

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 Don Meyer

**W**elcome back everyone from summer. It sure seemed short, but I hope it was filled with safe and fun activities for all.

Michigan successfully sponsored the National Teen Summit this year, and I had the pleasure of being a “gillie” for the group. That meant 3 evenings of helping the campers fish various waters. We fished the Manistee, South Branch of the AuSable, and the North Branch of the AuSable. It proved to be great fun with the campers from all over the United States.



*Don Meyer, chapter president*

The Michigan TU Youth Camp was again a success, with no injuries and lots of fish caught. Many thanks to all who made our camp great for the campers. They enjoyed their annual AuSable River boat ride, bug gathering, fishing, and much more.

So, we are again into the monthly meeting season. Anyone interested is welcome the first Wednesday of each month at Cases on Mackinaw and Shattuck in Saginaw at 5:30pm. We always look for more and varied input from our members. These meetings are definitely not dry. At the September meeting, my list of subjects was 15 items long and ran from Women ‘n Waders to Salmon in the Classroom and much more. Feel free to stop out.

Our yearly schedule of activities is starting. It will again be an enjoyable year. Help us enjoy it with your attendance and input.

Thank-you  
 —Meyer

## Membership Renewal and Updates

**C**urrent Membership renewal can be done one of three ways: online, mailed in, or by phone.

To renew online, go to the national website [tu.org/join](http://tu.org/join). To mail in your renewal, go to the national website listed above to determine what your yearly membership dues are. You can then mail your renewal into Trout Unlimited, PO Box 7400, Woolly Bugger, WV 25438. To renew by phone, please call 1-800-834-2419, 9:00–7:00 Eastern Time Zone.

New members can get a free one-year membership by emailing [wbmershontu@gmail.com](mailto:wbmershontu@gmail.com) with your name, address, and phone number.

To update your address, phone, or email address, please email [wbmershontu@gmail.com](mailto:wbmershontu@gmail.com) with your name and updated information. ◆

# New Michigan History Museum exhibit explores Trout Unlimited's worldwide impact on conservation

by Beth McKenna, McKenna & Son Communications, Bay City, MI

LANSING, Mich. -- Trout Unlimited's founding and the recreation of Art Neumann's Wanigas Rod Shop are at the heart of the Michigan History Museum's newest exhibition, *The River that Changed the World*.

Neumann, a Saginaw native and one of the original 16 Michigan anglers who came together on the banks of the Au Sable River and founded Trout Unlimited in 1959, was a leader of the William B. Mershon Chapter and played a pivotal role in propelling TU into becoming a national champion of fish habitat conservation.

Neumann died in 2016.

Along with portions of the Saginaw fly shop where Neumann lectured customers on the responsibilities of protecting cold-water streams, the exhibit also features TU co-founder George Griffith's 24-foot-long Au

Sable River Boat. Visitors can learn how to tie a fly and compare tied flies to real insects under a microscope. The Michigan History Museum exhibit opened Sept. 30 and will run through mid-2018.

"The Au Sable River has influenced – and continues to influence – people around the world," said Mark Harvey, state of Michigan archivist and exhibit curator.

"The stories in the exhibition demonstrate the innovative and unprecedented ways private citizens and state government worked together to conserve and protect the river and sustainably manage its fish populations."

More than 60,000 school-aged children visit the Lansing museum annually. Trout Unlimited and the museum are hopeful *The River that Changed the World* will inspire people of all ages to become more responsible environmental stewards.

The exhibit also introduces the relationship between the Anishinaabe (Odawa and Ojibwe people) and the Au Sable River. It highlights how their use of rivers changed with the seasons and includes tools and fish bones from an archaeological site on the river.

In addition, a battery of glass beakers from the Grayling Fish Hatchery represents early-20<sup>th</sup> century work by state conservationists and private citizens who tried to save the grayling. Each beaker held thousands of fish eggs.

Original paneling and artifacts from the Wolverine train car, which carried millions of fish by rail across Michigan, tell the story of subsequent efforts to plant trout in the Au Sable.

The exhibit's final section presents Grayling, Mich., as a destination for fishing and tourism since the mid-19th century. Visitors can sit in a kayak and experience a 360-degree virtual reality paddle down the Au Sable, either by using an Oculus Rift headset or their own smart devices and cardboard viewers.

At the end of the exhibition, visitors are invited to share their stories about the rivers they love and how they might work to protect them.

"The Au Sable River has influenced so many people and is the birthplace of the national conservation movement," Harvey said. "We are thrilled to bring this exhibit to the people of Michigan."

The exhibit is open through summer 2018 and is included with regular museum admission.

The Michigan History Museum is a nationally accredited museum located in the east wing of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, on the north side of Kalamazoo Street, two blocks east of M. L. King Jr. Boulevard. The museum is open year-round, seven days a week.

For more information, call 517-373-3559 or visit [www.michigan.gov/museum](http://www.michigan.gov/museum). ♦



There has been some misunderstanding on what TU National does for Michigan TU, its chapters, and Great Lakes cold water resources. In a nutshell, they do a lot but we have failed to adequately tell about their involvement. This is a list of some of what they do for us:

- Membership dues rebates. Many national organizations keep all membership dues, not TU National.
  - They have national staff on the ground in Michigan, all funded through TU National. This includes Jeremy Geist - Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager, Taylor Ridderbusch - Great Lakes Organizer, Nichol DeMol - Home Rivers Initiative Project Manager Rogue River, and others from the national staff.
  - They also have regular updates, many through conference calls, on issues that affect the Great Lakes, such as national legislative effort updates in Washington.
  - They have conference calls addressing things to help our chapters.
- They host Upper Midwest regional meetings.
  - They attend our special events such as the April 29th Art Neumann Memorial dedication that will be attended by Chris Wood - President of TU National, and many other events and conferences concerning the Great Lakes.
  - They sponsor Embrace-A-Stream funding, available for chapters to help fund their conservation projects.
  - Overall, TU National has been and continues to be very involved with Michigan TU, the Great Lakes, and our issues.
  - Finally, we don't ask TU National for direct, specific funding very often but whenever we have, they have stepped up and helped significantly. ◆

## What does TU National do for Michigan?

*From Tom Quail,  
Michigan TU Council Chairperson,  
tquail@michigantu.org,  
in answer to the question,  
"What does TU National do for us  
here in Michigan?"*

## The Mershon Fly



*“The Mershon fly originated from the old Mowry, which was made of a turkey wing, and it was, I thought, not bright enough, so I wrote to Wm. Mills & Son, New York, and asked them to tie some flies for me with a black silk body and wings feathers from a mallard drake, leaving the tip of white thereon. They did so, and afterwards I had Mills have some tied with a white body, and the white bodied Mershon proved to be more attractive than the black bodied. I used this fly with great success on the Black River, many years ago.”*

—William B. Mershon

*(from Fly Patterns and Their Origins, by Harold Hinsdill Smedley)*

# A Hollywood Encounter

by Bob Kren, Mershon Advisor and Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

*(To be read aloud, by three people, using appropriate accents)*

(The outlandish, garishly decorated office of Hollywood entrepreneur, Darryl F. Latt. His loyal secretary, Zelda Quackenbush, speaks.)

Zelda Quackenbush: Mr. Latt, there's a Mr. Kren here to see you about a script.

Darryl F. Latt: Oy, like I don't see enough scripts to make a boat and float in the bulrushes. He got an appointment?

ZQ: Somehow, yes. Your very personal assistant (winks, here) Ms. Dombrowski, met him at an airport in Michigan.

DFL: So he's a Mishigana, like I need to talk to somebody with a southern accent, already. OK, show him in, but no coffee, understand?

ZQ: Yes, sir. (exit stage right, or left, depending. Enter Bob Kren)

BK: Mr. Latt, I presume. Bob Kren, aspiring screenwriter.

DFL: Aspire away, Mr. Kern, and call me "sir." Just joking, it's "Darryl," with two "r's." Whatcha got for me?

BK: It's "Kren," but call me "Bob." Anyway, I have a script for you -- excitement, thrills, adventure, romance, danger . . . it's got everything!

DFL: Whoa!, that's a nine-inch stack! How'd you get all that in your hip pocket?

BK: It was a bit tight, I'll admit, especially difficult sitting in coach for five hours.

DFL: Too many words, that much stuff, what is this, Warren Piece?

BK: Well, Darryl, I wish it were, but no, "Troutnado" is about a bizarre set of events, starting with a nuclear spill in Montana, global warming, and a huge! tornado spreading havoc in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Actually, this is a set of seven scripts, banking on the idea that the American public has absolutely no taste or judgment, and just loves sequels.

DFL: Wait, wait, on the first page it starts talking about trout. The fish, right? Peaceful, like sheep?

BK: But brimming with pent-up desires for radioactive revenge, because an unscrupulous Vietnamese fishing guide, Kelly Galoot, has been catching but not releasing, and transporting innocent trout to the Wyoming Mafia, for shipment from Cheyenne to Egypt where the trout is worshipped in the form of Troutzilla, the God of Whoopee!. Galoot demands a whole bunch of money, the Mafia objects, and

DFL: How much is this "whole bunch?," because we got no big budget for special effects. Or actors that can act, for that matter.

BK: There's bickering and dicking, in a humorous yet deadly Wyoming/Vietnamese-y way, and finally \$483,299.23 is settled on. In the meanwhile, back in Montana, Galoot's cohorts are netting alligator-size trout, which by now glow brightly in the dark and have teeth like fileting knives, while gigantic global-warming-induced storm clouds gather on the horizon. And in Cheyenne, our intrepid hero, Raoul Finnagle, known only as "The Finn," maybe because he's Ukrainian, is busily setting up another of his wildly successful motorcycle/surfboard/chainsaw dealerships, when he steps on the lovely toes of the local flyshop owner

DFL: A flyshop, like with swatters and doggy doodoo snacks?

BK: Imagine fishing equipment, Darryl, fishing equipment. Turns out that The Finn is a world champion flyflyfisherpersonguy, surfboarder,

and chainsaw juggler, fabulously rich, yet humble, and he has an eye for the ladies, suddenly and especially the comely aforementioned person, one Joannie Woof, who has a teenage son who is pretty much a snot and in need of some lessons in life and manners.

DFL: I got a protégé (winks, here) who'd be perfect in the roll. I mean role.

BK: Finn may know about flycasting, but you do know about actor casting, Darryl. Anyway, the storm clouds have developed into a whopping big tornado, which the cohorts flee, only to be whacked by huge flying carnivorous knife-toothed trout, big 'uns, as we call them in the trouting business, who get swept up and transported to, guess where?, Cheyenne, WY.

DFL: I'm intrigued. Coffee?

BK: Never touch the stuff before noon, Darryl, but thanks. Anyway, the advancing storm stirs up the rare sandstorm wave, which bears down on Cheyenne, but happily Finn has taken out his surfboard, and rides the sand wave toward the center of town, where Joannie, getting ready for a fishing trip and, seeing the swarm of ginormous flying glowing gnashing trout, decides to cast to them, putting her life in danger but Finn scoops her up and starts to slice trout into gory pieces while

DFL: Whoa!, as the trout wranglers say! This is great stuff! We can sell the whole concept to some cable channel like Faux News and make millions. Well, maybe not you, but . . . BK: I'm obviously not in it for the money, Darryl, but for the high art of the whole enterprise.

DFL: Art, smart! Let's ride this troutnado to victory.

(Fade out) ◆

## Successful Women 'N Waders events lead to partnering with DNR for their Outdoor Skills Academy

by Laurie Seibert, chapter director

May 20, 2017, marked the second annual Women 'N Waders event; part of the Trout Unlimited initiative to get more women involved in fly fishing. It is the goal of TU to get more women, young people, and families

involved with fishing as well as conservation of our natural resources.

Approximately 20 women gathered at the Saginaw Bay Visitor's Center for the daylong event. By the end of the sessions, they had learned how to choose gear, set up their rods, tie a variety of knots, match the hatch, tie a fly, and cast. The women were taught by experts such as Ann Miller, who showed them the main Michigan hatches in all stages and how to find what bugs were being eaten. Katie Ferner from Orvis taught how to choose gear, including what was worth spending money on versus where you can skimp. She also showed the women the easiest ways to set up your rod, as well as how to tie the knots to attach a fly. Don Meyer had all the women tying flies—some that would match the hatch and some

that were just attractive. Twice during the day, John Van Daylen had each woman learning to cast from his team of instructors. They went from snarling their lines to being able to cast a potato into a hula hoop.

Based on the fun and learning that went on, this event will continued to be offered each spring. It is being planned that the DNR will be partnering with the Mershon chapter to promote this event as part of their Outdoor Skills Academy, making it even more successful.

Mark your calendars for May 19, 2018, if you would like to join us next year. Space is limited. ♦



*Katie Ferner demonstrates knots.*



*Don Meyer coaching a new fly tier through the whip finish.*



*Making sure the wraps are tight enough on the fly.*

*Visualizing the cast.*



# How to tie the Brown Drake Emerger

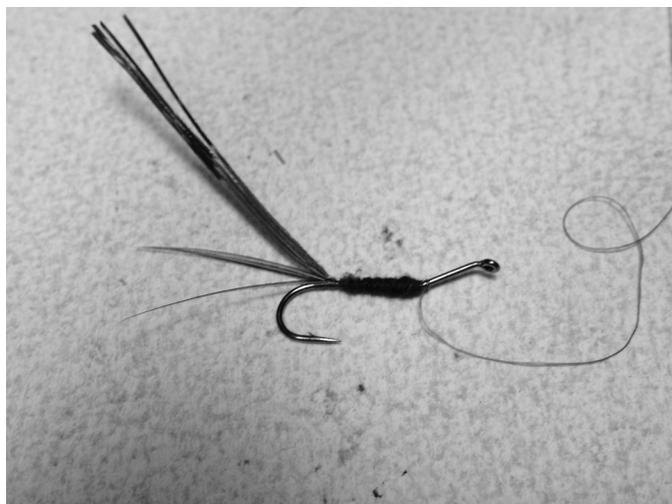
*by Don Meyer, chapter president*



*Step 1: put hook, #10, 2x long dry fly hook in vise and bend, I use needle nose pliers.*



*Step 2: dub carrot shaped underbody before wrapping pheasant tail fibers.*



*Step 3: wrap pheasant tail fibers forward.*



*Step 4: tie in hackle, either use grey shaggy dubbing or I prefer ostrich for thorax.*

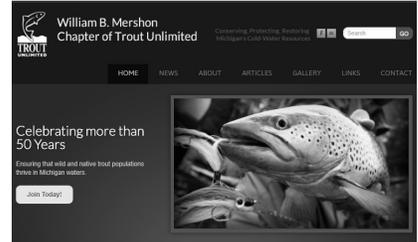


*Step 5: wrap hackle forward.*



*Step 6: tie in stacked clump of coastal deer hair for wing.*

## 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.

(continued on page 9)

## Fall Outings 2017...



When: **Thursday October 19th**

Where: **Saginaw Gun Club,**  
9540 Gratiot Rd. Saginaw (M-46 one mile east of M-52)

Shooting starts at 4:00 P.M.  
Skeet and Trap is \$5 per round (25)  
Five Stand is \$5.50 (25)  
Sporting Clays \$16.00 (50)

Questions: call Dave Case at 989-793-9700  
or email: [casedavid531@gmail.com](mailto:casedavid531@gmail.com)

**Eye and Hearing protection required for all shooting**

Bring your own ammunition or purchase it from Saginaw Gun Club.

## Casual Fun... all for \$10.00 Donation

-Lots of casual conversation.

**Dinner...** Meal will be Hot-Dogs, Hamburgers with beans, buns, potato salad and condiments will be furnished. Pop and water will also be included. If you want a steak bring your own.

Everyone will be asked to put their own meat on the grill, so it's prime when you want to eat it.

*No alcoholic beverages will be provided: Bring your own beer, wine or whatever if you wish. (BYOB)*



See you there, enjoy a fun evening.  
It's your presence that will make this  
event special...



**O**n August 26, nine hearty souls representing Mershon TU, Ann Arbor TU, and Huron Pines gathered for a streambank restoration event on MDNR property fronting the East Branch of the Au Gres River.

Under the leadership of Huron Pines, some 250' of double-row tree revetment was installed at the toe of eroding banks. This will serve to shield the bank from future erosion while providing refuge habitat for fish and other wildlife.

The event was supported by Huron Pines under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant. Participants from Mershon included Bob Kren, Don Meyer, Matt Pollard, and Bob Spence.

These events are directly related to our mission statement, and we hope for greater participation in these future rewarding and fun events. ◆

## You Missed It

*by Bob Spence, chapter advisor*



## How to tie the Brown Drake Emerger, continued



*Step 7: trim a "v" in hackle under fly so it sits in film better*



*Step 8: tie a bunch!*

## It's the little things that wear you down

by *Snarly Windknot*

**M**y hi-tech waders made gave me another summer of frustration. You can guess where this is going. Waders are supposed to keep you dry, and for the most part they do. But it seems like before you've worn them very many times you discover they've developed an invisible leak. Not a big one, just enough to get your right knee wet, or make your left sock damp. But the next time out they seem to have developed another leak that gets the crotch of your pants wet after about two hours. So now you have a pair of waders that cost more than you really wanted to spend, and every time you go fishing they leave you with a wet spot on your right knee, your left sock is soggy and the crotch of your pants looks like you drank too much coffee before you headed for the river.

But you haven't had them that many years. They should have a couple more seasons left in them. So you buy a tube of some kind of high-tech stuff and start trying to patch them. It's a slippery slope that leaves you with nothing to show for your efforts except a good deal of frustration. And the next time you wear them you discover they still leak. In fact, they seem to have developed an additional leak. But wait. There's still some patch stuff left in the tube you bought, so you try patching the leaks again. And again. And.....

## Leaky Waders

I'm convinced it's one of life's unsolvable mysteries. You can search and search 'til your eyes start to weaken. You've covered every inch from the feet to the waist And still can't find where your waders are leakin'.

So you dab on some kind of patching stuff here,  
You smear on another brand of stuff over there.  
You think this trip I'm going to stay dry,  
Only to discover they're still leaking somewhere.

The guy at the fly shop says just buy a new pair  
Instead of buying that stuff and patching some more.  
But if you wanted his advice you'd ask him for it,  
So you go buy some stuff at the hardware store.  
You go over those waders one more time inch by inch  
And put on some gobs of the new stuff you got.  
You spread some on here and you smear some on there  
Til the patches are thicker than a leopard's spots.  
The next day you hear them snicker as you walk to the river  
Somebody says "Snarly, are you wearin' waders or a collage?"  
You tell them "It's an experiment, I planned it this way.  
I'm developing a new pattern of marine camouflage."

## Camper Thanks

Thank you for the great opportunity to go and learn about fly fishing. I had a great time while there and I learned a lot of cool stuff. Including but not limited to: how to use a fly rod and how to bring the fish in. I am also glad that I learned how to tie flies and what kinds of flies there are. Also I now know what to do to and how use the different types of flies.

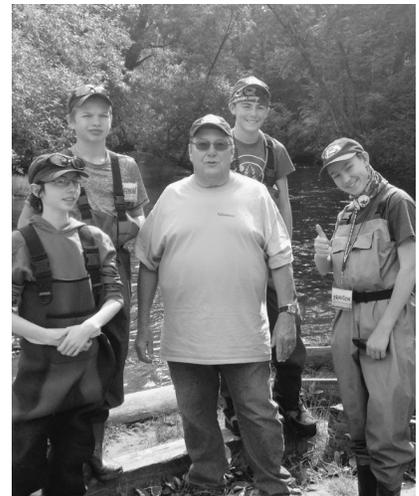
I am also thankful for making things and being able to keep them. Like the flies and some of the other stuff and

being able to go places. I especially enjoyed how we were able to go places for fishing and going to the store and looking at stuff and eating food there.

I also know understand and appreciate the importance of keeping our rivers clean. I can't wait to share this knowledge with others.

Thank you Trout Unlimited for sponsoring me this year. I enjoyed the experience.

Cameron A. Ludy



**WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER  
OF TROUT UNLIMITED  
2016-2017**

**Officers**

**President**

Donald Meyer  
989-245-0662  
[donalddmeyer@aol.com](mailto:donalddmeyer@aol.com)

**Vice President**

Todd Zwetzig  
989-225-2478  
[toddzwetzig@gmail.com](mailto:toddzwetzig@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Dave Case  
642-5286  
[dsbec53@chartermi.net](mailto:dsbec53@chartermi.net)

**Secretary**

Kris Cincinelli  
989-793-6712  
[fishingkris@yahoo.com](mailto:fishingkris@yahoo.com)

**Past-President**

Don Albrecht  
989-245-5819  
[Albrecht.don@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Albrecht.don@sbcglobal.net)

**Membership Committee Chair**

Andy Ludy  
[ajludy@gmail.com](mailto:ajludy@gmail.com)  
[wblershontu@gmail.com](mailto:wblershontu@gmail.com)

**Directors**

Joe Albosta  
[albstaj@gmail.com](mailto:albstaj@gmail.com)

Corey Anderson  
989-492-1163  
[coreyanderson01@gmail.com](mailto:coreyanderson01@gmail.com)

Dan Haven  
989-750-3211  
[peachpeople@netzero.com](mailto:peachpeople@netzero.com)

Jim Lewis  
790-3151 (H), 989-751-0344 (C)  
[jim\\_lewis@chartermi.net](mailto:jim_lewis@chartermi.net)

Chris Myers  
989-332-0625  
[crcasemyers@gmail.com](mailto:crcasemyers@gmail.com)

David Oeming  
989-692-0322  
[djoeming@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djoeming@sbcglobal.net)

Ralph Omness  
989-280-0316 (C)  
[k8nk1@aol.com](mailto:k8nk1@aol.com)

Laurie Seibert  
[lbeachteacher@gmail.com](mailto:lbeachteacher@gmail.com)

**Advisors**

Bill Adams  
989-860-2090  
[adamsbillchar@charter.net](mailto:adamsbillchar@charter.net)

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

Joe Bula  
781-2047 (H)  
[joenette@mybluelight.com](mailto:joenette@mybluelight.com)

David Cozad  
[benthos1@aol.com](mailto:benthos1@aol.com)  
989-684-7947

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

Jac Ford  
781-0997 (H/FAX)  
[canglers@aol.com](mailto:canglers@aol.com)

Carl Hubinger  
642-5487 (H)  
[ccarlhubinger@msn.com](mailto:ccarlhubinger@msn.com)

Howard N. Johnson  
989-280-0381  
[hjohnson@aol.com](mailto:hjohnson@aol.com)

Risty Kalivas  
790-8614 (H)  
[ristydo@aol.com](mailto:ristydo@aol.com)

Rich Kemerer

Bob Kren  
810 659-8470  
[rmkren@umflint.edu](mailto:rmkren@umflint.edu)

Paul Morand  
989-893-7132  
[pmorand@hotmail.com](mailto:pmorand@hotmail.com)

Christopher J. Radke  
249-6420 (H)  
[cradke@shinnerscook.com](mailto:cradke@shinnerscook.com)

Jake Shinners  
781-3003 (H), 752-7700 (W)  
[shinners@mistequaygroup.com](mailto:shinners@mistequaygroup.com)

Robb Smith  
989-893-3792 (h)  
989-233-1922 (cell)  
[rsmithsr@chartermi.net](mailto:rsmithsr@chartermi.net)

Starland Smith  
989-894-7827  
[baycitystar@yahoo.com](mailto:baycitystar@yahoo.com)

Bob Spence  
799-6617 (H)  
[rsspe2@chartermi.net](mailto:rsspe2@chartermi.net)

Greg Stansbury  
751-3925 (H/FAX)  
[papertube66@gmail.com](mailto:papertube66@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Layout**

Teri Skidmore  
781-0040  
[TeriSkidz@gmail.com](mailto:TeriSkidz@gmail.com)

**Website**

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

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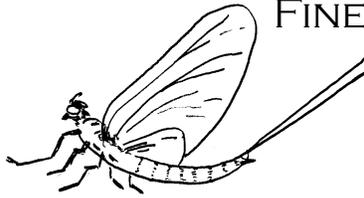
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# 20-Plus

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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 streamer "tying & talking" classes will be offered on:*

**March 18**

Guest tier: Tommy Lynch

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

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Capt. Todd Zwetzig

989.225.2478

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, November 1, 2017

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Saginaw, MI

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## Clip and Save: Mershon Event Calendar

*(Additional information, including any fees, will be found in the News section of our website,  
[www.mershon-tu.org](http://www.mershon-tu.org) and on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/mershon.tu](http://www.facebook.com/mershon.tu).)*

**Fall Outing**  
Saginaw Gun Club

*Thursday, October 19, 2017*

**Winter Dinner and Annual Meeting**  
Venue to be determined

*Monday, January 15, 2018*

**Grin and Grub**

*February date & time TBD*

**Spring Banquet**

*April date & time TBD*

**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)