

TROUT TIMES



Vanguard Chapter

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CHAPTER NEWS

"SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM" MAKES SECOND SPLASH

By Al Woody/Joe Barker

ROCHESTER—Vanguard Chapter is sponsoring the "Salmon in the Classroom Program" in another school in the area. Two years ago Vanguard Chapter purchased an aquarium tank, filter, pump and chiller for the Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion. That effort proved to be a resounding success, with several hundred salmon fry eventually being released into the Clinton River.

A week ago a \$500 donation from the Vanguard Chapter was delivered to Hug-

ger Elementary school in Rochester for the purchase of similar equipment. The tank was filled with water on November 13th with the help of the Webelos 1, Den 3 Cub Scout Troup, whose members are working on a conservation merit badge.

Salmon in the Classroom is an educational program based on rearing baby salmon from eggs obtained from a hatchery and releasing them into a nearby river

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DESPITE SMALL TURNOUT, BANQUET STILL SUCCESSFUL

By John Sabina

CLINTON TOWNSHIP—The Vanguard Annual Fundraising Banquet was held on October 10, 2006, at the Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Township. The 2006 banquet would have to be considered a complete success, both financially and socially. This success was despite several unusual factors.

First, longtime event planner Joe Swantek could not attend the banquet. While Joe had done all of the prize ordering, printing, and planning associated with the banquet, he had to attend his eldest son's wedding in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico at the same time. David's wedding date was set long after the banquet date had been established. It sure seemed strange to have a banquet without Old Swanee present.

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Cub Scout members who helped set up the tank: Fly fishers in the making!

CLASSROOM

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in the late spring. Joe Conrad, a fifth grade teacher at Hugger Elementary, will receive the eggs shortly after Thanksgiving and place them in the chilled water of the aquarium.

In a couple weeks the eggs will hatch into small fry. During the winter and spring, it will be important to keep a steady flow of clean and cool water passing in the aquarium.

“This program really gets the attention of the students and helps them better understand the importance that good water quality has on the health of fish and other living beings,” said Vanguard President Al Woody.

During the Lake Orion school’s Salmon in the Classroom Program, students constructed a 400 square foot pond with a 20-foot stream and 4-tier waterfall on school grounds, just outside the science room. The pond was used in conjunction with the trout/salmon program to tie in water quality, temperature, etc. It will also serve as a nice addition to the program and supplement the class’ whole water quality study.

The Lake Orion students raised the Chinook salmon from egg until release. They monitored the ammonia, nitrite, pH, and water temperature three times a week. They also recorded how many fish were lost, trying to determine what needed to be done to make the water cleaner and increase the survival rate.

May 2005 was chosen for the release of the Lake Orion fish to coincide with the Spring River Monitoring Day conducted by the Clinton River Watershed Council. A rather large group of students gathered at Yates Park in Rochester Hills for the release.

The fish were netted from the aquarium and transported to the park in five-gallon buckets. 143 Chinook salmon, which after 5 months were about 3” long, made it from egg to release.

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President’s Corner

By Al Woody

Merry Christmas Everyone.

Let me reflect back over the past 12 months to review the Vanguard Chapter activities. First, we continued our support of the Clinton River Cold Water Conservation Program with John Sabina continuing to serve as Chair and the participation of members in most of their activities. Second, we had three fishing outings, participated in several youth events and sponsored one conservation weekend. Finally, all those who attended our Banquet had a good time. Special thanks to Joe and Larry Swantek, Todd Randall, John Sabina and all those who helped during the evening for the work that made the event a success.



Again we had another disappointing banquet with only 53 people attending. We made approximately \$2,600, almost the same as last year. We would not have done this well if it had not been for the contributions we received from our members (especially the Randall’s and Faltling’s), fishing guides, and Hank’s Fly Fishing shop. This is the second year in a row of poor results, and we feel the economy and the banquet timing are some of the causes.

We can’t do much to improve the economy, but we have discussed the banquet timing. Traditionally we have held it in the fall. Almost all other TU chapters have theirs in the Spring or Summer. Having it then finds everyone excited about the upcoming season and anxious to get out. In the Fall we conflict with hunting clubs and their events. So next year we will schedule our Banquet on May 10, which is a Thursday almost two weeks after opening day of trout season.

We have scheduled our meetings for the Winter and Spring with an emphasis on fly tying. In December I will talk about the basics and techniques to use. Dick

Walle will discuss the soft hackle fly at our January meeting – how to tie and fish it. The next meeting will feature fly tying again with discussions for both a beginners group and advanced group. March we will begin to get ready for outdoor sports with a discussion on water and boating safety. Finally, in May we will have our banquet and then break for the summer. I hope to see you at one or more of these activities.

During the January meeting, we need to have our election of next year’s officers and Board members. I will step down as your President. John Sabina has agreed to run for that position and I’m sure he will do a great job. The other people volunteering for officer positions are Dave Watson –

Vice President, Frank Lalone – Secretary, and Joe Swantek – Treasurer. Those wishing to serve on the Board are Keith Flood, Mark Green, Dan Kot, We could use a few more Board members. If you are interested, please let me know.

Before I close, I want to wish everyone the best of all Christmas’s and much happiness and success in the New Year.

**VANGUARD CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President
Al Woody..... (248)377-2949

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

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

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

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Mark Green..... (248)814-8630
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Keith Flood..... (313)226-4529

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: FISHERMAN GIFT SUGGESTIONS

By Al Woody

Christmas season is coming upon us and there are a number of items available for that fisherman that has everything. Here are some suggested gifts that will be treasured for years to come.

READING MATERIAL: Since getting outdoors in the winter is limited good reading material is valued highly. Everyone enjoys useful information or a nice story. A nearby fly shop or bookstore has a good selection to choose from. Also, consider video's that can better communicate some of this information. Books and video's that are currently popular include:

- "Nymph – Fishing Rivers and Streams: A Biologist View of Taking Trout Below the Surface" by Rick Hafele with DVD - \$50.00
- "Fish Flies" by Terry Hellekson a two-inch thick book that is an encyclopedia on flies with almost 3,000 patterns illustrated - \$50
- "River Girls: Fly Fishing for Young Women" by Cecilia Kleinkauf a book covering the basics of fly fishing - \$20.
- "Creative Fly Tying" by Mike Mercer an excellent presentation on tying many productive flies - \$40.
- "Best Streams for Great Lakes Steelhead" – Bob Linsenman
- "Fisherman's Guides" to a number of Michigan's trout streams by the Challenge Chapter of TU, which are available at most fly shops. These river guides identify access points, stream characteristics, and worthwhile places to fish.

Another item in this category is a fly fishing magazine. Two good ones are Fly Fishing and American Angler.

FISHING AIDS: There are a number of devices that are tailored to fly-fishing or are handy when being in some secluded outdoor place. Items that deserve attention are:

A **GPS unit** to identify the location of good fishing holes, where the car is parked, or the place you chose to camp. Very useful when floating a river to identify where you are and how far you need to go to get to the take-out location. \$100 to \$400.

Fishing vests come with an assortment of pockets and holders. \$50 - \$140.

A **chest pack** is useful when it's too hot to wear your fishing vest. These lightweight bags have spaces to hold a few fly boxes, plus needed materials

and tools. They can be worn on a belt or on your chest. Some chest packs have space for a water bladder in a compartment worn on the back. \$60 to \$100.

Simms makes a roll up **camera bag** that can provide moisture protection for cameras and cell phones. \$30.

There is a new **fishing net** with a fine mesh panel in the bottom to seine out the smallest nymphs or surface insects for inspection available for \$90.

A good pair of **sunglasses** having polarized lenses is a great aid in reading the water. Different colors are available to enhance color contrasts in different light conditions. \$50 to \$300.

FLY RODS: Many excellent rods are available for less than \$400 from well known manufacturers such as Orvis, Sage,

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BANQUET

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Second, the guest list looked very small. While 53 people attended the banquet, the projected number of guests looked much smaller just before the event. In fact, the Board of Directors seriously considered canceling the banquet at the October 4th board meeting. Early bird ticket sales, which ended on September 30, showed a very disappointing 24 tickets sold. The minimum number of dinners that Fern Hill would prepare (and we had to purchase) was 50.

The Chapter had already purchased the Dell laptop computer for the featured raffle, which had similarly disappointing advanced ticket sales. The State of Michigan raffle license could have contained an alternate raffle date or a provision for an alternate prize if a required number of tickets were not sold, but no such provisions had been made simply because the need for this contingency had not been foreseen.

Between September 30th and October 4th, Joe Swantek contacted many members who had not yet responded. His conclusion was that the number of potential attendees was closer to 40. So the board decision came down to do we: 1) Cancel the banquet and take a large loss on the laptop raffle; or 2) hold the banquet to increase laptop ticket sales at risk of "eating" the cost of extra dinners? The final decision to proceed with the banquet included consideration that canceling it at the 23rd hour just sends the wrong message to everyone.

Recognizing that we expected a small crowd and other area chapters banquets were down as well, we pared back both the number and cost of our prizes by holding several of the more expensive items over until next year. The final count was 4 live auction items, 23 silent auction items, and 20 bucket raffles. While these numbers may sound low, the quality of the prizes did not suffer. Float trips from Kelly Neumann, Kevin Feenstra, Michael Johnson, Jon Andrus, John Giuliani, and Steve Kunnath were still included. So

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VANGUARD SALMON OUTING: GET 'EM WHILE THEIR HOT

By Dave Watson

Location: Baldwin, Michigan
River: Pere Marquette.
Date: September 23-24, 2006
Organized by Dave Watson, Keith Flood and Mark Dandar.

Mark Dandar had traveled up to our base camp on the Thursday. He had already found a couple of good honey holes producing good numbers of fish before we arrived.

Throughout the Friday our group of nine gathered to the camp site on the Jigger Trial State Campground near the Clay Banks outside Baldwin.



Keith Flood with one of his King Salmon conquers on the Pere Marquette River.

A warm welcome near the camp fire was ideal for seeing old friends and meeting some new members to exchange fishing stories and useful advice to the first time Salmon fishermen.

There was plenty of help available for the late comers wishing to pitch their tents after dark.

Early Saturday morning John Sabina and I fished the Clay Banks. John had a good spot in mind but a speedy group on a mission jumped in there just before us. We tried a spot next to it but there were quite a few fishermen already working the prime spots. The first choice location did produce fish on a regular basis, so I have that one in the memory banks.

We did hook into one beauty but then I suggested we move to a favorite of mine. Already fishing in this spot was Keith Flood and his friend Fritz Wasco. They had already caught several fish and Fritz was fighting one when we arrived.

This was a good time to fish as there were several large pods of fish spawning and fighting in the gin clear shallow water.

After a short wait a group of lads relinquished one of the prime spots for John and I to fish. We were soon catching

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CHRISTMAS

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Scott and Winston. There are a variety of actions available. For a little more you can purchase an Orvis Superfine rod that features the thermoset resins used in Orvis T3 rods.

FLIES: Fly fishermen never have enough of these. Go to the local fly shop and ask the salesperson to put together a selection for you or get a gift certificate for a group of flies to be selected later. A dozen can range from \$ 15 to \$36.

And there are **fly boxes** to carry flies to the river. There are special ones geared for large flies or small ones. Streamers can be placed in fur-lined pouches. And for those who have difficulty seeing tiny fly hook eyes there are fly threaders to assist getting these very small flies on the leader.

Orvis has a fly box with six inserts that are designed to store sets of flies having a dropper fly. Secure the first fly and wrap the dropper fly leader around the holder until the dropper is reached, which is then secured in the material. The use of these holders allows you to store small flies on a leader. This unit can also store flies with attached leader having a looped end section. This makes it easy to switch flies during a hatch or when light levels are low. \$25

CLOTHING: A nice **fly-fishing shirt** with lots of pockets can be purchased for under \$ 60. There are quick drying **pants** that convert to shorts with two zips of a zipper. Orvis has shirts, socks, and hats with a built-in bug repellent. Simms has come out with **wading shorts** with a zippered pocket (\$30) and a warm fleece lined **hat** with a Gore-tex covering (\$50). A light, packable **rain jacket** that can fit over waders comes in handy to act as a wind breaker or keep one dry when a storm suddenly comes up. It should be breathable and fit into the back pocket of your vest. \$90 to \$160. A leather **hat** is available from Orvis for \$59.

FLY TYING: \$150 Consider a **lamp** that

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PRESIDENT

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slowly watched our attendance and financial results decline in recent years. Our analysis says that a part of the problem is that people are excited to go fishing in the spring, not at the end of the season in the fall. Thus, our 2007 Banquet will be on Thursday, May 10th and the location will be at the Rivercrest Banquet Center on Avon Road in Rochester Hills. This location is considered more central to our membership.

My point is simply that this is your chapter and you can effect change. We would like to hear from you, either in person, via e-mail, or via telephone. The more active members Vanguard has, the stronger our chapter can be. Let us know your thoughts.

BANQUET

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were a David Ruimveld deluxe framed Muskegon River print and a unique getaway UP weekend offered by Ken and Jane Falting.

Not only was a good time had by all, but by the time the dust settled, the bottom line results were very similar to the 2005 banquet that had 83 attendees. Special thanks go to those Vanguard members who dug in and really helped. I hesitate to list those involved lest I forget some key helpers. Suffice it to say that, once again, I was proud to be associated with the fine group of people known as Vanguard TU. We can all take pride that the trout and salmon of Michigan will be helped for another year thanks to our efforts.

CHRISTMAS

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will provide the light needed to tie small delicate flies. \$40 to \$130. Add a **magnifying glass** for \$ 35 to \$50. Another nice gift would be a **fly tying work center** that keeps all the fly tying tools ready to use.

\$\$80 to \$200. There is also a **fly tying kit bag** for the traveling fly tyer \$95.

TRAVELING: A **duffel bag** that rolls on wheels and is spacious enough to hold all of one's travel belongings, yet flexible to handle the various sizes of fishing gear.

SALMON OUTING

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good size King Salmon on black and purple wooly buggers. We returned all the fish in this flies only catch and release stretch of water.

Back at the camp Mark and his party exchanged reports on the Taylor Road fishing location. After tying some flies Mark had been doing well on we ventured to Taylor Road. After a slight memory loss, Keith and I found the correct starting

Mark generously allowed John Sabina and I to share his spot. Late in the afternoon I hooked into a monster King,

and tell them you are from the Vanguard Chapter.

Hopefully this will ease your shopping hardships and will lead to a Happy Holiday.

tempted to a green fly Keith Flood had tied after lunch. Having light leader line with the drag set light I played the fish for 15-20 minutes. Mark and John were in the river with landing nets ready but the fish did not give up easily. Then the rain started we were all damp by time we hiked back to the cars.

Sunday morning I had arranged to meet Frank Lalone at the Clay Banks. The prime spot was in use but after a very short wait we slipped into the perfect gravel bed where several fish were already at it.



Henry and his son Rob had caught several good size salmon; they had a blast.

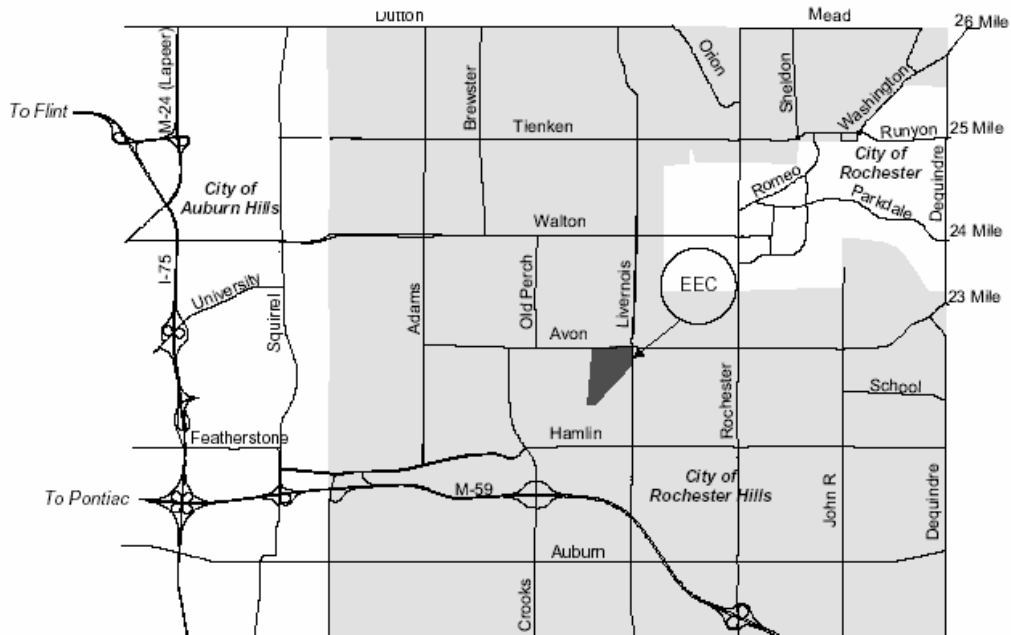
They come in several sizes and costs can range from \$200 to \$350. There is also a rod and reel carry on bag from Orvis that can be had for \$129.

Inquire at fly shops in the area to follow up on these suggestions. Drop by Hank's Fly Shop in Lake Orion (248-393-1500) or Novi (248-349-3677) or the Orvis Shop in Royal Oak (248-542-5700)

Frank caught a nice King male within five minutes he was really happy he made the early morning journey to the Clay Banks. After a hearty breakfast we tried the Taylor Road venue, but we had no luck there and I had to get back home. Frank was hooked, booked into the Baldwin Creek Motel, and decided to stay on for a few more days.

I love fly fishing, but this is a different style of fishing which makes a change once or twice a year for me. I really think the TU meeting with PM guide Mike Batche on the 13th of September helped make this a successful fishing adventure for me. For a good all round camping and fishing experience I recommend this trip next year.

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



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