

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“A river is water at its loveliest form; rivers have life and sound and movement and infinity of variation, rivers are veins of the earth through which the lifeblood returns to the heart.” -- Roderick Haig-Brown

I brought my truck to a stop at the bottom of the hill at Tunk Hole. If I listen to dinner table conversation at our spring outing long enough, I'll know when those that have planned to head down there have already been, and will perhaps find myself completely and utterly alone on the other side of the Reservation should I head that way in the morning.

So it was. I laced my boots up a little tighter, cinched my waders up a little higher, threw an extra helping of venison and one more bottle in my pack and headed off to see just how far the downstream trail went before I felt like there was no trail left to follow. There I'd step into the river for the first time that day, and have a long conversation with her before casting my feathered imitation of life into the bubble line.

We are all connected by waters, and if we listen, they will speak to us. The Manistee was welcome to a conversation that Sunday morning, because she is always welcoming to those who seek her voice over the din of humanity. She spoke of those who had passed through, and visited her before. Of Tom and Connie and T.J., a family that visits her every year right there at the Tunk Hole. She knows that Connie likes to cast her line upstream, her son downstream, and her husband right in the middle between them both. The river spoke of the days before the National Forest, when men had come and cut away all of her trees and sand had covered over her stones, hiding away the gifts left by her glacial past. She spoke of her sister to the East, with whom she shares her life but little else. She spoke to me until all that I could hear was her words. When the sound of her voice was louder in my mind than all of the thoughts of forty-five years, I flicked my wrist with a slight push forward in the way of the old Scot who had taught me to roll a cast, and my fly left the water ... only to return again at its beginning.

We are all connected by waters, and they need our help. The work of Trout Unlimited is more important today than ever. River temperatures are already climbing. Habitats continue to degrade under unmitigated pressures. Our waters cannot be left to stand alone. That is why your continued membership matters so much. Whether attending meetings and activities in fellowship with other like-minded and purpose-driven anglers, learning more about how to be a better caretaker as you fish, or joining one of our Stream Teams to actively work to repair the damage already done to our watersheds, your involvement makes all the difference.

The next time that you step into a stream, listen for its voice and you will hear her gratitude. You certainly have mine.

Yours in service to our waters -

James



Art by Olivia Strombeck

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ANNUAL BANQUET A HUGE SUCCESS! -- Jim Bour

This past March 14th Kalamazoo Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited held our 40th Conservation Banquet! It was held on a lovely Thursday evening at The Fountains Event Center in Parchment.

Again, Banquet Committee members and other volunteers spent the day preparing the venue. The Event Center was beautiful and ready to go when the doors opened at 6:00 and the crowd began to arrive. It was clear that there were many old friends present as people socialized and inspected the many banquet items. Live auction, silent auction and large and small bucket items were displayed around the periphery.



Mixing and mingling at the annual banquet.

The excitement was palpable as Jack Spenner and Dennis Martin worked their way through the crowd, gently encouraging attendees to part with their tickets and bids. This year's table gift was a sturdy KVCTU logoed campfire ceramic mug.

After the very enjoyable social hour we sat down to a wonderful dinner of roast beef and seafood pasta. During dinner Emily Tulgetske gave her final presidential address and carried out the annual elections for officers and board members for the coming year.

Elections were followed by our annual awards. Richard Chamberlin was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He was given a beautiful brook trout plaque and was genuinely humbled and surprised. Other awards included Member of the Year Paul Hammond; Emerger Awards to Team Strombeck (Andy and Sarah) and James Young; and Conservationist of the Year Dr. Bryan Burroughs. These recipients were all celebrated with a hearty round of well-deserved applause.



Paul Hammond receiving Member of the Year award.



Dick Chamberlin with a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award.



Bryan Burroughs is honored as Conservationist of the Year.



So many fun treasures to bid on!

The live auction ensued. Once again, our fearless and witty Glen Blackwood cajoled the crowd to support our cause by bidding on the 20 auction items. Highlights included numerous guided fishing trips, a stay at Gates’ Lodge, art work, a cooking class, an Alaska fishing trip for two, fly rods, waders, net, decorative bowl, and other beautiful items. As always, a Jim Wellever creation was wonderfully received. Glen’s humor made the sometimes tense bidding less intimidating and much more fun! The auction went quite smoothly with the expert help of Olivia and Claire Strombeck, who streamlined the capturing of the winning bids.

The evening concluded with everyone picking up their winning bucket raffle items and silent auction items. The attendance this year was very good, with more people participating and supporting our commitment to cold water streams and the Michigan Youth Conservation and Trout Camp.

We, again, would like to thank all of our donors, sponsors, and volunteers for their continued support. We hope to see everyone next year for another successful fundraising banquet!



And a good time was had by all!



“Team Strombeck” (Andy and Sarah) share this year’s Emerger Award.



James Young Jr. celebrates being a 2024 Emerger of the Year.

2024-25 KVCTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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And cheers to you, Jim Bour, for heading up yet another fantastic annual banquet. Thank you!

STREAM PROJECTS

HOLT-RICE CREEK PROPERTY CLEANUP DAY -- James Young

On April 20, we partnered with the Friends of Rice Creek to begin the long-awaited restoration of the Holt-Rice Creek property and Rice Creek in Marshall.

Our team met at the property entrance just before 9:00 am to gear up and take in the morning's briefing. There were three teams dispatched: one cutting in trails south of the entrance and removing obstructions to flow; one cutting in the extensive trails to the north; and a team in the water, cutting out obstructions to angling and removing obstructions to the freshwater springs that feed the river. John Weimeister had visited the site earlier in the week to cut apart a large oak that had fallen across the northern trail, and that cleared the way for the work to really begin.



Some of the stewards who partnered up for the creek.

You could hear the sounds of saws up and down the stream intermixed with leadership, laughter, and a love of the mission of our chapter.

Nearly three hours later, what had once been a dream of both local Marshall residents and KVCTU members alike had taken shape. Walking trails with angler access all along the stream. Cold, fresh water arriving from surface springs that had been blocked. Relationships built with partner organizations, including the Friends of Rice Creek and the Calhoun Conservation District. Friendships made and renewed over lunch prepared by the Morse family.



All in all, an excellent morning spent in the work of Trout Unlimited ... this is what KVCTU is all about!

Note: Check out the article about our Rice Creek efforts published by the [Marshall Advisor-Chronicle](#). Go to the archived May 25 issue, page 18.



Tending to the creek.



Tending to the trails.

STREAM PROJECTS *CONTINUED*

SILVER CREEK CLEANUP -- Pete Huver with Dick Chamberlin

On June 1, a crew began initial steps for the removal of seven beaver dams on Silver Creek. This project involved clearing brush on either side of the dams to provide room to stack debris from the dams. That process is being planned for later this summer.

We originally planned to remove the dams June 1, however through combined efforts with DNR Fisheries Research Biologist Troy Zorn from the Marquette Fisheries Research Station, local DNR Fisheries Biologist Matt Diana, Jim Dexter and KVCTU, this is being delayed in order to do some great research.



The Silver Creek cleanup crew.

The study will target the effects of beaver dams on smaller (5-15' wide) coldwater trout streams. Temperature monitoring, fish community and habitat surveys will take place to better understand the thermal effects of the beaver dam. Silver Creek fits these parameters very well. Troy is also working with Wisconsin DNR and USFWS in Green Bay.

We can all benefit from this research. We're elated our chapter will be a part of this study! Many thanks to all the volunteers: James Young Jr., Matt Diana, Jim Clark, John Weimeister, Jim Dexter, TJ Morse, and Dick Chamberlin.

DOWAGIAC RIVER SENSOR INSTALLATION -- Pete Huver



As many are aware, the dam at Pucker Street in Niles was removed from the Dowagiac River in 2021 and monitoring of stream conditions is ongoing. On May 1, several TU members along with MEANDRS (Meeting the Ecological and Agricultural Needs of the Dowagiac River System) and the water quality specialist for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi met at Dodd Park in Niles to deploy new EnviroDYI sensors in the river.

Jake Lemon, Michigan TU Monitoring and Community Science Manager, spearheaded deployment of one sensor at Dodd Park and another on private property further downstream. A third will be deployed later this summer in the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Meander Restoration Area near Peavine Street.

I'm proud to say our chapter contributed \$1600 toward the purchase of one sensor!! Other contributors included Cass County Conservation District, Cass County Parks and Recreation, St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers, Elliott Donnelley and Oak Brook TU Chapters. The data gathered will be very valuable in monitoring this excellent river for a long time!

The sensors monitor water temperature, depth at the installation site(s) and conductivity. Changes in conductivity can be affected by many variables including increased water flow, temperature, and potential contamination such as dissolved salts, organic and inorganic matters that may enter the stream. The solar-powered sensors transmit data via cell service. The cell service costs are a part of the generous donations from those mentioned above.

Live information is available via monitormywatershed.org. Approximately 40 Michigan sites are currently available for anyone to view at their leisure!

We look forward to continuing to work with these organizations and volunteers who are doing great things on the Dowagiac River. Many thanks to all who lent a helping hand.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

APRIL CHAPTER MEETING - - Sarah Strombeck



Russ Stolberg explains the Salmon in the Classroom program.

Our April chapter meeting at The Fountains opened with a presentation by Russ Stolberg of the Mar Lee Community School District. Over the last 12 years, Russ's classroom has given 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th grade students an opportunity to connect with nature by way of Salmon in the Classroom. Each fall, Russ collects salmon eggs from Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery to raise in a tank in the classroom. Students feed and observe the salmon through each life cycle stage and take water data including PH, temperature and alkalinity.

This winter, over the Christmas break, disaster struck when the cooling system failed, and Russ lost all 104 eggs. The kids would be devastated. Russ connected with KVCTU member and aquarium aficionado, Greg Potter, to assess the system and see about getting it back up and running. KVCTU assisted by financing a new cooling system and Greg helped get it going with a remote monitoring system. Some eggs were replaced and this spring, Russ's students released 47 salmon at the Allegan Dam of the Kalamazoo River. We wish Russ and his students continued success with Salmon in the Classroom!

The meeting continued with guide and guest speaker Derek Weurding of [Unwrapped Outdoors](#). Derek is also a 3rd grade teacher in Lawton since 2021. He too participates in Salmon in the Classroom, connecting his students to fish life cycles and cold water fisheries. But as a guide, Derek's focus is on something that is more plentiful in the southern part of the state—warm water and panfish. His focus on warm water species keeps him close to home, allows him more time on the water and the opportunity to really zero in on the stream and fine tune tactics. His motto is "Local focus supports local business" and his focus is on accessibility. He welcomes anglers of all experience levels, but really hopes to encourage new anglers who might find fly fishing intimidating and show them that they can have a great time on their home waters targeting all different species of fish. Derek shared with us some great tips for panfish and local lakes and left us with a greater appreciation for our closer to home waters.



Derek Weurding gets us excited about warm water species.

We closed the meeting by raffling off a guided trip with Derek Weurding and a [Reel Craft Passbook!](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

by Paul Hammond

Be sure to extend a warm KVCTU welcome to the following folks who joined our club since the last issue of Slacklines. Invite them to a meeting. Or to go fishing!

Scott Darby

Joseph Gillish

Ron Heysteck

Scott Horetski

Kevin Lacey

Eric Mussleman

Jerald Summey

Peter Whipple

Kathleen Widener

FUN GATHERINGS

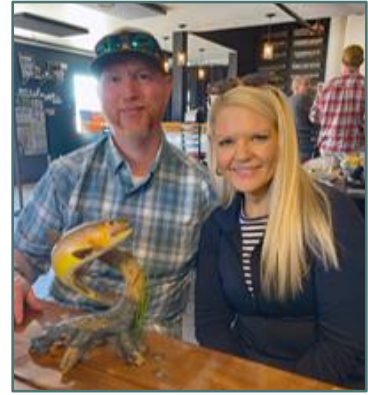
FLY FISHING FILM FEST & TIE ONE ON



An eager crowd gathered at Presidential Brewing the morning of April 13 for our annual Fly Fishing Film Fest, followed by an afternoon Tie-One-On tying event.

It was a fun day, and a great way to get ready for the Trout Opener!

Fly tying aficionados enjoy our Tie One On event.



Happy raffle winners at the Fly Fishing Film Fest.

SPRING OUTING

The chapter's annual spring outing took place the weekend of May 17-19 at [Batcke's Manistee River Lodge](#) in Wellston.

As always, it was a fabulous and fun weekend. We were blessed with excellent weather, excellent meals hosted by Paul and Char Hammond, and excellent companionship.

Check out [Andrew Strombeck's tale of some excellent fishing that weekend!](#)



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

In April, while many members were working on the Rice Creek cleanup, another KVCTU crew joined up for our spring Adopt-A-Highway project on M-89 near Augusta Creek.

It was a chilly day, but it didn't deter these hardy folks. They collected a huge pile of litter!

Thanks to all who came to help, and to Bob Vaccaro for organizing (and taking good care of our volunteers).

A MANISTEE MONSTER

-- Andrew Strombeck

My family—wife Sarah, and two daughters Olivia and Claire—decided to tag along and fish the Manistee River and its tributaries during the KVCTU annual spring outing. It started with a friendly invitation from great people we have met at the monthly meetings over the winter. And the kids love having other fishy folks to talk about our misadventures with.

Even though we have been going to this area for many years, it's always been with friends and family who are used to our style of fishing. While we are fortunate to fish as a family, and fairly often, normal fishing habits seem to evade us. I am sure the fishing is better first thing in the morning, but it has been 14 years since I have tried it. First one up is making breakfast, packing the boat, sunblock, books, art supplies, snacks, snacks, and.....snacks. Everyone has to have their activity to cover when the fishing is slow and keep it fun. Did I mention we're the last ones out on the water?



With Claire, it's all about skill.

Friday finally arrives and we are pumped to meet everyone at Batcke's Manistee River Lodge for dinner that night. Sarah and I took a half day off work to make sure we got there in time. Somehow even with a half day off we only managed to hit the road by 4:30. Par for the course but I'm just grateful to be in the game.

Luckily the chefs, Char and Paul Hammond, had some food left and graciously welcomed us to dinner. Stories were told and plans were made while the girls snuck out to the pond at the lodge and enjoyed the very hefty and hungry bluegills.

Saturday was the day. We decided to skip creek fishing and hit the big river with the family and dog. At this point making it out and back safely with all members of the family, including the dog, is a win. After years of good boat dogs, we have one that simply is not built for Michigan weather. On a 70 degree day he is still cold and would rather be on a tropical island sipping Pina Coladas. He's a creature of great comfort and if I want to fish I gotta make it work with this fair-weather mutt.

We launch at Tippy Dam and row over to start rigging up and get everything sorted. Olivia decides the back of the boat is hers alone and sets up paint shop for her artwork. This is normal—she prefers creek fishing. Claire is still tired even though we are hitting the water at 10:30 am, well after ever decent fisherman has run through all the good water. She decides to nap for a bit and we only hope the dog follows suit.

A friendly voice hollers from over the hill and it's James, our KVCTU chapter president. We exchange pleasantries and part ways. I wonder if he is secretly laughing at the floating circus. Either way he's too polite to laugh out loud so we move on to make some room for him and work our way downriver.

continued next page

After a bit Sarah had found a rhythm and the fly of choice was the (wet) Michigan skunk, a favorite of ours that Ray Schmidt introduced us to many years ago. We pinch our barbs most days and this was no different. Too many little fish learning how to grow into big fish, so we make quick work of each one and minimize handling the fragile specimens.

It's always a tricky time of year on tailwaters with migratory fish. The end of steelhead season means migrating suckers. With that they bring lots of food for the trout and the smarter, bigger fish key in on this food source each season.

After a couple hours Claire wakes up and is ready to fish the bright pink rod she built. Sarah was giving it a test run while she napped. That kid takes 10 casts and hooks a heavy 16" fish. Really? Luck is never unwelcome in the boat, but she will tell you it's all skill.

As we ran into the end of the day, we somehow managed some fish including a few nice ones. But before wrapping up there was a peculiar looking fish sitting with some suckers. It seemed far too big to be a trout like those we had seen earlier in the day but man, that sure looks like a heck of a fish. Gotta try it even though we're running late. First four flies receive no looks which further implies my eyes are tired and lying to me. One more fly change to our go-to grub nymph and bingo, first cast he sucks it right down in four feet of water.

“Even though it's tricky at times with family outings, I'll never unhear my kids cheering on their mom to land that big fish.

But I immediately realize when it rolls that we are not skilled up for this kind of fish. Chasing it with the boat is the only option. Sarah takes the rod, Claire grabs the camera, and Olivia is ... looking for a snack. I yank up the anchor and start rowing. We zigzag the river rowing wherever it takes us, unable to lift it even when right over the top of it. Eventually the fish yields and we net the well-fed specimen. After letting it catch its breath, we take a quick measurement and picture then release it back for the next angler to enjoy. 25" long and 17" around. It's one of the best fish of the year for this boat circus we call family fishing.

Even though it's tricky at times with family outings, I'll never unhear my kids cheering on their mom to land that big fish.

We finished the day back at the lodge with the group where a fabulous steak dinner was being prepared. The gang shared fish tales over the meal and continued to spin tales around the fire outside under the stars. It was as fine a day as one could ask for.



Sarah, Olivia, and Claire with their best fish of the year. So far.

DIDYMO? HOW ABOUT DIDY-LESS?

-- Dr. Jordyn Stoll

Michigan Trout Unlimited's citizen-led monitoring to combat rock snot in Michigan

Didymosphenia geminata, commonly known as didymo or rock snot, is a tiny but troublesome alga that forms long stalks and mats on riverbeds. While microscopic in size, didymo can cause significant damage to river ecosystems. It deteriorates habitats and affects water quality, posing a threat to the diversity and abundance of native organisms in Michigan's rivers.

Didymo blooms have been recorded in Michigan since 2015, impacting local streams and rivers. Although didymo has been present in the Great Lakes basin for nearly a century, noticeable blooms were first observed in Michigan's lower peninsula coldwater streams in 2021 and 2022. The exact reasons behind these recent blooms are still unclear, prompting the need for further investigation.

The spread of didymo is likely facilitated by human activities, particularly through angling gear, boats, and waders. Therefore, raising public awareness and involving the community in monitoring efforts are essential steps to minimize further spread.

To tackle this issue, Michigan Trout Unlimited is partnering with MDNR and EGLE on a project funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with three main goals:

Public Engagement. Educating and involving the public in hands-on monitoring, spreading awareness about didymo.

Data Collection. Gathering data to understand didymo's distribution, what causes the blooms, and how it spreads.

Creating a Stakeholder Network. Creating a network of diverse stakeholders to review current data, identify research needs, and develop strategic management practices.

Since August 2023, Michigan TU has been actively monitoring rivers for the presence of didymo. This April, 19 samples were collected in the Au Sable watershed and didymo cells were found at the Parmalee Canoe Launch and Whirlpool access on the mainstem, but not upstream at the McMasters access or in the various tributaries sampled. Even though didymo was not visibly apparent, microscopic examination revealed its presence, highlighting the need for thorough and consistent monitoring across the state.

How you can help

Consider collecting samples for didymo analysis. [More information about how to collect samples can be found here.](#)

If you see suspicious algae in a river, such as mats that feel like wet wool, please report it to [MDNR's Didymo reporting website.](#)

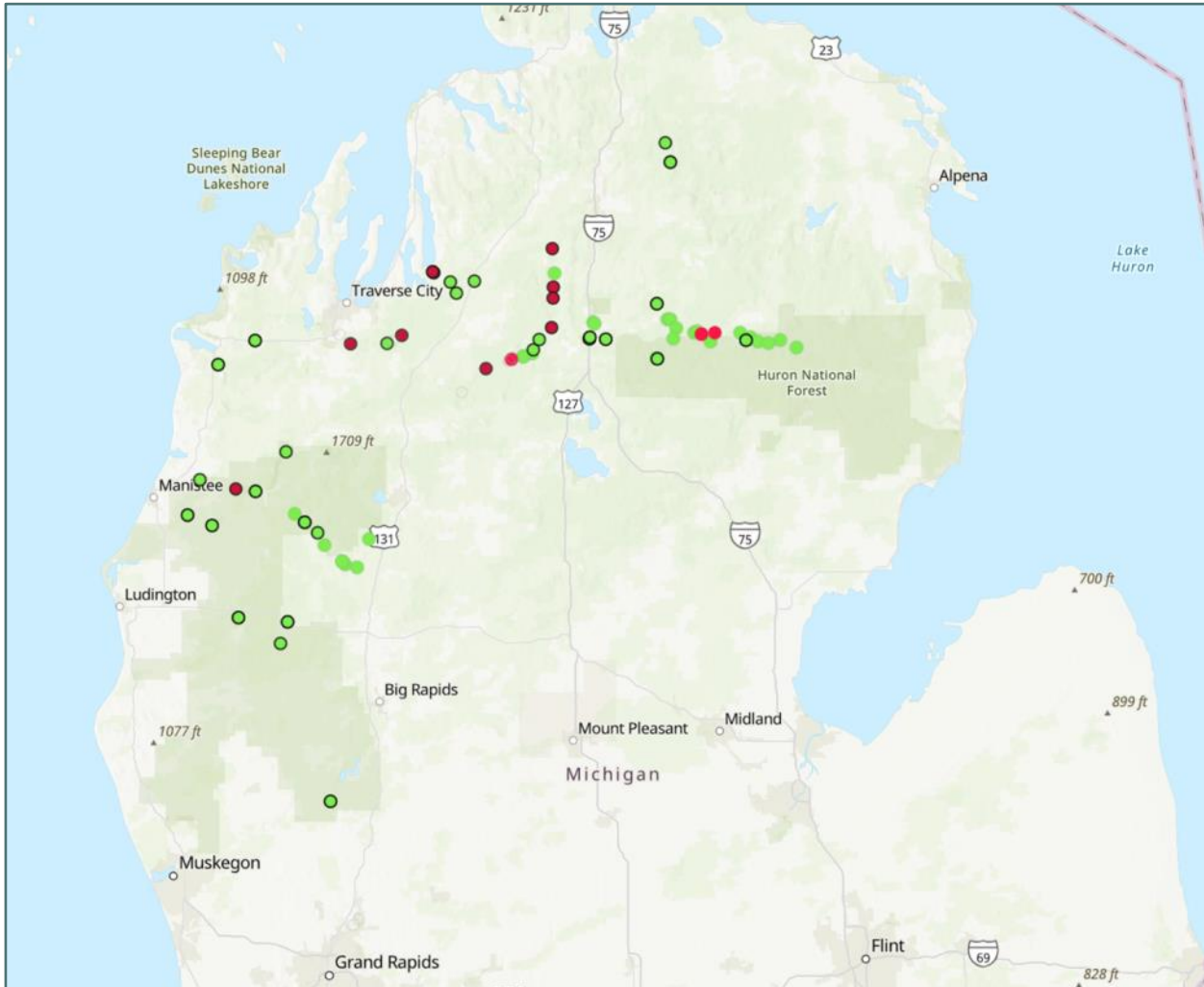
Together, through education, monitoring, and strategic partnerships, we can protect Michigan's rivers from the adverse effects of didymo and ensure these precious ecosystems remain vibrant and healthy for future generations. Join us in this crucial effort to safeguard our natural water resources. If you have any questions about collecting samples, please contact Jordyn at Jordyn.stoll@michigantu.org.

On the next page you'll find a map of the sites sampled for didymo by Michigan TU, EGLE and DNR as of May 30, 2024.



*Rock snot—it's gross.
Photo courtesy of MNDR.*

SITES SAMPLED FOR DIDYMO BY MICHIGAN TU, EGLE AND DNR AS OF MAY 30, 2024



DO YOUR PART – CLEAN YOUR GEAR!

Trout Unlimited knows anglers are inundated with info about preventing the spread of things that threaten our freshwater resources, from New Zealand Mud Snails to Didymo to Whirling disease, and more being discovered in our Midwest streams.

To address this confusion about best practices, TU has compiled some useful tips designed for various angling habits, with quality information put together by Great Lakes researchers at Michigan Trout Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and Oakland University. Check out the guide for customized cleaning recommendations so you can enjoy your favorite watersheds without putting them at risk. [Great Lakes guide to stopping aquatic hitchhikers.](#)



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



Scalin' Up For Summer - Volunteers are needed to help out with Scalin' Up for Summer, hosted by the City of Portage. The event is Saturday, June 8, from 10 am - 1 pm at South Westnedge Park, 9010 S Westnedge in Portage. We'll teach youngsters how to make spinners and assist with aquatic insect (bugs!) identification. No experience is necessary—just be ready to enjoy some eager kids! If you can help out, just show up.



Pheasants Forever Youth Day—The [Kalamazoo Rod and Gun Club](#) (7533 N Sprinkle Rd in Kalamazoo) is hosting a youth day on June 15. KVCTU members are invited —bring your own kids, and/or demonstrate casting, fly tying, bugs, knots, spinner making ... whatever. Kids love what we do. You can there anytime from 9-5. If you'd like the complimentary lunch, [sign up here](#). If you can help out, drop an email to kalamazoovalleychapter@tu.org—or just show up!



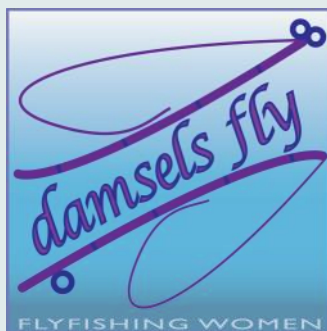
B&GC Benton Harbor—Looking for at least 4 volunteers who can assist with 3 classes. Two classes would be about an hour of hands-on instruction on basic knots and fishing knowledge for spin casting gear. The last day would be helping with fishing. Dates and locations TBD. If you can help out, drop an email to kalamazoovalleychapter@tu.org.



Fly One Kazoo— A one-fly, no-prize-except-bragging-rights “tournament” on the Kalamazoo River between Marshall and Battle Creek. Saturday, June 29, 9 am. Great fun! Contact John Keagle (jkeag@tds.net)



Wa Wa Sum Summer Outing—Our annual summer outing on the banks of the Au Sable in Grayling. July 11-14. Always an enjoyable time in a beautiful part of the state. There might be a few spots left. Contact Al Henderson (firemanalfie@hotmail.com)



Damsels Fly—A one-day fishing class for women, to be held at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan on July 20. We'll provide instruction in casting, gear, knots, fly tying, etiquette, bugs, safety, finding and reading the water, protecting our resources, and the TU mission. On-the-water fishing experience with a mentor will be offered the next day in Battle Creek. Volunteers needed! If you can help with the class or mentor, [email Connie Morse](#). To sign up for the class, [click here](#).

PAW PAW CONSERVATION CLUB

-- Jon Chizmadia & Al Henderson

KVCTU's Board and the Board of Directors for the Paw Paw Conservation Club (PPCC) approved two days of camping for KVCTU members on the PPCC property on May 24-25.

Despite severe weather on Friday evening, the event moved forward and attending members were pleasantly surprised.

PPCC is a real gem, hidden on 130 acres (with another 40 accessible). Visitors can fish, hike, build a campfire, and explore the property. The venue also has state-of-the-art shooting facilities.

Of particular appeal, the East Branch of the Paw Paw River flows directly through the property, allowing members and guests access to this fine trout stream that is otherwise completely encompassed by privately owned property.



Jon Chizmadia and Al Henderson recently checked out the Paw Paw Conservation Club.



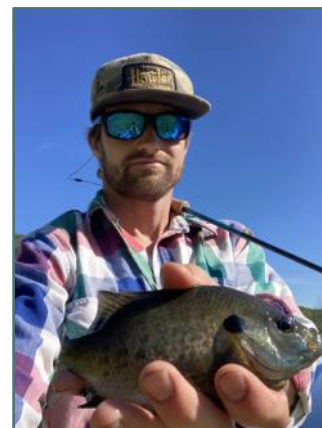
Cold and clear East Branch of the Paw Paw River.

The East Branch is reminiscent of a typical Michigan spring creek. Approximately 25-30 feet wide and 1-3 feet deep, the stream features a sandy bottom and deep undercut banks. There is ample room for casting, and a quick reading of the gin clear water revealed a crisp 62 degrees, despite the temperature pushing 80 on the sunny afternoon.

Additionally, PPCC allows members and guests access to a large pond teeming with wildlife and eager bass and panfish, which are more than willing to sip a popper. While surveying the pond and surrounding property, we witnessed waterfowl, turtles and even a young spotted fawn nestled in the grass, which was not more than a few days old.

By holding regular training sessions for outdoor skills to members, the club transforms hunters and fishermen into responsible outdoorsmen and women. PPCC is very youth and family friendly, encouraging outing events throughout the year. In a time where the outdoor skills of yesterday are becoming less common, partnerships with likeminded conservation groups like PPCC are important to achieve KVCTU's conservation goals.

If you're interested in joining or learning more about PPCC (which is a member of Michigan United Conservation Clubs) please visit pawpawconservationclub.net. Several KVCTU members already belong, including [Al Henderson](#), who would also be happy to tell you about all the opportunities PPCC offers.



Jon fished the pond.



Our annual Fly One Kazoo event will be held Saturday, June 29. We start around 9am at Dark Horse Brewery in Marshall, fish from 10-2pm, and then gather to brag and commiserate.

The fishing takes place on the Kalamazoo River between Marshall and Battle Creek. This is a beautiful stretch of river with solid bottoms of sand, gravel, and cobble. The water is clear and clean. The fishery is primarily smallmouth bass, northern pike, sunfish, and a variety of bait fish.

This is a one-fly fishing event—anglers are allowed only one fly for the day. If the fly is lost you can remain in the competition by buying a new fly of the exact same pattern with a \$10 donation to KVCTU.



We don't count numbers, but inches of length. The winning teams claim a prize for smallest fish, longest fish, and most total inches of fish.

After the catching, we meet back at Dark Horse for hydration, pizza, storytelling, and awards presentation. It is a great time to get to know your fellow chapter members and friends of the sport.

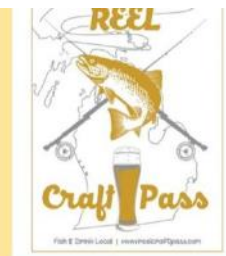
There are limited access points on the river so we must limit the number of teams (two per team, but if you include a youth you can have three on the team). We have a few spots remaining. If you want a great day on the river, with lots of camaraderie and fun, contact John Keagle at jkeag@tds.net.

SUPPORT KVCTU'S STREAM PROJECTS!

WHILE ENJOYING MICHIGAN'S BREWERIES AND WINERIES!

We are excited to announce the 2024 Michigan Reel Craft Pass. This \$30 booklet allows you to receive 50% off 2 drinks at participating breweries and wineries throughout Michigan. And KVCTU will receive \$10 for every book sold!

TO PURCHASE, go to: reelcraftpass.com and use coupon code KVCTU.



KALAMAZOO VALLEY CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

Partners With

REEL CRAFT PASS

To Support Our Stream Projects

We are excited to announce the 2024 Edition of the Michigan Reel Craft Pass. This booklet allows you to receive 50% off 2 drinks at participating brewery locations. (Wineries offers listed below). (Buy 1 Booklet and we'll AUTOMATICALLY send you a 10% FREE!) ***ONLINE SALES ONLY**

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Activities & Meetings
 Jon Chizmadia

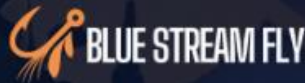
Stream Projects
 Pete Huver

Diversity & Outreach
 Caswell Evans

Fundraising
 Jon Chizmadia

Youth Camp & Education
 Andrew Strombeck

Membership Engagement
 Paul Hammond



Heading out to a Michigan river this summer? Here's a nice little website that will tell you water flow and weather conditions, access points and fishing spots, hatch charts, species, and a bit of river history. It's worth checking out. Bluestreamfly.com

KVCTU BOARD MEETINGS

KVCTU Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, September through April. An additional meeting is usually held midsummer.

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Because locations vary, if you would like to attend a board meeting please contact board president James Young Jr. (jaymesyuhng@gmail.com) for the time and place.

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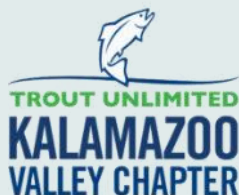


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Contributing to this issue of *Slacklines*: Jim Bour, Richard Chamberlin, Jon Chizmadia, Al Henderson, Pete Huver, Pete Mathews, Andy Strombeck, Sarah Strombeck, James Young Jr. Please send your articles, feedback, and suggestions to Editor Connie Morse.