

TROUT TIMES



Vanguard
Chapter

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CHAPTER NEWS

SALMON IN CLASSROOM PROJECT MEETS STREAM MONITORING DAY

By Joe Barker/Jon Gray



Students from Waldon Middle School do chemical testing of the Clinton River.

LAKE ORION—This is the fifth year that Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion has participated in the Clinton River Watershed Council's Stream Monitoring Day. Students from all over the southeast Michigan area, in the Clinton river watershed, participate in the stream monitoring program each year, collecting important data on the health of the watershed. This year over 30 area schools participated

over a span of a few weeks in May.

Approximately 100 students participate from Waldon under the tutelage of 8th grade science teacher Jon Gray with the help of volunteers from the GM Tech Center, the Clinton River Watershed Council, five 8th grade teachers, and Vanguard TU members. Students rotated

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TU Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By John Sabina

TRAVERSE CITY—George Mason, the Head of American Motors and a wealthy sportsman and philanthropist, and his fishing buddy George Griffith, a hosiery salesman for the Wayne Knitting Mills of Fort Wayne, Indiana, originally discussed the concept of an organization like Ducks Unlimited for trout in 1950.

Mason was an avid duck hunter and had seen his hunting improve by taking care of the ducks. He was also a founding member and past treasurer of DU. Mason passed away in 1954 before the idea came to fruition.

George Griffith invited 15 people to his home, the Barbless Hook, on the Au Sable River just above Wakely Bridge, on July 18, 1959. The purpose of the meeting was to decide if the concept of TU should be pursued. The assembled group agreed that they should proceed. That meeting is considered the birth of TU and

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among six stations; macroinvertebrate identification, chemical testing, physical inventory, salmon release, history of Yates Dam area, and lunch. The students gathered a lot of data and will send it to the Watershed Council to be added to the information from the other schools that monitored.

One of the highlights of the day is the salmon release station. Under the sponsorship of the Vanguard Chapter and other local TU chapters, students have been raising salmon from eggs since November and this was a bittersweet sendoff into the great unknown.

Students had a chance to name the fish, measure it, and then release it into the stream. This year the average size of the Chinook salmon were about 10-12 cm, larger than previous years. Volunteers from GM were also able to release some fish and they said it was the highlight of their day, something they don't normally have a chance to do when they help out on these monitoring days.

The Chinook salmon that were released are part of the statewide Salmon in the Classroom program that is run by the Michigan DNR. The program has become standardized the last couple of years and now participating teachers must attend a one day training session before being allowed to receive eggs.

Each participating classroom teacher gets 200 "eyed" eggs from the Wolf Lake Hatchery near Kalamazoo. The eggs are picked up in November and hatch out usually the first week in December. The salmon feed off their egg sacs for the first month and then "swim up" around the first of January. The DNR supplies the teacher with food that will be fed in increasing size increments until they are released in May.

This year the survival rate was about 50%, last year it was at about 65%. Some of the fish were lost in the egg stage and some died from a vitamin deficiency that

President's Corner

By Dave Watson

Thank you to all you members, family, and friends who came to the banquet; we had a great time. John Sabina did a great job as MC, auctioneer and presented an interesting summary on the 50-year history of TU. To those of you who could not make this most important fundraiser, we hope to see you next year.

This year Trout Unlimited is well on track to celebrate its 50 years of very successful organization with events at Grayling July 18 and Traverse City August 17-24th. If you would like more information, there is a website <http://www.tu50.org/> or contact Tom Quail or myself.

Early in May John Sabina, Frank Penkalla, Pete Howard and Joe Swantek helped with two Salmon in the Classroom release programs with teachers Mike Mansour of Hawk Woods Nature Center and Jon Gray of Waldon Middle school Lake Orion.

The Black River project is still on for the weekend Friday August 7 to Sunday 9. There is time for some fishing as well. We are looking for more volunteers; this is open to friends, relatives, and other interested parties. Let me know as early as you can as this would be a great help with the planning.

We are proud to say that we have been recognized for the chapter last year that gained the most membership in Trout Unlimited. I would like to see more of you guys; be it at the banquets or the outings, fly tying sessions, opening day, Hex Hatch at Joe's, work weekend, or the membership meetings.

It would be great to have some feedback from you. We have a web site <http://www.vanguardtu.org/> for more information on our activities. We would like to know if you have received this newsletter. Alternatively, contact me davexbt@gmail.com. Are there any points of interest you would like us to cover?

After fishing for many years in the canals, rivers, lakes, ponds, and the salt-water seas around the coast of Great Britain, I found fly-fishing a complex, elite sport. It was not until I came over the big pond and joined Trout Unlimited did it all start to make sense.

We have a great bunch of members in the Vanguard chapter who are most helpful when it comes to help and encouraging new members on every aspect of this fine art of fly-fishing. One of the hardest things I realized were finding the places and access points to fish. During a most rewarding work weekend on the Black river near Gaylord, not only did the lads show me the excellent rivers, I was also coached on the techniques for river reading, fly selection, casting, and presentation. Not only had I hooked a bunch of fish but I was also hooked on the sport.

It is also very rewarding to help with the maintaining and improving of the fish habitat. We work alongside the Clinton River Watershed with Dan Kiefer and his colleagues in the Oakland County on their well-organized, effective projects. Its very rewarding and great fun to get in the rivers, meet fellow interested-people, and enjoy the results for good fishing, and a healthy habitat for many generations to come.

If you are just getting started with fly-fishing: Would you like some help with gear selection, casting, fly selection, river selection, access, river reading, etc.? Would you like more information on the monthly meetings? Any subjects you would like us to cover at the meetings? Are you interested in becoming more involved with the organizing of any of our activities or the direction of TU?

We really appreciate you being a member of the Trout Unlimited Vanguard Chapter and hope to see you soon.

All the best
Dave Watson

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BANQUET FINANCIAL RESULTS UNSPECTACULAR

By Joe Swantek

ROCHESTER HILLS—Well, I guess it was bound to happen sooner or later! After conducting over 20 continuous banquets with good to spectacular financial results, we hit a low point this year. Our net profit fell to \$1,514.28, which is our lowest profit margin on record. Included in this total is a \$50.00 donation from Nicholas Posak who was unable to attend this year.

Even though the attendance and our expenses were in line with previous banquets, it appears that a number of circumstances, including the economy, contributed to the results.



We increased the number of bucket raffles and decreased the number of silent auction items, hoping for increased bucket raffle ticket sales. End result; ticket sales were lowest in years, down 45% from 2008 while expenses attributed to the bucket items were up. Silent auction bidding was down 35% over 2008 while expenses were constant.

Live auction bidding was down slightly with a similar number of items as there were in 2008.

We paid for 65 dinners this year but had only 61 attendees versus 82 paid for dinners in 2008, even though only 74 attended; a difference of almost \$900.00 in gross profit.

Gross profit was down over \$2,800.00 or 36% from 2008. However, total expense were reduced by 12% over 2008.

Our featured raffle only achieved a

net profit of \$98.00 with 77 tickets sold. Several past corporate donors were unable to donate this year because of budget cuts.

On a positive note! We had donated raffle and auction items from our Vanguard officers, board members, and

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is commemorated by a plaque along the river at the site.

An organizational meeting was held in Grayling on September 5, 1959. More than 250 people attended the meeting. Vic Beresford, a professional newspaperman, was charged with writing a set of Articles of Incorporation. The group further agreed that anyone who was a member at that point would be considered a charter member. The Articles of Incorporation were filed on September 22, 1959 with 175 charter members.

One of the first things that the new corporation did was to write down their beliefs and define the TU program. That program was presented to DNR brass on December 5, 1959 in Saginaw.

The TU Program:

1. Favored wild trout management over put-and-take.
2. Demanded inventory and classification of our trout waters.
3. Launched "TROUT Unlimited Quarterly."
4. Formed National Board of Scientific Advisors.
5. Hard-nosed against alteration, pollution, and destruction of trout habitat.
6. Promoted flies only, fish for fun, & artificial lure regulations.
7. Supported urgently needed trout management research & its application.
8. Violently condemned Michigan's put-and-take hatchery program.

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Temperature Loggers Stationed Along Paint Creek

By Joe Barker



Jeff Aisthorpe of the Clinton Valley Chapter installs a temperature monitor at Atwater Bridge.

LAKE ORION—On Sunday morning, May 19, Vanguard Chapter President Dave Watson met Jeff Aisthorpe from the Clinton Valley to plant temperature loggers in Paint Creek near Lake Orion.

The monitors will collect temperature data that will be useful to Dan Keifer of the Clinton River Watershed Council and Jim Francis of the Department of Natural Resources in maintaining good habitat in Paint Creek.

Planting the loggers proved to be quite a challenge for the pair. The creek was quite swollen with the recent downpours. It had rained cats and dogs all week leading up to the endeavor.

Dave programmed the loggers to take temperatures every hour for the next five months throughout the summer. Jeff will also continue to monitor the creek's temperature in the backyard of his house, which is located between Meeks Park and Atwater Bridge.

Says Dave, "Jeff is an enthusiastic volunteer keeping a close watch on the

Paint, he is very happy to have the temperature loggers working as well in the Creek."

The loggers were planted in three locations: Meeks Park in Lake Orion, just down from the dam; Atwater Bridge in Lake Orion, and at Goldengate Street.

As the loggers collect data, Dave will update the Chapter on temperature trends in Paint Creek during the summer months and its potential impact on trout mortality and the need for habitat improvement.



Help Stop Usage of Disposable Bottles with Spring Water

By Tom Quail

Michigan Trout Unlimited, now known as **Michigan TU**, introduced an environmental effort last year targeted at conserving our spring water resources and reducing landfill deposits of disposable water bottles. This effort will keep our spring water in our trout streams and help reduce unnecessary landfill plastic bottle deposits.

Michigan TU teamed up with several fishing guide services and state TU chapters for the distribution of reusable bottles to the public to be filled with tap water.

As an example, Hawkins Outfitters made their permanent policy for water distribution to their clients to be only from reusable bottles filled with tap water.

Vanguard Chapter purchased eighty-two bottles for distribution to chapter members. Our 2008 goal was to give members two bottles free of charge.

One bottle was for the member's use and the other was to be given to someone who needs to start using a reusable bottle filled with tap water and stop using disposable bottles with spring water.

Vanguard Chapter has once again purchased bottles for distribution and this year we have an even better bottle than last year.

This all costs club resources so while we strongly encourage use and distribution of these bottles for use with tap water, we also are asking for a contribution of \$2 per bottle.

Help join this worthy cause and help spread the message to all those people who deplete our precious resources.



VANGUARD HEX OUTING SLATED FOR END OF JUNE

GRAYLING—The Vanguard Chapter's annual summer trout fishing outing will again be held the last weekend in June at Joe Barker's cabin on the Manistee River. This time of year, the hope is to hit the Hex hatch.

If you've never experienced the Hex hatch, this is may be your opportunity. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees. Hexes are a notoriously unpredictable lot, although the last week of June is traditionally the time of year that the big bugs hatch on this section of the river. Of course, it can always happen that even if there are flies, the fish might not cooperate, although that's a more rare occurrence. It's usually hard for any fish to resist this gravy train.

It's all about night fishing with big flies for big fish. There are plenty of experienced Hex fishermen in the group that can share their expertise. There are plenty of Hex patterns available for sale at the cabin through Vanguard Fly Tying which have been field tested on this section of the river.

The cost of the outing remains at \$20 per person covering food from Friday evening to Sunday lunch. BYOB. There are six beds at the cabin on a first-come basis, although bring your own sleeping bags or sheets, pillows, and towels. A four-person tent with two cots will also be available, so consider bringing an air mattress and a tent if you are concerned about getting a bed.

Contact Joe Barker at (708) 448-4069 or joseph.barker@nlrb.gov, or Dave Watson at (248) 601-3828 or davexbt@gmail.com.



PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR AUGUST WORK WEEKEND

By Joe Barker

VANDERBILT— This year's Vanguard Chapter stream restoration weekend on the Black River is taking shape. Already 21 Vanguard members have volunteered for the effort, which will be held the weekend of August 8-9. Volunteers should plan on getting up there by Friday evening. Maps and more details will be provided as the date approaches.



Plans are to camp at Town Corner Lake Campground in the Pigeon River State Forest, a short distance from the Black River and on Town Corner Lake, which provides its own fishing opportunities.

The project is being coordinated by Paul Rose of the Upper Black River Restoration Committee. According to Paul, the work will largely consist of building and expanding large woody debris (LWD) structures in the main stream of the Black River in a project area which is immediately adjacent to the campground.

A summer work crew of the UBRRC, which is largely comprised of college

Students, will have already begun work in this general area by early June, but they will be working around the sites that are being reserved for the TU volunteers' work day.

Unlike some of the prior work weekends, volunteers will not be floating the river and working out of canoes. Volunteers need only bring waders (unless they

want to wet wade) and work gloves that they don't mind getting wet. Most other tools and material will be furnished on site.

Although the volunteers can work as long or as little as they like, Paul expects that the work will be wrapping up by 4:00 – 4:30 p.m., at the latest.

There will also be a few other TU volunteers from other chapters attending as well, but the Vanguard contingent will be the largest.

This project has proven valuable in increasing fish numbers and stream flow through the use of LWD.

Monthly Fly Tying Sessions Off to Good Start

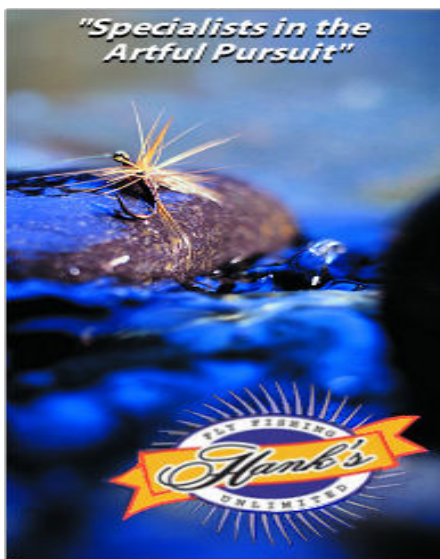
ROCHESTER HILLS—Dave Watson reports that the Vanguard Chapter's effort to provide members with an informal opportunity to get together with other members to both learn and improve their fly tying skills has gone quite well.

Member Bob Schultz has worked at putting the sessions together and has even suggested that he may try to get an expert fly tier from a local fly shop to lead a session.

So far about six or seven members have shown up at the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center, where the regular month meetings are held, for the fly tying sessions. Three sessions have already taken place, which occur the third Thursday of every month. The plan is to continue the get-togethers for at least the next three months during the summer.

The group has tied such flies as the Hare's Ear Nymph and the Adams. Other times, everyone has tied a different fly. When the group is tying a common fly, enough materials are brought for everybody to share in order to complete that particular fly. Members do need to bring their fly tying equipment, such as vices, scissors, bobbins, threads, etc.

A camera and projector has been set up so that members can watch a feature tier working on a fly without crowding around one spot.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 6, 7:30 a.m.—Carp Fishing Tournament. *Stoney Creek Park. Contact John Sabin at jsquareds@sbcgolbal.net.*

Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m.—River Day, *Riverside Park, Auburn Hills. Contact Dave.*

Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m.—Fly Tying Caddis. *Hank's Fly Shop.*

Thursday, June 18, 7p.m.—Fly Tying. *RHEEC. Contact Dave Watson.*

Friday-Sunday, June 26-28—Chapter Hex Outing. *Joe Barker's cabin on the Manistee River, Grayling. Contact Joe Barker at joseph.barker@nlrb.gov.*

Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m.—Fly Tying. *RHEEC. Contact Dave Watson.*

Saturday, July 18—TU 50th Anniversary Celebration, *DNR Rayburn facility, Higgins Lake. Contact Tom Quail at tquail@gmail.com.*

Saturday, July 18—TU 50th Anniversary. *DNR Rayburn Lodge near Grayling. Contact Tom Quail at tquail@gmail.com.*

Friday-Sunday, August 7-9—Work Weekend on Black River, *near Vanderbilt. Contact Dave Watson at davexbt@gmail.com.*

Thursday, August 20, 10 a.m.—TU 50th Hospitality by Vanguard. *Traverse City, contact Tom Quail at tquail@gmail.com.*

Thursday, August 20, 7 p.m.—Fly Tying. *RHEEC. Contact Dave Watson.*

Sunday, August 30, 9 a.m.—Heritage Days. *Huron Pointe Sportsman's Club. Contact Dave Watson at davexbt@gmail.com.*

Thursday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.—Membership Meeting. *RHEEC.*

Thursday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.—Board Meeting. *Tom Quail's house.*

Friday-Sunday, September 25-27—Salmon Outing. *Pere Marquette River, Baldwin. Contact Dave Watson.*

Chapter Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are currently held on the second Thursday of the month at the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center (RHEEC) 1115 West Avon Road. 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.

WALDON

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is natural. The surviving fish were very healthy.

The life cycle of the Chinook salmon is perfect for the classroom as the eggs develop during the months school is in session and are released before the students leave for the summer, allowing the teacher to clean the equipment and store it over the summer for the next year.

Since starting this program in his classroom, Jon has had an opportunity to mentor a classroom in Rochester and the nature center in Lake Orion, and he has sent advice to teachers in Warren and Utica as well as other TU chapters that were interested in sponsoring teachers in their area. The program has grown state-wide and now includes over 100 classrooms that are raising salmon.

"Raising the salmon in the classroom has been made possible by the generous grant the Vanguard Chapter awarded me six years ago," say Jon. "The equipment continues to operate well and we look forward to raising the salmon for years to come."

According to Jon, over 500 students have been affected by Vanguard's one-time donation and more than 100 a year will continue to benefit. "I recently had the opportunity to read scholarship applications from students that are seniors this year," said Jon. "Part of the application was an essay on a memorable event while attending Waldon. More than a few wrote that the stream monitoring and raising the salmon was the one memory that stood out in their mind from middle school. It's obvious that this program is making an impact on students that they carry with them for years afterward. Thank you for being a part of making that happen."

Jon says he looks forward to working with the Vanguard Chapter for years to come in this endeavor.



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It was the last point, the Michigan DNR Fish Division's position to place stocked brown trout over naturally reproducing trout that proved to be the catalyst to form the new organization. Despite widespread scientific agreement and much publicity for the TU program, the DNR continued it's put-and-take approach.

The breakthrough came when George Griffith explained the problem to then gubernatorial candidate George Romney, who was campaigning in Grayling. Romney was sympathetic and promised help if elected.

After he was elected, Romney appointed a citizen's committee to review the DNR. George Griffith and Dr. Casey Westell (TU's president) were on that committee. The committee finally agreed to hire an established outside party to evaluate the DNR operations.

The final report said the DNR was generally okay except for the Fish Division and recommended a TU-like program. As a result, the Fish Division chief was forced to retire, the put-and-take hatchery system was shut down, and trout research and stream improvement enlarged. The new Fish Division Chief (Dr Jim McFadden) implemented new policies that were essentially those recommended by TU.

The new organization, despite very limited money and no staff, had won! The volunteer board offered the job of executive director to one of the original sixteen meeting attendees, a toolmaker from Saginaw, Art Neumann. Art took a two-year leave of absence from his job to oversee the widespread growth of TU. From this beginning, the organization as we know it today has grown.

A group of members from the Clinton Valley Chapter formed a new chapter in 1982. The Vanguard Chapter was chartered on March 7, 1982. Dan Keifer and Joe Carnacchio were charter Vanguard members. Joe Swantek and Joe Barker joined in July of 1986 and John Sabina joined in 1989.

TU members throughout the state will have two opportunities to celebrate TU's 50th anniversary this summer. On July 18th in Grayling, Michigan Trout Unlimited will hold a free day of celebration. Watch www.vanguardtu.org or the Michigan Council website www.michiganttu.org for details. You can also contact the Vanguard President Dave Watson, or Vice-President Tom Quail to stay in the loop.

The second opportunity to celebrate will be in Traverse City in August. The annual meeting of TU will be held from August 17-23. Watch the national website for details, www.tu.org. While both of these events will be gala affairs, the best way to celebrate your membership in TU is to go fishing.

Tight lines,
John Sabina

BANQUET

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members. They include Dave Watson, Dan Kot, Tom Quail, Joe Barker, Pete Howard, Bob Schwartz, James Singer, Jane Falting, and Joe Swantek.

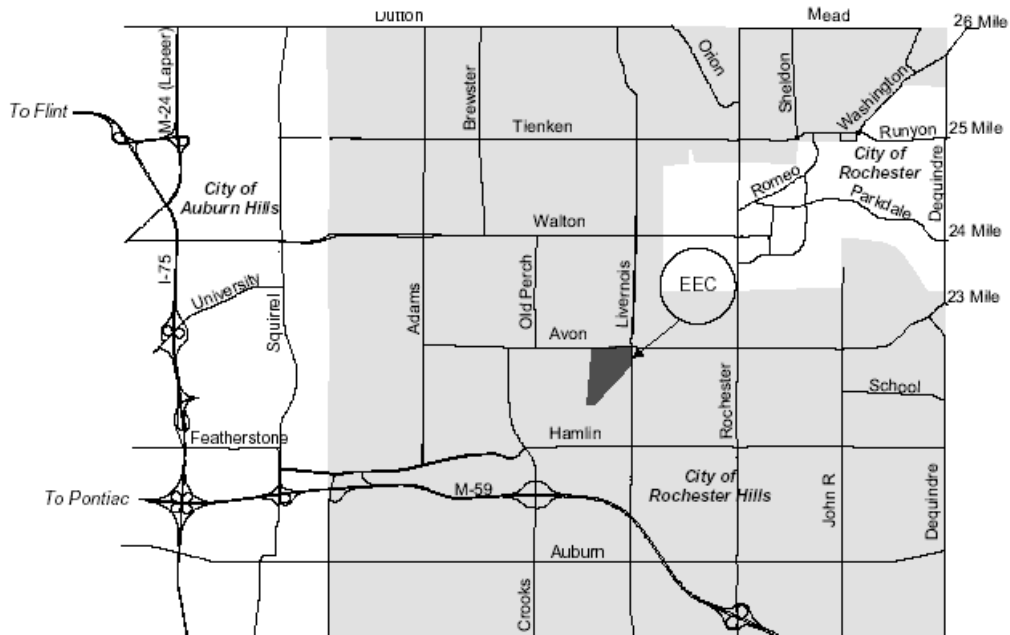
Our other donated items were contributed by Hank's Fly Fishing, Cabela's, Dick Walle of the Phantom River Fly Factory, Kelly Neuman of Streamside of Michigan, Mike Batcke of Baldwin Creek Outfitters, the Detroit Lions, Detroit Red Wings, Feenstra Guide Service, St Croix Fly Rods, Larry Cory, Wipsi Fly Fishing, Challenge Chapter TU, Village Framing, and Bloomfield Framing & Design. Please support these companies whenever you can.

Our hats off to Dan Kot, Tom Quail, and Dave Watson who sold 10 dinner tickets each and hosted a full table of 10 attendees.

John Sabina did an excellent job as our MC, auctioneer, and feature speaker. John made a presentation on the 50 year history of TU.

Larry Walla, Jeff Walla, Brett Walla, and Dave Watson sold raffle tickets and assisted on the bucket raffle drawing along with Jim Weiser. Tom Quail was our official photographer for the evening.

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



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