

SPRING 2017

TROUT TIMES



**Vanguard
Chapter**

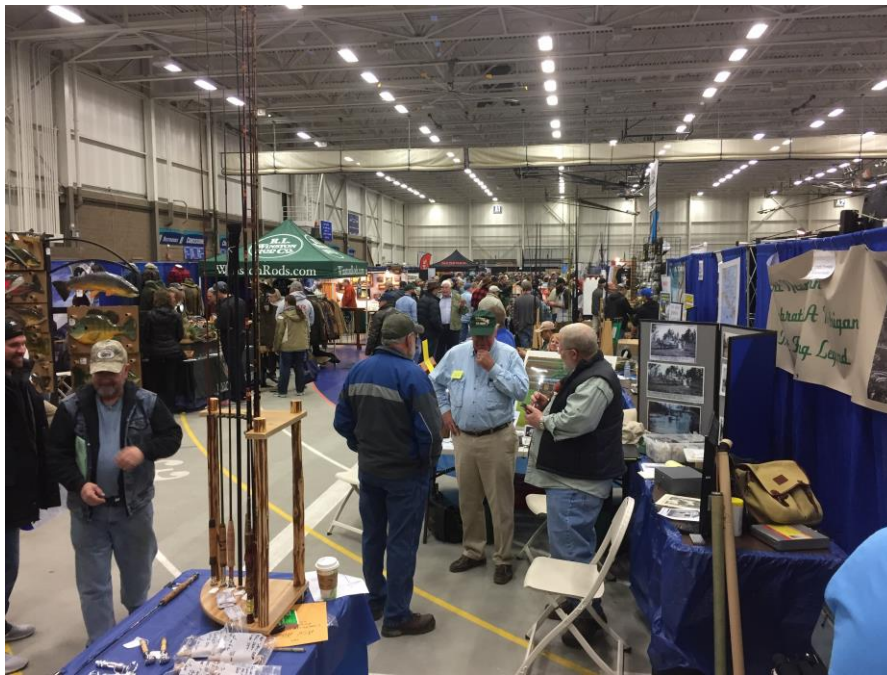
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Spring Brings Successful Expo

By Joe Barker



WARREN— The weather could have been a little warmer, but clear skies on the second Saturday of March was conducive to bringing a large and eager crowd to the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo at Macomb Community College in Warren, organized by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

Several members of the Vanguard Chapter manned a booth that they shared with Vanguard Fly Tying to hawk raffle tickets, talk trout fishing and the

Chapter's conservation activities, and sell trout flies and shadow boxes.

From a financial perspective, the event was a spectacular success for the Chapter. Gross raffle ticket sales of \$2,077 was the best showing ever by a long shot, thanks in large part to energetic pre-show sales. Because the four raffle items were all donated to the Chapter, expenses totaled only \$453, consisting of booth rental, which was split with Vanguard Fly Tying, ticket

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printing, and license fees. That resulted in net income of \$1,624.

By way of comparison, last year's Expo resulted in net income of \$1,044, while the 2015 Expo showed profits of \$846, and the year before that (2014) was \$1,206.

Changing to a \$5 raffle ticket rather than a \$1 raffle ticket as in prior years does not seem to have inhibited people from opening their wallets. However, having four great raffle prizes may have been the biggest factor in tempting people to take a chance.

First prize was a weekend for two at Au Sable Riverview Resort (formerly Riverview Lodge & Cabins) on the Au Sable River. With over 2,000 raffle tickets sold, it was definitely a long shot that none other than Joe Swantek, the Chapter Treasurer and principle organizer in Vanguard's participation in the Expo, was the winner. Ironically, Joe

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EXPO

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recently purchased a cabin about 20 miles from Riverview Resort.

A float trip with professional guide Al Borchert on the Au Sable River, a fishing kayak and paddle donated by Vanguard member Larry Butts, and a matted and framed print by Michigan artist Becca Schlaff rounded out the items that were won. As chance would have it, a second Vanguard member, Ron Deaton, who will be in charge of this year's meals at the Riverview outing, won the print. Obviously, volunteering has its rewards.

Besides what appeared to be close to record setting crowds on Saturday of the two day event, there were more vendors and exhibitors at the Expo than in past years (more than 130). All available space in the large auditorium (61,000 square feet) was filled by fly rod vendors, fly shops, fly tying suppliers, guide services, lodges, artists, and fishing and conservation organizations. Some of the more recognizable names included Old Au Sable Fly Shop, Scott Fly Rods, Scientific Anglers, Riverview Resort, Project Healing Waters, Stealthcraft Boats, Anglers of the Au Sable, and Naknek River Camp.

As always, the Expo had top name fly fishing experts on hand to present seminars on fly fishing techniques and strategies. This year's dignitaries were Craig Mathews, George Daniel, Landon Mayer, and Rick Kustich.

The two 120 feet long casting ponds were a constant draw for attendees to witness fly casting demonstrations and to test the many fly rods offered by manufacturers and fly shops. Another busy spot was the Kids Activity Corner where fly tying instruction was offered to the youngest fishing enthusiasts along with other entertaining activities.

On the opposite side of the exhibition hall, a Fly Tying Corner was set up for a half dozen fly tying professionals and experts, such as legendary Jerry Regan, to show off their dexterity with feathers and fur.

Don't miss the opportunity next year to socialize with other members of the Vanguard Chapter at the Expo while getting great deals on fly fishing equipment and material and learning a few new things.



Au Sable Riverview Resort 2017 Annual Fundraiser Outing Set for May 18-21

By Scott Hummon

GRAYLING—Spring is here and we're all itching to get on the water for another season of chasing the wily trout. That also means our annual Vanguard Chapter outing at Riverview Resort on the Au Sable River is right around the corner. Riverview Lodge and Cabins has changed its name to Au Sable Riverview Resort. With the completion of the Fly and Tackle Shop in conjunction with a full service convenience store carrying a full line of adult beverages and must have items, and a Luxury Loft House, the owner decided it was time to elevate the status to a "Resort." I think everyone will be impressed and enjoy all the new amenities. We will be using the Main Lodge and the new Loft House for our accommodations.

We have 32 participants this year with several staying off site at their own vacation residences and joining us for meals, fishing, and frivolity of all sorts. We are filled to capacity already and will truly test the cooking and organizational skills of Ron Deaton who has taken over the food responsibilities this year. (THANK YOU Ron!) We all promise to pitch in and help with food prep and clean-up duties.

We know that weather can be very fickle in mid-May, but with the early warm-up this year, I am hoping for some good hatches while we are there. Don't forget your Dark Hendricksons, a few Drakes, etc., and in case of any colder or inclement weather, a variety of sub-surface patterns. Joe Barker will have his usual array of flies available for purchase and he will also be a great source of selection information the closer we get to the date.

I look forward to seeing everyone for the Friday night Fish Fry.

Scott Hummon

JOINT BANQUET A FUNDRAISING HIT

By Joe Barker

ROCHESTER HILLS—So how do small local non-profit organizations afford to do as much as they can on their conservation bucket list? For years, the Vanguard Chapter held an annual banquet, usually at Fernhill Country Club in Clinton Township. The banquets were initially well attended and raised several thousand dollars throughout the years, thanks to the tireless efforts of John Sabina, Joe Swantek, and others. The banquet also served as an opportunity for a yearly get-together for Chapter members who might not otherwise attend monthly membership meetings.

members of the Chapter to carry, and no one was willing to step up to take over the responsibility.

The Chapter was able to replace some of the lost revenue from not holding a banquet by participating in the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. The raffle held by the Chapter at its booth has provided funds for its conservation activities, with a much less investment in time and effort. Joe Swantek, along with successive Chapter presidents, have spearheaded the Expo effort, which still involves significant work and preparation. The additional benefit is

with their attendance. But this year, the Clinton Valley proposed that the Vanguard Chapter jointly host the event by providing its own raffle items and selling tickets to its members, from which it would receive the proceeds. The Vanguard Chapter eagerly accepted the offer, without a clear idea how successful the endeavor might be. As it turns out, it was a profitable decision for both chapters.

As in year's past, the Clinton Valley banquet was held at the River Crest banquet facilities in Rochester Hills on Saturday, March 25, 2017. As is typical of such banquets, it was the Clinton Valley Chapter's largest fundraiser of the year and was a complete sell out, with 180 people attending. Doors opened to the public and cocktails were served from an open bar beginning at 5:30 p.m. A fantastic buffet-style dinner was served at 7:00 p.m. The event did not have a guest speaker.

Banquet attendees had the opportunity to mingle with other like-minded anglers and river stewards while enjoying a fun-filled evening. Throughout the evening attendees had several different ways to win some very interesting items in various auctions and raffles. There were silent auctions, \$2 and \$5 bucket raffles, 50/50 card raffles, rubber ducky raffles, and various door prizes that appealed to both anglers and their spouses. Some of the prizes include a hand-crafted custom bamboo fly rod by Ron Barch of Alder Creek Rods paired with a special matching reel, guided float trips, lodge stays, a kayak, numerous pieces of artwork, and sporting memorabilia. There were a significant number of prizes for non-anglers such as massages, baked goods, jewelry, makeovers, and restaurant gift certificates.

The Clinton Valley banquet continued their theme of having a small vendor show located in a prize room. Vendors available this year for attendees to talk with and purchase items included Ron Barch of Alder Creek Rods, Bob Batchik of Sunfish

Please see *BANQUET*, next page.



The 2008 Vanguard Chapter banquet with John Sabina in the background.

So why hasn't the Chapter continued to host an annual banquet for several years? The short answer is that organizing a banquet is a considerable amount of work. Arrangements for a location had to be made, a menu selected, numerous items solicited for sale at silent and live auctions, tickets sold, and the list goes on. It just became too much of a burden upon too few

that the Expo is attended by members who do not otherwise show up at membership meetings.

Nevertheless, a banquet has proven to be invaluable as a fundraising tool. Enter the Clinton Valley Annual Banquet for Conservation, hosted by the Clinton Valley Chapter. Members of Vanguard have supported the banquet in the past

BANQUET

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Woodworks, Nomad Anglers, J Thomas Jewelers, and Bob Miller of Ryan Rocks Outdoor Adventures.

The revenue produced from the banquet was impressive. The Clinton Valley Chapter made \$14,600 net after the Vanguard Chapter's share was deducted. Their biggest money maker was guide John Ray's float trip, which took in \$776. Unfortunately, the silent auctions for the sports memorabilia were a bust. The Clinton Valley Chapter is returning 7 of the 11 items that did not get a bid. Their overall take per person who attended the banquet was up this year from \$74 last year, to \$83 per person this year.

Twenty-five Vanguard members and guests attended the banquet and four members were lucky enough to win prizes. With the sale of the tickets, the Vanguard Chapter's share of banquet revenues was \$1,108. The Chapter made \$858 from the bucket raffles they provided. The \$5 bucket for the rod and reel from member Larry Swantek was the big winner, making \$414.

"Overall it was a well-run and nice banquet, and everyone I talked to had a great time," said Vanguard Chapter President Jeff Gerwitz.

The date for next year's banquet is already set for March 24, 2018. The Vanguard Chapter again plans to participate under the same terms as this year.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jeff Gerwitz



It looks like winter is finally over and we are less than a month away from fishing Paint Creek again. It's been a busy winter for members of the Board of Directors.

Eli Stanesa, the Vanguard Chapter Conservation Chairman and Director, has worked hard putting together a very full calendar for this year's conservation projects. These projects include wader washing stations, multiple large woody debris removals, a beaver dam removal, New Zealand mud snail signage, and installation of angler access stairs at Gallagher Road. Take a look at our website and mark your calendars.

We had our annual fundraiser at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. The Expo and our fundraiser were a great success. We raised more money than any previous year and Vanguard members won two out of the four prizes.

Ron Deaton, a Board Director, with assistance from Ron Peckens, Michigan TU's Communication Committee Chair, redesigned and updated our website. Ron has done an excellent job in creating the new look. There is a calendar with future events (just click on the event and a dialogue box will pop up with all pertinent information). Also, the tabs for the pages are on the top now, which makes it easier to get around the site. And, don't forget our Facebook page.

Larry Walla has done a great job keeping this interesting and up to date.

The Board has planned our April membership meeting at Camp Ticonderoga Restaurant in the newly enclosed upstairs room. This will be our second annual Trout Opener Celebration. Join us for dinner or drinks and enjoy the company.

This year we not only attended the Clinton Valley Chapter TU Banquet, but we were able to raise money by selling tickets and putting multiple prizes in bucket raffles. More than 25 Vanguard members and family attended the banquet this year and a few of them won prizes.

We are coming off of an excellent year as we were able to complete more conservation projects than ever, increase the attendance at meetings and fly tying sessions, fish more, and keep people involved. This year looks like we are going to do even more so stay tuned and stay involved.

"...let's just do stuff and have fun"

VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Jeff Gerwitz..... (248) 656-9439
- Vice President*
- Vacant
- Treasurer*
- Joe Swantek..... (586) 214-6015
- Secretary*
- Tom Lasek..... (248) 686-6233
- Directors*
- Scott Hummon..... (248)318-3770
- Eli Stanesa..... (248) 709-7949
- Ron Elzerman..... (248) 656-3591
- Ron Deaton..... (248)408-7483
- Gorden McCall..... (248) 321-2091
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- Advisors*
- Tom Quail.....(248) 495-2615
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- Roger Larock.....

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Jeff Gerwitz, President
Joe Barker, Editor

www.vanguardtu.org

WOMEN N' WADERS EVENT IN EARLY PLANNING STAGE

By Mary Rosenbusch

ROCHESTER—In an effort by the Vanguard Chapter to interest women in trout fishing and conservation, a Women N' Waders event is being put together for May or June 2018. We are just getting started with a 'brainstorming' get together this May. Anyone that would like to join us is more than welcome, just let me know.

It will be a fun filled day for ladies to learn the fine art of fly fishing, beginners to advanced. During the day we will help with gear selection, casting, fly tying, and safety in small groups. We will need volunteers to teach the different aspects. The planning is still in the preliminary stages, but stay tuned for more details.

The event, as of right now, will be held locally in the Rochester area. We are in contact with 'the perfect site' but nothing is firm yet. Depending on the location and our volunteer help will determine the number of gals we can accommodate.... anywhere from 25 to 100. Yes, everyone will be invited, whether you are a Trout Unlimited member or not. The event will hopefully increase the number of gals in our chapter and TU as well.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact me:

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southernlady212@hotmail.com



FLY TYING EVENINGS PROVIDE ARRAY OF FLIES

By Jeff Gerwitz

ROCHESTER HILLS—Fly tying continues at Avery's Tavern on the third Thursday of every month.

January's session was led by Ron Deaton as I was out of town. The fly was the Articulated Stonefly.



This is a two-piece fly that is meant to give you a more realistic imitation of the live stonefly nymph. I'm not sure if that is true, but it will be interesting to try this in the spring.

The January meeting's attendance was the best we have had – over 18 people showed up (maybe I should go out of town more often).

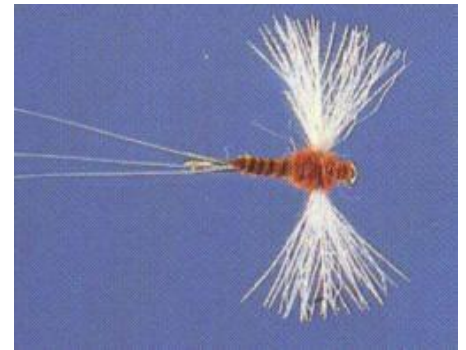
February's Fly was Jim Rusher's Steelhead Nymph as tied by Tim Flagler of Midcurrent.com.



I thought this was a simple fly to tie, but turned into a real challenge at the

meeting. I'm not giving up on this fly yet as I think it could be a really effective nymph, both for steelhead and trout.

March's meeting featured the Rusty Spinner using CDC for the wings.



We have not tied with CDC before and I thought it would be a good introduction for this material. This turned out to be a great fly and we will probably be using more CDC in the future. Some of the tyers came up with a very interesting combination of CDC and synthetic material which made for a terrific wing.

If you are interested in tying or just hanging out with a bunch of fly anglers please stop by. We tie simple flies so you don't have to be an expert to participate. If you haven't tied before but are interested, we have all of the tools and materials required. Hope to see you there next month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See our website for an updated calendar of events at
www.vanguardtu.org

Also, get regular updates on activities by visiting the Vanguard Chapter's Facebook page.

Vanguard Supports Neumann Memorial

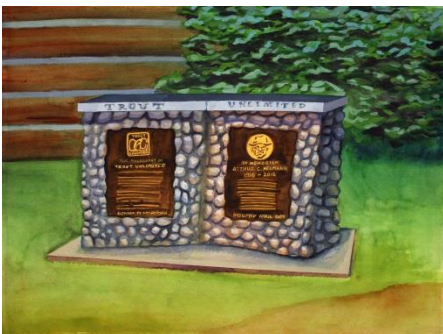
By Jeff Gerwitz

LOVELLS—In case you were not aware, Art Neumann, one of the founders of Trout Unlimited and a lifelong Michigander, passed away one year ago.

To recognize the compelling and substantial contributions that Art made to TU throughout his life, Michigan TU is spearheading the construction of the Arthur C. Neumann Trout Unlimited Memorial at the Lovells Museum of Trout Fishing History on the North Branch of the Au Sable River. The memorial will be comprised of two river rock walls approximately five feet tall, constructed in a “V” shape. Each wall will have a plaque approximately 24 inches by 36 inches. One plaque will be engraved with the Philosophy of Trout Unlimited, which was authored by Art; the other will bear his likeness.

During Art’s two-plus years as TU’s executive director, he propelled the organization to national prominence by doubling the size of the organization through the addition of 30 new chapters. In order to participate in the construction of the memorial, Vanguard has made a generous donation of \$250 to help make this memorial a reality.

The dedication of the memorial will take place opening day of the regular trout season (Saturday, April 29) at the Lovells Museum site. If you are up north for the opener, be sure to stop by. The MITU website will have the particulars on the dedication.



SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW WITH VANGUARD SUPPORT

By Joe Barker



Students check out salmon eggs at the Wolf Creek Hatchery before the eggs are scooped into a container to be transported back to their school.

KALAMAZOO—More than ten years ago, the Vanguard Chapter sponsored its first Salmon in the Classroom program by donating \$650 to the Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion to purchase an aquarium and chiller. Originally, it was anticipated that the school would be raising trout as part of the TU National’s Trout in the Classroom program. However, the Michigan DNR raised concerns about raising Gilchrest Brown trout in a classroom setting. A year later the Vanguard sponsored a second school in setting up a Salmon in the Classroom program at Hugger Elementary in Rochester and later Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills.

Salmon in the Classroom is an educational program based on following the life cycle of salmon from rearing baby salmon from eggs obtained to releasing smolts into a nearby river in late spring. Teachers usually receive the eggs from the DNR’s Wolf Creek Hatchery shortly after Thanksgiving and

place them in the chilled water of the classroom aquarium. In a couple weeks, the eggs hatch into small fry. Students raise and care for the fish until they are at least three inches long. The program culminates at the end of the school year with the release of the young smolts in a local watershed that feeds one of the Great Lakes.

The program has steadily grown each year with now about 300 schools participating. Teachers new to the program must attend a day long workshop at the hatchery, which includes training on how to hatch and raise young salmon. Presentations are also given by DNR fisheries personnel on issues facing the Great Lakes fishery.

In past years, Vanguard members have volunteered to help distribute eggs to teachers from across the state who arrive at the hatchery to

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SALMON EGGS

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receive approximately 200 eggs. This year was no different as I volunteered at the hatchery during the week long distribution period. In addition to the eggs, teachers are provided a couple types of food and detailed instructions on when and how to feed the smolts.

Students who accompany their teachers to the hatchery are given a tour of the facility along with an explanation of the hatchery process. The eggs to be distributed are maintained in trays arranged like the floors of a high-rise apartment building. Cold water pumped from a well on the premises, which is filtered and oxygenated, flows into the top trays and trickles down through the bottom trays. Volunteers are responsible for scooping the pre-counted eggs from the tray compartments, removing and replacing any dead eggs, and placing them in containers and coolers brought to the hatchery by the teachers.

Rather interestingly, this year at least one teacher asked about switching from salmon to trout to raise in the classroom. Although such programs exist in other states, in Michigan the DNR remains resistant to switching to trout. So it will continue to be salmon eggs that are distributed for the foreseeable future.



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All flies and frames are custom made with over 30 years' experience by Joe Barker, a commercial fly tyer and fishing guide, and member of the Vanguard Chapter, Trout Unlimited.

See my website at: www.vanguardflytying.com

Vanguard Chapter to Construct Angler Access on Paint Creek

By Eli Stanesa

ROCHESTER HILLS—Last fall Vanguard Chapter's Board of Directors resolved to build an angler access on Paint Creek as part of its conservation agenda for 2017. Several sites for the project were suggested by members and after inspecting them in January a site was selected.

Those familiar with the creek are aware of the "gear restricted" section from Gunn Road to Tienken Road. Within this section there is a parking lot at the Gallagher Road bridge which provides parking for anglers and persons using the trail. Anglers and others accessing the creek from the trail or this parking lot use a steep path down the bank to the edge of the water. Through years of use this path has developed into a trench of exposed loose soil offering an easy path for erosion into the creek. This site was a natural choice for an angler access. See photo below.

the water. The stairway will consist of pressure-treated timbers joined by spikes and secured to the bank with steel stakes. The individual steps will be filled and further secured with crushed stone. A handrail will be provided.

After completing the stairway, the bank will be restored and native seedlings planted. The stairway will be constructed by members early this summer after the usual high-water events this spring. It is estimated that the project will take a total of 60 to 65 volunteer hours and cost \$800 to \$900. Preparation of the materials will begin in early June and the tentative date set for the installation is June 24.

The Chapter sought and received the assistance of the Clinton River Watershed Council in planning the project. Also, the plans and details were submitted to the Paint Creek Trailways



Photo of existing path to Paint Creek near Gallagher Road.

The existing path to the creek will be improved and the erosion reduced by constructing a stairway down the bank to the edge of the usual high water mark of

Commission and the project was approved at a meeting in February. The

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ACCESS

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Chapter will provide all the necessary planning, labor, and equipment to complete the project and has requested funding from the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for the materials.

The expected benefits from the project include:

- Creation of a long-term structure facilitating access to the creek;
- Increased bank stabilization for the creek;
- Reduced erosion into the creek; and
- Enhancement of the trout habitat.


If you are interested in participating in this project or want more information please contact:

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No one has ever seen fish inspect a fly with a magnifying glass to see whether its head was finished with half hitches or whipped—or use calipers to check a tail’s length. Using less-than-perfect flies is like driving a new car with a dent in one fender: They don’t look as nice, but they still get the job done.



VANGUARD MID-TERM FINANCIAL REPORT

By Joe Swantek

ROCHESTER HILLS—During the Board of Director’s budget forecast for the year ending 9/30/17, the Board voted to present a balanced budget to our membership. In addition, the Board approved two other sources of income to help our revenue stream.

Listed below are some of our achievements during the past six months.

Our Chapter was invited by the Clinton Valley Chapter to participate in their annual fundraising banquet on Saturday, March 25. Even though we participated on a limited basis, we received net income of \$858 on five bucket raffles and \$250 on the sales of banquet tickets.

If you did not attend this banquet you missed out on a good time. This is an event we will put on our calendar for next year.

The Chapter received a large quantity of fly fishing equipment/fly fishing flies from a private donor who has to date contributed over \$1100 to our income stream that was not forecasted in our budget plan.

Our Chapter can always use additional donations of fly fishing equipment in new or used in good condition, which we can use for future raffles or fundraising activities.

Our 2017 Michigan Fly Fishing Expo event achieved outstanding results. The gross income of \$2,077 was the highest it has been over the past twelve years. After expenses of \$741, net income was \$1,336.

The Chapter received a \$350 donation from the Kiwanis Club for the Michigan Youth Trout Camp.

Our Chapter fly-tying classes, conducted by our president Jeff Gerwitz,

continues to attract new participants and future members.

Now that spring has arrived, the Chapter will be conducting large woody debris surveys on Paint Creek and its tributaries.

The Chapter has also scheduled the following event in the coming months: The trout opener party at Ticonderoga for our April meeting; the annual spring chapter outing at Riverview Resort on the Au Sable River; the Michigan Youth Trout Camp in July; the Black River restoration project in August; and our annual Chapter picnic.




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ADOPT-A-STREAM ACTIVITIES START IN MAY

By Larry Walla

ROCHESTER HILLS—Adopt-a-Stream (AAS) is an effort to gather information on the streamside habitat, physical characteristics, and macro-invertebrate populations.

Each team is given the proper equipment, data sheets, and a collection protocol for gathering and recording the data. Two times a year, once in early May and again in early October, the team makes its way to their adopted section of stream to collect data.

The team has a designated team leader who is responsible for getting a kit from the Clinton River Watershed Council office and keeping his/her team informed of when the monitoring date and time the team will meet to do their sampling and evaluation.

Vanguard TU has three teams for Adopt-a-Stream. All of the active team members have enjoyed the interactive experience of being in the river assessing the stream depth, substrate, the riparian, collecting stream aquatic life and identifying them, and being a part of the program.

If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to contact our chapter president, Jeff Gerwitz, by visiting the Vanguard TU website: <http://www.vanguardtu.org/index.php/directors>.

Jeff can direct you to any one of our three AAS team leaders who can further answer any questions you may have and inform you on what you need to know to get involved.

A special thanks to Vanguard Adopt-a-Stream team members. They have a genuine interest in this project and can always be counted on for their support.

FISHING TIPS THAT WORK WONDERS FOR ME

By Joe Barker

REPRINTED FROM THE SUMMER
2011 ISSUE OF MICHIGAN TROUT

FISH WHERE THE FISH ARE

May sound like a no-brainer, but I see too many fishermen beating the same water over and over again even though there are no signs of fish. Always look and listen for feeding fish either on the surface or under the surface both before and after you start fishing. If you don't see or catch fish, move! Don't be afraid to move often until you find fish.

PUT YOURSELF IN THE BEST POSITION TO CATCH FISH

This usually means fish down and across to the fish, no matter if you fishing nymphs, dries, whatever. The fly gets to the fish first rather than the leader or fly line, meaning more takes, and the hooking percentage with a tighter line is much greater.



GIVE THE FISH WHAT THEY WANT TO EAT

This means being familiar with the insect hatches and knowing what stage (nymph, emerger, dun, or spinner) the trout are feeding on. Be observant and take a bug net if necessary. If you're where the fish are at and you're getting refusals or you're not catching most of the fish that are feeding, you've got the wrong fly. Switch flies often until you've got the magic one.

STAY OUT OF THE WATER IF POSSIBLE

If you can fish from the bank, an island, a rock, a stump, whatever, do it. It's less likely the fish will hear or see you. If it's not possible to be out of the water, wade very slowly and quietly downstream no closer than 20-40 feet from your intended target.

REMEMBER: TIGHT LINES!

It's not just a clever cliché.