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 COLDWATER FISHERIES
 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the Mershon-Neumann Heritage 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
Laurie Seibert



Laurie Seibert, chapter president



Klacking Creek Box for Real



Youth Camp

Fall. It's more than pumpkin spice, sweaters, and new boxes of crayons. If you're involved with Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter, it's the time we look at what worked last year and what we want to accomplish in the next 12 months. And, what worked last year was wonderful. Just a few things that stand out. We began to slowly meet in person with the Fly-Fishing Film Tour, held at the State Theater in February. We held our first fundraising picnic, attended by about 65 people and raising over \$6,000. We helped Saginaw 4 H reach 100 kids and their families through our participation in Fish Academy. Our goal to work on getting youth involved in coldwater conservation and fishing was addressed by having three teens attend the Michigan Trout Unlimited Youth and Conservation Camp. We stepped outside the traditional box and hosted a yoga / fly tying event. And, in August, 20 volunteers completed a habitat restoration project on Gamble Creek. We've been busy!

But, have we been busy doing what our members feel is important? The only way for us to know is if our membership tells us. Being a member of our chapter means different things to different people. For some, it's routinely writing a check to renew their membership. For others, it might be more social—getting together for speakers and meals. Others may want to use our network for education—not just about fishing but about upcoming legislative changes that impact coldwater resources. Being in our chapter might be a way to participate in conservation activities . . . the list goes on.

Our chapter will be stronger if we work together to meet as many member's needs as possible. That means it's up to each of you to reach out and start the conversation about what we are doing right—and what you would like to see improved upon. Email us at mershon-neumanntu@mershon-neumanntu.org. Visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/mershon.tu and comment or share when something resonates with you. Or, attend a board meeting. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at Case's Funeral Home on Mackinaw, September through May, at 5:30 PM.

I am very proud of what our chapter does. I hope you are, too. I also hope you will want to be a part of the growth we expect in the next year. ◆



River Cleanup



Gamble Creek

Editor's Column

by David Oeming, chapter editor

“The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.”

–Dept. of Natural Resources website

“The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) synchronizes strategic, legislative and fiscal initiatives to build and sustain military readiness, care and advocacy for veterans and cultivate purposeful partnerships.”

–Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs website

My Editor's Column usually is styled as a description of our contributors' yarns in the issue, and a note regarding upcoming Chapter events. For this issue, though, I think it important to use this space to bring attention to a novel threat to use and enjoyment of the public lands and waters in five counties around and including the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers, and other rivers and lakes. The specific proposal made by the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MDMVA) is that control of over 140,000 acres of public lands managed by the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), including hundreds of thousands of acres adjacent to most of the North Branch and a significant portion of the Manistee, would be transferred from management by the MDNR, added to Camp Grayling, and managed by the MDMVA for military purposes. If approved by the Director of the Dept. of Natural Resources, Camp Grayling and the MDMVA would control over 430 square miles of Michigan public lands. Lovells and the North Branch of the Au Sable, for example, would be in the center of the largest military training area in North America.

The above quotes are general statements of the mission of each Agency. The conflict as measured by the Camp Grayling proposal is evident: there is no way to reconcile or correlate “military readiness” with “the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources”.

I suggest that readers of the Muddler research this outrageous proposal for public land usurpation and consider whether the Administrative Branch of Michigan state government should engage in reclassification of public lands from recreational to military use. The MDMVA, for example, has graciously offered that use of this property by the public will not be limited unless the military or its partners are using it. That apparently includes the Michigan National Guard, Guard and Reserve units from at least nineteen other states, active duty units

of all branches of the military, foreign military units, and such contractors and businesses as would like to use and become “purposeful partners” in the enlarged Camp Grayling for development, testing, marketing, and sale of new and novel military hardware and systems.

A recent “DNR Q&A on Camp Grayling proposal” may be found at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/newsroom/releases/2022/08/12/updated-camp-grayling-expansion-proposal-q-and-a-available>. Be aware that in this summary the MDNR has inaccurately quoted the law it claims authorizes and assigns the MDNR “broad authority” to “manage” and “lease” state lands.

All readers, in fact all citizens, should become educated in this matter and make your conclusions known to state actors including legislators and politicians. Please note that the Governor of the State of Michigan is the Chief Executive of both Departments (MDNR and MDMVA). The Governor is also the Commander of the Michigan National Guard.

Silence of citizens and the public will produce recreating in an active military facility, not the cherished streams, lakes, and forests of Northern Michigan.. ♦



If you don't do it, it won't get done

by Larry Brown, chapter director

Volunteer organizations provide an essential service to our communities and help enrich our daily lives. They help provide food, clothing, and shelter to those in need. They fill many gaps in the cultural safety net. Some work to promote various environmental causes including fish and wildlife conservation. One of the most effective grassroots coldwater conservation organizations is Trout Unlimited. Yet, this effectiveness depends solely on volunteers.

I readily admit I am relatively new to the trout fishing community. But, I like what I do and plan to stay. Much of my new found pleasures would not have been possible without relying on the following volunteers. Jac Ford taught many how to fly cast and tie flies. He also helped improve my fishing skills for finding and catching stream trout. Robb Smith helped organize many habitat improvement projects on the Rifle River and elsewhere. Howard Johnson offered the opportunity to participate in an annual redd count on the South Branch of the Au Sable

River. These volunteer opportunities provided ample satisfaction as well as new found knowledge. We were doing good work for a worthy cause.

This is what I gained from participating in those activities. In order to survive, trout need 2 1/2 feet of water somewhere in their environment. They also prefer being near overhead cover. Of course, trout need well oxygenated, cool, water, and lots of food. The best redds are often found in gravel beds, near overhead cover. Brown trout make big redds. Brook trout make smaller redds. Rainbows prefer faster water. Gravel beds are the preferred substrate for redds. Yet, this gravel can be pea sized or fist sized, depending on the size of the fish that makes the redd.

Picking out a spot where a fish may lie often depends on reading the water. Pools and riffles should alternate regularly to provide food and refuge from predators. An eddy pool on the edge of a sweeper tree is often a good spot for holding fish. When in doubt, throw your offering into the bubble line that marks the boundary between fast and slow water. Each Spring, the river will change log jams, pools, and fish holding cover. Let the river teach you where to find fish. This is just a small sampling of the many and varied bits of knowledge gained. You never stop learning from nature.

The pay-offs are multiple. You learn new ways to fish, new places to fish, and often catch larger fish. None of this knowledge would have been gained without volunteering to work and listening to those who know much more than I could ever hope to. During one volunteer outing, I spent the day on a river with a fisheries biologist and a fishing guide. They offered a very rich learning experience. Seeing trout utilizing the in-stream structure you built is quite satisfying. Talking about natural resource issues with like minded people provides hope for the future. For this, I am grateful to everyone mentioned above and others I forgot to mention. All of you have truly enriched my outdoor experience and my life as a whole. However, presently we have a crisis in our chapter of Trout Unlimited: a lack of volunteers. Volunteers are needed for projects, fund-raising events, habitat improvement work. But most of all, we need volunteers to become chapter officers willing to serve on our board of directors. Otherwise all this good work will slow down or cease altogether. In volunteer work, the rewards are many and the personal sacrifice is small. If you offer some of your free time, the pay-off will certainly be worthwhile. Remember, If you do not do the job, it will not get done. ♦



Upcoming Events

by *Laura Stockwell, chapter communication director*

We are firming up the calendar for the next 12 months. While dates are not set, here is a list of what the board expects to accomplish. Look over the list- if there's something missing, let us know. If you can help IN ANY CAPACITY, let us know that, too! Mershon-neumanntu@mershon-neumanntu.org

Youth and Education. We are developing partnerships to allow us to reach more youth this year. We are the proud recipients of a Next Gen Grant from Bass Pro Shops, Cabelas, and National Trout Unlimited, as well as receiving a grant from the Neumann-Heritage Fund. We have the supplies and equipment to work with youth on casting, conservation, macroinvertebrates, and fly tying. Let us know if you have a classroom or organization that would welcome an event.

Social Opportunities. We will be hosting our annual meeting in person this winter. At this time we are finalizing the location. If you have a great idea for a presentation you would like to see, contact us. We are also looking forward to another picnic and / or banquet. We

will need people to help with the logistics each of those activities involve. The Fly Fishing Film Tour is expected in February. This is always a great time to meet up with friends and watch some exciting fishing films.

Conservation. We will be holding another "Trees for Trout" tree give away in the spring. It was so fun last year to meet with land owners in Ogemaw County; come visit with us and grab a tree to plant. The Rifle River needs us to help replace the trees lost by the ash borer. We are preparing to gather data to justify more projects within the Rifle River Recreation Area. There are some strong potential projects we can really do some good with. Stay tuned! We are looking for more conservation projects to do- if you have an idea we'd like to hear it.

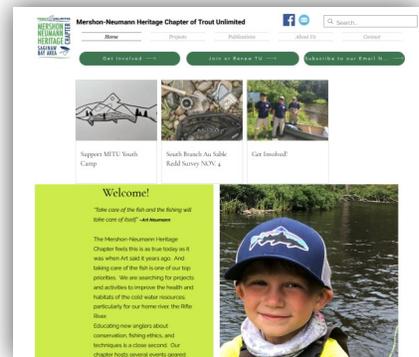
Fundraising. Raffles, Online store, auctions . . . all are in the works. Again . . . let us know if you can help or have a fundraising idea.

Over the next few months you will see an updated website. The new format will allow us to reach more people in a more efficient way; with event updates and news. If you have any interest in being part of the committee that rolls this change forward, contact Laura at commcomm@mershon-neumanntu.org. ♦



Check out the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter of Trout Unlimited online

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The Perry Mason-Griffith Show**

*as scripted by Bob Kren, chapter
advisor and Mr. Flyfishersonguy*

An episode very loosely based on Earl Stanley Gardner's *The Case of the Negligent Nymph*. Cast, in order of bulk: Perry Mason-Griffith is played by Raymond Buhr; Paul Drake is stiffly played by William, Son of Hedda, Hopper; and Della Street is silkily portrayed by Barbara Hale. Plus, there's a variety of Bad People and Good People, played by whoever was walking by Central Casting that day.

**"The Cast of the Negligent
Nymph"*****

While Perry Mason-Griffith is enjoying a bromantic evening canoe ride, with Paul Drake, on the Au Sable River, he eagerly admires a flyfisherwoman, who is clad only in moonlight. He admires her form, her tight loops: so do Fidel Castro and Mao Tse-tung, both of whom are hidden in the bushes and breathing heavily enough that even the trout can hear them. Perry and Paul drift past her, very silently, and soon have rounded a bend, so Perry can exhale.

The next morning, as they savor coffee and small talk over breakfast at Gates' Lodge, Perry and Paul are alerted by sirens, shortly followed by the arrival of every deputy in the Crawford County Sheriff's Department. "Did any of you see a naked lady starbathing on the river last night?"

barked Sheriff Schnauzer, himself. Paul blushed, as did Mao and Fidel: Perry didn't

"They did," stated Perry, pointing to his fellow voyeurs, all of whom had busied themselves vigorously inspecting the tablecloths. "But there's no law against leering, at least not yet. Just wait until 2022, though. What's the brouhaha?"

"There's been a theft, a 287 karat diamond necklace, with the 'Star of Hamtramck' diamond as its centerpiece," snapped Sheriff Schnauzer. "It was mysteriously snatched off the neck of Lady Windbottom, a guest of this establishment, as she strolled the riverbank last night at about midnight. She claims all she heard was a 'whooshing' sound, and the



The Show, continued from page 5

necklace flew off her neck, in the direction of the river.”

“Wait a minute,” said Paul, “we were on the river last night at about that time, and we may possibly have very briefly barely noticed a lone flyfisherperson, marvelously female, casting in the direction of the bank. Nothing out of the ordinary, there, except for those two (points at Mao and Fidel).”

“That explains it all,” yapped Deputy Chihuahua, emerging from the pack. “The fisherwoman cast a 6/0 Royal Wulff onto Lady Windbottom’s necklace, reared back, and it flew over her shoulder to her accomplices’ bushes, from whence they fled, booty in hand.” He patted himself on the back, as he scratched behind his ear.

“Clever, Deputy, but how does that explain the dead body of Lord Windbottom, found on the grounds?” asked the Sheriff.

Paul combed his long fingers through his even longer blonde hair, and blurted “a dead b - . . . “ “Not a dead b - . . . , Fluffy, a dead body! Body! There any suspects?” (*A sudden commotion erupts, and three brawny deputies haul a gorgeous brunette out from behind a dumpster*)

“Here’s a suspect, Sheriff, skulking around. Just look at her! Got guilt written all over her, or my name’s not Ambrose Chihuahua. Which it is.” (*A flash of recognition, it’s, it’s . . . Della Street!*) “Indeed it is a suspect, Deputy Ambrose. Why wait for the Sheriff, let’s string her up now! Oh, wait, I am the Sheriff. Drat! OK, let’s have a trial!” (*fade to commercial*)

“Here we are in the CCCBaG (*barrister lingo for ‘Crawford County Courthouse Bar, and Grill’*), about to find out who actually did the crime. Or is it crimes? I forget. Judge, I’d like to talk with my client, Miss Street, in private. (*both exit to private*). Della, I never realized how beautiful you are,” said Perry.

To which Della replied “Well, you big doofus, everybody on the planet has known that there’s always been something going on between us, except you! Clueless! Why would I kill my uncle, Lord Windbottom, and steal the ‘Star of Hamtramck,’ when I stand to inherit it soon enough, anyway?”

Perry, by now up to his XXXL lips in love, blurts “That’s it! Finally, we have a defense! I was worried that there wouldn’t be one. Phew.” (*Exit to courtroom*)

Perry begins with “Your Honor, I call the witless, I mean witness, Mr Fidelito Castro, to the stand.” “Mr.

Castro, were you present on the night in question, and what did you see?”

“I see nothing, chico – ees dark!”

“Your Honor, the mystery is solved! The murderer is Ambrose Chihuahua!” “I confess!,” yapped Ambrose, tearing off his wig, How’dja know I’m the illegitimate daughter of Lord Windbottom, and heiress to everything?”

“Very simple, Amber, which is your real name,” gloated Perry. “You have the Windbottom birthmark behind your ear, and that’s why you’re scratching it even now.” (*Amber/Ambrose is led away in bracelets. Not handcuffs – real bracelets – which Amber always favored*)

“Oh, Perry, you’re my hero. You want to do a little, you know, hubbahubba?”

“You bet, Della. How’s about midnight, in the river?” (*Fade to darkness*) ◆

** *“The Case of the Negligent Nymph” was episode 12 of the first season of the Perry Mason TV series. There was a total of 271 episodes, stretched agonizingly over ten years.*



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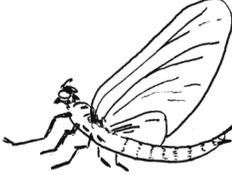


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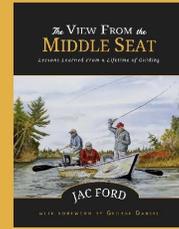


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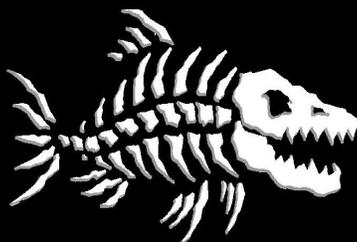
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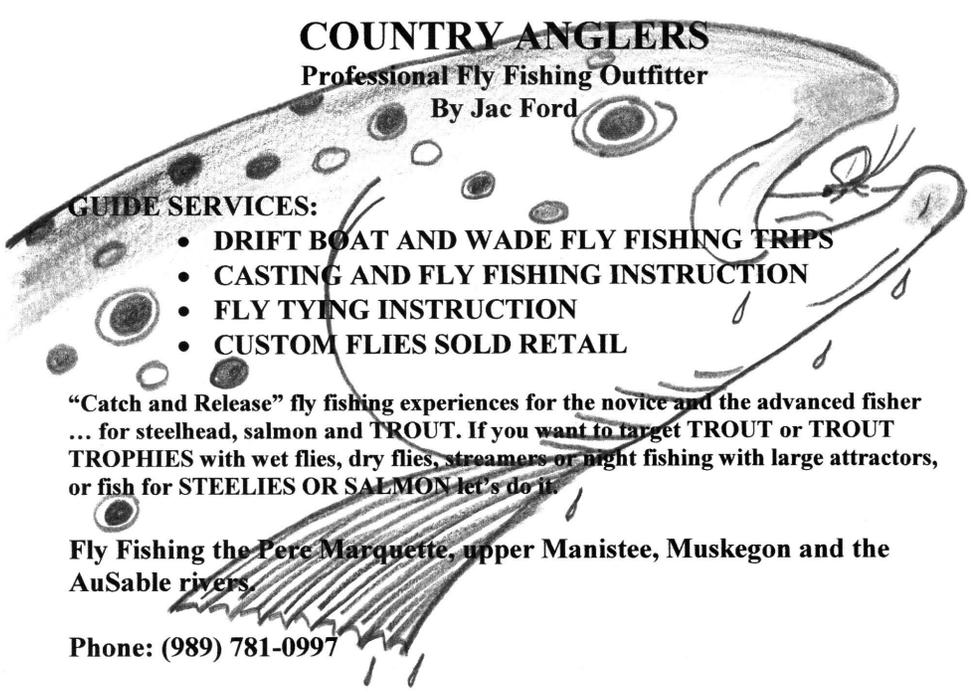
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MEETING SCHEDULE**

*All Board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month
at 5:30 p.m. We usually meet at W.L. Case Funeral Home, 4480 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw.
However, until it is safe and feasible to meet in-person, we are meeting via Zoom.*

November 2, 2022
December 7, 2022
January 4, 2023
February 1, 2023

—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.**

**To join our Zoom board meeting, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87838776443>
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