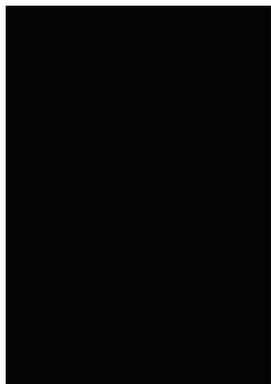


A LOCAL CHAPTER OF
 AMERICA'S LEADING NONPROFIT
 COLDWATER FISHERIES
 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

THE MERSHON
MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited* ◆

Meanders
 A few thoughts from
 the president



Dan Keane, president

We have just completed the cycle that brings us around to another trout opener and a glorious season on Michigan streams. For our chapter, "The Big Event", as I refer to our spring banquet, was a great success on many levels. For our fund raising efforts, we raised over \$12,000. If you were not able to attend, I suggest you missed a great evening and should make every effort to attend next April when the chapter hosts the 2001 banquet.

A very special thanks goes to Bo Brines as the banquet chair and the other committee members who provided important assistance. A great job was done by all! As I observed the evening, it was a pleasure to see everything come together.

The cooperation was very noticeable in the planning and even in the set up on the day of the event. It all seemed to flow together. As committee folks and board members went about their duties, it all translated into a very successful evening. I was delighted to see members and guests joining together to support our efforts on behalf of Trout Unlimited and fund raising efforts. Again, special thanks!

Now down to some serious fishing business and why we really exist, that is to support the trout and protect and preserve this special cold water habitat. Opener this year was great. For me, it was mainly because I was with good friends and spent the weekend enjoying our sport. It was a nice respite, but as a chapter, our work for the season is not done.

Some serious planning for each of our 2000 in-stream projects is under way. As a chapter member, friend, or Trout Unlimited supporter, we have just the opportunity for you. In this addition of the Muddler, you will see details on one of several project opportunities. I encourage everyone to participate in at least one project if your schedule allows. Whether on The Rifle or the AuSable River, these projects are a great way to provide direct support and, to a large extent, are one of our main traditions in TU.

I trust that you will each spend lots of time on your favorite rivers and enjoy those special hours, moment-by-moment.

—Dan Keane

SEPTEMBER						
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	AUGUST					
3	S	M	T	W	T	F S
10	JULY					
	6	S	M	T	W	T F S
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	27	9	10	11	12	13 14 15
		16	17	18	19	20 21 22
		23	24	25	26	27 28 29

Calendar of Events

RIFLE RIVER WATERSHED
 RESTORATION PROJECT
July 22 & 23 ~ 9 a.m.
 Ogemaw County

NORTH BRANCH OF THE AU SABLE
 IN-STREAM RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
Saturday, August 19 ~ 8 a.m.
 Lovell's Restaurant, Lovell, MI



AU SABLE RIVER CLEAN-UP PROJECT
Saturday, September 9 ~ 10 a.m.
 Gate's Au Sable Lodge

William B. Mershon Chapter Of Trout Unlimited

Officers

President

Dan Keane
790-2663
Email:
keanedml@concentric.net

Vice-President

Craig Bublitz
(810) 688-3963

Treasurer

Mark Neumeier
753-4900 (W), 753-8545
(FAX)

Secretary

Walt Averill
695-6906 (H)

Past-President

Howard N. Johnson
753-6373 (H), 754-2100 (W)
Email: hnjohnson@aol.com

Directors

Dick Albosta
790-6410 (H), 757-4130 (W)

Lou Albosta
790-6410

Robb Smith
893-4541

Bo Brines
832-9528
Harry Frederick
667-2182 (H)

Mark Fitch
697-3249 (H)

Risty Kalivas
790-8614 (H)

Lindsay Stark
893-3792

Tom Williams
772-1221

Scott C. Woodbury
497-0176

Advisors

Art Neumann
777-0484 (H)

Harold Kleinert
684-4733 (H)

Jac Ford
781-0997 (H/FAX)

Joe Bula
781-2047 (H), 776-7245 (W)

Judy McCann
652-9869 (H)

Carl Hubinger
781-1607 (H), 799-6580 (W)
Peter Jones
753-3984 (H)
Jake Shinnars
781-3003 (H), 799-5000 (W)

Don Check
799-8039 (H), 752-5129 (W)

Bruce Scorsone
793-7200

David Fisher
781-4932 (H), 792-9641 (W)

David Cozad
684-7947 (H)

Greg Stansbury
695-8080 (H/FAX)

Mel Gricar
652-9277 (H), 792-9618 (W)

Bruce C. Hatch, State Council
Rep.
(906) 486-4532(H)
Email: hatch@up.net

Editor

Teri Skidmore
781-0040
Email: Teriskidz@aol.com

Did you attend the 37th Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet? If you did, then I would like to thank you for making the chapter's major annual fundraising event an unqualified success. If you did not, then let me fill you in on what you missed...

The banquet was held at Horizons Conference Center on Friday evening, April 7. The banquet committee felt that a fundraiser held right in Saginaw might make it more accessible for the majority of the membership. Approximately two hundred people braved the nasty weather (it snowed!) to enjoy an evening of good food, cocktails, great prizes, and camaraderie.

The evening got under way with a very eloquent invocation by chapter adviser Art Neumann. A sumptuous buffet dinner was then served, followed by an informative presentation by new chapter member Bob Linsenman. For those of you who have not met Bob, he is an author, expert angler, and river guide who resides in Rose City. His presentation wove together many of the common threads that pull us to Trout Unlimited; the beauty of the a sunset on the Au Sable, the wily ways of trout, the memories of good friends and times past, and the hope for a bright and promising future for our coldwater resources. Plus he is funny; his wry sense of humor made for an entertaining program.

After the program, Glen Blackwood of PBS TV's *Fly Fishing with Glen Blackwood* took command of the stage to auction off the live auction items. Breathable waders, rods and reels by Orvis, Sage, Winston, Abel and Powell, a hand-crafted bamboo rod by Mark Fitch, a cane rod donated by Art Neumann, fly selections, artwork, one of kind collectable items- these are just a portion of

the fine selection of high quality things auctioned off that evening.

The Bucket and Silent raffle tables were also overflowing with quality gear, clothing, jewelry, and accessories. Other major prizes raffled off included a Wilderness Systems Kayak (donated by Quality Door & Lumber, Andersen Windows, and Therma-Tru Doors), a Pentax waterproof 35mm camera (donated by Harold Kleinert), an Orvis Trident TL rod and reel outfit (donated by Little Forks Outfitters), and a Browning Citori 20-gauge over-and-under shotgun. Please be sure to help support these donors, as well as the following businesses that purchased banquet packages or otherwise helped underwrite the program:

Teri Skidmore
Hennig & Woodbury
St. Mary's Medical Center
W.L. Case and Company
Neuchterlein's Jewelry
Galsterer Endodontics
Meier Camera Shop
Mead Family Dental
Mannion Brothers Hardware
Citizen's Bank
The Fly Factory
St. Charles High School
Scientific

When the smoke cleared from all the evening's activities, and chapter treasurer Mark Neumeier was able to count all the money (a monumental task, and Mark deserves our gratitude for the fine job he has done as treasurer), the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited's 37th Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet ended up netting a profit of (drum roll please.....) \$12,619.75! This money will be used to conserve and protect our coldwater resources.

Please watch for the date and location of next year's banquet, and if you didn't attend this year, please give some consideration to coming next year. It really is a great evening, and all the money goes right back into the fisheries that

Spring fundraising banquet nets funds for habitat preservation

Profile

John Bumstead

As someone who hails from Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, surrounded by all the great streams and lakes, one would think that I grew up fly fishing. Although I immensely enjoyed those annual spring smelt runs with my father, and occasionally taking a boat out to fish for pike or perch, I was far more interested in team sports and the opposite gender than fly fishing. Actually, it wasn't until many years later that my love of grouse hunting first acquainted me with the fascinating sport of fly fishing.

While hunting the many coverts near the Au Sable River with my hunting partners Mark Neumeier and Kurt Aven, one afternoon we decided it was too warm to hunt, so we went fly fishing instead. With a borrowed pair of waders and no license, I had my first lesson on casting and entomology.

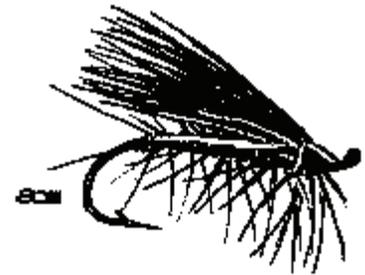
The next time we went, it was for steelhead on the Au Gres River. By that time I had my own pair of waders, but still had to borrow a rod. Soon afterward, the sport began to grow on me and I purchased my own rod and reel. Although some have advised me not to waste my money on inexpensive equipment, I'm still a firm believer that success in any sport has more to do with skill and knowledge than equipment. Not that I claim to have either! I have since been fortunate enough to win one of Art Neumann's fine graphite rods at a walleye dinner and am anxious to try it out.

One of the many things that I enjoy about fly fishing is the peace and serenity the sport has to offer. I recall one of the first times I went, seeing a deer walk across the river not more than 25 yards away, while I stood still and watched. I find that there is no end to what there is to know about the sport, which I find very challenging. But most of all, my daughter has also become

interested in the sport, which allows us some real quality time together doing something we both enjoy.

At the end of April, I will be vacationing in Florida, where I hope to fish in the Keys. I hope this will be another rewarding experience.

My goal is to one day fish the St. Mary's Rapids in Sault, Ontario. This is a place I grew up learning to avoid because of the potential hazards, but now I've learned that it is one of the best locations anywhere to fish for trophy trout. ♦



The 1999 Senior Fly Fishing Tour was a great success. Though many seniors participated in the free, guided float trips, there is still room for more folks this summer. We fished the Au Sable River branches as well as the Manistee River, caught nice fish (the largest a 21-inch Brown) and revisited old familiar stretches of water.

These most pleasurable moments had some great behind-the-scenes supporters, including:

- ◆ Sage—They sent three brand new fly rods to try out and put to the test at no cost to this program. We were able to use the rods all season long. Truly wonderful equipment. Thanks to SAGE and Kevin Thompson.
- ◆ Subway of Grayling—most graciously provided free lunches along the river. Not one to miss a meal myself, it sure tasted good. Manager Missy Wakeley and her staff make a darned good sandwich.
- ◆ Fly tying friends kept us supplied with all the best patterns. Thanks to Dennis Burck, Darryl Haley, and Jerry Regan.

- ◆ Dr. William Dean of Grayling, a good friend and strong helping hand, was most appreciated.
- ◆ People—some who knew of the program and had nice things to say, some sent notes of encouragement. Thanks to all.

The Senior Fly Fishing Tour would not have proceeded like it did without these supporters. Most of all, let us not forget the seniors who floated with me. They sure gave me much joy, as well as some new jokes. Thank you all! ◆

Senior Fly Fishing Tour blessed many seniors

By Roger Wisniewski

Senior Fly Fishing Tour 2000 is here! This program is for seniors, 70-ish or retired-ish, who might rather float than walk. I will again offer free, guided trips in my Au Sable riverboat 2–3 days each month, May through August.

This program is not really intended for those who fish regularly with a guide, but are an opportunity for those men and women who haven't had a chance to fish for awhile to get out and enjoy a great day.

If you are interested, please contact:

Roger Wisniewski
225 Jeannette St.
Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-5602

Senior Fly Fishing Tour 2000

Rifle River Watershed Restoration Committee receives grants of \$456,000

By Harold Kleinert

The "Clean Michigan Initiative" bond issue, accepted by Michigan voters in 1998, has awarded the Saginaw Bay Resource Conservation & Development Council \$348,000 for various practices in the Rifle River Watershed.

The RC&D Council is a key partner of the committee whose mission is to restore, enhance and preserve the Rifle River.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319 funds, has awarded the group a sum of \$108,000.

All funds will be used during the next three years to:

- ◆ stabilize 30 eroded streambank sites
- ◆ repair 5 road crossings
- ◆ restore 10 wetland sites
- ◆ Establish 3 public use sites
- ◆ provide 100 acres of filter strips
- ◆ Provide 10,000 feet of windbreaks
- ◆ Provide 6 cattle crossings

- ◆ Provide 57,500 feet of livestock fencing
- ◆ Install and maintain 6 sediment traps

During the past years, the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited has acted as a catalyst to promote the Rifle River restoration and continues to be a key participant. The work accomplished prior to the new grants came about through diligent and difficult efforts by the partners. It is now gratifying to see those efforts rewarded. ◆

The committee consists of members representing:

Trout Unlimited
Federation of Fly Fishers
Huron Pines RC&D
Saginaw Bay RC&D
MDNR Fisheries Division
MDNR Parks Division
MDEQ-SWQD
Arenac County Clerk
Mills Township-Ogemaw Co.
Churchill Township-Ogemaw County
Rifle River Property Owners Assn.
Rifle River Canoe Liveries
Rifle River Campground Operators
NRCS Ogemaw County
NRCS Arenac County

Harold Kleinert, co-chairman
Dr. Jim McGeehan
Dan Sikarskie
Jim Hergott
Kathryn Schrouder
John Lucas
Charles Bauer and Tom Young
Ricky Rockwell, co-chairman
Bob Dickson
Jack Gregg
Jack Gregg
Ladd White

Mieka Emerson
Tim Bohnhoff

For further information or details, please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

You (and your friends) are invited to participate in a volunteer work weekend being planned for July 22nd and 23rd to restore one or more eroded streambanks in Ogemaw County. The primary site is designated as #27 from the "Streambank Erosion Inventory," published in 1994.

The site is on property owned by the Ogemaw County Fair Board, on the east side of the river, one-half mile downstream from M-55.

The prescribed treatment to correct the erosion is to stabilize the bank with rock rip-rap and cover with top soil, fertilize, and seed. Wherever possible, lunger structures will be fabricated onsite and installed to provide improved fish habitat.

We intend to work each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. You should bring waders, raingear,

gloves, insect repellent, rakes, shovels, and lots of energy!

A lunch and beverages will be provided each day.

For those who would like to "overnight" in the area, we can provide a list of campgrounds and motels. Please request at your convenience.

To get to the work site from the south, exit I-75 at M-33 and proceed north 10 miles to the traffic light at M-55. Turn right (east) for 3 miles (you will cross the river at 2.2 miles) to Gerald Miller Road. Turn right (south) .5 miles to the entry gate of the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds, on your right. Proceed to the parking area and watch for signs to get to the river. You can drive right to the site. ♦

Rifle River watershed restoration project set for July 22 & 23

I would like to work on Saturday, July 22, 2000

I would like to work on Sunday, July 23, 2000

Name _____

Address _____

Chapter or affiliation _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

I can bring a chain saw

I can bring a wheelbarrow

Please mail response by 7-15-00 to: Chris Radke 227 S. Alexander, Saginaw, MI 48602

For more information, you may call:

Chris Radke	(517) 249-6420
Harold Kleinert	(517) 684-4733
Robb Smith	(517) 893-3792

Au Sable River summer work weekends set

by Mel Gricar

The North Branch of the Au Sable In-stream Reconstruction Project, led by RC&D Watershed Coordinator Brian Benjamin, will be held on Saturday, August 19. Volunteers will meet for breakfast at Lovell's Restaurant in Lovell, Michigan at 8 a.m., and will go to the river at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided on the river.

The Au Sable River Clean-Up Project will be held this year on Saturday, September 9. Volunteers will meet at Gate's Au Sable Lodge at 10 a.m. for assignments. Lunch will be provided afterward at Gate's Lodge.

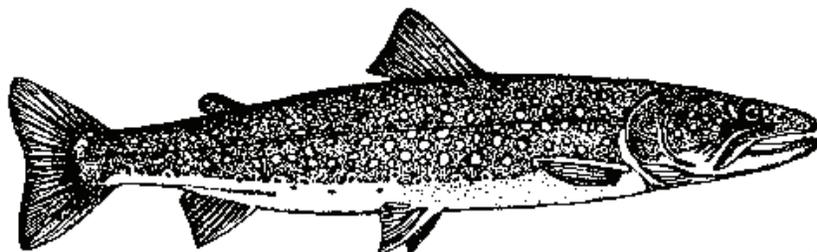
If you are interested in helping with either of these projects, please contact Mel Gricar at 517-652-9277. ♦

Chapter receives generous gift in memory of Susanne Wickes Nelson

In March 2000, the Mershon chapter received a generous gift of \$5,000 from the estate of the late Susanne Wickes Nelson. The following is a letter received from Susanne's daughter, Sue Nelson.

I am grateful to enclose a check for the Mershon Chapter expressly designated in my mother's will to be given to Trout Unlimited, in memory of Edward B. Wickes, her father. My mother, Susanne Wickes ("Wicksie") Nelson, was an avid and expert fisher and so treasured her summers fishing on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. She cared deeply about those rivers and the trout that swim in them, and I know she so believed in and supported the mission of Trout Unlimited, to preserve and protect the special places where beautiful trout reside. It would please her to know this gift will be spent so wisely.

—Sue Nelson



The first trout rod I ever owned was a steel telescope affair I bought at the neighborhood hardware store. It cost me about a dollar but I sure was proud of it. "Balanced" with a 10-cent cane pole reel and a length of equally expensive line, it took many a brookie from those small brush covered feeders where I learned my first trout lessons.

It wasn't until I was introduced to the thrill of buggin' for bass that I realized how inadequate my outfit was. I went straight to Rose City and bought a \$2.49 split bamboo rod. With it I mastered the rudiments of fly casting but I wore it out in the process. So I graduated to a \$10 job I secured from a mail order house. It caught many bass but with flies on a trout stream it nearly broke my arm. So it was that I invested in my first good flyrod. It cost me a week's pay back then but it sure was worth it. It was well made, light, and delicate and I showed it off plenty. My casting improved and I caught more fish. I was satisfied. That is, until I met IT.

It happened on the main stream. We were talking tackle like fishermen do. I handed him my rod. He handed me his. That was IT. IT was like a thing alive, perfectly balanced, powerfully resilient, amazingly delicate. IT fairly danced in my hand. With IT I could drop a fly as softly as thistle down. I examined IT more closely. Its cane was clear and straight-grained, the nodes perfectly staggered. Its finish was flawless, like a sheet of glass. Its richly appointed fittings, Its precisely spiraled wraps, Its hard, clear cork grip, even Its personalized inscription convinced me that IT was a work of art. Yes, IT was a custom rod.

I've acquired several fine custom rods since that first meeting with IT, but I still remember how I felt when the first one was finished. Had I stepped out of my class? Was I getting my money's worth? Would

the boys think me snobbish? Did I really need a rod as fine as this? To find the answer I asked other fishermen, bankers and carpenters, lawyers and tool makers, doctors and factory hands, businessmen and farmers, anyone who owned a fine custom rod. The answer invariably was the same. It takes good tools to do good work. If you're a serious fisherman, it naturally follows that you're the same way about your tackle. Maybe you can't make it at first, but owning one becomes an obsession—a life's ambition. And then one day you make it. You have come of age. It's a thrill you can't describe. When do you figure on graduating? ♦

Fishing letters

Why a Custom Rod?

This is another in a series of letters to appear in the Muddler. Although originally published in March 1954, the angling tips and trout lore in this letter are as fresh and timely now as the day it was penned.

Congressional Committees moving anti-fish hydropower bills

In both the House and the Senate, Committees are moving legislation that would seriously undermine gains made in recent years in improving the environmental performance, and particularly the effect on fish, of privately owned hydropower projects.

S. 740/H.R. 2335 net resource agencies with unnecessary processes, reviews and limitations as they formulate fish passage and land use prescriptions protecting trout, salmon and other resources in the hydropower licensing process. The result will be damage to already precarious fisheries.

A hydropower license grants the right to use a river for a 30 to 50 year period. For some projects, our children may have no chance to change the terms -- our grandchildren will. If you only have one chance to do a job every generation, you should do it right, using the best information and tools available. S. 740/H.R. 2335 prevents the resource agencies from doing the job right.

The two bills began as identical companion bills. In mid-May, the House Commerce Committee considered H.R. 2335 and removed some of the worst provisions -- however what is left is still a significant problem for fish. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is anticipated to consider S. 740 in June.

Trout Unlimited opposes S. 740/H.R. 2335 for the following reasons:

- ◆ Far from being a simple change in process, S. 740 and H.R. 2335 turn the substance of the regulatory scheme designed by the Federal Power Act on its head. Under the FPA, resource agencies set the floor for natural resource protection from hydropower impacts in critical areas - fish passage

and federal reservations. Then FERC balances all competing interests subject to that resource protection floor. By requiring resource agencies to consider a wide variety of interest beyond the resources in their jurisdiction, S. 740/H.R. 2335 subjects all decisions, including resource protection, to economics, power system concerns, air quality impacts, and the other uses of water projects. Under the bills, the floor becomes subterranean.

- ◆ The Federal Power Act preempted the states' rights to protect fish and wildlife in hydropower licensing. Yet S. 740/H.R. 2335 set up a variety of processes designed to cause agencies to fail in their resource protection responsibilities. For the Congress to preempt the states, and then ensure that the federal agencies cannot meet their responsibility is a "Catch-22" designed and executed by Congress.

Examples of the ways S. 740/H.R. 2335 sets up the agencies to fail include:

- ◆ S. 740/H.R. 2335 makes doing a good job of balancing of resource and non-resource interests impossible. First, resource agencies have neither the personnel, nor the expertise to evaluate these non-resource factors. Second, they lack mechanisms to obtain necessary information on key topics, for instance project economics, which

licensees consider proprietary. Third, resource agencies are barred under S. 740 (but not H.R. 2335) from performing their own NEPA analysis, which is the process typically used to gather information and weigh the alternatives.

- ◆ Agencies typically consider information of varying quality in reaching decisions, and give greatest weight to the higher quality information. S. 740 (but not H.R. 2335) requires the use of only peer reviewed, current empirical data - the highest possible standard for data anywhere. The result will be to blind agencies from science not meeting that high standard. Agencies could not even consider historical presence or abundance of fish or wildlife because S. 740 would suppress the evidence.
- ◆ Agencies would have to submit their prescription before an applicant even filed an application for a project, and before FERC's environmental review is completed. At the same time they are prohibited from conducting their own environmental review. Somehow agencies are supposed to intuit what the applicant proposes and the impacts, and then later defend those intuitions in administrative and judicial review.

- ◆ Agency decisions are subject to a burdensome administrative review that can only have one objective - to make sure that effective agency participation is impossible.

We need your help today!
Please write your Representatives in Congress and let them know that as an angler, you oppose weakening resource agencies. TU's website at www.tu.org provides a quick and easy way to compose a letter or email for your Representative. If you go to the TU website, you can enter your zip code to find out exactly who you should write to. The website will then generate a letter or email for you to send on to your Representative. With the help of the website, it will literally take just a minute to send the letter. Please take a minute out of your day to help protect our resources. ◆

Saginaw County
Representatives include:
Rep. Dave Camp (R)
House member from Midland
Rep. James Barcia (D)
House member from Bay City
Sen. Carl Levin (D)
Michigan's senior senator
Sen. Spencer Abraham (R)
Michigan's junior senator

If you have become a member of the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited within the last two years, you will want to attend the new member meeting on Thursday, September 14, at 5:30 p.m., at the home of chapter advisor and professional fly fishing guide, Jac Ford. New members will enjoy an entertaining speaker and free casting lessons by Jac. Invitations will be mailed later this summer. If you would like more information, or would like to sign up early, please contact Lindsay Stark at 799-4637. ◆

**New member
meeting set for
Thursday,
September 14**

Explosive growth for Embrace-A-Stream!

The 2000 Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) results are in, and the program continues to set all-time records for TU grassroots participation. EAS is the flagship grant program for funding Trout Unlimited chapter and council fishery conservation projects. Administered by the national office, TU annually raises funds for EAS from its members, corporate partners, and foundations to distribute "seed" funding to local, TU-affiliated projects. The goal of EAS is to conserve coldwater fisheries through three types of projects: resource, research, and education.

In 2000, EAS provided approximately \$230,000 for 46 projects that included activities such as watershed assessment and planning, native fish restoration, and youth education. The 2000 program reached an historic high for grassroots interest with a total of 81 proposals submitted by chapters and councils. "We've seen dramatic increases in program participation and funding since its reorganization in 1993," stated TU's Resource Director Joe McGurrin.

Since its beginning in 1975, over 400 different chapters have conducted 673 individual EAS projects for a total of \$2,430,000 in EAS grants. These awards have been matched by over \$3 million in local TU cash and in-kind contributions. Over half of all this EAS activity has occurred since the program's reorganization.

"The most surprising aspect of the 2000 effort was the explosive growth in applications. We received 81 proposals this year—a total increase of over 30 percent from last year. We've been seeing an average yearly increase of 10 percent, so this kind of growth exceeded our most optimistic expectations," noted EAS Program Chair Mike Kruse.

After a period of decline from 1986-92, EAS underwent a reorganization with two objectives:

1) increase grassroots participation, and 2) expand program-funding availability. EAS applications and funding availability have increased substantially since the reorganization and have accelerated over the last three years.

Other highlights include:

- ◆ Approximately 35% of all TU chapters and councils have participated in EAS since 1993.
- ◆ Total EAS program funding more than quadrupled from 1993-2000 with annual grant totals averaging approximately \$200,000, as compared to a \$50,000 annual average from 1986-1992.
- ◆ In addition to the increase in applications, the 2000 program results were the second highest totals in program history in terms of number of project awards (46) and total grant awards (230,000).

For information, contact Joe McGurrin at jmcgurrin@tu.org ◆

Each year, TU national conducts an annual fundraising campaign for Trout Unlimited's Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) program. Your generous support of TU and the EAS program has helped ensure that our volunteers have the financial resources to accomplish their projects. *Our goal this year is to raise \$275,000* and we hope that you will help us meet the challenge. Last year, the funds raised through this annual campaign enabled TU to conduct 49 projects at a total of \$270,005. For 2000, we have identified some exceptional items to show our appreciation for gifts of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more.

Jim Babb is one of the most eccentric and riveting new voices to appear in the world of fly fishing in many years. His latest book, **Crosscurrents: A Fly Fisher's Progress**, is a remarkable collection of irreverent, savagely funny, shrewd, and thoughtful essays on fly fishing. In 220 brilliantly written pages, Babb chronicles a lifetime of angling from his roots in a small Tennessee town through Boston and to the backwoods of Maine. All along the way, Babb adds his unique maverick perspective on the sport.

Crosscurrents: A Fly Fisher's Progress sells in bookstores for **\$24.95** - but we'll send it to you with our compliments when we receive your gift of **\$50** or more.

We've put together something a little different for those who contribute at or above the \$100 level. The **fishing lanyard** we've assembled allows you to shed your heavy vest to make a long day of fishing more comfortable. A loop in the back of the lanyard gives you a place to hang your landing net, while the triangular pouch in the middle is perfect for wet or dry flies. Three zingers on the bottom hold a pair of forceps, a nipper, and scissors. We've also attached a floatant holder and three more clips for any other tools you might need.

Finally, the cross-lanyard strap holds tippet spools, and the entire lanyard attaches to your shirt with an easy-to-use clip. **Fishing lanyards** like this one, with the tools we've included, would cost you well over **\$60** in leading fly fishing catalogs. But we will send you this incredibly useful collection when we receive your gift of **\$100** or more.

Hodgman's Wadelite I Breathable Waders feature a Dupont Supplex outer shell material with Hodgman's exclusive Horco-Tex IIX breathable coating. This construction is completely waterproof, yet allows moisture build-up inside the wader to pass through the outside. This means even on the hottest days you'll stay cool. Please click here for sizing information for women and men (This is a PDF file, click here to download a *free* copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader). **Hodgman's Wadelite I Breathable Waders** cost nearly **\$160** in outdoor and tackle shops - but we will send you a pair free to thank you for your contribution of **\$250** or more.

Bauer's Little Mac 2 trout reel has a host of features that make it easy to use: instant drag engagement, one-finger recessed drag adjustment, simple right- to left-hand retrieve conversion without tools or extra parts, and a line-out click with silent retrieve. Bauer's engineers made this reel as beautiful to look at as it is to use by finishing the reel in high-gloss black anodized aluminum and pairing it with a SuperLite Platinum Mist spool. This durable reel is manufactured from precision machined aerospace bar stock aluminum and stainless steel for maximum corrosion protection. The **Bauer Little Mac 2** is a **\$270** value, which is designed and manufactured in the U.S.A. for line weights four through six, carries a lifetime guarantee from Bauer and

(See Embrace-A-Stream, page 14)

Embrace-A-Stream fundraising campaign

Fishing letters

The Parachute Dry Fly

This is another in a series of letters to appear in the Muddler. Although originally published in May 1954, the angling tips and trout lore in this letter are as fresh and timely now as the day it was penned.

We, as fishermen, are indebted to the British for many fine contributions to the art of fly fishing. These contributions are many and varied, but one of the outstanding is the parachute or gyro dry fly.

As originally invented and patented, the parachute required the use of a special hook for securing the hackle. This explains why all gyros were originally made in England. It wasn't long, however, before American fly tyers discovered a better method, circumventing the patented hook. Today all gyros are of American design and manufacture.

Basically, the gyro fly differs from the conventional dry fly in the position of the hackle with respect to the hook shank. In a regular dry fly the hackle is at right angles to the shank. In a parachute it is parallel to it. This design has many advantages, foremost of which is presentation. I am personally convinced that the success or failure of any angler is in direct proposition to his ability to deliver

the fly naturally, softly and delicately. The parachute is an immense help in accomplishing this end. It is almost impossible to deliver a gyro poorly. They simply will not "slap" the water. They always land right-side-up, never eye-end-up or upside down. Even a rank amateur becomes an expert right from the start. Many post-graduate fishermen use them to the exclusion of all others. They're the answer to a fly fisherman's prayer.

Until recently, the gyro had one fault. Because the body laid directly on the water with the hackle parallel to it, it made a very low silhouette and was hard to see. While of no particular inconvenience to most, it did plague those with a failing eyesight. Again American ingenuity went to work to effect a cure. The result—a white upright wing gyro that everyone can see. Oddly enough, experiments seem to indicate that the upright wing parachute is a better fish-getter than the flat wing. Have you tried one? ♦

Embrace-A-Stream

(Cont. from page 13)

is yours as our way of thanking you for your contribution of **\$500** or more.

We've reserved something very special for donors who contribute at the \$1,000 level or above. The **Orvis Trident® TL 865-4 Tip-Flex fly rod** combines space age rod design with MVR (Maximum Vibration Reduction) technology to help you shoot line farther and more accurately than ever before. And since this eight and a half foot, five weight rod is a four-piece model, it will travel easily so you can take it on business and personal trips. Best of all, though, this rod carries The

Orvis Company's famous 25-year guarantee--so Orvis will absolutely repair or replace your rod if it breaks, no matter what the reason. This beautiful rod retails for **\$530**. But we will send you one with our compliments when we receive your gift of **\$1,000** or more.

To contribute to TU's Embrace-A-Stream Fundraising Program, please make your check payable to "Trout Unlimited," *making sure to write **EAS Code CB1A22** in the memo.*

Mail checks to:
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 1335
Merrifield, VA 22116-1335

To contribute using your Mastercard or VISA, please call TU at (703) 522-0200. For more information, call or send an e-mail to membership@tu.org.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of merchandise. All rods will be shipped via Second-day Federal Express, so please provide us with a street address for receiving Federal Express packages. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. This offer is a contribution program for Embrace-A-Stream, and does not serve as payment of TU membership dues. ♦

Casting for Recovery (CFR) is a nationally recognized not-for-profit program established in 1996 that allows women whose lives have been affected by breast cancer to experience physical, emotional, and spiritual healing through retreats in a beautiful natural setting, and learn fly fishing.

The CFR retreat is a two-day program that incorporates both fly-fishing instruction and social support. Women trained specifically for the CFR program staff include a health care professional, a psychotherapist, and fly-fishing instructors.

Over 250 breast cancer survivors have participated in the program. Any woman who has experienced breast cancer is eligible to participate in a retreat; she may still be in treatment, or perhaps her battle with breast cancer was decades ago.

Each retreat includes lodging, informal meals that allow for spontaneous conversations, and fly-fishing instruction, including casting, knots, entomology, and

more, all at no cost to the participant. Fishing on the second day provides time for reflection and the opportunity to test new skills with catch-and-release fishing.

Many TU chapters would like to get more women involved in their conservation programs, so CFR and TU are teaming up. CFR participants receive a one-year complimentary TU membership, and are encouraged to contact a chapter near them.

CFR retreats are made possible through generous donations from private individuals, corporations, foundations, and grants. Many volunteers have donated their time and effort to the program as well.

Our chapter supports the West Michigan chapter of CFR financially. In addition, Mershon board member Judy McCann volunteers as a casting instructor at the retreats.

For more information, including a retreat schedule, see www.tu.org/active/11/issues.html



Casting for Recovery: fly fishing and breast cancer

Mershon chapter advisor and past president, Jac Ford, was featured on the May 27th broadcast of ESPN's *Fly Fishing America*. The episode was taped on a snowy February day on the Pere Marquette River, near Baldwin, Michigan. Host Chad Foster and the ESPN crew spent three days on the river with Jac, fishing for the elusive steelhead.

This was the ESPN host's first time fly fishing for steelhead, and he quickly learned that hooking a steelhead is tough and landing one is even tougher. Chad and Jac were also joined by Jac's long-time client Wayne Bauman, from Cincinnati, Ohio. With Jac's

help, Chad and Wayne were able to land several of the beauties.

Jac is a professional fly fishing guide who spends his summers guiding in Montana, and the rest of the year guiding here in Michigan. He has served as president of our Mershon chapter and is still very active with our new members and a youth program at St. Charles High School.

If you are a new member, you will want to take advantage of the new member meeting at Jac's home in September. (See story on page 11) This meeting will give you the opportunity to get personal instruction from Jac and to meet many other chapter members. ◆

Mershon chapter advisor featured on ESPN's *Fly Fishing America*

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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*.

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THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited* ◆

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