

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

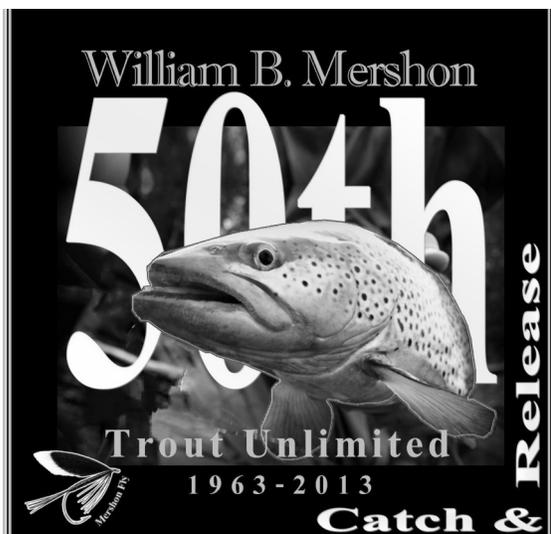
**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**

*of protection, preservation, and restoration  
 of Michigan's coldwater resources*

**Meanders**  
 A few thoughts from  
 the president  
*Jac Ford*

**W**hat a great year we had celebrating our fiftieth anniversary. It was good for our chapter, it's members, and our board. It was especially good for the older members and past presidents. Neat seeing everyone at our banquet.

Last year our board did a great job managing all the extra planning and implementing the items that needed to be done. Our banquet committee was lead by Don Albrecht and the committee's continuous meandering service, Howard Johnson. Ralph Ominess, Jim Lewis, and Nick Thomas rounded out the team and were just exceptional.



This special banquet raised over \$20,000 for the first time in our chapter's history. As expressed in our June Muddler, our chapter had funds to spend on many significant projects and was able to support several good causes.

We are planning to have the banquet at the Horizon's again this year. Jim Lewis and several of the regular committee members will be spearheading the banquet again, with new board members Kris Cinnicelli, Lisa Purchase Kelley, Joe Albosta, and Chris also helping.

In addition to our annual fundraising banquet, our chapter also hosts several meal gatherings during the year. Our chapter's board is striving to make some changes in our winter programs, including hosting a Grin and Grub in the fall. We had hoped to do that this fall but couldn't arrange for a speaker. So, we'll shoot for our first Fall Grin and Grub next year. Pay close attention to our calendar in the

coming year.

We are also making a change to our fly-tying and fly-fishing classes, which will be held in Saginaw Township's Community Education system this year. It will be published in the townships news and community education publication. The classes will begin in February this year. The remainder of the details will be finalized in coming months.

*(See Meanders, page 12)*

## New venue planned for 2014 fly-fishing and fly-tying classes

by *Jac Ford, chapter president*



For nearly 40 years, the Mershon chapter has offered fly-tying and fly-fishing classes. These inexpensive classes—which are designed for the novice fly fisherman—are similar to others taught by TU costing several hundred dollars.

This off-season, we're excited to offer these classes at a new location—Saginaw Township Schools—which offers greater visibility through their community education advertising and greater access for Saginaw County residents.

Both five-week classes will be held in the evenings, starting January 2014,

Youth, as well as adults, are invited to attend. There is a \$30 fee for each class, which includes all the materials you will need. No extra charge for the

bigger-than-life tales!

Again this year, the classes will be taught by Mershon chapter president Jac Ford, with the assistance of guest tyers Bill Priest and Carl Hubinger.

Participants in the fly-tying class learn step-by-step fly-tying methods,

using videos developed for the class, and receive individual instruction. When completed, participants will have been exposed to the basic techniques necessary to tie most flies successfully.

Participants will tie the following flies: Green Caddis Pupa, Hares-Ear nymph, Comparadun, Elk Hair Caddis, Roberts Yellow Drake, parachute and standard Adams, Egg-Suckin-Leech, floating mayfly emerger, and a poly-wing mayfly spinner. Equipment, materials, and use of the flies are discussed, and of course, there are the usual fishing stories.

The fly-fishing class is a basic class for people who have little or no knowledge of fly fishing or casting. The class teaches the concepts of fly fishing and casting; how to use a rod, reel, backing, line, tippet, and flies; what the fish sees below and above the water; how to read and fish a river; and trout food (emergence chart for Michigan) and hatches. Students first hone their skills with a fly-o, then spend time in the school's gym casting with fly rods.

If you are interested in either of these classes, contact Jac Ford at [canglers@aol.com](mailto:canglers@aol.com) or 989-781-0997. ♦



**P**lanning has begun for the 2014 spring banquet, and the banquet committee needs your help. Volunteering is one way to support the chapter and its mission to support cold-water fisheries.

Volunteering to help with the banquet planning and preparation can take many forms. Of course, we'd love to have you join the committee, but even with this there are different levels of commitment.

Not sure if you're ready for committee work? Then, volunteer to

make phone calls, pick up prizes, or help with the program. Volunteers are always needed the day of the banquet, even if it's just for a short shift selling raffle tickets or setting up tables. There are many ways to become involved—a little or a lot—so please consider donating some of your time for a worthy cause.

Contact Jim Lewis at 989-790-3151 or email [jim\\_lewis@chartermi.net](mailto:jim_lewis@chartermi.net) for further information, We're counting on you to make a difference! ♦

**Help a little,  
help a lot**  
**Banquet volunteers needed**  
*by Jim Lewis, chapter director*

**B**ill was discharged from the service in 1958 and started fishing with his local buddies, Art Neumann and Winn Case. Bill's family ran Weichmans, a very well-known store in Saginaw.

One spring day in 1965, the group of Bill Kessel, Art Neumann, Winn Case and Andy Struthers decided to go to the south branch to fish the drake hatch. They arrived at the Downey's just in time, and split up, with Art and Winn going upstream and Bill staying at the Wall. It sounds like Andy wasn't much of a fisherman, but was just there for the "good times".

Remember... this is Bill's story... so he recalls catching and keeping five fish, 15–21 inches. He enjoyed the moment when Winn and Art returned later in the evening with

NO fish, and Bill was able to show-off his full creel.

However, one of these five fish was never eaten. On Monday morning, Art received a phone call from Governor Romney's office in Lansing requesting his attendance at the signing of the bill to make the trout the state's official fish. AND... by the way, can you bring along a trout for the photographer. "Not everyone down here in Lansing knows what a trout looks like.

Bill did receive a handsome plaque commemorating the signing and his contribution... a 21-inch brown trout. ♦

**Mershon  
Chapter  
President  
Retrospective  
Bill Kessel**

*Chapter president 1966*

*Note: Bill and his wife Joyce could not attend the William B. Mershon's 50th Fund Raising Banquet this spring but still wanted to share this story with the membership, as told here by Howard N. Johnson.*



## One of the chapter's longest active members leaves a legacy of dedication and commitment

### Richard Albosta

by Jac Ford, chapter president

**R**ichard Albosta, one of our longest existing active board members, passed in his sleep during the morning hours on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, age 64. He had several health issues, but seemed to be taking care of them appropriately. This past year, he seemed to be doing well, looking better, with more energy than in a long time. He fished more this year than some of the past years and really seemed to be managing the problems with his health very well. It didn't hurt to have a dedicated wife, Nettie, who is a nurse, either.

If Don Albrecht hadn't volunteered to be vice-president of this chapter this term, Dick had discussed being the man. Dick was very organized and dedicated to whatever he committed to do.

We are going to miss Dick.

I first met Dick when he was working with me on the night shift at Plant Four of Saginaw Steering Gear, in 1972. He was a supervisor there. We became immediate friends and have been since. He joined our chapter of Trout Unlimited soon thereafter. When I became president the first time, he joined the board and immediately had an impact for our projects, banquets, and other events.

Dick came to our first fly-tying classes and soon thereafter was helping with them. We did a lot of steelhead fishing together, and he made beautiful flies. He joined me on the Pere Marquette River for ten-day trips fishing for steelies for years. We also ventured up to the Betsie and the Jordan. For years, he was a guest along with me at Trafegh Lodge each opener. His brother Lou was also invited up by one of the members, Walt Averill.



Dick and his brother Lou and their families and friends made decades of fishing trips to Montana. Dick was extremely close to his boys and Lou's son Joe. After a trip, Dick would tell me a lot of stories about what took place. One thing was for sure—you never knew what Dick was going to do or say. He could be a character, which seemed out of character for him.

Dick's involvement in the board was very consistent throughout the past four decades. Everyone will remember him as a sincere, dedicated and classy member. Once he promised to do anything, it could be considered done. He ran the banquet committee, along with his good friend, John Goidisak, for many years. We had several great speakers and banquets that raised

many funds. All of Dick's banquets made everyone want to come back to the next and the next.

One story in particular reminds me of his personnel pride and commitment. During the early nineties, when I was president, Dick again chaired the banquet committee. It was only a couple weeks from the banquet, and Dick became ill. I believe he had immediate open heart surgery. I was busy guiding and

therefore was unable to get to see him. I talked to him on the phone, and we discussed what was going on with him. As usual, he downplayed the operation, but that was Dick. I told him not to worry about what had to be done for the banquet—John and I would get it done. Dick said, "The hell you will. You take care of your guiding, and I will see to it the banquet stuff is taken care of appropriately." And, he did it as usual. Later that week, he called me: "Jac just thought I'd call and make sure your guiding job got done." That

was his way of saying everything was good at home.

We had some really dedicated people in our Trout Unlimited chapter's organization. Some may have done more, but none have done it for so long and with such commitment. His passing is a great loss to our chapter. His death is also a huge loss for his family and friends.

Dick, wherever you are, we hope the water is not too cold but clear, the scenery is awesome, and the fish are biting. We miss and love you. ♦

**O**n August 10, nearly 30 volunteers from Mershon TU and Ann Arbor TU joined Huron Pines staff for another large-scale streambank restoration event on the Rifle River mainstream. Work included 400' of tree revetments to protect exposed eroded banks, placing over 180 native plants to improve riparian habitat, and removal of several trash bags of invasive spotted knapweed.

Participants from the Mershon chapter included Don Albrecht,

Larry Brown, Jim Comment, Allan Larsen, Jim Lewis, Doug Markillie, Don Meyer, Mike Meyer, Robb Smith and Bob Spence.

The event was supported by Huron Pines under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, and included lunch, beverages, and volunteer shirts. Our chapter participates in improvement projects on the Rifle River each summer. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these fun and rewarding days.

## Rifle River upgrade completed this summer

*by Bob Spence, chapter director*



*Tree revetment installation.*

*Pictured:  
Mike Meyer,  
Bob Spence,  
Don Meyer,  
Jim Comment, and  
Don Albrecht.  
Missing: Chris  
Radke.*



## Jac Ford honored with TU's National Distinguished Service Award

by Don Albrecht, chapter director



**M**ershon's own Jac Ford was awarded Trout Unlimited's "National Distinguished Service Award" on September 27th, at the National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. This award recognizes an individual who has given exceptional time and effort to Trout Unlimited over an extended period of time.

Jac Ford has been involved in cold-water fisheries since early childhood, having become a "catch & release" proponent before Trout Unlimited was even formed. Jac quit killing trout in Michigan's rivers in 1963, as a tribute to the loss his best friend, Buddy. Fishing all summer long on the Cedar River in Michigan,

Jac soon understood the importance of releasing the trout for the long-term healthiness of the fishery.

Before becoming a member of Trout Unlimited in 1971, Jac was a Founding Member of a fly-fishing group called Freestone Fly Fishermen. He was President and had a large program at a local high school, with Carl Richards as guest speaker. At another local high school, Jac and his group sponsored a Saturday fly-fishing day, with vendors as well as fly-fishing and fly-tying demonstrations.

Jac has been a member of Trout Unlimited almost from the very beginning. His father told him about the early meetings, where men had gathered to talk about preserving cold-water fisheries in Michigan. Jac met Art Neumann in 1971, who told him more about the mission of Trout Unlimited. Jac immediately became a member and was actively involved from the start. He became a lifetime member in 1975.

Jac has held many positions of leadership in the Mershon Chapter, and is the only member to have served as president more than once, having served as president in 1977-79, 1993-95, and 2012 to present. When not a president, Jac has continuously served as either a director or chapter advisor (non-voting member of the board). His dedication to Trout Unlimited and the Mershon chapter can be closely compared to legends of the chapter, such as Art Neumann and Harold Kleinert.

An active recruiter of new Trout Unlimited members, every year Jac signs up 10-15 new members by talking about TU goals and objectives at every opportunity, including fly-tying and fishing classes, the annual banquet, various Mershon sponsored functions, and while guiding clients on Michigan and Montana waters. He has been responsible for recruiting more new

people to Trout Unlimited than any other Mershon member. Before the new-member sponsorship was available from TU, Jac personally paid the first year membership to get people involved.

Once new members have been recruited, Jac strives to get them involved in some activity in the chapter. In just the last year, Jac has recruited three new members to serve on the chapter's board of directors. Two of these members are under 35, as he tries to continually infuse younger members into actively supporting TU.

In 1979, Jac was instrumental in starting the chapter's newsletter "The Mershon Muddler." This newsletter has been a national award-winning newsletter, and continues to be a key part of the communications process for our chapter.

Jac is a legend on the Au Sable, Pere Marquette, Rifle, and Cedar Rivers of Michigan. In his early life, he dedicated time and effort to keeping the Cedar River near his home in Gladwin a healthy cold-water fishery. In the early 1990's, during his second presidency, he worked with Rusty Gates on the Au Sable fishery. Together, he and Rusty worked to coordinate efforts between Trout Unlimited and Anglers of the Au Sable. Although difficult at first, this relationship has blossomed into a very good working relationship. He has been involved with the Pere Marquette Watershed Council in support of stream improvements for that river system and has helped them through donations of art work and guide trips for their fund raising efforts.

He has been actively involved in keeping the Rifle River (Mershon chapter's adopted river) a healthy cold-water stream. Here, he has been involved annually with the installation of bank restoration

materials, fish shocking, and stream temperature logging, with support and training via Michigan Trout Unlimited, to determine a long-term plan for keeping the river healthy.

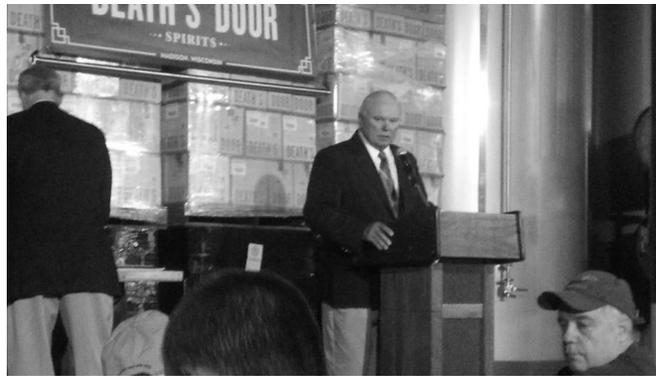
With the 50th Anniversary of the Mershon Chapter Annual Fundraising Banquet in 2013, as president, Jac led the planning and implementation of this major event. Special displays that highlighted the history of our chapter and the life of William B. Mershon were made, with Jac's leadership. Attendance was increased from a previous average of 125 to 240. Jac solicited many of his guide acquaintances to donate trips for auction, and Jac personally donated guided trips and other items to aid in the fundraising. Jac's gifts were a significant part of why the banquet proceeds doubled to over \$20,000, all of which is being used for cold-water fisheries and habitat restoration.

Jac also contributes significant dollars, float trips, fishing rods, and other items annually to aid in the fundraising of TU and spread the word about cold-water fisheries. In addition to the banquet, in the past year, Jac has donated items for each of the public events held by the chapter to help increase attendance and fundraising.

Jac began teaching fly-fishing and fly-tying classes in 1975, sponsored by our Mershon chapter. Each year, Jac teaches the two 12-hour classes and spends part of the time talking about Trout Unlimited's role in protecting and preserving our cold-water fisheries. At the end of each class, all non-TU members are offered a free one-year membership in Trout Unlimited. Several of the class attendees have gone on to become directors and leaders in

Trout Unlimited across Michigan. In the 1970's and 80's, demand exceeded capacity, and each class had to be limited to 25 people. Many of our chapter presidents attended these classes early in their Trout Unlimited involvement.

Upon retiring from General Motors Corporation at the age of 52 in 1993, Jac fulfilled a lifelong ambition and became a professional fishing guide in Michigan and an outfitter in Montana. Since that time, Jac has used this opportunity to educate



*Jac spoke to the Trout Unlimited crowd in Wisconsin about his youthful inspiration from the likes of Art Neumann, dedicating the award to Mershon chapter stalwart, Richard Albosta, who had passed away just days before.*

people about the needs of cold-water fisheries and to donate his time to fundraising for Trout Unlimited. Even though he is a professional guide, Jac gives generously of his time and donates many days of fishing every year to further the cause of Trout Unlimited and cold-water fisheries in general.

In addition, Jac worked with St. Charles High School to do special lectures in the science classes. For several years, interactive lectures were made to freshman students on the subjects of river restoration, water quality, entomology, fishing senses, fly fishing, and fly tying.

Jac also contributed to the Project Healing Waters program in Saginaw from 2009–2011. He helped teach the fly-tying classes, and at the end of each year, Jac enlisted the help of other guides to provide a day of fishing on the Pere Marquette River for all the involved veterans.

For several summers, Jac has donated his time as a guide for Casting for Recovery and Reeling for Healing, both cancer survivor organizations.

In 2012, Jac started the 20-Plus Club, which highlights fellow fishermen who catch a 20"+ trout on a streamer in Michigan waters. He uses this opportunity to highlight the importance of catch-and-release—so the fish grow to a large size—and the importance of water quality to support the fish, so they can sustain themselves to an age that will allow them to attain a size of over 20 inches. Another major goal of this club is to teach them how to fight, net, take a picture, and release these large fish unharmed. All members are required to be, or become, Trout Unlimited members. Those new members who are not Trout Unlimited members are given one-year memberships through the Mershon Chapter.

Overall, Jac Ford has been a supporter of Trout Unlimited in word and deed almost every day of his 73 years, and we are proud that he has been recognized nationally and was given the Distinguished Service Award. Thank you, Jac, for all you have done for Trout Unlimited. ♦

## Art and Reinhilde receive many kind messages from Mershon chapter members

by Howard N. Johnson,  
chapter advisor

Art Neumann and Reinhilde Jaeschke were not able to attend the chapter's 50th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet because they were still in the south for the winter; however, Art sent the following message to the group that evening:

*"My thanks go to the many men and women of the past and present that have helped make this chapter truly remarkable. The next fifty years are in the hands of you here tonight. I encourage you to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before you and help guide the conservationist of the future."*

Many of the chapter members personalized a poster that was later presented to Art as a keepsake of the event. The theme on the poster was the "Power of One," which was an idea that was born by Bob Nelson's retrospective of Art's early

contributions to Trout Unlimited. Bob's words were, "Art Neumann is the most important person [in Trout Unlimited history] because at a critical time when no one was concerned about clean water except Trout Unlimited, Art wrestled this organization into a viable existence and kept it that way. Art is a classic example of the 'Power of One'"

The focal point on the personalized poster for Art followed the same theme...

### "Power of One"

Always in life an idea starts small... then someone needs to come forward and shepherd that idea into reality. Art, we thank you tonight for being that person... the "Power of One" that has brought us together tonight to celebrate the 50th Fund Raising Banquet of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



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2013-2014**

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## The Tell-Tale Trout\*

by Jerry "Edgar Allan" Ergan\*\* and \*\*\*  
as told to Bob Kren,  
Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

Calm had I been and still am.  
How, then, am I mad?  
Hearken! and observe how  
healthily—how calmly I can tell you  
the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the  
idea entered my brain; but once  
conceived, it haunted me day and  
night. I loved the old trout. He had  
never wronged me, only mocked my  
trials. I think it was his shape! Yes,  
it was this! He had the shape of a  
torpedo—a blurred, gray image.  
Whenever I saw it, my blood ran

motionless for an hour. Ha! would a  
madman have been so wise as this?  
And this I did for seven long  
nights—every night just at  
midnight—but I found the fish  
never moved. And every morning,  
when the day broke, I went boldly  
into the river and cast to his chamber  
and spoke courageously to him,  
calling him by name in a hearty tone,  
and inquiring how he has passed  
the night.

Upon the eighth and moonless night,  
I was more than usually cautious in

approaching his  
abode, rod in  
hand, fly knotted  
in place. A  
watch's minute  
hand moves more  
quickly than did  
I. Never before  
that night had I  
felt the extent of  
my own  
powers—of my  
sagacity. I could  
scarcely contain  
my feelings of  
triumph. To think  
that there I was,  
moving into  
position, little by  
little, and he not  
even to dream of  
my secret deeds  
or thoughts. I  
fairly chuckled at

the idea; and perhaps he heard me;  
for he swirled in the damp suddenly,  
as if startled. Now, you may think  
that I drew back—but no. 'Twas as  
black as pitch with the thick  
darkness, and I kept pushing on  
steadily, steadily.

I had my rod at the ready, and was  
about to cast, when I stumbled on a  
rock. I kept quite still and said  
nothing. For a whole hour I did not  
move a muscle, and in the meantime, I  
did not hear him sip anything down.

Presently, I heard a slight splash,  
and I knew it was the splash of



cold; and so by degrees—very  
gradually—I made up my mind to  
take the old trout, and thus rid  
myself of that taunting form forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me  
mad. Madmen know nothing. But,  
you should have seen me. You  
should have seen how wisely I  
proceeded—with what caution, with  
what foresight, with what  
dissimulation I went to work! I was  
never kinder to the old trout than  
during the whole week before I took  
him. And every night, at midnight, I  
splashed near his accustomed lair—  
oh so noisily! And then, I stood

fearlessness. It was not a noise of pain or of grief—oh, no!—it was the low stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged and eager. I knew the sound well. Many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, it has welled up at other places on the river. I say I knew it well. I knew what the old fish felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart. I knew that he had been lying awake ever since the first slight noise, when he had stiffened on the riverbed. His fears had been ever since growing upon him, but he was yet eager. He had been saying to himself, “It was nothing but the splash of a falling limb; it is only a careless squirrel dropping a nut.” Yes, he had comforted himself with these suppositions: but was all in vain. All in vain; because Death, in approaching him, had stalked with my black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim.

When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without hearing him scutter away, I resolved to cast out my line. And, have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over-acuteness of the senses? Now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, wet sound, such as a raindrop makes when falling on cotton. I knew that sound well, too. It was the beating of the old trout’s fins. It increased my fury, as the

beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

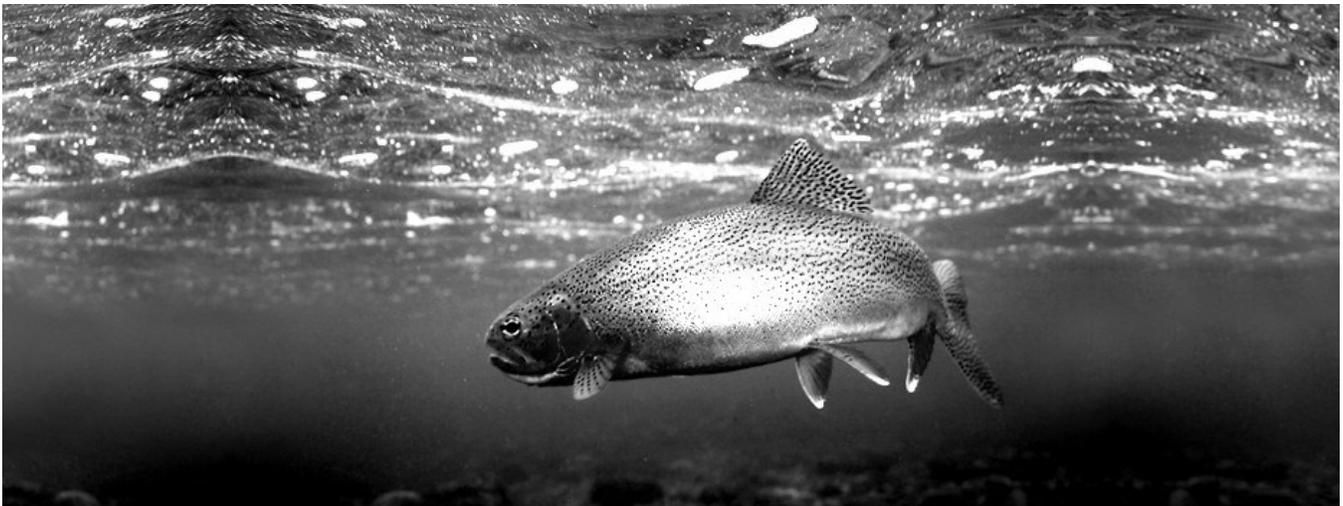
But even yet, I refrained and kept still, letting the bushy fly swing down to his lair. I scarcely breathed. I held motionless. I tried how steadily I could maintain the line dragless upon the surface. Meantime, the hellish tattoo of the fins increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old fish’s terror must have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment! Do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am. And now, at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that cold stream, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes longer, I refrained and stood still. But the thrumming grew louder, louder! And now a new anxiety seized me—the sound would be heard by an eagle or dozing heron! The old trout’s hour had come! With a quick strip, I drew the fly to the noise. He slashed once—once only. In an instant, I dragged him to the open water and wrestled him to me. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done. But, for many minutes, the fins beat on with a muffled sound. This, however, did not vex me; it would not be heard through the turgid darkness. At length it ceased. The old trout was

beaten. I pulled him, raglike, to my hand and examined the fish. Yes, he was stone, stone dead. His finning would trouble me no more.

If still you think me mad, you will think so no longer, when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body. The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all, I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the tail, and removed the offal. I then placed a thick layer of ferns in the back of my vest, swaddled the fish in more ferns, and placed it in that pouch. I then wore the vestment so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye could have detected anything wrong. There was nothing to wash out—no stain of any kind—no blood-spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. The stream had taken all—ha! ha! When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o’clock—still dark as midnight. As my iPhone sounded the hour, there came a noise from the woods.

There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity, as officers of the FFFBI\*\*\*\*. A shriek had been heard by a neighbour during the night; suspicion of foul play had been

(See *Tell-Tale Trout*, page 12)



***Tell-Tale Trout***, *Continued from page 11*

aroused; information had been lodged at the DNR, and they (the officers) had been deputed to prowl the river.

I smiled, for what had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was more of a whoop, upon slipping on a mossy rock. The thrashing had put down all fish nearby. I bade my visitors look about—look well. I led them, at length, past his aqueous lair. I commented on the cover of his piscine chamber. I waded there, placed myself at the very spot where was hooked the victim of my cunning.

The officers were satisfied. My manner had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They passed a small flask, from which each drank most generously, and the whole while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they chatted. The ringing became more distinct—it continued and became more distinct. I talked more freely to get rid of the feeling, but it continued and gained definiteness—until, at length, I found that the noise was not within my ears.

No doubt I now grew very pale; but I talked more fluently, and with a

heightened voice. Yet, the sound increased—and what could I do? It was a low, dull, quick sound, much such a sound as a water droplet makes when striking cotton. I gasped for breath, and yet the officers heard it not. I talked more quickly—more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased. I paced and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but the noise steadily increased. Why would they not be gone? I paced the gravel bed to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of the men—but the noise steadily increased. Oh, God! what could I do? I foamed, I raved, I swore! I kicked and swirled, and grated my boots upon the rocks, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder—louder—louder! And still, the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not? Almighty God!—no, no! They heard! They suspected! They knew! They were making a mockery of my horror! This I thought, and this I think. But, anything was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this derision! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! And, now—again!—hark! Louder! Louder! Louder! Louder!

“Villains!” I shrieked. “Dissemble no more! I admit the deed! Tear open my vest’s pouch! Here, here! It is the rhythm of his hideous fins!” ◆

\* *No trout were harmed during the telling of this story.*

\*\* *All due apologies to E. A. Poe.*

\*\*\* *“If God didn’t want us to eat trout, he wouldn’t have made ‘em taste so good.”*

\*\*\*\* *The Federation of Fly Fishers Bureau of Investigation, more dreaded than the Mossad, or the KGB, whose main aim is to enforce “no-kill,” “catch-and-release” fishing. Their main weapons are fear and surprise—and really dorky outfits.*

***Meanders***, *continued from page 1*

Our youth program will be supported again this year. Maybe we can send even more kids. If you have any questions about the program, contact Bill Adams at 989-652-8328 for more information.

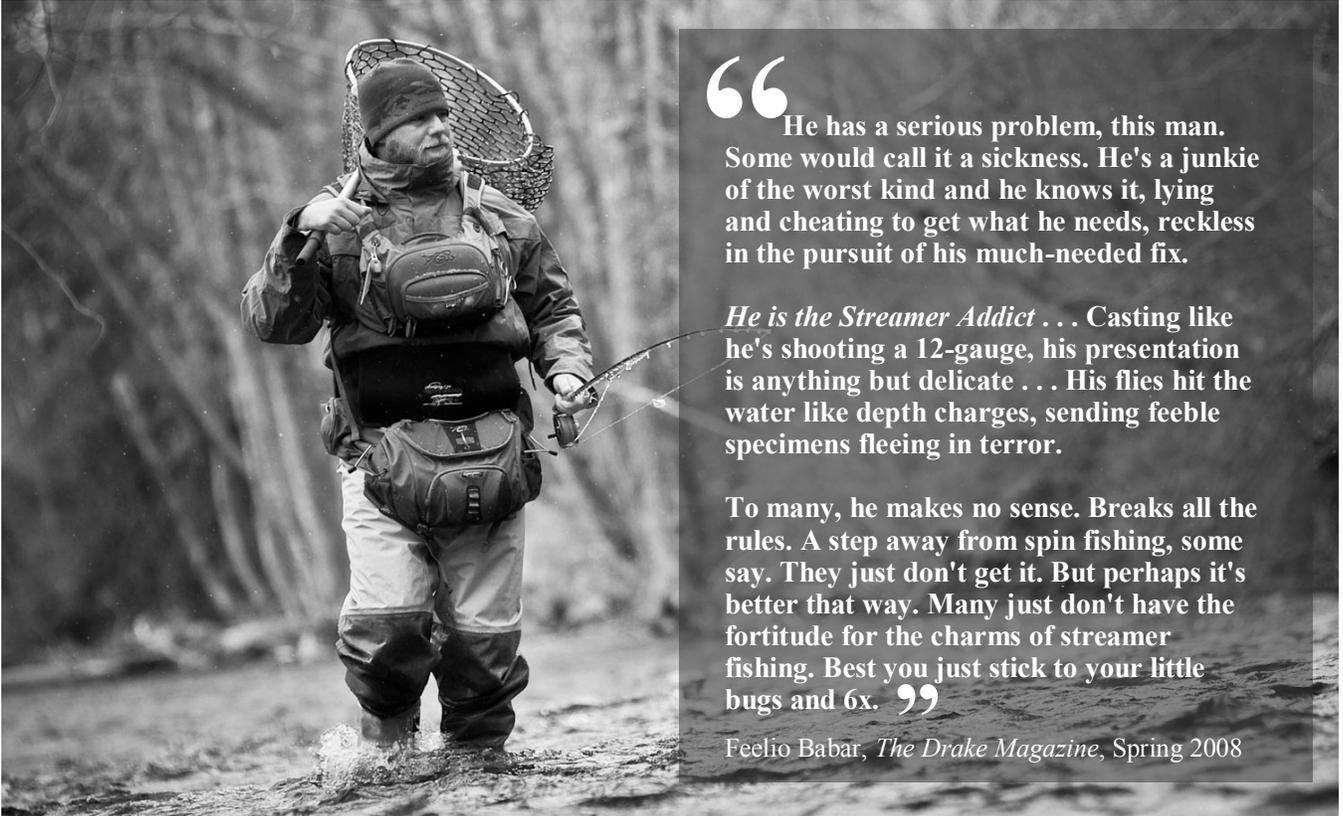
We are looking to install “Salmon In a Classroom” into a school again this year. I have a line on one outside of Saginaw, but if anyone has an idea about a class in Saginaw or Bay City, let me know.

Please consider joining in on work projects with our chapter. We have several ongoing projects that our

chapter supports with funds and man hours; please join in to help out.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our programs again this year. Again, check out our calendar on the inside back page of this edition and pencil in the dates. See you there!

—Jac Ford, president



“ He has a serious problem, this man. Some would call it a sickness. He's a junkie of the worst kind and he knows it, lying and cheating to get what he needs, reckless in the pursuit of his much-needed fix.

*He is the Streamer Addict . . . Casting like he's shooting a 12-gauge, his presentation is anything but delicate . . . His flies hit the water like depth charges, sending feeble specimens fleeing in terror.*

To many, he makes no sense. Breaks all the rules. A step away from spin fishing, some say. They just don't get it. But perhaps it's better that way. Many just don't have the fortitude for the charms of streamer fishing. Best you just stick to your little bugs and 6x. ”

Feelio Babar, *The Drake Magazine*, Spring 2008

## 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 (\*unless noted)  
at 5:30 p.m. at Case Funeral Home on Mackinaw in Saginaw, Michigan.*

Wednesday, November 6, 2013  
 Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
 Wednesday, January 8, 2014  
 Wednesday, February 5, 2014\*  
 Wednesday, March 5, 2014  
 Wednesday, April 2, 2014  
 Wednesday, May 7, 2014

*\*before the Grin and Grub at The Timbers, Saginaw*

*No meetings during the 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.**

## How to tie the “It Works” fly

by Jac Ford, chapter president

I’m quite sure you have never heard of this fly, and for good reason—it didn’t have a name until we wanted to publish these tying instructions.

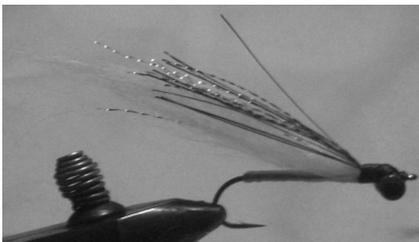
A few weeks ago, I was fishing the PM with Dave Case, streamer fishing for the big boys. Problem is, nothing was hitting. We were using a lot of bigger streamers, to no avail.

So, we started digging around in Dave’s fly box and decided to try this little baby, which is more like a fry pattern, like a minnow. These gems are Dave’s invention—his attempt to imitate a minnow with flash in the Clouser style.

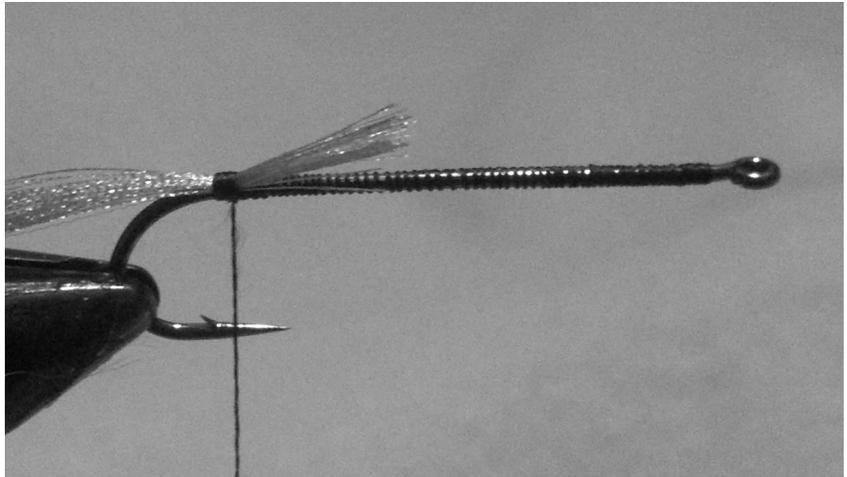
Once we tied one of these flies on, we got a lot of chases. So, if you are streamer fishing but not getting any hits, you might want to try this pattern. Dave says it works very well on bass in the Tittabawassee, too

### Materials List:

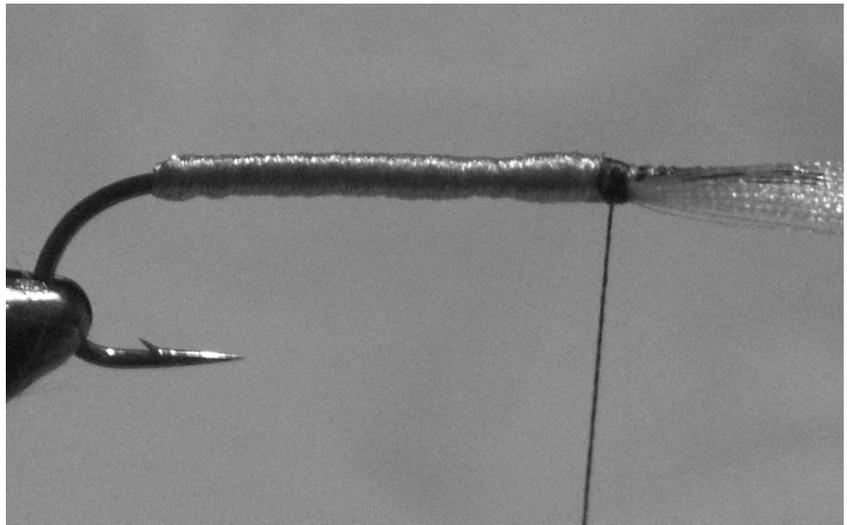
- Hook: size 6 or 4, 2x long
- Body wrap, such as DNA FISH FIBER
- Polar fiber
- Polar flash
- Small tinsel in the color of your choice
- Dumbbell or pseudo eyes



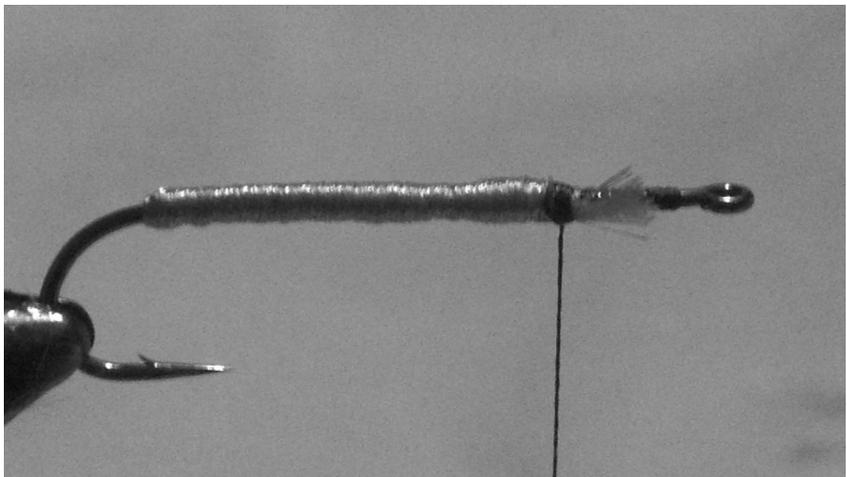
*The finished “It Works” Fly*



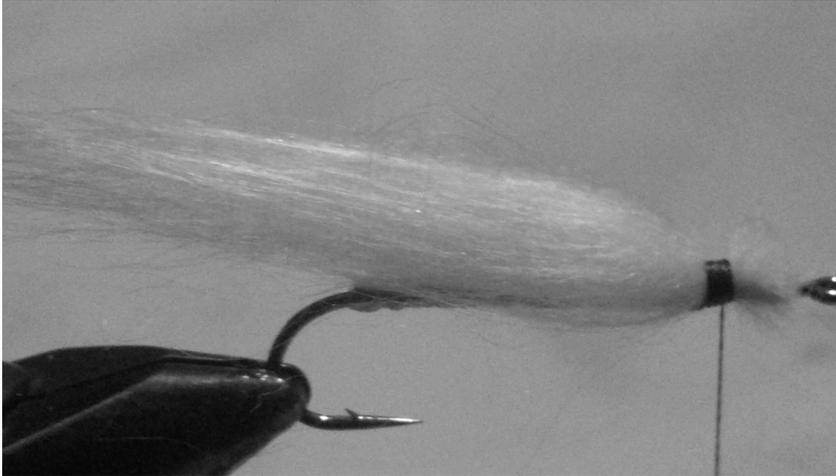
*Step one:* Wind thread 3/0 onto hook from front to back, then tie in body wrap material.



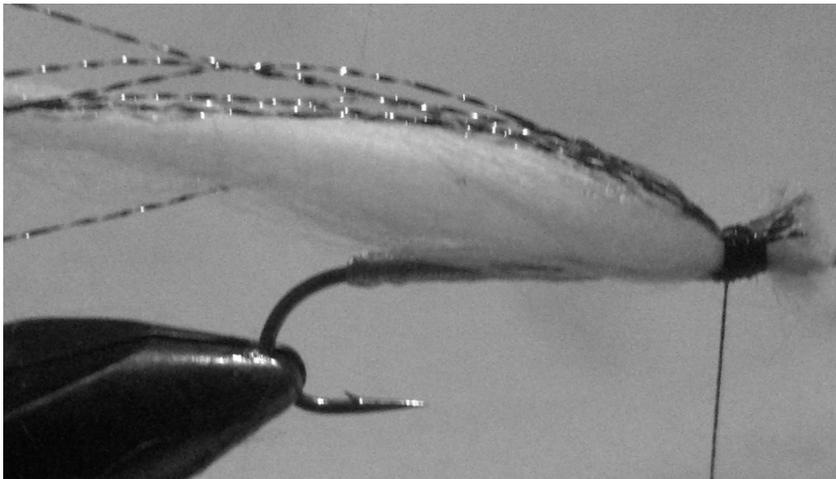
*Step two:* Wind thread 3/4 forward, then wind body wrap to that point and tie off with your thread. In this case, the body wrap material used is DNA FISH FIBER.



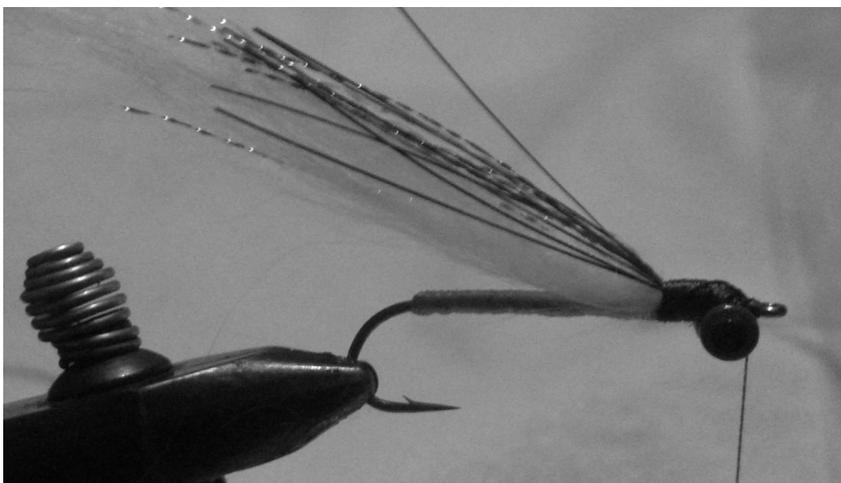
*Step three:* Then, cut off the body wrap.



*Step four:* Tie in a portion of polar fiber.



*Step five:* Tie in some small tinsel in the color of your choice; in this case, red and blue mix of flat flashabou was used.



*Step six:* Tie dumbbell eyes under hook and finish off with thread, then tie off. Pseudo Eyes may be utilized.



## 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.

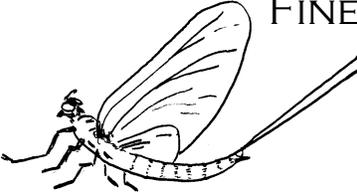
If you would like to help cover the cost of this publication, please contact Jac Ford at 989-781-0997 or [canglers@aol.com](mailto:canglers@aol.com).



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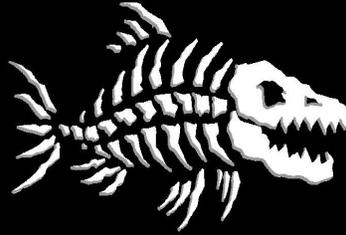
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## Clip and Save: Mershon Event Calendar

**Walleye Dinner**  
American Legion Hall

*Monday, January 20th, 2014*

**Grin and Grub**  
The Timbers, Saginaw. Dinner & drinks 6:30–7:15; presentation to follow

*Wednesday, February 5th, 2014*

**Walleye Dinner**  
American Legion Hall

*Monday, March 3rd, 2014*

**Spring Fundraising Banquet**

*Friday, April 11th, 2014*

**Monthly Board Meetings:** 5:30–7:00 pm, 1st Wednesday of each month  
at Case Funeral Home, Mackinaw Road, Saginaw  
(Nov. & Feb. meetings prior to Grin & Grub)  
—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

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**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)
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- 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*

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*(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.)*