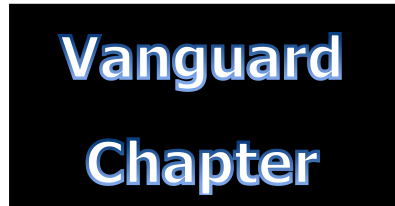


TROUT TIMES



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Chapter of the Year - One TU

By Jeff Gerwitz

ROCHESTER HILLS— I am proud to announce that the Vanguard Chapter received the Michigan TU “Chapter of the Year Award” for 2016 at the MITU spring quarterly meeting.

This award is granted to the chapter that most closely reflects the ideals of Trout Unlimited and is considered to be a role model for all state chapters to emulate.

This is an annual award which is granted based upon the activities and achievements of the preceding fiscal year where consideration is given to total

chapter achievements, as opposed to a single event or program.

In order to qualify for this award the chapter must:

- Demonstrate continued membership and financial growth.
- Work to affect significant contributions to the resources, either through active resource improvement work, public education, and advocacy or financial support of such activities undertaken by other chapters.
- Show continued involvement in Michigan Trout Unlimited activities. This is a Michigan Trout Unlimited award, so the activities must benefit Michigan Trout Unlimited and its mission.

This award is the result of the continued involvement and dedication shown by all of the members that continually volunteer their time and sweat by showing up at meetings, projects, banquets, outings, etc.

A few of the

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Vanguard Chapter highlights for 2016 included:

- Conducted stream monitoring on three Adopt-A-Stream sites on Stoney Creek, Gallagher Creek, and Paint Creek.
- Continued with a second year of large woody debris surveys on Paint Creek; assisted in the removal of large accumulations of woody debris and log jams; assisted the Clinton River Watershed Council in the removal of a small dam; and conducted temperature monitoring along the stream. As a result, Paint Creek has seen a reduction in water temperature and improved habitat for brown trout.
- Assisted in the removal of a problematic beaver dam in the Pigeon River County State Forest.
- Sponsored a scholarship for a Youth Trout Camp participant and

Please see CHAPTER, next page.



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- Assisted Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve in Rochester with youth fishing day outings.
- Provided financial support to MITU, the Fred Waara Chapter's Schwartz Creek project, and Huron Pines, and donated raffle items for the Clinton Valley Chapter's holiday social fundraiser.
- In FY2016, the Vanguard Chapter logged 2,930 volunteer hours in their efforts to further the mission of MITU.

To all of you that have sat through boring board meetings, busted your butts removing beaver dams and log jams, hawked raffle tickets, and eaten mediocre food at banquets, I say congratulations. I whole-heartedly agree with MITU—this award is well deserved. Keep up the good work.

VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jeff Gerwitz



Here we are again with another beginning of the Vanguard year. Membership meetings and fly tying are getting ready to start and there's only one month of fishing left on Paint Creek. Whew, that was a quick summer.

It was a busy summer on the conservation side. We installed an angler access on Paint Creek at Gallagher Road, helped remove a beaver dam on the creek up near Clarkston Road, completed the last section of the large woody debris survey of the creek, installed New Zealand Mud Snail signage, and participated in a cleanup on the Clinton River. We are starting to put together the conservation projects for next year so stay tuned – or show up at a meeting where we'll be discussing it.

Our first membership meeting of the year will be a family fishing/picnic in Rochester Park on Sunday, Sept 17th. We will start at 12:00 Noon in the large pavilion at the south end of the park. Paint Creek and the pond will still be open to fishing. The pond has great fishing for the kids. There is a ton of fish and they are always hungry. The chapter will provide the hot dogs and brats and please bring a dish to pass.

Fly tying will start on its regular third Thursday of the month at Avery's (9/21). If you want to learn how to tie

flies, but have been putting it off, come on out. We provide all of the tools and material and we tie simple flies so everyone can do it. If you are not interested in tying, but just want to hang out with fly anglers, stop by.

Our October meeting (10/12) will feature Michigan's own Ann Miller, author of *Hatch Guide for Upper Midwest Streams*. Since we are anticipating a large turnout for this event, it will be held at Camp Ticonderoga on Rochester Road in Troy. If you want to improve your fishing don't miss this presentation.

The Chapter will hold a Women's Initiative (formerly Women n' Waders) at the Van Hoosen Farm on July 14, 2018. This is designed to introduce women to Trout Unlimited and coldwater conservancy. There will be much more information as we get closer to the date. If you are interested in attending or helping out, please contact Mary Rosenbusch at mrosenbusch@vanguardtu.org.

Some big news from the Board - Eli Stanesa has agreed to move up to vice president. He will become president when I ride off into the sunset. Congratulate him next time you see him.

We are also looking into forming standing committees within the chapter to give more members the opportunity to participate in the planning of the various projects and activities. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members.

Hope to see you at the meetings.



Vanguard Members Participate in Beaver Dam Removal and Large Woody Debris Projects on Paint Creek

By Eli L. Stanesa, Director/Conservation Chair, Vanguard Chapter TU

ROCHESTER HILLS— On Saturday morning, June 10, eight Vanguard members worked with the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) Ecologist, Matt Einheuser, and members of Clinton Valley and Challenge Chapters, to complete two conservation projects on the upper portion of Paint Creek. In all 14 volunteers worked for a little over four hours.

The first project undertaken on that day was the removal of a beaver dam located about a quarter of a mile upstream of the Clarkston Road Bridge. This beaver dam had been identified in the large woody debris (LWD) survey completed by Vanguard members in 2016.

After the site was reviewed by the CRWC and DNR, the dam was determined to be problematic to the health of the stream. As can be seen from the photo below, the dam had created a pond behind it with a two-foot rise in the water level.

The DNR arranged to relocate the beaver population; and the CRWC set the date and called for volunteers to remove the dam. The volunteers met in the parking lot at Clarkston Road and hiked to the site of the dam.

All the work was done by hand and took about two hours. While removing this barrier, members witnessed several trout bolting upstream.

Once the section of the dam between the normal edges of the creek was removed, the pond disappeared and the natural flow resumed. See the photo on the next page.

The second project tackled that day was a LWD issue at a site immediately downstream of the Clarkston Road bridge. This part of the stream is a particularly picturesque stretch with a series of riffles, which had collected a large amount of wood across it.

Please see PAINT CREEK, next page.

VANGUARD MAKES \$1,000 DONATION TO MICHIGAN TU

By Joe Barker

ROCHESTER HILLS—In May, the Vanguard Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited after approval by its Board of Directors.

The donation will support MITU’s conservation activities and free up other money received by MITU to meet operational expenditures.

In response to the donation, the Chapter received a thank you letter from MITU that is reproduced below.

May 3, 2017

Vanguard Chapter - Trout Unlimited
Attn: Jeff Gerwitz, Chapter President

Re: Donation to Michigan Trout Unlimited (501-c3 Organization - Federal Tax ID # 23-7188803)

Dear Board of Directors,

We wish to extend to each of you our appreciation for your generous support of Michigan Trout Unlimited and our Executive Director, Dr. Bryan Burroughs, as we face significant challenges to the health and welfare of Michigan’s cold water resources.

Please use this document as a receipt for the donation described below. If you have questions or if we can be of any service, please contact us at 989-233-1922.

Sincerely,
MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED

Robert S. Smith, Sr.
MITU Treasurer



PAINT CREEK

Continued from prior page.

Coincidentally, the Vanguard Chapter had planned to do this work on the same Saturday, so it was decided to try to do both projects on the same day if

it was possible. Although it was originally planned as a Vanguard Chapter project, everyone who worked removing the beaver dam joined in the additional work. The LWD issue turned out to be more difficult and required chain saws and a pike to complete, but was finished in about two hours.



Looking upstream after removal of beaver dam.



Large woody debris cleanup looking downstream from Clarkson Road bridge.

RIVERVIEW OUTING PROVIDED PLENTY OF FOOD AND FISH

By Joe Barker

GRAYLING—The traditional fish fry on Friday night in mid-May greeted Vanguard members and their guests at the Chapter’s annual outing at Riverview Lodge & Cabins on the Au Sable River at McMaster Bridge.

The food got even better on Saturday evening with more than enough fat and juicy steaks to satisfy everyone’s appetite after a long day of fishing on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers.

All the accommodations at Riverview were accounted for, and besides members, there were several new faces who were guests from outside the state of Michigan. Everyone enjoyed spirited discussions that ranged beyond fishing.

Good weather helped make for successful fishing, as indicated by Jeff Gerwitz’s 16-inch brown trout shown below.



Of course, it wasn’t all child’s play while stalking wily trout on some of the most popular fly fishing water in the state, as Ron Deaton’s wind knot below shows.



TRIBUTE TO A TU LEGACY

By Larry Butts, Past President—Vanguard Chapter TU

LOVELLS— On a bright and sun filled April 29th, I had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of the Arthur C. Neumann, Trout Unlimited Memorial at the Museum of Trout Fishing History in Lovells, Michigan. The event was attended by Art’s children, friends, TU members, and staff of the museum complex.

As folks were gathering, there were longtime friends, family members, and a large number of us who only knew him by reputation and his impact on TU. I fall into this last group. Since my introduction to TU almost nine years ago, I have read articles about him and some that he wrote over more than 50 years ago in association with TU. His leadership in organizing TU and seeing its expansion into a nationwide organization and his encouragement and guidance of the “younger generation,” who now oversee this wonderful organization, more than make him worthy of the honor bestowed upon him.

There was much talk of his legacy and the history of what he did and what he accomplished, as well as stories and

accolades from his longtime friends, his sons, and the current leadership of Michigan and National TU. His work with TU and his shop where he tied flies and made fly rods are all there in the museum for us to learn the history of this man and the organization he helped create. Though I never actually met him, I have learned a great deal from this man.

But as I sat there listening, it occurred to me that rather than looking backward at his life and the fond memories of friends and relatives, we might best honor the man by expanding TU’s reach by growing our membership, and increasing our conservation and restoration efforts. TU needs to work to attract young men and women who will someday take over this effort and expand our outreach to youth members by offering opportunities for education and participation in our restoration projects. We also need to continue our policy initiatives and work with other groups to influence our legislators to protect our outdoor heritage. That would be the best tribute to Art’s legacy.



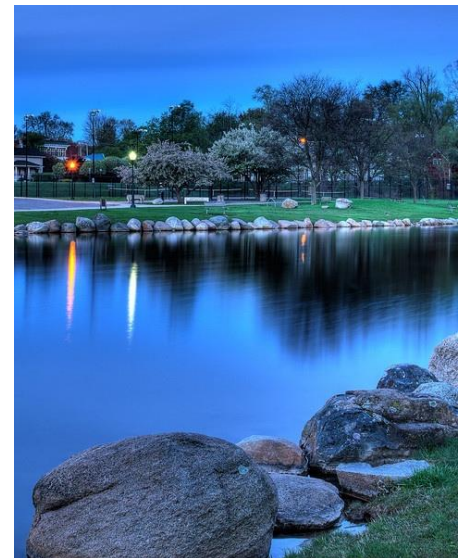
VANGUARD PICNIC PLANNED FOR THIS SUNDAY AT PARK

By Joe Barker

ROCHESTER—The September Vanguard Chapter meeting is a picnic/fishing outing in Rochester Park. It will be held this Sunday, September 17 and will begin at noon in the large pavilion at the south end of the park across from the pond.

This is a family outing so bring your kids, brothers, sisters, parents, and anyone else interested in a good time. All areas will still be open to fishing so you have Paint Creek and the pond to fish in.

The Chapter will provide the hot dogs and brats. Please bring a dish to pass. Please note, however, that there is no alcohol in the park.



Art’s children alongside the memorial.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS SET FOR NOVEMBER

By Joe Barker

ROCHESTER—The monthly membership meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017, will serve as election night for officers and board members of the Vanguard Chapter.

Officers up for reelection are Treasurer Joe Swantek and Secretary Tom Lasek. Their terms will last two years. At the moment they remain unopposed, but if anyone desires to try their hand at either position, they are welcome to be nominated.

Chapter President Jeff Gerwitz and Vice President Eli Stanesa still have one year remaining on their two-year terms.

One incumbent Board of Directors member is up for reelection for a one-year term—Ron Elzerman. However, there remains two empty board member positions. One has been vacant and the other became open with the resignation of Gordon McCall because of his work schedule.

Anyone interested in having their name put in nomination for a Board member or officer position should contact Jeff Gerwitz at (248) 656-9439 or email him at jgerwitz321@gmail.com.



RELEASING TROUT IS EASIER WITH BARBLESS HOOKS; BUT THE CATCHING IS HARDER

By Joe Barker

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—Westslope cutthroat are some of the most gullible trout in the fly fishing world.

Present day fishing pressure on many streams has caused wildlife agencies to pass stringent rules for catching cutthroats. As members of the Trout Unlimited found out during this summer's trip to Canada, none more so than the province of British Columbia.

Not only were permits required to fish any particular stream—in addition to a regular province fishing license—but fishermen were restricted to only one fly (no droppers or trailing flies), and that one fly could only have one hook (no double or treble hook), and it had to be barbless.

Fishing with barbless hooks, of course, is nothing new. Guides in Michigan and elsewhere more often than not require their clients to fish with

barbless hooks, especially if the guides themselves are supplying the flies.

But don't let the guides fool you. Although there is little doubt that it is easier to unhook a fish from a barbless hook, the insistence of guides that you'll catch just as many fish with barbless hooks is hyperbole.

Hooks have been fashioned with a barb for a purpose—to make it harder to dislodge by the fish once it's hooked. The smaller the hook, the easier it is for a fish to throw the hook.

This is particular true for cutthroat trout. Although a good imitation of a natural insect and a well-placed cast might fool a fish, once on the line it is a 50-50 proposition bringing the fish to the net because of the tendency of cutthroats to twist and turn on the line.

The advantage to the trout is real. So is the frustration to the fisherman.

TROUT TIMES

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Jeff Gerwitz, President
Joe Barker, Editor

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