

SPRING 2008

# TROUT TIMES



Vanguard  
Chapter

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## CHAPTER NEWS

# VANGUARD MAKES BIG SPLASH AT MIDWEST FLYFISHING EXPO

By Joe Barker/John Sabina



WARREN—For at least the last 15 years, the Vanguard Chapter has maintained a booth at Midwest Fly Fishing Expo sponsored by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. From the early years at the Southfield Civic Center, the Expo has steadily grown each year until it outgrew the Center and moved to its current location at Macomb Community College's Sports and Expo Center at 12 Mile and Hayes in Warren.

This year was no exception as this year's Expo appeared to host more fly shops, guide services, rod manufacturers, resort destinations, artists, and miscellaneous purveyors of fly fishing books, an

tique rods, and fly tying materials than anytime in the past. Although Michigan is in the midst of an economic downturn, one wouldn't know it by the large turnout of fly fishing aficionados on both Saturday and Sunday.

Their willingness to spend a few bucks to support stream improvements efforts by various Trout Unlimited Chapters represented at the Expo bode well for the Vanguard Chapter's fundraising raffle.

Including pre-show sales from the

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## Vanguard Banquet Just Around the Corner in May

By John Sabina

ROCHESTER HILLS—Friday night, May 9, 2008 has been set for the 2008 Vanguard Chapter Conservation Banquet. This annual affair is our primary fund raiser and an important driver for all of our conservation and fishing activities.

The large room at the Rivercrest Banquet Center located at the corner of Avon Road and Livernois in Rochester Hills has been reserved. The move to a Friday night is a change suggested by one of our members. The feeling is that some people are reluctant to be out late on a work night, so Friday night may be preferred. After all, where besides the Vanguard banquet can you take your wife out for a nice dinner with drinks, good company, pleasant conversation, and fun for \$65 per couple?

The evening will consist of a buffet dinner with an open bar, followed by a

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## EXPO

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Bass Pro Shop and Hank's Ultimate Fly Fishing, Vanguard volunteers sold a total of \$2,070 in raffle tickets. Subtracting out expenses for the booth rental, ticket printing, and raffle license, the Chapter netted \$1,534 which can be reinvested in stream improvement projects.

The Chapter also signed up 17 new members by offering a free \$17.50 membership to anyone who signed up at the Expo under a program offered by National Trout Unlimited.

As stated by Vanguard Chapter President John Sabina: "My feeling is that this was a very good show result. Selling \$2070 dollars worth of \$5 raffle tickets in this economy has to be considered very good. The show and our booth was a lot of fun. I was especially appreciative of the large number of volunteers who helped out with the booth. We had plenty of help. Even the members who just stopped by to say hello were appreciated."

As further explained by John: "Seventeen new members is a good result. We will send \$17.50 per person for these new members to TU National. We will get back \$15.00 each for each new member for the Chapter and another \$2.50 per member to the Michigan Council. More importantly, these are people whom we met and talked to personally. They are much more likely to attend Chapter functions and activities than others who simply mailed a check. We also picked up several items for our May banquet."

As far as plans for next year's Expo: "I don't think that there is any question that we will participate again next year," says John. "I don't know what the grand prize will be, but we are always open to suggestions. So I say, count us in!"

The winner of the Freedom Hawk 14 fishing kayak that the Chapter raffled at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is a TU member from the Paul H Young Chapter. Tim Komienksy is from Dearborn,

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# President's Corner

By John Sabina

I have said in this column previously that the mission of Trout Unlimited is clear, but the steps that the Vanguard Chapter takes to further that mission are largely of our own choosing. However, sometimes an issue comes up that is so fundamental to our purpose that our action is prescribed.

The pending water withdrawal legislation in Lansing is one such issue. The legislation under discussion would cover daily water withdrawals from 100,000 gallon to 2 million gallons per day – far above typical household use. Both chambers of the Michigan legislature are currently considering groundwater withdrawal bills that are based on the same underlying approach. That approach was developed by a select committee with very strong leadership from the MDNR fisheries scientists.

The concept adopted through previous legislation is that groundwater withdrawal shall not cause damage to the environment. The approach to answer that damage question involves some very technical computer models that have as their basis the fact that fish health is a strong indicator of ecosystem health.

These models determine for water withdrawal sites anywhere in the state: 1) the portion of the withdrawal that will affect each nearby stream; 2) the resulting reduction in the flows in those streams; and 3) the effect of that flow reduction on the thriving and characteristic fish species in those streams. By this point you are probably asking yourself, "So what is wrong with that?"

Trout Unlimited believes that the fundamental approach is sound. The devil, as usual, is in the details. The computer models are based on data from the 123 United States Geological Survey sites around the state to develop flows for 11,000 stream segments. So much of the

underlying data involves extrapolation and may not be accurate.

The real rub comes when the value judgment of how much fish loss should be considered negligible. The House version (primarily HB5069) defines negligible as less than 1% thriving species loss in coldwater streams. The Senate version (primarily SB860) now defines negligible as less than 5% thriving species loss in coldwater streams.



The approach from the Senate bill makes water withdrawal that would result in "negligible" (less than 5% coldwater fish loss) an automatic computer generated permit *without any public or human intervention or oversight!* Both bills allow a level of water withdrawal even from coldwater trout streams, but differ widely in the quantity.

Michigan has abundant water resources from the Great Lakes, but experts recognize that no more than 1% of that water is replaceable through the water cycle. The uncertainty in the computer models dictates that caution is prudent. Once we give away more water than can be replaced, the next ice age is our only recourse.

So, please call (much better than writing) your state senator's office and demand that he/she proceed cautiously on water withdrawal. Commercial and business interests want the simplicity of "automatic" permits and are pushing for lots of "available" water.

Trout Unlimited is not anti-business, anti-development, or anti-jobs. We are, however, anti-stupidity! Water and fish are integral to our quality of life in Michigan and have a significant effect on our state's economy. You can find necessary contact information for your state senator at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov). **PLEASE CALL NOW!**

# 2008 Projects with the Clinton River Watershed Council

By Dave Watson, Vice President—Vanguard Chapter

There is still some good work to be done on the local rivers and streams.

## 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Volunteer Rally (Clinton River Coldwater Conservation Project), 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Rochester Hills Library, contact [jill@crwc.org](mailto:jill@crwc.org)

An interesting meeting with DNR involvement, focused on the local environment. Refreshments provided.

This informative meeting is a good way of seeing the results of previous years' projects, and help with the work planned for this year.

Dan Kiefer has several worthwhile projects planned for 2008, including more fish shelter construction and installation, and stream bank restoration on Paint Creek.

Water temperature monitoring is still going on during the summer providing most valuable information on the water condition.



Mark and Ron Zeilinger negotiating the fallen debris in Paint Creek. Some work to be done.

Last year we recorded the habitat surveys on Paint Creek. Jim Francis of the DNR was very pleased with the data and now has enough data to complete his study.

If you would like to help, I would encourage you to attend the rally. It is a good way to get involved. Discover the hidden gems in the Rochester area and help make a difference with our local streams and rivers. The sandwiches were great last year.



June 2007 Mark Dandar and Dave Watson working on the Paint Creek habitat survey near Lake Orion.

## E-MAIL US! And We'll E-mail You

By John Sabina

Vanguard member Dave Thomas had an interesting suggestion to send a short e-mail to Chapter members to remind them of upcoming Chapter meetings or events. This is an excellent idea that may prevent a few of the "I forgot" issues. The only negative to this approach is that we do not really have an e-mail list for Chapter members.

So, if you would like to be reminded of upcoming meetings and other Chapter events, please e-mail me at [jsquareds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsquareds@sbcglobal.net). I promise to send only the occasional short message, not to barrage you with unsolicited stuff, and to not distribute your e-mail address. I will put my mailing list under blind carbon copies (bcc) so as to preserve your privacy.

You can type my e-mail address per above or simply go to the Vanguard website ([www.vanguardtu.org](http://www.vanguardtu.org)) and use the "Contact Us" link on the home page to send an e-mail to me directly. While you are on the Vanguard website, please note that Dave Watson has placed the recent local fishing opportunities presentation on the site. Look for it under the "Member's Page" link on the home page.



## EXPO

*Continued from page 2.*

Michigan, and is a telephone repairman with AT&T. He owns a place on the Au Sable mainstream below Grayling but above the holy water.

The winning ticket number was 0296. It was one of five tickets that Tim bought on Saturday at the show. This ticket was pulled from the raffle box by Ginger, the manager of Hank's Ultimate Fly Fishing at about 3:45 p.m. on Sunday at the Vanguard booth. President John Sabina called Tim right from the Expo to give him the good news.

Tim was very excited and explained that he never wins anything but usually buys tickets for both rods and boats. This year the kayak caught his eye and he bought kayak raffle tickets instead of fly rod tickets.



*Lucky kayak raffle winner, Tim Komiensky.*

He came to John's house in Washington to pick up his new kayak right after work on Monday. He left with the kayak strapped to the roof of his SUV with a very large smile. Those who didn't win can feel better that at least the kayak was won by a fly fisherman and will be used.

The Freedom Hawk 14 kayak, generously donated by Dave Cameron of Freedom Hawk, was very well received at the show. Many Expo visitors inquired about the kayak and Vanguard volunteers ran out of kayak brochures and informational DVDs on Sunday by mid-day. Many people said that they had seen the Freedom Hawk fishing kayak in the latest L.L. Bean catalogue. The kayak was also

**Please see EXPO, page 5.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Saturday, March 29—Hair Stacking Tying Demo** at Hank's (248-393-1500) in Lake Orion. Jim Reed will demonstrate from noon to 5 pm.
- Tuesday, April 1—Opening Day for Special Trout Season**, Huron River in Proud Lake Recreation Center & Spring Mill Pond in Island Lake.
- Saturday, April 5—Clinton River Steelhead Day** at Yates Park from 8 am to noon. Contact Dave Watson at 248-601-3828.
- Sunday, April 6—Spring Mill Pond Fishing Outing**, join Vanguard members near Brighton for large rainbows. Contact Keith Flood 248-399-1696.
- Thursday, April 10—Chapter Membership Meeting, Local Fishing Spots**, 7:30 pm featuring the Clinton, Raisin, Grand, and Huron Rivers. (This is part two of our continuing series.)
- Saturday, April 19—Clinton River Volunteer Rally** at Rochester Hills Library from 9 am to 1 pm. See all the activities planned for the CRCCP & how you can help. Contact Dan Keifer at 248-601-0606.
- Saturday, April 26—Opening Day of Regular Trout System**
- Friday, May 9—Annual Vanguard Conservation Banquet**  
Save the date and watch for details at [www.vanguardtu.org](http://www.vanguardtu.org).
- Saturday & Sunday, July 5 & 6—Chapter Hex Outing** at Joe Barker's cabin on the Manistee River. Contact Joe Barker at [redgtx440joe@aol.com](mailto:redgtx440joe@aol.com)
- July—Chapter Fishing Outing** in Grayling area. Watch Chapter website for details. [www.vanguardtu.org](http://www.vanguardtu.org)
- August—Chapter Work Weekend** on the Black River. Watch Chapter website for details. [www.vanguardtu.org](http://www.vanguardtu.org)
- Thursday, September 11—Chapter Membership Meeting**. Program to be announced.
- September—Chapter Salmon Outing**. Details to be announced. Contact Dave Watson at 248-601-3828.

### Chapter Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are currently held on the second Thursday of the month at the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center. Special events are held at various other locations around Southeastern Michigan.

Meetings are open to TU members and non members alike. Please feel free to attend if you are considering joining TU. Just ask any officer and we'll be happy to provide you with information and/or an application.

Meetings begin at 7:30pm and adjourn at 9:30pm. Programs for each meeting are listed on the [Calendar of Events](#). Each year we bring in renowned guides and authors from around the state as well as resource pros who make a living conserving the resources we all enjoy.

If you have ideas about a potential program drop us a line on our website at [Meeting Program Idea](#). We are always looking for ways to better the Chapter and help the members better their angling skills. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

### Check Out Vanguard On-line

For the latest updates on upcoming Vanguard Chapter news and events, visit our website at [www.vanguardtu.org](http://www.vanguardtu.org).

In addition to our homepage, you'll find links describing our purpose, meetings, outings, the Chapter calendar, youth programs, projects, events, newsletters, Chapter officers, a member's page, becoming a member, Chapter links, and contacting us.

## EXPO

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on display at Hank's Ultimate Fly Fishing in Lake Orion from late January until March 7.

"Dave clearly has a winner in this product and we certainly wish both him and his company all the best," said John.

After being informed how successfully the kayak raffle had been, Dave immediately pledged to provide another kayak for next year's Expo. As Dave explained: "It is not hard to be involved in something you believe in! As our company grows and I have more wherewithal, I would like to continue to support such efforts."

Two new exhibitors at the Expo that may be of interest to Vanguard members include The Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association. The mission of this newly formed organization is to conserve and watch over the reach of the river from Mio Dam to Alcona Pond and to support the best interests of the entire Au Sable River system.

The ASBWPA does not have formal membership dues at present. Anyone can be a member if they are willing to pledge 20 volunteer hours on the river each year. Look to their website at [www.asbwpa.org](http://www.asbwpa.org) for additional information. Since many of our members have roots or interest in the "Big Water," we should all consider taking the "70 Degree Pledge:"

When the morning temperature at Mio Dam is 70 degrees or more then I will not fish for trout on that stretch of the Au Sable River, Mio to Alcona Pond. If I choose to fish that day, it will be on other streams with cooler water, further downstream for warm water fish such as smallmouth bass, or on the many lakes in the area. If I catch a trout, I will let it go immediately. When the temperatures fall below 70 degrees at Mio Dam I may consider fishing that stretch again, but will do it early in the morning, at twilight, and at night. I will use a thermometer to fish runs with

cooler water so the trout have a better chance at surviving catch and release. I recognize that this is a necessary practice during the hottest part of the summer, late June through mid August, and that I am helping the fishery when I do it.

The second exhibitor of interest is the launcher of a new magazine called "Fly Fusion." This new publication will be published quarterly and is targeted to new trout fishermen. Each issue will have articles on technique, fly patterns, casting, and the like. The initial issue looked very good and very professional. There will be no destination articles, just good instructional information. A subscription is priced at \$24.95 per year. The folks from "Fly Fusion" donated a subscription to the Vanguard Chapter as a banquet prize in May. Go to [www.flyfusionmag.com](http://www.flyfusionmag.com) for additional info.

## BANQUET

Continued from front page.

series of fun bucket raffles, silent auction items, and a short live auction. Our featured raffle item will be a Pentax, 8 megapixel, shock resistant, waterproof, dust proof digital camera. This compact camera with 3 X optical zoom is easily carried in your jacket or vest. Any outdoor person could use such a camera to take more photos without concern over possible bad weather.

The prizes for the evening will include fishing items, general outdoor items, home décor items, and collector items, as well as both framed and unframed art. Items are being added every day.

Those new to fly fishing may be interested in a special beginners package which will feature the necessary rod, reel, and tackle and come with expert private instruction from several experienced Chapter members.

One live auction item sure to create some fun is a chance to own a piece of history—the pancake turner hand carved by Al Campbell from a piece of firewood.

This is the same pancake turner that saved the blueberry pancake breakfast at our Tahquamenon River work weekend last year. (What an opportunity!)

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. when the bar opens. Since we received mixed reviews on last year's wild game dinner, the committee decided to include the excellent venison stew as an appetizer to be served at 7:15 p.m. followed by a more conventional carved roast beef and baked chicken buffet beginning about 7:30 p.m.

The Rivercrest is located adjacent to the Clinton River and has a large patio right outside the banquet room. By May 9<sup>th</sup> the snow should finally be gone and a pleasant evening is very likely. Dress will be causal. Formal activities will be done by 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$65 per couple. So bring your spouse or significant other and plan on joining in on the fun. The secret to a good banquet is always a large crowd. We are planning to exceed 100 persons. Feel free to invite another couple, be they neighbors, relatives or friends.

In order to have an accurate count to the hall before the event, we much prefer that you purchase your tickets before the event and not at the door. Tickets are available from the event co-planners, Joe Swantek, Dave Watson, and John Sabina. (Their contact info is found below.) Please mark your calendar and join us for the fun.

### VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

John Sabina..... (586)786-1967

#### Vice President

Dave Watson..... (248)601-3828

#### Treasurer

Joe Swantek..... (586)939-6015

#### Secretary

Frank Lalone.....(586)739-3273

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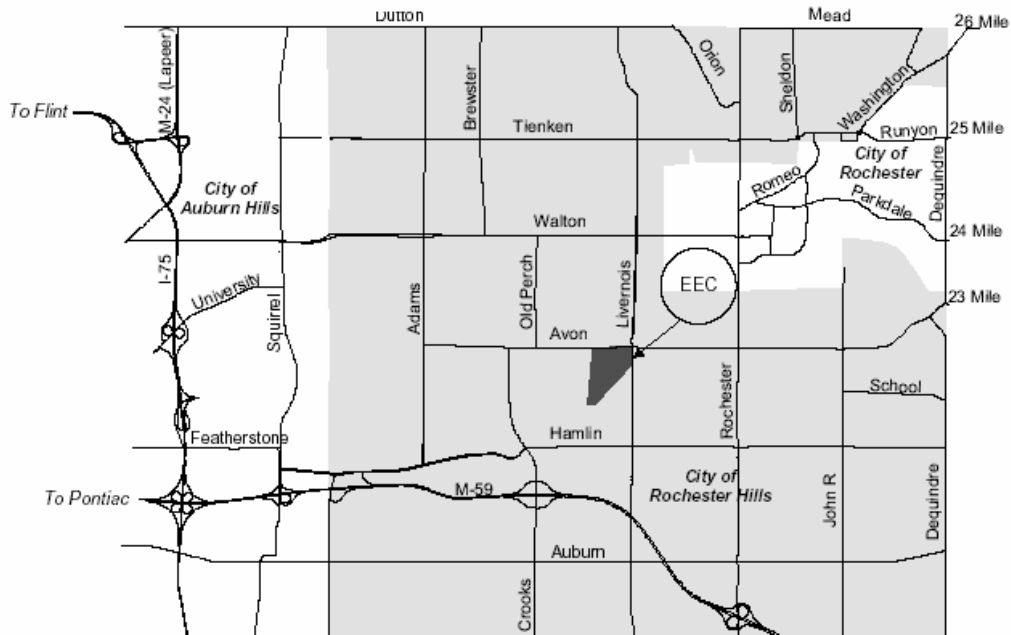
Todd Randall..... (248)709-9467

Kevin Neville..... (586)764-7916

Keith Flood..... (248)399-1696

Matt Rackley..... (586)850-1896

Our New Meeting location:  
Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center (EEC)  
is located at: 1115 West Avon Road in Rochester Hills



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