

# TROUT TIMES



**Vanguard  
Chapter**

Volume 04 Number 3

A Publication of Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited



## CHAPTER NEWS

# “TIMBER”: TREES FALL DURING CONSERVATION PROJECT ON BLACK RIVER



*Canoes stand at the ready at Clark Bridge on the Black River as Vanguard Chapter volunteers receive last minute safety instructions from Mike Moreau (“Don’t put your fingers on the chain saw blade while it’s running.”)*

VANDERBILT—For the third year in a row, Vanguard volunteers offered their services to help improve habitat on the Black River in the Pigeon River State Forest by felling trees in an effort to better

channel the river and provide trout condominiums.

Nine members participated this year, which included a stay at the Headquarters Lodge owned by the State Forest. Mem-

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ber Larry Walla organized this year’s effort, which was attended by Todd Randall, Jeff Walla, Dave Watson, Ray Spence, Richard Boik, Eli Stanesa, Dan Shugart, and Joe Barker.

The efforts of the Vanguard volunteers were directed by local fishing guide Mike Moreau, who was formerly employed by the United States Department of Agriculture before his funding ran out. He now volunteers his time for the project on behalf of the Upper Black River Restoration Committee, which is a cooperative effort including the Cheboygan Conservation District and the USDA. His permit is reviewed and issued by DNR/DEQ.

Prior to the weekend, Mike had marked trees for cutting. Accompanying Mike were his crew of three, who along with his two sons and wife, provided additional assistance. Vanguard funds the cost of materials for the project, which includes paying the wages of Mike’s crew.

After a day of chain-sawing Paul

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## BLACK RIVER

Continued from Front Page.

Bunyion-size trees and dragging them into strategic locations in the river, with the help of a power wench, the crew was hungry for the steak dinner that beckoned them back at the lodge. Nonetheless, being diehard fishermen, as well as dedicated conservationists, most of crew was energized enough to catch the evening hatch on the Black River before settling down for dinner.

The impact of the Chapter's tree repositioning efforts on improving the river's flow is not always certain. High water flows during the spring runoff have washed away some of the fallen trees from past years, or decreased their effectiveness. However, certain side channels that had detracted from flows in the main-stream appear to have been successfully blocked.

Although a few fish were observed feeding in the rapids section of the Black River below the work area, the natural tannic color of the stream hides many of its inhabitants from view, making it difficult to determine if they are taking advantage of the structure that has been placed in the river.

This may well be the last year that Vanguard will be able to utilize the Headquarters Lodge as its base of operations. It may be decommissioned after this season because of continued deterioration (even the bats moved out this year), or at least it may be unavailable to other than State-affiliated groups. Consequently, the Chapter might have to reconsider the future feasibility of conservation projects on the Black and Pigeon Rivers.

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

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

### CHAPTER NEWS

## “TROUT IN CLASSROOM” BECOMES REALITY THANKS TO VANGUARD

LAKE ORION—By a unanimous vote of its Board of Directors, the Vanguard Chapter will be on the cutting edge of a new program being initiated nationwide by Trout Unlimited. Vanguard has agreed to sponsor a “Trout in the Classroom” program at Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion, which will be the first of its kind in the State of Michigan.

Jon Gray, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at the school, had solicited several Trout Unlimited chapters in Southeast Michigan for support for the program, and been in contact with Rob Roberts, the Youth Program Coordinator from the Trout Unlimited national office. Vanguard was the only chapter to step forward with immediate financial support to get the program started.

Similar to the “Salmon in the Classroom” program that has been used in Michigan for the past few years with great success, the Trout in the Classroom will be used by teachers like Jon to teach kids about the life cycle of trout. More importantly, the program can be used as a tool to teach about watersheds, water quality, habitat, and stewardship for our natural resources.

“The trout rearing gets the kids interested, and the important information follows,” says Jon. “It is my hope that through raising the trout and then releasing them in Paint Creek right here in Lake Orion, the kids will show an interest in their environment and what they can do to keep the river a viable trout fishery. Who knows, maybe some of them will grow up to be members of your Chapter because of their experience.”

In order to institute the program, some specialized equipment will need to be purchased with funding from Vanguard. Because the eggs and fry have to

be kept at a lower-than-room temperature, a chiller is needed to cool the aquarium water, which will be the largest expense. In addition, a pump, filter, and other miscellaneous equipment are needed. It is estimated that the total cost for all the equipment will be about \$600.

The initial purchase of equipment will be a one-time investment by Vanguard that can be used from year-to-year. Subsequent materials, such as water testing chemicals, hopefully can be purchased

from the school's budget. The Michigan DNR Fisheries Division has indicated they can obtain Gilcrest Brown Trout eggs from a state hatchery that will enable them to be released in Paint Creek without the fear of contamination.

The DNR will also be available for technical advice and will

assist with any permits that might be needed. There are lesson plans and curriculum available on-line from other states that Jon believes can be adapted to Southeast Michigan. Raising trout in the classroom has been successful in programs already in place in New York and some Western States.

“I view this project as very worthwhile and liked seeing it approved quickly so that Jon can get the system up and running,” says Vanguard President Todd Randall. “I have spoken with Jon and am convinced that from his prior experience at the Lake Orion Nature Center raising Salmon for a similar program, he has the knowledge to pull this off. Additionally, he has been in contact with Heather Van Den Berg at the Clinton River Watershed Council and Jim Francis at the DNR and both have given positive feedback about this project.”

*Please see TROUT CLASS, page 7.*



## CHAPTER NEWS

# VANGUARD MEMBERS HEXED AT SUMMER OUTING

GRAYLING—During the Vanguard Chapter's yearly fishing outings, members have been snowed on, rained on, and now been hexed by the absence of big mayflies during prime *Hexagenia Limbata* season. During the past few years, the Hex hatch has been predictable during the last week of June. Somewhere on the Manistee River the mother of all hatches can usually be found.

Outing had been set for a date later in the season than previous years in the hopes of guaranteeing better weather and more predictable mayfly hatches.

It wasn't to be. At night temperatures dropped into the 30's, enough to frost the bippy of any Hex brave enough to peek his head above the silt bed. Rain didn't help either. Although the waters of the



*The Hexes slept while Vanguard members wept during the Chapter Outing on the Manistee River.*

Not this year. The Hexes weren't on the upper Manistee near County Road 612 where the Outing was held at Joe Barker's cabin. They weren't at the CCC Bridge a half-hour drive downstream where warmer water can usually be found. They weren't in the Deward area on the Upper Manistee.

The reason? Cold, rainy weather more reminiscent of the Opening Day and May outings of previous years could be the answer. Indeed, the

Manistee weren't particularly affected, other rivers in the area ran murky and high, foreclosing opportunities elsewhere.

So what was the group of nine Vanguard fishermen to do? How about fry a sumptuous turkey in peanut oil and wash it down with a few beers, and then tell fish stories around the campfire about prior fishing exploits while drinking a few bottles of wine.

*Please see SUMMER OUTING, page 7.*

## Volunteers Lend A Hand During Clinton River Day Event

STERLING HEIGHTS—Between 25-30 kids, accompanied by 10-15 adults, showed up at the Sterling Heights Nature Center on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, to make the Chapter's participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> annual River Day one of the most successful ever. Eight Chapter volunteers organized demonstrations and instruction in fly tying and casting, and provided information regarding the Chapter's freshwater conservation efforts.

River Day is organized by the Clinton River Watershed Council, which estimated that at least 1,500 people participated in this year's numerous activities, including fishing derbies, guided walking tours, arts and crafts, and river clean-ups. U.S. Congressman Sandy Levin stopped by the pancake breakfast in Rochester Hills, and dozens of boating and water resource enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the Lake St. Clair Clean Boating Campaign in Harrison Township.

The Vanguard part of the River Day program ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and was coordinated by Chapter Treasurer Joe Swantek. A few raindrops around noon did not detour Vanguard members Geoff and Jaclynn Kowalczyk from providing expert fly tying instruction to enthusiast kids.

Meanwhile, Dave Watson, Bob Schwartz, and Ray Spence regaled the youngsters with incredible casting demonstrations. With only a little practice, a few of the kids were able to surpass the casts of their instructors. Next year some of the kids may be recruited to provide fly casting instructions to certain Vanguard members.

Members Pete Howard and Al Woody also helped out with fly-casting and fly tying, and manned the Chapter's information booth, along with Joe Swantek, to tout the many conservation efforts and activities that Vanguard spon-

*Please see RIVER DAY, page 4.*

## RIVER DAY

Continued from page 3.

sors. All the River Day T-shirts on hand for the event were given away in short order, along with Trout Unlimited and CRWC literature.

Unfortunately, the Clinton River was too high and murky to allow the collection of aquatic insects, which has always been the highlight for the many kids who love the feel of slimy creatures.

Even with the success of this year's event, Joe Swantek summed things up this way: "River Day at the S.H. Nature Center could be even more successful if we had more people turn out. Even though our response this year was an improvement over prior year's we still didn't touch as many youngsters and adults that we would like. It appears that notices in the Sterling Heights paper and the Watershed are not reaching our intended audience. Perhaps, next year we should try direct contact with the teachers in the local schools. We have the volunteers and the equipment, what we need are more participants."

River Day is held every year to coincide with Michigan's June Free Fishing Weekend and is used to help watershed residents learn about and celebrate the special resources that make up the Clinton River system and Lake St. Clair.

Next year, River Day 2005 will be held on Saturday, June 11. Vanguard will again be participating and looking for volunteers to share their enthusiasm and expertise with the kids, who hopefully will be tomorrow's TU members and conservationists.

River Day highlights and photos can be found on the CRWC website at [www.crwc.org](http://www.crwc.org).

### WHY DELAY ???

Buy your Vanguard banquet tickets now so you can save money, and we get a better estimate for the banquet hall.

Everybody wins!!!

For tickets call (586) 939-6015

# President's Corner

By Todd Randall

Fall is already upon us and that can only mean one thing... our banquet is just around the corner. This year please note the date change from prior years, in an effort to avoid conflicts with the archery deer season opener on October 1, our banquet will NOT be the last Thursday in September this year. Instead this year's banquet will be held on **Thursday, September 23**. There's still time to order your tickets. Please contact Joe Swantek at (586) 939-6015 to order tickets or see the full-page flyer in this newsletter for more details.

This year we also welcome a new sponsor of the Vanguard Banquet. **Flymart Flyshops** will sponsor this year's banquet and has begun a new program, which will pay 5% of your purchases as a Vanguard member back to the Chapter. In a time of dwindling if not nonexistent budgets on the part of businesses to support organizations like ours, this is huge for us. Please stop by and see John Vincent at **Flymart** in Royal Oak and show your Vanguard membership card when purchasing items in his store.

For those of you who don't know, this has been a banner year for Vanguard. We've signed up more new members than ever before (over 40 since the first of the year).

If you're one of the new members who have joined us in the past months, **welcome!** Because these newsletters come out quarterly, oftentimes there is a significant lag between you mailing in your application or filling it out online and us receiving your information and then producing the next newsletter. Let me use this opportunity to extend my warmest welcome to you as a new member and encourage you to **get involved**.

Certainly there is strength in numbers and simply by becoming a member you've taken a big step in showing your

support for our coldwater resources not only here in Michigan but nationally. However, we are a **grassroots** organization. We function through pure volunteer effort and all of the events on the calendar, whether a membership meeting or our upcoming Fundraising Banquet requires the dedication and commitment of hardworking volunteers to pull them off. The events, programs, and projects that make Vanguard one of the most prolific chapters in the state do not happen by themselves. We need your help!



A new addition to the Vanguard Conservation Education portfolio is on tap for this coming school year. Jon Gray 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science teacher at Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion approached the Michigan Council looking for a local chap-

ter to support a "Trout In The Classroom" project. The Vanguard Chapter has stepped up and committed the necessary funding to develop this program in the coming months. We will be funding the purchase of an aquarium, chiller, filtration system and necessary pumps and accessories to grow Gilchrist Creek strain Brown Trout from eyed eggs to fry and ultimately to release them into Paint Creek. We'll be showing you more of this project in the coming months as it comes on line and we also hope to have a presentation by Mr. Gray and some of his students to one of our meetings next Spring.

Projects like these can't happen without your support. Whether that be monetary support, or if you've taken the time to show up and teach a kid to tie a fly or drag trees into the Black River this year... **THANKS** If you've been one of the hardworking volunteers on the Clinton River Project last year or the Paint Creek survey this year... **THANKS**. This stuff can't happen without you!

I look forward to meeting even more of you next year

## Vanguard Offers Fly Fishing Outing for Smallies & Carp on Harsens Island

By Geoff Kowalczyk

**Harsens Island**—On June 19, 2004, Vanguard TU had its first Lake St. Clair Smallmouth Bass outing. With great anticipation, I awoke on the third Saturday in June all set to fish with my teenage daughter, Tina.

We arrived at the flats of Lake St. Clair off of Harsens Island. The wind would not be our friend that day. We were greeted by several Vanguard members. Ten in all showed up for the event.

I offered advice on the way to fish the flats and suggested some fly patterns. Tina and I decided to cast a 10-weight Sage with a 10-weight Pike taper. The fly rod cast like a dream in the heavy wind.

We managed to scout some Carp and Smallmouth. One fisher from the group landed a five-pound Smallmouth.

As the wind picked up and churned the water, it was time for lunch. The BBQ was lit and a fine hot dog lunch was on its way, or so we thought. The wind kept the grill from lighting. Finally, the grill stayed lit and we could proceed with lunch.

Most of the group left after lunch. But Joe Swantek stayed. (*Of course! At least until every last beer and fish were gone--Editor's note*). Joe, Tina, and I motored the boat to fish a cut on the other side of the bay.

The cut was well protected from the wind and the water was clean. We stalked the cut and found pods of carp. Tina and I got within four feet of some big fish. None of the fish would take our flies but it was still fun.

Quality father and daughter time at its finest. (*Plus one Ole Swanee who must have jinxed the fishing--Editor's note.*)



Larry and Joe Swantek (on the left) get ready for a rugged descent down to the Teton River as the guides prepare to lower the inflatable drift boats down the 900 foot canyon wall. That's the Teton River in the middle of the picture, far, far away. What a hike!

### FISHING ADVENTURES

## IDAHO DOESN'T "SPUDDER" WHEN IT COMES TO FISHING

By Joe Barker

ISLAND PARK, IDAHO—Enough with the potato jokes. But I must say that I went in with a *chip* on my shoulder when John Sabina proposed turning away from the reliable streams in Montana and Utah and instead take this year's trip to Idaho. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the regular group of Vanguard members, which also included Joe and Larry Swantek, Al Woody, and Dale Haugan from Pennsylvania, traveled out West to find trout and adventure.

Although Idaho waters have a reputation for trout with Master's degrees in finickiness, and the fishing had been sputtering because of unpredictably cool and wet weather like that in Michigan, there were plenty of gullible big fish to go around.

Several fish 20 inches or more were taken during this week in mid-July on such famous rivers as the Clark's Fork and South Fork of the Snake River. Rainbows and Browns were the common fare on tiny nymphs and stonefly imitations

dangling beneath a bobber (i.e., strike indicator to fly fishing purists).

A few nice Yellowstone Cutthroats on the Teton River fell victim to dry flies between gusts of gale force winds in the canyon section. The highlight of that day's adventure? Watching the guides lowering rubber rafts down a 900 foot cliff to the river without getting *mashed*. The canyon's reputation for rattlesnakes was deserved. This could have proven particularly disastrous to the Swantek boys who couldn't hear the rattle warning of a perturbed snake only a few feet away.

There were not as many fish caught as on other trips, and it was hard work for every fish caught, but one thing that no one complained about were the accommodations. Hyde Drift Boat Company runs a first-class operation on the banks of the South Fork. The Last Chance Lodge, its cabins, and restaurant

*Please see IDAHO, page 7.*

CHAPTER NEWS

# KIDS CATCH THE FISHING BUG AT HERITAGE DAYS



*This is backbreaking work, as evidenced by these hardworking Vanguard volunteers helping kids tie flies during Heritage Days.*

LENOX TOWNSHIP—There was a steady stream of kids the entire day at this year’s Heritage Days that kept five Vanguard Chapter volunteers busy showing them how to tie their first Woolly Bugger. As has been the case in the past, the kids were highly enthusiastic about learning all they could about outdoor sporting activities such as fishing, hunting, and archery.

This is the fifth year that Vanguard members have volunteered their services to the Huron Pointe Sportsmen’s Club during the one-day Heritage Days event, which took place on August 28.

Inclement weather did not deter many families. If nothing else, the steady rain for much of the day merely funneled more families than usual into the indoor activities center where fly tying, lure making, duck painting, arrow building, and t-shirt decorating events were taking place.

Kevin Neville, Bob Schwartz, Gary Zielinski, Dave Watson, and Joe Barker were kept busy by kids wanting to tie flies from set up time at 8 a.m. until the volunteers finally gave in to exhaustion around 3 p.m. Even as things were being packed away, more kids wandered in and were interested in tying flies.

Some kids came back more than once to tie flies. It was also the case that kids who had tied flies in past years, sought us out again this year to regale us with stories of fish they had caught on the flies they had tied before, and they wanted to tie some more flies.

Several parents were interested in our organization and took copies of Trout Times and the Michigan Council’s paper

*Please see HERITAGE DAYS, page 7.*

## VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President*  
 Todd Randall..... (586)336-0995
- Vice President*  
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 Joe Swantek..... (586)939-6015
- Secretary*  
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 Jerry Wolinski..... (586)264-4036  
 Joe Carnacchio..... (586)771-6504  
 Kevin Neville..... (586)254-2849  
 Ray Spence..... (248)703-7729

## Don’t Miss This Year’s Vanguard Banquet! Here’s the Lineup:

### Wild Game and Seafood Feast Featuring:

- Fish
- Roast Duck
- Fried Clams, Calamari (what you don’t catch these...), and Smelt
- Pasta Selections and much more.

### New Members/Renewing Member Raffle:

While you don’t need to be a member of TU to come and enjoy this event, those who join TU or renew their membership at the Banquet will be entered into a special drawing for great prizes. Each New Member to sign up will receive 2 tickets. Each renewal will receive 1 ticket. At the end of the evening, we’ll draw a lucky name who will take home a great prize.

### Ladies Raffle:

A wonderful “Ladies Only” prize will be drawn for those ladies in attendance.

### Featured Raffle:

Sage 3-wieght, 3-piece,8’9” fly rod for a \$5 ticket.

Contact Joe Swantek at (586) 939-6015.

## TROUT CLASS

Continued from page 2.

Currently, the Vanguard Chapter has about \$3,500 budgeted for the Clinton River Project that will be not be spent this year, a portion of which could be reallocated to the Trout in the Classroom Program. Alternatively, the Chapter could reallocate some of the \$1,000 budgeted for the Coldwater Conservation Fund, if necessary, to fund the program.

"Todd and I discussed this at last week's CRCCP steering committee meeting and we agreed that we have the funding in the education budget," Vanguard Chapter Treasurer Joe Swantek stated. "It is an excellent program that we can build on."

Jon is also interested in the involvement of Vanguard members coming to talk to his class about what Trout Unlimited does for the area rivers. "Talking to them about your cleanup efforts and habitat improvement in the Clinton River Watershed area will allow them to see that there is an effort by sportsmen to improve environmental conditions," say Jon. "Having a couple of your members present when the fish are released would also be a great public relations opportunity for all involved."

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## HERITAGE DAYS

Continued from page 6.

to learn more about Trout Unlimited.

With a few more volunteers next year, it's certain that we could have done a better job promoting the Vanguard Chapter and possibly enlisting new members. More volunteers (and better weather) would also allow kids to try their hand at casting a fly rod.

With the trout pond that is open to kids at Heritage Days, many were eager to learn as much as they could about trout and how to fish for them.

There is no better source than Vanguard to share that information.

## SUMMER OUTING

Continued from page 3.

Sure some fish were caught, mostly on streamers, and a few Brown Drakes were around. But the big flies and the big fish that accompany them were no shows. The adage "you should have been here last week" didn't apply. Instead, it was "you should have been here next week."

The Wednesday after the weekend Outing ended, June 30 to be exact, the Hexes showed up in full glory. Every stretch along the river, North and South, that had been barren of the twilight sucking sounds of a trout feeding frenzy were now alive.

Those fishermen lucky enough to be around midweek found action. On the first day of July, after most fishermen had retired for the night and the temperatures had began to drop into the low 50's, Joe Barker netted the biggest fish of the season just downstream of his cabin; a big, fat, male Brown trout that measured 21 inches and probably close to 6 pounds.

Unfortunately, there were few big fish like that to be found. Other nights proved successful, but 10 to 14 inch fish were the normal fare. And the fishing evenings were abbreviated. Usually by 11 o'clock, breath turned to steam as temperatures dropped below 50 degrees, ending whatever activity had taken place.

The moral of the story? Even the best laid plans run aground when dealing with Michigan weather in the Great Up North. Measure these Outings by friendships new and old, good food, and entertaining stories, because its called fishing, not catching.

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## IDAHO

Continued from page 5.

facility are relatively new, well maintained, and reasonably priced. The average weight gained was five pounds on the four course dinners and sumptuous break-

## COMERICA COMES THROUGH AGAIN WITH \$500 GRANT

Vanguard Chapter Treasurer and major-donor squeezer Joe Swantek has done it again. His application for funding to Comerica Bank, of which he is an officer, has been approved.

This is the third year in row that Comerica has provided grants to the Vanguard Chapter for its water conservation project on the Clinton River.

Comerica provides such grants to its employees who are involved in do-good, non-profit, community-based organizations.

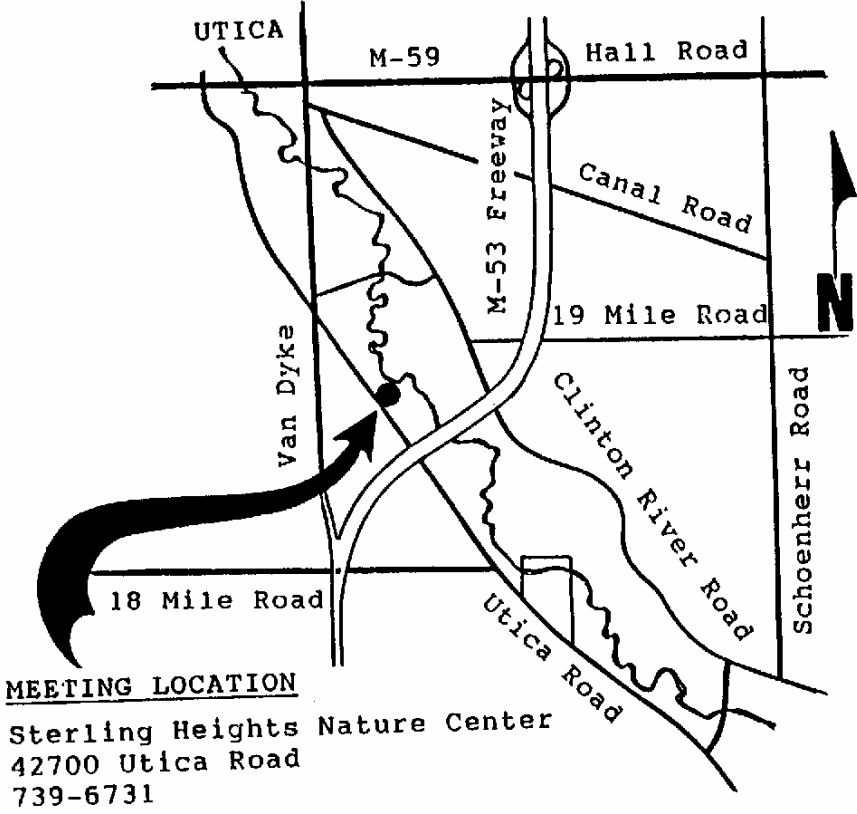
Joe submitted an application earlier in the year that detailed the Chapter's work on the Clinton River, which impressed the approval committee.

Hats off to Comerica and Joe for their support!

fasts.

No one wanted to trade their fishing guides that accompanied each pair of anglers during the five days of float trips. They were hard working and knowledgeable, and had to have graduated from guide school and paid their dues before being hired. In particularly good runs on the river, the guides would jump out of the boat into waist deep water and slowly walk the boat along the edge. If it fished particular well, they were not adverse to pulling the boat back upstream for another shot. When we *baked* in the hot sun on the Madison River, there was always a cool drink available.

The word is obviously out about this place. Pat Garrity, an NBA player with the Orlando Magic, stayed at the lodge at the same time we did and fished many of the same rivers. We couldn't help but say to him, "How about those Pistons!"



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