

HEIRLOOM ROD UP FOR BID!

The KVCTU Heirloom bamboo fly rod is a 7-1/2 foot rod for a #5 weight line and was made by member Eric Jeska in 1997 and gifted to Paul Tulgetske.

The bamboo came from culms belonging to Walton Powell, and this rod was steam heat-treated followed by dry air heat treating in an experiment to temper different parts of the action more or less. It worked as intended but was too laborious of a process to continue. Eric also blued the ferrules and other nickel silver components and made the reel seat spacer and hook keeper.

Paul had the generous and fabulous idea of using the rod for KVCTU banquets as a rod that could be “owned” for one year by the highest bidder and re-auctioned every year as an Heirloom Rod.

The rod comes with a logbook diary that the “owners” use to document their catches for the year that they possess the rod, which then becomes a written history of the rod and angler for generations of KVCTU members in the future to read and enjoy. Whether the stories are truth or fiction are at the discretion of the “owner” and the faith or gullibility of the reader.

Why not become part of the KVCTU living legacy and take this rod fishing next season? Preserve the memories of your victories and defeats, triumphs and trials, and fish released whether from the hand or from far away for your KVCTU friends, both present and future, to read with envy or with a chuckle.



Unsure about owning and caring for a bamboo fly rod? Don't worry! Eric has included detailed instructions on the care, assembly and disassembly, and storage of this rod.

Read about the experiences of our most recent Heirloom Rod owner, Jon Chizmadia, on the next page.

DON'T MISS
KVCTU'S
**ANNUAL
BANQUET!**

BID ON THE
HEIRLOOM ROD

**TONS
OF
TREASURES
AND
ADVENTURES
TO
TAKE HOME!**

**FABULOUSLY
FUN!**

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
5:00 PM
THE FOUNTAINS

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TIE-A-THON TIME!

[Sign up](#) to tie 100 flies from the list by April 20. You'll get a T-shirt or logo sticker for your efforts, not to mention a warm and fuzzy feeling!

Since 2006, over 265,000 flies have been donated to various camps and organizations. This year, flies will be distributed to these nonprofit organizations:

[Idaho 2 Fly](#) is a group that offers retreats and workshops in Idaho for men with cancer.

[Brotherhood of the Junglecock MI](#) is dedicated to teaching fly-fishing to youth aged 8-18.

[MITU Youth Camp](#), sponsored by Kalamazoo Valley Trout Unlimited, hosts teens from local chapters for a June week of fun learning about trout, conservation and all things fly-fishing. Read more about camp on page 6!



ENJOYING THE HEIRLOOM ROD

by *Jon Chizmadia*

In 2024 I was lucky enough to end the evening of the annual conservation banquet holding the winning bid for the KVCTU heirloom rod.

Fishing bamboo was a relatively new experience that I had only experimented with the previous year. I must

confess that even now I don't know the nuances of cane as well as most of the other members of our club but one hot evening in June of 2023 I decided to toss a large Roberts Drake on a 7'-6" #4 cane. The thrill of hooking, fighting, and landing a 20" plus brown pretty much topped any fishing experience I had to that point. With that in mind I wanted to spend my time with this KVCTU treasure to make an experience as memorable.



Jon Chizmadia fishing the Heirloom Rod

Part 1—The trip of a lifetime

The year prior to winning the heirloom rod I was equally fortunate. In 2023, a relatively new acquaintance named Ransom—that would soon become one of my closest fishing pals—and I received intel that an Alaskan trip of a lifetime for 2 would be up for auction at that year's KVCTU conservation banquet. Neither of us thought we stood a chance in hell of actually winning this item. Additionally, neither of us had a plan on how we would swing things with our busy schedules, but we decided we'd be crazy to not at least try.

When the day arrived and the bidding began, I figured we'd be out of the running soon. As quickly as my card dropped another went up adding another Benjamin to the purchase price. A quick glance at Ransom confirmed my urge to keep going. I raised the bid card and waited for the next bid to come, but it never happened. It's possible I blacked out, but I do remember the words "SOLD" ringing out as I looked to Ransom, who looked back at me as if to say, "Here we go!"

- Continued on page 3

“Being part of KVCTU has led me on some great adventures”

ENJOYING THE HEIRLOOM ROD Continued from page 2

Part 2—The Rod

Our busy schedules that year were a concern until we confirmed with lodge owner and Michigan fly fishing legend Jim Johnson, that pushing our trip to 2024 wouldn't be an issue. That made the planning easier and conversations of big speckled rainbows and turquoise colored grayling had us thinking over our gear selection. Our guide, Max Werkman, confirmed that a #8 streamer rod and a #5 dry fly rod would cover our needs for this trip. We both had plenty of rods but which one to take? Then came the 2024 KVCTU annual banquet. Both Ransom and myself were again present and nearly ready for our upcoming trip. We were both eyeballing the heirloom rod for similar reasons but this time neither of us had previously coordinated. After my previous luck catching some relatively large trout on cane, I was now craving more. My little #4 was a little undergunned for somewhere as wild as Alaska but a #5 might be just the ticket.

Bidding for the rod began and all of a sudden I noticed Ransom's card in the air as I thought to myself "he's thinking the same thing I am!" After a little friendly back and forth bidding I heard the familiar "Sold". Almost instantly, I felt the guilt set in for robbing my new fishing buddy of this experience but at the end of the day there's no tears in fly fishing and after all Ransom could always borrow the rod for a fish or two in Alaska. Well maybe?

Part 3—Cane and the Alaskan Bush

So the second week of June arrived and we were finally on a plane for King Salmon. Early June weather conditions in Alaska are similar to spring time in Michigan with conditions varying day to day. On our arrival we were met with cold, wet and wind. Options for fishing or chatting with lodge owner Jim had us in favor of the latter. Jim asked about what we wanted to do in Alaska? I showed him the Heirloom Rod and he simply asked "What do you think you are going to do with that little thing? This is Alaska. We have real fish here." Feeling a bit outgunned I explained the importance of the rod and asked about Grayling fishing. Jim reassured us that there were Grayling in the area. He had just the spot in mind when the weather would cooperate.

Near the end of the week the winds calmed and our opportunity arrived. Our guide (Max) loaded us into the lake boat and we started the hour plus plus ride to a little unnamed, bear infested creek. After scaring off a big sow at the mouth of the creek we strung our rods and started our journey to catch an Alaskan Grayling on the KVCTU heirloom rod. It didn't take long to hook up. Just like I remembered I could feel the heartbeat of the fish pulling on the other end of the little 5 weight. The fish jumped to reveal itself as an Alaskan Rainbow and not the coveted Grayling. While not a bad consolation prize, Max told us that Grayling were present in this creek but it would require a hike upstream. So upstream we went.

Hiking through the tag alders I began to wonder if the possibility of becoming a snack for the big sow on the beach was worth a Grayling on the Heirloom rod but alas we pushed on. And after a quick 3 mile hike we came across a meadow stream that was more reminiscent of our Michigan spring creeks than the turbulent waters one expects to encounter in Alaska. We split up and began sneaking creekside staying low in the tall grass until Max spotted the first grayling.

- Continued on page 4



Ransom, Jon and the heirloom rod

ENJOYING THE HEIRLOOM ROD Continued

Part 3— continued

It was a beauty pushing the 18” mark and lurking just off the bank in some soft pocket water. Max ascended to higher ground for a better view while I stayed low and found a clearing to make a cast. Max guided my cast into position as the fly landed perfect about 3’ ahead of the grayling. As it drifted into the soft water I heard the excitement in his voice as he stated “here he comes.” I was ready perhaps too ready as when the fish broke the surface I instantly set the hook pulling the caddis out of the way and spooking the fish to never be seen again.



Thinking I just missed my opportunity I continued further upstream to meet up with Ransom who to my surprise was releasing a fish into an abandoned beaver pond he had come across. After taking a second look I realized the fish Ransom was releasing was indeed a Grayling that matched the specimen that I had just missed. We were both thrilled that we had finally caught a grayling even if it wasn't on the cane. We swapped stories and decided this was a good spot to stop for lunch. He told me the story of how he had spotted the fish rising from atop the lodge when about that time we noticed another rise.

It was an easy cast from my position. After evaluating the hole and several more rises for a few more minutes I decided on where the fly needed to be placed in order to drift through the feeding lane. The moment of truth came and the cast was perfect. The fly began to drift into the money zone when I saw the fish silhouette emerge moving up from the dark pool. It seemed like slow motion as it grew larger and larger until “Slurp.” I whispered to myself “now I gotcha” and lifted the rod which doubled over as the fish went berserk. It was a beauty just shy of the 17” mark and after a quick photo the fish was released to fight another day.

Part 4—Conclusion

Having the opportunity to take this fine little rod on a trip of a lifetime was something I won't soon forget. Being a part of KVCTU has led me on some great adventures ranging from teaching a youngster the importance of clean cold water to fishing in amazing places with new friends. I enjoyed my time with this beautiful piece of KVCTU history and hope this story inspires the next steward in a similar fashion.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The frigid winds and snow-covered boots of winter leave the angler longing for the spring, and the sense that all the chaos of the modern world can fade and quiet for a few moments. Moments when all the peace you need can be found in the click of a reel, the feeling of the line between your fingers, the rhythm of your cast and the hope that a fish will rise.

The most recent issue of TROUT included an article by Kirk Deeter titled “The True Cast: Hope.” In this piece, Kirk explores the subtle gift of hope that fishing gives to us each time out. How that hope can help renew those who have suffered trauma, and how that hope can help us find peace in our most troubling times. It’s a short but excellent read.

Every March, the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited hosts its annual Conservation Banquet and Celebration. Banquet is an evening to reflect upon the last year as part of KVCTU, but also look with hope to the coming year and all that it holds for us. This year, our theme is CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES, and over the last year this chapter certainly has had many. The coming year is going to feature even more worth celebrating, with a 100% commitment to the stream work that is the center of all that Trout Unlimited is. Once the stream project season begins in April, you can expect to see at least one work project day each month until the weather turns again in the fall, and in many cases multiple days and events. Led by our dedicated Stream Stewards,

We will be launching “Beyond the Stream: Youth Conservation and Trout Camp,” a film by renowned fly fishing filmmaker Robert Thompson, and produced by KVCTU in partnership with Scientific Anglers and Michigan Trout Unlimited. The film will premiere at the Wealthy Theatre in Grand Rapids in April!

We will continue to build upon our legacy as the principal sponsor of the Michigan Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation and Trout camp, while continuing our support of Salmon in the Classroom programs in area schools, and expanding our opportunities to inspire and involve young people in cold water conservation.

Additionally, you will continue to see more local membership events, free fly-tying sessions, and learning opportunities than ever before. We will be hosting our FI Film Festival at Presidential Brewing again this year, along with a return of our Fly Fishing 101 class, and of course, Connie Morse’s exceptional Damsels’ Fly program.

All of this depends upon the generous and continued support of our membership, now more than ever. Your continued support, your generosity, your willingness to volunteer, and your commitment to the core values of KVCTU is what makes everything we do possible.

I also want to take a moment to thank Connie Morse for her many years of service to the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. As Connie steps back from her roles on our Board of Directors, I can say without pause or reservation that our chapter would not be what it is without her time and efforts. She has worn many hats over the years, all of them with devotion to TU and her own unique spirit. We are grateful for you, Connie, and you will be missed!

Enjoy this edition of *Slacklines!* I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our Banquet and Celebration this year, and all of the events, projects and activities we have in store for the year to come.

Yours, in service to our waters- *James*



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Show & Tell Night

We decided to do something different this Holiday season... turn our regular December general membership meeting into a Christmas party! The Fountains hosted us, and even added to the festivities with peppermint ice cream for dessert. We began with a new tradition: a chapter-wide Fly Fishing White Elephant gift exchange! It was a great time, and really started the evening off in the Holiday spirit.



After dinner and dessert, we moved on to our traditional “Show and Tell” evening, where our members take on the role of featured presenters. Eric Jeska began with a presentation about things to do when the Hex are not hatching. Jon Chizmadia and Ransom Traylor followed, detailing their trip to Alaska, the very same trip that we are raffling at this year’s banquet. The evening finished with the Strombeck family explaining the how’s, why’s and where’s of family friendly fishy places in the Ozarks of Arkansas

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Guide Night

Our January General Membership Meeting was held at Brewster’s in Paw Paw, and proved to be both well-attended and popular, and that was before Jay Anglin arrived.

The food was excellent, to say the least. Smoked Brisket, chicken smothered in a smoky and sweet BBQ sauce, roasted potatoes and salad, rounded off with a cookie bar for our members with a sweet tooth (our president was spotted making multiple trips when he thought no one was looking...).

What really whetted our appetite was Jay Anglin’s presentation on behalf of Anglin Outdoors. While the core of his message was the impact of dam removal on the Dowagiac River, what really stood out to many members was the quality of the fishery, and the advice given by one of the Dowagiac’s premier guides. His remarkable photographs featured waters where access is a challenge, and Jay made a point of outlining not only where to find those waters, but how best to access and approach them.



Always insightful and engaging, Jay Anglin gave us a great time.

You can find out more, or reserve a trip with Anglin Outdoors at www.anglinoutdoors.com

Guide Jay Anglin with a tasty streamer

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Guide Night

Our members and friends braved the cold to turn out for our February meeting in Richland – hosted at Charles n Darl’s restaurant at the Lakeview Golf Club – to learn all about fishing the Driftless area of our midwestern neighbor, Wisconsin.

The food and drinks were delicious and the guides from Driftless Angler shared loads of valuable information to plan your trip to the area, earning its name from the unique geography. Matt Wagner is a 30 year fly fishing veteran and owner of the Driftless Angler as well as regional expert and advocate. To learn more, visit www.driftlessangler.com.



Monthly meetings are open to the public and a great way to meet guides and get inside secrets on your favorite species, new techniques and waterways!

FLY TYING WITH KVCTU

Free and Beginner Friendly

Andrew Strombeck of KVCTU’s Education committee teamed up with Paul Jakubiak of Uncle Jake’s to offer beginner friendly fly tying instruction to folks of all ages and abilities.

Over the past few months, we’ve been meeting once a month for fly tying sessions at Uncle Jake’s @ Smitty’s Sport Shop in Battle Creek. These sessions have been all about learning the basics of fly tying and, most importantly, enjoying time with fellow fishing enthusiasts. We’re excited to continue these sessions in March and April, but don’t wait too long to sign up—spots are limited!

Ready to switch things up? In May, we’re shifting focus from tying to fishing! That’s right—once a month, we’ll gather for some local fishing adventures. It’s a great opportunity to relax, meet new fishing buddies, and pick up tips from local anglers who will be on hand to share their knowledge. Don’t have gear? No worries! We’ll have equipment available for anyone who wants to join in.

Stay tuned for more details soon, and be sure to visit KVCTU.org. Under the "Events" section, you can keep up-to-date with everything our chapter has planned!



STREAM PROJECTS

by Pete Huver



I held a Stream Team meeting on February 1. The team consists of:

- Greg Potter and John Weimeister - Rice Creek
- John Keagle - Augusta Creek
- Davis Galarneau and Marshall Selkirk - Portage Creek
- Jim Dexter and myself - Silver Creek
- Ron Weaver and Mark Bardusk - Dowagiac River and Brandywine Creek

We discussed many potential projects for this summer in which we foresee most likely 1-2 projects starting in April.

Upcoming Projects :

Rice Creek

We are looking to repaint the existing garage on the Holt property as well as install signage with trail maps and a description of the property with a brief history. Additionally, we are currently applying for a grant to replace worn out steps and add 2 new sets of steps to provide additional access to the stream. This will be a collaboration with the Friends of Rice Cree, Calhoun County Conservation District, Michigan DNR and our Chapter. Once we have a decision on the grant will move on this.



Resecure steps just above Ketchem Park as some erosion has taken place. Most likely in May 2025.

DNR to install 2 temperature monitors to compare data collected this year. Most likely in April.



Bear Creek

Greg Potter will be placing 2 chapter HOB0 temp monitors to compare data collected this year. Alos, Greg will be working with MITU and the DNR on potential fish habitat improvement for future years projects.

Dickenson Creek

Greg Potter will be installing 3 chapter HOB0 monitors to compare the last data recorded several years ago. This will be an April timeframe.

Augusta Creek

John Keagle is currently working with a landowner as well as the DNR to resolve 2 separate beaver dam issues. The landowner is experiencing flooding due to this.

STREAM PROJECTS CONTINUED...

by Pete Huver



(Continued from page 8)

Portage Creek

David Galarneau will be working with the Portage Parks and Recreation group to assist with removal of debris from the summer of 2024 tornados.

Silver Creek

Jim Dexter and myself will be installing 3 chapter HOB0 monitors, again to compare data collected last year before and after beaver dams existed.

We will do a brushing most likely in July, once a firm date is determined a message will be sent out in Constant Contact.

Jim Dexter is looking into helping preserve the train bridge as a historic bridge through DNR preservation Office.

Brandywine Creek

Matt Diana, DNR fisheries biologist, Jim Dexter, Ron Weaver and Mark Bardusk will be planning an August clean up of log jams and brushing.

Stream Culvert/Road Crossing Training

Matt Diana is working with Patrick Ertel of the DNR to provide a training session on evaluating culverts in our streams so that we can provide feedback of potentially failing and or improperly sized culverts. Dates for this will be forthcoming.

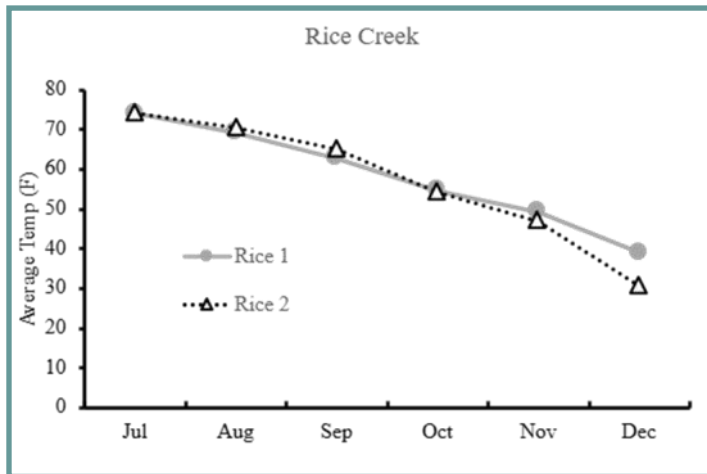


KVCTU COMPLETES STREAM TEMPERATURE MONITORING

In 2024, chapter volunteers completed summer stream temperature monitoring on 5 area streams. Streams included Rice Creek and Bear Creek (Calhoun County), Portage Creek (Kalamazoo County), Campbell Creek (Van Buren County) and Silver Creek (Allegan/Kalamazoo County). Hourly temperatures were collected using HOBO continuous recording thermometers. Rice, Portage and Silver are chapter priority waters, while Bear and Campbell are waters of interest.

Thermometers were deployed by volunteers in either June or July and monitored through fall. The results are interesting to say the least and summarized for each water below.

Rice Creek, Calhoun County: Rice Creek is a medium sized tributary to the Kalamazoo River. Two thermometers were deployed and began recording on July 16. When they were deployed, water levels were high from storms, and by the end of August they were out of the water for several days.



Using what data was good, low temperature readings were 61 F at the Holt Property just north of I-94, and 54 F at 20-mile road. The average temperature was 74 F. High temperatures were recorded in the low 80's at both sites.

There are several years of earlier temperature data from the DNR (2017-2021) and these will be detailed in next year's report. For 2025, the DNR will be conducting a fish and habitat survey and one more year of additional temperature monitoring. Based on what we have seen through surveys and experience, this is a marginal stream that must be supported through stocking efforts. If you are going to

fish Rice Creek during warm summer days, you would be well served concentrating on early morning hours as daily temperature fluctuations may exceed 20 degrees by 6 pm.

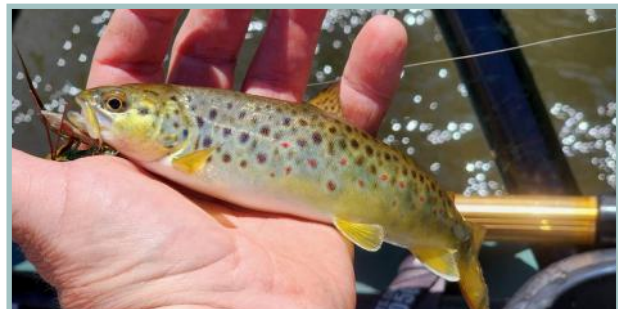
Bear Creek, Calhoun County: Bear Creek is a small tributary to the Kalamazoo River and is not stocked. Four thermometers were deployed, from north to south 16.5 Mile Road, Old Verona Road, C Drive N at Bear Creek Inn, and 15-mile Road. The lowermost thermometer at 15 Mile Rd was lost.

Reviewing data for July and August at 16.5 Mile Road, the lowest temperature recorded was 51 F and the highest temperature recorded was 84 F. The average daily temperature fluctuation was 10-18 F, while the maximum temperature fluctuation was 25 F. Thirty-five days during the summer saw temperatures over 74 F.

Thermometers at Old Verona Road were deployed on June 15, and for the summer the lowest temperature recorded was 54 F and the highest temperature recorded was 84. The average daily temperature fluctuation was 8-18 F, while the maximum temperature fluctuation was 21 F.

A total of 48 days between June 15 and August 31 experienced temperatures above 74 F. On some days temperatures in the low 80's persisted for as long as 5 hours.

C Drive N was also deployed on June 15. The lowest temperature recorded was 58 F and the highest temperature recorded as 83 F. The average daily temperature fluctuation was 5-10 F, while the maximum temperature fluctuation was 13 F. This site experienced 42 days with temperatures hitting 74 or higher, and had 65 straight hours between 74-80 F.

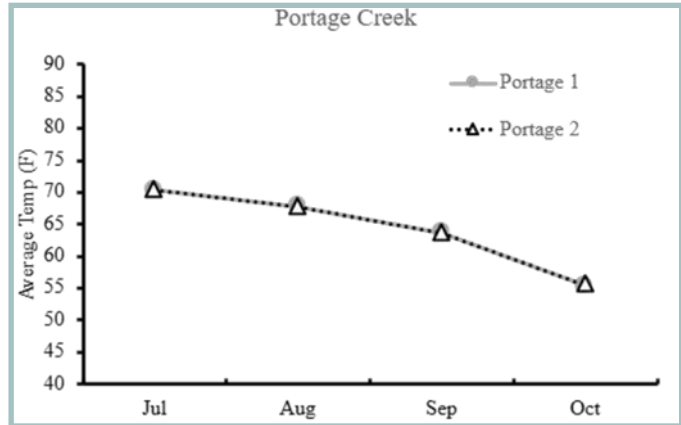


KVCTU COMPLETES STREAM TEMPERATURE MONITORING

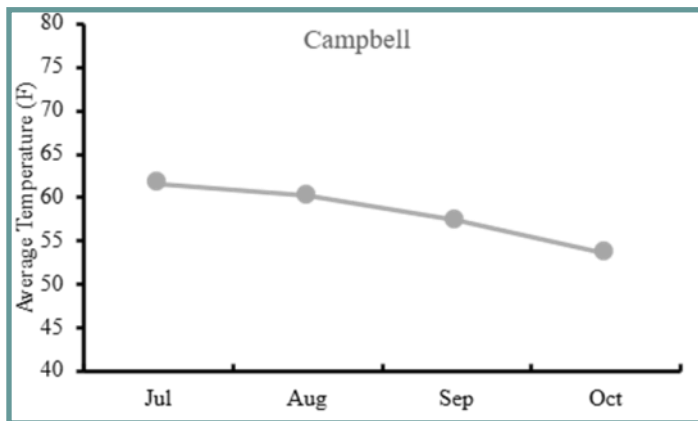
Temperature monitoring will be conducted once more in 2025, along with fisheries surveys by MITU and DNR staff. Chapter members have in the past had good wild trout fishing in Bear Creek below C Drive N. 2025 data collections should give us a good reading of whether or not this stream is still capable of being a reasonable fishery.

Portage Creek, Kalamazoo County: Sites monitored included just north of Center Avenue and Milham Road. Monitors were not deployed until late July, primarily to evaluate whether the spring tornado through the area (which toppled many trees into the creek) had any impact on water temperatures.

Interestingly, both sites had almost identical water temperatures throughout the recording period. The lowest temperature recorded was 59 F and the highest was 76 F. The average daily temperature fluctuation was 5 F, and the maximum temperature fluctuation was 11 F. The average August temperature was 68 F. This site experienced 7 days between July 28 and August 31 where temperatures exceeded 74 for at least one hour. Portage Creek is stocked by DNR and provides a good temperature profile for long term survival.



Campbell Creek, Van Buren County: Campbell Creek was monitored at 28th Street, north of Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. This is a wild trout stream that also receives anadromous runs of Steelhead and Salmon and is a tributary to the NB of the Paw Paw River. Downstream of 28th Street is owned by Alma Twp. and fishing access is permitted. One monitor was deployed on July 3. The lowest temperature recorded was 51 F and the highest temperature was 76. The average daily temperature fluctuation was 5-10 F, and the maximum fluctuation was 18 F. The average July temperature was 62 F, and only 2 days during July and August experienced the temperature reaching 74 degrees for one hour or more.



Silver Creek, Allegan/Kalamazoo County: Silver Creek is a wild trout stream and was monitored just below M-89. Three additional thermometers were deployed by DNR to evaluate the effect of multiple beaver dams. The DNR data is not yet available. The M-89 site was monitored beginning July 1. The lowest temperature recorded was 56 F and the highest temperature was 76 F. The average daily temperature fluctuation was 5-8 F, and the maximum fluctuation was 12 F. The average July temperature was 65 F. Only 4 days between July 1 and August 31 reached 74 F for at least 1 hour.

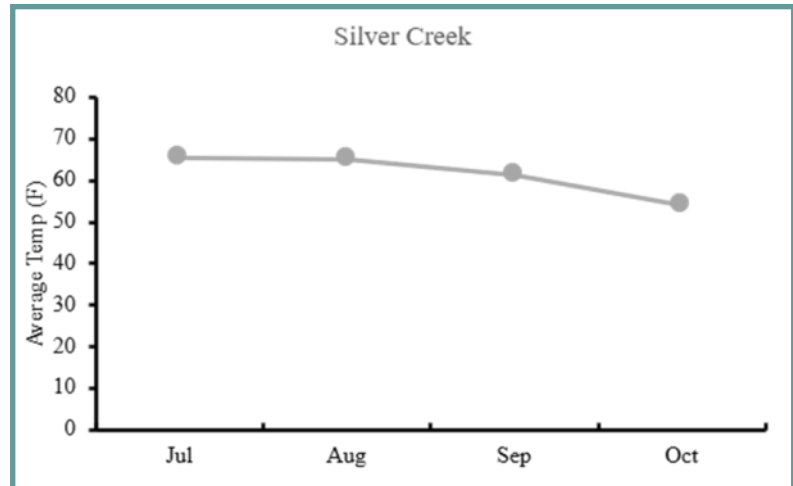
Here is what we learned from our limited temperature monitoring on these 5 streams. First and foremost, and this shouldn't be a big surprise to you, all of these streams fluctuate widely virtually every day during the summer. Hot days and cool evenings provide the greatest temperature fluctuations. Every stream showed the same pattern, with the lowest temperatures occurring between 6 am and 9 am, and peak temperatures occurring 5 pm to 9 pm. While Silver, Campbell and Portage are fishable just about anytime of the day, you can count on cooler temperatures and likely better fishing by seeking out those cooler time periods, morning to early afternoon. This is especially important if you just have to go out on a hot day. Avoid the evening "hatch" because its probably not going to happen!

For 2025, temperature recorders will be deployed prior to the trout opener and removed in late October/early November. Having a complete picture of the warm months is more beneficial, as temperatures are getting warmer and

KVCTU COMPLETES STREAM TEMPERATURE MONITORING

warmer each year, and earlier. June was a very warm month in 2024 but we unfortunately didn't get all the recorders out early enough to capture the entire summer. This will be corrected in 2025, and monitoring will include Bear Creek, Dickinson Creek (Calhoun County), Augusta Creek (Kalamazoo County), Silver Creek, and the East Branch of the Paw Paw River (Van Buren County).

Finally, the chapter is collecting this information, in collaboration with DNR and MITU, to better understand where we invest our time and money, and to inform membership of trout fishing opportunities near home. There are some great "blue lines" in SW Michigan, and the Stream Team will continue to inform you of our important work.



“Beyond the Stream: Michigan Trout Unlimited’s Youth Conservation and Trout Camp”

A Film by Robert Thompson

You are cordially invited to join us for the film premier at the beautiful Wealthy Theater in Grand Rapids

You can view the trailer [HERE](#) and see why camp is so great!

To learn more and [join us APRIL 6](#), get your \$10 ticket today!



SUPPORT CAMP!

If you are interested in contributing to camp, consider purchasing a 2025 donor pin.

This year's pin is designed by Kassidy Cavendish, a 2024 camper from the Mershon-Neumann Heritage Chapter.

Pins can be purchased at chapter meetings for \$10, or online at michigantucamp.org for \$20 (the additional fee covers shipping).

This year's Tie-a-Thon supports camp directly by donating flies to



our campers. [There is still time to sign up!](#) Pick a pattern from the list and tie 100 flies to donate. Thank you for supporting camp!



GEARING UP FOR CAMP

by Jon Chizmadia

KVCTU is once again proud to sponsor the 2025 Michigan Youth Conservation and Trout Camp.

Camp dates are June 16-20 at the Ralph A. MacMullen Center in Roscommon. Campers 13-16 years of age are encouraged to apply at michigantucamp.org by April 30th. The camp is limited to 20 participants, therefore a letter of recommendation and short essay explaining why the campers would like to attend camp is part of the application requirement.



Trout Camp is a life-changing experience!

showcase their talents by leading fly tying sessions. Campers that take to tying tend to fast-track their skills with these lessons. For campers who prefer conventional tactics the legendary Jim Bedford will teach skills in spinner building, fishing and stream etiquette.

This year's camp will once again focus on junior angler mentorship and introduce new anglers to coldwater conservation and sustainability. Camp will also cover key trout fishing techniques with fly tackle and conventional spinning gear. The intent is for entry level anglers to build the foundational skills and confidence to continue to grow into stewards and leaders in the outdoor industry. Many former campers have returned to camp as counselors, guides or other leaders in outdoor recreation space—a testament to the success of the camp over the past 27 years.

From tireless fundraising, cost for the 5 day camp is \$1000 with all food and lodging included in tuition. Campers will also receive their own fly rod and reel combo as well as a stylish chest pack loaded with necessary gear to take home following camp. Campers can apply for full or partial assistance with tuition through their local TU chapters.



For additional information or if you'd like to volunteer as a counselor, contact the camp directors at admin@michigantucamp.org.

In 1959 Trout Unlimited was founded on the banks of the Au Sable River in Grayling. Campers will visit some of the historic sites and meet many of the individuals who have contributed their life to coldwater conservation. Top fly tyers, including Tim Jacobs, Don Meyer and Hudson Phillips, will

2025 Michigan Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation and Trout Camp



When: June 16th through June 20th

Where: Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center
104 Conservation Dr. Roscommon, MI 48653

Who: First year campers 13-16 years of age

For applications and info go to:
Michigantucamp.org

For questions contact:
admin@michigantucamp.org



(Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, all equipment will be provided)

Space is limited, Please apply by April 30th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fly Tying with TU	March 13 6-8 pm	Smitty's Sport Shop, 1408 Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49037
KVCTU Annual Conservation Banquet	March 20 5-10 pm	The Fountains Banquet Center, 535 S Riverview Drive, Parchment 49004
Buy Your Fishing License	Monday April 1	MDNR
"Beyond the Stream" Film Premier	April 6 1-4 pm	Wealthy Theatre in Grand Rapids, 1130 Wealthy St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
KVCTU Monthly Meeting, Fly Tying and Swap Meet!	Thursday April 17	STAY TUNED!
Damsels Fly Women's Fly Fishing Class	Saturday May 3	Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Mattawan
KVCTU IF4 Film Tour Tie-One-On	TBD	STAY TUNED!
KVCTU Spring Outing	TBD	STAY TUNED!
Scalin' Up for Summer 2025	Saturday June 14	South Westnedge Park, 9010 S Westnedge Portage, MI 49002
MI TU Youth Conservation and Trout Camp	Mon-Fri June 16-20	Conservation Dr Roscommon
Wa Wa Sum Summer Outing	TBD	STAY TUNED!

Thursday, March 20
Our 41st Fundraising Banquet
Don't Miss It!!

Slacklines

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