

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF
AMERICA'S LEADING NONPROFIT
COLDWATER FISHERIES
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

www.Mershon-TU.org

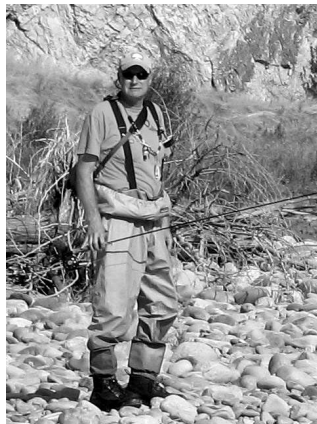
THE M E R S H O N
MUDDLER

◆ *Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited* ◆

1989, 1996 & 1997 RECIPIENT OF THE MICHIGAN COUNCIL TU CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Meanders

A few thoughts from
the president



Paul Morand, chapter president

Greetings,

One. It's a simple enough word but a word easily modified for different purposes. One less, for example, implies something not quite as good as hoped for. One more, something even better than expected. One also implies a unity and a single-mindedness of purpose. The idea of One Trout Unlimited was introduced during the 2010 National Convention, and in this case, I believe the sum is greater than the parts--a synergy involving chapters, state councils, and TU National, with each playing a vital role and one for which it is best suited.

One TU implies a common vision and set of values, flowing from the grassroots level, through state councils, and onto the national organization. The vision and mission of Trout Unlimited centers on long-term enhancement of wild trout populations and their habitats and incorporates the core ideals of Protect, Restore, Reconnect, and Sustain (PRRS). From the chapter to the national level, these core ideals provide a framework to focus and prioritize efforts to fulfill the goals of Trout Unlimited.

This past summer, members of the Mershon chapter worked towards the ideals of TU through habitat improvement projects on the Rifle and Au Sable Rivers, and we will continue to protect and restore these rivers through our

See *Meanders*, page 9

Calendar of Events

GRUB & GRIN GATHERING
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Dinner & drinks 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 7:30 p.m.
Robb Smith: Chilean Adventures
Damon's Grill
4960 Towne Centre Rd., Saginaw

◆
WALLEYE DINNERS
Monday, January 16, 2012
Monday, March 12, 2012
5:30 p.m. Dinner & Program
American Legion, Saginaw

GRUB & GRIN GATHERING
Wednesday, February 1, 2012
Dinner & drinks 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 7:30 p.m.
Todd Zwetzig: Fly Fishing for Carp
and Bass
Damon's Grill
4960 Towne Centre Rd., Saginaw

◆
SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET
Friday, April 20, 2012
Trillium Banquet Center, Saginaw.

MERSHON BOARD MEETINGS
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Gander Mountain, Saginaw

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
5:30 p.m. (before Grub & Grin)
Damon's Grill, Saginaw

Wednesday, January 4, 2012
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Gander Mountain, Saginaw

Fly-fishing and fly-tying classes set for January & February 2012

by Jac Ford, chapter vice president

For over 25 years, the Mershon chapter has offered fly-tying and fly-fishing classes. These inexpensive classes—which are designed for the novice fly fisherman—are similar to others taught by TU costing several hundred dollars.

Both five-week classes will be held from 7–9 p.m. at Swan Valley High School, beginning Tuesday, January 24th, for the fly-tying class and Wednesday, January 25th, for the fly-fishing class.



Youth, as well as adults, are invited to attend. There is a \$30 fee for each class, which includes all the materials you will need. No extra charge for the bigger-than-life tales!

Again this year, the classes will be taught by Mershon chapter director Jac Ford, with the assistance of several other chapter members.

Participants in the fly-tying class learn step-by-step fly-tying methods,



using videos developed for the class, and receive individual instruction. When completed, participants will have been exposed to the basic

techniques necessary to tie most flies successfully.

Participants will tie the following flies: Green Caddis Pupa, Hares-Ear nymph, Comparadun, Elk Hair Caddis, Roberts Yellow Drake, parachute and standard Adams, Egg-Suckin-Leech, floating mayfly emerger, and a poly-

wing mayfly spinner.

Equipment, materials, and use of the flies are discussed, and of course, there are the usual fishing stories.

The fly-fishing class is a basic class for people who have little or no knowledge of fly

fishing or casting. The class teaches the concepts of fly fishing and casting; how to use a rod, reel, backing, line, tippet, and flies; what the fish sees below and above the water; how to read and fish a river; and trout food (emergence chart for Michigan) and hatches. Students first hone their skills with a fly-o, then spend time in the school's gym casting with fly rods.

If you are interested in either of these classes, contact the Swan Valley Community Education office at 989-921-2471 or Jac Ford at 989-781-0997. ♦



Huron Pines, under the direction of Abby Ertel, has launched a 3-year project to upgrade the Rifle River Watershed. Funding received from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be used to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution entering the river from the watershed.



Volunteers deliver trees to the in-water crew.

The project has three components—update the watershed management plan, conduct on-the-ground restoration projects, and develop a strong environmental stewardship and outreach program. These efforts will not only include stream improvements, but will also go out to landowners and local governments.

On June 4, 2011, Mershon volunteers participated in a stream-bank erosion inventory day. This consisted of canoe floating various river segments to confirm previous improvements and identify areas in need of attention. Other inventories to be addressed under the project include road crossings, small dams, invasive species, storm water sources, and agriculture sites.

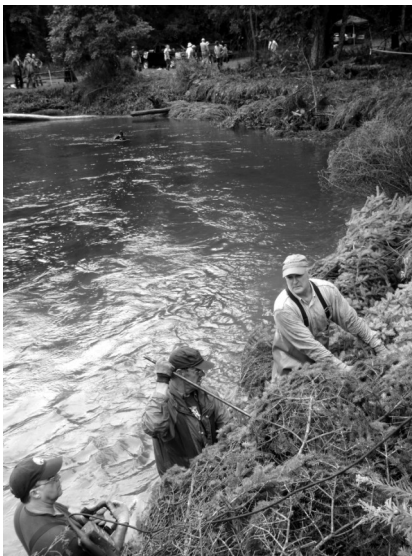
On August 20, 2011, over 40 volunteers from Mershon TU, Ann Arbor TU, and Huron Pines gathered

to complete a soil erosion extravaganza on the main stream. The selected site was 1.25 miles below M-55, with work consisting of tree revetments, biologs, brush bundles, and native plants. Lunch, beverages, and volunteer shirts were provided by Huron Pines.

Participants from the Mershon chapter included :

Bill Adams,
Martin Daenzer,
Bob Kren,
Allan Larsen,
Fred Manor,
Don Meyer,
Mike Meyer,
Dave Oeming,
Paul Morand,
Paul Samson,
Robb Smith, and
Bob Spence.

Stream improvement work will be ongoing, and we encourage chapter participation in these rewarding and fun days. ◆



Don Meyer, Bob Spence and Paul Morand install tree revetment .

Rifle River upgrade finished this summer

*by Bob Spence, Mershon chapter
director*



Volunteers secure biologs.

Project Healing Waters classes at the Saginaw VA Hospital start in November

by Jac Ford, chapter vice president

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active-duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings.

Again this year, the Mershon chapter will sponsor Project Healing Water fly-tying and fly-fishing classes at the Saginaw VA Hospital. With one class offered in November and December 2011, and two classes offered in both January and February 2012, we have a full year planned for veterans and active-duty personnel.

Project Healing Waters was founded in 2005 by a corps of dedicated local volunteers from Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers, using the nationally renowned Casting for Recovery program concept. The activities include lessons in basic and advanced fly fishing and fly tying techniques and frequent fly fishing trips for participants.

All services and activities of Project Healing Waters are provided to the participants at no cost. Fly-fishing

and tying equipment and materials are provided to the participants, including equipment that accommodates their special needs.

The Project works in two ways; both augment the work of the therapeutic services of the hospital: The fly tying program concentrates on teaching those with upper limb and vision injuries to use their hands and eyes to do the small tasks involved making fishing flies. While the therapeutic staff does wonderful work in helping the wounded and injured relearn the skills needed in

see a use for the flies tied and has the incentive to continue tying and developing the skills. With the relearning of the fine motor skills, often there is a considerable improvement in the emotional state of the patient.

The fly fishing program works with the wounded and injured patients to learn or relearn fly fishing, regardless of their injuries. The motions of fly fishing help develop damaged muscles and improve balance and mobility. The fishing trips help the patients relax in a

different environment from the hospital while he or she uses those skills and movements to catch fish. Again, the patient's emotional state is improved by going fly fishing.

While Project Healing Waters emphasizes the skills of fly fishing and fly tying to help the patients regain the use of their damaged bodies, perhaps the greatest benefit

is in their realization that a more normal life is possible. Fly fishing for all fish in all waters can be a lifelong re-creation, both physically and emotionally.

If you would like to help with this rewarding program, contact Jac Ford at canglers@gmail.com or 989-781-0997. For additional information, see the web site at www.projecthealingwaters.org. ♦



Bo Brines, of Little Forks Outfitters in Midland, teaches a "knot class."

normal living, they do not have the staff or the time to concentrate on those small tasks. Fly tying gives the patient an opportunity to relearn the fine motor skills he or she lost when wounded or injured. The patient can



Veteran practices a perfection loop.

Well, it's fall, so it is time to start planning and working on our spring fundraising banquet, which is tentatively set for April 20th, 2012.

Although that may seem like a long way off, there are a few decisions that need to be made and organizational issues that need to be completed. So, it is time to get our banquet committee together.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please consider serving on the committee. It is a one-project commitment that is fun, as well as

rewarding. Last year was my first year on the committee, and I joined the committee with some apprehension. But, it turned out to be fun and not a lot of work; **HOWEVER**, it does take more than two or three people to make it a fun activity.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE SPRING BANQUET COMMITTEE. If you are interested or just want more information, call me at 989-245-5819. ◆

Annual spring banquet planning under way, and we could use your help!

*by Don Albrecht,
spring banquet chairperson*

Again this past July, our Mershon chapter participated in the "Michigan TU Youth Trout Camp." Our chapter sponsored three campers this year—Adam Nowak, Eric Freeman, and Max Moore.

The camp was held at the Ralph A. MacMullan center on Higgins' Lake, July 10th through 14th, 2011. We had a total of 21 campers this year, including six girls, 15 boys and at least 16 adult counselors and assistants. Once again, we had a great group of young people and adults.

This year, camp was very well organized and very aggressive. We spent a lot of time in the Au Sable

River, its branches, and the Grayling Fish Hatchery. We are looking forward to another great year next July.

For information and forms, go to KVCTU.org, contact Bill Adams (989) 652-8328 or Paul Morand pmorand@hotmail.com.

The TU Youth Camp has been an exciting part of my summer for a number of years, and hope to be there again next July. ◆

TU Youth Camp a hit again this summer

*by Bill Adams, chapter advisor
and youth camp coordinator*



Tying the “Humpy”

by Don Albrecht, chapter director

When I was asked to do an article on tying a fly, my first thought was, “What fly can I pick that I really like to use that is different from the current vogue fly patterns?” Many times, I like to use older patterns, because I think the fish don’t see some of these patterns very often, and they seem to work well. So, I looked through my fly boxes and the “humpy” jumped out at me as one of the old versatile patterns that can be used many ways.

It floats like a cork, it is great in fast water, and it can be used as a mayfly imitation, an attractor, and as a terrestrial substitution. The only thing you need to change is the body color. A red body works very well as an attractor fly when nothing is happening on the water. A size #10 bright yellow or lime green body worked for me this summer as a hopper imitation when I ran out of my last hopper pattern one day on the Bighorn River. I have used an all-black pattern in the evening in ripple water, when it’s hard to see a fly on the water.

I keep yellow-, green-, and red-bodied patterns available in sizes #10 through #16. So, this tying technique is the same for all sizes and colors.



To tie this fly, you will need dry-fly hooks (Tiemco TMC 100 or Mustad 94840), moose body hair, elk body hair, a neck of appropriate color, dubbing or floss in your preferred color, and 6/0 tying thread.



Step 1. Begin by wrapping the entire hook with a thread base. Finish with the thread at the bend of the hook. Cut a small clump of moose hair, stack in the hair stacker, measure one hook length, and tie the hair onto the hook at the bend. Finish with the thread at the bend of the hook.



Step 2. Cut a large clump of elk hair and stack in the hair stacker. The next step is the most important, and the secret to tying a good humpy. Measure the elk hair so the clump is 2 times as long as the hook, or the length of the hook plus the tail. This measurement will ultimately determine how long the wings will be on the finished fly.



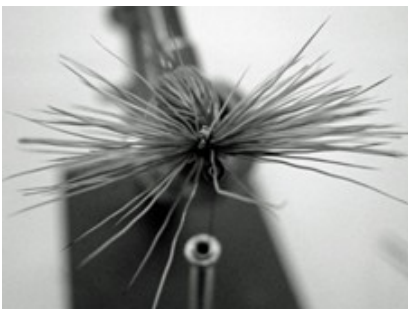
Step 3. With the elk hair properly measured, tie the hair to the hook at the bend. Wrap forward over the elk hair 2/3 of the way forward on the hook and trim off remaining length of hair. Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook.



Step 4. At this point, a traditional humpy would be made by wrapping over the elk hair body with floss. However, I prefer using dubbing of whatever color I choose. Dub over the top of the elk hair to make a very full body, ending with the thread about 1/3 of way from the front of the hook.



Step 5. Gather all of the elk hair together (and NOT the moose hair tail) and pull it over the top of the dubbed body. Tie the elk hair to the hook in front of the body.



Step 6. Divide the elk hair into two groups and separate by winding the thread between the clumps in a figure 8 pattern on the hook. This should result in one clump of hair sticking out of each side of the hook.



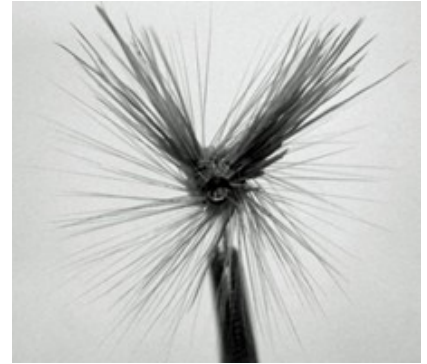
Step 7. Each clump of hair now should be wound with 10-12 wraps of thread. These wraps should be just around the hair clumps and not around the hook. After the clumps have a good thread base, pinch the 2 clumps of hair together so they point up from horizontal at a 45 degree angle. You can help keep these wings in place by adding more figure 8 wraps between the wings and adding a small drop of head cement to the base of the wings.



Step 8. Select a hackle feather that is sized to be 1 1/2 times the gap of the hook. Tie the base of the feather onto the hook by placing the stem between the wings on the top of the hook. Wrap several wraps behind and in front of the hook. Finish with the thread in front of the wings at the hook eye.



Step 9. Using your hackle pliers, wrap the hackle about 3-4 times behind the wing and 3-4 times in front of the wing. Make sure you wind on the entire feather, as this fly should be very well hackled. Tie off the hackle feather at the eye. Whip finish the thread and cut off. Your fly is now complete.



This is what the fly should look like from the front when you are done. The wings should be slightly longer than the hackle tips. If your wing is too long or too short then adjust the length of the elk hair when you tie it onto the hook in Step 3.



Properly done, your humpy will rest on the tail and hackle, with the hook just barely off the tying bench. Now that you have a very versatile fly in your arsenal, try it out on your next trip to the stream. You might be surprised how well it works when nothing else seems to get the trout's attention. Tight lines!

Surgeon General's Warning!

by Bob Kren,
Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

Fly rods wear out, after many years of catching big trout. Or, in my hands, they get mangled in a car door. Anyway, following another such disaster, I went to my local flyrod pusher for a replacement. The 9', 5-weight Sarviston felt good in my hands-- I noticed that the dealership kept me out of the parking lot and well away from any slammable interior doors-- and the price, though exorbitant, included a "lifetime" warranty. "That's gonna cost 'em!" I chuckled, evilly. So, after my initial sticker

shock, I bought the rod and also a new reel and line and leaders and rod case, got that nasty old flat wallet feeling, looked forward to much better casting, enjoyed a rare flush of euphoria, and bragged a bit to my neighbors.

When I got home, I found that, with the warranty came another pamphlet, titled "Surgeon General's Warning! Read or die!" I read, having, as I do, a low tolerance for death. The text follows:

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Purchase and use of this instrument has been known to result in sticker shock, buying of new reel and line and leaders and rod case, flat wallet syndrome, slightly better casting, euphoria, and bragging. Other possible symptoms should be noted.

Persons who have used spinning or baitcasting rods should beware of certain conditions associated with this product: tennis elbow, frozen shoulder, hook-in-anatomy wounds, decrease in hat comfort due to swelling of head, increased tendency to hang flies in streamside vegetation, and obsessive avoidance of doors.

This product is approved only for the purposes for which it is approved. Utilize for no other purpose than an approved purpose. Or, else! Using for unapproved purposes may lead to death!, especially when abuse is prolonged. Elderly users are at greater risk of injury or death, but they're old, so who cares?

The Sarviston rod is not for everyone, especially not Siamese twins. Persons with or without migraine headaches, heartburn, protrubr protrutul--oh, hell! a fat belly—sneezing problems in the lower torso, skinny legs, fat knees, or more than the usual number of feet, are strongly advised against even looking at one of these rods. In fact, maybe you should give up the sport completely.

Persons who think that this rod is stiffer than any other they have previously owned should seek immediate medical help if this apparent stiffness lasts longer than four hours, to forestall a potentially embarrassing permanent injury. Avoiding outdoor bathtubs may help prevent this from happening.

Failure to heed these warnings may lead to rash, mortification, flatulence, more mortification, dizziness, photography, stock market speculation, attraction for loony political movements, wheezing, poor gas mileage, swelling of the lip, or anything else you can think of that can't be cured inexpensively.

Tell your local Flyfisherpersonguy if you develop any of these symptoms, so he can tell everybody (I tossed this in because I can always use a good laugh at your expense. BK). ♦

As part of the
**Grayling Promotional Association
 Beatification Project:**

This Garden is maintained by



RAMADA®

The “Holy Waters” may be nearby, but this is taking the concept a bit too far.

Meanders, *continued from page 1*

involvement in a comprehensive plan that inventories the resource and identifies where our efforts will provide the most good. We will support initiatives to reconnect stream sections through repair of culverts and other road crossings that impair fish passage and we will sustain the chapter’s efforts through

continuous opportunities for involvement and education of old and new members. With One TU in mind, it is also my goal to finalize a 5-year strategic plan, incorporating PRRS to guide the chapter’s work and align the chapter’s bylaws with those adopted by TU National and the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited. All of these efforts will require a commitment by the

Mershon chapter and it will be a challenge, but I am confident it will be one that will be met.

Paul Morand
 President

Book Review

Predicting the Bite

by Ronald W. Reinhold

Hardcover: 358 pages

Publisher: Pressure Publishing

(January 8, 2010)

ISBN-10: 0578047349

ISBN-13: 978-0578047348

Reviewed by

Howard N. Johnson,

chapter advisor

hnjohnson@aol.com

A new and interesting book has recently become available, published in 2010 by a Michigan author—"Predicting the Bite," by Ronald W. Reinhold. The subtitle reads, "How to predict when fish will be biting; includes the powerful secrets of Barometric Pressure for extraordinary fishing success."

The author's goal with this book is to give you the ability to accurately predict when fish will be biting and naturally feeding, and put you on the water when the odds are highest to catch the most fish. With the information that is presented in this book, you will learn about "ableness" and the pressure rules, which make it possible for you to predict the exact days when fly hatches will occur, and days when they will not. You will learn why the old saying of "fishing is best just before a storm" is explained scientifically.

I always thought barometric pressure had something to do with my fishing success, but I thought this pressure change directly affected the fish. Mr. Reinhold's theories indicate that pressure changes—especially low pressure—affect the activity of the insect, not the fish. His theories that are presented in this book are based

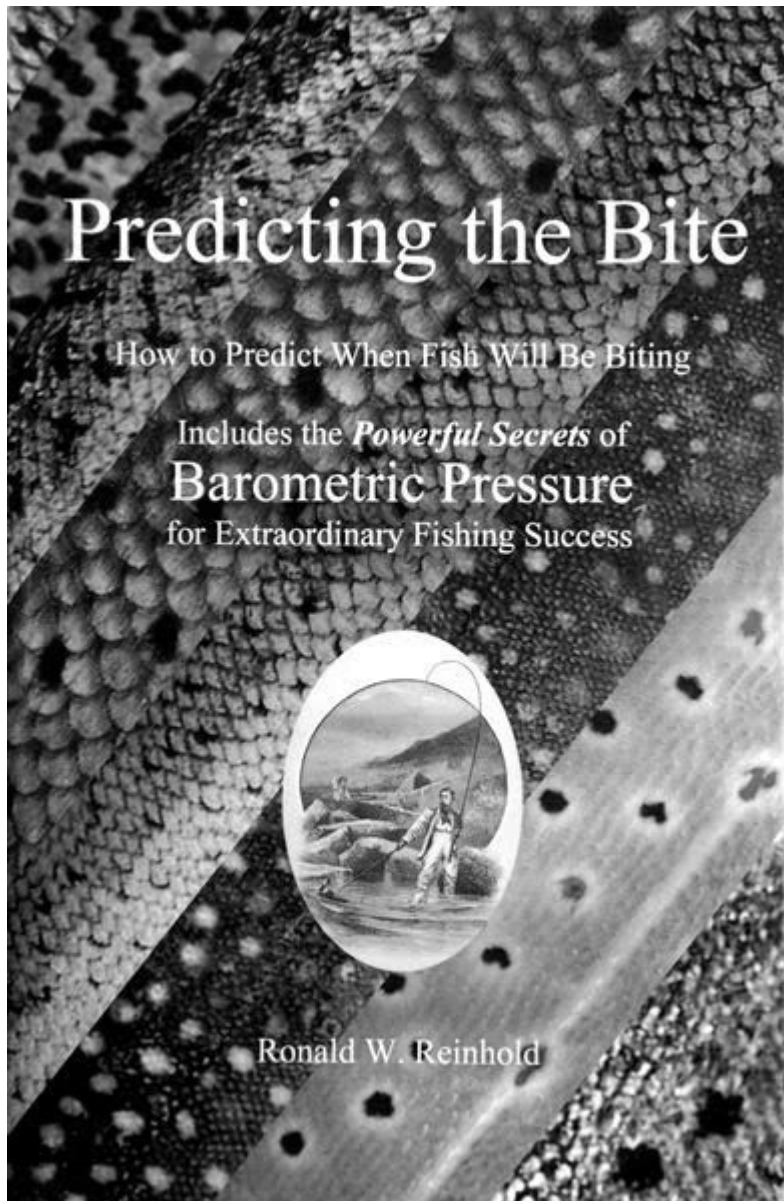
therefore, more fish will be feeding on them. And, you should have a more successful fishing day.

The author does a great job of presenting this new concept in a very understandable way. He provides charts to help explain these thoughts, and continually builds from a simple statement by using examples and adding layers to his illustrations. To gain even more knowledge on the subject that is presented in the text, the author uses "sidebars" that allow you to expand on the reading material, if you wish.

To receive all the benefits from this book, you will need to read and understand the concepts presented in the first six chapters, so you can predict the good fishing days on your own waters. The knowledge you learn is then used to better understand and appreciate the material presented in the book's 330 pages. The information in this book is based on science, but is written in a very understandable way.

I would highly recommend that you consider adding this

informative book to your collection. But, don't let it just sit on the shelf with the others. You will need to get involved with this book to get the most out of it and improve your fishing success. ♦



on the concept that an insect can more easily molt and break-out of its exoskeleton on low pressure days. This insect activity is what excites the fish to feed. On low pressure days, more insect are molting,

My husband is a fisherman. I am a reader. He wants to spend hours in the water, “communing with nature,” one cast after another in hopes of landing a trophy trout. I want to enjoy a good book, a comfortable couch, and a warm fire. We both love beautiful scenery, a delicious meal with fine wine, and the company of our friends. Our 2011 trip to Chile more than satisfied both of us!

We started our trip in Santiago, the gorgeous capital of Chile. We were delighted with the accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express—modern, clean, with an incredible breakfast buffet. The city is a true mix of modern and traditional. We took a walking historical tour of the downtown area (led by an English-speaking guide) that highlighted the beautifully preserved buildings. We also watched the changing of the guard at the Presidential palace that surpassed the pageantry of the same event in London! What impressed me most was our trip to the center of Santiago, up Cerro San Cristobal hill, in a funicular (cable car), to see the magnificent gleaming white statue of the Virgen de la Inmaculada Concepcion (Virgin Mary). Absolutely amazing and inspirational.

We visited the vineyards of the Valle de Casablanca, and I discovered a new appreciation for red wine, in particular Carmenere. Later, we traveled to the coastal town of Valparaiso—older, reminiscent of San Francisco, with a beautiful view of the Pacific and very, very narrow steep roads.

The guys seemed to enjoy this part of the trip as much as anyone but were anxious to get on the water, so we flew south to Coyhaique in the Patagonia region and Tony Vasquez’s Encantado Lodge. (I admit to being a little concerned

about the “fishing lodge” aspect of the trip—would it be really rustic, only “fisherman friendly”?) It turned out to be a beautiful home, furnished with comfortable (think curling up and reading) furniture in the great room, with a fireplace and ceiling-high windows that overlook a gorgeous, peaceful lake. The lodge is lovingly maintained by a wonderful, attentive staff with four bedrooms, each with an attached bath.

My only complaint is that I ate too much—the cook served the most delicious traditional Chilean meals, giving us a taste of empanadas, ceviche, roasted lamb, fresh vegetables . . . and, of course, pisco sours during the cocktail hour.

While the guys were fishing, we were able to take long walks and drives to enjoy the magnificent scenery—lakes and rivers, the snow-capped Andes Mountains (amazingly different than the Rockies), beautiful forested areas and wild flowers—it was breathtaking. Tony is an incomparable host who made sure all of us—fishermen and their wives—experienced everything we expected and more from our trip to Chile. Robb and I can’t wait to return! ♦

Chilean Delight

*by Chrissy Smith, chapter member
and wife of Mershon chapter
director Robb Smith*

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OF TROUT UNLIMITED
2011-2012**

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Special thanks to our sponsors:

The Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited wishes to extend a heart-felt thank you to these businesses and individuals. Their generous support helps to defray the costs associated with distributing this Muddler.

If you would like to help cover the cost of this publication, please contact Jac Ford at 989-781-0997 or canglers@aol.com.





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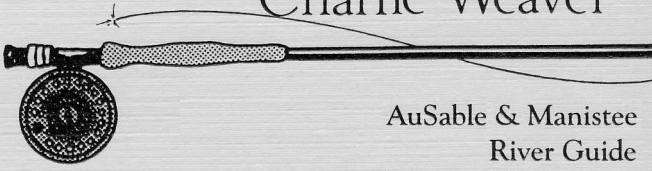
Fly Fishing the Pere Marquette, upper Manistee, Muskegon and the AuSable rivers.

Phone: (989) 781-0997

Clip and Save: Mershon Event Calendar

- Grin and Grub—Robb Smith: Chilean Adventures.....Wed., December 7th 2011
 Damon's Grill. Dinner/drinks from 6:30–7:30pm, presentation to follow
- Walleye Dinner.....Monday, January 16th 2012
 American Legion Hall
- Grin and Grub—Todd Zwetzig: Fly Fishing for Carp and Bass.....Wed., February 1st 2012
 Damon's Grill. Dinner/drinks from 6:30–7:30 pm, presentation to follow
- Walleye Dinner.....Monday, March 12th 2012
 American Legion Hall
- Spring Fundraising Banquet.....Friday, April 20th, 2012

Monthly Board Meetings: 5:30–7:00 pm, 1st Wednesday of each month
 —except December 7th and February 1st—
 at Gander Mountain, prior to Grin and Grub @ Damon's.



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THE MERSHON MUDDLER

◆ Newsletter of the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited ◆
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(Please remember that board members can help you sign up new members at the membership rate of \$17.50 and that all of this money comes back to the Mershon chapter if the membership application references our chapter #20.)