

TROUT TIMES



**Vanguard
Chapter**

Volume 18 Number 1 A Publication of Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited www.vanguardtu.org

VANGUARD CHAPTER COMPLETES ANGLER ACCESS ON PAINT CREEK

By Eli Stanesa, Vanguard Chapter Conservation Chair

ROCHESTER HILLS— Last fall as part of the Vanguard Chapter’s conservation program our Board of Directors resolved to build an angler access on Paint Creek. The location selected was an existing steep pathway from the parking lot at Gallagher Road Bridge down the bank to the edge of the creek. Through years of use this pathway had developed into a trench of exposed loose soil offering an easy path for erosion into the creek.

In February 2017, the Chapter sought and received approval for the project from the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. We then submitted a request for conservation funds to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club and were granted \$800 to complete the project. Both the Trailways Commission and the Clinton River Watershed Council wrote letters of support for our request.

Please see *PROJECT*, next page.



Old pathway down the bank to Paint Creek before stairway access project.

- INSIDE THIS ISSUE*
- *Dam Removal Plantings*
 - *Picnic in the Park*
 - *Lady Anglers*
 - *Ann Miller Presentation*
 - *Fly Tying Sessions*
 - *Salmon in the Classroom*
 - *Adopt-A-Stream Crews*
 - *President’s Corner*

MIDWEST FLY FISHING EXPO MEANS SPRING AROUND CORNER

By Joe Barker

WARREN—If you’ve ever been to the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, you know how informative and exciting the event is. If you haven’t been to the Expo, you don’t know what you’re missing.

The Vanguard Chapter will again have a booth at the Expo, which is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11, 2018, at Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road (at the intersection of Hayes Road), Warren, Michigan.

The Expo serves as a major fundraising event for the Chapter.

Please see *EXPO*, next page.

EXPO

Continued from prior page.

Member volunteers will be selling \$5 raffle tickets. There are three great opportunities to win. First prize is a weekend for two on a date of your choice at Au Sable Riverview Resort on the banks of the Au Sable River at McMasters Bridge.

For those of you not familiar with Riverview Resort, it is the location of the Chapter's annual Spring Outing. The resort is a top notch facility with a large lodge and several cabins overlooking one of the better fishing sections of the river. It is overseen by the Chapter member Tom Quail, who also runs the resort's fly shop and convenience store adjacent to the cabins.

Second prize is an Au Sable River guided trip with well-known, expert fishing guide Kelly Neuman. If you visit the Expo, Kelly will have a booth there as part of his Streamside Custom Rod & Guide Service. Stop by and say hello, and thank him for his contribution to the Chapter's fundraising efforts.

Third prize is also fantastic. Chapter member Jim Weiser has custom built a 7'6", 2-piece, 5-weight, fiberglass fly rod. Jim is a veteran, talented rod builder so you won't want to miss out on this opportunity.

Tickets can be purchased ahead of the Expo either at monthly membership meetings or online at the Vanguard Chapter website, www.vanguardtu.org.

The Chapter shares the booth with Vanguard Fly Tying where I'll (Joe Barker) will be selling my shadow boxes with framed salmon, steelhead, and trout flies, along with fish-catching guaranteed trout flies. I'm more than willing to provide advice on what are the hot flies for this year, and what flies may be most effective during the Chapter's Spring Outing in mid-May.

See you at the Expo!

PROJECT

Continued from prior page.



New stairway and native plantings completed by Vanguard Chapter members.

In late May and early June of last year, the materials were purchased and the individual steps were constructed at a member's home. They consisted of pressure-treated timbers cut and spiked together to form rectangular frames.

After finishing the frames, they were transported to the site, and on a rainy Saturday in late July, eight volunteers worked for four hours to install the stairway. After excavating for the individual steps, they were spiked together and secured to the slope with rebar. The steps were then filled with crushed stone.

When the stairway was finished, a representative from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission made recommendations and prepared a plan for replanting the site with native Michigan plants.

In September, the plants were picked up at a nursery in Mason, Michigan, specializing in native plantings, carried to the site, and planted in about three hours by five Chapter members. There were more than 75 plants consisting of wild ginger, Muskingum sedge, shrubby cinquefoil, shrubby St. John's wort, golden

Alexanders, heart-leaved asters, tussock sedge, and zigzag goldenrod.

The project was completed within our budget using a total of about 100 volunteer hours.

More Than 75 Native Plants Were Planted Along the New Stairway Access Site

The expected benefits from the project are the creation of a long-term structure facilitating access to the creek; increased bank stabilization for the creek; reduced erosion into the creek; and enhancement of trout habitat.

TROUT TIMES

Published by the Vanguard
Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Joe Barker, Editor

Jeff Gerwitz, Chapter President

www.vanguardtu.org

DAM REMOVAL SITE GETS MUCH NEEDED ASSIST FROM VANGUARD MEMBERS

By Jeff Gerwitz



A before look at the Rudd Mill Dam site before the planting activities.

ROCHESTER HILLS— Vanguard members Frank Penkala, Eli Stanesa, and Jeff Gerwitz spent a Saturday morning this last fall with crews from the Clinton River Watershed Council and members of the Clinton Valley Chapter of TU where over 150 plants at multiple sites on Paint Creek were planted.

The first location was at Kern and Clarkson Roads where large graffiti covered slabs of concrete had been removed. The following is an excerpt from the press release sent out by Orion Township about the removal:

"After months of planning and coordinating with many local, state, nonprofit and private partners, on September 25, 2017 Superior Excavating began work in the area of Clarkston Rd. and Kern Rd. removing the Rudds Mill Dam remnants. The removal of the Rudds Mill Dam remnants is truly great day for our ecosystem. For over 100 years the remnants of the dam has been

restricting the natural flow of Paint Creek. We are extremely fortunate to work with so many dedicated individuals in our community. Those individuals working on the project donated their time and resources to protecting and preserving our natural resources. We would like to thank Superior Excavating, Jack Warren, DEQ, MDNR, Clinton River Watershed Council, SEMCOG, RCOC and Paint Creek Trailways Commission."

About half of the plants were installed at the dam site on both sides of the creek. If you have not been to this part of the creek lately stop by. It has turned into a very beautiful site.

The second location was just north of Silverbell Road. The township and trail commission just completed a major project here to remediate significant

Please see *PLANTING*, next page.

VANGUARD PICNIC IN THE PARK

By Jeff Gerwitz

ROCHESTER—For the second year in a row we started the new TU year with a picnic in lieu of a regular membership meeting. On September 17th we had more than thirty Vanguard members and family meet at the pavilion in Rochester Municipal Park.

We were blessed with a gorgeous day, great food, and interesting conversations. The Chapter provided the brats and hot dogs and everyone brought a dish to pass so we had plenty of food. Since there were only two weeks left to fish Paint Creek, some of us got in some fishing in the park with some pretty good results.

We will do the same thing next year so plan on bringing your family out. It's a nice park, you can fish Paint Creek and the pond is full of fish, which makes it great for the kids to fish. I hope to see you there.



Vanguard members and family enjoy the second annual picnic at Rochester Park.

PLANTING

Continued from prior page.

erosion. The plants will help stabilize the bank above the work.

The final location was at Ludlow Rd. in the City of Rochester. CVTU has been working at this site for several years to repair the damage that was done when a large mound of dirt was left behind after the installation of an angler access.



Tree planting activities along Paint Creek at Silverbell Road.



The Kern Road planting site.

Lady Anglers in Action

ROCHESTER—Vanguard Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sponsoring a clinic for lady anglers. The clinic will be led by Board member Mary Rosenbusch.

Mary and her team will be introducing fly fishing to interested female participants. Students will learn the basics in casting, fly tying, knots, and many other aspects of the sport of fly fishing. The all-day clinic will be held at Van Hoosen Farm on July 14, 2018 in Rochester, Michigan.

The casting instruction will be led by Jane and Perry Picard, and knot tying by Katie Ferner, the fishing manager from Orvis Royal Oak. Presentations will be made by noted author and fly fishing guru Ann Miller, and by Vanguard President Jeff Gerwitz on the subject of conservation.

There will be raffles (including fly rods, flies, and fly boxes for participants), lunch, a fashion show, and the opportunity by women to put their new skills to the test by fishing in Stoney Creek.

All fisherwomen should mark their calendars for this special event. The itinerary can be found in the drop down tab under EVENTS/OUTINGS on the Vanguard Chapter website.

To sign up for this fantastic experience, contact Mary Rosenbusch at southernlady212@hotmail.com. The cost of the clinic is \$25. You may pay for the clinic from our **Make a Donation** drop down tab. Fill in the information and in the **Write a Note** section add a message that this is for the Lady Anglers in Action clinic and submit.



October Membership Meeting Features Author Ann Miller

By Jeff Gerwitz

ROCHESTER HILLS—The guest speaker at our October membership meeting was Ann Miller, Michigan author and aquatic biologist. If you weren't there you missed one of our best meetings.

Her presentation about mayflies in Michigan streams was very enlightening and educational. In case you did not know (which I didn't), mayfly nymphs come in four types – crawlers, clingers, burrowers, and swimmers; and each type prefers a different type of substrate or streambed.

Crawlers like gravel, clingers like cobble, burrowers like silt, and swimmers like all types. So if you pay attention to the stream bed that you are standing on, you should have a pretty good idea of the nymphs that are in your area. Or, if you are going to fish a particular hatch, you will know what type of area to fish in.

During her presentation, she had amazing videos of nymphs on the stream bed, swimming to the surface, struggling to emerge from their husks, and finally flying away. These videos showed that contrary to popular belief it only takes seconds for the fly to get out of its husk and fly away.

Ann's book, *Hatch Guide for Upper Midwest Streams*, lists each type of fly, what type of substrate that it lives in, when it hatches, and which flies imitate it during each phase. I would think that having this information should greatly improve your chances for successful fishing.

If you have a chance to catch one of her presentations, don't pass up the opportunity.

FLY TYING SESSIONS BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE

By Jeff Gerwitz

ROCHESTER HILLS— After the summer break we got back to tying flies in September. Here are the flies that we have tied so far.

The fly for September's fly tying session was a Fur Ant.



Hook: 1X-fine dry fly hook (here a TMC100), sizes 16-20.

Thread: Black, 6/0 or 140-denier.

Body segments: Black and brown Australian possum dubbing, mixed.

Hackle: Dark dun or black hackle, trimmed top and bottom.

There are plenty of ant patterns out there, but it's tough to beat the classic Fur Ant. Author and blogger Matt Grobert makes tying the fly seem ridiculously easy. Who would think that a couple of dubbing balls and some hackle could fool so many fish? Because the fly can be hard to see on the water, trailing it behind another dry is a great tactic. Here is a link to the video - <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-how-to-tie-the-fur-ant>

The fly for October's fly tying session was the Krystal Bugger.



Hook: Sizes 4-10 Tiemco 5262

Thread: UTC 140

Tail: Marabou

Rib: UTC Brassie Wire

Body: Ice Chenille

Hackle: Woolly Bugger Hackle

The Krystal Woolly Bugger is a variation of the traditional Woolly Bugger streamer. The Krystal Bugger is tied the same way and Ice Chenille is substituted for the body material. This adds flash and a bit of bulk to the fly. The Krystal Bugger can be tied in many different colors. Black, pearl, olive, red, orange, and brown are the best and most used colors. The Krystal Bugger is a great fly for a beginner or intermediate to tackle. The large size and simple materials list make it a great introduction into tying steamer flies. Here is a link to a video for this fly - <http://intheriffle.com/fishing-videos/fly-tying/krystal-bugger>

The fly for November's fly tying session was the Less Mess Moorish Mouse.



Hook: Gamakatsu SP11-3L3H, size 1.

Thread: Brown 6/0 or 140-denier.

Tail/Body: Brown Zoned Pine Squirrel.

Back: 2mm Brown Craft Foam.

Adhesive: UV-cure resin

The Morrish Mouse is the brainchild of Ken Morrish, an angler/writer/photographer from Oregon who designed the pattern for the big rainbows of Kamchatka. What makes the Morrish Mouse so great is that offers a rodent-

Please see *FLY TYING*, next page.

FLY TYING

Continued from prior page.

like profile in the water, but isn't that difficult to cast, even on a 5-weight rod. The Morrish Mouse has become far and away the most popular mouse pattern across the country.

This fly is a simpler, less messy version of the Morrish Mouse. The original pattern requires the tier to spin and flare several bunches of deer hair on the shank, but this recipe replaces all that work with a wrapped strip of Zonker pine squirrel. You lose some of the fly's buoyancy, but some anglers like the fly to ride lower in the water anyway. So if you've ever been intimidated by mouse patterns, give this simple one a try.

Here is a link to a video for this fly.
<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-tie-less-mess-morrish-mouse>

The fly for December's fly tying session was the PM Blonde.



Hook: #6-10 Nymph or streamer
Thread: Cream 6/0 or 140 denier
Tail: Marabou
Dubbing: Cream
Eyes: Black mono
Hackle: Cream

The PM Blonde is a favorite salmon fly in Michigan, but can be used for almost any species of fish and is fished like any streamer. It represents the Ephemerella nymph, which is a burrowing mayfly in the Great Lakes region.

The fly for January's fly tying session was the Electric Caddis.



Hook: Daiichi 1130 "Scud Hook"
Thread: Chartreuse 8/0
Head: Caddis Green, Nymph-Head Heavy Metal™ tungsten bead
Abdomen: Chartreuse Ultra Wire inserted into Clear Stretch Tubing wrapped over a base of tying thread
Thorax: Brown Ostrich Herl (Burned on top and coated with Instant Epoxy)
Tail: Chartreuse Antron Yarn

This caddis nymph is a great imitation of free-living caddis found in water systems all across the United States. It can be tied in a variety of colors and sizes so experiment away. This pattern features a tungsten bead head.

If you have not been to one of our fly tying sessions yet, they are held on the third Thursday of each month at Avery's Tavern @ 7:30 p.m. Stop by and tie or just talk fishing and enjoy a cold beer.

Fly Tying Sessions Are Open to Everyone with Equipment and Material Provided

Avery's Tavern is located in the shopping center at the northwest corner of Crooks Road and M-59. All materials are provided. Bring your vise and tools, if you have them. Our chapter has several sets of tying equipment that can be used by participants. Experienced tyers, total beginners, and all experience levels in between are welcome at these sessions. Please stop by and join in the fun!

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM GROW WITH TU SUPPORT

By Joe Barker



KALAMAZOO—This past year, 44 teachers statewide, grades K-12, were sponsored in the Salmon in the Classroom program by Trout Unlimited Chapters in Michigan. That amounts to 18% of all the schools that participate in the Michigan DNR program.

This past November, I had the opportunity at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery near Kalamazoo to distribute batches of salmon eggs to teachers from across Western Michigan. Members from the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter also participated in the weeklong activity.

In addition to the eggs, teachers are provided food pellets and instructions on how to care for the hatching juvenile salmon. As a condition of participating in the program, teachers are required to undergo training.

More than 250 schools participate in Michigan, involving some 25,291 students. The Vanguard Chapter has sponsored Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion.

ADOPT-A-STREAM CREWS FROM VANGUARD MONITOR PAINT CREEK



Vanguard members Sherry Walla and John Sabina sort their bugs.

ROCHESTER—In October, Vanguard members completed stream monitoring of Clinton River watershed streams, which includes Paint Creek, for aquatic insects as part of the Adopt-A-Stream program. Frank Penkala, Dave Watson, and Larry Walla represented the Vanguard Chapter as crew leaders, with Tom Lasek, Sherry Walla, and John Sabina serving as crew members.

Matt Einheuser of the Clinton River Watershed Council directed the activity and provided an analysis of the results from the various crews in order to better understand the health of the Clinton River watershed. In all, a total of 45 sites were monitored in 2017 between spring and fall.

Crews battled rain and high flows in both the spring and fall, which had an effect on both the bugs and monitoring efforts and efficiency.

According to Matt, when looking at scores from spring 2017 results, 37.2% of sites were classified as “Poor,” 46.5% were classified as “Fair,” and 16.3% were classified as “Good.” As for fall

2017 results, 26.8% of sites were classified as “Poor,” 43.9% were classified as “Fair,” and 26.8% were classified as “Good.” There was one site that scored in the excellent range.

Almost all the subwatersheds had a variety of “Fair” and “Poor” sites. Most sites that were determined to be good were located within the Upper Clinton subwatershed. Most of these sites had an abundance of multiple macroinvertebrate families. The four most abundant macros found within the watershed in the fall monitoring were scud, midge, net spinning caddis fly, and damselfly.

Midge fall under group 3 or “tolerant” insect species to water quality issues, while the other three fall under group 2 or “somewhat sensitive.” Overall, across the entire watershed most of the Clinton River streams were categorized as “fair.” The one site that scored in the excellent range was located in the Upper Clinton subwatershed in a preserve.

According to Matt’s analysis, when looking at annual average scores compared over the last three years,

roughly 42% of the sites are showing trends that indicate improvement. Meanwhile, 33% show little to no change, and 25% showed trends that indicate a decrease in scores.

After macroinvertebrates are collected from a stream and identified, a “Stream Quality Score” is calculated and the stream location is ranked. Data can be found on the CRWC website: <http://www.crw.org/programs/adoptastram/results/>.

VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Jeff Gerwitz..... (248) 656-9439

Vice President
Eli Stanesa..... (248) 709-7949

Treasurer
Joe Swantek..... (586) 214-6015

Secretary
Tom Lasek..... (248) 686-6233

Directors
Scott Hummon..... (248)318-3770
Ron Elzerman..... (248) 656-3591
Ron Deaton..... (248)408-7483
Mary Rosenbusch..... (248) 375-0892

Advisors
Tom Quail.....(248) 495-2615
Larry Butts..... (248) 408-8595
Jeremy Geist..... (248) 877-7256
Roger Larock.....

STREAMSIDE
Custom Rod & Guide Service

Guided Float Trips - Custom Rods - Online Sales - Files - Fishing Calendar
Fishing Report - Photo Gallery - Maps - Contact - Home

Michigan Fly Fishing the AuSable River, Betsie River, Rifle River, Platte River, Manistee River and Lake Huron

Any questions or to book your trip – just email
at kelly@michiganstreamside.com
or call at 989-889-5374.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jeff Gerwitz



Even though it is winter and most of us haven't touched a rod in months, the Chapter has been very busy with planning for the upcoming year. First of all, we will be participating in the CVTU banquet again. This banquet will be held at the Rivercrest Banquet Facility on March 24th. Besides being a lot of fun, this has become our second most important fundraiser for the year. If you plan to go, make sure you buy your tickets through Vanguard. You may purchase them on our website or at our meetings. If you want to purchase them on our website use the "Make a Donation" drop down tab. Fill in the information and in the "Write a Note" section add a message that this is a purchase for Banquet tickets and submit.

We are also planning for the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, which will be held on March 10 & 11. We will have our booth at the same spot and as usual will share it with Joe Barker and Vanguard Fly Tying. I'm sure I'll see a lot of you there. We will send you an email in about a month, through Sign-up Genius where you can volunteer to work our booth.

One of our most exciting conservation projects for this year will be on Paint Creek. Michigan Trout Unlimited (MITU) evaluated in-stream habitat on Paint Creek through the River Stewards Program in 2015. One of the

problem areas identified was that Paint Creek has a limited amount of in-stream woody habitat, especially in the lower river. To address this issue and to maximize aquatic habitat, we are planning a habitat improvement project in the creek near DHNP.

The work will focus on increasing the amount of woody habitat while addressing the issue of log jams and associated problems. In areas where log jams have become a problem, the stream channel will be opened by removing portions of the jam. The logs that are removed will then be arranged in a more favorable position and anchored to the streambed.

In addition, in areas where in-stream habitat is limited and wood has otherwise been washed downstream, we will obtain logs from the riparian area and secure them to the stream channel.

We will get more information to you as our planning progresses. If any of you want to help with the planning phase, please get in touch with Eli Stanesa. There will also be some large woody debris removals with the Clinton River Watershed Council and possibly another angler access. Stay tuned for more information.

Large woody debris removals are planned for Clinton Watershed

Lastly, we will have our annual fishing weekend at Riverview Resort in May. If you are interested, please contact Scott Hummon. Don't wait too long as this is a very popular trip and spots go quick.

For more information on any of the above, just come to one of our meetings or fly tying sessions. If you are unable to get to one, you can always use our website: vanguardtu.org.

AU SABLE
RIVERVIEW
RESORT



AU SABLE RIVERVIEW RESORT

- 20 Miles East of Grayling, MI - 20 Miles West of Mio, MI
- Picturesque Lodge/Resort on Au Sable River at McMasters Bridge
- Unmatched Scenery!
- Lodge, Cabins, Loft available Daily, Weekly, Weekends
- For current Pricing Visit: www.ausablecabins.com
- Call: (989) 344-2164 or Toll Free (855) 687-9501
- Email: cabins@ausablecabins.com



CUSTOM FLY TYING and FRAMED SALMON, STEELHEAD & TROUT FLIES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

All flies and frames are custom made with over 30 years' experience by Joe Barker, a commercial fly tyer and fishing guide, and member of the Vanguard Chapter, Trout Unlimited.

See my website at: www.vanguardflytying.com

Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited – Au Sable Riverview Resort
2018 Annual FunRaiser Outing

May 18^{Fri.}, 19^{Sat.} & 20^{Sun.} of 2018
(Bonus Day May 17^{Thurs.})



<http://www.ausablecabins.com/>

Includes:

- Two (or 3) nights accommodations at Au Sable Riverview Resort
- ***Bonus*** The property is open to those who would like to arrive on Thursday at **no additional cost* No meals until Friday night***
- Friday night fish fry, get acquainted
- Saturday morning Breakfast
- Saturday Lunch for the river
- Saturday night dinner
- Sunday morning Breakfast

Note: *** Bring your own liquid refreshments ***

*** All participants to assist with meal prep, clean-up and Accommodations clean-up ***

Still Only \$150 per person.

Arrive early on Thursday or Friday and stay until mid afternoon on Sunday

Right on the banks of the Au Sable River at McMasters Bridge, just minutes away from the entire Au Sable watershed- Main, North and South Branch Au Sable, Manistee, Black, Pigeon, Sturgeon, Jordan and Boardman rivers.

Full payment of \$150 confirms your space. Make checks out to: **Vanguard Chapter T.U.**

Send to: Scott Hummon – 1334 N. Fairview – Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Call Scott @ (248) 318-3770 or E-mail SHummon@Vanguardtu.org for availability. Sorry, NO REFUNDS.

Space is Limited. **Full Payment confirms your spot. First come, first served.**