

MAY/JUNE 2006

TROUT TALK

Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited



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

DINNER SEMINARS

**GONE FISHIN'
FOR THE SUMMER**

**SEMINARS TO
RESUME IN THE FALL**

SWMTU
Board Meetings
1st Tuesday of every month
6:00 PM

Leave Messages at:
Voice Creel
616-752-8596

E-mail: wmtu@wmtu.org
Website: www.wmtu.org



President's Report...

BANQUET

Another annual fundraising banquet has come and gone and this year's banquet was very successful. In my four years on the Board, this year's banquet was the best. Not only were we able to raise a significant amount of money for upcoming projects, but the mix of attendees was tremendous. It was great to see young and old, novice and experienced anglers sharing stories and relating at the same level in one room. The majority of the credit for this year's successful banquet must go to the newest Board members. They brought many new ideas and enthusiasm to this year's banquet. We are also very fortunate to have a very dedicated membership base that attends the banquet each year to support west Michigan's cold-water fisheries.

There are so many members that attend year after year to support our mission and many donors that give year after year that continue to make the banquets thrive. I wish we could list each one of you in this article. However, a list of this year's donors is included on the next page of this newsletter. I am very excited to tell you that it looks like next year's banquet will be at a new location as we have outgrown the Hilton! If anyone has a recommendation for a new banquet location, please email me at wmtu@wmtu.org.

I can not thank all of you enough for your continued support. Please continue to monitor the website for upcoming projects and do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board member with any issues you believe warrant our attention. Have a good summer that is hopefully full of tight lines!

Eric Starck, *President*



WA WA SUM OUTING

The annual membership meeting and outing will be held again this year at the Wa Wa Sum camp near Grayling. The lodge will be open for us Thursday, June 22 at noon. We have the camp until Sunday, June 25.

The membership meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 24. Everyone is encouraged to attend. At that time, a new Board of Directors and Officers will be elected.

Wa Wa Sum Lodge is located on the banks of the main stream of the Au Sable River. Mid June is traditionally a super time to meet some of the best hatches of the season: yellow and olive stones, drakes and caddis flies. There's a good change at big trout rising to hexaginas at dark.

Fishing opportunities aren't limited to trout; Wakeley Lake (ten minutes away) offers anglers some fine bass and bluegill fishing. The location is a great jumping off place beyond the Au Sable mainstream. The north and south branches, and the Manistee, are minutes away.

Canoes are available if you want to explore any area streams or lakes. If you're unfamiliar with Grayling area fishing opportunities, we'll be happy to point you in a good direction or let you tag along.

The cost is \$100 for three nights, \$75 for two nights or \$50 for one night. This includes simple breakfasts and dinners. BYOB. Please RSVP by June 14 to either wmtu@wmtu.org or call Dave DeJonge at 616-771-9690. Sleeping space inside the lodge is limited, so reserve your spot ASAP.

Complete information about the weekend and location can be found online at:
<http://www.wmtu.org/articles/wawasum.html>

WMTU Salmon in the Classroom

Schrems WMTU announces financial support for area schools to start a Salmon in the Classroom program starting with the 2006-2007 school year. The program will provide each school up to \$1,000 for the start-up costs associated with the program. The majority of the cost is normally required for the purchase of a chiller, which is essential to maintain the water temperature needed for trout and salmon to survive and grow. If you know of a teacher or a school that may be interested in this program, please contact us at wmtu@wmtu.org. For more information about this program, check out the WMTU web site at <http://www.wmtu.org/articles/SIC.html>.



LIST OF DONORS

Alder Creek Rods / Ron Barch
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 Walt Grau
 Web Young, *A Day on the Water*
 Willbuit Wooden Watercraft

Steelhead Trip

About 20 members and friends of SWMTU got together to float and fish the Muskegon River in April. For the third consecutive year, we were blessed with beautiful weather. By lunchtime, our fleece coats were stowed away.

Every drift boat felt the tug of steelhead at the end of the line and a few lucky ones got their fish to the net. Several others felt the lethargic tug of a redhorse sucker and were roundly ridiculed.

Thanks to everyone who attended, especially those who brought their boats out for the day.



Michigan Report...

Michigan Council Executive Directors Report, April 8, 2006

Progress on Advocacy Priorities for 2005/06

Groundwater Withdrawal Legislation: A package of five bills regulating the withdrawal of groundwater unanimously passed the Michigan House in early February and was signed by the Governor on February 22nd. They are Public Acts 33 through 37 of 2006.

Administrative Rules for Mining in Reactive Ore Bodies: The revised Part 632 rules and public hearing report (titled Report to JCAR) were submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) on January 11, 2006. These rules were approved by JCAR in early February and signed by the Governor. The first permit application under these rules was submitted in late February by the Kennecott Minerals Corporation for its proposed underground mine in northern Marquette County.

Streamlined Small Dam removal permitting systems/Funding Mechanism's for Dam Removal: On February 16, 2006 the Senate Natural Resources Committee passed SB 1040 with the support of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and was passed by the full Senate on February 21st. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use, and Environment.

Treaty of 1836 Treaty litigation: MCTU continues to participate as an active member of the Coalition to Protect Michigan's Resources (formerly the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition). The court has set a trial date for mid July and has appointed a mediator to attempt to complete negotiations so a trial won't be necessary. The council continues to seek a volunteer to represent it on the MFRCC Board. MCTU's Executive Director has been asked and has attended settlement discussions since October.

Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition/FERC Issues: MHRC continues to represent MCTU in the negotiations sur-

rounding the surrender of the FERC operating licenses for the three hydro projects on the Boardman River, as well as implementation of licenses on other rivers across the state.

Long term funding of MDNR/Protection of Restricted Funds: The Michigan Natural Resources Commission has appointed a license fee work group, which has met five times since January 30. The MDNR Director has made the decision not to pursue any license fee increases until after this legislative session.

Status of Current Non-Advocacy Natural Resource Issues

Boardman River Hydrologic Restoration Project: MCTU's Vice Chair and members of the Adams and Pine River Chapters continue to participate in meetings to define the scope of the restoration of the Boardman River in light of the potential decommissioning of three Hydropower Dams on the Boardman River.

Savoy Gas Well Proposal: In late March, the Federal Court in Bay City heard arguments in the legal action brought by Anglers of the Au Sable, the Mackinaw Chapter of the Sierra Club and Tim Mason related to the inadequacy of the USFS Environmental Assessment related to this proposed gas well east of the Mason Tract Special Management Area. A decision is expected in late April or early May.

Tourist Park Dam Replacement: MCTU's Executive Director, members of the Fred Waara Chapter, and MDNR staff continue to advocate to the Marquette Board of Light and Power that not replacing the Tourist Park Dam on the Dead River is the best solution to resolve the problems created when the dam was partially destroyed by a flood event in May 2003.

Ice Mountain Appeal: In January the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) and the Nestle Corporation reached a settlement agreement in the lawsuit related to Nestles' groundwater withdrawals at the well field at the Sanctuary Springs site near Morley, MI. In late March, MCWC filed a brief with the Michigan Supreme Court appeal-

ing the decision of the Michigan Appeals Court. The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association have filed an Amicus brief. No other briefs have been filed at this time.

Other Issues on MCTU's Plate

2009 TU 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting: At its February Board meeting the TU National Board of Trustees established the third weekend in August 2009 as the date for the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Celebration. In October 2005, TU National Staff Member Sally Armstrong

conducted a site visit in Traverse City in preparation for the 2009 annual meeting. Volunteers are being sought for the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

Review/ Update of MCTU Conservation Agenda (Natural Resources Committee):

The MCTU Conservation Agenda is currently being reviewed and updated by the Natural Resources Committee. The draft agenda is expected to be ready for review by all council members by June 1, 2006.

 **Committee Reports...**

DEQ Resolves Water Quality Violations at Kent County DairyMarch 30, 2006

The Department of Environmental Quality announced today that it has entered into an Administrative Consent Order with Swisslane Dairy Farms, Inc., a large concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) located in Alto, Kent County. The ACO resolves an enforcement action taken after Swisslane experienced its fourth documented discharge to Pratt Lake Creek, a tributary to Tyler Creek within the Coldwater River Watershed.

Discharges of nutrients, pathogens, and organic materials such as those that occurred at Swisslane have long been recognized by the DEQ as a significant cause of water quality impairment in the state.

While the ACO was being negotiated, Swisslane installed two additional large storage structures to contain manure and other wastewater produced at its dairy operation. Swisslane also agreed to develop a Storm Water Management Plan for the purpose of ensuring that all clean production area storm water is properly diverted and all storm water that comes in contact with polluting materials is effectively contained and managed.

It's encouraging to see owners of large farms step up to the plate and make necessary improvements to their operations in order to ensure our water resources are not being put at risk said DEQ Director Steven E. Chester. This demonstrates that by working together, we can both promote agriculture and protect Michigan's environment at the same time.

Swisslane has also agreed to pay a civil fine of \$15,000 to the state's general fund and will also partially reimburse the DEQ for \$2,000 in enforcement costs. Swisslane further agreed to pay additional amounts to the general fund should future violations of settlement terms occur.

Editor's note: *DEQ news releases are available on the department's Internet home page at www.michigan.gov/deq.*

Conservation Update

By Dave Smith

A big thanks to everyone who made this year's banquet a huge success! We had a record turnout and raised a lot of money that we can use to preserve, protect, and restore our coldwater fisheries.

At the banquet, we announced that Schrems WMTU will support locals schools in establishing a Salmon in the Classroom program. The details of this program can be found in another article in this newsletter or on our web site at wmtu.org. It is exciting to have this educational tool to help reach the youth in West Michigan with our message.

We are continuing to develop our Home Rivers Initiative and we hope to have some additions to our web site with information about this program in the next month.

At the state level, we are working with the State Council to revise the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited (MCTU) Conservation Agenda. This agenda drives the activities of our Executive Director, Rich Bowman for the next two years. The target date for completion of this document is June 2006. If you have any feedback or input, contact Paul Eberhart or myself.

Also on the state level, new regulations for sulfide mining have recently been adopted by Michigan. Kennecott Eagle Mining is the first company to apply for a permit under these new regulations. MCTU is working closely with some experts from Trout Unlimited National to analyze this permit application. This permit is especially important to Trout Unlimited since the proposed mine location is in the Yellow Dog Plain of the Upper Peninsula and is approximately one-half mile from the Salmon Trout River which is one of the few rivers in Michigan to host a population of Coaster Brook Trout.

Locally we have conservation projects scheduled for April 22, May 20, June 10, July 29, and August 19. If you have any of these dates free, please let us know at wmtu@wmtu.org so that we can count on your support! Additional details on these projects can be found on our web site.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHREMS WEST MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED
Saturday, June 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at Wa Wa Sum Lodge, Grayling, MI
PROXY**

The undersigned _____ hereby nominates and appoints _____ or any member of the Executive Board, with power of substitution, his or her true and lawful proxy for him or her and in his or her name, place stand to vote at annual meeting of the members of Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited, on which any and all matters which come before the members of that SWMTU chapter at that meeting.

Nominations are: Bradley Boomstra George Carroll Write-in candidate _____

DATED this ____ day of _____ 2006 _____

(Signature)

Please cut along dotted line and return to: Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 230094, Grand Rapids, MI 49523-0094



Pat DeBoer

616-364-0593

MICHIGAN TROUT - PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER!!

ROGUE RIVER ESTATE/\$649,900 15 MINUTES FROM GRAND RAPIDS

2957 Gold Dust St NE, Belmont (E Beltline to Rogue River Rd, W to Packer, N to Gold Dust, W to cul-de-sac) This custom newly remodeled two story 4 bedroom, 3 bath home is stately seated on a gently sloping riverbank with breathtaking tranquil views of the Rogue River and wildlife (deer, trout, fishing, etc.). Home is not in a flood plain. Just across the river is approximately 80 pristine acres of a county nature preserve. Mature pines and beautiful acres of wooded area protect the seclusion of this magazine quality home. Home is fantastic for family and entertaining. Award winning Rockford Schools. Dramatic foyer. Spacious designer kitchen with extras galore, including a walk-in pantry. Large dining area (can expand to accommodate large dinner parties) is surrounded by windows and sliders to open deck and screened-in porch. Upper level master suite features French doors and private bath with walk-in closet, whirlpool tub, Marbletech shower and a slider to a large viewing balcony. Also located on the upper level are 3 additional bedrooms and a full bath. Main floor laundry. Wood and ceramic tile floors. Custom woodwork and nine foot ceilings. 5230 square feet finished. 5+ stall attached garage. Central air and underground sprinkling. Professionally landscaped. Lower level: half-basketball court with 20' ceilings and exercise area. Please visit the virtual tour link and digital photos. (552660)



BALWIN RIVER NEAR THE P.M./\$219,900 TROUT FISHERMAN'S SANCTUARY

Wow - what fishing and views! Quiet, tranquil, beautiful wooded setting on the banks of the Baldwin River and close enough to easily walk to the "flies only" stretch of the Pere Marquette River. A fisherman's/sportsman's paradise. This secluded nature retreat is only two miles from Baldwin and approx. one hour north of Grand Rapids. The cabin is nestled on a bank with a spectacular view of the Baldwin River. Over 300 feet of river frontage. Three small bedrooms with loft potential. Full bath and nice kitchen with appliances. The good sized living room has a cozy fireplace. A very large inviting screened porch spans the front. Newer siding, roof and septic system. Gated drive. A perfect place to just relax or fish and play. Close to Lake County snowmobile trails and local golf courses. About 25 miles to Caberfae skiing. New listing.



Fly Fishing for Pike

By Dick Smith

The Grand River is famous for its big pike, but they are generally caught by accident by someone who is fishing for something else.

Pike are very specialized predators. They hunt from ambush. Their large anal and dorsal fins are set well back near their tails. Those fins act as vertical stabilizers, but those two large fins also act in combination with the tail to accelerate the fish from motionless to top speed in only a few quick beats. Pike have incredible acceleration in a straight line, and if a pike can get its nose pointed at a prey fish that is reasonably close, that fish has almost no chance at all of surviving. But pike have very little maneuverability, and if the prey fish can stay to the side of a pike or behind it, the fish is fairly safe.

Pike feed most efficiently on other fish that are about one-third the pike's length and one-fifth its weight. So large pike like large minnows. The best of the pike flies I have used is tied like this.

Hook- 3/0 heavy wire. I use saltwater hooks.

Tail- white Enrico Puglisi fibers six or seven inches long topped by an equal amount of emerald green fibers the same length. The tail is really the wing, tied in at the back of the fly to keep the soft material from fouling on the hook.

Body- silver mylar tubing wrapped like tinsel.

Throat- silver flashabou extending back three or four inches.

Wing- more silver flashabou if you want it.



from the Riffles...

WMTU Earth Day Project

Nineteen members of WMTU and the Orchard Hill Reformed Church celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd by meeting at the TU-Dolan Nature area. The group broke into several smaller teams to tackle multiple projects across the property and along the Coldwater River.

Paul Eberhart organized the team attacking the garlic mustard that is growing on the property. It's an invasive species that is crowding out many of the native Michigan plants and wildflowers. They used wands to apply a pesticide directly to the garlic mustard plants minimizing any impact to other species. A special thanks goes out to Randy Angell who borrowed one of the wands and volunteered to continue the garlic mustard attack on the property over the next couple of weeks.

A second team consisting of members of the Orchard Hill Reformed Church recruited by TU member Jim Flamming, attacked the strenuous project of ripping out over 250 yards of old fencing that runs through the property. They did an excellent job of helping restore the natural

look of the property and removing a hazard to both humans and wildlife. We still have a lot more old fencing to remove, but as Paul said, "I have been trying to get someone to remove that fence for 10 years." Thanks to this team we are off to a great start!

Other teams tackled removing some of the brush over-



The largest king salmon I ever caught took one of those pike streamers. I was standing on a high bank above a bend in the Pere Marquette river and I watched a big fish rampage around the pool below me. He chased everything that came near him. He was able to maneuver around enough in that deep water so he got a hold of a much smaller male that got too close to him. The smaller fish was about seven pounds. The big one got the smaller fish across the middle of the back and he shook it like a dog shakes a rat. When he let that fish go it went to the bottom on its side, and died there. He was chasing another salmon around when I went down and made my first cast. As the big fly swung down toward him the fish came at least ten feet to attack it. I had changed to a 16 pound test tippet and I still had a long chase downstream before I got him on his side in the shallows.

Pike in big rivers prefer slow, almost still, water and wherever there is a small bayou, large pike will hunt along the entrance to the bayou.

Wherever there is a slowly turning eddy on the outside of a bend, pike like to hunt the edge of the flat on the upstream side and close to the shore in the still water along the eddy.

The water of the Grand River tends to be slightly clearer where it is very slow and drops some of its silt load, and those areas are better for fly fishermen. Pike live very far into the arctic. They like cold water and in the summer they seek it out. They will be in the still water below where a cold creek flows into the river, and that tends to be fairly clear water too.

I have been cut off twice by very large pike. At first I used a leader of five feet of straight sixty-pound test. I watched a huge fish take my fly and cut it off easily. I added a six-inch wire leader to the six feet of sixty pound test, and that worked pretty well. I landed some nice fish with that set up, before I got cut off on the strike by a fish I never saw.

The leader I now use for pike is four feet of sixty-pound test (.023), two feet of twenty pound test Fireline, and an eight inch, eighteen pound test wire leader. It is necessary to tie Palomar knots in Fireline, so I tie the Fireline to the wire leader and I tie a swivel to the other end of the line. I make up several of those leaders ahead of time and tie the swivel to the sixty-pound butt when I'm ready to fish.



growing some of the trails on the property, and picking up trash along the road and along some of the bridges crossing the Coldwater River, and installing five birdhouses. The group gathered together around 12:30 to share some snacks and congratulations on a job well done. Thank you to everyone who attended to make the project extremely successful.

Other Upcoming WMTU Projects:

- May 20 - Stegman Creek (a tributary of the Rogue River)
- June 10 - Stegman Creek / Rogue River (TBA)
- July 29 - Coldwater River Woody Debris Project

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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

Saturday, May 20
SWMTU-Timberland RC&D project on Stegman Creek.
Please RSVP with Dave Smith at davidsmith@chartermi.net.

Saturday, June 10
SWMTU-Timberland RC&D project on Stegman Creek.
Please RSVP with Dave Smith at davidsmith@chartermi.net.

June 22-25, Thursday - Sunday
Membership meeting and outing at Wa Wa Sum.

Saturday, July 29
Work project on the Dolan Property. Install woody debris in the Coldwater River.
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot.
Please RSVP with Dave Smith at davidsmith@chartermi.net or Paul Eberhart at hbwt@voyager.net.

Saturday, August 19
Work project on the Dolan Property. Wetlands impoundment project and other activities.
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot.
Please RSVP with Dave Smith at davidsmith@chartermi.net or Paul Eberhart at hbwt@voyager.net.

**SMALL FLIES MADE READY
...WHEN READY**

An answer to the old problem of threading your tippet in that itty-bitty eyelet, while on the stream.

Illustrations by Robert McKeon • Phoenix, AZ

1 The night before....
Start with a good used cork from a good bottle of wine.

2 Select those small flies that you need on your favorite stream.

3 Thread and tie an 18 to 24" tippet line into eyelet at home (this is the tricky part...) while finishing that first glass of wine.

4 Wrap tippets and flies around cork.

5 Grab an empty clear 35 mm film container (Remember 35 mm photography?) and drop cork and flies into this wonderful water proof mini fly box.

6 Label the container and you're ready to go fishing...no more worries about finding that eyelet while on the stream. Just tie leader onto tippet and go get 'em!

NOTE: Some corks may have to be trimmed for length to fit in 35mm container.

2005-06 COMMITTEES: Conservation- Paul Eberhart, Chair- Dick Smith, Ron Barch, Dave Smith, Bradley Boomstra, Membership/Education- Cregg Start, Chair- Dick Smith, Ron Barch, Dave DeJonge, Dave Smith, JR Hartman, Andy Milnes Fundraising- Eric Starck, Chair- Jim Scott, Teresa Skye, Larry Risbridger, Robert Fox, Michael Lindley State Council- Paul Eberhart, Ron Barch



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