

MARCH 2003

TROUT TIMES



**Vanguard
Chapter**

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CHAPTER NEWS

Volunteers Sought for Clinton River Project

By John Sabina



STERLING HEIGHTS--If you have read the "Trout Times," attended a Vanguard meeting, or other event during the last year, you have undoubtedly heard about the Clinton Project. (If the topic has somehow eluded you, please see the accompanying separate article on the project background.) Many people, both members and guests, have expressed enthusiasm for the project and have asked how that they might become involved. The opportunity to involve more Vanguard folks than the four steering committee members is at hand.

During calendar year 2003, the project will need an estimated 1800 volunteer hours. Approximately 1000 of those hours will be spent collecting detailed information for a physical inventory and macro-invertebrate surveys. These studies will be accomplished by 10 teams; 4 teams covering the physical inventory and 6 teams for macro-invertebrate surveys. The macro-invertebrate surveys should begin in April 2003, while the physical

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Vanguard volunteers work on the Black River in Northern Michigan in another of the Chapter's stream restoration projects. Similar efforts on the Clinton River could improve fishing opportunities.

Black River Revisited

By Mark Green

VANDERBILT—Slowly and surely the wily trout cruises back to his favorite hole, spooked and unsure of what had disturbed him. Was it a beaver, raccoon, or a deer? Clearly it was too big for any of those things. It must have been man! Yes it most definitely was, but these were no ordinary men, these were TU volunteers; stewards of the rivers and streams, working on projects to improve the habitat.

This scene has been played out in Michigan's Pigeon River State Forest for

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VOLUNTEERS

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surveys will begin by mid-May.

The steering committee is in the process of identifying the leaders for these 10 teams. The four TU Chapters involved and the Clinton River Watershed Council are each identifying candidates for the team leader positions. Vanguard will be submitting the names of Mark Green, Larry Walla, Dave Watson, Geoff Kowalczyk, and Joe Carnacchio as potential leaders. The 10 team leaders will be named at the February 6 Steering Committee Meeting. The leaders will be involved in a one-day training session during March to understand the data collection needs and the data protocols that will be used. Additional volunteer members for each team must be identified by April 1st.

So, you ask, what are team members asked to do?

Micro-Invertebrate Survey Teams: Each team will consist of a leader and four additional volunteers to monitor two specific sites, one site on a tributary (Galloway Creek, Paint Creek, or Stony Creek) and the other site on the Clinton River mainstream. A sampling event should take about four hours per site. Each site will be sampled once during April and again during September. The same sites will be sampled over the next three years. Time requirements will be eight hours for an early April training session, eight hours sampling in the spring, and another eight hours sampling in the fall. So volunteers are committing to 24 hours the first year and 16 hours in the subsequent two years. Macro-invertebrate surveys provide a snapshot of a stream's health and are an important way to monitor the project's progress.

Physical Inventory Survey Teams: Each team will consist of a leader and 3 additional volunteers to survey approximately 80 sites each. Surveys will include measuring stream width, depth, bottom composition, current velocity, and recording habitat present, GPS co-ordinates, and digital photos approximately every 200

Please see VOLUNTEERS, page 7.

What is the Clinton River Project?

By John Sabina

WHAT: The Clinton River Project is a watershed conservation campaign in SE Michigan to generate public support in the Clinton watershed as a valued recreational resource through efforts to improve water quality, aesthetics, and access. The intermediate goal is to assess and develop the coldwater potential of lower Galloway Creek and the middle mainstream section of the Clinton. We feel that these sections have the potential to join Paint Creek as MDNR designated trout streams.

WHERE: The boundaries for our initial efforts are the Clinton Mainstream from River Bend Park just above Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills to the dam at Yates Cider Mill near Dequindre Road and three tributaries, Galloway Creek below Galloway Lake, Paint Creek below Lake Orion, and Stony Creek below Stony Creek Lake. These boundaries will be expanded to the complete watershed in later phases.

WHEN: This is a multi-year effort. The first phase in 2003 will be to gather needed temperature, flow, and macro-invertebrate data within the initial boundaries, as well as detailed physical inventories of largely undocumented sections within these boundaries. 1800 volunteer hours are projected for this data-gathering phase in 2003. Stream restoration and improvement is targeted to begin in 2004.

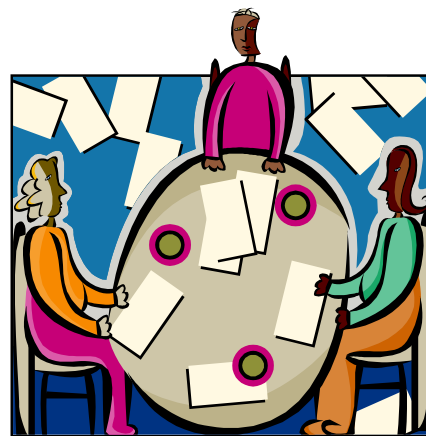
WHO: The project is a joint effort of the Clinton River Watershed Council, the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division, the City of Auburn Hills, and the four Detroit area Trout Unlimited Chapters – Challenge Chapter, Clinton Valley Chapter, Paul H Young Chapter, and the Vanguard Chapter. The Steering Committee has

grant requests pending from Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream, the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, and a Mott Foundation mini-grant.

WHY: Research has shown that stream improvement projects only result in increased trout production when the factors limiting trout production are addressed. Many efforts simply redistribute existing trout rather than increase production. Detailed information is needed to understand the true constraints. The section

chosen has coldwater potential, includes several possible industrial partners, and will allow us to build our project abilities before tackling tougher issues elsewhere in the watershed. The TU Chapters expect to expand their active membership through this

project. The thousands of fishermen in the tri-county area need more coldwater fishing opportunities near their homes.



**TROUT TIMES
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BY THE VANGUARD CHAPTER OF
TROUT UNLIMITED**

**Joe Barker, Editor
Todd Randall, President**

Minutes of Vanguard Chapter/Board Meeting January 22, 2003

Attendees: Joe Carnichiio, Todd Randall, Larry Walla, John Sabina, Mark Green, Dave Watson, Geoff Kowalczyk, Al Woody

Clinton River Watershed Program

(John Sabina) – The meeting was held January 9, 2003. Scope of project expanded to include Paint Creek and Stony Creek. Map of stream being prepared by Oakland County. Three grants have been submitted to cover the costs of data gathering equipment and training for stream surveying. It is proposed there will be ten teams to perform the micro invertebrate surveys and the physical inventory fieldwork. Volunteers are being sought to lead 6 teams to perform the invertebrate survey and 4 teams for the physical inventory surveys. There will be an all day training session on March 29th for the invertebrate survey methods.

2003 Action Plan (Todd Randall) – The plan developed at the last Board Meeting was reviewed and discussed. There was much discussion regarding how best to attract new members.

Conservation – Mark Green and Larry Walla will lead. Events include Work Weekend at the Black River Project (August 2-3). Todd will prepare a grant request to cover the cost of the event.

Membership – Mark Green Larry Walla agreed to help with these duties.

Banquet – This committee will be discussed and volunteers solicited at February Board Meeting

Summer Outing – Al Woody and Joe Barker are the leaders. The Chapter fishing outing date is proposed to be May 17, 2003.

Southfield Show – Joe Swantek will lead. A sign-up sheet for people to man the booth was passed around. Show to take place the weekend of March 8th & 9th.

Please see JAN. MINUTES, page 7.

Vanguard Summer Outing Planned for Manistee River

GRAYLING—Plans are underway for this year's Chapter fishing outing to take place on the upper Manistee River on the weekend of May 17 & 18, 2003. This is a particularly good time of year to fish the Manistee as there are prolific mayfly and caddis hatches, and plenty of hungry Brookies and Browns.

Campsites will be reserved at the Goose Creek Horse Campground on Manistee River Road a half mile south of County Road 612, which is about 5 miles west of Frederic off I-75. Member & Trout Times Editor Joe Barker has a cabin located just upstream of the campground, which will serve as a base of operations.

This is Joe's home water, which yielded a few Browns over 20 inches last year. In addition to guide services, Joe also has an inventory of flies field-tested for success on the Manistee.

Mark your calendars, fill out the reservation form, and return it to Al Woody by at least May 1, 2003 so an estimate of the number of persons attending can be

made. Based on past experience, the cost of the outing will be \$25 per person. This will include food and beverages. Joe Barker has canoes available, but more canoes may have to be rented.

Sulphers, blue-wing olives, and mahoganies are the prevalent mayfly hatches this time of year, and an evening caddis hatch is usually predictable. Henryville Specials, a green-bodied, palmered caddis imitation, is particularly effective. In the afternoon and early evening, swinging soft hackles in the current meet with great success as the caddis begin to emerge.

Ole Swanee, the fishing guru of now world-renowned fame, has fished this section many times with success using beadheads. Small streamers can also be effective after dark for some of the bigger Browns that haunt the river.

So bring plenty of insect repellent and a few fishing stories for around the campfire to compete with those of Ole Swanee.

Vanguard Summer Fishing Outing May 16 - 18, 2003

Names of those attending:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Phone Number : _____ Email: _____

Time and Day Arriving: _____

Will you bring a canoe? Yes ___ No ___

Return this form with a check by May 1, 2003 to:

Al Woody, 3087 Glengrove Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309

FISHING ADVENTURE

La Gran Aventura Argentina

By Joe Swantek



Gustavo, our guide, pointed to a rise under a overhanging tree along the far bank and said, "By the way that fish opened its mouth to take that bug, it must be a big brown trout. Cast as close as you can to the bank upstream under that tree and mend immediately to get a drag free float." After making three casts without a take using a #8 Stimulator, we decided to rest the fish awhile and change to a (Barker tied) Chernobyl Ant imitation. In the meantime, Larry who was fishing about 40 yards upstream had hooked two large fish while skating a #8 Stimulator across the current. Both fish took him into his backing before breaking the leader.

This action took place on the beautiful Rio Qullian (key-shen), one of the outstanding dry fly fishing waters in the Patagonia region of Argentina. The crystal clear, cold water (56 degrees), and deep and swift current make for difficult wading between the large rocks and boulder strewn river bottom. We definitely needed a wading staff and could have used spike wading boots to navigate the rivers. At times, the wind blew so hard that you were forced to establish solid

footing and a low profile to prevent being thrown off balance. Our outfitter, Julio Mazzoli, president of Southern Cross Outfitters and a member of the Challenge Chapter, advised us of these conditions while we were preparing for our 12-day trip to Argentina on January 16, 2003. It may have been winter in Michigan but it was summer, comparable to our month of July, in Argentina.

After an eight-hour flight from Miami, Carl Hueter, Dave Fetters, Larry Swantek, and I arrived in Buenos Aires. After clearing customs and immigration, we took an hour bus ride through the beautiful city of Buenos Aires to a regional airport for a 400-mile flight southwest to our final destination, the town of San Martin De Los Andes. San Martin is a lovely four seasons resort town of about 12,000 residents nestled in the Andes Mountains near the boarder of Chile. For our home base we stayed in a three-bedroom cabana located in the center of town. We fished five different river systems and Lake Lalog, a large high mountain lake for big Brook trout (fontinalis),

Please see ARGENTINA, page 5.

DNR'S FRANCIS TOUTS CLINTON RIVER POTENTIAL

STERLING HEIGHTS—The Clinton River has not been planted with trout for over 10 years, but that might change if stream improvements being planned by Vanguard and its partner chapters are successful. In fact, Fisheries Biologist Jim Francis of the DNR, who was the guest speaker at the February membership meeting, was excited about the possibilities of the Clinton River watershed.

About 35 members and guests, one of the largest turnouts for any monthly meeting, heard discussion about the potential for an early season catch-and-release program taking place on the Clinton, similar to that on the Huron River during April of each year in the Proud Lake Recreation Area.

An estimated 20 percent of Michigan's population lives within the Clinton River watershed, which covers about 760 square miles and 56 municipalities. Trout fishing opportunities for Southeastern Michigan fishermen would increase dramatically if improvement could be made in the system.

The upper North Branch of the Clinton, and its various feeder streams, show potential as coldwater fisheries that could be tapped if improvements were made. The DNR hopes to issue a Clinton River Assessment Report in the near future summarizing the current state of the river system.

An intriguing possibility for improving the Clinton and its tributaries includes renovating existing dams on the upper Clinton and Galloway Creek to draw cold water from the bottom of the impoundments. These bottom draw dams could cool stream temperatures dramatically during the summer months.

Jim Francis looks forward to working with Trout Unlimited and its partners in helping the Clinton River system reach its full potential as a coldwater fishery.

ARGENTINA

Continued from page 4.

Rainbows, and Brown trout. The highlight of the trip was the 3-day float trip on the Rio Alumine, one of the largest rivers in the region. We camped along the river for two nights, an experience we will never forget. Besides the quality fishing, the scenery was a bonus on our trip down the river. There were no signs of human habitation on or off the river. During the night, the stars were unbelievable. The Southern Cross and Milky Way Constellations were so bright and clear it was as if you could reach up and touch them. During our second night in camp, Carl was brave enough to sleep outside his tent under the stars even though it was 40 degrees and as I was later told, mountain lions, wild pigs, and European stag deer are present in the region.

After resting the run until the fish began rising again, Gustavo motioned to me to cast further upstream to get a good float over the rise. On the second cast with a Chernobyl Ant the large fish ate the fly and immediately turned downstream into the heavy current and broke off. Gustavo, in broken English, opined, "Joe that fish was close to 28 maybe 30 inches." With a look of despair, I could have cried. As luck would have it another fish started to feed in the same run. After tying on another Barker special ant, Gustavo instructed me to make another cast to a fish feeding further under the tree. Again, lady luck was with me because the cast cleared the tree and floated free giving the fish enough time to eat the fly. After three unsuccessful runs, a huge 26-inch Brown trout was netted by Gustavo much to my delight. After taking a few quick pictures, the beautifully spotted fish was released unharmed. That same fly accounted for two more 20-plus inch Browns out of that run.

The staff that Julio assembled was first rate. The guides, Gustavo, Sandro, Havert, and Gustavo (yes there were two Gustavos with us), were friendly and professional. They knew the best holding areas in each of the rivers and changed flies when the action slowed down. They worked hard on the float trips especially when the wind blew upstream. We had

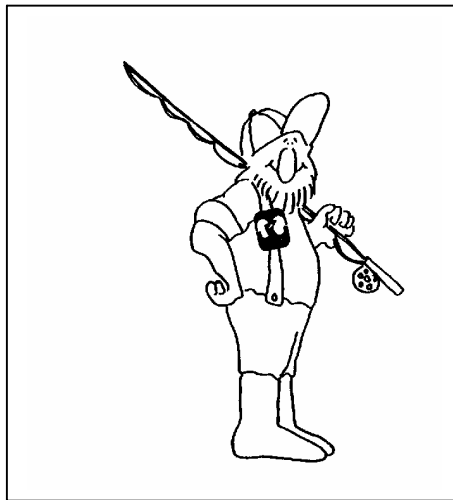
CHAPTER EVENTS

Clinton Valley TU Casting Challenge

This year, the Clinton Valley Chapter challenged Vanguard to some friendly competition leading up to the Paul Young Sporting Flies event in early February. Unfortunately, the challenge came after publication of our December newsletter and with just a couple weeks before CVTU's Casting Challenge on January 17.

While the event was well attended by CVTU members, only President Todd Randall, represented Vanguard. The challenge was to take the combined average scores of participants from each Chapter. The winning Chapter would be chosen and the losing Chapter would make a donation to the Michigan Council's Century Club on behalf of the winner.

The CVTU crew set a tough course. With several targets 55 to 70 feet away, it was crucial to score on the easy targets. The early runs through the course produced some very low scores in the low single digits, including several zeros. Todd's first run through the course on behalf of Vanguard posted the leading score of 9. Then Ken Koster of CVTU posted a 10-point run, which was definitely going to be tough to beat. In fact, Ken went on to win the individual title as he has several times before. Ken and Todd each tried to better their scores and each scored 7 on their next attempt. This gave Vanguard a combined average of 8 while Ken's combined average of 8.5 was not enough to lift the CVTU combined average score above 4. So for the first time in recorded history the Vanguard Chapter won a casting competition!



Watch for the Michigan Council to have another Century Club membership in the name of the Vanguard Chapter!

Next year, watch the calendar for a date in January as we'll again try to combine this event with Clinton Valley.

Bob Linsenman to Speak at March 12th Membership Meeting!

Noted Guide, Author, and Speaker Bob Linsenman will be presenting Michigan Super Hatches to the Vanguard and Clinton Valley Chapters on March 12th at the Sterling Heights Nature Center (42700 Utica Road in Sterling Heights) at 7:30 pm. Bob has co-authored several books including "Michigan Trout Streams: A Flyfishers' Guide" and more recently, "Streamers for Trophy Trout." He will discuss the Hendrickson, Sulpher, Brown Drake, Hex, and White Flies that make up the primary hatches on Michigan's trout rivers. In addition, a free drawing will be held. Come join us!

Please see ARGENTINA, page 7.

Vanguard Plans River Day and Picnic at New Venue

By Todd Randall

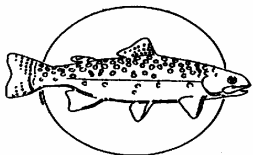
This year's River Day event will be held June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Rochester City Park in downtown Rochester, right on the banks of Paint Creek. We will again be instructing interested folks in casting, fly tying, and aquatic insects, as well as educating the public about the Trout Unlimited mission.

As an added bonus with this new location, we can offer the opportunity for young people to try their hand at trout fishing. But this can only happen if our members come out and volunteer. Please contact Todd Randall (248-656-5039 or trandall@tir.com) to sign up for this fun event. We'll be promoting this to local schools and hope to have a great turnout of young and old alike.

Volunteers are needed for fly tying instruction, casting instruction, aquatic insect collection and identification, and river walking tour guides.

As an added bonus this year, we will hold our First Annual Vanguard Chapter Picnic in the Park. Later in the day after our River Day program members and guests will shift gears for a picnic on the banks of Paint Creek. The picnic shelter we'll use for River Day is reserved into the night. The menu and costs are still being put together as we go to press, but we're planning to offer a fish fry for about \$5 per person or \$10 per family (Please bring your family). Those who volunteer for River Day duties eat free!

We're planning some fun events, such as a kid's fishing derby on the pond and a casting competition. Make plans to join us.



Clinton River Restoration

As part of the Trout Unlimited Coldwater Conservation Campaign with the Clinton River Watershed Council

The Clinton River represents a unique opportunity to expand urban coldwater fishing in Michigan. TU National has selected this project for stream improvement in the Great Lakes region. Galloway Creek and the Main Branch of the Clinton River are being investigated for their potential to be a coldwater fishery. The project partners are:

- ô Challenge Chapter, TU
- ô Clinton Valley Chapter, TU
- ô Paul H. Young Chapter, TU
- ô Vanguard Chapter, TU
- ô Clinton River Watershed Council
- ô MDNR Fisheries Division
- ô City of Auburn Hills

A comprehensive physical habitat evaluation is currently being planned, volunteers are needed to help in the data collection. No prior experience necessary, just your enthusiasm for trout fishing!!!

What: Clinton River Restoration Volunteer Training for physical habitat and macro-invertebrate assessment

Where: Clinton River Watershed Council Office with sampling in Paint Creek and Galloway Creek

When: Saturday, March 29 (TU TEAM LEADER TRAINING)

Saturday, April 12 (TU VOLUNTEER TRAINING)

All trainings will be from 9:30AM—3PM

For more information, contact your TU Chapter President or CRWC at 248-601-0606

Stream Maps to Be Offered for Sale by Vanguard at Show

The Vanguard Chapter will be selling the famous Professor Higbee Stream Map of Michigan at its booth at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo on March 8 & 9, 2003. The Chapter will offer a significant discount from the retail price. The four-foot by four-foot rolled or folded maps regularly sell for \$25.95 each, but the Chapter will sell them for \$20. The laminated version of the same map sells for \$45.95, but the Chapter will be offering it for sale at \$35.

For those of you who are not familiar with the map, it is incredibly detailed and

accurately portrays every stream, large or small, in Michigan.

The Vanguard Chapter can be found at booth #84, which is the same location as last year. Raffle tickets for a rod drawing will again be sold for \$1.00, the best price at the show! Also, Joe Barker will be offering his trout flies and framed salmon/steelhead flies at discounted prices.

This show promises to be another successful fundraising event for the Chapter, so plan to attend!

VOLUNTEERS

Continued from page 2.

feet along either Galloway Creek or the Clinton mainstream. The work will begin in mid-May and continue into the summer. Member training and survey work is estimated at 80 hours per team during 2003. Additional inventory surveys are planned for Paint Creek and Stoney Creek in 2004. This physical inventory data is crucial in determining the stream's limiting factor for trout production. Team members will also gain unique first-hand knowledge of the stream's characteristics, knowledge that could prove invaluable for later fishing efforts.

If you want to become involved in either a macro-invertebrate survey team or a physical inventory survey team, please contact either John Sabina, Steering Committee Chairman at 248-828-0688 or Todd Randall, Vanguard Chapter President at 248-656-5039. If you are interested in the Clinton River Project, it is time to stand up and be counted!

**VANGUARD CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Mark Green.....(248)814-8630

Jerry Wolinski.....(586)264-4036

Joe Carnacchio.....(586)771-6504

Stan Zielinski.....(248)693-9446

BLACK RIVER

Continued from Front Page.

years. The upper Black River, with its headwaters east of Gaylord, flows north through Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties and empties into Black Lake. Your Vanguard Chapter has adopted the Black River and has chosen to help restore and maintain the ecological balance of the river.

Last August 13, Vanguard volunteers coordinated with our local contact, Mike Moreau of the U.S. Soil Conservation District, to work below (north of) Clark Bridge down to Rainbow Rapids. Mike identified various sites earlier in the summer where we added woody debris in the slower sections, planning for the river's own current to scour the bottom and create holes, and expose the gravel bed.

After the crew worked a long day, the consensus was we had our most beneficial trip yet. One might wonder if the New York strip steak that beckoned to us from the CCC Bunkhouse had any bearing on that conclusion.

After we work on Saturday the fun begins back at the CCC Bunkhouse where the whole gang gets together for good food and great company. Sunday brings more exciting adventures as everyone heads out for their favorite "secret spot." Last year two volunteers floated a stretch of the Manistee River from Cameron Bridge to County Road 612. They reported quite a few Browns and Brookies, AND the water temperature was a brisk 52 degrees (in August!)

This year's weekend will again be in early August. This seems to be a better arrangement than in past years when we worked in the spring (what were we thinking!!) All the details are not yet ironed out, but they will be soon. Keep your eyes on the Trout Times or attend a monthly membership meeting for more information.



JAN. MINUTES

Continued from page 3.

Membership Meetings:

--March 12th meeting – Several speakers were discussed. Subsequent to the Board meeting, Bob Linsenman has been booked to speak on Michigan Super Hatches.

--April 9th meeting – Fish the Huron River. There will be a meeting place for members to meet so rides can be shared to the park.

Dave Watson will help develop Chapter letterhead into logo/banner for show display.

It was suggested we try to establish library. Joe Carnacchio volunteered to oversee the operation of the library. Anyone who has books or video that would interest the Clubs members and wants to donate them to the club is requested to contact Joe.

There will be a club picnic at the park in Rochester after the River Day events. The cost will be \$ 5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family.

ARGENTINA

Continued from page 5.

nice meals at the cabana. They were served by Blanca, a 21-year old Argentine who spoke no English, but she was very giggly. Then there was Erica; a beautiful 25-year old school teacher who was our translator, operated our video cam, and was our source of Argentine history, geography, politics, and shopping.

The five river systems that we fished are some of the most famous in Patagonia. Rio Chimehuin, Rio Malleo (machero), voted one of the best dry fly waters, Rio Quillen (key-shen) my favorite, Rio Pulmari, and the big river, Rio Alumine. Lago (lake) Lalog was a nice experience. We caught some very nice large Brook trout, leaping Rainbows, and Brown trout from a 32-foot, in-board boat.

If you want to experience Argentina for yourself look up Julio's web site, [www. southerncrossoutfitters.com](http://www.southerncrossoutfitters.com).