

TROUT TIMES



Vanguard
Chapter

Volume 08 Number 4

A Publication of Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited



VANGUARD MEMBERS & FRIENDS ENJOY SALMON ADVENTURE

By Dave Watson/Joe Barker

BALDWIN—Dave Watson and Keith Flood took charge and organized this year's salmon fishing trip to the Pere Marquette River. After a brief diversion last year to the Rifle River, the trip to the Pere Marquette has become an annual ritual the last few years under the leadership of Dave.

John Sabina, Al Woody, and Joe Swantek traveled up mid-week and had already caught several fish. They made camp near the Clay Banks trail.

Dave took the day off work and arrived at the Jigger trail camp site early afternoon with his son Sam and two of his

friends from England; Taffy Davis and John Patrick. Their selected campsite had plenty of room for the other Vanguard members and friends joining them for the adventure.

After setting up camp and preparing a campfire, Dave and his crew ventured out for a few hours of fishing before dusk. Many pods of fresh salmon grouped together on the Clay Banks' gravels to perform their natural reproduction. John and Taffy, Dave's friends from England, were amazed to see this activity with these huge splendid fish.

Please see *SALMON*, page 2.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *President's Corner*
- *Podcasts*
- *Dignitaries at Meeting*
- *Grandpas Fishing*
- *Water IQ*
- *Election Results*
- *Think Spring*

Vanguard 2008 Annual Financial Report

By Joe Swantek

Well, as of September 30, we completed another successful fiscal year for our Vanguard Chapter. My, how quickly this year has passed us by!

Here are some of the financial highlights:

Gross revenue for the fiscal year ending 9/30/08 was \$10,213 with expenses of \$8,317 as compared to gross income of \$15,528 with expenses of \$12,954 from the previous year (9/30/07). This relates to a net profit from all activities of \$1,896 through 9/30/08 versus \$2,574 for year ending 9/30/07.

Banquet gross revenue for 2008 was \$7,929 with net income of \$3,797 compared to \$6,954 with a net profit of \$3,267 in 2007.

Please see *FINANCIALS*, page 3.



SALMON

Continued from Front Page.

The weather was dry and in the upper 60's for most of the weekend. This encouraged many people to come. Fishing for the weekend resulting in a lot of pressure on the fish, but there were still good holes to fish in the area.

Dave and Vanguard members discussed tactics around the campfire and some decided to get up early to fish the Taylor Road area.

Dave's friend Colin Watkins and his party felt a good English breakfast cooked at the campsite would be a good start. They joined the others after breakfast at the Taylor Road location.

Saturday night Keith Flood cooked a very tasty chili dinner for the whole group. Henry Brasza and his son enjoyed the camp food tremendously.

Throughout the weekend, John and Taffy kept everyone entertained with their English humor.

Some ventured out for more fishing after dinner, then back to the welcoming campfire, a great way to finish the day.

On Sunday, we had some archery practice in preparation for the up and coming bow-hunting season.

Glorious weather and good company made this a great weekend for fishing and camping.

Photo at right: John Sabina and Joe Swantek discuss fishing strategy tactics, although one suspects that John is pointing out to Joe where the beer cooler is and suggesting that they have just one more brew before they head down to the river. That's Dave empty chair in the foreground; he is off looking for more chili.

President's Corner

By Dave Watson

"To conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries, and their watersheds."

--Trout Unlimited's mission.

Hello, I am Dave Watson, recently elected as your President of the Trout Unlimited Vanguard Chapter. I hope you have had a great Thanksgiving holiday; roast turkey is one of my favorites.

Previously serving as vice president, I had the pleasure of working with John Sabina, the retiring president.

John's enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication to the watershed and fish habitat have been the inspiration for many board members and many other members.

John has the gift for teaching kids, and sometimes their parents, the joys of fishing and the benefits of caring for the environment to promote wildlife and a good habitat for trout.



Last year we engaged in a project for local fishing techniques and location programs. Knowledge of favorite rivers and streams was freely given in great detail by board members Joe Swantek, Dan Kot, Al Woody, John Sabina, and others.

John has real flair for entertaining to deliver the message, and as a banquet auctioneer, CRWC organizer, and fly tier. I am glad to see John is still on the board to support Tom Quail, as Vice-President, and myself.

Being from England, I know that fly-fishing in England is quite different from the US in so far as access to the rivers, streams, and lakes is largely privately owned, and very often guarded by professional game keepers. Some water is fishable with the purchase of a day ticket or permit, other water is by invitation only. The river is

Please see *PRESIDENT*, page 7



Welcome to the 21st Century or “What’s a Podcast”?

By Tom Quail

OMG (“oh my gosh” to those not savvy in the world of text message speak) it’s winter in Michigan and I need some fly-fishing stimuli. Now let’s see; there is the FFF Fly Tying Expo December 6th and the 2009 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is March 7th & 8th; and after that the 2009 trout season opener April 25th.

Whoa, wait a minute, there are some big gaps between these life saving events. What am I going to do the rest of the time? I could attend all the Vanguard Chapter monthly meetings held the second Thursday of the month at the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center (there’s a big hint!) or I could venture out into the technology world ruled by humans under the age of 30.

Of course, I’m talking to the Vanguard members who are over 30, which accounts for 99% of us. (Actually, the mean age of a Vanguard member is 105. There’s the problem!) Specifically, I’m talking about Podcasts. What the he_ _ is a Podcast???? I’ve heard of them but I can’t seem to pick them up on my car radio. Welllllllll (that’s my Reagan impersonation) a Podcast is an audio or video show that is available for listening (or viewing) on your computer or other devices.

Now, I can just see all of you sitting there saying, “Oh I knew that, does Quail think we’re a bunch of idiots?” Come on seriously, if I asked you to find the June 26, 2008 podcast with Kelly Galloup on the Itinerant Angler and download it onto your iPod or MP3 player what are the chances you’d tell me to take a hike? Some of you could do that without a hitch, but most of us would do some head scratching.

Here’s an important tip to make this happen. You need to make friends with someone under 30, preferably a teenager. Oh, I know that sounds crazy, but believe it or not, teenagers have a purpose in life and that’s because they know technology like nobody’s business.

We all have a great opportunity facing us over the next few weeks. Here’s what you do. The holidays are here and that’s when you’ll be seeing family and friends. Corral one of your young relatives and ask them how to pull this off for you. Ask them specifically what I asked you above about the Kelly Galloup podcast. They’ll look at you like what’s the big deal and ask you for your iPod or MP3 player. Oops, you don’t have one or don’t even really know what that is do you? Admit that to your young friend and tell them you are desperate. Ask them to go to Best Buy or Circuit City or some other place where you can buy one of these iPods or MP3 players. This is just some advice but also offer to buy them something at the store.



Make sure it’s of their choosing not yours. BTW (“by the way”, more text message speak – just like Kwame), these things are pretty cheap with a range of \$20 to over \$200. \$50 will get you a good enough iPod or MP3 player.

We’re not done here so stay with me. Now that you’ve purchased this “radio thingy with headphones” and a little gift for your new young friend, you need to get it programmed. You need to get some podcasts on it to listen to. Keep your young friend close because you still need help. I’m going to give you some recommended podcasts sites that you (actually your teenage buddy) can access for

Please see *PODCASTS*, page 4.

FINANCIALS

Continued from Front page.

Our Kayak raffle at the Fly Fishing Expo in March 2008 achieved a net profit of \$1,534 compared to a profit of \$1,141 for the 2007 raffle. Thanks to our benefactor at Freedom Hawk Kayak Company, who donated the kayak for our 2008 raffle. We obviously were able to achieve an excellent profit through their support.

I want to recognize and thank two of our major benefactors whose support has helped us to reduce expenses for our Trout Times publication and our Expo raffle.

Mr. Ken Matheis, Sr., owner of Hank’s Fly Shop, has donated all the printing cost for the Trout Times publication over the past two years. Visit them on-line at www.hanksflyfishing.com

Mr. David Cameron, President of Freedom Hawk Kayak Co., donated the kayak for the 2008 Expo raffle and will be donating another kayak for the 2009 show raffle.

Please support these businesses whenever you can!

And finally, as of 9/30/08, our total assets were \$14,161 with no liabilities and our bank balance was \$12,604, consisting of certificates of deposit and a business checking account.

J.V. Swantek

Treasurer
10/27/08



PODCASTS

Continued from Page 3.

downloadable shows. That's what they call the podcasts, shows. Depending on how big your memory is on your iPod or MP3 player (not in your head) you should be able to download several shows. Here's a partial list: **Ask About Fly Fishing – Internet Radio, Fly Fish Radio, Fly Fish Weekly – FFOTW.com, The Itinerant Angler Podcast, On the Fly Radio, and Orvis Fly Fishing Guide Podcast.**

There are others but this is enough to get you going. In this little group there are probably close to 250 podcast shows ranging from 10 minutes long to 1.5 hours. The good part is that they are all FREE!!! All you have to do is buy the iPod or MP3 player and the little present for your technology genius.

If you don't want to spend money for an iPod or MP3 player you could always listen to the podcast shows on your computer. Make sure you have internet service and speakers and you still need to grease your teenage friend because you still will need their help.

Okay, okay, I'll stop with the wisecracks. So why did I go through this whole dissertation on podcasts? Remember back to the part where it's winter and you can't fish without freezing you're a _ off? Now you can listen to these podcast shows any time you want. Maybe it's when you're tying flies or maybe when your wife is driving you crazy about becoming a productive member of the family instead of sitting around all winter like a sack of potatoes (This Quail knows how to spell tomato – no relation thank you.)

I almost left out the best part. These podcast shows are typically interviews with the greatest names in fly fishing like Kelly Galloup, A.K. Best, Lefty Kreh, Tom Rosenbauer (from Orvis), Ted Leeson, Jim Babb, Tim Rajeff, Joe Swantek, etc. There are also "how to" shows and fly fishing destination reviews. I listen to them when I'm at the gym. And yes, contrary to how I may look, I go the

Please see *PODCASTS*, page 7.

Dignitaries at Oct. Vanguard Meeting

By John Sabina



Pictured from left to right above are: Dan Keifer, Community Outreach Coordinator – CRWC, Ann Varra – Executive Director – CRWC, Dave Watson – now President of Vanguard, Tom Quail – now Vice-president of Vanguard, and Dr. Bryan Burroughs – Executive Director of MCTU.

ROCHESTER HILLS—The speaker for our October 9th Chapter meeting was Dan Keifer, the Community Outreach Coordinator of the Clinton River Watershed Council. Dan shared with us his impressions of the TU National annual meeting held in Utah in September.

Bryan Burroughs, the Executive Director of the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited was our scheduled guest speaker. Bryan had previously accepted our invitation and expressed a willingness to discuss any issues that members present wanted to discuss. He said that he would prefer to answer questions instead of a formal presentation, as he wanted to meet and get a feel for Vanguard members on his first visit.

Dan was recognized at the Utah meeting with a Distinguished Volunteer Award from TU National for his continuing achievements on the Clinton River Coldwater Conservation Project, a project

initiated by Vanguard and still heavily supported by our Chapter.

Bryan had both attended the TU Annual meeting with Dan and also had seconded Dan's nomination for the award. Thus, when I suggested that Bryan support Dan's presentation and chime in as appropriate, Bryan freely accepted the concept.

To have two noteworthy advocates for coldwater conservation on the same program was exciting. Then, to make our meeting even better, Ann Varra, the Executive Director of the CRWC, joined us to show her support for her employee, Dan.

Dan used an elaborate slide show to summarize the activities at the Utah TU meeting. While the actual annual meeting is a two-day affair on Friday and Satur-

Please see *DIGNITARIES*, page 5.

Grandpas Fishing at Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles (O.A.T.S.)

At the September membership meeting, Pete Howard talked about the O.A.T.S. program and the volunteer efforts of the Vanguard Chapter. Six members participated in the program. The fishing part of the program went from August 4 to August 13. Lasting half a day, Vanguard members and others spent Monday and Wednesday mornings helping special needs program attendees spend time fishing.

These young people had any number of special accommodations that they needed for their fishing, but all seemed to enjoy the outing. Those who helped included members and non-members: Louie Vespa, Jerry Falkowski, Tom Kelly, Bob Schwartz, Frank Penkala, Bob Campbell, Dan Keifer, John Hanna, Jim Nolan, and Lothar Spang. Pete Howard provided the transportation and water. The only day that fishing was poor was the 13th. Pete claimed it was Jim Nolan and Lothar Spang who had something to do with the poor fishing.

This program is an excellent opportunity for our group to help with a great project.

What's Your H2O IQ?

Are you a water saver? We don't mean the kind that requires joining the Coast Guard! We're talking about people who only use the water they need and leave the rest for the fish. Sound difficult? Actually, you may already be doing more than you think! Answer the following and see how you "measure up" as a water saver.

When I brush my teeth I...

- Only turn the water on to wet my brush and rinse.
- Leave the water running the whole time.
- I rarely brush my teeth; I drink cola instead.

I use the toilet for...

- The stuff you can't do unless you unzip.
- Shooting baskets with tissue.
- My dog's water dish; he loves the extra flavor.

For me, the shower is...

- A quick dip; I have better things to do than wrinkle.
- Where I can take time to improve my yodeling skills.
- What? Shower and lose my signature scent?

When I do the laundry I...

- Make sure there's a full load, before starting the washer.
- Know the fewer things I wash, the fewer I'll have to fold.
- Fold the stuff in the hamper and spray it with Lysol.

During the day I quench my thirst with...

- Water that was chilled in the refrigerator.
- Cold water I obtained by letting the tap run until cool.
- A super-big, super-sugary, and super-caffeinated, super-sipper!

If you answered...

Mostly "A": You're a Water Super Saver! You know water is vital for life, but you don't waste it either.

Mostly "B": Remember—there's a limited amount of water available for use and you may be using more than your share. See if you can modify a habit or two and turn your "b's" into "a's."

Mostly "C": You may be saving water, but you're lacking serious personal hygiene. It's okay to USE water, just use it wisely!

DIGNITARIES

Continued from page 4.

day, the gathering includes a day of guided local fishing and another day touring nearby conservation projects. Chapter and council representatives from all over the country attend the meeting.

The business meeting starts with a "State of TU" address that highlights accomplishments since the last meeting and current financials. Then detailed progress on each initiative is presented. Besides updating everyone on progress to date, the real purpose of the meeting is to affirm the TU direction for the next year and beyond.

Dan's enthusiastic "the glass is half full" approach to outreach came through clearly during his remarks. TU's approach to protect native and wild fish in the headwaters, restore habitat and fish in the lower reaches, and reconnect the two regions is a powerful message.

Several years ago TU instituted a reporting approach labeled the Conservation Success Index or CSI. This long-term commitment uses a GIS graphical approach to identify streams that were once populated with a given wild trout strain, shows where they are now found, and tracks progress toward reestablishing strong native populations. (Go to www.tu.org to see the CSI.)

This approach has only one major shortcoming. By tracking progress on native fish instead of wild fish, a very large portion of both the United States and TU membership have been left out. The entire Midwest and much of New England, and even large portions of the West, no longer have native trout. Instead, they have brown trout, a non-native, but now often naturally reproducing, wild trout species. A review of the CSI shows the limited coverage.

The main point of Dan's message was the very good news that the 2009 TU annual meeting will be held in Traverse City next August. 2009 is also the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited. What an opportunity to expand the CSI to include

Please see *DIGNITARIES*, page 7.

And the Election Winners Are!

By John Sabina

Chapter elections were held at the November 11, 2008 Chapter meeting. The following individuals were elected unanimously: Dave Watson –President, Tom Quail – Vice-President, Ron Elzerman – Secretary, and Joe Swantek – Treasurer. The board members elected were Jeff Gerwitz, Dan Kot, Frank Lalone, Matt Rackley, Todd Randall, John Sabina, Jeff Walla, and Al Woody.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for the last two years. I really appreciate your support and hope that your enthusiasm will continue for the new officers. These are exciting times for Trout Unlimited and you have a solid team to lead your Vanguard Chapter.

Not too Early to Think Spring

By Joe Barker

Sure, the snow is just starting to fly and you haven't even cleaned your fly lines or greased your reels for next year. However, you can already look forward to a couple events that are sure signs that the trout-fishing season is not too far away.

On March 7 and 8, 2009, the Vanguard Chapter will once again have a booth at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo in Warren at Macomb Community College.

We are fortunate enough this year to have another Freedom Hawk kayak for our raffle. This is a great watercraft for fishing lakes and ponds. Its unique design allows one to stand while fly-casting, which is a distinct advantage over regular fishing kayaks.

Joe Barker will again be sharing space at the Vanguard booth this year. His display will include framed salmon and

Please see *SPRING*, page 7.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 11, 7:30 pm—Chapter Membership Meeting at RHEEC. *Rich Merino of Orvis will present on fly-fishing basics.*

Thursday, January 8, 2009, 7:30 pm—Chapter Meeting at RHEEC. *Mike Batcke of Baldwin Creek Lodge will present a slide show on Alaskan Fly Fishing Adventure.*

Thursday, January 22—Board Meeting. *Location to be announced.*

Thursday, February 12, 7:30 pm—Chapter Meeting at RHEEC. *Brian McKis-sen, nature photographer, will provide tips for better photos of your fish and other nature photos.*

Thursday, February 26—Board Meeting. *Location to be announced.*

Saturday & Sunday, March 7-8—Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. *Located at the main campus of Macomb Community College on 12 Mile Road in Warren; visit the Vanguard booth.*

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 pm—Chapter Meeting at RHEEC. *Barney Wong will present on fly fishing for carp.*

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 pm—Chapter Meeting at RHEEC. *Learn details on the TU 50th Anniversary celebration.*

Saturday & Sunday, April 25-26—Trout Opener Fly Fishing Show. *Located at the Ramada Inn in Grayling. Vanguard Fly Tying will have a booth.*

Saturday & Sunday, June 27-28—Chapter Hex Outing. *Joe Barker's cabin on the Manistee River.*

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.

Check Out Vanguard On-line

For the latest updates on upcoming Vanguard Chapter news and events, visit our website at 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.

PODCASTS

Continued from page 4.

gym 5-6 days a week...and workout!

Now get going and extend your fly-fishing experience for a full 12 months. Who knows, you might even learn something new. Depending on how this article is received, I may continue writing for *The Trout Times*. I hope this was helpful to someone. Your comments are welcome at tquail@gmail.com.

Editor's Note: And here I thought a podcast amounted to repeatedly casting to a reluctant group of trout. Tom need not wait for a response from our fickle readership to be invited to submit future articles to Trout Times. In fact, we encourage all of our members to share their insights and fishing experiences with the rest of the Chapter by emailing articles to me at joseph.barker@nlrb.gov.

DIGNITARIES

Continued from page 5.

wild salmonids! Then we could use the graphic approach to reflect progress on brown trout, Atlantic and Pacific salmon, and even show projects for each TU chapter. This expansion would be a major undertaking, but what an opportunity!

My sincere hope is that as many Vanguard members as possible will plan to be in or near Traverse City during the week of August 17-23, 2009. Stay tune for more details, but mark that week on your calendar.

TROUT TIMES IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE VANGUARD CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HANK'S FLY FISHING UNLIMITED

**Joe Barker, Editor
Dave Watson, President**

PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2.

owned by the landowner and by rights you cannot wade through, unlike on most waters in the States.

After several unsuccessful attempts to catch trout in this country, I asked around my work place for help in getting started. Ten years ago, fellow Vanguard member Larry Walla invited me to join a work weekend on the Black River, staying at the DNR log cabin on the Pigeon River.

After a very satisfying day of bank erosion protection, arranged by Joe Swantek and the DNR, Former Chapter President Todd Randall generously shared his knowledge of river access reading and fly-fishing. I am still learning but I now have much better results.

The Vanguard Chapter has members from all walks of life with a common interest in the outdoors. They have various skills in fly-fishing and other freshwater fishing techniques that they are willing to share with other members.

My wish is to encourage more Vanguard members to join in some of the activities we are involved in. Most members are not interested in all of the activities and some are just happy to pay their annual membership. However, others like to make a difference and are interested in some of the activities.

Vanguard has monthly meetings at the Rochester Hills Educational Center on Avon and Livernois. Along with chapter information on future events, both local and national, we select very informed speakers in requested fields of interest.

On March 12, we have Barney Wong, an expert guide on fly-fishing for carp. Carp, although not a favorite for fish and chips, are a great fight. I have caught several >20" in Stony Creek Park on my 15ft coarse fishing rod, bottom fishing, and I would love to learn how to catch them on fly gear.

We have several ways to get involved with Trout Unlimited. You are welcome to attend our membership meetings the second Thursday of the month. The next

one will be December 11. This is a good way to find more information on future events and activities; also to see what is happening on the national level of TU.

Next year Trout Unlimited is celebrating 50 years its since formation.

Contact me if you would like to know more about any of the activities Vanguard Chapter is involved in.

Many thanks again to John Sabina.

Dave Watson
2008-President Vanguard TU
248-601-3828
davexbt@gmail.com
Web site: vanguardtu.org

VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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

Vice President

Tom Quail..... (248)391-6718

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Ron Elzerman..... (248)656-3591

Directors

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

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

Dan Kot..... (248)484-0772

John Gerwitz..... (248)656-9439

Jeff Walla..... (248)236-0242

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

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

Todd Randall..... (586)336-0995

SPRING

Continued from page 6.

steelhead flies, and a broader selection of trout flies. Trout flies remain \$12 a dozen or a buck a fly so stock up for the trout opener.

Speaking of the trout opener, the Ramada Inn in Grayling will host its first fly-fishing show the last weekend in April to coincide with the first day of the regular trout season. Joe Barker will have a booth at the show, joined by other Vanguard members.