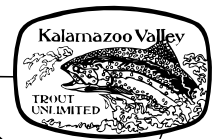




Slacklines



The official publication of the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited • Winter 2008

KVCTU Calendar of Events

January 10, 2008 Board Meeting

Gander Mountain, 7pm
Members welcome.

January 17, 2008 Captain Brian Meszaros, Great Lakes Flyfishing LLC "Fly Fishing Lake St. Clair"

The Fountains, 535 S. Riverview,
Parchment. Starts at 6pm.
Fly Fishing Lake St. Clair is an interactive digital presentation by renowned Guide/Author Capt. Brian Meszaros. "Fly Fishing Lake St. Clair" will focus on species indicative to the fishery and tactics/techniques implemented towards their pursuit. Please RSVP to Terry Wittorp at 269/424-5138 or email terryflyfish@hotmail.com

February 14, 2008 Board Meeting

Gander Mountain, 7pm
Members welcome.

February 28, 2008 Jon Ray, Hawkins Outfitters "Large Trout on Hoppers"

The Fountains, 535 S. Riverview,
Parchment. Starts at 6pm.
Jon Ray, of Hawkins Outfitter's Fly Fishing Guide, has guided fly anglers in Michigan and Colorado for the last eight years. Jon's first love is chasing large resident trout with streamers and dry flies. Come out to this meeting and learn about hopper fishing for large trout. Please RSVP to Terry Wittorp at 269/424-5138 or email terryflyfish@hotmail.com.



Captain Brian Meszaros, our January speaker and a friend.

March 1, 2008 Annual Tie-A-Thon

Elkhart Conservation Club, 9am-4pm
Last year's Tie-A-Thon was a huge success. Over 3,500 flies were donated to the Kalamazoo Valley Trout Unlimited youth camp.

March 13, 2008 Board Meeting

Gander Mountain, 7pm
Members welcome.

March 29, 2008 Annual Conservation Banquet

The Fountains, 535 S. Riverview,
Parchment. Starts at 6pm.
Watch your mailbox for your invitation to this annual FUNdraising event.

April 10, 2008 Board Meeting

Gander Mountain, 7pm
Members welcome.

April 17, 2008 Dr. Brian Burroughs MCTU Exec. Director

The Fountains, 535 S. Riverview,
Parchment. Starts at 6pm.
Learn about the conservation issues facing Michigan Council Trout Unlimited from your new Executive Director.

April 19, 2008 Adopt-A-Highway

Contact Dick Chamberlin at 269/671-4507 or rhchambe@tds.net to join.

May 16-18, 2008 Chapter Spring Outing Schmidt Outfitters

Wellston, MI
For information contact Barney Naylor at (269) 217-1382 or ispey@yahoo.com

July 12-14, 2008 WaWaSum Outing

Grayling, MI
For information contact Don Squires at (269) 649-2046 or alliswc@mindspring.com

July 6-10, 2008 Michigan Youth Trout Camp

Ralph A. MacMullan Conference
Center on Higgins Lake
Volunteers needed. Contact
Ken Nuorala (269) 731-5137 or
kenbighorn@earthlink.net

About the meetings

All meetings are at The Fountains and open to the public. 6pm Wetlines/ Cocktails, 7pm Dinner and 8pm Program. No smoking at all meetings.

PLEASE NOTE: All meetings are held at The Fountains, 535 S. Riverview in Parchment

The George L. Disborough Research Grant Thank You

Dear Committee,

I am writing to thank you for your financial support of my master's research entitled "Modeling regional colonization and local food web dynamics of the New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)". I received the George L. Disborough Research Grant in 2005 and am happy to report the completion of my master's research, in which I have enclosed a copy of my thesis for the Kalamazoo Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The thesis can also be found online at http://www1.usu.edu/buglab/projects/Tarita_Harju_Thesis.pdf. Manuscripts are in prep for both chapters of my thesis and you will receive copies of the peer reviewed literature.

On a personal note, I am very grateful for your support as my husband and I unexpectedly started a family this year. The George L. Disborough Research Grant helped speed the completion of my master's, as I was able to defend in March 2007, well ahead of our son's birth in June. Photos of our happy family are online at <http://harjudoin.blogspot.com>.

Sincerely, Tarita Harju

Flies Needed for the special table Jim Wellever creates and donates to the Banquet.

Please ID the pattern.
Flies needed by March, 1, 2008.
Send to Jim Wellever
1076 27th St., Allegan, MI 49010
or call 269/673-8924

Our thanks to Kelly Galloup at the Slide Inn for his donation to our chapter at the conclusion of our group's trip this year.

Next time you're in Montana, stop in to the Slide and thank him personally or send an email to: slideinn@3rivers.net

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From the President

by Greg Potter

Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization, not a fly fishing club. I know you've heard that a lot lately and it's true. What's also true is that T.U. was started by a bunch of pretty talented guys that happened to like catching wild trout with a fly rod. My guess is most of our members came to Trout Unlimited because they enjoy the company of other trout fishers and they too occasionally if not exclusively fish with a fly rod. I think it was Jim Harrison that wrote not all naturalists are fly fishermen, but all fly fishermen are naturalists.

From time to time I'm asked to speak to civic or conservation groups about watershed issues. Why pay for a speaker that knows what they are talking about when you can get some Gomer with a fly rod for free? I usually start my program with a picture of my daughter Ali holding a brown trout on the Pere Marquette River. I remind the audience that there are people that through neglect, indifference, greed or with malice in their heart would do harm to the young lady, the river that surrounds her and the trout that live in the river.

Working alone none of us can insure the future of our rivers, our trout or the health and opportunities of our next generation of anglers and conservationists. Luckily Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, your chapter, has 500 members — some would say 500 characters. Five hundred individuals joined together on the same mission to protect, conserve and restore our coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

All of us bring unique talents, skills and capacities to our chapter's good work. I attended chapter meetings for a few years before writing my first membership check to Trout Unlimited. Back then most of the other members' fly rods cost more than my truck. Things have gotten a little better, now even my fly rods are worth more than my truck. I was one of the younger

guys then, so I contributed by cutting brush and moving rock. A few years later I joined the Resource Committee, volunteered at the youth camp, and eventually joined the board.

All our personal situations are different. Some may have time to



A proud angler, Ali Potter displays her catch on the Pere Marquette River

contribute; others may not have the time and contribute by writing that yearly membership check. Maybe you can attend a few meetings, help out on some projects or go up north to one

of our annual outings. Whatever your involvement I want you to know that it is sincerely appreciated. You are always welcome and encouraged to attend any and all events, outings and meetings.

As I write this seasons are changing in Michigan. Most of the leaves are down but I think it will be a few weeks before we see any measurable snow and true winter is still over a month away. I just returned from my last real fishing trip of the season. This is a good thing because my fly boxes are about empty. Thanksgiving, one of my favorite holidays, is just a few days away. Soon we will be hanging hooks decorated with tinsel and ribbon in the limbs of trees on purpose. Brown trout will be spawning soon. The joy of Christmas and the hope that a New Year brings will soon be with us.

Seasons are changing in our chapter too. Terry Wittorp has completed two very successful years as Chapter President. A lot of good things happened under Terry's leadership most notably the first meander was restored in Dowagiac River and our chapter received yet another Silver Trout award. This is where I'm supposed to thank him for his service, but Terry is involved in so much of what we do that I have the feeling he isn't done yet.

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season,
Greg Potter

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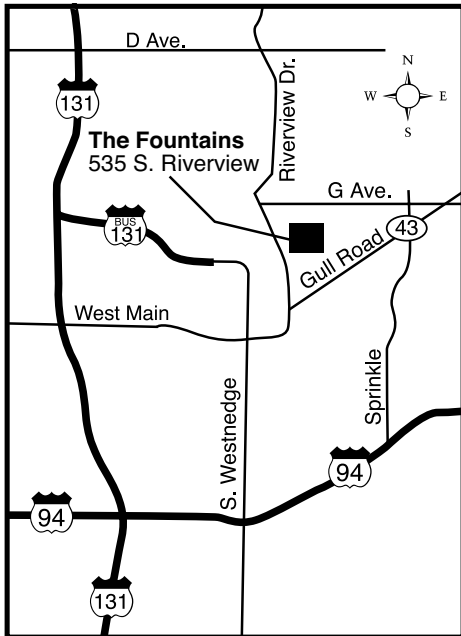
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PLEASE NOTE:
**The location of our
 monthly meetings has
 changed to The Fountains
 535 S. Riverview in
 Parchment, MI**



Let's Go Fishing — KVCTU'S 2008 Spring Outing May 16–18 at Schmidt Outfitters

by Barney Naylor

Mark your calendar for May 16–18, 2008 if you wish to attend KVCTU's Spring Outing at Schmidt Outfitters in Wellston, Michigan. To learn more about our accommodations go to www.schmidtoutfitters.com for details. The cost for the outing is \$125 and the first day to sign up is at our general membership meeting in January. In the past this outing has filled up the Schmidt's on the first sign-up night. This is on first-come-first-serve and the first 26 people to sign up will be staying at Schmidt's and those signing up after that will be in the overflow accommodations down the street. Your \$125 includes two nights lodging Friday and Saturday night, two hearty breakfasts, dinner Friday night and on Saturday dinner is cooked by Chefs Schmidt and Wittorp. You are on your own for lunch and fish are not included. This is usually a great time of year to fish the river and streams in the area. The streamer and nymph is usually good to very good and dry fly fishing is just getting started. Soft hackles are usually productive and booking a float trip with one of Schmidt's guides will really improve your success. The rivers within a twenty minute drive include the Manistee, Little Manistee, Bear Creek, Pine River and numerous little creeks. Rivers within a forty five minute drive include the Pere Marquette, upper reaches of the Manistee, Big Sauble and the Boardman River. With so many rivers, there is always an option that suits your fishing style.

For more information, call Barney Naylor at (269)388-3327.

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KVCTU Past Presidents, Members of the Year, Emergers and Volunteers

Past Presidents: Ed Sutton, Bob Jackson, Dan Crockett, Max Tittle, Mick Kolassa, Tom White, Mark Freeman, Dennis Martin, Mahlon Lantz, Paul Tulgetske, Merrill Katz, Ed Hoover, David Gunnell, Barney Naylor, Ken Nuorala and Terry Wittorp

Past Members of the Year: Mick Kolassa (86), Tom White and Lou Kollar (98), Mark Freeman, Charles Maltby (93), Marshall and Sharon Champion, Jared Arnold, Patrick Connelly (83), Herb Spencer (84), Merrill Katz (89), Ellen Beyerlein, Mahlon Lantz, Rick Schmitt, Tom Krol (85), Ed Hoover, Paul Tulgetske, Dennis Martin (88), Richard Chamberlin (99), Barney Naylor (01), Dave Gunnell (03), Greg Potter (02), Ken Nuorala (04), Terry Wittorp (00), Mike Lagowski (05) and Pat Moskalik (06)

Past Emergers: L. Page Graves, Doug Potter, Dwayne Patrick, Pat Moskalik (04), Brad Parlato (05), Tim Kellum (03), Don Squires (02), Dave Gunnell, Greg Potter, Deb Dunsford (00), Steve Birman (05) and Gordon Lanker (06)

Volunteers of the Year: Arron and Lauren Wittorp, Andy Tulgetske, Becky Nuorala

Thank You Gander Mountain!

A special "Thank You" to Portage Gander Mountain for allowing us to use their meeting and classroom for KVCTU's meetings. They are always hospitable and we appreciate their generosity.

Sincerely, KVCTU Board

Michigan Youth Trout Camp

July 6–10, 2008

The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the Michigan Youth Trout Camp July 6–10, 2008 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, in the heart of Northern Michigan trout country. The four day camp is designed to educate our 12–16 year old boys and girls, that will become our next generation of conservation leaders, about the importance of protecting our coldwater resources. Campers will learn that how we choose to use our land can effect the health of our streams, our trout and ourselves. We will have discussions on stream restoration and together we will complete a stream improvement project. Campers collect and learn to identify macro-invertebrates that are important to trout and learn what they can tell us about water quality and stream habitat. Students will discover what trout need to survive, where they hide and how to catch a few with help from some of Michigan's leading conservationist and anglers.

In the evening the students get to test their new skills on the famous AuSable and Manistee Rivers, casting to beautiful brookies, spunky rainbows and big brown trout. All under the guidance of local experts and Trout Unlimited volunteers from around the state.

The camp is possible through the effort of Trout Unlimited Chapters and volunteers, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, the staff at Hartwick Pines State Park, Anglers of the AuSable, Upper Manistee River Restoration Council, Kalkaska and Calhoun County Conservation Districts, and individuals through out the state. Instructors participating in past camps have included these fine conservationist and anglers: Jim Bedford, Glen Blackwood, Mike Carl, Jim Johnson, Rusty Gates, Merrill Katz, Andy Nuefer, Steve Sendek, Ann Stephens, Steve Southard, Charlie Weaver, and Troy Zorn.

Contact Ken Nuorala (269) 731-5137 or kenbighorn@earthlink.net for more information.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED

12 MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT ENDING 10/02/07

INFLOW

ACTIVITY EVENTS AND CLINICS.....	\$ 8,678.95
BANQUET REVENUE.....	24,534.71
BANK INTEREST.....	81.17
SLACKLINES CHAPTER NEWSLETTER.....	324.00
SPRING OUTING FUND RAISER.....	3,123.00
WA WA SUM FUND RAISER.....	978.00
YOUTH CAMP EDUCATION.....	4,645.00
HABITAT PROJECTS.....	260.00
K.V.C.T.U. MEMORIAL FUND.....	270.00
DUSTIN ROBBINS MEMORIAL FUND.....	1,925.00
TOTAL INFLOW.....	\$44,819.83

OUTFLOW

ACTIVITY EVENTS AND CLINICS.....	\$ 7,584.86
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES.....	206.40
BANQUET EXPENSES.....	19,388.84
BANK CHARGES.....	69.75
SLACKLINES CHAPTER NEWSLETTER.....	2,145.57
SPRING OUTING FUND RAISER.....	2,708.20
WA WA SUM FUND RAISER.....	1,101.90
YOUTH CAMP EDUCATION.....	8,255.03
HABITAT PROJECTS.....	7,472.43
WEBSITE MAINTENECE.....	263.56
K.V.C.T.U. MEMORIAL FUND.....	200.00
DUSTIN ROBBINS MEMORIAL FUND.....	50.00
HISTORIAN MAINTENECE.....	67.60
TOTAL OUTFLOW.....	\$49,514.14

INFLOW, OUTFLOW NET BALANCE..... **\$-4,694.31**

ASSETS

BANK ACCOUNT.....	\$ 2,831.77
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OTHER K.V.C.T.U. ACCOUNTS

CAPITAL WORLD GROWTH STOCK.....	\$15,264.03
FLOYD EBERTS DONATION.....	11,976.42
TOTAL.....	\$27,240.45

LIABILITIES

2004 YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION PLEDGE OF.....	\$10,000.00
OWE.....	\$ 6,000.00

The KVCTU newsletter, *Slacklines*, is published three times a year (Winter, Spring and Fall). Post card reminders will be sent out as needed.

Check out our web site:
www.kvctu.org

Second Annual Tie-A-Thon to benefit the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock

Saturday March 1st, from 9am to 4pm at the Elkhart Conservation Club there will be a joint club tie-a-thon, between the Trout Unlimited Club of Kalamazoo, The Michigan Chapter of The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock and St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers. The goal is to tie and donate 2000 flies to The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock. The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock will use the flies for its youth camp.

Last year's Tie-A-Thon was a huge success. Over 3,500 flies were donated to the Kalamazoo Valley Trout Unlimited youth camp.

Currently the Brotherhood youth camp is lacking flies to give to its campers. These youngsters not only learn about fly fishing and the all the experiences that go along with it, the are each given a box of flies to keep the

interest long after the bon-fires of the camp are gone.

What is needed now is the sweat and toil to create the flies for these campers to have a successful time. Too many kids are sitting in front of TVs and if one box of flies get them outdoors and then spark an interest that can consume ones soul as it does with most of us, it is worth taking a day to tie.

This is great time to come together with and help out the other clubs and get to know some great members and tiers in the mid-Michigan area.

What I envision is we get 20 tiers or more, between the clubs — more would be welcome — but if we could get 20 tiers to tie 100 flies in one day, we could split the 2000 flies to their respective camps. Your time and materials will be graciously donated.

So it is not such a sweat shop, we are planning to have a guest tier each hour to show off a pattern that can be used on local streams. This is a time to share patterns that work well on our waters and learn from the other tiers some of their favorite patterns.

There are basic patterns that work well for the kids and at the camp site; here is a list of flies that we want you to tie: Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Caddis Nymph, Ants, Soft Hackles, Griffith gnats, Woolly Bugger Black, Mickey Finn, Hare's ear (tan), Pheasant tail and Prince Nymph.

If you are interested in tying or being a guest tier, please contact me — Tim Scott — 574-276-0689 or home 574-289-6392 or tes@gj-kf.ocm.

No matter how experienced a tier you are, join us to inspire the younger generation into the sport we love so much.

Slacklines

The official publication of
Kalamazoo Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited
1588 Spruce Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
www.kvctu.org

Tom Krol, Editor
Chuck Maltby, Cartoonist

Contributors: Tarita Harju, Greg Potter,
Barney Naylor, Ken Nuorala, Pat Moskalik,
and Tim Scott.

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