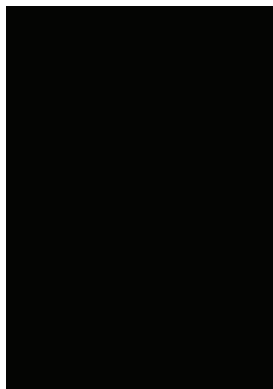


A LOCAL CHAPTER OF
 AMERICA'S LEADING NONPROFIT
 COLDWATER FISHERIES
 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

THE MERSHON
MUDDLER

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

Meanders
 A few thoughts from
 the president



Dan Keane, president

As I write these few comments, it's the middle of winter and we've just had some serious weather with snow, ice, and sub-zero wind chills. The only fishing for most of us is on ice. Wow! That Saginaw River gang has just set a new record with a 13+ pound walleye caught last week during the river shiver event. Many trout fishers are also very active with fly tying, casting practice, or building that special rod you wanted last year. Some are doing this at Jac Ford's classes. Many thanks go to Jac and the other members assisting with those sessions.

Likewise, the Mershon Board and chapter committees have been busy during these "hard water" months. We even set a walleye record of our own! The January walleye dinner set a new record for the chapter with over 180 people attending. I would like to extend a special thanks to Howard Johnson and his committee for organizing and arranging this event. It's a delight to start the new year with this great success. (Remember the dollars we raise are important for the trout and our special rivers).

Although we may not be on the rivers, just the same, there is still plenty to do. We have lots of other events coming up and these also need your support. Setting new records and having continued success as we celebrate our special fellowship, cold water rivers and the trout is an important part of our organization. I trust that each and every member will continue to provide support. Please pay special attention to future happenings and announcements here in the Muddler and through specials mailings. Mark your calendars for the next walleye dinner, Monday, March 13th. It will be a great program with Dick Walle explaining the simplicity and importance of soft hackle flies.

Our big event, the Spring Banquet, is scheduled for Friday, April 7th and will be right here in Saginaw at the Horizons Conference Center. It should be a great

(See Meanders, page 3)

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Calendar of Events

MARCH WALLEYE DINNER
Monday, March 13 ~ 5:30 p.m.
 American Legion Hall,
 5190 Weiss, Saginaw

SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET
Friday, April 7
 Horizon's Conference Center
 6200 State Street, Saginaw

5:30 p.m. ■ Cocktails, generous bidding
 7:00 p.m. ■ Roast beef/chicken dinner
 8:00 p.m. ■ Speaker and live auction

William B. Mershon Chapter Of Trout Unlimited

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Dam Removal Occurs at Faster Pace
—Washington Post

Benefits of Dam Removals Outlined
—New York Times

Where dams fall rivers thrive
—Boston Globe

Benefits of Dam Removals Outlined
—Minneapolis Star Tribune

Consortium hails dam removal effort
—New Haven (CT) Register

Report: dam removal effective
—The Times-News (Twin Falls, ID)

*Greens say more than
450 U.S. dams removed*
—abcNews

Dam good job for Tahoe
—Tahoe Daily Tribune

From Anchorage to Augusta, the benefits of small dam removal received strong media coverage following the December 13, 1999 release of "Dam Removal Success Stories: Restoring rivers through selective removal of dams that don't make sense." The report, sponsored by Trout Unlimited, American Rivers and Friends of the Earth, documents more than 465 dams that have been removed across the country and includes 25 case studies of dam removal success stories. It is the most comprehensive review to date of the history and benefits of dam removal in the U.S.

Our success in getting TU's message to decision-makers and the general public would not have been possible without the foresight and participation of TU volunteers across the nation who helped make these dam removals a reality! Special thanks to: John Hunt (MN), Bob Dunnagan (ID), Duke Welter and Ted Mackmiller (WI), Albin Weber and Steve Lewis (CT), Dave Smith and Francis Smith (VT), Jeff Reardon (ME), Thomas Wolf (OR), and many others for their extra assistance in working with us and the media to make the dam removal media rollout a success, both locally and nationally.

Download the report from
[www.tu.org/library/
conservation.html](http://www.tu.org/library/conservation.html). ◆

TU's small dam removal report makes headlines

Meanders (cont. from page 1)

location and your support will be ever so important. As our main fundraiser, the dollars raised will help set our agenda for the next year.

Let me close by again thanking each and every member of The William B. Mershon chapter. And as always, my special gratitude goes

to all the board and advisors for the great work they do behind the scenes. See you soon.

—Dan Keane

Profile

*Lindsay Stark
Mershon Chapter director*



In 1986, my boyfriend Dave Susalski, who is now my husband, ordered a fly rod kit that he and I would build together. Dave had shown me the basics of fly tying and we both thought it would be fun to learn to build a rod together. I especially liked the fact that Dave wouldn't know everything about building a fly rod. After teaching me to tie flies, he had conned me into believing that the trout liked my flies better than his. It took me a few years to realize that I was tying 20 flies to his one, and that he had a well-stocked fly box. So venturing into an area that he couldn't "con" me at was even more interesting to me.

When the pole finally arrived, Dave asked me to pick it up at 4855 Sheridan. He told me the man we were buying the pole from was named Art, and that he was a famous conservationist and fisherman. I decided to ride my 10-speed bike to Art's home, thinking it would only be a few miles. Three hours—and 25 miles—later, I arrived at Art's home.

When I arrived, I saw a fishing shed. I have since been informed that "shed" is not the proper term to use when referring to Art Neumann's shop, although I wonder if "garage" sounds much better? Anyway, not knowing that I was speaking with the founder of Trout Unlimited, I told him that he had a very nice, organized fishing shop. I think I even used the word "cute". Despite my obvious inexperience in this new hobby, Mr. Neumann was very gracious, and I was soon on my way with our new rod. It wasn't until I was on my way to my bike that I fully realized what a long trip home it was going to be, because I didn't bring anything to attach the 5-foot canister to my bike with.

That was 14 years ago, and although I may not be much wiser, at least I know who Art Neumann is and what a tremendous contribution he has made to Michigan and the

sport. I have also come to understand the difference between a rod and a pole, and after 11 years of marriage and one son, Blake, I have also figured out that it is smarter to tie flies for your own use.

After that humble beginning in this sport, it is hard to believe that I am now a director for the Mershon chapter of Trout Unlimited. I look forward to continuing to contribute my time and experience. My husband and I will pass on to Blake and other future generations the joy and ethics of fishing and conservation of our waterways. ♦

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

March Walleye Dinner

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2000,
AT 5:30 P.M.

American Legion Hall,
5190 Weiss, Saginaw

featuring guest speaker

Dick Walle

*Fly-tying and fly-fishing instructions
for the most deadly pattern available...the soft hackle fly.*



Profile

Scott Woodbury
Mershon Chapter director



I have been asked to write this column to introduce myself to the members of the Mershon chapter and to relay to you how I became involved with fishing and with Trout Unlimited. Hopefully you will find this somewhat enjoyable.

At the age of fifteen, I was like most adolescents in that I was continuously looking for ways to entertain myself. I had a paper route, which gave me some spending money and kept me out of trouble—so my parents thought. I had one customer on my route that owned a bait and tackle shop and when he became somewhat behind on payments, he allowed me to take a rod in lieu of payment. I selected an old bamboo rod that had an old reel and line on it. I bought a leader and some flies and set out on a journey from which I have yet to return.

Living on a small river in Rhode Island, where trout were stocked semiannually, gave me the testing grounds where I would attempt to learn the skills as a fly fisherman. I had always watched with amazement how the fly fishermen (both men and women) would catch fish with their invisible flies and graceful casting in the holes that I had drowned many cans of worms, crickets, and mealworms in. Their sport always seemed to be somewhat mystical to me and it appeared instinctive rather than learned, but I was going to give it a try.

I remember standing in the middle of the stream with fire-boots on, tying on a small Light Cahill and casting it clumsily into a calm, slow-moving eddy that would not curl my line and create knots of astronomical proportions. I remember that half the line sank where it had touched the water and the fly caught the branch of an old willow tree that became my nemesis in my fly fishing ventures through the years.

I regrouped, cleaned and lubricated the old line, tied on a new fly, and attempted to duplicate the rhythm and grace that the fly fishermen had demonstrated on the river year after year. I made my cast upstream of the ripple and the fly gently floated into the edge of the slow eddy. I watched in astonishment as the fly actually floated through the ripple like a raft on a wild white water rafting adventure.

As it made its way into the eddy's edge, a small disturbance in the water engulfed my little yellow friend, and as my line began to move against the current, I realized the fly had fooled a fish. So like any bait fisherman of my caliber, I set the hook like I was fishing for bass with a shiner and the dry, old rod subsequently broke into three pieces. What a mess, the bamboo was floating on the water, the line became unwound with my powerful set, and the fish was still there wondering what it caught on the other end of this fly. I untangled quickly and began reeling, and in no time I was rewarded with my first fish (a 12-inch brookie) caught on a fly. It was an experience I'll never forget, and as far as fishing goes, I haven't pierced the flesh of bait since.

In the time since, my skills have markedly improved, thank God, and I have had the pleasure of fishing with and being instructed by the likes of Lefty Kreh, Oliver Edwards, Chad Jaques, Frank Jurius, Bob Piggot, Van Beechum, and countless other gifted fishermen all over the U.S. Fly fishing has become such an intricate part of my fabric that I became engaged and honeymooned on a stream with a rod in my hand. Having the wedding streamside, I was told, was out of the question. But I think Jeanne would have gone for it.

I'm sure there are many who have similar clumsy fishing stories.

Unfortunately, I have been asked to share mine with you.

My involvement with fly fishing and TU was a natural progression. What I have found so comforting over my last twenty years since my original adventure is how friendly and willing-to-teach fly fishermen are. They will show you all their tricks (except their favorite holes) and take pride when you are successful. I found it ironic that the people involved in "the quiet sport" could be so willing to share.

My focus in the last five years has been on the natural resource and the educational aspect of fly fishing. I think TU is the best vehicle to deliver the message to people who are willing to learn and

to those that "just never knew." Restoring the habitat and educating sportsmen on river ecology, fish and insect life cycles, etiquette, catch-and-release, and friendships are the cornerstones to fly fishing. I have introduced dozens of people to the philosophy of fly fishing and look forward to teaching dozens more. I think we all can learn something from everyone and we can especially impact those that have the naïve enthusiasm that I had on my first day.

As a newly appointed board member of the Mershon chapter, I pledge to continue our struggle to secure and restore the habit of the fish and change the mindset of the general population that will allow our children to enjoy the sport we

all hold so dear to our hearts. The Mershon chapter is always looking for people to help in our struggle and we are willing to listen to fresh ideas. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us. It will take a team effort to keep fly fishing alive and to continue.

By the way, if you're wondering, I released my little friend and I think I caught that brook trout at least six more times.

Tight lines. ♦

Mershon chapter awarded \$1,000 grant

The Mershon chapter of TU was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant for our Rifle River project. Administered by TU National, Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) is a one-to-one, competitive matching grant program that awards funding to chapters and councils for coldwater fisheries conservation projects. Projects must advance TU's conservation mission and meet specific criteria.

EAS funds three types of projects: resource, research, and education.

In 1999, the average grant was \$5,510. Projects were located in 21 states and were consistent with TU's national conservation priorities concerning water quality, instream flows, Pacific and Atlantic salmon restoration, and wild salmonid genetics.

The Mershon chapter recently received the following letter.

"Congrats! The William Mershon Chapter's EAS project was awarded \$1000 to assist in your Rifle River project. Hope that is enough to help the project get off the ground. The committee felt it was important to support additional use of the Council's stream sweeper this year to make sure the bugs get worked out.

"It was a tight year for funding. We had 79 applications (up from 60 or so last year) requesting a total of about \$550,000, all competing for \$230,000 in available EAS funds. There were a handful of funded projects (the MI Council's stream sweeper upgrade, the CCTU's coaster study on the Gratiot, and Oak Brook, IL's Jumbo River brookie project in the U.P. among them). Nice job."

—John E. Hunt, P.E.

January walleye dinner entertained standing-room-only crowd

by Howard N. Johnson, chair

Riverguide and shop owner, Mike Bachelder, of Bachelder Spool & Fly-West Branch (517-345-8678) spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at the William B. Mershon chapter of Trout Unlimited January walleye dinner meeting held at the American Legion Hall on January 17, 2000.

Prior to Mike's presentation, chapter president Dan Keane asked chapter advisor Harold Kleinert to review recent activities on the Rifle River, and chapter vice president Craig Bublitz brought us up-to-date on the status of many of the chapter's ongoing projects.

Mike's program, "Fly Fishing on the Rifle River," was very informative and entertaining. Mike talked about and showed slides of the cold-water stretches of the upper Rifle River that provide cover for trout. With many pictures of 20+ inch brown trout, the chapter members were reminded of the tremendous resource that we have so close to our homes.

President Keane presented Mike with a Certificate of Appreciation and one of the chapter's newly designed hat pins as a token of the chapter's gratitude for a very enjoyable program.

The evening ended with the traditional attempt to raise additional funds for the resources.

Many members and guests were the recipients of fly fishing paraphernalia that were so generously donated by many of our local fly fishing shops, including: three fly rods, four dozen hand tied flies, fly boxes, a fly tying kit, and a new fly line. ♦



Chapter president Dan Keane presents speaker Mike Bachelder with a Certificate of Appreciation and one of the chapter's newly designed hat pins.

Recognize TU's very best: award nominations due May 5

TU is accepting nominations for its 2000 national conservation excellence awards. Enclosed with this newsletter and posted on www.tu.org are the awards available and the criteria for nomination and selection. We need your help to reward those members who go above and beyond the call of duty to carry out our mission on behalf of trout and salmon and their watersheds.

Nominations are due by May 5, 2000. For info, contact Maggie Lockwood at (703) 284-9425; mlockwood@tu.org. ♦

Over 70% of a trout's food supply is taken below the surface. Minnows form an important part of this underwater diet. Streamers are artificial flies made to imitate these minnows. Properly tied and presented, they are among the most deadly flies ever invented.

When choosing streamers, several things should be taken into consideration. First—pattern. Some streamers are reasonable facsimiles of the real thing, but most fall into the classification of “attractor” flies. They're bright and flashy and “breathe” when correctly manipulated. They excite the fish into striking. The serious streamerman will have an ample assortment of both types. Of equal importance is size. Average size streamers and bucktails are tied on #6 hooks. If they're striking short, try a #10 or attach a #12 or #14 hook to the bend of the larger sizes. Size #4 is most popular and takes the biggest fish. A big fish wants a big meal.

But most important of all is weight. For very shallow streams and for lake fishing, unweighted streamers are satisfactory. But on an average stream where there's a reasonable current, it's almost impossible to get a streamer down to the correct depth—and keep it there—unless it's weighted. There's nothing more irritating than to have a streamer come skittering along the surface as you work it across the current. There are times, of course, when you'll want to do just that—keep it on top. That's called “riffin”. But by and large, you'll want it under the surface. After all, a minnow swims in the water, not on top of it.

Fished almost anywhere, any way, a streamer will catch fish. But, the closer you can simulate the actual irregular, darting motion of a minnow fighting the current, the better your chances. Concentrate on the runs and riffles and especially

the spots where fast water meets slow. The streamer is a fast water-fly. Cast across stream and slightly down on a slack line. Let the fly drift without movement until the line has straightened out below you. Then work it across the stream with short jerks. In most instances, the strike will occur just as motion is imparted to the streamer. Use the same technique on small streams. The strike will be vicious, the fish will hook himself and he'll fight like a fool.

Although most anglers consider the streamer most effective in the spring, we find it a killer anytime. When they're not taking 'em dry, try a streamer. Fish it conscientiously. More often than not, there'll be fish in your creel when the day is done. ♦

Fishing letters

Streamers and Streamer Fishing

This is the first in a series of letters to appear in the Muddler. Although written some time ago, the angling tips and trout lore are as fresh and timely now as the day they were penned.

WILLIAM B. MERSHON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED



37th Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet

Friday, April 7, 2000

HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER

6200 State Street, Saginaw

Ultralight to salmon rods from Orvis, Wanigas, Winston, and Sage. Reels, flies, tackle, artwork, gifts, woman's apparel, crystal, and china.
Live and silent auctions. Bucket and card raffles. Special door prizes.
All proceeds designated for Au Sable River and Rifle River projects.

- 5:00 p.m. ■ Cocktails, prize-gazing, and generous bidding.
- 7:00 p.m. ■ Roast beef/chicken dinner
- 8:00 p.m. ■ Speaker and live auction

Speaker

Bob Linsenman

presents

The Rifle and Au Sable Rivers-New Angling Strategies for Changing Fisheries

Bob is a Michigan guide, co-author of *Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout*, *Michigan Trout Streams*, *Great Lakes Steelhead - A Fly Angler's Guide*, and author of the River Journal series *Au Sable River*, as well as countless magazine articles on fly fishing.

With a new venue and an exciting program, the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited annual spring fundraiser promises to continue the tradition of fine events established by the chapter. The banquet will be held Friday, April 7, 2000, at the Horizons Conference Center on State Street in Saginaw. Easily accessible to the majority of our chapter membership, the Horizons Center provides a beautiful setting for our event. On the menu is a buffet dinner featuring prime rib and fresh Canadian whitefish. Beer and wine will be included in the price of the dinner ticket, and there will be a cash bar available for mixed drinks.

Author, guide, and expert angler Bob Linsenman will present a program on the Rifle and Au Sable rivers. Bob is co-author of *Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout*, *Michigan Trout Streams*, *Great Lakes Steelhead-A Fly Angler's Guide*, and author of the River Journal series *Au Sable River*, as well as countless magazine articles on fly-fishing related subjects. He is eminently qualified to speak on these watersheds as he lives in Rose City and has fished these rivers most of his life. The program Bob is putting together will have special emphasis on how the continuing low water conditions in these watersheds are changing the fisheries, and consequently the tactics necessary for angling success when chasing steelhead and resident trout.

As usual, there will be many unique and wonderful items at the banquet. Major raffle items include a Browning Citori 20 gauge over and under shotgun, and the new Orvis Trident TL 8-1/2 ft 5wt seven piece travel rod outfit. Loyal chapter supporter and founding TU member Art Neuman has once again

generously donated a rod from his collection; a Phillipson 7-1/2 ft 5wt 2-piece impregnated cane fly rod. Our auction will be conducted by Glen Blackwood, whom many of you may recognize from his PBS television show, *Fly-Fishing with Glen Blackwood*. This will be an evening that should not be missed by anyone who has a passion for our rivers and the trout that inhabit them. It's your chance to help support our coldwater resources, and go home with some great new stuff in the process! ♦

Fundraising banquet set for April 7

By Bo Brines

Patron of the Resources \$300.00

This package is designed with the corporation and small business in mind and includes:

- Two banquet dinner tickets
- 20 Bucket Raffle tickets
- One Shotgun Raffle ticket
- One regular Trout Unlimited annual membership
- One display ad in the banquet program
- Framed certificate of appreciation

Friend of the Resources \$90.00

This package is designed with the individual supporter in mind and includes:

- One banquet ticket
- One regular Trout Unlimited annual membership
- 10 Bucket Raffle tickets
- One Shotgun Raffle ticket

2000 banquet packages

In addition to purchasing banquet tickets at the regular per-person rate of \$35, the Mershon chapter of TU is introducing two new banquet packages. These packages offer a convenient and economical method of supporting the Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited report of winter meeting

At the winter meetings various reports and projects were presented for consideration by the Michigan Council. The most important of these include:

- 1) MEANDRS (Meeting Ecological and Agricultural Needs with the Dowagiac River System) a \$1,000 grant to meet an effort to reinstate most of the original riverbed of the Dowagiac River that had been by passed through dredging a straight-line ditch. The river appears to have the potential of a high quality cold water fishery and is unique for this part of Michigan.
- 2) Rivers 2000 – A nationwide project for increasing public understanding and appreciation of North America’s Rivers was discussed and funding for this project was denied due to the fact that it did not meet the main mission of habitat restoration.
- 3) The State of Michigan has a program underway to renovate all six of Michigan’s Fish Hatcheries. Gary Whelan, DNR Hatcheries Manager, asked the Michigan Council to have various Trout Unlimited Chapters to sponsor habitat reconstruction at one of the hatcheries, most probably the Oden Hatchery. The Council will attempt to contact a local chapter to have them undertake this as a project.
- 4) Kalamazoo Valley Chapter has a Youth Rivers Conservation and Fishing Camp held annually at the MacMillan Center at

Higgins Lake. The Kalamazoo Chapter came forward and asked the Council for a \$500 donation to help defray some of the costs. While this motion did pass it was a mixed vote with objections coming from various representatives that are members of the Mershon Chapter. The basis of objection was that this should be strictly a Chapter project and the Council should not be involved.

- 5) Forestry Best Management Practice requested from the Council volunteers to help with Management Practice Audits in three of Michigan’s State forests. The Council agreed to coordinate and recruit three volunteers to assist the DNR for a few days this coming summer.
- 6) Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition requested a \$1,000, which was approved, to support the Coalition and their overseeing the re-licensing of various dam projects in the State.

Special reports were given which included:

- 1) A report on the Aquatic Species Conservation Act – the intent of this act is to circumvent 22 separate laws governing the management of aquatic species in Michigan, which includes regulating sport and commercial fishing. The proposed act would give authority to the DNR instead of the legislature to

regulate management of aquatic species in Michigan. The Michigan Council intends to monitor and keep abreast of this Act and will report further as issues pertinent to the coldwater fishery evolve.

- 2) Environmental Fund for Michigan – The report wanted to point out that contacts need to be made to important people with corporations or other organizations so that their employees can be given the opportunity to select environmental organizations for payroll deduction, as well as those other organizations represented by United Way. Your donations can be ear marked for more specific causes that are handled by United Way.
- 3) A Drain Code - A revised Drain Code passed Michigan Legislature with a Watershed Management section removed which is to be introduced as a separate bill. The opinion of the people presenting the report was that this was an improvement over the previous drain code. A Michigan Council Subcommittee is to be formed to review and make specific or recommendations for modifications to the Code as it was passed by the House.

Other items of discussion included:

- 1) Operation Stream Sweep – Dave Cozad’s pet project. It is intended to have Stream Sweep in full

operation in the Year 2000 including scheduling, hiring crews, logistics and insurance. A grant-writing program has been undertaken to fund the dredging operational costs. At this point, Consumer’s Energy has already contributed \$5,000.

- 2) Following up the Stream Sweep project – Michigan State University is conducting research on the effect of the sand slurry generated by the sand dredge on birds, mammals, vegetation etc.
- 3) Tribal Fishing negotiations – Pete Albertins, an attorney from Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith, has reported that progress is being made, although quite slowly, on these issues. Major issues yet to be resolved include Gill Nets on Grand Traverse and Little Traverse and Hammond’s Bay and inland issues whereas the Tribes contend they can set their own regulations on inland fishing, hunting and trapping. A motion was made and approved to donate \$5,000 to the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition to continue the effort.
- 4) A Trout Unlimited promotional video proposal was made by the Lansing Chapter, which would create a promotional and educational video highlighting the various activities of Trout Unlimited in Michigan. This is in an embryonic stage and more information will be forth coming.

Other items of discussion:

- 1) Consideration of promoting a long distance phone carrier to Trout Unlimited Members with a premise that 2% to 8% of the long distance charges would be rebated back for the Council’s use.
- 2) Eight requests for Trout Unlimited National’s Embrace-a-Stream grants were submitted. Six are from Michigan Chapters, one from the Council itself and one from Oak Brook, IL Chapter. The Trout Unlimited National will fund several of the Michigan requests and a decision will be made by April 1, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. Williams

TU outlines conservation goals for the new millennium

Trount Unlimited's more than 100,000 volunteer members are reflecting on 40 years of conservation commitment to rivers and streams while looking ahead to the challenges of the new millennium.

"Trout Unlimited has always believed that if we take care of the rivers, then the fishing will take care of itself," said Charles F. Gauvin, TU's President and CEO. "With 40 years behind us, TU has a long legacy of volunteer fund-raising, habitat restoration, and policy involvement across the nation. We are anxious to meet the conservation challenges of the new millennium and restore quality fisheries throughout the nation."

Founded in 1959, Trout Unlimited has recently championed a variety of conservation accomplishments, including:

- Removal of the Edwards dam on Maine's Kennebec River, opening up 17 miles of prime habitat to over 10 native species, including Atlantic salmon.
*Negotiation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement, breaking a five-year stalemate over the harvest and conservation of salmon between the United States and Canada.
- An all-time high for Embrace-A-Stream, including raising and distributing \$270,000 for 49 on-the-ground conservation projects in 20 states.
- Negotiation of a precedent-setting agreement with Avista Corp., which has put millions of dollars to work for native trout restoration on the Clark Fork River in Montana and Idaho.
- Establishing TU's Home Rivers Initiative, which restores trout rivers that are

economically important to their surrounding communities, including the Kickapoo River in Wisconsin and the Beaverkill-Willowemoc in the Catskills.

"Over the past 40 years TU has grown from 16 founding fathers to over 100,000 committed, volunteer members," said Gauvin. "TU's National Resource Board has outlined an ambitious list of priorities for the year 2000, which span the conservation spectrum from coast to coast. Projects like these don't complete themselves. TU will continue to rely on our legions of volunteers to get the job done."

TU's national conservation agenda for 2000 and beyond includes:

- Gaining emergency federal protection for Maine's wild Atlantic salmon.
- The breaching of four federal dams on the lower Snake River to save Pacific salmon.
- Ending the lethal acidification of trout streams along the East Coast caused by acid rain.
- Continued research in the fight against whirling disease.
- A strengthened campaign pressing for small dam removal to benefit rivers and communities.
- Addressing water pollution problems posed by the nation's rapid influx of "factory farms."
- Improving protection of delicate trout and salmon habitat in our National Forests.

For more information, contact Maggie Lockwood, Director of Public Relations, at (703) 284-9425; mlockwood@tu.org. ♦

Trount Unlimited's *Guide to America's 100 Best Trout Streams* has received first place honors in the 1999 National Outdoor Book Awards (NOBA) in the Adventure Guidebook category. The book, which highlights the "who's who" of American trout streams, was chosen out of 60 entries by a panel of 17 judges from throughout the country and now bears the NOBA gold medallion as a symbol of excellence in outdoor writing.

"The writing in this well organized guide is strong, lively and stylish," said Ron Watters, NOBA Chairman. "It makes you want to grab your rod and hit the road."

The NOBA is the outdoor world's largest and most prestigious book award program. It is a non-profit, educational program sponsored by the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education and Idaho State University. The awards recognize and encourage outstanding writing and publishing.

In honor of TU's 40th anniversary, TU and Falcon Press published the guide to the nation's outstanding coldwater fisheries. TU polled its 100,000 members to determine America's 100 best trout streams.

The book contains profiles and maps of the country's most popular trout and salmon streams, from Vermont's Battenkill River to Montana's Big Hole to Alaska's Copper River.

Author John Ross provides the nitty-gritty on how to fish each stream, discussing insects and fly patterns, lures, access points, regulations, and fly- and spin-casting techniques. The book lists local sources for fishing information and accommodations, and celebrates TU's efforts to conserve, protect, and restore the top fisheries.

Ross has written several outdoor guides, among them, the Sports Afield Guide to North America's Greatest Fishing Lodges and Great Water, Great Fish: The Worldwide Guide to Fly Fishing.

"The award really belongs to all TU members who helped me with this book," said Ross. "They told me about the streams they love and have worked on for years. This book is for them and all the other members of TU."

Trout Unlimited's *Guide to America's 100 Best Trout Streams* costs \$18.95, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. TU members can buy the book for just \$15.00 (includes shipping and handling). Call toll-free at (888) 891-2634 and provide a current TU membership number to receive the special price. A portion of the proceeds will benefit TU. ♦

"TU's Guide to America's 100 Best Trout Streams" receives prestigious national outdoor award

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*.

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