

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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Important Dates:

- **June 9, 2012**
*Rifle River
 Habitat & Stream Monitoring*
- **August 18, 2012**
*Rifle River Streambank
 Restoration Project*

Contact: Abby Ertel, Huron Pines Watershed Project Manager, abby@huronpines.org and Paul Morand at pmorand@mershon-tu.org.

Saturday, June 9th, is the HABITAT & STREAM MONITORING EVENT

Saturday, June 9th, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Stream professionals will be on site to teach volunteers how to collect important river information. Road/stream crossings impact streams negatively by allowing excess sand to enter the water, as well as prevent fish from moving upstream to spawn. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how Michigan rivers form, and to help collect data that will be used to determine changes in stream habitat after a restoration project occurs.

Fundraising banquet nets funds for conservation

The Mershon chapter recently held its 49th Annual Fundraising Banquet. This year's banquet attracted well over 100 attendees who were treated to a sumptuous meal, great auction prizes, raffles, and bid items, and an entertaining presentation by Robb and Chrissy Smith about their gustatory and fishing pleasures in Chile. Another of the night's highlights was a live auction for a trip to Chile through Expediciones Coyhaique, donated by Dr. Antonio Vasquez. Overall, nearly \$13,000 was raised to support the chapter and its conservation-minded activities. Thanks to all the generous contributors.

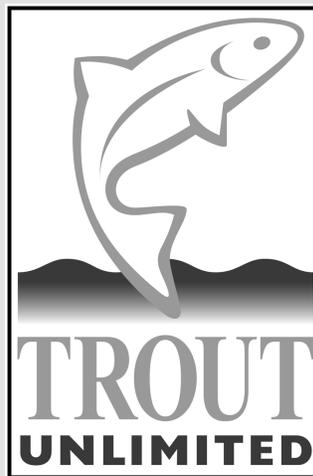
During the annual business meeting, Jim Lewis and Ralph Omness were elected as new

members of the Board of Directors, and updates to the chapter's bylaws were approved by the general membership. At this time, Jac Ford was also introduced as the new chapter president,

effective with the May board of directors meeting.

Lastly, the banquet provided an opportunity to recognize chapter members for their contributions. Allan Larsen received the Art Neumann General Membership Award, Don Albrecht the Harold Kleinert Volunteer of the Year Award, and Bo Brines received the Reverend Bruce Hatch Resource Professional Award. Congratulations to all and a sincere thank you on behalf of the chapter.

Plans are already underway for next year's banquet. We will be celebrating our 50th Annual Fundraising Banquet and special events and prizes are being planned in honor of the momentous occasion. We hope and **expect** to see you there!



Mershon summer work projects—we need your help!

Two opportunities are available for chapter members to put on their waders and work gloves and lend a hand this summer. The Mershon Chapter will again be teaming up with Huron Pines to continue with the development and implementation of the Rifle River Watershed Restoration Plan. Huron Pines, in conjunction with local landowners, public interest groups, governmental agencies, and conservation organizations like the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited have identified approximately 4000 acres of ecologically sensitive lands, inventoried

over 450 road crossings and erosion sites, cataloged sites containing invasive species, and restored 300 feet of stream bank.....all in a little over one year! This year's project's include:

What: Rifle River Habitat and Stream Monitoring

When: June 9, 2012
 10:00am-3:00pm

Why: Habitat data (stream characteristics, macroinvertebrates, etc) will be collected on Prior Creek to serve as baseline data prior to a road crossing improvement project

What: Rifle River Stream Bank Restoration Project

When: August 18, 2012
 9:00 am-2:30 pm

Why: Repair of erosion sites contributing to sedimentation

If interested in attending any of these events, *and we need the help so please consider lending a hand*, please RSVP to Abby Ertel, Huron Pines Watershed Project Manager, abby@huronpines.org and Paul Morand at pmorand@mershon-tu.org.

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

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

Officers

President
Jac Ford
781-0997 (H/FAX)
canglers@aol.com

Vice-president
To be announced

Treasurer
Dave Case
642-5286
dsbec53@chartermi.net

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

A message from our president

Foremost, is a round of applause for our past president, Paul Morand, for being an outstanding friend, leader, and mentor for everyone involved with the Wm. M. Mershon Chapter the past three and one half years. Paul managed every program with the same amount of enthusiasm, creating a process that had very high standards. He also wrote the most enjoyable and informational "president messages."

The next two years will be exciting. We will not only continue to have our award-winning Muddler newsletters, classes, grin-and-grub outings, Walleye dinners, involvement in Rifle River projects, and grand banquets in the spring, but, we will be celebrating the chapter's FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY next spring. Yes, our chapter started in 1963. Our chapter's board and advisors have already met to begin the opportunity of making this celebration at our 2013 banquet the finest ever.

At the 50th anniversary banquet, we will be honoring all of the past presidents of this great chapter. It is through their strong leadership that this chapter has remained a leader in fishery conservation activities in Michigan, while consistently maintaining chapter activities to grow and support them. The banquet



theme for 2013 will be to recognize these fine people. We will have much about our chapter's successes and special items pertinent to the 50th Anniversary.

Our chapter continues to remember our never-ending leader, Art Neumann's, commitment to "take care of

the rivers and you will be taking care of the fishery." With that thought and focus in mind, we will continue to be leaders.

After many years of directing our Mershon Muddler, Craig Bublitz is stepping down as director of this fine paper. He has done a remarkable job in managing each addition. With his direction, the Muddler continued to grow. He will be missed.

Paul Morand and Todd Zwetzig have graciously volunteered to take over as communication chairmen, and will be directing the Muddler, as well as updating our communications through other means as well.

If you have any thoughts, questions, or ideas, they will only be heard and acted on if you contact me at 989-280 3238 or CAnglers@aol.com, or any other officers or board members.

—Jac Ford
Mershon chapter president

Funding Committee Report

It is through fundraising banquets that the chapter gathers the financial resources to support the mission of Trout Unlimited. Our task 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 \$8500 will be distributed to organizations to help continue the implementation of a watershed management plan for the Rifle River and gather data concerning the health of the system, send three enthusiastic campers to the KVCTU Trout Camp, plant cedar trees along the Au Sable, clean up the Au Sable and Rifle Rivers, continue habitat restoration projects on

the Rifle, support Michigan Trout Unlimited, and work to improve stream habitat in the Sturgeon and Pigeon Rivers.

Thanks to the banquet committee for making this possible and to all contributors and attendees for your generous support.