

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

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

THE M E R S H O N  
**MUDDLER**

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

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

## Meanders

### A few thoughts from the president

I hope that everyone has had a fun and successful summer, full of blanket hatches, monster trout, and great new memories with family and friends. As the nights turn colder and the days a bit shorter, the woods start to lose their lush green, and we have a new fall to look forward to. The four-weights will get used less and the eights and nines will hopefully get a workout. For many of us, it's time for shotguns, bows, and rifles. There will be Salmon, Woodcock and Grouse, Ducks and Deer, and other game to pursue. Oh yeah, and don't forget football. It will also be time to get back to the business of Trout Unlimited.



*Josh Butzin, chapter president*

Although most of us really never take a break, September starts a new year of activities for the Mershon chapter of TU. Our board meetings, which are open to all members, and which we encourage all--members and non-members alike--to attend, take place on the first Wednesday of every month, starting in September and ending in May. They are held in the back room of the Gander Mountain store in Saginaw. For those of you who are familiar, it's the room behind the archery department, where the gun safes sit. As I've

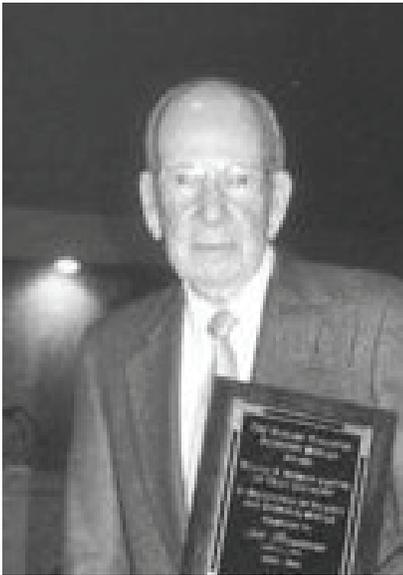
said before, we are very fortunate to have an exemplary group of people sitting as board members and advisors. We are, however, always looking for new ideas and input on the way we get things done in our chapter.

Part of striving to continuously improve what we do and how we do it is by bringing new minds into the mix and looking at issues from new perspectives. In all actuality, this is critical to having a sustained, successful, future for our organization. I encourage all of you to join us at one of our meetings. I promise that you won't walk in the door and get ten jobs or a title hung on you. We would just like people to come, see what we do, and maybe offer some input. If nothing else, you'll get a better idea about where your money is being spent and what good it goes toward. Who knows--maybe you'll even want to come back again. The more the merrier. So, please join us.

We also have our fall projects coming up. The Rifle River restoration project, which has always been a success thanks to the hard work of

See *Meanders*, page 5

## Art Neumann's Induction into the Catskills Fly Fishing Museum's "Hall of Fame"



October 18, 2008, will see a number of people inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. Prominent among these inductees will be Art Neumann, a founding father of Trout Unlimited and the William B. Mershon Chapter. The Fly Fishing Hall of Fame is housed within the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, located in Livingston Manor, New York.

In July, 1959, the late George Griffith invited a group of concerned trout anglers to a meeting at "The Barbless Hook," his home on the Au Sable River near Grayling, Michigan. Art Neumann, of Saginaw, was one of

the men at this gathering, and their purpose was to address the severe decline in the quality of Michigan trout streams and Michigan trout fishing. This meeting was the birth of Trout Unlimited.

Not only was Art present at the "birth" of TU, but as a good Founding Father, he nurtured and strengthened this "baby" during its early critical formative years. Art was the first vice president of the organization, however when TU experienced problems requiring dedicated staff, Art took a two-year sabbatical from his career at Eaton Manufacturing Company to become Trout Unlimited's executive director.

Art began to preach the principles of grass-roots trout conservation through science-based habitat preservation and restoration. After gaining significant victories here in the State of Michigan, in the legislature, and with the predecessor to the DNR, Art took TU across the country, opening chapters on the East Coast, in the Rockies, and on the West Coast. Art testified in front of other State's legislatures, to the Secretary of the Interior, and to administrative agencies everywhere. Mr. Trout has had no more articulate advocate than Mr. Neumann. Incidentally, Art was also the author of what today would be called a mission statement, but which he simply entitled "The Trout Unlimited Philosophy."

Art's "philosophy" is an eloquent and poetic statement which he has succinctly summed

up many times by saying "What's good for habitat is good for Mr. Trout, and what's good for Mr. Trout is good for trout fishing."

Art is planning to make the journey to New York State for the induction ceremonies on Saturday, October 18th. If you are interested in attending the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame induction ceremony, you can contact the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum at:

Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum  
1031 Old Route 17  
Livingston Manor, New York  
12758-1295  
(Phone) 1-845-439-4810  
(Website) [www.cffcm.net](http://www.cffcm.net)

**Y**ou and your friends are invited to participate in a **VOLUNTEER WORK DAY**, planned for **SEPTEMBER 20TH** to restore two eroded Rifle River stream banks in Ogemaw County.

We will partner with the Ann Arbor Area TU Chapter and complete two sites upstream from the West Branch Airport. These sites are designated as the "McLaren Sites," with the work on both consisting of putting in two rows of tree revetment along 200' of the stream bank (cabling 15'-20' trees to the river bank).

**WHEN:**

Saturday, September 20, 2008  
9:00 a.m., at the work site.

**LOCATION:**

- Take I-75 North to the Alger (M-33) exit.
- Head north on M-33 for 7.5 miles to Cabin Lake Road (roadside park).
- Turn Left/West on Cabin Lake Road, 1.9 miles (until it ends).
- Turn Right/North on Peach

Lake Road, .4 miles to Airport Road.

- Turn Left/West onto Airport Road, .7 miles.
- Turn Right/North on Jill Lynn Lane, going .4 miles to 1500 Jill Lynn Lane driveway (mailbox).
- Turn right and take the right fork past a log cabin to the river. This will be the morning work site, and we will move upstream in the afternoon.

**ITEMS TO BRING:**

Work gloves and waders (Not mandatory for all).

**LUNCH:**

Lunch and beverages will be provided.

**RSVP & QUESTIONS:**

(We need EVERYONE'S HELP)

Contact:

BobSpence (989)799-6617  
*rsspe2@chartermi.net*

Josh Butzin (989)790-1568  
*jmbutzin@sbcglobal.net*

## Rifle River Restoration Project

*by Bob Spence,  
chapter director*

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## Calendar of Events

RIFLE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT  
**Saturday, September 20, 2008**

Contact Bob Spence at 989-799-6617  
or *rsspe2@chartermi.net*

AU SABLE RIVER  
CONSERVATION WORK DAY  
**Saturday, September 27, 2008**  
**9 a.m.**

*Chase Bridge on the south branch  
of the Au Sable*

Contact Howard N. Johnson  
989-753-6373 for more details  
and to register

MERSHON BOARD MEETINGS  
**Wednesday, September 3, 2008**  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2008**  
**Wednesday, November 5, 2008**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**  
**5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
*Gander Mountain, Saginaw*

## I was down at my club . . .

by Bob Kren,  
chapter director

Sam's Club, the one on Bay Road in Saginaw, because the Flint store—I mean “exclusive Club”—doesn't carry Meow Mix, and my cats were threatening mutiny. Anyway, got to talking with one of the employees, and told him that I was going to a Mershon Walleye Dinner that night. We talked some more, and it turned out that he is an avid flyfisherman, who considers the Jordan River to be his home waters. He was complaining about how almost nobody flyfishes it, and how he'd like to get in with a bunch of flyfishers but didn't know of any trout-fishing group in the Saginaw area.

I set him straight on that. Wound up getting his name and address, and signing him up for a free year's TU membership in the Chapter.

If that's how easy it is to sign up new members, from among total strangers (I hope he'll come to our functions, and not be a stranger to our group any longer), then why aren't we signing them up from among our friends and acquaintances? It isn't so hard; just go to our website, [www.mershon-tu.org/index.html](http://www.mershon-tu.org/index.html), or fill out the forms at one of the dinners, or better yet, get them to come to a dinner or the Banquet and sign up for themselves. And we can even list them in the “Mershon Muddler”

as new members, like those below.

You'll see names of people who aren't from the immediate Saginaw/Thumb area, but that's all right. We'd like to have them get involved with us locally, and Trout Unlimited nationally, so don't be afraid to enlist anybody from a bit further away—or a lot further, in the case of Gary Pabalis (Idaho)—they'll find a home with us as kindred spirits.

Here's something for the new members to think about, too—you can get others involved, just as you've become involved through the intervention of current members. Good luck, and Welcome!

—Bob Kren,  
Chapter director

## New Members

### From Saginaw:

Brad Balderstone,	Randy Bullock,	Shawn Coughlin,
Robert Emrich,	Mike Juengling,	Jim Sanford,
Tim Swieczkowski,	Karl Carson	

### From Nearby:

Bob Fischer from Bridgeport  
Scott Hetzner from Frankenmuth  
Chris Meyers of Hemlock  
Greg and Mike II and Mike Sr., all Radkes, from Bruce Township, Okemos, and Troy, respectively  
Mike Rafferty of Grand Blanc  
Karl Weiss of Birch Run  
Ken McMahon of Freeland  
David Kern of Millington  
Laura Nelson from Ossineke  
Butch Bowlby of Kawkawlin  
Jerry Ferrell and Jim Frye, both of Midland  
and finally Paul Dresser from Flushing (he's a neighbor of mine)



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 Gander Mountain, 2270 Tittabawassee Road, Saginaw, Michigan.*

Wednesday, September 3, 2008  
Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
Wednesday, December 3, 2008

*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.**

***Meanders***, *cont. from page 1*

volunteers and organization of Bob Spence, is coming up on September 20th. Also, the Cedars for the AuSable project, led by Howard Johnson, will not only improve streamside habitat, but will also add beauty to the river on September 27th. In my opinion, these projects are the

nuts and bolts of what our group is all about. Hands on, grass roots, preservation of cold-water ecosystems is what TU does. To say that helping with these projects is rewarding would be an understatement. There is no better place to be involved. If you have kids or anyone, for that matter, that you would like to introduce to the concept of conservation in the most physical

sense, then I suggest you bring them to one of our project sites.

Anyway, I'll get off of my soapbox now. Enjoy the fall, and please join us at Gander Mountain in Saginaw, the first Wednesday of the month. See you there!

—Josh Butzin, president



## Update on water withdrawal legislation

Hello, MI Council of Trout Unlimited Board Members,

This morning, Tuesday, June 24, 2008, the House and Senate finalized negotiations on the remaining points of difference each of their water withdrawal bill packages. The bill packages were amended to be consistent with each others and both were passed out of the opposite chamber's committees. They are now both up for a general floor vote. The final compromise did not reflect an even middle ground on the remaining differences, but was skewed in favor of the Senate version. The adverse resource impact thresholds were not set where we'd have liked in all cases; no new recognition of the public trust in groundwater was added, but a statement was included which clarified that this new legislation in no way precludes or impinges on any common law, existing public trust or sovereignty of the state in protecting its waters; the new framework will become partially effective on

October 1, 2008 and fully effective in 2009; and permitting was added for all new withdrawals of 1 million gallons per day if they fall within "zone" (which is the zone approaching the threshold of ARI).

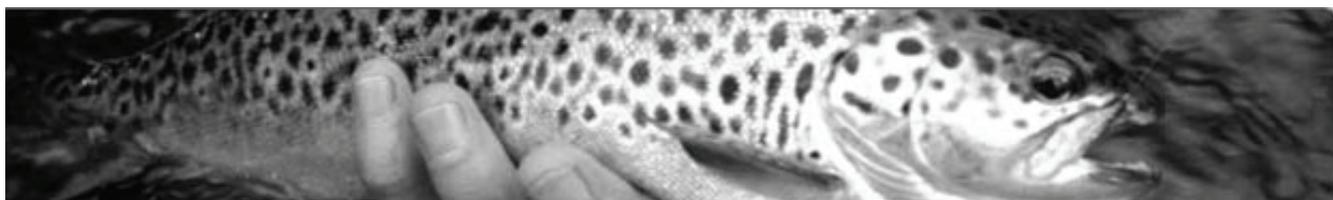
The "adverse resource impact lines" (ARI) for coldwaters have ended up at: <3% decline in thriving fish abundance (21% reduction in low flow) for coldwater streams (the smallest size streams); for coldwater small rivers the ARI line was drawn at "less than 1%" decline in thriving fish abundance (20% reduction in low flow). For cold-transitional streams, small rivers, and large rivers, the ARI are "less than 5%" reduction in thriving fish abundance (which in all three cases is between 2 - 4% reductions in low flow). While these outcomes are less than ideal for protecting our waters, they do represent a great deal of progress from the proposed ARI lines 1 year ago (recommendations from the Groundwater Advisory Council). Those recommendations had proposed ARI lines as: Cold streams: 45% reduction in thriving fish species (10% change in fish community), = 52% reductions in low flow Cold small rivers: 20% reduction in thriving fish species (10% change in fish community), = 48% reduction in low flow Cold-Transitional streams: 10% reduction in thriving fish species

(10% change in fish community), = 10% reduction in low flow Cold-Transitional small rivers: 35% reduction in thriving fish species (10% change in fish community), = 18% reduction in low flow Cold-Transitional large rivers: 47% reduction in thriving fish species (10% change in fish community), = 22% reduction in low flow.

While we expect no one to be pleased with the idea of low flow reductions of 20%, members of TU and our conservation partner organizations should be proud of the advocacy efforts we undertook. While these outcomes are less than ideal, without the involvement, efforts and actions of all of our members the outcomes today would have been far worse. We should be proud of our accomplishments here, and look to strengthen ourselves and our partnerships so that we can be stronger for our natural resources, during the next fight. We also, immediately, have lots of work in front of us to improve this new system of water protection.

Thank you,

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2008-2009**

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**Website**

*www.Mershon-TU.org*

# 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) / r 3 years (\$90)
- 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*

*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 7400, Woolly Bugger, WV 25438-7400**

*(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

uNewsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited u  
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