

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 ◆

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FALL OUTING

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 19th. Starting at 4pm, the chapter will have a fall outing at the Saginaw Gun Club, 9540 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw. Members who like to shoot clay targets will not want to miss this event. Skeet and Trap (\$5 per round of 25), Five Stand (\$5.50 per round of 25), and Sporting Clays (\$20.00 per round of 50) will be available to shoot. Bring your own shotgun and ammo, and have a good time. Eye and ear protection must be worn.

We will have grilled hot-dogs and hamburgers, beans, buns, potato salad and condiments. Pop and water will also be included. All of this for only a \$10 donation. If you want a steak, bring your own. Everyone will be asked to put their own meat on the grill, so it's prime when you want to eat it.

No alcoholic beverages will be provided: Bring your own beer, wine, or whatever if you wish (BYOB).

If you have any questions, contact Dave Case at 989-793-9700 or casedavid531@gmail.com. ◆

A Message From Our President

Greetings. As summer begins, I am looking forward to returning as your president for one more year. We have a great board of directors and advisors, and I am looking forward to working with them again to carrying on the traditions of strong support for our coldwater fisheries in Michigan.

This fall, we are planning an outing at the Saginaw Gun Club, on September 19th. Great shooting, BBQ, and socializing. See more details

in this newsletter. I look forward to meeting you there.

We are also planning to join in on a clean-up day on the AuSable in September. Visit our website for more details on Fall events and other events planned for the year.

As I write this, our weather is cold and rainy, and the bugs are slow to get rolling. I hope when the weather breaks and the bugs start really popping you are able to get out and take advantage of the fine dry-fly fishing opportunities we have in Michigan.

This week, I will find myself guiding clients down the river in search of some hendrickson spinner falls and large trout sipping them in the soft water. Who knows what we will find.

We are so blessed to have this kind of fishing within a couple hours of our doorsteps. So, get out and enjoy the summer. Tight lines!

—Todd Zwetzig,
 Chapter president

Chapter Honors Distinguished Contributions

Each year during the spring banquet, our chapter honors individuals who have made distinguished contributions to the chapter or to the cause of coldwater conservation throughout the year.

This year, honorees included:

David Cozad received the *Harold Kleinert Volunteer of the Year Award* given to a member of the board of directors who provides exemplary service over the course of the chapter year.

Paul Morand received the *Howard Woolever Extended Service Award* in recognition of his long-term contributions to the chapter.

The *Art Neumann General Membership Award* was given

to **Jake Shinnors** in honor of his commitment to the chapter.

The *Rev. Bruce Hatch Resource Professional Award* was bestowed upon **Erick Johnson** of Scientific Anglers for his continued support of the William B. Mershon chapter.

We also had two new awards this year.

Jac Ford received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his 40 plus years of recruiting members through his fly-tying classes.

Josh Schaeding of Maple Grille in Hemlock received an *Appreciation Award* for his generous donation to the William B. Mershon Chapter. If you haven't stopped by his

restaurant, you're missing out! When you do, please thank him for being a great supporter of our chapter. ◆



Jac Ford, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, with chapter president Todd Zwetzig.

Spring banquet nets funds for habitat restoration and improvement projects



Happy attendees.

Our 2019 Mershon spring banquet was a great success, both socially and financially, and a great time was had by all that attended! The SVSU staff provided an outstanding meal and fantastic service. Your banquet committee is already working on plans to return to SVSU next spring for our annual banquet.

A special thanks goes out to those who donated items for our auctions and those of you who purchased items that night. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise over \$15,000 that evening. Much of that money has already been committed to habitat restoration and improvement projects on the Au Sable and Rifle Rivers—

projects that will be carried out this summer.

Our thanks again to all of you who attended and to the banquet committee members who worked so hard to make the evening a success. ♦



The AuSable river clean-up is one of the projects receiving funding this year, because of your generous support.



Chrissy Smith and JoAnn Ford enjoying the evening.



Maple Grill's Josh Schaeding receiving an appreciation award.

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

Officers

President

Todd Zwetzig
989-225-2478
toddzwetzig@gmail.com

Vice-president

Laurie Seibert
1beachteacher@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dave Case
989-642-5286
dsbec53@chartermi.net

Secretary

David Cozad
989-684-7947
benthos1@aol.com

Ever wonder what projects we support?

Each year proceeds from the annual spring banquet are used to fund various conservation and education projects as well as provide funds for the yearly operation of the chapter. Here is a summary of how the monies raised during the 2019 banquet are being dispersed.

MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED REQUESTS FOR FUNDING May 1, 2019

Applicant/Contact	Project	Project Type	Purpose	Mershon Funding
Huron Pines Josh Leisen Project Manager	Reconnecting Trout Streams of Upper Rifle River Watershed	Habitat	Complete 3 road/stream crossing projects to reduce erosion and reconnect habitat	\$1000
Laurie Siebert	Michigan Trout and Conservation School	Education	Fund counselor costs, transportation costs, and other miscellaneous costs	\$1400
Cedars for the Au Sable Howard Johnson	Upper Au Sable and Manistee Rivers cedar plantings	Habitat	Funds requested to purchase northern white-cedar seedling and protective enclosures for planting	\$500
MITU Council Greg Walz	MITU State Initiatives	MITU Support	Support for the social, legislative and environmental work performed on your behalf by MITU's professional staff, Executive Director Bryan Burroughs and Aquatic Ecologist Kristin Thomas.	\$1000
Trout Unlimited MI Property Management Board David Cozad	Replacement of the Pine/Spite Rd. Stairway	Habitat	Stairway replacement to maintain access to the Au Sable River and mitigate erosion	\$1000
Anglers of the Au Sable John Dallas	Au Sable River Annual Clean Up	Habitat	Purchase materials related to the annual Au Sable Clean Up Project (Lower River Cleanup)	\$350
Mason-Griffith TU Karen Harrison	Storm Drain Labeling w/Grayling Middle School	Habitat	Education and water quality	\$350
Total Funding				\$5600