

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

THE MERSHON MINNOW

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

WWW.MERSHON-TU.ORG

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



Important Dates:

- **July 24th, 2010**
Au Sable River Restoration Project
- **July 26th, 2010**
Harold Kleinert Memorial Dedication
- **August 28th, 2010**
Rifle River Restoration Project
 Contact: Bob Spence at 989-799-6617 or rsspe2@chartermi.net

Michigan Youth Trout Camp

It's not too late to attend the Michigan Youth Trout Camp, July 11th through July 15th, 2010. The camp is sponsored by the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of TU, open to boys and girls from 12 to 16 years old. For details, go to www.kvctu.org and phone Bill Adams, Mershon chapter camp coordinator at 989-652-8328 or 989-860-2090.

Spring fundraising banquet a huge success

Members and guests of the Wm. B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited that attended the 47th Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet enjoyed an evening of "spirited conversation, fierce bidding, gluttonous eating and outrageous fish stories," but most of all, everyone enjoyed contributing to the protection and preservation of the cold-water fisheries of the Au Sable and Rifle Rivers through their donations and contributions at the banquet.

Banquet committee members Robb Smith, Chris Radke, Greg Stansbury, and Paul Morand, together with

banquet chairpersons Chrissy Smith and Howard N. Johnson, organized the annual event. Through the generous donations from the board members, chapter advisors and friends, and several local businesses, this year exceeded revenues over the past years. As always, the generous donation from Little Forks Outfitter of an Orvis fly-fishing outfit led the way in income for the banquet. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by chapter director Don Albrecht, depicting his fishing trip to the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula. Don's video

presentation showed the unspoiled world of the peninsula and the unique fishing opportunities in that part of the world.

During the business meeting, Don Albrecht, Dale Hernden, and Dick Albosta were elected directors of the chapter.

With the help of many of the chapter's board members, officers, and advisors, over \$12,000 was raised during the evening. Thanks to all that lent a hand during the event and thanks to all who made a donation. The banquet could not be a success without your help.

Meanders: a few thoughts from the president

This abbreviated version of the Muddler is the result of the board of director's decision to stay in touch with chapter members, while conserving funds for resource projects. In the future, you will still be able to look forward to receiving three full issues of the Mershon Muddler, published in October, January, and March, plus a condensed summer version. While we feel it is important to continue with the Muddler, the cost of publishing four issues a year was eating up too much of our yearly budget. It is our hope that this newsletter will

serve many of the same purposes as our larger publication and keep you informed of chapter happenings and summer work projects.

Updates:

The funding committee met in late April and a total of \$5,500 will be dispersed to conservation groups for work on the Au Sable, Rifle, and Pere Marquette Rivers, cedar tree plantings, habitat improvements through small dam removal, and to send campers to the annual Trout Camp, sponsored by the

Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of TU. Thanks to the generosity of our members and the hard work of the banquet committee, these worthy contributions were made possible.

A couple of dates to set aside this summer are July 24th and August 28th. On July 24th, a restoration project on the Au Sable River will be held under the coordination of Huron Pines. Work will take place on the Claybanks area, in a section of the river downstream from

(Continued on page 2)

Project Healing Waters helps vets in Saginaw

Project Healing Waters is now meeting twice per month to help veterans at the VA hospital in Saginaw.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, an organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly-fishing and fly-tying education and outings,

was founded in 2005 by a corps of dedicated local volunteers from Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers, using the nationally renowned Casting for Recovery program concept. The activities include lessons in basic and advanced fly fishing and fly tying techniques and frequent fly fishing trips for participants.

Project Healing Waters meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Lutz VA Hospital in Saginaw. We are currently working with eleven veterans with varying disabilities.

If you would like to help, please contact Dale Hernden at DaleHernden@charter.net or 989-798-6652.

Project Healing Waters meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Lutz VA Hospital in Saginaw.

If you would like to help, please contact Dale Hernden at DaleHernden@charter.net or 989-798-6652.



Bo Brines, of Little Forks Outfitters in Midland, teaches a "knot class."



Veteran practices a perfection loop.

Meanders, cont.

Mio. This is an area of significant erosion and a very difficult bank to stabilize. This will be a continuation of a project first begun two years ago. Any help will certainly be appreciated.

On August 28th, a restoration project will be held on the Rifle River. Although final details need to be worked out, the Mershon chapter has already restored hundreds of feet of river bank. Tree revetments will be anchored, in order to protect the banks of the river from the damaging effects of the erosive force of the river. Less erosion produces better gravel areas, which are important for spawning and aquatic insects. Your participation in this habitat improvement project is needed and provides an opportunity to give back to

the resource we all enjoy so much.

Finally, on July 26th, a dedication of the Harold Kleinert Memorial will be held, in conjunction with the Rifle River Watershed Restoration Committee annual meeting. For those not familiar with Harold, he was a long-time chapter member and one of the founding members of the Rifle River Watershed Restoration Committee. A large engraved stone will be placed at the Kenneth Road access to honor Harold and his commitment to the Rifle River.

Be sure to check the Mershon chapter website (www.mershon-tu.org) for current information and details of the events as the time draws near.

Lastly, a group of Mershon chapter members recently placed 15 temperature loggers at various locations in the Rifle River and its tributaries. The loggers will record hourly water temperatures over the course of the next few months and will provide data for use in management plans for the river. This effort is part of the River Keepers Program, developed by Trout Unlimited. Thanks to those volunteers who helped with the project.

I hope this finds you and your family in fine health and spirits. If possible, get out and catch some trout . . . you'll find them in the most beautiful places Michigan has to offer.

--Paul Morand, president

William B. Mershon
Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 6920
Saginaw, MI
48608-6920

Officers
President
Paul Morand
989-893-7132
pmorand@mershon-tu.org

Vice-president
Jac Ford
989-781-0997
canglers@aol.com

Treasurer
Dave Case
642-5286
dsbec53@chartermi.net

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