

TROUT TIMES



**Vanguard
Chapter**

Volume 03 Number 3

A Publication of Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited



IN THIS ISSUE

- Banquet Update
- President's Corner
- John Sabina Award
- Heritage Days
- Slough Creek Cutthroats
- Guest Speaker Lineup
- Comerica Award
- Calendar of Events

Chapter Work Weekend Makes Dramatic Impact

VANDERBILT—Work crews made up of volunteers from the Vanguard Chapter were the models of efficiency during this year's work weekend on the Black River in the Pigeon River State Forest.

Approximately 11 members boarded canoes on Saturday morning, August 2, 2003, and headed down the Black River from Clark Bridge. With chainsaws, wenches, and anchoring devices, their objective was to fell trees along the banks of the river in an effort to improve current flow and provide habitat for the Brook trout population.

Last year the Chapter began the first phase of this type of work, but was hardly as efficient. This year, crews were designated with specific assignments before launching and were outfitted accordingly.

Please see WORK WEEKEND, page 2.



Members of Dave Watson's team debate their next course of action in their survey of the Clinton River between the Yates Cider Mill dam and Rochester.

INITIAL CLINTON RIVER SURVEY SHOWS PROMISE

Excerpts from the Report by Dave Watson

ROCHESTER—In July, six members of Team Leader Dave Watson's survey crew representing the Vanguard Chapter were one of the first of several teams to complete a stream survey of a 12,000-foot section of the Clinton River in August. All agreed that it was a most enjoyable exercise on one of the beautiful sections.

Members of the team included Mark Dandar, Kevin Neville, Ryan DeCook, Glen Harbaugh, Ron Stempowski, and Taryn Watson.

Not only did they discover the secrets of this enchanting river, but also they learned some new words:

Transect...measuring point across the river.

Thelwag...deepest point.

Riparian...used in description of the land above transect.

Substrate...stuff at the bottom.

On the first segment near Yates dam,

Please see CLINTON RIVER, page 3.

WORK WEEKEND

Continued from Front Page

The first two sets of canoeists set off with chainsaws in hand and downed trees along the banks that fit a particular profile. The trees were dead or dying, and were located in a section of the stream that needed more current flow or habitat. This usually meant finding a tree on the inside of a river bend.

The second crew was responsible for moving the felled trees into place, if necessary. A power wench was utilized for this purpose, and in combination with the chain saws, provided serious horsepower to the project.

The last two canoes were responsible for stabilizing the trees to the bank or stream bottom to prevent their movement during periods of high water. This was achieved by driving "duck bills" attached to wire cables into the ground and strapping them to the trees.

The crews accomplished almost twice as much as the year before in less time. By 3 p.m., the crews had completed the last site scouted for this year's project, downed a couple beers in celebration, and were headed for Crockett Rapids and the take out point ahead of a threatening thunderstorm.



Vanguard volunteers work on moving and securing a downed tree into position during the work weekend on the Black River. More than a dozen trees were placed in the river during the endeavor to provide habitat and improve stream flow.

The only disappointment of the work weekend was that there were not more volunteers to share the delicious New York Strip steaks that were grilled at the bunkhouse after completion of Saturday's work.

Although 17 members had signed up for the project, 6 did not show up or were unable to attend. While it didn't significantly impact the amount of work the Chapter was able to accomplish, it was a missed opportunity for members to share in the camaraderie and success of the weekend.

The annual work weekend is one the Chapter's most important regular volunteer efforts and it's not too early to think ahead to next year. Most likely the Chapter will continue its efforts on the Black River, which is beginning to show positive results.

Members reported good success fishing in the area both Friday and Saturday evenings. On Sunday, many members stopped at the Manistee River to fish. Dave Watson and Kevin Neville floated the section from Cameron Bridge to Joe Barker's cabin and caught numerous Browns and Brookies on various dry flies.

Heritage Days Opens Door for Involving Kids

NEW HAVEN—The annual Heritage Days event on August 21 sponsored by the Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association was well attended as usual by hundreds of families with kids interested in outdoor activities, such as hunting and fishing.

A trout pond beckoned kids to test their skills and afforded them a chance to take home dinner, and instruction was provided in shooting guns, muzzle loaders, and bows.



The Vanguard Chapter was also present with a booth set up to provide information about our club and fly tying instruction. Unfortunately, volunteers were few. Only Todd Randall, Joe Barker, and Bob Swartz were present. It was a missed opportunity to recruit the next generation into the joys of fly fishing and educate them as to the mission of Trout Unlimited.

The many kids that stopped by the Chapter's display were enthusiastic about learning how to tie flies. Both boys and girls alike carefully selected from an array of colors to make that special Woolly Bugger.

One kid was a repeat customer from the year before and he was eager to make an exact replica of the fly he had made the year before, which he reported had caught numerous fish.

Consideration will be given to maybe shifting focus from River Day in Rochester, which has been less well attended, and instead recruiting volunteers for Heritage Days, which provides a much more fishing oriented crowd.

CLINTON RIVER

Continued from Front Page

the survey crew found slow deep water with a lot of silt. As they moved up stream, the team found changes around every bend. For safety, they started 200 feet upstream from the suggested coordinates.

Glen Harbaugh helped with the survey. He seemed to collect a lot of spiders in a bucket. The team's nearest access point for the first seven segments was Yates Park on Dequindre. In the end, they spent more time walking to the start segment than the actual survey, but it was good exercise.

After completing the first two segments and developing a system, the following segments shot by. Most of the team was happy with starting the survey on Saturday mornings, while some preferred Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. As long as the team had a minimum of three meetings, it made no difference and it worked out fine.

One thing the team discovered early on; the most useful equipment to have was a wading stick. After a heavy rainstorm the bottom was hard to read and there were several deep holes and hidden obstacles to be careful of.

Mark Dandar really knew how to operate the GPS unit. The crew found some evidence of sediment build-up mainly near Yates dam. Around half way into the survey, they came across an active beaver dam. A pair were swimming around the team while they measured the transect.

Ryan DeCook was the triathlon winner; other crewmembers had trouble keeping up with him on the trek back and forth from the segments.

The natives were watching the survey team closely. During their visits to the river, the team saw plenty of wildlife, deer, beavers, mink, snakes, fish, storks, crayfish, and bikers.

Please see CLINTON RIVER, page 6.

President's Corner

By Todd Randall

This newsletter is probably just hitting your mailbox in time for you to make last minute plans to attend the **Vanguard Fall Fundraising Banquet**. If you haven't yet made your plans, be sure to call Joe Swantek at 586-939-6015 or use the form below to reserve your seats. Every year this event is better than the last and this year will be no exception.

We're planning to offer a "Super Ticket Package" with some bonus \$3 raffle tickets, which will be drawn for some excellent fishing and non-fishing prizes. In addition, we've got some excellent auction items lined up. This event is critical to raising the funds we need to carry out the mission of our organization and to continue our work on the **Black River** as well as to help us fund our move into the restoration phases of the **Clinton River Coldwater Conservation Project**.

We've got some great speakers lined up for this "Meeting Season" so come on out and join us for the likes of: **Kevin Finestra, Steve Hyde, Mike Moreau**, and many more guides, authors, and fishing industry personalities. These guys

will definitely teach you something and leave you counting the days until you can get out fishing again.

Speaking of meeting season, with a new season also brings a new fiscal year and our perennial call for volunteers to step up and take a leadership role. If you'd like to be considered for a Board of Directors or officer position, please contact me before our October membership meeting. We will unveil our slate of nominees at the meeting.

Finally, I would be remiss not to congratulate our own **John Sabina** as the recipient of the 2003 Trout Unlimited National Mortensen Award for Volunteer Leadership (see article page 5). John has dedicated many years to the coldwater resources of Michigan as a long time leader within the Vanguard chapter and as our current Vice President. In addition he is the Chair of the **Clinton River Coldwater Restoration Project** and was the Chair of the Michigan Council of TU during its development into one of the premier State Councils in the country.

Great Job John!

2003 VANGUARD CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED BANQUET

Thursday, September 25, 2003—Fern Hill Country Club
Clinton Township, Michigan
Cocktails 6 p.m.; Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Tickets : Single = \$30 _____
Couple = \$55 _____

Name: _____ Tickets can be picked up at door.

Mail to: Joe Swantek, 40380 Flagstaff, Sterling Heights, MI. 48313

FISHING ADVENTURES

Yellowstone Park's Fabulous Slough Creek Cutthroats

By Joe Barker



COOKE CITY, MT.—What could be more fun than catching 15-20 Yellowstone Cutthroat trout a day weighing 2-3 pounds on dry flies? Well nothing really, especially if there is no competition from other flyfishers and the scenery is phenomenal. Add to that fantastic weather and you have fly-fishing Shangri-La.

That's what six members from the Vanguard Chapter enjoyed during a 10-day mid-July trip to Yellowstone Park and the Big Horn River in Montana. This was the twelfth year in a row that a group of Vanguard members have made a Western pilgrimage in search of adventure and trout. John Sabina, Al Woody, and Dale Haugan joined the original cast members Joe and Larry Swantek, and Joe Barker.

The group enlisted the aid of an outfitter from Cooke City who provided horseback transportation 10 miles up into the third meadow of Slough Creek. The campsite was within site of the park boundary and provided peace and solitude.

There were occasional visitors to the campsite, which was located about a quarter mile from streamside. A bull moose leisurely strolled from the brush upon our arrival and seemed unperturbed by our presence. On our last day (fortunately) a grizzly bear peeked between the bushes along the creek and sent the group scampering down the valley toward the trailhead, only to find the trail blocked by another grizzly who leisurely lunched along the pathway.

But the fishing! True to its reputation, the fishing does get better and easier the further up the valley one goes. Large fish willing take attractor patterns all day long, and are gullible to imitations when the hatch is on.

Contrary to assertions by some authors, once hooked, the Cutthroats fought long and hard. Although not ones for aerial displays, they hunkered down on the stream bottom or made a dash for the current, and were not eager to surrender; a match for Michigan's best Brown trout fighters.

COME ON!!!! BUY YOUR VANGUARD BANQUET TICKETS

What are you waiting for? Tickets for the Vanguard Chapter's Banquet at Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Township on Thursday, September 25, 2003 have been on sale for weeks already, but sales have been light. You've already missed the early bird drawing by not buying your ticket; don't miss out on all the good food and prizes being offered this year.

The banquet is the Chapter's major fundraising event of the year, which allows it to embark on all its stream restoration and conservation efforts. It even funds this newsletter.

There are a number of new and unique raffle and auction items being offered at this year's banquet. The most impressive is an all-inclusive fishing trip to Argentina from Southern Cross Outfitters and TU member Julio Mazzoli. The trip can be arranged from December 2003 through February 2004 and includes seven nights, with a maximum of six persons per group. Two groups will be provided the opportunity to go, although they cannot go at the same time.

Also being offered are gift certificates to Sylvia's Spa & Salon in Dearborn, and Sylvia Rico European Salon & Spa.

Dinner for two at the elegant Italian eatery, Ristorante Ciao, worth \$100, is an item that should garner considerable interest at the banquet. According to Joe Swantek, a regular patron of the Dearborn establishment, the violin players and opera singers provide a high class dining experience.



Vanguard Repeats as Winner of Comerica Award for Volunteer Leadership

For the second year in a row, Comerica Bank has awarded \$500 to the Vanguard Chapter of Trout of Unlimited for its environmental leadership in Southeastern Michigan.

In accepting the award on behalf of the Chapter, Joe Swantek, a Comerica employee who nominated the Chapter, stated that Comerica recognized the Chapter's involvement on the Clinton River coldwater assessment project. The Chapter's work on the Clinton River is not far from Comerica's headquarters.

Last year, the Chapter received the same award because of its annual work on the Black River in the Pigeon River State Forest.

Monies from the award go into the Chapter's general fund to finance future conservation activities. The Chapter will again be eligible for the prestigious award next year.

VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Todd Randall.....(248)656-5039

Vice President

John Sabina.....(586)828-0688

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Directors

Geoff Kowalczyk.....(586)795-5182

Joe Barker.....(586)228-8111

Jeff Zielinski.....(248)377-4193

Larry Walla.....(586)752-6022

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

Ray Mortenson Award for Volunteer Leadership: John Sabina

DENVER, CO—On Friday, September 5, 2003, Vanguard Chapter Vice-President John Sabina was honored at the Trout Unlimited 2003 National Conservation Award Program at the Hyatt Regency.

Trout Unlimited's National President & CEO Charles Gavin awarded John the Ray Mortenson Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, which is TU's highest individual honor. The award recognizes the vital role that volunteers play in Trout Unlimited's success. John is a fixture on TU's Michigan Council and a dedicated Trout Unlimited volunteer leader at the chapter, council, and National level.

National TU recognizes that Michigan is the birthplace of Trout Unlimited, home to one of the largest concentrations of TU volunteers, and is led by one of the most active and effective State Councils. John is considered an extension of the coldwater conservation legacy flowing out of Michigan's passion for trout and trout angling, whose lineage includes the likes of George Mason, George Griffith, Art Neumann, and others.

John's own imprint on this rich heritage allows him to enjoy the fruits of his labors – he is one of the visionary volunteers who laid the blueprint for the Michigan Council's employment of an Executive Director. This challenging investment has paid off in many ways, not the least of which is a renaissance of Trout Unlimited as a respected and effective name in Michigan, whether on the banks of the Au Sable, or in the halls of the State Capitol.

National TU recognized that Trout Unlimited has a bright future in Michigan, thanks to the thousands of hours that John has invested on behalf of a mission that he embodies as a volunteer and leader; a host of new leaders will surely benefit from John's continued mentorship, and the Council will surely continue to excel with John's continued guidance.

In accepting the award, John commented at the luncheon ceremony:

When Russ Schnitzer called to tell me that I had been selected for the Mortenson Award, I was dumbfounded. In my ten years of involvement with TU at both the State and National level, I have met many great volunteers who all had terrific accomplishments. In fact I have met experts in subjects that I didn't even know existed. In previous national gatherings like this one, I have met Ray Mortenson and the first four recipients, Steve Bourne, Dave Taylor, Stan Griffith, and Fred Rasmussen. To be included with this list of people is unbelievable. A lot of people have made me look good. Thank you very much.

Many people, when talking about the position of TU State Council Chair, immediately focus on the amount of time and effort involved. Certainly the job requires both time and effort. If I ever sat down and figured out exactly how much, I might scare myself. But the benefits far outweigh the costs. I have met many really great people from around my state and even the country. I still get regular invitations to come fish with or stay with many individuals. If you have been approached to become a state council chairman but are reluctant because of the time involved, I urge to do it. You will not regret it as the benefits far outweigh the effort. Thank you again.

And Vanguard Chapter thanks you John for your hard work and the relentless energy you have devoted to the ideals of Trout Unlimited. You make us proud!

Vanguard Boosts All-Star Lineup of Guest Speakers

STERLING HEIGHTS-- Have you noticed the cooler mornings and the leaves starting to turn shades of yellow and red. This means several things; the salmon are starting to run up the rivers, the Vanguard TU banquet is not far away, and monthly membership meetings are starting.

This year the Vanguard Chapter will have guest speakers at all of their membership meetings, and do we have some great speakers.

On October 8, 2003, we will have Steve Hyde from Idaho who will be bringing his new remote control drift boat. Steve will explain the dynamics of boat control under different water conditions. This will be beneficial to not only boat owners but also to those of you who wade. This is sure to be a fun time.

On November 12, Mike Moreau from Onaway will be talking about the Black River. Mike has been seen on the Michigan Out of Doors television series. Mike is not only a guide on the Black River for native Brook trout, but also supervises a work team that performs stream bank restoration. The Vanguard Chapter supports Mike's project and our members have worked on the project. This night Mike will bring us the Black River along with some great fly patterns.

On December 10, Bryan Burroughs from MSU will talk about the removal of the Stronach Dam from the Pine River. Bryan is very informative; he will show how the river itself creates better fish habitat by removing silt and sand.

Future speakers to look forward to in January 2004 are Kevin Feenstra, who will do a presentation on Spey fishing in the Muskegon River. In February, John Pinto will discuss fly-fishing the Bahamas, and in March Bob Hauss, a Michigan DNR fish biologist, will talk about Lake St. Clair. In April, Dave Lennard, a fly casting instructor, will provide insights.

Fly Tying & Steelhead Summit III

On October 17-19, 2003 will be the Fly Tying and Steelhead summit in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This event only happens every two years.

The opening night is celebrated with cocktails, dinner, and entertainment from the Red Hackles and Highlands dancing performance.

On Saturday, October 18, the day starts out with a presentation from John Shewey titled "Fly Fishing for Pacific Summer Steelhead." Afterwards participants can either check out the Great Lakes Steelhead program with Jerry Drakes, Brian Flesig, Jeff Liskay, John Rochus, and Rich Woodward, or see Classic Salmon Fly Tyers Charlie Chute, John McLain, Chuck Moxley, Roger Plourde, Paul Ptalis, Michael Radencich, Paul Rossman, and John Shewey.

On Sunday, October 19, you can either get into a streamside workshop or tie a classic pattern with the faculty member of your choice.

Fees are Friday \$50; Saturday \$75; Sunday \$75; or Fri. Sat. Sun. \$195. For more information call 1-800-317-9155 ext. 278 or email KMENN@cmnh.org

**TROUT TIMES
IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY
BY THE VANGUARD CHAPTER
OF TROUT UNLIMITED**

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

CLINTON RIVER

Continued from page 3.

Jim Francis of the DNR was very pleased with the team's survey results, and his useful comments helped motivate the team for an outstanding effort.

Team Leader Dave Watson developed an Excel database to copy the streamside reports and attach them to an email shortly after the survey. He then mailed the paper copy to Jim. Photographs of the stream were taken with a Walgreen's disposable camera and developed to a CD.

During the survey, the team regularly saw fish fleeing from their big boots. Jim Francis identified the dark striped, light brown fish seen many times swimming on the bottom as the "Northern Hog Sucker." This fish only survives in decent water, good news for the Clinton River.

Overall the team's section revealed a good habitat for trout with many variations in water flow from deep pools to shallow fast riffles and runs. There were lots of bends, logjams, and undercut banks. Wild, natural, shrubs, and large trees and grass grew along the banks.

Occasionally, Dave fished on sections discovered on the survey, with plenty of hungry chub above the dam, and rather surprisingly, a few Brook trout below the dam.

With a little help the team believes that this section of the Clinton River could become really an enjoyable trout fishing venue. One wonders how it would be if they removed the dam at Yates.

The team all agreed that this adventure has helped them not only in discovering the Clinton River, but also provided a deeper understanding of rivers in general.



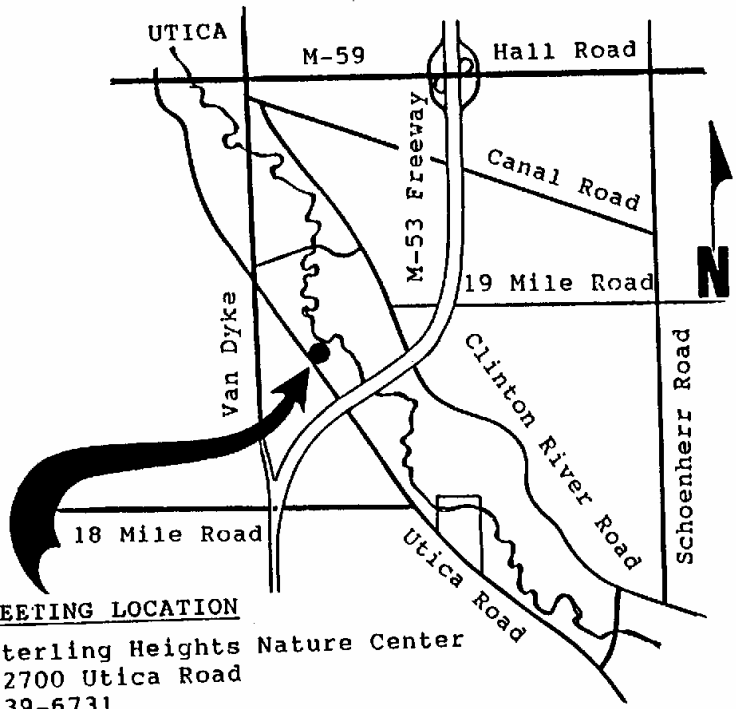


Vanguard Chapter

2003-2004 Calendar of Events

At the Vanguard of coldwater conservation and education in Michigan and beyond since 1982

Month	Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact
Sept	20	Clinton River Cleanup			see www.crwc.org
	25	Vanguard Fall Fundraising Banquet Get your tickets EARLY THIS YEAR!	6:00	Fern Hill CC	Todd Randall Joe Swantek
Oct	8	Steve Hyde, Hyde Drift Boats	7:30	SH Nature Center	
	22	Vanguard Board Meeting	7:15		
Nov	12	Mike Moreau, Black River Restoration	7:30	SH Nature Center	
	26	Vanguard Board Meeting	7:15		
Dec	10	Bryan A Burroughs, MSU Stronach dam removal project on the Pine River	7:30	SH Nature Center	
Jan	14	Kevin Feenstra spey and flyfishing on the Muskegon River	7:30	SH Nature Center	
	28	Vanguard Board Meeting	7:15		
Feb	11	John Pinto Bahamas flyfishing	7:30	SH Nature Center	
	25	Vanguard Board Meeting	7:15		



Vanguard Chapter, Trout Unlimited
205 Romeo
Rochester, MI 48307

NONPROFIT
PERMIT 252
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, MI

