

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* ◆

1989, 1996 & 1997 RECIPIENT OF THE MICHIGAN COUNCIL TU CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Meanders
 A few thoughts from
 the president



Christopher Radke, president

As my term as chapter president winds down, I am very pleased to see that we had no problem finding extremely qualified and willing individuals to step forward into leadership roles with the chapter.

President Robb Smith, Vice President Jo Neuhalfen, Secretary Bob Spence, and Treasurer Rich Kemerer have shown their dedication and professionalism for years, and they have already begun the process of planning the next two-years' agenda. We have three new board members in Bob Kren, Steve Janson, and Dennis Thiel to add some additional horsepower to the chapter's many projects. Plus, we are seeing more attendance at chapter events by young members, members from regions outside of our geographic area, and new members in general.

I should not be surprised by the vitality of Saginaw's William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited. When I moved from metro Detroit to Saginaw, I was unaware of the importance of Saginaw in the founding and growth of Trout Unlimited. However, I very quickly became aware of how dedicated the then current leadership of the chapter was—individuals like Neumann, Kliener, Ford, Neumeier, Averill, Johnson, Shinners, Fisher, Scorsone, Gricar, and 20–30 more individual leaders. Ten years later, these same men and women are very involved in TU's continued success even though year after year new leaders have joined the ranks and worked at increasing TU and the chapter's good works. With so much history and so many good people working toward common goals, success is expected, and I believe your chapter has met its continuing financial, educational, scientific, and conservation challenges with the:

- 3-year macro invertebrate study of the Rifle River;
- Complete revision of the chapter bylaws;
- Continuous 'Cedars For the AuSable' funding;
- Adoption of 1 mile of the Mason Tract for 5 years of planting and watering of cedar trees;
- Implementation and leadership in Saginaw's 'Catch Me If You Can' youth introduction to fishing program;
- Walleye dinner and spring banquet changes and successes;
- New fundraising and camaraderie opportunities at the January pheasant hunts;
- Major funding status for the helicopter tree drops on the AuSable;
- Continued and increased participation at the Rifle, Pere Marquette,

See *Meanders* page 15

Fundraising banquet nets cash for conservation

The Mershon chapter has had, yet again, another successful spring banquet. Thanks to all of you who attended, contributed to, or worked at the event. This year about 140 people joined in the evening's festivities and raised nearly \$10,500 in the name of protecting and restoring our cold-water fisheries.

The banquet was produced by a real team effort on the part of the banquet committee and the many volunteers from our membership who worked together like a well-oiled machine. We are thankful that such a dedicated group continues to put in the time and effort to make this a successful endeavor. It was also very rewarding this year to see several younger members "reel in" some of the great raffle prizes.

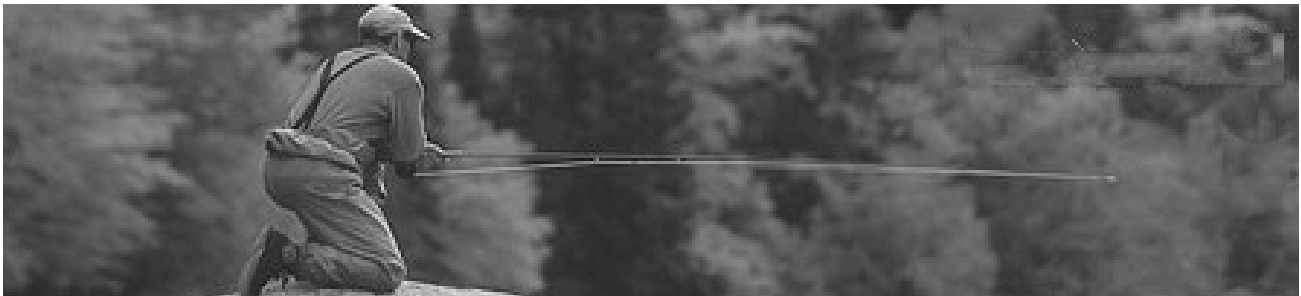
The chapter recognition awards this year were presented to Mike Meyer for the Harold Kleinert Volunteer of the Year Award and to Jim Hergott for the Bruce Hatch Resource Professional Award. Congratulations to Mike and Jim for a job well done.

Next year's banquet is already in the works and the committee is considering having a short program or some live entertainment to spice up the evening. We have a few ideas of our own, but the committee would really like to hear from the membership. We want to know what will get you to join us at the banquet! We would be pleased to

hear any suggestions that you might have.

The real success of our banquet is due to the generous donations and contributions by our membership. Thank you to all. See you next year.

—*Robb (and Chrissy) Smith*



Dear God:
Another trout season is upon us.

And, lest we forget, remind us that trout fishing isn't about just fishing for trout.

It's opening the cabin, renewing streamside acquaintances and launching the river boat.

It's twenty pound hams, buckwheat pancakes and vintage scotch.

It's frozen fingers, broken rods and leaky waders.

It's the prideful displaying of new tackle, matching the hatch and the smell of wood smoke from the log fire.

It's communing with nature, studying her handiwork, observing her moods and admiring her beauty.

It's relaxing and meditating, unwinding and recharging.

Yes, there's more to trout fishing than the catching of the trout.

Teach us, Lord, that as stream pressures mount and trout stocks dwindle, there is an urgent need, more than ever, to fill our fishing creels with esthetics instead of dead trout.

Enrich this festive evening with your presence and bless this food which we are about to receive from your bountiful goodness.

Amen.

Invocation

On April 27, 2005, at the start of the recent William B. Mershon chapter banquet, Art Neumann was called upon to give the invocation. Art is one of TU's treasurers. One is rarely with Art without him instilling in us a renewed energy for what TU is all about. In his simple, eloquent manner, he distills the essence of the issue in front of him to insightful brevity. In that same manner, as we bowed our heads, Art spoke these words.

Thank you, Art.

The board members whose terms end this year are:

Bill Adams
John Martinez
Jo Neuhalfen

The board members whose terms end in 2006 are:

Dave Case
Peter Jones
Dan Keane

The board members whose terms end in 2007 are:

Brian Frost
Mike Meyer
Pat Zaplitny

All of the officers' current terms are scheduled to end the year. The officers are/were:

Vice President Robb Smith
Secretary Bob Spence
Treasurer Rich Kemerer
President Chris Radke

Dan Keane's nominating committee has put quite a few hours into the nominating process already. However, more suggestions and/or help are very welcome.

Some chapter board terms soon ending

**Mershon
chapter
sponsors two
campers to
Kalamazoo
chapter's
Youth River
Conservation &
Fishing Camp**

The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is again hosting the *Youth Rivers Conservation and Fishing Camp* July 10-14, 2005, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, in the heart of Northern Michigan trout country. The four-day camp is designed to educate twelve- to sixteen-year-old boys and girls, who will become the next generation of conservation leaders, about the importance of protecting our coldwater resources. Campers will learn that how we choose to use our land can affect the health of our streams, our trout, and ourselves. Campers will have discussions on stream restoration and together will complete a stream improvement project. Campers collect and learn to identify macro-invertebrates that are important to trout and learn what macro-invertebrates can tell us about water quality and stream habitat. Students will discover what trout need to survive, where they hide, and how to catch a few with help from some of Michigan's leading conservationists and anglers.

In the evening, the students get to test their new skills on the famous AuSable and Manistee Rivers, casting to beautiful brookies, spunky rainbows, and big brown trout—all under the guidance of local experts and Trout Unlimited volunteers from around the State.

The camp is possible through the effort of Trout Unlimited chapters and volunteers (including the Mershon chapter), Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, the staff at Hartwick Pines State Park, Anglers of the AuSable, Upper Manistee River Restoration Council, Kalkaska and Calhoun County Conservation Districts, and individuals throughout the State. Instructors participating in past camps have included these

fine conservationist and anglers: Jim Bedford, Glen Blackwood, Mike Carl, Jim Johnson, Rusty Gates, Merrill Katz, Andy Nuefer, Steve Sendek, Ann Stephens, Steve Southard, Charlie Weaver, and Troy Zorn.

This year the Mershon chapter is sponsoring two campers who have exhibited extraordinary effort on behalf of the resource and Trout Unlimited.

If you know someone between the ages of twelve and sixteen who might be interested in attending this year's or next year's function, please have them go to the following website: www.kvctu.org/index.php?P=camp, or contact Greg Potter at 906 S. Kalamazoo Ave., Marshall, MI 49068; (h) 269-781-5700; or gregpotter@earthlink.net.

The Mershon chapter is interested in sponsoring a local youth to the 2006 Youth Camp. If you know a local youth who may be interested in being sponsored by the Mershon chapter, please have them prepare a letter listing why they believe the chapter should sponsor them. The request should be roughly 500 words long, should list the youth's prior conservation activities, chapter habitat projects attended, chapter social/fundraising events attended, outdoor interests, and other accomplishments. Letters of recommendation are required from two adults who are not related to the prospective camper.

We have scheduled two work dates for this year . The first will be on June 11th. We will be installing the lunker structures we build last year, but were unable to install due to high water. These will be installed on the west branch of the Rifle River in the cabin lake area. The second will be on September 24th. The location and nature of this project will be determined later this summer as permits are issued.

We will also be doing some small half-day maintenance jobs on past projects. These will be on a short-notice basis to go in and replace some rocks, plant some seed, etc.

As always, we are looking for volunteers. Fifteen to twenty for the June and September projects would be great; more would be fantastic.

Five to six on the small projects would be adequate.

To volunteer, please contact Mike Meyer via e-mail at mikemeyertu@charter.net, or by phone at 989-892-9624, or Bob Spence via e-mail at rsspe2@chartermi.net.

Rifle River work dates set for summer projects

This spring, the Mershon chapter coordinated efforts with the Saginaw Field & Stream Club to raise the awareness of the many benefits each group offers its members. This was accomplished by each group donating two memberships to the other to be used as a fund raiser at the other group's spring banquet. As a result, the Mershon chapter received two new members plus all of the revenue generated at the spring banquet for the sale of the Saginaw Field & Stream Club memberships. Likewise, the Saginaw Field & Stream Club received two new members plus the revenue generated from the sale of the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited memberships.

We hope to continue this "cross pollenization" with the Saginaw Field & Stream Club as well as

other outdoor and conservation based groups. If you are aware of a group who would be interested in working with the Mershon chapter, please contact Robb Smith at 893-3792 or rsmithsr@chartermi.net.

Mershon chapter coordinates efforts with the Saginaw Field & Stream Club

Mershon chapter awards funding to several projects in 2005

*by Jo Neuhalfen,
Mershon chapter director*

Come early spring, the Mershon chapter turns its attention to what it advocates—funding both habitat projects to preserve our coldwater fisheries and outreach campaigns to promote TU through social events. The chapter funding committee spent time in March and April researching several funding requests and subsequently recommended awardees to the chapter directors. After final review, the chapter awarded over \$7,600 to projects, ranging from seed funding for a storm water runoff initiative to sponsoring youths to attend a river conservation camp. We thought you would like to know about some of the projects.

Casting for Recovery

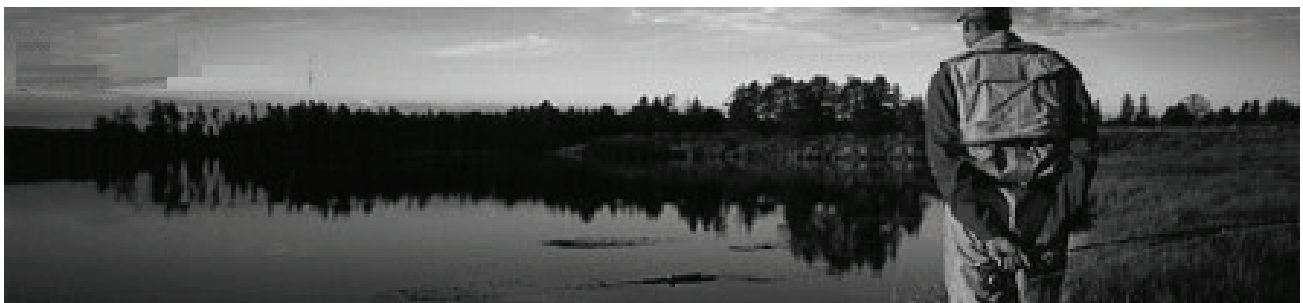
As a long-time supporter, the chapter continues to help provide breast cancer survivors a free weekend at Ranch Rudolf near Traverse City. The retreat combines emotional support, medical counseling and basic fly-fishing instruction to help promote mental and physical healing. The women join friends to have fun and renew spirits in a peaceful, natural setting on the Boardman River. Chapter advisor Judy McCann, a nine-year veteran retreat volunteer, teaches fly-fishing fundamentals and is a major local force behind this event.

Youth River Conservation and Fishing Camp

Sponsored by the chapter, two local youths will join other 12- to 16-year-old campers at a four-day camp at the MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake. Hosted by the Kalamazoo TU chapter, this camp is designed to educate future conservation leaders. Campers spend four jam-packed days of fly fishing and watershed conservation activities and presentations. Ample time is set aside for practicing and testing new fishing skills guided by local experts and TU chapter volunteers. It's been rumored that local experts share their secret fishing spots on the Manistee and AuSable rivers.

Adopt-a-Bank Segment for the Mason Tract

Adopt-a-bank is a concept in which interested chapters adopt a riparian segment of the South Branch of the AuSable for the purpose of planting white cedars seedlings virtually destroyed by the local deer population. Last year, the chapter joined this five-year initiative and planted no less than fifty white cedars on the north side of the South Branch, about quarter-mile east of the Chase Bridge access. In 2005, chapter volunteers will continue to weed and water the 2004 plantings and will add an additional fifty seedlings and protective wire enclosures. When seedlings reach a height of 36 inches, the smaller wire enclosures will be replaced with 6-foot high enclosures. Established white cedar trees stabilize



banks, prevent erosion, harbor insects, and cool the water...all vital to trout survival. Long-time chapter member, Howard Johnson, spends countless hours gathering manpower and materials to make this restoration project a success. The chapter is pleased to partner with Howard and other groups in a project that will provide for future trout generations.

Ogemaw Storm water Project Phase I

Administered by the Huron Pines RC & D, the Storm water project provides for a community outreach program to educate the public and a preliminary engineering study to determine the scope of the runoff problem, identify the Best Management Practices and secure costs estimates for implementing the BMPs. Polluted storm water from the built-up areas, including West Branch, now flows directly into the Rifle River and its tributaries. The runoff leads to fluctuating water levels, rising water temperatures, eroding banks, and ever-increasing levels of pollution—all impact trout survival.

Pere Marquette River Headwaters Improvement Phase II

The Headwaters project set in motion by the Conservation Resource Alliance in 2003, plans to repair five severely eroding Baldwin River bank sites by installing 560 lineal feet of log terraces, woody debris and natural fieldstone to stabilize steep, eroded banks left from the logging era. In 2004, the chapter joined the Conservation Resource Alliance and other project partners to help restore nine of the highest priority problem banks on the Baldwin River. It is estimated the earlier Phase I bank repairs prevented 50 tons of sand from washing into the river system.

Catch Me If You Can

Sponsored by the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation, the children's fishing tournament promotes friendly competition and the sport of fishing. The tournament, held at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area on Saturday, June 4, 2005, is open to Saginaw and surrounding county residents. Prizes are awarded to top winners in separate age categories and for the biggest fish landed.

Michigan Hydroelectric Relicensing Coalition

The MHRC unites four conservation groups, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, Great Lakes Council, Inc., Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc., and the Anglers of the AuSable. The Coalition's mission is to ensure that conservation, environmental, and recreational concerns are considered and addressed in the licensing and relicensing of hydroelectric dams in Michigan. The MHRC deals with issues such as fish passage, water quality, dam removal, habitat destruction, and recreational use.

Rifle River Restoration Committee

The chapter continues to help support the on-going effort to stabilize several bank sites plagued with severe erosion problems in the Rifle River Watershed. Mike Meyer, a chapter director and the point man for soliciting volunteers, acts as our liaison with other project partners. Past and planned river restoration projects include installation of lunger structures, natural fieldstone, woody debris, seeding and tree revetment.

Successful projects are each a mix of money, time and partners—

volunteers, donors, and supportive communities—working with or under the watchful eyes of natural resource and local officials. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our partners for their generosity. Many coming together is a powerful force for the protection and preservation of Michigan's rivers and streams.

To find out how you can volunteer or for more information about coming projects, please contact Robb Smith at (989) 893-3792.

Watershed restoration

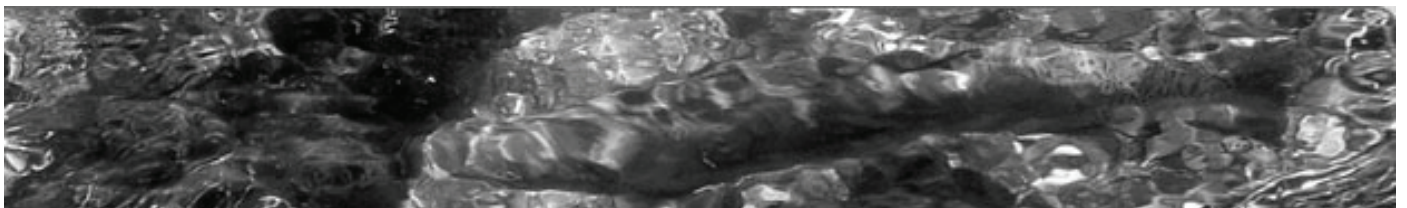
For more information...

*Laura Hewitt
Watershed Programs Director
222 S. Hamilton St.
Suite 3
Madison, WI 53703
608-250-3534*

Since Trout Unlimited (TU) was founded in 1959, on-the-ground restoration of streams, watersheds, and fisheries has been our hallmark. Throughout the country our active volunteers work through their TU chapters implementing restoration projects within their home watersheds. These volunteers have done everything from installing habitat improvement structures and fencing out cattle to replanting stream banks and educating children about aquatic conservation. Each year TU chapters and councils invest over 125,000 hours and more than \$1,500,000 in restoration work. The National office administers the Embrace-A-Stream grant program, established in 1976, to provide matching grants to TU chapters and council to aid their on-the-ground conservation efforts.

Since 1994, Trout Unlimited national staff has complimented these local efforts by implementing an impressive array of large-scale watershed projects. The national office of Trout Unlimited launched its first comprehensive watershed restoration project on the Beaverkill-Willowemoc River system in New York State. TU initiated this program based on the premise that everything in a watershed is related and connected, and that watershed restoration requires far more than site-specific treatments. Trout Unlimited's Watershed Programs have grown impressively since and now consist of several different programs. These include the Home Rivers Initiative, which focuses primarily on private lands, and Bring Back the Natives and Strategies for Native Trout, both

partnership efforts with federal agencies on public lands. As we have become more experienced and adept we have applied the watershed principals to regional efforts that encompass very large or several river systems. In addition, TU has several productive partnerships with federal agencies which enhance our ability to restore rivers and fisheries across the country. All of the programs are dedicated to using sound science to guide management decisions, working collaboratively with partners and local communities, and using the watershed as the appropriate scale for tackling river and fishery conservation issues. One of the primary functions of TU's large-scale watershed programs are to demonstrate innovative restoration techniques that both improve the condition of the watershed and fishery, but also serve as a model for other similarly affected drainages.



Recently I had the opportunity to work with your board of directors giving them a brief casting lesson. Over the next few Muddlers, I would like to share and demystify some of the casting principles and correct some common casting faults.

To the new caster or to those that have thrown a line or two, one of the most important principles is TIP PATH. The simple definition of tip path is the line the tip of the rod travels during the stroke. Where the tip goes, so goes the line! All loops are determined by that path. The size and shape of the loop is determined by the tip path. Wide loops are caused by the tip traveling in a convex path, while the tailing loop is caused by the rod tip traveling in a concave path. To describe a convex path, think of the roof of an igloo. A convex path probably occurs when the caster allows his wrist to flex too much in the cast on both the forward cast and back cast without having a good crisp stop.

So what's so important about the loop size, you say. Well, just an inch of movement in the hand equates to about 2 to 3 feet movement in a 9-foot fly rod at the tip! Distance, shooting the line, casting into the wind, accuracy, and delivery are all depend on having a nice tight loop. Think of

a tight loop as a tennis ball and a wide open loop as a beach ball. Which one can you throw accurately, the farthest, and into the wind?

The old saying that practice makes perfect is an understatement in casting. String up the rod, head to the back yard, look at those loops, and try to put some of this to practice. Your stroke should have smooth acceleration to an abrupt stop. Keep the rod tip traveling in the straightest line possible and watch the loops tighten. Good loops open somewhere between a foot to 2 feet between the top leg and bottom leg of the loop.

I can be reached at Little Forks Outfitters in Midland (989-832-4100) for comments or questions. If you have a casting issue you would like me address in future articles, please let me know.

Tight loops!
John Van Dalen

Casting About

By John Van Dalen

The Mershon chapter has entered the Internet as www.mershon-tu.org. On the site you can find our calendar of events, board minutes, pictures of our work projects and more.

Please send us your comments and suggestions for making our website even more useful and fun. If you

have pictures you are willing to share, please send them to pat.zaplitny@eds.com and we will start a photo album on the website.

Mershon chapter hits the web

*by Pat Zaplitny,
Mershon chapter director*

Legends of the North Branch

*by Craig Bublitz,
Mershon chapter advisor*

The tiny hamlet of Lovells lies in the northeast corner of Crawford County. Here you can fill your truck with gas and buy necessities at Caid's General Store. The Lovells Café will feed you a delicious and hardy breakfast. Later in the evening, try a cold beer and a shrimp dinner at the Riverside Tavern. A bright and friendly new hardware store stocks anything a cabin owner or camper may require. The Douglas Hotel, on the banks of the North Branch of the AuSable, has been lovingly restored by the Fuller family and offers unique lodging and a very nifty fly shop. But for those interested in lore and heritage of Michigan trout fishing and conservation, perhaps the crown jewel of this special place is the museum run by the Lovells Township Historical Society.

Located near the township hall in the township park, the museum exhibits are situated within two newly-built but traditional-looking log buildings. On opening day of trout season 2004, the LTHS premiered their multi-year series of exhibits entitled "Legends of the North Branch," with a beautiful display about our chapter namesake, William B. Mershon. The professionally arranged displays feature copies of many of Mershon's writings and a plethora of original photographs of William B. and his fishing cronies.

The last Saturday of April this year, the Lovells Township Historical Society continued their "Legends" series with a two-part program, "Lodges of the AuSable" and a history of local boys who served in the Civilian Conservation Corps in the AuSable country during the 1930's.

Prominently featured in the lodge's displays is Big Creek Lodge. Big Creek is a major tributary to the North Branch and a premier trout

stream in its own right. Big Creek Lodge is a private club dating back to 1925. Club members are devoted to conservation and stewardship of the land. The Mershon chapter's own longtime board member and advisor, Jake Shinners, is a member of the Big Creek Lodge.

Next year the Museum will feature a more in-depth look at the lodges along the AuSable North Branch. The Historical Society will draw upon their rich treasure trove of original source material. The museum is open most weekends during trout season, and it is well worth your time to stop by. The new exhibits will be open from April 30th to September 30th on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2004-2005

Officers

President

Christopher J. Radke
249-6420 (H)
cradke@shinnerscook.com

Vice-President

Robb Smith
893-3792
rssmithsr@chartermi.net

Treasurer

Rich Kemerer
781-5220
richard.kemerer@cbcf-net.com

Secretary

Bob Spence
799-6617 (H)
rsspe2@chartermi.net

Past-President

Bo Brines
989-832-4100 (W)
989-832-9528 (H)
bobrines@tm.net

Directors

Bill Adams
652-8328
adamsbillchar@aol.com

Dave Case
642-5286
dsbec53@chartermi.net

Brian Frost
781-7731
abfrost@msn.com

Dan Keane
642-8960 (H)
keanedml@chartermi.net

Johnny Martinez, Jr.
643-0517 (H)
johnny.martinez.jr@smithbarney.com

Mike Meyer
892-9624
mikemeyertu@charter.net

Jo Neuhalfen
642-5946
jo@wolgastcorporation.com

Pat Zaplitny
892-9317
pat.zaplitny@eds.com

Advisors

Craig Bublitz
(810) 688-3963
bublitz@cardina.net

Joe Bula
781-2047 (H)
joenette@mybluelight.com

David Cozad
684-7947 (H)

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

Jac Ford
781-0997 (H/FAX)
canglers@aol.com

Mel Gricar
652-9277 (H), 792-9618 (W)
melgricar@aol.com

Carl Hubinger
642-5487 (H)
bchubinger@msn.com

Howard N. Johnson
753-6373
hnjohnson@aol.com

Peter Jones
753-3984 (H)
pjones@fphorak.com

Risty Kalivas
790-8614 (H)
ristydo@aol.com

Harold Kleinert
684-4733 (H)
hrkleinert@hotmail.com

Judy McCann
652-9869 (H)
jmccann113@aol.com

Art C. Neumann
777-0484 (H)

Bruce Scorsone
793-7200
bscorsone@aol.com

Jake Shinnars
781-3003 (H), 799-5000 (W)
jshinnars@shinnerscook.com

Greg Stansbury
695-8080 (H/FAX)
papertube@aol.com

Newsletter Layout

Teri Skidmore
781-0040
TeriSkidz@yahoo.com

Dam safety action alert

Governor Granholm is proposing to eliminate Michigan's Dam Safety Program. This low-cost program ensures two things: (1) that dams are safe and not in danger of catastrophic loss resulting in severe damage to below-dam trout habitat, and (2) that if dams are unsafe and uneconomical, they be properly and safely removed, providing improved trout habitat, cooler water, and trout passage through the entire river system. Please see the attached notice from the State Council of Trout Unlimited and respond as you see fit.

The bottom line is there is no significant monetary cost savings in eliminating the MDEQ Dam Safety Program, but there is the potential for very real adverse costs to public safety and the State's natural resources.

Contact your State Representative and Senator and ask him/her to reject the proposed changes to the Dam Safety Act.

As part of their 2006 Budget Proposal, the Granholm administration is proposing significant changes to The Dam Safety Act. With a budget of \$350,000, this Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) program not only conducts dam inspections in specific cases but through its monitoring and compliance activities it insures the safety of our dams and works to minimize their environmental impacts.

The proposal is to amend the Dam Safety Act to completely remove any reference to MDEQ in the Act (as well as any other State Agency or Department). This proposed change will eliminate the program that monitors inspections and compliance. In the case where the inspection requires remedial work, there will be no monitoring to insure the work is done correctly or even at all. Dam owners will still have to conduct inspections but these inspections will be filed with the local emergency planning authority. However, DEQ would no longer be available to provide assistance or advice to the local emergency action authority and thus could result in a lack of uniformity across the State. Most important the DEQ would lose any authority to order remedial work on unsafe dams.

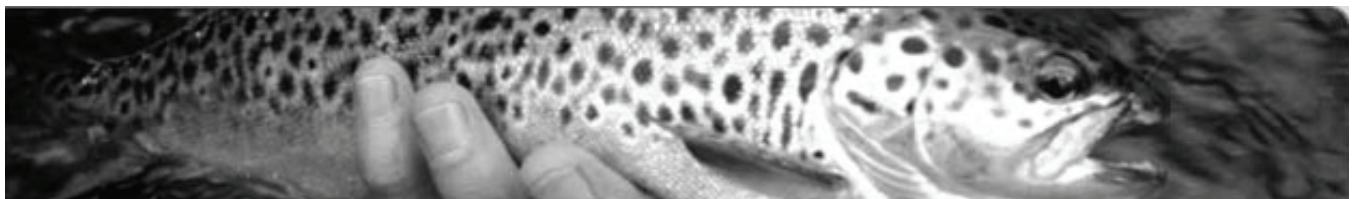
The impression most people have is that the proposed cuts leave the program in place and is intended to simply shift the expense of

conducting inspections from the taxpayers to the dam owners themselves. In reality inspections make up a very small part of the budget. Under the Act, dam owners already have the expense of engaging a licensed professional engineer to prepare an inspection report. The only exception is for local units of government or a small non-profit organization who can currently request the MDEQ conduct a visual inspection and prepare a report. If this inspection report disclosed the need for a more detailed investigation or evaluation the department may order the owner at their expense to provide the report.

Under the Dam Safety Program, MDEQ inspects about 75 to 80 dams a year. About 20 per year are for local units of government. This amounts to less than 9% of the Dam Safety Program budget.

The remaining dams inspected are state owned dams. There are 230 to 240 of these dams that require inspections under the Act and MDEQ does about 60 inspections a year. This inspection activity amounts to about 25% of MDEQ's annual Dam Safety Program budget. If DEQ does not do these inspections, the state agency which owns the dam will have to hire engineers to do the inspections.

Under the Dam Safety Act, MDEQ determines the level of hazard of an existing dam. Currently there are 79 dams classified as high hazard and 136 dams classified as significant hazard. Under the proposed amendment there would not be a hazard classification program.



Monitoring and compliance is a major part of the dam safety program. Good things happen as a result of these activities. An example is Ketchum Park Dam on Rice Creek owned by the City of Marshall. An inspection by MDEQ under the Dam Safety Program resulted in the City being required to do about \$700,000 of remedial work on the dam. With the encouragement and assistance of MDNR and MDEQ, Marshall has decided to remove the dam and restore a cold water stream.

Please take action today.

Contact your State Representative and Senator and ask him/her to reject the proposed changes to the Dam Safety Act. The bottom line

is there is no significant monetary cost savings in eliminating MDEQ Dam Safety Program but there is the potential for very real adverse costs to public safety and the State's natural resources.

Also, please send your message to Governor Granholm, MDEQ Director Steven Chester and the following State Senators and Representatives:

Senate Natural Resources Committee:

Patty Birkholz - Chair
Bruce Patterson
Gerry Van Woerkom
Liz Brater
Ray Basham

House Great Lakes and Environment Committee
Dave Palsrok - Chair

Senate DNR and DEQ Appropriations Sub-Committee
Michelle McManus- Chair

Calendar of Events

RIFLE RIVER WORK PROJECT
PLACING LUNKER STRUCTURES
Saturday, June 11, 2005
9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

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SUMMER MCTU MEETING
Saturday, June 25, 2005
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Community Room, Jays Sporting Goods
Gaylord*

Local guided fishing by Headwaters chapter members available before and after by prior arrangement.

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MERSHOH BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 7, 2005
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Garber Buick dealership

AUSABLE RIVER CLEAN-UP
Saturday, September 10, 2005
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mio meeting location to be determined.

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RIFLE RIVER WORK PROJECT
PLACING LUNKER STRUCTURES
Saturday, September 24, 2005
9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

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MOVING ROCKS ON THE RIFLE RIVER
Summer date yet to be determined
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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PLANTING CEDAR TREES ON THE
MASON TRACT OF THE AUSABLE
RIVER
Saturday, October 8, 2005
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Grayling

CHILDREN'S "CATCH-ME-IF-YOU-CAN"
FISHING EVENT

Saturday, summer date to be determined
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Haithco Park, off I-675 at
Tittabawassee Rd in Saginaw.*

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SPORTING CLAY SHOOT AND
BARBEQUE

Mid-week date to be determined
Noon to 5 p.m.

*Either Freeland Gun Club or Saginaw
Field & Stream Club.*

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WATERING CEDAR TREES ALONG THE
MASON TRACT OF THE AUSABLE
RIVER

Every other week all summer when there is less than 1 inch of rain in a 2-week period
Grayling

Share your sport

*by John Van Dalen
Little Forks Outfitters*

On June 4, 2005, a Saturday afternoon, a joint project between the Mershon chapter, the Martuch chapter, and Little Forks Outfitters of Midland is being planned. We would like to offer a free drop-in program on fly fishing for Tri-City area kids accompanied by a parent. The event will be held at the Tittabawassee Township Park, just west of Freeland.

We will offer casting lessons, demonstrate fly tying, and have some stations around the pond to let children try to catch a fish with a fly. Other demonstrations and exhibits that we are considering are collections of aquatic insects, rod building, lure making, and other fly fishing crafts.

We need your help to share our wonderful sport with the next

generation. The program will run from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., so we will all have time to get out and fish that evening. It will be a great opportunity to meet and work with members of our two chapters. We need help with promoting the program; demonstrating casting, fly tying, rod building, and lure making; supervising the pond fishing; and sharing aquatic insect collections and crafts. All volunteers are welcome regardless of your skill level.

Please contact John Van Dalen at Little Forks Outfitters (989-832-4100) and offer your help with this new project.

*—John Van Dalen
Little Forks Outfitters
989-832-4100*

WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

Note: All Board of Directors meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month (unless noted) at 5:30 p.m. at Garber Buick, 5925 State Street, Saginaw, Michigan.

No meetings during the summer months.

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

**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.**

Meanders, continued from page 1

and AuSable Rivers' lunger structure and erosion prevention project weekends;

- Continued participation in the AuSable River cleanup weekend;
- Funding of the AuSable River police patrols, the Grayling and Ogemaw drain projects, Casting For Recovery Program, Youth River Camp Project, the Griffith Challenge Program, the Michigan Hydro (dam) Relicensing Program, and many more projects;
- Participation in the State Council of TU's Legislative Day in Lansing;
- Continued quality Muddler publications and the addition of author-contributors like Bob Linsenman;
- A continuation of Jac Ford's fly-casting and fly-tying classes at Swan Valley High School;
- Extremely successful participation in Hemmeter Elementary School's Hobby Day;
- And many more successes which the next group of leaders must meet and exceed.

And the great thing about the Mershon chapter is that each new group of leaders will step into their roles gladly, with determination, and with no doubt that they will succeed.

Speaking of Saginaw's importance in the founding and growth of Trout Unlimited, I have often been asked questions about the names of individuals from Saginaw who were

involved in the founding of Trout Unlimited up at George Griffith's cabin on the AuSable River.

Of course Art Neumann's role as the first Executive Director of Trout Unlimited and as the person who traveled from 1959–1963 opening new chapters and state councils across the country, is well known. But, did you know that of the original 113 organizers of Trout Unlimited (at the second meeting at George Griffith's cabin), 42 were residents of Saginaw?

The 42 organizers from Saginaw in 1959 were:

F.N. Andersen
Russell M. Bingham
G. Morley Boyd
Ward J. Blunt
Roswell Burrows
Dick Davis
Henry DeGeus II
Andrew Ellis
Kenneth Fawless
G.S. Garber
Dr. J. Orton Goodsell
John B. Gricar
Thomas C. Harvey
Dr. Don M. Howell
Nelson Joyner
William W. Kessel
Alex S. Levinsohn
Earl H. Longworth
William J.B. Mason
Arthur C. Muehlenbeck
Donald T. Nash
Arthur C. Neumann
William Pochelon
Alex A. Reid
Albert L. Riedel
R.C. Rieder
Ralph E. Sager
A.G. Sager
Clarence L. Salmer
J.C. Scheib
G.H. Schrader
Dr. Martin C. Sharp
R. Perry Shorts
James H. Smith
Henry D. Snyder

William J. Spear
E.P. Schutt
W. Roland Stewart
S.H. Swift
John W. Symons
(first name unknown) Thayer
David W. Ward

Thank you members for making the past two years so eventful, challenging, and successful. Thank you to my wife, Karen, and my children for letting me spend so much time on this great resource. Finally, thank you chapter board, officers, and advisors; you do such a great job of counseling, cajoling, joking, setting high expectations, introducing new ideas, and following up on assignments. I've truly enjoyed this opportunity and look forward to continuing to work in changing capacities in the future. Thank you.

—*Christopher Radke,*
president

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



YES! Please begin my one-year introductory membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked at right. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card and quarterly issues of *Trout* magazine with *Action Line*.

Please check membership category:

- New member membership (\$17.50)
- Regular membership (\$35) / 3 years (\$90)
- Family membership (\$50) / 3 years (\$100)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$100)*
- Conservator contributor (250)*
- Individual Life (\$1,000) (*No further dues*)*
- Family Life (\$1,100) (*Husband and Wife*)*
- Senior (62 and over) membership (\$20)
- Full-time Student/Youth (under 18) (\$20)
- Business membership (\$200)

All contributions over \$12 are tax deductible.

**Note: special benefits provided for these membership categories.*

***Make checks payable to: TROUT UNLIMITED*

Clip and mail this application to join TU today!

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

Payment enclosed** Please bill me

Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

MasterCard _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to: **TROUT UNLIMITED, PO BOX 1335, MERRIFIELD, VA 22116**

(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.)

THE MERSHON MUDDLER

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

P.O. Box 1555 Saginaw, MI 48605-1555

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