

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



Important Dates:

- **August 20th, 2011**
Rifle River Restoration Project
 Contact: Bob Spence at 989-799-6617 or rssp2@chartermi.net
- **September 7, 2011**
Fall board meetings begin
 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Gander Mountain, Saginaw

Summertime on the Rifle: Save the date

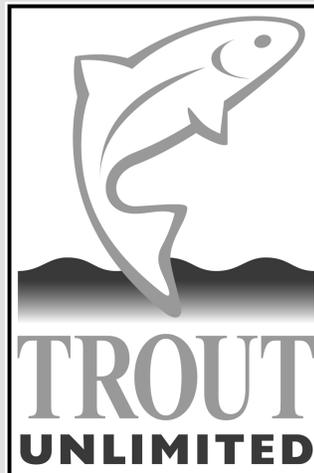
August 20th is the planned date for this year's Rifle River restoration project. At this time, the site is yet to be chosen, but further information will be forthcoming as the results of a recent erosion site inventory are analyzed. This summer there will also be an opportunity to take part in an electroshock fish survey to be done on the Rifle or its tributaries. If interested in helping with any of these projects, please email pmorand@mershon-tu.org to be put on a list. Further information about both of these opportunities will be available later this summer at www.mershon-tu.org.

Spring fundraising nets funds and fun

The 48th Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet, held on Friday, April 8th, was well attended and enjoyed by all. Guests enjoyed the presentation by Mr. Dean Robb, performing his "one-man show" impersonating Mark Twain.

The many events and drawings at the banquet produced a net profit of over \$14,000. Jamie O'Keefe won the Weatherby Rifle, and Don Meyer won the Orvis Rod Outfit donated by Little Forks Outfitters . . . after the first winner, Don Albrecht allowed a second drawing to take place. Many great prizes found new homes during the

live action conducted by Ross Rosenbrock. The chapter's directors will now decide how the money from the fundraising banquet can be best used to enhance the



watersheds in northern Michigan.

The banquet committee would like to thank each and every person who helped to make this year's banquet a success. Each of the board members and advisors made a personal donation to help support the banquet, and many of them worked to help out on the evening of the banquet. Also, many other chapter members and friends of the chapter helped, too, with other duties during the event. Thanks to all for your help. See you next year.

Howard N. Johnson,
 banquet chairman

Meanders: a few thoughts from the president

Summertime Greetings,

It's been another busy year for the chapter. We've continued our fish dinners and educational social events, worked on restoration projects on the Rifle and Au Sable Rivers, provided instruction, guidance and fishing opportunities to veterans through our chapter's Project Healing Waters commitment, and initiated a new water temperature monitoring project on the Rifle River and

its tributaries. We've also begun work identifying the worst erosion sites on the Rifle. During this time the chapter has also increased its membership . . . not an easy task given the economics of the day.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed in some way to make the past year so successful. I'd especially like to thank the chapter board members and advisors, as well as all chapter members, for helping to make the past year so productive. I look forward to continued work on

behalf of the coldwater resources in Michigan; but for now, I'm going to enjoy this time when the living is easy, and I suggest you do so as well.

Paul Morand
 President, Mershon Chapter TU

Michigan Youth Trout Camp is sponsored by the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of TU, and is open to boys and girls from 12 to 16 years old. For details, go to www.kvctu.org or phone Bill Adams, Mershon chapter camp coordinator.

Trout camp youth outfitted and ready to go!

This year, the Mershon chapter is fortunate to be sponsoring three young campers at the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter's annual trout camp, held each summer at the DNR Center on the shores of Higgins Lake. While there, the campers will participate in fly-tying and casting activities, trout fishing, stream

restoration, and canoe down one of the local rivers. The participants were each given a complete fly-fishing outfit, complements of L.L. Bean and Bo Brines of Little Forks Outfitters at the May board of directors meeting, so they should be ready to hit the stream in search of accommodating trout.

Congratulations to this year's campers: Adam Nowak, Erich Freeman, and Max Moore. Hope you have fun, and we look forward to a full report in the fall.

Dick Walle's presence already missed

The passing of Dick Walle was truly being felt this spring as I swept a soft-hackle wet fly across and down stream, as Dick taught me many years ago. Dick was famous for tying and teaching fishermen about soft-hackle wet flies. Many years ago, Dick came up to Saginaw and conducted one of his instructional seminars for the members of the Mershon chapter.

Dick Walle passed away at his home in Toledo on December 30, 2010, after a brief illness. Dick is survived by Judy, his wife of 28 years. Together, Dick and Judy originated the popular cancer survivor's

program called "Reeling and Healing," in both Michigan and northern Ohio.

Dick was a member of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, and the Au Sable River Property Owners Association, where he sat on the board of directors. Judy and Dick enjoyed their cabin on the Au Sable's main stream, where you could find Dick wading the stream—under his signature "wide-brimmed, off-white cowboy hat," covered with past year's favorite flies.

A memorial service is being planned on July 16, 2011, in the Grayling area. Please contact Howard N. Johnson at hjohnson@aol.com for details as they become available.



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

Funding Committee Report

It is through fundraising banquets that the chapter gathers the financial resources to support the mission of Trout Unlimited. One of our founding fathers eloquently described the philosophy of Trout Unlimited in part as "what's good for trout is good for trout fisherman". Mr. Neumann's words were true then and they are certainly true today. What's good for trout is clean cold water flowing over a pristine river bed. Our task then is not only to safeguard

those places supporting thriving trout populations, but to work to improve them to guarantee their sustainability.

I am proud to report that the Mershon Chapter had a very successful banquet this year and thus will be able to lend financial support to many organizations working towards these coldwater resource goals. This year, nearly \$6000 will be distributed to organizations to help create a watershed management plan for the

Rifle River, send three enthusiastic campers to the KVCTU Trout Camp, plant cedar trees along the Au Sable, clean up the Au Sable, reduce sedimentation on the Au Sable North Branch, support our involvement in the River Keepers Program, and work to improve stream habitat through the placement of large woody debris. Many thanks to the banquet committee for making this possible and to all attendees for your generous support.