

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:

Saturday, June 27
**Rifle River Streambank
 Stabilization Project**

The site will be accessed at
 2668 Rifle River Trail,
 Prescott, MI

Register for this event at
volunteernorthernmichigan.org

Saturday, Sept 19th
Fall Rifle River Clean-Up

Watch the Mershon chapter
 website for more details.

**Mershon Chapter Monthly
 Board Meetings**

1st Wednesday each month

5:30-7:00 pm,
 at Case Funeral Home,
 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw
(No meetings during summer months)

Fall Board Meeting Dates:

September 2, 2015
 October 7, 2015
 November 4, 2015

Rifle River summer work project this weekend!

Join Huron Pines and the William B. Mershon and Ann Arbor chapters of Trout Unlimited on **SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH, FROM 10AM-3PM**, to help protect the Rifle River by reducing excessive inputs of sediment. We will be working on a project to stabilize the streambank by securing whole trees to the streambank and planting

native vegetation. Lunch, t-shirts and equipment will be provided for all volunteers. Volunteers should expect a moderate to heavy activity level and bring a water bottle, work gloves, and waders (if possible).

Directions to the project site from West Branch, MI:

Head east on M-55 for 8.5

miles. Turn right on Rifle River Trail. The project location is located 1.3 miles south at 2668 Rifle River Trail.

To participate, register at:
volunteernorthernmichigan.org
 or contact Huron Pines at (989) 448-2293 ext. 21 or rsvp@huronpines.org. ◆

2015 spring banquet nets funds for habitat restoration and improvement efforts

Our 2015 Mershon spring banquet was both a social and financial success, and we can safely say a good time was had by all! The Horizons staff provided an outstanding meal, and Brush Street provided musical entertainment that everyone enjoyed. Your banquet committee has already begun planning to try to make next year's banquet an equally enjoyable event.

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 \$12,000 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.

A big thanks is also due to the banquet committee members who worked so hard to make our spring banquet a success. If you would like to help the banquet committee plan next year's banquet, we would certainly welcome your input. Just call Jim Lewis at 989-751-0344 or send an email to jim_lewis@chartermi.net, and we will contact you for our next meeting in September. Please think about joining. We need your input. ◆

A message from our president

Where is the time going? June is rapidly leaving us, and the days will soon be getting shorter! For me, because of a couple things in my life, spring and early summer fishing took a back

seat to other things. And when that happens, I always say, "I wish the summer would slow down." But, it doesn't, so all one can do is try to squeeze a day in here and there. And, when I do, I find

that the time on the stream becomes even more special. It's not about the fish. It's about the entire resource—the beautiful stream, the hills, trees, birds, AND the fish.

(Continued on page 2)

Watersheds and wild places are home for North America's coldwater fisheries. By working in partnership with key players, Trout Unlimited strives to protect these places for future generations of anglers.

Fall Rifle River clean-up date announced

The Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to announce a new work opportunity on the Rifle River. We will be sponsoring a river clean-up on the Rifle River on **Saturday, September 19th.**

Mike Bachelder has been gracious enough to allow us to use his home on the bank of the river as our meeting and ending place. Mike is located on Gerald Miller Rd, in Selkirk, just south of State Rd.

A BBQ at Mike's house will follow the clean-up. Food and drinks will be provided.

Look for more details on the Mershon website as the date approaches in the Fall. ♦

Mershon funding committee report

Thanks to the generous support of Mershon chapter members, the chapter is providing financial support to projects involving conservation, education, and research. In total, ten different organizations or individuals were granted funds.

We are happy to support new Salmon in the Classroom programs, Rifle River restoration projects, participation in the KVCTU trout camp for 3 teens, and invasive species eradication programs on the Au Sable, among other worthwhile projects.

Over ten thousand dollars will be donated to grant recipients, and all is due to the funds raised during our annual spring banquet. Look for more details in upcoming issues of the Muddler. ♦

President's message, continued

My most memorable fishing trip this spring is one that I will never forget the rest of my life, and I never landed a fish. We were streamer fishing, and the water was high and the day bright, which kind of leads one to think it is not going to be a great day. But, this was the first time I fished with Steve and found him to be a great young man with lots of enthusiasm. Conversation with Steve on the way to the river got me all excited about fishing, no matter how it turned out. I could see it was going to be a great day. Without going into a lot of detail, after we started fishing memorable things started to happen. Let's just say an hour into a 7 hour float I was like a fish, looking UP at the surface of the water! Lesson 1 I learned a long time ago - always bring dry clothes. After a couple of

laughs and a change of clothes we continued on fishing. We rolled a couple of really nice fish, but couldn't get one to stick on the hook. Oh well, that is fishing. Then four hours into the float I did something I have never done in 25 years of fly fishing - I decided to see what the bottom of the stream looked like up close and personal AGAIN. Twice in one day. It's good the first pair of cloths had a chance to dry out before I needed them again. Now I'm REALLY embarrassed, The worst part of falling in was I was only half way through a really good cigar. I didn't lose it, but it sure didn't want to burn any more. After rolling a couple more really nice fish, we decided to quit for the day. In terms of fish - a poor day. In terms of friendship, laughter, lunch, and memories it was one for the record books.

All this brings me to my point. We are all partners in a wonderful sport that brings good people together to share great experiences and make memories. This is only possible if we take care of that wonderful resource we so dearly love. I hope some of you get a chance to come out and work on our stream restoration project on the Rifle River. It's our chapter's mission to help keep that a place to share with our friends, children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

Have a great summer and see you in the fall.

Don Albrecht, chapter president

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

Officers

President

Don Albrecht
989-245-5819

Albrecht.don@sbcglobal.net

Vice-president

Donald Meyer
642-9093

donalddmeyer@aol.com

Treasurer

Dave Case
642-5286

dsbec53@chartermi.net

Secretary

Kris Cincinelli
989-793-6712

fishingkris@yahoo.com