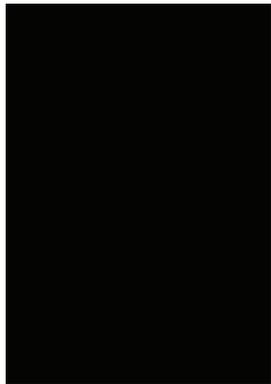


A LOCAL CHAPTER OF
 AMERICA'S LEADING NONPROFIT
 COLDWATER FISHERIES
 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

THE MERSHON
MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited* ◆

Meanders
 A few thoughts from
 the president



Dan Keane, president

Can summer really be gone? Now that the snow has begun to fly we again have very tangible proof that the season is really passing. This is just another part of the cycle we see each year.

Our Mershon Chapter leadership is also changing. Effective this past September, Mark Neumeier has stepped down as our treasurer. Being active on the board of directors, Mark has served as treasurer (only our third ever) for over five and a half years. He has provided outstanding administration of all financial and accounting activities. Mark has been a familiar icon at all chapter functions usually managing the cashbox and business activities before enjoying the evening. When you see Mark at future events (hopefully relaxing), please let him know that his efforts have always been appreciated. Thank you Mark for all of your diligence to detail and hard work on behalf of the William B. Mershon Chapter of TU.

Taking on the treasurer's role behind Mark is Bo Brines. Also in a new leadership role is Dr. Scott Woodbury, who assumed the position of chapter secretary late this past summer. So when you see Scott or Bo, be sure to say hello and thank them for all of their effort. The chapter work does not get done without these individuals along with many others on the board.

We spent money and lots of sweat equity this past season on other chapter grass-roots work aimed at habitat improvement and restoration. On the Rifle River near the Ogemaw County campgrounds, chairman Harold Kleinert was assisted by Rob Smith and Chris Radke in leading over thirty volunteers. This was an extremely big project to repair bank-side erosion and stream degradation on that one sight, with many more to go. Restoration work was conducted over two weekends in July and August. On the Au Sable River, chairman Mel Gricar lead over a dozen volunteers on a woody debris project that put tons of old trees in the North Branch to stabilize banks, provide habitat improvement, and enhance the over-all aquatic habitat for trout. Mel also coordinated chapter volunteers that

(See Meanders, page 4)

FEBRUARY						
	S	M	T	W	T	F S
	JANUARY					
4	S	M	T	W	T	F S
11	DECEMBER					
	7	S	M	T	W	T F S
18	14	31			1	2
25	21	3	4	5	6	7 8 9
	28	10	11	12	13	14 15 16
		17	18	19	20	21 22 23
		24	25	26	27	28 29 30

Calendar of Events

JANUARY WALLEYE DINNER
Monday, January 15 ~ 5:00 p.m.
 American Legion Hall,
 5190 Weiss, Saginaw



MARCH WALLEYE DINNER
Monday, March 12 ~ 5:00 p.m.
 American Legion Hall,
 5190 Weiss, Saginaw

HAROLD KLEINERT RECOGNITION
 LUNCHEON
Wednesday, February 14
 Saginaw Club



FLY TYING & FLY FISHING CLASSES
Tuesday/Wednesday for 4 weeks
starting January 16 & 17
 Swan Valley High School

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MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

January Walleye Dinner

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2001
American Legion Hall, 5190 Weiss, Saginaw

Cocktails at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring
Steve Sendek
fisheries biologist
speaking about the Au Sable River Project

For more information contact:
John Bumstead at 754-8181
Rich Kemerer at 776-7258



March Walleye Dinner

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2001
American Legion Hall, 5190 Weiss, Saginaw

Cocktails at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring
Steven Stallard
"A Two-Year Journey with the Atlantic Salmon"

For more information contact:
Chris Radke at 249-6420
Robb Smith at 893-3792



Tickets for both dinners are \$12 advance/\$15 at the door
Mail \$12 for advance tickets to:
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 1555
Saginaw, MI 48605-1555

Chapter advisor Harold Kleinert honored on February 14

Please join your fellow chapter members to honor Harold Kleinert for his lifetime of achievements in cold-water conservation.

A luncheon has been planned for Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at the Saginaw Club. Trout Unlimited members and state/local

agency members will join together to reminisce and acknowledge Harold's many accomplishments. Please contact project chair Howard N. Johnson (517-753-6373) for additional details and reservations. ♦

Fly tying and Fly fishing classes set for January

by Peter Jones,
Mershon Chapter advisor

For more than 20 years, the Mershon chapter has offered fly tying and fly fishing classes. These inexpensive classes—which are designed for the novice fly-fisherman—are similar to others taught by TU costing several hundred dollars.

This year the classes will be taught by Mershon chapter advisor Peter Jones, with the assistance of several other chapter members.

Participants in the fly tying class learn step-by-step fly tying methods using videos developed for the class, as well as individual instruction. When you have

completed the class, you will have been exposed to the basic techniques necessary to tie most flies successfully.

Participants tie the following flies: Green Caddis Pupa, Hares-Ear nymph, Comparadun, Elk Hair Caddis, Roberts Yellow Drake, parachute and standard Adams, Egg-Suckin-Leech, floating mayfly emerger, and a poly-wing mayfly spinner. Equipment, materials, and use of the flies are discussed. And, of course, there are the usual fishing lies.

The fly fishing class is a basic class for people who have little or no knowledge of fly fishing or casting. The class teaches the concept of fly fishing and casting; how to use a rod, reel, backing, line, tippet, and flies; what the fish sees below and above the water; how to read and fish a river; and trout food (emergence chart for Michigan) and hatches. Students first hone their skills with a fly-o, then spend time in the school's gym casting with fly

rods. Each year the fly rods are furnished by Little Forks Outfitters in Midland.

Both classes will be held at Swan Valley High School beginning Tuesday, January 16 and Wednesday, January 17, 2001, for four weeks.

Youth, as well as adults, are invited to attend. There is a \$30 fee for the class. If you are interested in either of these classes, contact the Swan Valley Community Education office at 921-2471, or contact Peter Jones at 517-753-3984. ♦

Meanders *(cont. from page 1)*

participated on the now annual river clean up held in early September.

If you are a Chapter member or otherwise receive this newsletter and are interested in working on future projects, or are willing to be active on our Board of Directors, we

want to hear from you. After all, our grass-roots strength really does come from the membership. Again, if you have any interests, please let any board member know who you are and how we can get in touch with you.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending all of the upcoming chapter events. These

Walleye dinners are designed to support our mission and transition through the winter into the next part of the cycle—Spring and another Trout opener.

I thank you all for your support of Trout Unlimited

—Dan Keane
President

The Au Sable River has already been through at least one major ecological disaster, at least from the grayling's point of view. And a group of property owners and volunteers are doing what they can, tree by tree, to prevent another one.

Back in the logging era, cedar trees that once created a canopy over the Au Sable made the river beautiful, kept the water cool, and provided a haven for the grayling, a type of trout that was native to the river and thrived in huge numbers. But the trees got chopped down, fishermen came in droves, and eventually the grayling, which was so common and so popular that the city borrowed its name, was gone.

Today, there are cousin species to the grayling in Wisconsin, a few Western states, and northern Canada from Hudson Bay to the Pacific. But Grayling has no grayling.

A group of like-minded people who live on or near the river are worried that a similar change could threaten the brook trout that were planted in the river decades ago and the essential nature of the river.

For the past 30 years or so, members of the Au Sable River System Property Owners Association say, the number of deer in the area has grown. While that has been good for hunters, it hasn't been good for the river.

The problem is that the deer like to munch on the saplings of the northern white cedar, a tree that has grown in along the banks and now provides shade, cover for the trout, and the serenity and beauty that draws so many people.

The deer like the saplings so much, in fact, that there has been a significant decrease in the number of young trees over the years, which means there will be fewer and fewer mature cedars in the

future to provide shade, stem erosion, and provide cover for trout.

Instead of just throwing up their hands, the property owners have decided to do something about it and mounted an effort a few years ago to plant new trees, protect them from hungry deer until they can take care of themselves, and reforest their river.

For \$15, river property owners receive planting kits that include 10 northern white cedar seedlings, fencing to keep out the deer, wooden stakes, and planting instructions. For trees that have already outgrown the kit, six-foot enclosures are \$3. In three years the program has been responsible for planting and protecting 3,500 seedlings.

That's a lot of trees and a lot of effort. But both are dwarfed by the work that still needs to be done and the commitment that will be needed to see the it through.

Because the northern white cedar is a slow-growing, long-lived tree, it will take years for the seedlings to become saplings and more years for them to mature enough to survive the deer. Only then will they be moved to the river where they can become part of the natural cycle.

While that might not seem long in nature, for the people who have taken on the task it is a commitment that will last as long as there are hungry deer to eat cedar saplings, which could be a very long time indeed. ♦

Friends and neighbors help take care of the river

This editorial first appeared in the July 27, 2000 Traverse City Record-Eagle.

The Magic Pond

by Scott Drake

Scott Drake is a fly fishing enthusiast, writer, and Editor-and-Chief of the student publication Fusion '99. He is currently studying English at Michigan State University.

This essay was the first place winner at the Winter 2000 Local League for Innovation Student Literary Competition, and the first place winner at the Spring 2000 National League for Innovation Student Literary Competition.

During the whole of a blue and golden September day, I'd worked the river. Yet, I was fishless, and no matter what time of year, this wasn't a characteristic of the normally generous North Branch. I sat on the river's bank befuddled, eavesdropping on the current's ceaseless conversations and wondering if I'd taken the river for granted. I couldn't recall a time when I'd failed to catch even a wizened brook or brown trout from its frigid waters.

Observing numerous newfallen leaves scuttling against the river's surface, I started questioning my fall fishing tactics. Customarily on the North Branch, my strategy consisted of two droppers and a combination of brightly hued wet flies fished loosely swinging in the downstream current, like Saturday night hookers waiting for some action. This usually took a fish or two. I was indeed perplexed.

I hadn't paid a call to the North Branch since earlier that spring, just a few weeks before old Bill Koernke passed on. He would've had an inclination as to why I wasn't hooking any trout, for he understood the North Branch like no other. Bill had operated a tiny fly shop on the main road that paralleled the river. It was quaint, with an odor of cheap cigars that penetrated every crack of the place; including anyone who'd walk in. He'd run it since-well, as long as I can remember, and I'd been badgering him for thirteen years.

Bill lived life with a passion for trout fishing that was as deep-felt as the deepest pools in his beloved North Branch. As I sat listening to the river, I closed my eyes and framed a picture of Bill in my mind. I imagined him hunched over his counter clutching a cup of coffee in his wrinkled hand; his face weathered folds of ruddy peeks and valleys from years of the sun's impinging rays. I envisioned his

queer, bulbous glazed eyes (it was obvious he had cataracts, and was possibly half blind, but he'd never admit to it) that were surprisingly warm, like a late night cup of tea. Then, I beheld the remainder of his teeth, which were crooked, rotted, and stained a dark-brown color; most likely from a life spent sucking on cheap cigars.

Bill had an obsession with those dime-a-dozen cigars. If someone were to bring him a top-notch stogie he'd politely say, "thank you sir. I'll be savin' this one for a bit later." Then, without hesitation, he'd proudly wedge one of his King Elcheapo's between a vacant spot in his teeth and spark it up grinning wryly, wheeling through his shop puffing away like a vintage iron horse. Shaking my imaginative trance, I realized they don't spit them out like Bill anymore.

Now Bill didn't run your typical fly fishing establishment. He was generally an inviting fellow; however, he did have his own personal set of fishing morals. As a matter of fact, if someone dropped into his shop with a dim-witted question or know-it-all attitude, he'd sternly call them a "flatlander son-of-a-bitch"-lickety-split-and then move to kick them out on their ear.

A few years back I was visiting Bill and a couple of young kids swaggered into his shop looking for what they described as a "small brass cowbell."

First, Bill diplomatically queried, "what on god's great earth you lookin' for one a them for?"

The taller of the two kids slicked back his unkempt hair and said, "well, we're gonna be tossing back a few beers and we need a bell to put on the tip of our fishing poles. Y'know. So if we're not paying attention we can hear when a trout grabs our worms."

"Worms!" Bill fired back.

"You boy's mind takin' a step out side and readin' my sign for a goddamn minute? Then come back in askin' that one more time!"

With eyes like eggs sunny-side-up, they both proceeded to backtrack out the front door to read Bill's sign: Bill's Au Sable Rod & Fly Shop. Both kids looked at each other quizzically, shrugged their shoulders, and came back in. The taller of the two asked, "well, do you have any brass cowbells or what-old-timer?"

I braced myself, looked away, and closed my eyes.

Bill, like a verbal semiautomatic weapon, started shooting down those two kids with a barrage of obscenities. "You dumb ass, goddamn flatlander son's-of-this here's a ROD AND FLY SHOP!" he barked. I quietly listened as the two kids, who didn't attempt to quarrel with Bill, bolted out the door, slipped into their car, and hastily zipped down the road.

Opening my eyes and taking a deep breath, I casually turned toward Bill, nodded my head, and said, "good day, Bill. Fish to be caught," and then skedaddled.

As I was backing out of Bill's parking lot, I caught a glimpse of him through the dusty cobwebbed window of his shop. He was smiling from ear to ear and beginning to lick the end of a torpedo shaped stogie. Then, seemingly shuffling through the shop looking for a light, he accidentally caught his foot under a floor rug and nearly toppled over. All I could do is shake my head and laugh loudly to myself, "Bill, Bill, Bill."

I was never graced with an opportunity to actually fish with Bill, but I've often imagined what a joy it would've been. I wonder how many seasons he trudged through the same quagmire, riffles, watercress beds, and myriad small

stream channels that strayed off only to meld together again forming the main river which lead to the very spot where I sat. A spot, which Bill finally disclosed to me during what turned out to be our final conversation last spring. I'd been pestering Bill over the years about where he'd caught the monstrous seven-pound brown trout he had mounted on his shop wall. He'd never told me until that very last day.

"Ah, now here comes a hearty fisherman," Bill shouted from behind the smoke clouds of one of his stink-sticks.

"Pleasure to see you, Bill. How's the fishing been?" I asked.

"Pretty damn slow. Been cold yet this spring for my old bones."

"Cold! Didn't you hook into that whopper brownie up there on the wall during a cool spring day like this one?"

"Yes sir. But that was down below the old rock dam. Pass the spreads in that deep pool that rests between those white pines. It's a nice and cozy spot. Them tall pines keep that blisterin' wind from biting down on you. Ain't nobody who can muster up the wantin' to go down the river that far by foot. Y'know? To get to that spot."

I was stupefied. I couldn't tell if his memory had slipped up or he was flat out imparting one of his most cherished secrets. I couldn't make a sound.

Bill, filling his mug with the last bit of coffee from the pot continued, "someone oughta take a fish down to that spot some time. Cuz you never know what might be lurkin' in and around that deep magic pool." He slowly turned and vanished into the shadows of his small back room partition.

I waited for a moment, not knowing exactly what to say or do.

A few minutes passed and I saw Bill in the front yard of his shop. He hobbled towards a

weathered wooden bench and took a seat.

Puzzled, I exited the shop and yelled, "good day, Bill."

Bill looked up with his fishbowl eyes, flipped back his head, and took the last swig of his coffee. He flicked the remainder of his cigar on the ground, squashed it into the earth with the heel of his shoe, and said, "good luck, son."

Still fishless, I listened as the unending sounds of the river's flow unraveled. I watched as a fire-red leaf landed on the surface of Bill's magic pool. It danced and spun around from the tickle of the current only to disappear around the downstream bend. I stood up, snipped off my wet flies, broke down my fishing rod, and began the task of working my way back upstream. Now that old Bill was gone, maybe part of the North Branch was too. ♦

Fishing letters

Back Packing

This is another in a series of letters to appear in the Muddler. Although originally published in June 1959, the tips in this letter are as fresh and timely now as the day it was penned.

If you're the kind of person who's always pushing ahead, wondering what's around the next bend - if you relish a challenge and revel in the satisfaction of accomplishment - if rivers and trees, mountains and wildlife mean more than power and lumber, minerals and food - if you cherish the companionship of good friends - if roaring streams and whispering pines, a chattering squirrel and a crackling fire untie the knots and sooth your soul - if sand and smoke, flies and ants are seasoning in your food - if one wild trout out-values a whole season of tame ones - if your heavy load makes a lighter heart, then, almost surely, you are a back packer.

But notice, no mention is made of age, physique or financial status. These are not necessary qualifications. The smallest, the oldest and the poorest man can still be a back packer. But a love for the outdoors, an urge to explore and a dogged determination to succeed are valuable talents. Almost all of us qualify and most of us like the idea but few of us have given it a try. I got started more or less by accident. Through chief Dan Pine of the Garden River Indian Reservation we learned of a way into the wonderful Garden River. It meant a six mile hike over the mountain with a pack on our back to get there but we'd been down the river by canoe, knew firsthand of its breathtaking beauty and longed for more of its excellent trout fishing. So it naturally followed that in September of that year we made our first assault on the Garden. I hope this article will save you a measure of the time, the toil and the tears that was wasted that first trip. We knew little about the area, less about equipment and nothing about carrying the load. The result was a disappointing, relatively unsuccessful trip. But it did serve one useful purpose. It made up my mind to search out and test everything necessary for efficient,

enjoyable back packing. It took several years but I succeeded and herewith is a report of my findings. Let's start from the beginning.

Successful back packing is a combination of three things—the correct equipment, a knowledge of how to use it and, finally, where to go. The first, proper equipment, is the critical link in the chain for without it, not only is back packing unpleasant, it is practically impossible. Good equipment costs no more than cheap equipment for, almost without exception, it is design rather than price that makes one item perfect and another worthless. All good back packing equipment has three things in common—lightness, durability and utility. In some items, like food, weight is of utmost importance. In others, durability and utility mean more. Regardless, no piece of equipment should be selected that will not perfectly do the job expected of it. This is especially true of a pack rack, the most important piece of equipment in the entire outfit. A poor rack can exhaust you in an hour. A good one actually makes back packing a pleasure. We started with a converted surplus army ammunition bag but soon discarded it. Then followed a trial and error period that ended with our discovery of the Himalayan Mt. Everest assault pack, the absolute ultimate in fine pack racks. It was designed for and used in the historic conquest of Mt. Everest. It is made of aluminum and heavy canvas and weighs only two pounds. Its design features a base platform for pack building that provides complete flexibility of center of gravity loading, a wide base back support that pushes the load up from the hips, conveniently placed tie-down loops for universal lashing of the load with a minimum of cord and knots, adjustable and flexible shoulder harness, and the deluxe model can even be converted into a chair for camp use. I cannot stress strongly enough

the importance of the pack rack. You may cut corners elsewhere but go the limit on a pack rack. Buy the finest made. Buy a Himalayan.

Next on the list comes the pack sack into which one stows his gear and which, in turn, is secured to the pack rack. While any durable canvas sack or duffle bag will do, one especially designed to fit your rack is best. In the case of Himalayan pack sacks, they are constructed with an extra piece of webbing on the back side that permits the sack to be hung from the top of the rack and is easily removed when the rack is made into a chair. They are large and roomy and one model has a zipper closed pouch on the outside for items like camera, first aid kit and parka that might be needed in a hurry. In assembly they make a comfortable, efficient unit that leaves absolutely nothing to be desired.

Regardless of the lightness of the load or the ease of carry, a day spent hiking in the wilderness will leave even the most durable weary and ready for bed. If one hopes to continue on the morrow or even enjoy the fruits of the previous day's labors, a good night's rest is an absolute necessity. So when choosing a sleeping unit, give serious consideration to sleeping comfort, weight and warmth. While a deep layer of cedar boughs makes a passable substitute, nothing can equal a good air mattress. I wouldn't attempt a trip without one. Properly inflated, (not too hard) they are more comfortable than your bed at home. Most plastic models are lighter but a good rubber-surfaced air mattress will outwear a dozen plastic ones. And it isn't necessary to have a full length mattress. One that will support the body from the hips up, or about 44" long, is all that is required. This has the desirable advantage of reducing both bulk and weight, the back packer's two

worst enemies. When choosing a sleeping robe, lightness, warmth and cost are the controlling factors. The ultimate is a Woods Featherweight down filled bag that weighs only 4 1/2 lbs. Such a bag will keep you toasty warm in temperatures down to freezing yet can be compressed into a roll scarcely larger than a loaf of bread. Other bags, while not as compact, are equally comfortable and almost as light in weight. One, filled with Dacron, weighs just 5 lbs. Another, filled with Cellacloud, weighs 5 1/2 lbs. Both are suited to back packing and cost about half the price of down.

Now let's consider shelter. Two shelter halves or a pair of light tarps joined together make into a unit offering some protection from the elements but in rainy, windy weather they can be quite miserable. Much more desirable, and scarcely any heavier, is a small tent similar to the well known army mountain tent. It is light and waterproof and will sleep two nicely. Even the common pup tent does a better job than a tarp. Mine weighs just 5 lbs, floor, mosquito netting and all and, while it's a little small, (5' X 7') it will sleep two. The ideal tent would be one built like a wall tent but low like a pup tent, about 5' X 7' in size and made of lightweight, waterproof balloon cloth. We hope to have such a tent, specially made, in stock before too long. But even if you do use a tent to sleep in, don't fail to take a light tarp along too. You'll need something to cover the gear that won't go into the tent while you're in it and, if it rains, you'll welcome the protection it offers while cooking, eating or washing dishes.

Next comes cooking and eating equipment. All cooking will be done over the open fire so a good axe is a must. A full size one is too heavy and a hatchet is too small but a 3/4 camp axe, single bit, is just right. Keep it good and sharp. Hanging pots and pans from limbs

stuck over the fire may make a nice picture but a simple wire rack like you'll find in the oven of any old kitchen stove, when placed between a couple of rocks, does a much better job. It weighs nothing, can be tied to the back of the pack in transit and will save many spilled pans and much burnt food. And then, of course, you'll need a set of cooking and eating dishes. If you're smart you'll invest in an aluminum nested camp cook kit. These kits consist of three kettles, 2 frying pans, a coffee pot, six plates and six cups, all nested into the largest kettle, which we use as a dish pan, and the whole unit weighs less than four pounds.

That brings us around to the most pleasant item—food. I'll never forget how Bill Mang and I tried to talk the rest of the gang out of taking canned food on that first pack trip. Suffice it to say, not a trace of it has ever appeared in any of our pack sacks since. The principal reason is the discovery of Bernard's Camp Pack dehydrated food. Most of us are inclined to think of dehydrated food in terms of the tasteless fare the services dished out during the war. And I realize it will be difficult for you to believe that Camp Pack food is the absolute opposite. But, I assure you, not only will you find it the tastiest camp food you have ever eaten but you'll readily agree that it actually puts many of milady's recipes to shame. Some items are better than others but none of us has ever found a pack that we actually disliked. And it's inexpensive too. You couldn't possibly provide the menu Camp Pack permits at anywhere near the same cost. There is a wonderful variety, it's extremely simple to prepare and, most important of all, it has no bulk and no weight. The only additional food required would be those items which can't

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Letters *(cont. from page 9)*

be had dehydrated like butter, shortening, bacon, cheese etc. We rarely even take bread along anymore. Camp Pack hot biscuits are so much better. If there's still any doubt in your mind, take a pack home and try it. It will sell itself.

The final major item for consideration is fishing tackle. Actually, you'll find the standard tackle you regularly use back home completely satisfactory for pack trip fishing with perhaps two exceptions. One is rods, the other wading gear. In the case of rods, short two piece models or regular three and four piece numbers are more desirable since they permit attachment directly to the pack without protruding above or below. This eliminates snagging on bushes and trees. You can get around this, however, by taping a handle to your longer rod case and carrying it in your hand, making it double, as required, for a walking stick. In the case of waders, most regular models are too heavy for back packing, especially when you realize that a pair of felt soled slippers must be included if you hope to negotiate the slippery, rock bottomed back country streams. Stocking foot waders with felt soled wading shoes are perfect and Hodgman Zephyrweight waders are ideal. While we do have some special flies, like the Spitfire, tied especially for Canadian fishing, most standard patterns like the Grasshopper, the Hairwing Coachman and the Black Gnat dry and the Wooly Worm, the Mickey Finn and the Royal Coachman bucktail wet, will produce real well on wilderness lakes and streams. The same holds true for spinning lures although the One-O-Six is by far the best of all.

That takes care of the big items. Now let's touch on a few

minor tips that I'm sure will help. If black flies are prevalent where you plan to go, don't forget OFF. Some still like 6-12 and others speak highly of 7-11 but OFF is the best we've found. A few small spikes will permit the assembly of a table so that cooking and dish washing can be done in an upright position instead of squatting. If you carry your sleeping robe in a waterproof bag, it not only will remain perfectly dry but the bag can double as a food sack and when hung from a high limb will assure you that no bear will get to your food before you do. Don't venture into back country without a parka. Forgetting his cost my son Gary two days fishing our last trip up. Nothing beats a reflector oven for baking biscuits but you can do a presentable job directly over the fire using a covered frying pan—if you turn them once. If you take dehydrated food, be sure you include a measuring cup. Much of your culinary success will depend on how accurately you measure the water you add to the mixture. Make sure every member of your party has a map of the area and a good compass. Remember, you're not on the open road—you're in the trackless wilderness. A pictorial record of your travels will make your trip last forever. Your word might be questioned but pictures prove your honesty.

Now, where to go? We in Michigan have a decided geographical advantage over other sections of the country. We not only have an upper peninsula full of wild country, we also have Canada with its roaring rivers, rolling hills and fabulous fishing right at our northern doorstep. But let's be a little specific. Let's start with the Upper. In the eastern half there's the remote headwaters of the Two Hearted, the browns of the Driggs and the brooks of the Fox. Moving west, how about the upper Yellow Dog and the tremendous Huron Mts. directly north of it?

And don't forget Isle Royale. It has no roads at all. Even Copper Country offers some rugged challenges, the valley of the Montreal to mention only one. But the ultimate is reached near the western end of the Upper—in the beautiful Porcupine Mts. Here one can travel for a week without setting foot on the same trail twice. But if you long for trackless wilderness where trails are few and challenges many, go north of the border into Ontario's Algoma district. Here back packing opportunities are unlimited. You have the White River trail to the northeast, the Chateau road to Rocky Island, Peshu and the far north, the Ranger Lake road to the Goulais, the Aubinadong and the Garden, the Algoma Central Railway that welcomes, actually caters to, parties who love to rough it, stretching straight north from the Soo for over 200 miles and, finally, King's Highway 17 north along the Lake Superior shore breaching the wildest section of all—the Lake Superior Provincial Park with the Agawa, the Sand, the Baldhead, the Gargantua, the Red Rock, the Old Woman and all their headwaters, a virtually untouched paradise with virgin fishing just waiting for the adventurous back packer. We're familiar with most of it so if you're planning a trip and want some help, stop out. We have excellent aerial survey maps of all areas mentioned and even have colored movies and slides of some. It's our invitation to you to try packing in and enjoy with us the incomparable thrill of hiking and fishing where few have gone before you. ♦

Our chapter is once again hosting an innovative new program aimed at educating youth about issues relating to fish habitat and conservation. This five-week program will be taught to all St. Charles ninth graders during their regular science class on Mondays beginning in January 2001.

Each week four different classes are taught simultaneously. The students then rotate to a new

class in subsequent weeks, covering all of the material by the end of four weeks. The fifth and final week is taught to all ninth graders in the gym. This class involves demonstrations of fly-casting, giving those interested a brief moment to cast a fly-o.

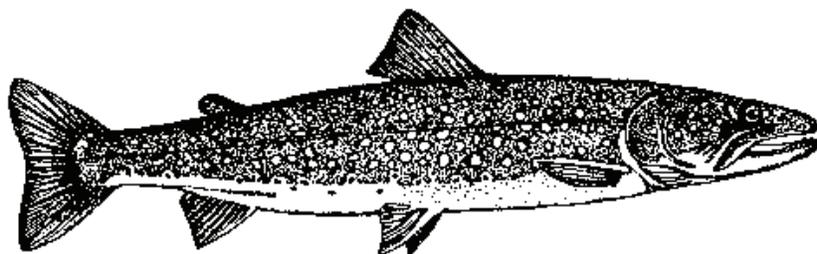
This yearly program has been extremely well received by students and administration alike. If you would like to become involved in this exciting program, please contact Jac Ford at 781-0997. ♦

Youth program offered again in 2001

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) environmental ratings for the 106th Congress averaged below 50 percent "for the sixth consecutive year," said Reuters on October 25, 2000. Some 34 Senators and 18 House members received "zeros," while eight representatives and seven senators earned a perfect 100 percent for

their voting records. The LCV singled out for criticism Congress' continued abuse of riders "placed on spending legislation to disguise their anti-environmental efforts." ♦

Congress Scores Poorly



TU Asks Feds to List California Golden Trout As Endangered

Trout Unlimited says California's state fish threatened with extinction

The United States' largest conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the nation's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds will petition the federal government to list California's golden trout as endangered.

The petition, which will be filed on Monday, October 16 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will ask that the golden trout, California's state fish, be listed as an endangered species pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. Trout Unlimited said the petition is being filed to prevent the trout from becoming extinct due to habitat destruction and hybridization caused by the stocking of non-native trout.

"If we want to be sure California's magnificent golden trout to still exist five to ten years from now, then something must be done to permanently address habitat destruction caused by grazing on federal lands and years of stocking non-native trout in the drainages where the golden trout currently exist. That will only be done if the golden trout is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act," said Steve Trafton, California Policy Coordinator for Trout Unlimited.

The California golden trout is one of the most strikingly colored trout in the world, native to only two high-altitude watersheds in

California's rugged Sierra Nevada mountains. The species' range, which once encompassed an estimated 450 miles of stream habitat in the upper South Fork Kern River and adjacent Golden Trout Creek, today is comprised of an estimated four percent of its historic range. The fish was designated as California's state fish in 1947.

Trafton said while efforts have been undertaken in the past to attempt to protect and preserve the golden trout, including the creation of the 300,000 acre Golden Trout Wilderness in 1978, grazing on federal lands contained within the trout's watershed and the stocking of non-native trout have taken their toll on the fish.

While the plight of the California golden trout has been recognized by federal land managers and federal and state fish managers for years, currently there is no systematic and coordinated regulatory mechanism in place to prevent species extinction.

"The historic, piecemeal approach to saving the golden trout has clearly failed in California. The only way to turn that failure around is to put in place a long-term, far reaching and complete strategy to address the issues of habitat destruction and stocking," said Trafton.

Under the provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act, Trout Unlimited's petition will be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a 90-day period from the date of its filing to determine if it is factual and scientifically based. When that determination is made, the federal government will then spend one year to conduct an investigation and species review using the Trout Unlimited petition and their own research to issue a draft finding. Once the draft finding is issued, a determination will be made whether or not to list the fish and, if listed, what recovery measures will be instituted. ♦

This Buds for the Fish

Anheuser-Busch has "decided to remove hundreds of its cattle from fragile Sierra Nevada meadows" in the Golden Trout wilderness, reported the *San Jose Mercury News* on October 24, 2000. The high meadows "contain the last habitat for California's state fish, the Volcano Creek golden trout, which Trout Unlimited has just petitioned to list under the Endangered Species Act due to "threats from invasive fish and grazing." ♦

**William B. Mershon Chapter
Trout Unlimited
Financial Statement
Fiscal Year 10/1/99-9/30/00**

		CREDIT	(DEBIT)	BALANCE
CASH ACCOUNTS				9/30/00
Merrill Lynch Security Acct		\$ 5,468.09	\$0.00	\$20,583.53
Citizens Bank		\$ 62.00	\$(14,582.15)	\$ 2,660.99
SEPT 30, 2000 TOTALS		\$ 5,530.09	\$(14,582.15)	\$23,244.52
CASH INFLOWS				FYTD
LOCAL SOURCES				
Raffles				\$ 3,800.00
Special Events				\$ 5,924.00
Banquet Revenue				\$21,941.40
Local Donations				\$ 9,207.00
Investment or Interest Income				\$ 932.97
Sales of Merchandise				\$ 615.00
TU ORGANIZATION (National, Region, Council)				
Funding or Rebates from National				\$ 1,050.00
OTHER				
Membership fees/in transition				\$ 540.00
MCTU Coin Canisters				\$ 18.00
Misc.				
Grant Income				\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL - CASH INFLOWS				\$47,028.37
CASH OUTFLOWS				
Newsletters/Mailings/Printing				\$ 4,402.18
Chapter Meetings (Room, Speaker, Etc.)				\$ 3,512.64
Cost of Merchandise				
Habitat Projects				\$13,076.58
Banquets-				
Prize Purchases- National Catalog				\$ 3,461.65
Prize Purchases- Other				\$ 4,261.23
Promotion/printing				\$ 1,339.66
Meals, Entertainment				\$ 5,495.00
Other- Speaker, Hall, Etc.				\$ 1,504.26
Raffles				\$ 1,236.14
Special Events				\$ 435.75
Checking Account (Merrill Lynch)				\$ 109.00
Other				\$ 1,063.34
Memberships in Transition				\$ 540.00
MCTU Coin Canisters				\$ 18.00
TOTAL - CASH OUTFLOWS				\$40,455.43
SEPT 30, 2000 NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW)				\$ 6,572.94

Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited report of fall and summer meetings

The following are excerpts from the reports of the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited summer and fall meetings

Various reports and projects were presented for consideration by the Michigan Council. The most important of these include:

- **Environmental fund for Michigan.** The merger with the National Environmental Organization (Earthshare) is to be completed by August 30, 2000. The Michigan Membership of Trout Unlimited is asked to provide access leads to Michigan corporations. DNR Report – Executive Director, Rich Bowman, John Sabina, Mike Slater and Walt Averill attended a meeting with DNR fisheries chief, Kelley Smith. The DNR has instructed their field staffs to solicit bid for dredge work from Midwest Aquatics Services & Design Company. The proposed study on the effects of spoils on uplands has been canceled. From that meeting it was decided to request that each TU Chapter contact their local State Congressman to help get the Aquatic Species Conservation Act passed this fall.
- **Aquatic Species Conservation Act – HB5841.** This house bill was introduced by State Representative Susan Tabor (R-Lansing). This bill gives the DNR Director authority to set fishing seasons, creel limits and

methods of take. On other issues the DNR Director must seek NRC approval. A working group consisting of Walt Averill, Joe Swantek, and Bob Nicholson was appointed to meet with Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Committee members individually and state how MCTU wants the bill to read.

- **Tribal Fishing and Hunting Rights Update.** There is a tentative agreement on Great Lakes issues, however, two of the tribes keep changing as to what they will agree to. It is hoped that the various issues will be finalized shortly. MCTU has donated \$10,000 to this cause already.
- **Drain Code.** A new drain code bill was reported out of Senate Committee to the floor. There are 103 amendments and it was therefore proposed for it to be sent back to Committee for modification and “streamlining”.
- Charles Gauvin, TU National President/CEO asked for a donation for the **Coldwater Conservation Fund**, which is used to conduct scientific and economic and research projects. A motion was made and approved to donate \$1,000 from MCTU earmarked for reintroduction and monitoring of Coaster Brook Trout in Lake Superior tributaries.
- **Au Sable River Watershed Habitat Improvement Project.** Andy Nuhfer, DNR fisheries research biologist, presented a series of slides and requested solicitation of the Council’s prioritization on management options proposed. Because, all priority items cannot be accomplished within the \$150,000/year (for 10 years) of Federal and State Funding budgeted to rehabilitate the upper Au Sable River Watershed the formation of a basin wide watershed council is to be made, which will draft and implement a partnership agreement.
- **Michigan River Watershed Assembly (MRWA).** It has received a \$550,000 grant from the Wedge

Foundation of Grand Rapids to begin a massive effort to restore the ecologically crippled Muskegon River System. Ellen Beyerlein, MRWA Vice President, thanked MCTU for their previous donation which enabled MRWA to get up and running to the point that they were able to qualify for the donation.

- It was reported that the State wide membership is now almost 6,000.
- The **Operation Stream Sweep - dredge** is due back in the water by October 1, 2000 after modifications and repairs. It will operate approximately two months during the year.
- A \$2,400 check was presented to the Council from the operation of the 2000 Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School. Since Ranch Rudolf is now up for sale an alternate location is being investigated.
- While once the most polluted river in the State of Michigan, the Rouge River is now much cleaner as a result of Federal and other governmental tax dollars.
- **Informational notes.**
 - a) The Mott Foundation has awarded a \$235,000 grant to Trout Unlimited National for leadership training. Michigan will be a tier 1 priority.
 - b) The first Trout Unlimited Chapter in Argentina has been established.
 - c) The book *TU Member’s Guide to Environmental Law and Advocacy* has been sent to each Chapter President.
 - d) It was conveyed that the “Embrace-A-Stream” request grants need to be filed with TU National by December 16, 2000.



Trount Unlimited has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Navy to enhance and protect streams and rivers on lands owned by the Navy nationwide.

The agreement will provide a framework for cooperative activities between the two organizations to enhance, maintain and conserve coldwater fisheries resources on Department of Navy lands across the country. It is designed to protect important habitat for numerous fish and wildlife species, including endangered trout and salmon.

The agreement, which was signed in Washington, D.C. by Charles Gauvin, CEO and President of Trout Unlimited, and Robert B. Pirie, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, is a renewal of one originally signed between the two organizations in 1991.

Gauvin said that its willingness to once again sign a cooperative fisheries management agreement has enhanced the Navy's positive image as a public lands steward among conservation groups and the general public.

"This agreement is a recognition of the value of Navy-owned lands to the nation's coldwater fisheries. Its signing, in turn, signifies a recognition by the Navy of the importance of cooperating whenever and wherever practical to put in place management activities around these resources," said Gauvin.

Many opportunities exist for implementing the cooperative management efforts on Navy-owned lands along the Eastern Seaboard, the Great Lakes area, and the West Coast. Trout Unlimited grassroots volunteers will help play an important role in working with the Navy to manage coldwater fisheries in a number of these locations.

Don Duff, Trout Unlimited's National Partnership Coordinator with the U.S. Forest Service, said in many locations the agreement will effectively partner the Navy with the Forest Service and state agencies whose lands are adjacent to Navy lands. In those locations, the inclusion of the Navy lands into ongoing watershed management plans will provide a holistic and basin-wide management approach that will benefit all native and recreational fish and wildlife species, Duff said. ◆

TU and Navy Agree to Protect Fisheries on Navy Lands

Agreement will help to protect some endangered, threatened trout and salmon species

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



YES! Please begin my one-year introductory membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked at right. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card and quarterly issues of *Trout* magazine with *Action Line*.

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$30) / 3 years (\$80)
- Family membership (\$35) / 3 years (\$90)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$75)*
- Century contributor (\$150)*
- Conservator contributor (\$300)*
- Individual Life (\$750) (*No further dues*)*
- Family Life (\$850) (*Husband and Wife*)*
- Senior/Student membership (\$15)
- Business membership (\$200)

All contributions over \$12 are tax deductible.

**Note: special benefits provided for these membership categories.*

***Make checks payable to: TROUT UNLIMITED*

Clip and mail this application to join TU today!

Name _____ (please print)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____
020 Mershon

Chapter _____
Michigan Council - Code 5449

Sponsor _____

Payment enclosed** Please bill me

Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

MasterCard _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to: TROUT UNLIMITED, PO BOX 1335, MERRIFIELD, VA 22116

THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited* ◆

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