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The Newsletter of the Leon

P, Martuch Chapter of Trout

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The Landing Net

IT'S SALMON TIME

Lane Property

Negotiations are ongoing with Little Forks Conservancy in regard to the Lane Property. It is expected that a resolution should be forthcoming soon.

TU National does not allow Chapters to own property. This was found out after the Lane Property was transferred to our Chapter. If we do not dispose of the property our Chapter will be disenfranchised from TU. We have been working with Little Forks, since we learned of this, to resolve the issues. This does not affect the property we previously own on Townline Rd.

Gov. Rick Snyder announces Invasive Carp Challenge, calls for innovative solutions to prevent invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes

LANSING, Mich. – Today Gov. Rick Snyder announced that the Invasive Carp Challenge is now accepting proposals for innovative methods to prevent invasive (or Asian) carp from entering the Great Lakes.

"Invasive carp pose a serious and growing threat to the economy and ecology of our Great Lakes," Snyder said.

"The Invasive Carp Challenge will tap into the creativity and expertise of the entrepreneurial community to find the best ways to protect Michigan's most prized natural resource."

On June 22, an eight-pound [silver carp was captured](#) beyond the electric barrier, just nine miles from Lake Michigan. Michigan continues to seek to work cooperatively with other states and Canadian provinces to keep silver and bighead carp – two species of invasive carp – from entering the Great Lakes.

The Invasive Carp Challenge is designed to tap into the creative minds of people around the world to join the government and research community in enhancing existing research and tools while developing new, innovative solutions. The challenge will accept solutions in any phase of development, from concept to design to field-tested models, specifically aimed at preventing invasive carp movement into the Great Lakes.

Written proposals will be accepted online through [InnoCentive's Challenge Center](#) through Oct. 31, 2017. One or more solutions will share up to \$700,000 in cash awards provided by the State of Michigan. Once registered, solvers can see a detailed description of the challenge, review existing deterrent technologies for invasive carp and submit their proposed solutions.

Learn more about the Invasive Carp Challenge by visiting: www.michigan.gov/carpchallenge.

Have you encountered the red swamp crayfish in Michigan?

New video gives tips on identification

In July, the Department of Natural Resources confirmed the presence of invasive red swamp crayfish in Novi and near Kalamazoo. These two locations represent the first detections of live red swamp crayfish in Michigan.

Why be concerned?

Though they are native to southern states, red swamp crayfish are considered invasive in Michigan because they compete aggressively with native crayfish species for food and habitat. They feed on plants, insects, snails, juvenile fish and other crayfish, disrupting the food chain for many aquatic species.

Of greatest concern is their habit of burrowing deep into banks, causing damage to dams, irrigation systems and shorelines.

What is being done?

Since the initial reports, DNR staff have been setting traps in nearby lakes and ponds to remove the crayfish and determine the extent of the infestations at both locations. At the same time, staff are following up on reports from concerned citizens who believe they may have seen or found red swamp crayfish at other places across the state.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has created a [new video to help people identify and report red swamp crayfish](#). The video is the third in the department's MDEQ Minute series, offering 60-second views on a broad range of topics including new and potential invasive species in Michigan.

What can you do?

If you find a red swamp crayfish, photograph it and send the photo, date and location of the find to herbsts1@michigan.gov.

For more information about [red swamp crayfish](#) and other invasive species of concern in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies.

Help spread the word

- Share this email and [video link](#) with others: neighborhood and lake associations, friends and

family, etc. If sharing on social media, please use the tag [#NotMiSpecies](#).

- Visit [Michigan's invasive species website](#) and learn more about what to watch for and how to respond.
- Believe that you can make a difference, and [remember these easy tips](#).

Understanding the importance of streamside and lakeshore habitat John Pepin DNR

Riparian areas have numerous values for people and wildlife

The thousands of rivers, lakes and streams in Michigan are beautiful, special places, not only to a wide range of people, including anglers, boaters and campers, but numerous plant and animal species.



Those areas between the water and the uplands are called riparian areas or riparian zones.

A riparian management zone is "an area designated and consciously managed to protect functions and values of riparian areas."

Within a watershed — the area drained by a river or stream system — the lands next to streams and rivers are particularly important to the health of those waterways.

"Because of the unique conditions adjacent to lakes, streams and open-water wetlands, riparian areas harbor a high diversity of plants and wildlife," Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists said in a report on "Riparian Zone Management and Trout Streams: 21st Century and Beyond." "Life is simply richer along rivers and streams.

"Riparian areas are ecologically and socially significant in their effects on water quality and quantity, as well as aesthetics, habitat, bank stability, timber production, and their contribution to overall biodiversity."

Plant habitat along rivers and streams is called riparian vegetation. The plants that grow there have an affinity for water.

"Vegetative cover refers to overhanging or submerged tree limbs, shrubs and other plants growing along the shore of the waterbody," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website states. "Rivers, streams and lakes can be buffered from the effects of human

disturbance in the watershed by varied, multi-layered vegetation in the land corridor that surrounds them.

"Healthy, intact vegetative cover in these riparian areas can help reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from the surrounding landscape, prevent bank erosion and provide shade to reduce water temperature. Vegetative cover can also provide leaf litter and large wood (such as branches and logs) to serve as food, shelter and habitat for aquatic organisms."

In Michigan, large woody debris from mature trees growing along streambanks controls how streams look and function.



"Large woody debris provides cover for salmonids (trout and salmon), habitat and food for aquatic invertebrates, adds nutrients, traps smaller debris, provides feeding and resting sites for a wide variety of wildlife, and has other beneficial effects," the DNR fisheries biologists said.

"When leaves, twigs, sticks and even entire trees fall into streams, they provide both food and shelter for aquatic insects, and habitat for reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals and birds."

Woody debris can slow down fast-flowing water, create deep holes and provide cover for fish and other wildlife to hide in.

At Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, in Alger County, rangers said the streams there are home to more than 170 groups of aquatic macroinvertebrates, those organisms that live underwater, do not have a backbone and can be seen with the naked eye.

"These include larval and/or adult water bugs, water beetles, caddisflies, stoneflies, dragonflies/damselflies, mayflies, fish flies/alderflies, true flies, riffle beetles, aquatic earthworms, scuds, leeches, snails and limpets, and crayfish," the park's website said. "The presence of caddisfly, stonefly and May fly larvae indicate that

streams here are of high quality and are in good ecological health."

According to the EPA,



vegetative cover along lakes and streams varies naturally among the various ecological regions in the United States.

"The amount and complexity of vegetative cover for a given stream, river or lake is used as a measure of the integrity of the waterbody's physical habitat," the EPA said.

The DNR fisheries biologists said the agency and its partners spend many thousands of dollars each year to introduce additional large woody debris into our river systems, debris that has been lost artificially over time due to a variety of circumstances.

"Not only are shorelines and rivers important for recreation, several species of wildlife depend on shorelines for their livelihood," said Holly Vaughn, a DNR wildlife communications coordinator.

Ninety percent of all wildlife species use riparian areas for some aspect of their existence during their life cycles.

"Riparian obligate species are those that require riparian habitats for all or part of their livelihood and these include snapping turtles, wood ducks, river otters, et cetera," the DNR biologists said.

Tree frogs, wood turtles, salamanders, and many other reptiles and amphibians, use the water for laying eggs and breeding each spring. Ospreys, eagles and herons are among the bird species that rely on streams, lakes and rivers for food and nest in large trees nearby.

The endangered piping plover nests and feeds on the sandy and rocky beaches of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior. Terns and gulls nest on rocky shoals and island shorelines. Ducks, geese and swans nest on coastal marshes.

"Mink, otters, muskrats and beavers can be found feeding and denning along river shorelines," Vaughn said. "A handful of unique tree species also grow on the banks of Michigan's rivers. Paw-paw, blue beech or musclewood, and sycamore trees thrive in the wet, periodically flooded soils along rivers."

River Partners, a California organization whose mission is to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment, said intact rivers and riparian areas attract more than wildlife.



"People hike, boat, fish, hunt, and explore these areas, bringing tourism dollars into the local economy," the group's website states. "Healthy riparian areas improve water quality, reduce erosion, attract beneficial insects, and enhance a variety of recreational opportunities."

The Natural Resources Conservation Service [detailed several benefits of riparian areas](#) on its website:

- Riparian areas help control non-point source pollution by holding and using nutrients and reducing sediment.
- Riparian areas are often important for the recreation and scenic values. However, because riparian areas are relatively small and occur in conjunction with watercourses, they are vulnerable to severe alteration and damages caused by people.
- Riparian areas supply food, cover, and water for a large diversity of animals and serve as migration routes and stopping points between habitats for a variety of wildlife.
- Trees and grasses in riparian areas stabilize stream banks and reduce floodwater velocity, resulting in reduced downstream flood peaks.
- Alluvial aquifers help maintain the base flow in many rivers in humid areas because of high water tables. In drier climates, streams lose water that can help build up the water table deep beneath the stream.

It's no secret Michigan is home to tremendous water resources. The state has 3,288 miles of freshwater shoreline — second only to Alaska — and an extensive network of rivers, providing the people of Michigan with great recreation opportunities.

These habitats are vital for fish and wildlife and for people as well. Michigan's lakes and rivers provide clean, sparkling drinking water for many Michigan cities and towns. They are also vital routes for industry. Shipping is an important part of Michigan's economy.

Whether you're a salmon angler, an agate hunter, a homeowner, a boater, camper, city planner, birdwatcher, hunter, or just like to enjoy the beauty of the scenery around lakes, rivers and streams, understanding the



importance of riparian areas, and woody vegetation situated around lakes, can help us all more deeply appreciate the Great Lakes

State and its tremendous water resources.

Check out previous Showcasing the DNR stories and subscribe to upcoming articles at www.michigan.gov/dnrstories.

What's going on with Lake Michigan's water levels?

Lake Michigan's water levels have been having a bit of an identity crisis in the past few years. In 2013, the lake's water level hit its lowest in recorded history. But now, just four years later, they're the highest they've been since 1997 – rising four feet in just that time. It has scientists taking notice.

"The amount of recovery of water we've had in four years is tremendous," said Brandon Hoving, with the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids. "Trillions and trillions and trillions of gallons of water."

Literally. In order to raise the water level of Lake Michigan by just one inch, 390-billion gallons of water need to be added to it. If you've noticed this spring and summer were particularly dry in West Michigan, you're right. But it isn't our side of the lake that's contributing to the rises. This year, parts of Wisconsin and Illinois as well as parts of the Upper Peninsula have seen significant rainfall that's adding height to the lake.

"Wherever it's been wetter than normal, that plays a role in how high the lakes are getting," said Hoving. "Kind of the moral of the story is this year's been quite wet for Michigan, in some cases 200 percent of normal precipitation."

Recent snow melt and seasonal rains – not just this year but over the past four – have contributed as well. Heavy rain in the UP and Illinois/Wisconsin areas have contributed to rising Lake Michigan water levels.

For beach goers and those who own property near the water, it could be cause for concern, depending on what this winter brings.

“For folks that are venturing out onto the piers and breakwaters, they’re fishing off those piers, those water levels – the waves themselves – are lapping over the pier. And so that over-wash has force to it and it can knock you off the pier,” said Hoving.

“The beach is going to be churned up and chewed up a lot easier now because the lake is higher. So we’re seeing some of that erosion with some of the coastal properties on Lake Michigan.”

Fox 17

DNR stocks lake sturgeon in Tittabawassee River for first time

In cooperation with several partners, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that 193 lake sturgeon were stocked in the Tittabawassee River (Midland County) Monday, Aug. 21, at the Gordonville Road launch ramp southeast of Midland.

The DNR’s Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Strategy identified the Saginaw River watershed, including the Tittabawassee River, as a system whose lake sturgeon population is in dire need of improvement. This stocking event was the first reintroduction of this species in the Saginaw River watershed and is the culmination of much work aimed to rehabilitate this iconic species in waters in which they once flourished.

The Tittabawassee River stands to be a beneficiary of the efforts to rehabilitate another lake sturgeon population, that of



Black Lake in Cheboygan County. To support the Black Lake population, the DNR, Michigan State University, the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow and Tower Kleber Limited Partnership have committed to many

years of research, habitat restoration, protection of spawning adults and construction and operation of a sturgeon hatchery on the banks of the Black River.

“Through the research efforts in Black Lake, the Black River and in the hatchery itself, we’ve learned that our stocked fish are surviving at a greater rate than we anticipated,” said Randy Claramunt, the DNR’s Lake Huron Basin coordinator. “Their survival rate was so high we decided we actually needed to reduce stocking rates for Black, Burt and Mullett lakes. With those reductions we could shift rearing space for fish that could end up in other parts of Michigan.”

The Saginaw River system was chosen for those fish in part because the genetics of the Black Lake sturgeon are similar to those seen in sturgeon in much of Lake Huron.

“It is exciting to see the sturgeon restoration effort spread to other waters,” said Brenda Archambo, president of the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow. “It has long been our goal to bring this wonderful fish back to all the waters they once inhabited.”

Lake sturgeon are a slow growing, late maturing fish that can live more than 100 years. The fish stocked in the Tittabawassee River likely will not return to spawn until 2040 at the earliest.

For more information on lake sturgeon visit michigan.gov/sturgeon.

Steelhead fishing

The Two Hearted River steelhead fishing workshop will include overnight accommodations at the Tahquamenon Falls State Park lodge. This event is open to eight participants.

“This Beyond BOW fishing event is designed to introduce or further enhance your steelhead (lake run rainbow trout) fishing skills in a wild, remote river setting,” said Michelle Zellar,

assistant DNR BOW program coordinator.

"Beginners are welcome, but some sort of prior basic fishing experience is preferred. There are



new skills to be learned, great fun to be had, all amongst the beautiful outdoors of Michigan's Upper

Peninsula."

Class will start promptly at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 in the Tahquamenon Falls State Park Headquarters conference room, which is located directly across M-123 from the lodge.

"We will cover history, identification, equipment set-up, regulations, casting practice and first-hand experience fishing for steelhead on the Two Hearted River with our passionate and experienced instructors," Zellar said.

Saturday will be spent fishing along the river with lunch cooked over an open fire at the Two Hearted State Forest Campground. S'mores included.

Participants must be 18 or older. Those attending the workshop are responsible for their own Recreation Passport, which is required for entry into state parks and recreation areas. A Michigan fishing license is also required.

Cost for this workshop is \$110.

For further information on either of the workshops, contact Michelle Zellar at 906-293-5131 ext. 4004, email

zellarm@michigan.gov or Sharon Pitz at 906-228-6561 or email at pitzs@michigan.gov.

Our Chapter has been active in performing fish population surveys on various sites in the Cedar River Watershed. We recently lost our leader of this project and are looking for a replacement to lead a team of volunteers performing the surveys.

These surveys usually involve a two day survey shocking about 1000' of river. The first day collecting, marking and recording samples, and the second day doing recapture of the same section of the river.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Bill Holler at fwholler@chartermi.net

Little Forks News

With cooler weather comes some great news- it's the perfect temperature for battling invasive species and sampling for macroinvertebrates! Below are some dates in which we need your help. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can make sure to keep you fed and hydrated!

Stream Sampling- September 9th, 9 am to 2 pm

Volunteers will gather at the City Park Community Building in Gladwin, MI at 9 am. The City Park Community Building is located behind the police department on 240 S Cayuga St, Gladwin, MI 48624. From there, you will be put into a team with 5-8 other volunteers and sent out to your team's sites to gather macroinvertebrates. There will be a designated Team Leader, a Collector that stays in the water and brings the samples to their Helper on the bank, a Runner or two to take the buckets up to the tables, and Pickers to help find and collect the bugs from the samples that are then preserved on-site. Whether you have years of experience or none whatsoever, there is a spot for you!

Chapter Activities

**Macroinvertebrate ID Night
September 12th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

September 5, 2017 at Library

The identification of the macroinvertebrates collected at the stream sampling event is a whole new way to get excited about bugs! This two-hour event will take place at the Little Forks Conservancy offices at 105 Post St in Midland, on the corner of Post and Main St. Children make great helpers, and we welcome all family members to join us!

Adam's Fly Print

We have some prints of the Adam's Fly by Beth Ward Donahue that celebrate TU's 50th Anniversary. Costs are \$120.00 and \$160.00 (remarked). Contact Ross Rosenbrock 989-662-6533, rrosenbrock@live.com. Check out our website.

State Council www.michigantu.org

Executive Director Bryan Burroughs - bryanburroughs@michigantu.org

Aquatic Biologist – Kristin Thomas

Chairman - Tom Quail - tquail@michigantu.org

Vice Chairman – Greg Walz

Past Chairman - John Walters - jwalters@michigantu.org

Secretary - Mike Lagowski

Treasurer - Rob Smith - rsmith@michigantu.org

National Council Rep - Rob Smith - rsmith@michigantu.org

L. P. Martuch BOD Meetings

L.P. Martuch - Board of Directors

Brad Befus (2018) 866-587-6747 - befusb@scientificanglers.com

Will Halphen (2018) (989-708-1749) - whalphen@gmail.com

Harley Holsinger (2016) (989-667-0581) - harleyo@live.com – BOD

Josh Jenkins (2018) 989-495-7151 - jenkinsj@scientificanglers.com

John Johnson (2016) 989-835-6047 jocko@tm.net - Kids Day / Fly Tying

George Killat (2018) (989-835-3793) - tugeorgek@charter.net – Membership

Thomas Monto (2016) 989-430-8327 - t8monto@aol.com

Mark Rapanos (2018) 989-20-0198 - mkrapanos@charter.net – BOD

Ross Rosenbrock (2018) 989-662-6533 rrosenbrock@live.com

John VanDalen (2018) 989-631-6873 jvdfish@gmail.com

John Winchester (2018) 989-631-0122 jgwinch@att.net – Treasurer/Hatch Book

Steve Wilkowski (2016) 989-495-7151 - swilkowski2000@yahoo.com - President / SIC



Committee Chairmen

; Bill Holler 989-284-6566 fvholler@chartermi.net – Projects/Property

John Van Dalen 989-631-6873 jvdfish@gmail.com – Special Events

Interesting web sites

<http://www.martuchtu.org/Pages/default.aspx> Leon P Martuch Website

<http://h2o.usgs.gov> Hydrology data for all rivers in the US

<http://www.totalflyfishing.com> Fly Fishing Website

www.flyangersonline.com Fly patterns, articles, and general information.

<http://info.abrfc.noaa.gov/rfc-wfo.html> National Weather Service river forecasts

www.tu.org Home page Trout Unlimited.

www.steelheads.com Steelhead information

www.fedflyfishers.org Federation of Flyfishers Home Page.

<http://www.michiganttu.org/> Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited Home Page

www.fffjlc.org Federation of Fly Fishers

www.lssu.edu Lake Superior State University. Fish cam at the power plant at the Soo

www.trailstotroutrout.com Website for trout fishing

On Line Fishing Log mydailyfishinglog.com

Guide to fly fishing waters of the US – www.kyndoutdoors.com

American Museum of Fly Fishing www.amff.com

Anglers of the AuSable www.AuSableAnglers.org

On AOL Look under Interest, Hobbies, and Fishing

We will publish more sites, as they become known. If you know of interesting sites let me know at t8monto@aol.com

Membership

Trout Unlimited has a membership program going. Our Chapter can greatly benefit by having you sign up a new member. Log onto www.tu.org/intro and you can get a special introductory rate of \$17.50. Be sure to enter code 250 so our Chapter will receive credit for the membership. This would make a great gift for your fishing buddy.

For membership problems, contact George Killat.

Disclaimer Statement:

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