



On The Reel

PINE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is that time of year once again, time that we are thinking of Spring. We've noticed how the sun has regained strength, burning holes in the snow and around the dark trees. It is also time that the chapter asks again for your support. As you know, we have just one annual fund raiser, our banquet held the first Saturday in May. This year marks the 25th consecutive year for our conservation banquet! You members and supporters have made that possible. I urge you to continue; we are blessed with an abundance of cold, trout bearing water in our area and must take good care of it.

Our Feb. fly tying classes have hopefully gained us some new supporters. And I want to thank those individuals who helped out as instructors. We couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to Len Todd who helped out with the visuals used during the fly tying classes. Len came from Baldwin for each session.

In addition to the banquet, the chapter is also working on getting trained up to do mapping of the Pine River. Kristin Thomas from the state council will be providing the training. If we are able to accomplish all the mapping this year, we will have a really good idea as to the needs of the Pine and will be better able to prioritize our efforts. The training is scheduled for June 4th, time and place will be made available on our website. This should prove to be a very interesting project, contact me if you want to get involved. Kristin will be attending our banquet this year and will give a short presentation on the Riverkeepers program and be available to answer questions.

Protecting our Great Lakes from Asian Carp and other invasive species, plant or animal, is a high priority for all of us right now. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Rep. Dave Camp have introduced legislation that would prevent invasives from reaching our Great Lakes via the Chicago canals. I urge you to contact them and state your support for this effort. Invasive species such as lampreys and zebra mussels have been causing havoc to our lakes for way too long. Prevention is less costly than controls. And don't forget about our small lakes...Lake Cadillac already has zebra mussels and asian milfoil.

Another way to prevent the spread of invasives is the elimination of felt soled wading shoes and boots. National T.U. has been strong on this and a couple of manufacturers are eliminating felt sole. So....If you need a new pair of waders this year...I have been using some no felt "sticky" soled wading shoes for a couple of seasons. While not perfect, they are adequate and I'm sure that each year we will see improvements.

Tight lines to all and looking forward to seeing you at our banquet on May 7.

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Chapter Officers

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Up Coming Events

25th Annual Spring Banquet

(A Special Milestone for Our Chapter)

May 07, 2011

Save the Date!

25th Annual Spring Banquet

Saturday, 07 , 2011

Hosted at

Caberfae peaks Ski Resort

6440 South 11 Road-M55, Cadillac, MI

Featured Auctioneer

Ray Schmidt / Schmidt Outfitters

All so Attending

Andy Snyder, Volunteer Operations Coordinator TU's headquarters in Arlington

Dr. Bryan A. Burroughs, Executive Director – Michigan Trout Unlimited

Perry A. Rech esq, Development Director – Michigan Trout Unlimited

Kristin Thomas, Aquatic Ecologist – Michigan Trout Unlimited

- Cocktails: 5:00pm. Dinner: 7:00pm. Tickets: \$40.00 Each - \$15.00 Children 12 & under Raffles -
Silent Auction-Door prizes-Wildlife Art Fishing Equipment-Crafts and more For Banquet & Ticket
information contact John Zakrajsek, Cadillac 231-775-3546

16th Annual Meeting
Of
Volunteer Partners
Affiliated with River Committees, Councils & Watersheds

April 8, 2011
Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center
Cadillac, Michigan
9:00am to 3:00pm
Hosted by: Big Sable Watershed Restoration Committee
Wayne Andersen, Chairman

Ask the MDNR Fisheries Biologist

QUESTION: What is the progress of the Manistee River Hodenpyl Reach Brown Trout Strain Comparison Study Update.

In the spring of 2010, the DNR stocked 10,000 Wild Rose strain brown trout and 10,000 Sturgeon River strain brown trout into the Manistee River at the Woodpecker Creek access site, just downstream of Hodenpyl Dam. The Wild Rose brown trout were marked with a right ventral fin clip, and the Sturgeon River brown trout were marked with a left ventral fin clip. In October, DNR Fisheries crews in electrofishing boats conducted a two-day fish survey on the Hodenpyl Reach of the Manistee River. In that

survey, population estimates for both strains of brown trout were generated, in addition to a population estimate for unmarked brown trout. Unmarked brown trout are either naturally reproduced or those stocked in previous years. The population estimates were as follows:

	<u>Unmarked</u>	<u>Sturgeon River</u>	<u>Wild Rose</u>
#/acre	17	8	1
Lb/acre	5.86	1.65	0.59

The unmarked brown trout ranged from 4 to 26 inches in length, averaging 9.2 inches. The Sturgeon River brown trout ranged from 6 to 10 inches in length, averaging 8.0 inches. The Wild Rose brown trout ranged from 8 to 13 inches in length, averaging 10.1 inches.

So what does it all mean? While the Sturgeon River brown trout were much more numerous in the survey, they also averaged over two inches smaller than their Wild Rose counterparts. This is not surprising, since they are stocked at a smaller size. The Sturgeon River brown trout are very difficult to raise in the hatchery, due to their “wild” nature. Very few of the Sturgeon River brown trout reached “keeper” size (10” on that reach), while many of the Wild Rose brown trout did reach 10 inches and could have been kept by anglers. That could account for the smaller number of Wild Rose brown trout caught in the survey.

So which strain is better? It is too early to make that call. To tell the full story, more years of study are required. The paired plants with fin clipped fish from each strain will continue for four more years, as will the October electrofishing surveys.

Mark Tonello
Fisheries Management Biologist
Central Lake Michigan Management Unit
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

February Fly Tying Class

Another successful class: For 2011



Terry Tatrchuk Vice President

Get involved – Volunteer

We dedicate ourselves to presenting timely and informative news concerning local conservation, restoration and related topics. We also organize various outings, have educational programs and Conservation work. As volunteers, the results from our activities are both fun and satisfying. If you share our passions for conservation, then please consider joining and participating in Trout Unlimited.

GO TO OUR WEB SITE TO JOIN: <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

THOUGHTS FROM THE STREAM

Famous Spring Creeks

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”; nope not a review of a Charles Dickens book, but a look at fishing spring creeks. It’s amazing how 100 yards of a river can be the source of both ends of the pleasure scale. Spring creeks are streams or rivers with a single water source from the ground. The water maintains a fairly constant cool temperature and flow year round and the insects and trout love it.

The fish are tough, really tough - basically the PHDs of salmonids. They see fishermen and flies every day and probably several times a day. They know what an extra ripple on the water means or movement in front of a leafy background - someone wants to put a hook in their lip. They know what is edible every hour of the day and that it can change every 5 minutes. They know what food looks like when it emerges and how it looks riding on the water. They know real food doesn’t cause waves (drag) and isn’t attached to monofilament. And sometimes they refuse naturals because they are bent the wrong way or to drive fly fishermen nuts.

But they are catchable. Efforts must be made for the fisherman to stay low blending with the background and fish from the banks. If you have to wade, move very slowly to avoid waves. Study, really study, what the fish are eating and what stage it is and then duplicate it with your fly. When in doubt go smaller. Use a much longer leader and a longer, finer tippet than usual. Be prepared to cast the fly 1-2 inches from the bank and a drag free drift is a must. And be prepared to deal with fish that have run into the weeds after you hook them.

Exceptions-there are some. These fish sometimes go bonkers for terrestrials - the Chernobyl Ant or weird hoppers or stone flies. Go figure. They often will eat a soft hackle quite different from the bug d’jour, usually because it looks buggy and they have never seen anything similar.

Catching a fish on a spring creek is hard and catching a lot of fish is unlikely. Success is like passing a really tough test - the best of times. Failure or rejection may be perceived as the worst of times at the moment but it still beats working. And you likely didn’t hear the phone ring.

Chuck Dumanois, MD
March 8, 2011

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome previous members of the Muskegon White River Chapter (534). The Pine River Chapter is a very active chapter. We currently maintain a sand trap on the Pine River, were involved with the RiverKeepers Program, and will be mapping the Pine River this summer, also we will be holding training May 7, 2011. We hold fly tying classes in February each year. Also were involved in youth events teaching the basics of fly fishing.

You are invited to attend our banquet, May 7, 2011

NEWS LETTER CHANGES

The Pine River Area Chapter is currently in the process of improving our Newsletter and keeping it more up to date. We plan to put out a newsletter every three months. The cost is expensive to produce and mail. So we plan to email, if you would prefer to have it mailed please send your name and address and also send us your email address to the editor, Bob Rought at tutrout@yahoo.com using email will help improve communication and save a lot of paper. Thank you in advance.

SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We would like our newsletter filled with plenty of useful content. If you would like to see something added, or have a suggestion on how to improve the content, feel free to email to Bob Rought at tutrout@yahoo.com

Website

Bob Rought tutrout@yahoo.com has taken over as webmaster of the Chapter's new website. The site is still in the developmental stages, and new pages and information will be available as the site develops. The addresses is <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

Asian Carp

For more up dated information on Asian Carp go to www.michigantu.org web site.

**TROUT MAKE
GOOD
NEIGHBORS**