen, who were in a state of chemical imbalance; in fact, after an empty beer can floated by me, one accused the other of leaving the rest of the beer in the truck. The commotion caused my quarry to sulk under his cedar sweeper, and my first chance at a large Big Creek trout was gone. I maintained my position, hoping that the upstream duo would move out of range.

"Got him!" announced one of the upstream piscators. "He's huge; I hope I can hold him! Get out of the way! Get out—dammit, I told you to move! He busted off! He was at least twenty inches—biggest trout I ever had on! Took my best fly, too!"

"What kind of fly?" asked his companion.

"Guy at that fly shop said it was a 'March Brown,' size 10, or something like that. I only bought one, and now it's gone. What a fish!"

The duo moved upstream, out of earshot, and I crept around the bend. There was barely enough light to see larger stream structure, and trout were rising. I approximated my cast to an audible slurp just ahead, marked by a crease on the water.

The fish hit, and was hooked! The battle was short and intense.

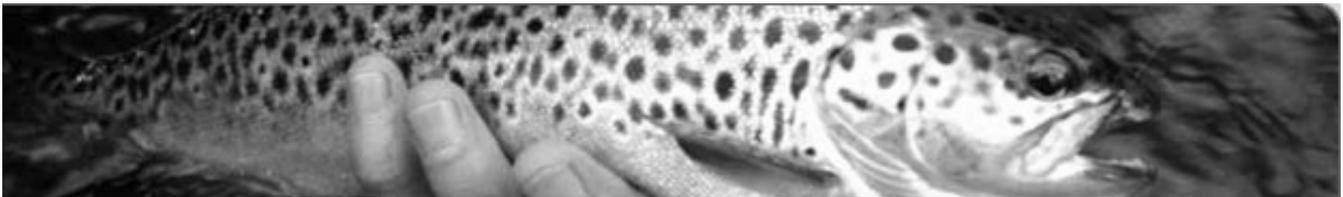
Concerned about dealing with a large trout in the dark, I did not use my net, and instead moved downstream to land the fish on shore. This was what Tom had described to me: hefty browns taking dry flies on Big Creek, without the competition found on larger rivers. I was pleased, grinning, in control; in fact, I was smug about it.

I ignited my headlamp, opened my hemostat, and kneeled on the sand to release the fish. My trophy had become tangled in short streamside vegetation, and rather than risk breaking him off, I followed my tippet down to the fly. At the end of the leader, I reached a small trout that was easily gripped in my hand. Lifting the fish from the weeds, I noted two important facts about my prize:

First, my captured quarry had a #10 March Brown in its jaw; and . . .

Second, the trout measured nine and one-half inches long.

I released the fish, which immediately swam away. After gathering my gear, I headed back to Uncle Jack's place for a drink, and to thank Tom for introducing me to the fabulous trophy brown trout fishing on Big Creek. ♦



**G**ood news and bad news for fisherman. First, a bit of good news . . . there's a new piece of equipment you need that will help you land that trophy of a lifetime. But, now the bad news . . . there's no longer any question if it was a trophy fish in your net. No more 12-inch fish that end up 15 inches by the end of the night and 18 inches by the end of the season!

This piece of equipment will make a fisherperson honest faster than a shotgun wedding. I'm talking about the Measure Net, by JTA Products.

Built into the bottom of the net is an ingenious ribbon tape measure that places a zero at the bottom center of the net and then ascending inch measurements on either side from the bottom to the edges of the front

and back of the net. To find the length of a fish in the net, you simply add the two numbers at the head and tail end of the fish together. The beauty of the net is that you can net, measure, and release a fish without ever touching the fish.

The net bag comes in either a soft nylon or rubberized version, both of which protect the fish from abrasions, and is available in five sizes, ranging from small to guide-size, complete with telescoping handle. The aluminum handle is lightweight, and the foam rubber grip allows the net to float, should a mishap occur. So, if you're in the market for a new net, you won't go wrong with the Measurement Net. More information may be found at your local fly shop or at [www.themeasurenet.com](http://www.themeasurenet.com). ♦

## Equipment Corner

by Paul Morand,  
chapter past-president



## Rifle River work day set for July 12th

The date for the 2014 Rifle River work day has been set for Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. At this point, the exact location and time is yet to be determined, other than that it will likely be between Greenwood and M55. As always, we look forward to a great turnout

and support by members of the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Look for further information in the summer edition of the Mershon Minnow and website updates. ♦

## February Grin and Grub welcomed Bay City chapter members

Bay City's Tri City Brewery was the site of the Mershon chapter's latest Grin and Grub gathering held on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Many in the large group of attendees were members of the former Arnold J. Copeland Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which was based in Bay

City. These individuals were brought into the Mershon chapter in the fall of 2013, and the event was held as a way of welcoming them to the chapter.

Those in attendance were treated to a menu of pizza and a wide selection of different beers brewed on site. Bo Brines was also on site to provide an entertaining and informative presentation on fly fishing the Bahamas. Bo is a seasoned saltwater fisherman with a wealth of knowledge shared concerning tactics, travel, equipment, flies, and casting skills needed to catch bonefish and other saltwater species.

It was an enjoyable evening and a nice opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. We will definitely be back in Bay City for future Grin and Grub events. If you missed this one, don't let the next opportunity pass you by and to our Bay City friends we hope to see you again at the spring banquet.

A special thanks to Todd Zwetzig for organizing the event and to Bo Brines for your many contributions to the chapter. ♦

## Fly-Fishing camp 2013 follow-up

by Blake Susalski

My experience at fishing camp could be described as life changing. I will take the lessons I learned there with

me, and they will help me be a better fisherman and conservationist of our precious streams.

Being the oldest out of the entire group was a struggle to say the least, but in the end, I still made friends and had a great time. I was surrounded by experts at all times, and I could ask any one of them for

help, ranging from which type of fly would work best to helping me untie my various wind knots. I would recommend this camp to anyone willing to have a great time. ♦

## Meanders, *continued from page 1*

We continued to support projects on the Rifle River, too.

I thank you all for recommending me for the national Distinguished

Service Award that I received last fall. It was special for me, my friends, colleagues, and especially, my family. Thanks, again.

I've been hanging around our chapter for a while, and will continue to do

so as long my contributions are effective. Thanks for the past two years as your president. You will be in good hands with Don Albrecht and his awesome board.

—Jac Ford, president



# William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Conserving, Protecting, Restoring  
Michigan's Cold-Water Resources

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## Celebrating more than 50 Years

Ensuring that wild and native trout populations  
thrive in Michigan waters.

Join Today!



### Welcome to the Mershon Chapter of T.U.!

The William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited has a long history of protecting coldwater resources here in the state of Michigan. We are a grass-roots organization that works with other conservation partners across the state on projects that consist of things such as stream bank improvement, lunger structure placement, strategic tree planting, public education, and other hands-on initiatives that all point toward the common goal of protecting and preserving the health and beauty of coldwater ecosystems. We also have several social events throughout the year, such as walleye dinners and our annual fundraising banquet. Please explore the website and think about joining us for one of our upcoming events. We'd love to have you with us.

#### GET INVOLVED

[JOIN OUR CHAPTER](#)

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You and 10 others like this.



Check out our news and events blog!

Our website a fresh, spring look!  
Check it out at [www.mershon-tu.org](http://www.mershon-tu.org).

## How to tie the Roberts Yellow Drake

by Jac Ford, chapter president

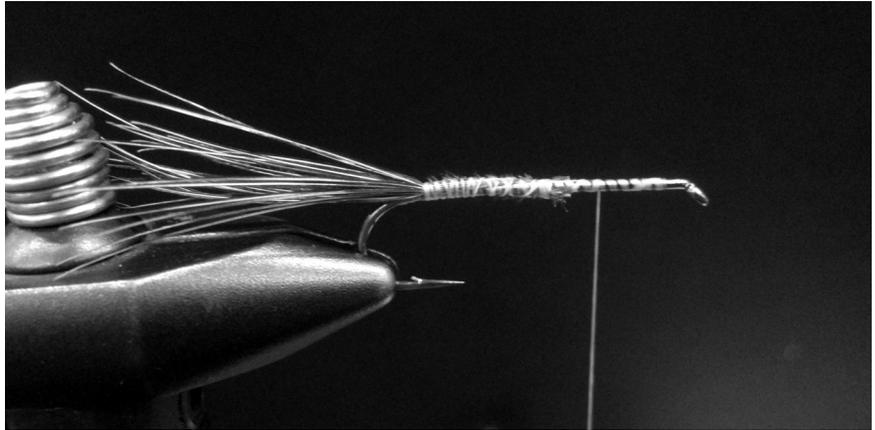
Our latest tying instruction comes from Don Albrecht. Don has become an adroit fly tier and loves it. He ties for several fly-fishing shops, including the Pere Marquette Lodge and the AuSable Angler. His ties are very consistent, beautiful, and trout catchers.

If I could only use one mayfly pattern, the Roberts Yellow Drake (RYD) might be the one. It has a great profile for an emerging may fly, floats well, wears well, and fishes well. Everyone should have them in their fly boxes.

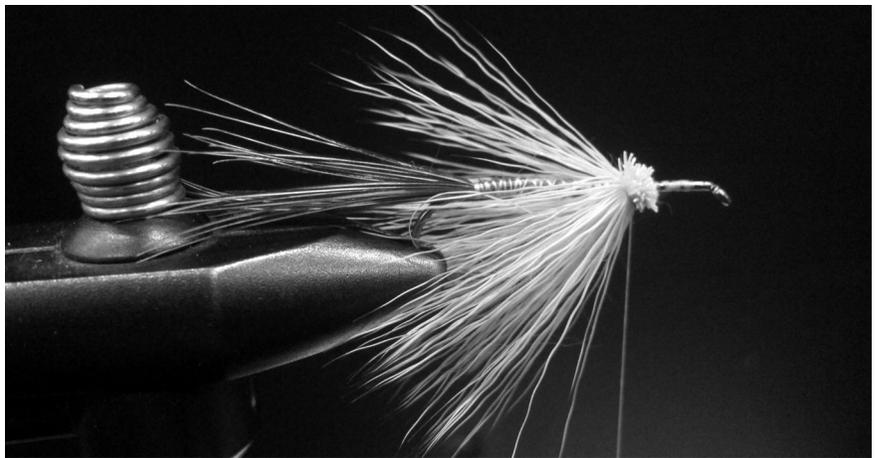
If you need help tying them or need some, call Don at 989 284 0662.

### Materials List:

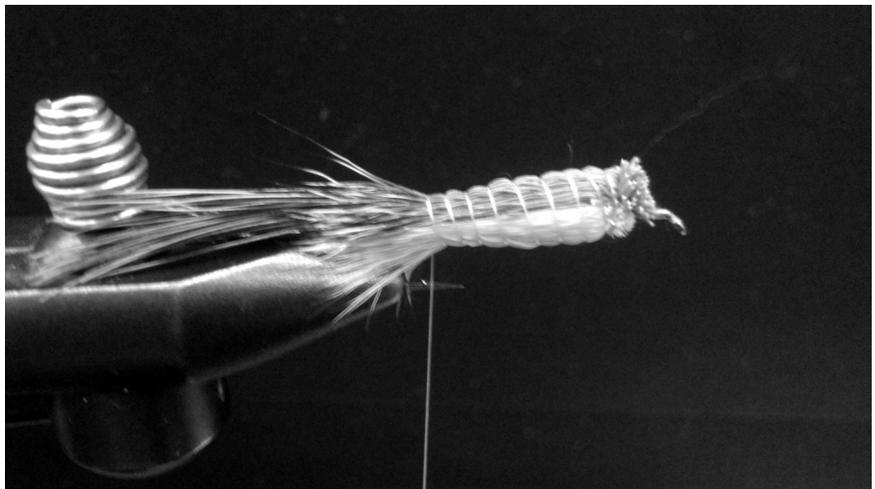
- Yellow flat waxed thread
- Pheasant tail feather
- Yellow deer hair
- Brown or Olive deer hair
- White belly hair
- Standard dry fly hook size 14 - 6
- Brown saddle or rooster hackle feather



*Step one:* measure your pheasant tail relative to the hook shank. Then, move it to the correct location. It should end up being the same length as hook shank, then tie in place.



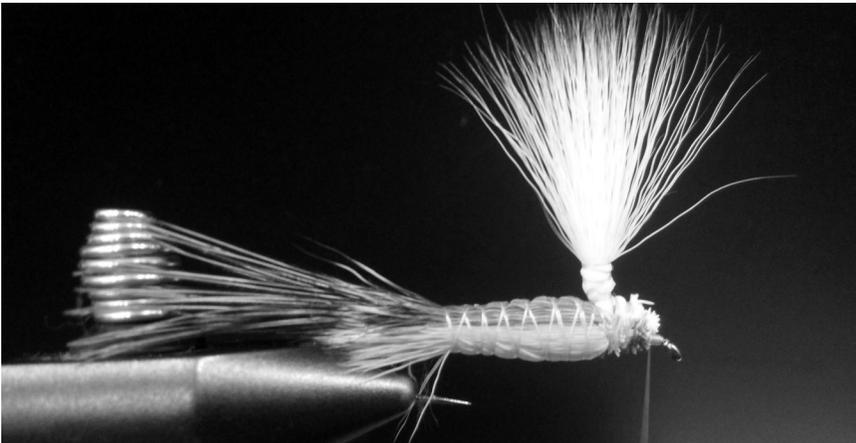
*Step two:* cut yellow hollow deer hair about the same length as shank—maybe a little less. Tie in place, leaving about 1/4 of the hook shank empty.



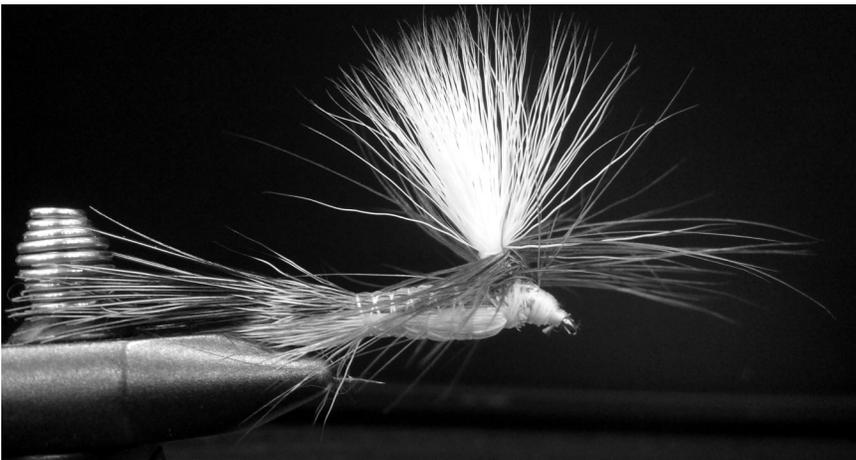
*Step three:* Tie in an equal amount of olive deer hair right on top of the yellow. Then, hold the deer hair with your left hand and, as you wind the thread to the left, slide your thumb and finger ahead of your winds. When you get over the barb of the hook make a few winds on top of each other....then begin crossing the previous wind with each new wind. When you get this done, it should look like the picture above.



*Step four:* Cut off a clump of white belly hair a little longer than the body you just finished. Tie in place at the front of the body. Make sure you wind back and forth between the hook and white wing clump to secure it well.



*Step five:* Wind thread around base of wing to form sturdy post.  
*Step six:* Tie in one long saddle hackle right in front of post. Hackle should be wide enough to reach point in rear of body where thread ended above barb. Minimum.



*Step seven:* Wind hackle feather around toward back then just keep winding it under the previous wrap until minimum of three or end of hackle feather. Tie in hackle tip a few winds, then cut off hackle tip, then wind thread around hook until everything is covered, then whip finish.



Don't miss the

51st Annual Fundraising  
Banquet

**Presentation**

*Featuring:*

Fly Fishing Film Tour's  
Rob Thompson,

debuting clips from his  
**NEW FILM**  
on the AuSable River

**Friday, April 11**  
Horizons Conference Center



## Ask Mister FlyFisherPerson Guy

by Bob Kren, Mershon Advisor,  
and still flyfisherpersonguy

### *An avid reader writes:*

Dear Sir: Recent events, mostly the high price of gasoline, make it necessary that I concentrate my fly fishing endeavors on local, more “urban,” streams. There’s a shortage of reliable information on these waters. Can you help?

I remain, your biggest fan,  
Davey C, Hemlock

### *Dear Gassy:*

It’s nice to see that you’re back in good health\*, Davey. All the standard books on “reading water” neglect this important, if murky, resource. Luckily, my urbanitude extends to these lesser-utilized streams and, in fact, I “cut my teeth” on such aqueous gems. There was one occasion that I observed a huge goldfish schooling with the resident carp in the Flint River, just downstream from what was then GMI\*\*. Oh! For a stick of dynamite!

Your prey in urban waters will usually not be trout. The resident *troutus brownus* is not to be confused with the brown trout, the source of the “*brownus*” being more environmental than genetic. Similarly, the *troutus rainbowus* is usually resident only near certain neighborhoods, where there seem to be lots of well-dressed men, and the women look like, well, like the men. Not to say you won’t find fish that

vaguely resemble trout, especially at a distance in dim light. If it fights like a trout, it may possibly be a trout, though probably not.

The fish-holding waters in urban streams are not unlike what you find on trout streams, insofar as they have names, too. Perhaps the most rewarding structure is the edge of the effluent riffle from a sewage treatment plant. Fish the foam line, which will be obvious, and also fish just above the swirl. Oil slicks, easily noticed from the sheen they put on the water, are to be avoided, since both you and your flyline may be endangered. Pocket water is usually full of what appears to be lint but which, on closer inspection—not TOO close!—turns out to be more of a grey moss. Concrete culverts are best fished from above, and not from in the water, due to swift current and the occasional stray ricochet. Sunken barrels, golf carts, car bodies, picnic tables, truck tires, and shopping carts provide hiding places for your prey. Speaking of “bodies,” there are certain very deep places, called “Hoffa Water,” that are jealously guarded, and usually closely watched, so avoid them and don’t “swim with the fishes. By the way, when the locals refer to “logs,” they probably aren’t talking about trees.

Just because it’s bugs doesn’t mean it’s a “hatch,” so a reliable “searching” pattern should be used in all situations. It matters little whether you tie on a dry, or emerger, or nymph or streamer: after a few seconds in typical urban water, all flies look pretty much the same, which is to say, disgusting. A few flies specific to urban waters are known—the Royal Barf, the Used

Corn Fly, the Dungeon Guillotine, in such colors as rash, spleen, itch, and mold—and their tying may be found in the “Puerile Humor” section of UTube.

My own favorite urban water techniques involve night fishing, when trespassing is easier than in daytime, and nobody can laugh at your casting, and use of the “Herkenheimer Lift,” a specifically deadly means of dredging up fish. To execute the HL, cast three-quartering to the left bank (facing downstream, or up—I forget), lower the rod tip while raising the reel, then reverse directions and walk backwards while stripping out line, pull the fly underwater, and yank back. You’ll have a fish on, or not, depending on the fish.

And, there you have it, Davey, all the information you’ll need to flyfish the miraculous milieu we call “urban waters.” For your personal safety and hygiene, always wear old clothes, even if you don’t get into the water, and burn them at the end of the day. “Heavy metal” has a particular meaning in the urban environment. A rousing full-body scrub with hand sanitizer is also in order, after a shower, or two, or three. ♦

\*“Mershon Muddler,” *Winter 2012, Volume 16, Issue 2, p. 24.*

\*\* *Truer than I ought to admit. BK*



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2013-2014**

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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.

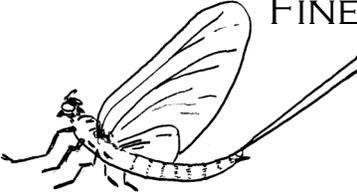
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# 20-Plus

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## Streamer Club

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

The next 20-Plus streamer tying classes will be offered on:

### **Smallie Fishing Tying & Presentation**

Mike Schultz from Schultz Outfitters

May 22; 7-9pm

Call Jac Ford for more info  
989-280-3238

409 Adams Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
793-9700

5700 Dixie Highway  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
777-0300

201 N. Miller Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
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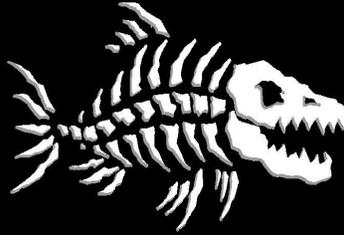
4480 Mackinaw Rd.

Saginaw, MI 48603

989-793-9700

[www.casefuneralhome.com](http://www.casefuneralhome.com)

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# AuSable Troutfitters

Guided Fly Fishing for Trout, Steelhead, Bass

[www.ausabletroutfitters.com](http://www.ausabletroutfitters.com)

Capt. Todd Zwetzig

989.225.2478

## Clip and Save: Mershon Event Calendar

### Spring Fundraising Banquet

Horizons Conference Center, Saginaw

4:00 p.m.~ Displays

5:00 p.m.~ Cocktails

7:00 p.m.~ Dinner

*Friday, April 11th, 2014*

### Opening Day Trout Season

Hence, the lack of many other events during the summer on the calendar!

*Saturday, April 26, 2014*

### Rifle River Work Day

Time & location to be determined

*Saturday, July 12th, 2014*

**Monthly Board Meetings:** 5:30–7:00 pm, 1st Wednesday of each month  
at Case Funeral Home, Mackinaw Road, Saginaw

—No meetings during summer months—

# THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited ◆  
P.O. Box 6920 Saginaw, MI 48608-6920

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 187  
Saginaw, MI**

**Address Service Requested**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**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*

*Clip and mail this application to join TU today!*

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
020 Mershon  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Michigan Council - Code 5449  
Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed\*\*       Please bill me

Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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.)*