

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



### Important Dates:

**August 10, 2013**  
*Rifle River Streambank  
 Restoration Project*

Contact: Garrett Noyes, Huron  
 Pines Project Manager, @  
 (989)448-2293x16 or visit  
[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org)

**August 17th, 2013**  
*Au Sable Big Waters Workday*  
*River Access Erosion Control*  
*below Mio*  
 8-1PM

**August 21st, 2013**  
*Au Sable Big Waters Workday*  
*River Access Erosion Control*  
*below Mio*  
 8-1PM

**August 22nd, 2013**  
*Au Sable Big Waters Workday*  
*River Access Erosion Control*  
*below Mio*  
 8-1PM

Join Huron Pines, the Au Sable Big  
 Water Preservation Association,  
 and Mershon members for a day of  
 great work to conserve resources  
 on the river. These workdays will  
 improve user access, while limiting  
 excessive sediment from entering  
 the river. Food will be provided.  
 Sites to Be Determined. Please  
 RSVP for these events by calling  
 (989) 448-2293 ext. 21 or at  
[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org).

**September 7th (The Big One!)**  
*Comins Flats in Mio. Fall Cleanup*  
 Meet by the Comins Flats ramp at  
 8 a.m. (boats)/9 a.m. (walkers),  
 coffee & donuts, Bar-B-Q  
 afterwards and great prize  
 drawings.

## 50 Anniversary fundraiser a huge success!

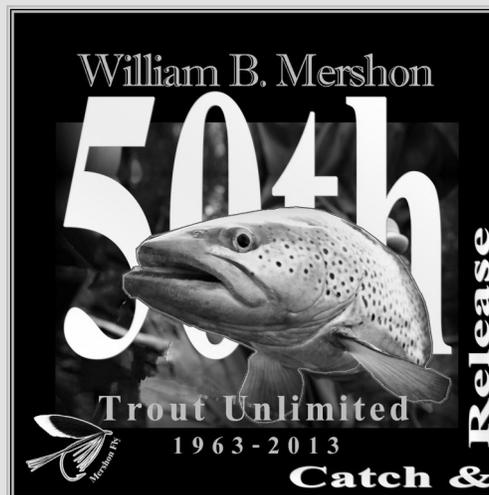
What a great 50th  
 Anniversary banquet we had  
 this year! There are so many  
 highlights I don't know where  
 to begin.

First, we had a fantastic  
 turnout. Two hundred  
 thirty-four people  
 enjoyed a great evening  
 at Horizons Center. And,  
 because everyone  
 generously bid on our  
 prizes, we were able to  
 generate \$20,795 in net  
 profit for use on our  
 streams and rivers.  
 Thanks to everyone who  
 bought something.

We also had great  
 displays of Wm. B.  
 Mershon, the Wanigas

Fly Shop, and the history of  
 our Mershon chapter,  
 reminding us of the rich  
 heritage this chapter enjoys.

Most of our Past Presidents  
 were there, and all received a  
 blue blazer in appreciation of  
 their past service.



On behalf of the  
 banquet committee, I  
 would like to thank  
 everyone who helped  
 make this evening such  
 a success. This evening  
 was possible only  
 because of the  
 generous time of so  
 many volunteers. Thank  
 you for your generous  
 support.

—Don Albrecht,  
 banquet committee  
 chair

## Rifle River Upgrade Initiative—your help is needed

Good things are happening on  
 the Rifle River. Under the  
 direction of Huron Pines, an  
 extensive Rifle River  
 Watershed Management Plan  
 has been developed for the  
 benefit of the resource. With  
 the help of local residents,  
 business leaders, government  
 agencies, recreational units,  
 and conservation interest  
 groups, a Watershed  
 Management Plan Survey has  
 been completed. This  
 included inventory work for  
 road/stream crossings,  
 stream banks, invasive  
 species, agricultural lands,  
 river temperature, and small  
 dams. Also monitored were  
 the stormwater run-off  
 practices of West Branch and  
 Rose City.

Over the next two years,  
 Huron Pines along with local  
 interest groups, landowners,  
 and numerous other partners  
 will be implementing  
 practices to subsequently  
 upgrade the watershed. Uses  
 to be affected include  
 agriculture, industrial/public  
 water supply, navigation,  
 warm/cold water fishery, and  
 body contact recreation. Many  
 of the efforts include  
 volunteer events, and for  
 2013 they include:

- River Clean-up - June 1(Sat)  
 @ 9am
- Stream Monitoring - June 8  
 (Sat) @ 10am-3pm
- Steambank Restoration -  
 June 28(Fri) @ 9am-3pm

- Invasive Species Workshop  
 - July 12(Fri) @ 10am-3pm
- Streambank Restoration -  
 Aug 10(Sat) @ 9am-3pm
- River Habitat Workday -  
 Sept 14(Sat)

For details regarding  
 locations, etc., go to  
[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org) or  
 contact Garrett Noyes (Huron  
 Pines Project Manager) @  
 (989)448-2293x16. It should  
 be noted that the annual  
 Mershon restoration project  
 will be the August 10 event.  
 This is in coordination with  
 Ann Arbor TU, and all hands  
 are needed.

—Bob Spence,  
 chapter director

**Board Meeting Reminder:**

Mershon chapter board does not meet during the summer months, but we will begin meeting again in September. Monthly board meetings are held from 5:30-7:00 pm, the 1st Wednesday of each month.

## A message from our president

It has been an amazing year, with great programs for our members and events to entice new members to join our great organization, as well. But, the real grand event of the year was our 50th year celebration banquet.

We had the vision to have something very special for the 50th: the past-presidents being honored by receiving their sport jackets from Orvis, the establishment of our "Time-Line," with many years of information, and historical information about the man chosen as the namesake of

our chapter, the Wm. B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The banquet was very special, and everyone involved did an outstanding job.

The programs that our chapter has chosen to support are getting it done because of your commitment. Thanks for supporting so many important ventures with your presence and generous spending at the banquet. You are the ones who make our chapter the contributor that it is.

September, our board will begin another year of planning programs for the winter of 2013/2014 and next year's spring banquet. Give last year's board a big hand—they did an outstanding job.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for next year, please pass them on. We are looking forward to serving again for our chapter's and Trout Unlimited's cause.

—Jac Ford  
Mershon chapter president



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## Happy Campers

Three young campers will be attending the Michigan Youth Trout Camp, thanks to support from the Mershon Chapter of TU. Blake Susalski, Carson Newberry, and Austin Newberry each

received sponsorship as well as a complete fly rod and reel outfits at the May board of directors meeting. The boys will learn fly-fishing skills as well as participate in a river restoration project and canoe

trip. The camp, which is open to both boys and girls, runs from July 7-11 at the Ralph MacMullan Center on the shores of Higgins Lake.

## Funding Committee Report

Thanks to the generous support of the chapter's members and friends, conservation-minded organizations will receive important funding to help with various projects. Financial assistance will benefit the development of a watershed management plan for the Rifle River, aquatic insect collecting and cataloging on the Au Sable, sand trap

cleaning and general clean-up on the Au Sable, and the continuation of the long-term habitat improvement through cedar tree planting on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. In addition, monetary support is being provided to the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited to assist in their programs and support of the executive director position. And, the chapter will again be

sponsoring three local youths at the Michigan Youth Trout Camp.

Thanks to all who made this possible.