

FALL 2008

# TROUT TALK

SCHREMS WEST MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED



Dedicated to Conserve, Protect & Restore West Michigan Cold Water Fisheries and their Watersheds

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 10, 2008  
*Holiday Get Together*

February 28, 2009  
*Fly Tying Celebration*

March 19, 2009  
*Fundraising Banquet*

June 18-21, 2009  
*Wa-Wa-Sum Outing*

May 29-31, 2009  
*Fuller's North Branch  
Outing Club  
Weekend  
Get-Together*

(see articles in this issue  
for details)

## DINNER SEMINAR

Plans are being  
made for January,  
2009  
look for details on  
our web-site

E-mail: [info@swmtu.org](mailto:info@swmtu.org)  
Website: [www.swmtu.org](http://www.swmtu.org)



## President's Drift...

Andy Milnes

### The Reason Why;

*When I attempt to explain why I fly fish*, either to friends or strangers alike. I am amazed at the response when after going into great detail, the effort involved in the actual netting of a fish via the fly, that the first comment I receive is "that sounds like a lot of work for a fish". After a few additional comments I usually grin and acknowledge the effort but no words can explain the tribulations that one receives on a personal level landing that fish. Knowing the memory of that effort or in some specific cases, that journey will last days or better yet, a lifetime.

All of us are involved in fly fishing for personal reasons. For some it is the thrill of matching a hatch and landing a trophy trout. For others it is the time to reconnect with friends, spending time getting reacquainted after a long week at work. And for me personally it is the escape to the river, far away from others, pushing away from the stress of everyday life. There is something about the flow of a river, steadily pushing against our feet, letting the current drag the stress of daily life away. For whatever the reason we cast a fly, we owe a great deal to the river and the fish. And it is for those personal reasons that we are involved in Trout Unlimited.

Over 50 years ago this next spring, a small group of individuals decided to take action for trout and coldwater fisheries. Whatever their personal reasons or perhaps raising the stakes against mankind's detriments; the action of this small group of people had a rippling effect. Although we can surely attest that the founding members of Trout Unlimited had a vision for the Trout species and its habitat. I am sure if we had the opportunity to interview a founding member they would be astounded at the success Trout Unlimited has had over the years and the challenges that our organization continues to face. Our individual chapters within the TU family are similar in value to our founding TU father's vision. We all agree with the goals and guidance that is needed to foster improved habitat for our coldwater fisheries and we all agree that there is much work yet to be done. Funny that our history continues to repeat is itself, somehow after almost 50 years of effort we continue to battle some of the same elements that faced our TU founders.

Just as we continue to have those conversations surrounding the "effort" it takes to land fish. It is that very effort that is called upon to make a difference. Make a difference at the next fundraiser, river clean up or legislative meeting. Make a difference at the personal level by picking up one piece of trash next time you're on the river. Whatever your reasons for being involved in Trout Unlimited; personal, philosophical or social, it is those reasons that we continue to rely on and those reasons we appreciate. So next time someone approaches you and simply asks "why are you spending so much time on the river?" ask them to get involved in TU. Then simply grin and say it can be for personal reasons.

## SWMTU FUNDRAISING BANQUET!

The 44th annual Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited Fundraising Banquet will be held Thursday, March 19, 2009 at the Watermark Country Club. Don't miss an evening of fish tales, silent auctions, blitz raffles and great food. An announcement and reservation form will be sent in January.

Our annual banquet is our social and fundraising highlight for the year. The funds raised at our banquet support stream and habitat improvements on the Rogue River, Tyler Creek, Coldwater River, Salmon in the Classroom, Schrems Scholarship Fund, other local watersheds, printing and mailing costs for our quarterly newsletter and provide support for TU's conservation efforts nationwide.

Your attendance at the banquet is a very important way for you to insure that these and similar activities will continue. So, please keep your calendar open and be sure to join us. We will have a special Ron Barch bamboo fly rod, numerous high-end rod packages, guide trips and other non-fishing related items.

Another way for you to assist our fundraising efforts is to take advantage of new banquet sponsorship opportunities. There are a limited number of sponsorship opportunities for you or your company to have a major presence at our banquet. In addition, we rely heavily on the kind donations from our Chapter Membership and local businesses. These donations are tax deductible.

Please contact Marc Montpetit at 616-560-8264 or [montpetitmc@290signs.com](mailto:montpetitmc@290signs.com) for sponsorship details.

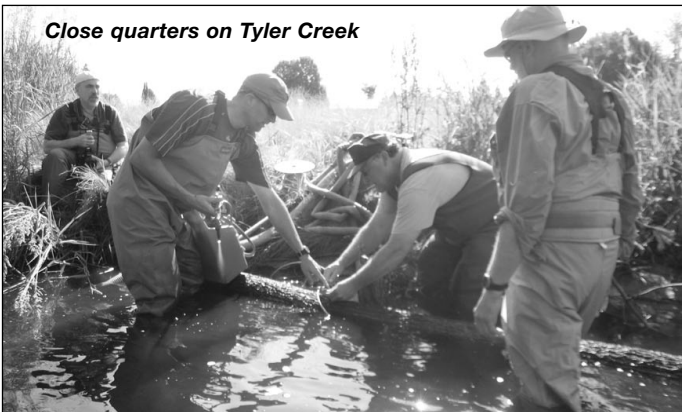
## SWMTU 2008 Conservation Review

The Schrems chapter had an extremely productive year of conservation work completing eight work day projects on two rivers in western Michigan. Your chapter is making an impact improving the habitat and water quality on local streams. The year started back on April 5th when the Grand Valley Soil and Water Conservation group came to Tyler Creek to roll some rocks and in the high spring flows they placed the rocks along the banks to protect against erosion. The volunteers were organized by student Jessie Lincoln and were joined by SWMTU members Rich Steketee and Josh Zuiderveen.



Work crew on Tyler Creek

On May 3rd, our chapter was joined by volunteers from the Oak Brook chapter from Illinois as they brought their usual enthusiasm for stream work from the Windy City. The Oak Brook chapter has partnered with several Michigan TU chapters for stream restoration work and we are fortunate that they have chosen to work with us. The day got off to a great start as we arrived and found a fisherman catching 15-17" trout out of one of the holes we had created in the previous year. It is great to see our work having an impact.



Close quarters on Tyler Creek

The chapter conducted additional work days on Tyler Creek in June, July and August when we were also joined by TU members from the Kalamazoo Valley chapter, and the Lansing – Bob Perrin chapter. I want to especially thank Ed Hoover and Jim Bedford for their support throughout the Tyler Creek project. The Tyler Creek Golf Course also provided significant support throughout the year with donated equipment and labor. Samuel Pyle, Trent Green, and Dan from the golf course were extremely gracious hosts for all the work days conducted there this year. All of these Tyler Creek projects this year involved either rock or log structures that we created in order to improve the habitat of the stream. Based on the results we are seeing from our work in 2007, we are seeing some noticeable improvements.

On August 23rd, the chapter shifted its work over to the Pigeon River in Ottawa County along a stretch in Hemlock Park. Seventeen volunteers removed trash from the stream as well as cleaned out a couple of log jams that were creating stagnant water. We also

## ...notes from outgoing president Dave Smith

installed rock and wood structures to improve the habitat. The GVSU Soil and Water Conservation Group also came in a few weeks later to continue our work a little further downstream. The Pigeon is home to brown trout and does get a run of fish from Lake Michigan. The project was made feasible by a generous donation from John McCarthy.

I also want to recognize a couple of SWMTU members Jerry Hetric and George Buursma who were frequent volunteers at our projects this year, your support was greatly appreciated.

We have one last project in the works for 2008 back on Tyler Creek. As I write this, we are awaiting for the close of the public comment period on our permit application to create a couple of wetlands along Tyler Creek. The first wetland will divert the flow from a drain tile that drains a farm field into Tyler Creek into a wetland where the runoff will be filtered and the water will be able to infiltrate into the groundwater rather than just increasing runoff. The second wetland will isolate an old mill dump from Tyler Creek. Both of these wetlands should act to improve the water quality of the stream and serve to recharge local groundwater. We hope to complete more of these types of projects in the future.



Pigeon River (Ottawa County)

Finally during the year, the chapter was involved in investigating local dams for potential removal in the future. We are starting to work with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in this effort. The chapter also hosted a tour for TU on the Rogue River and we are working with national to put together a plan and funding to make the Rogue a "Home River" sometime during 2009. I hope that you will make plans to join us on one of our projects in 2009.



Collection of debris- Pigeon River work crew

**Editors Note:** This "Year in Review" article by outgoing president Dave Smith highlights a very productive year. I must note that much of the credit goes to Dave; his tireless conservation efforts are commendable. Further, we should all salute Dave for his leadership during the last two years when SWMTU was recognized as "Chapter of the Year" by the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited (MCTU). Thanks Dave for two outstanding years.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Over the past year, we've added 160 new members to our chapter; welcome to:

Seth Van Andel	David Dickensheets	Mark Jarvie	Doug Mulder	Thomas Slikkers
Martin Angers	Tyler Dillon	Gregory Jo	Tim Munster	Nathan Smieh
Elijah Baker	Ted Dorsey	Douglas Johnson	Timothy Mustert	Kathleen Sneden
Lucas Balk	William Duhm	Aaron Johnson	Chris Myers	Dave Snyder
Gary Barnes	Patrick Eadman	Michael Johnson	Joe Nicolette	Tom Spahn
Andrew Barnes	Pete Eardley	Jack Jolman	Tim Norman	Jim Stankiewicz
Mitchell Barrett	Jeff Elliott	Grant & Jennifer Jones	James O'Dwyer	Tim Steenwy
Rob Beahan	Jeff Emery	John Kailunas	Brian Olds	Jack Steew
Howard Belknap	Cliff Ensing	Joseph Kaiser	Brent Olthof	Scott Stephens
David Bell	Frederick Eyer	Daron Kampfois	Ben Phillips	Jon Stewart
Greg Beuerle	Vickie Finkler	James Kelsey	Ryan Plocha	Chris Swanlund
Rich Bevak	Will Forsythe	Dan Kimmel	James Plumb	David Tabor
Bruce Billock	Andrew Foy	Andrew Knauf	Kyle Randall	Tim Takens
Michael Boks	Don Goris	Erek Kooyman	Robert Rasch	Joe Takens
Aaron Boldvc	Brian Gorman	Darren Krakowski	Sara Recor	Richard Temple
Terry Boone	Gordon Griffin	Micah Krinthoff	Jeff Renfro	Austin Trierweiler
Steve Brinks	Nick Groos	Richard Lackey	David Riches	Gary Troxell
Lennida Brown	Jody Hartwell	Brian LeClaire	Don Roest	Andy Van Bennekom
Steve Brunink	Brian Hausig	Laurie Lehman	Ed Roy	Rich VanderVeen
Brook Burg	Kurtis Heemstra	Richard Leist	Andreas Rueter	Jason Veeneman
Levi Byker	Kurt Hendrickson	Todd Lemieux	Steve Ruis	Steve Wallis
Jake Carey	Kevin Hengeveld	Sean Leonard	James Rupp	Ryan Walter-Rooks
Kurt Chaistensen	Peter Hiskes	Eric Loper	Jack Sanborn	Nate Ward
Bert Chambers	Don Hodgman	Eric Lundy	Jared Sartini	John Weiss
Nicholas Chernoly	Tom Hoekstra	Joseph Macomber	Mike Schnurr	Tim Whalen
Dan Claxton	Paul Hoffman	Chris Martinek	Lorie Schoen	Ryan White
Chuck Clisso	Joel Hoffmasler	Damian McDougal	Steve Schrouder	James White
Adam Conroy	Eric Horoky	Mark McMachen	Linda Schuhardt	Troy White
David Cramer	H. Brent Hubble	Richard Meckley	Chris Scott	Paul Wilterdink
Jeff Dehaan	Adriann Hulst	Don Messinger	Jefferey Sheehan	Justin Wohlfeil
Thomas Dejager	James Hunter	Gary Metcalf	Martin Simescu	
Eric DeJoger	Nicholas Hyma	James Mudget	John Sleeman Jr	

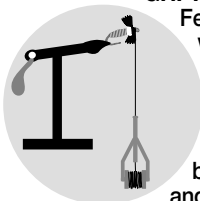
Our total membership has grown to 860!

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While we welcome our new members, its appropriate to salute the 21 among us that have been members of our chapter for 30+ years:

James Vogt • 1/1/1960	Frank Bozek • 1/1/1971	Edward Sutton • 5/1/1973	David Frey • 8/1/1974
Blake Forslund • 11/1/1963	Philip Idema • 8/1/1972	A. Newton Dille • 1/1/1974	Richard Norton • 12/1/1975
Gary Skinner • 1/1/1966	Steele Taylor • 2/1/1973	Robert Steketee • 1/1/1974	Thomas Popiel • 1/1/1976
Robert Gillette • 1/1/1969	Thomas Smith • 3/1/1973	David Hilton • 3/1/1974	Tom Kueick • 3/1/1976
Eugene Lamberti • 8/1/1969		Ward Van Laanen • 6/1/1974	Lance Wheeler • 4/1/1976

## FLY TYING CELEBRATION - 2009 • DENNIS POTTER



GRFT (Grand River Fly Tiers) a FFF/GLC club is hosting a celebration of the arts, skills and lore of fly tying on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Knights of Columbus hall located in the 5800 block of Clyde Park in Grand Rapids. SWMTU will be there in force representing Trout Unlimited. This is a GRFT and SWMTU event. *This is not a fund-raiser and to that end there will be no auction or raffle.*

- The event will be a success if we can cover our costs at the door. This is strictly a day for a select group of tiers to share what they have learned over the years. There will be no vendors and table sales will be strictly limited. At this time tiers may sell their flies and associated instructional materials such as DVD's. We have commitments from some of the best tiers in the mid-west including Ray Schmidt, Julie Nielsen, Jeff "Fuzzy" Andrews, Chris Helm, Kevin Feenstra, myself and others. One need not be a master tier to sit and tie for the day. We will have some old timers and a few youthful tiers on hand. We want tiers who can "spin a good bug" as well as "spin a good tale."
- We will be limiting the number of tiers to approximately 40 to ensure that all the tiers and attendees will have plenty of room. Although we have five months to bring this together and only an email notice has been sent, it is very clear that we will have more tiers wanting to participate than we will be able to accommodate.
- If you would like to tie or know someone you think would be a good candidate contact me at [ausable1@gmail.com](mailto:ausable1@gmail.com) with name, email address and a phone number. We will run short of space for tiers.
- There will be "Video Tying Theater" set up on the stage with plenty of seating. A professional close-up camera and two 32 inch LCD monitors will ensure that everyone will be able to see everything in perfect detail.
- During the day, celebrity tiers will take the stage for one hour presentations. Never tied a fly? Want to learn? This is the time and place. Some talented and patient tiers will be on hand to help. Come and tie your first fly with us. All materials and tools will be provided. This is a great opportunity for SWMTU and GRFT join together in what we hope will be the first of many future events and projects.

I hope to see you in February.

**Dennis Potter, Celebration Chair**  
Yippee Tie One On!

**Editors Note:**

Your SWMTU board is pleased to cooperate with Grand River Fly Tyers, FFF on this new endeavor. We look forward working with Dennis Potter in making this first annual Tying Celebration a success. Please consider participating, if not, plan to attend.

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*To conserve, protect and restore West Michigan's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds and to provide a forum for the exchange of information concerning coldwater fisheries and the techniques and the sport of trout fishing.*

**SWMTU EVENT CALENDAR- 2008-09**

**ANNUAL SWMTU HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER  
PIETRO'S BACK DOOR PIZZERIA  
28th STREET & BRETON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008  
6:00 P.M. til 8:00 P.M.**

Please join with other members and friends of our chapter for an informal get together for the holidays. Bring your stories, fish photos, information to share and any questions we might be able to answer. Pizza, salad, bread sticks and soft drinks provided. A cash bar will be available. **R.S.V.P. by Saturday, December 6th** by contacting Larry Risbridger at elrisbridger@charter.net or by phone: Home (616) 891-0148 • Cell (616) 890-8327.

**WA-WA-SUM ANNUAL OUTING  
JUNE 18-21, 2009**

*Watch for additional details in future Trout Talk newsletters!*

**MEMBERS & GUESTS WEEKEND GET TOGETHER  
FULLER'S NORTH BRANCH OUTING CLUB  
NORTH BRANCH AuSABLE RIVER  
FRIDAY MAY 29th - SUNDAY MAY 31st, 2009**

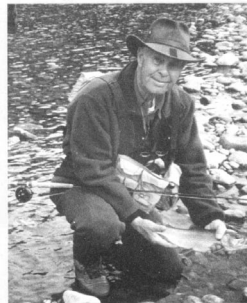
Invite a friend, spouse, son, daughter, father, etc. for this unique. Fuller's is a unique facility that's registered as a National Historic Site. You'll be able to take advantage of a special package price.

See our web-site [www.swmtu.org](http://www.swmtu.org)

For more details or contact Larry Risbridger at elrisbridger@charter.net  
Or by phone: Home (616) 891-0148 • Cell (616) 890-8327.

**A Tribute to Jim McDonald**

March 16, 2008



June 21, 1926 - March 11, 2008

For when the One Great Scorer comes  
To mark against your name,  
He marks not that you won or lost,  
But how you played the game.

*Editors Note:* Jim was a long time member of our chapter. The photo shows Jim doing what he loved best. Donations in his name were dedicated to Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited. Rest in peace Jim.

**"Stay informed- join the Email list at [www.swmtu.org](http://www.swmtu.org)!"**



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