

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have been receiving the newsletter and are not a current member of TU, consider renewing your membership.

Headwaters Chapter is in an exciting period and you should be part of it. Your dues will go toward the many Chapter projects that will help protect our natural resources.

RESEARCH STATION

Recently I visited Andy Nuhfer, fisheries biologist at the Hunt Creek Fisheries Research Station in Lewiston. The center was founded in 1939 and has three full time biologists dedicated to providing information on inland fisheries to allow for better management and understanding of Michigan fishery resources.

I toured the facility with Andy and then saw some erosion conditions that were discovered near the headwaters of Gilchrist Creek. Later we were off on a drive through the grounds. We stopped at a spot to review numerous erosion conditions caused by ORV's being driven through an area where a bridge once stood. Several options are available to restore the site and eliminate the washed out conditions but ORV operators might just drive around the repaired area and cause new areas of concern.

We might work jointly with different agencies to develop a fool proof plan, get the proper permits, assemble a work crew and tackle the project. This will require about 3 to 6 months to complete. Future newsletter articles will inform you of our progress.

I plan on keeping in touch with Andy on this project and see if we can provide any future assistance on the Hunt and Gilchrist systems. Headwa-

ters Chapter is looking at many areas where we might work together with local governmental and special interest groups to conserve, protect and restore our rivers and streams for future generations. Very special thanks to Andy Nuhfer and trusty side kick, Nick (his dog) for a great visit to the Hunt Creek Fisheries Research Station.

Paul Meyer



SAND TRAP RESTORATION

On June 27, Headwaters Chapter members restored a pad and spoils area for a sand trap on the Sturgeon River in Otsego County. The trap was cleaned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in an effort to remove some of the sand bedload from the river. Excessive sand in a system can cover spawning substrate and fill in pools. Approximately 420 cubic yards of sediment were removed from this trap.

Headwaters Chapter assisted the DNR by purchasing the seed and mulch for restoring the work area (pad) and the area where the excavated sediment was placed, and by doing the restoration work (seeding and mulching). Gaylord Feed and Grain also contributed by donating half the cost for the seed and mulch. This partnership with the DNR made it possible for the work to be done in these lean budget times.

Neal Godby



LSSU SCHOLARSHIP

In August the Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal from Neal Godby to establish a Lake Superior State University Scholarship for an undergraduate senior in the amount of \$500.00 annually. Below are criteria which will determine if a student qualifies for the scholarship:

Must be an undergraduate senior.
Must be enrolled as a Fish Biology major.
Must be from Michigan, preferably from the Headwaters Chapter service area.
Must have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher.

Neal will be contacting LSSU to finalize details. The plan of the Headwaters Chapter is to have the scholarship ready by January 2007 for the first payout and then move the award to September 2007.

The scholarship recipient will be chosen by the Fish Biology Department faculty.

C.P.R.

Often there is too little room to spell out TU's policy of Conserve, Protect & Restore, and the above abbr. is used.

STURGEON FOR TOMORROW, INC

If you are not familiar with this group, it puts members stream side during the spawning season to minimize poaching.

It also catches adult sturgeon in order to collect biological information and eggs. This spring they tagged 80 spawning Sturgeon, many for the first time.

The eggs are reared at streamside facilities and the fry released during the summer.



For more information, or to help, contact Brenda Archambo, President Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Inc, at:

archambo@freeway.net

or visit their website at:

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org

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Special FundsVienna Andrews.... 989.732.1585

2006 CASH BASH

It's time for the 3rd Annual Cash Bash. Our Chapter is selling 100 tickets for \$100.00 each. Each ticket will admit two for a Bar-B-Q dinner at the Elks Club of Gaylord.

Prize drawings will be:

- 1st prize.....\$2,500.00
- 2nd prize\$1,500.00
- 3rd prize\$500.00

We are raising funds as a vital part of our C. P. R. efforts. All proceeds from this fund raising event will be used locally for coldwater conservation.

Some money will be directed to the Crapo Creek stream crossing project, a collaborative effort between many partners. The total cost is estimated to be \$100,000.00. Get your tickets early, it has been sold out in the past. Contact Eric Anderson (989) 732-6431

Eric Anderson

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fish until 10:30 PM and be on the water by 6:00 AM.

On the last day, the participants had to be off the water by 11:15 AM in order to return the borrowed equipment. When I told her it was time to reel up, she said, "Six more casts!" I just let her fish. By 12:00 noon she finally gave in. She put some great time in on the river and acquired a new passion, Fly Fishing. Unfortunately, she did not catch a fish.

I was told that some of the participants may not want to get out of the river, get out of their waders, or get in their cars to go home. I didn't understand, but now I do. They know what they are leaving, which is a peaceful place; and they know where they are going, back to fight cancer.

The following weekend, she attend-

ed a reunion retreat at the PM Lodge on the Pere Marquette River. She sent me photos of fish that she had caught with the assigned guide. She had landed five rainbows between 10 and 15 inches. The guide told her how impressed he was at how quickly she had picked up fly fishing. I was so proud of her.

They all left the retreats with a renewed spirit, the love of a trout stream, and the true appreciation for giving. The true appreciation for giving was the aspect of volunteering that I was not prepared for. All of the participants could not thank us enough for the wonderful experience they had just received. Just prior to departure on the last day we all formed a circle and were asked, "What did you get out of this experience?" There were two answers that I had to swallow the lump in my throat.

1. "I am now grateful to God for him giving me cancer. I would have never experienced the good things that cancer has given me" This lady was from the city of Detroit and had never been north of Flint and had never been to a campfire.

2. "After this retreat, I now realize that I can receive much more out of life by giving of myself to others instead of having the expectation of getting."

I did not go into the retreats with any expectations, but went away with the greatest reward of all. I gave these participants a fun and relaxing three day, an enormous passion to Fly Fish and a renewed sense of life. I have learned who my hero's are. It is these new friends who are fighting for their lives every day.

To volunteer for Reel Recovery or Reeling & Healing contact John Walters.

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

In 2005, Headwaters Chapter brought "Salmon in the Classroom" to Johannesburg-Lewiston High School. Denise Lange got the pilot program started with Kevin Kennedy's Biology class. Kevin instructs his students with a very "hands on" approach. They conduct a variety of field studies, including a "River Walk" each year. Once Kevin was introduced to the program, it fit right into his curriculum.

Students began by collecting eggs, observing the transitions to smolt, finally releasing them into the river where the eggs were collected. The Headwaters Chapter bought the necessary equipment for the classroom study.

Unfortunately, last year, a parasite was transferred by the female salmon to the eggs which made the entire smolt die.

The program was a success; however, simply due to the length of time the young stayed alive in the classroom. The only segment of the program that the students could not participate in was the releasing of the fish. This fall we will try again with Kevin's class.

In 2006, the Headwaters Chapter is expanding the program to include Gaylord High School. John Walters and Tom Cadwalader have been in contact with Jeff Kalamber, the Biology Teacher, to discuss the program. When John first told Jeff about the program, he was very excited because Jeff had learned of it from Kevin a friend of his.

At the August 2006 Board of Directors meeting, the board unanimously approved the purchase of the equipment for the program in Gaylord High School.



HEADWATERS
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TESTIMONIALS

These were received from people who attended the Reeling & Healing retreat last summer, guided in part by members of the Headwaters Chapter.

“Thank you for all you do to provide these retreats. It was the best experience in my life!”

“Thanks for providing this opportunity. It was a great experience for me. You are providing a much needed retreat for survivors/patients. The sense of peace, love and kindness of the volunteers and opportunity to be with other survivors has done magic to my self esteem and self worth.”

“I’ve taken time out during my recovery to attend a variety of support group opportunities and retreats. This rates as THE VERY BEST! I cannot tell you how much it meant to be here and the depth of the unconditional love and support I’ve gathered from all those around me. Catching my first brown trout made it all that much better. I will forever look at a river differently and will pass along the wealth of peace one can find in the river and through the sport of fly fishing.”

“I am overwhelmed by the genuine caring of all the volunteers. This was a warm caring environment where one can be positive, yet real. We learn, we grow—we had a blast. I will never forget my first moments casting into the river.”

“This experience so far exceeded my expectations I can’t express my sense of

gratitude and the absolute fun I’ve had the past three days. I forgot about my cancer for a brief time and experienced joy—laughed more than I remembered I could too. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

“Do whatever you can to keep this program going. It is so healing to be here. The lodge, volunteers, the river—everything, everyone has helped bring me back to a place within my being that I lost. The river’s waters soothed my soul and have helped me to realize that I’m not alone, that I am loved. God’s great trout waters provided me the opportunity to learn and grow and appreciate the world around me.”

“I can’t tell you how much I appreciate this retreat. It was one of the most peaceful and relaxing experiences I have ever experienced. I can’t thank you all enough for letting me forget my cancer.”

HEADWATERS SPONSORED YOUTH

Hi, my name is Austin Alexander and I am a 12 year old boy who loves fishing and hunting. I live in Howell, Michigan with my older sister, Ashley, and my Mom and Dad. I finished a two day Hunter’s Safety course in March and I fish in local lakes and ponds every chance I get. I got a new Orvis Fly Rod and Reel for my birthday and got to fish with it on the North Branch of the Au Sable River in April.

I am hoping to get the chance to at-

tend the summer camp for fly fishing so I can learn more about the sport. There are so many different species of fish, types of flies, and fly fishing techniques I need to learn. I have already started to tie my own flies and really enjoy it.

I would like to learn about the conservation of our rivers, streams, and the fish that live in them. I would really like to attend this years Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing School this summer, I would really enjoy it. I would learn a lot and I know I would have a lot of fun.

Thank you,
Austin Alexander



TIE ONE ON

The Activities Committee is planning the “2007 Tie One On” program. Last year we had both new & old members, ranging from beginner to the accomplished, show up to tie flies, tell stories, meet new friends and have a good time. Someone always brings in a new pattern. We meet every other Wednesday at Jay’s Sporting Goods in Gaylord during the months of January through April.

We are hoping for an even more successful program this coming winter. If you are wondering what to do this winter, join us for a evening of fun, laughter, and something a little different. Dates, times, and location will be published in the Winter Issue of Northern Michigan TROUT, watch for the 2007 schedule.