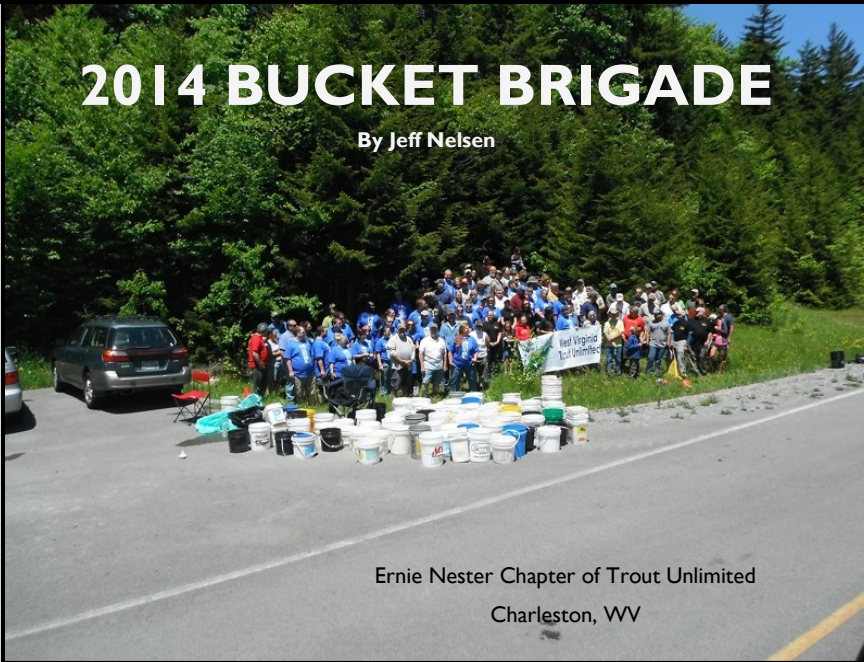




2014 BUCKET BRIGADE

By Jeff Nelsen



Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Charleston, WV

Funds to help with the Middle Fork liming project have come from the Wal-Mart Foundation, West Virginia Trophy Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, AEP Foundation, and ENCTU general funds. The Wal-Mart Foundation donated \$4000 for this year's limestone fines for the Middle Fork of the Williams River and has supported the event both with volunteers and funds for five continuous years.

The lunch was donated from the Summersville Wal-Mart store led by Dave & Cindy Herndon. Snacks and mid morning drinks were provided by Susan Nester and family. Thanks to everyone for their time and commitment. This event gives us all a chance to enjoy friends and family while doing something for West Virginia's beautiful state fish.

On June 14, 2014, the seventh annual Bucket Brigade was held in Monongahela National Forest on the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Williams River along West Virginia's Scenic Highway with 100 people attending. Over 50 Wal-Mart employees with their family and friends from several stores including Summersville, Beckley, Ripley, Parkersburg, Vienna, Kimball and Hurricane, West Virginia participated in the event. West Virginia Trout Unlimited had 5 chapters represented with 40 members, family and friends. WV Division of Natural Resources had 3 employees led by John Rebinski and 2 members of the WV Wilderness Coalition were there also.

The purpose of this liming project is to improve the pH of the Middle Fork of the Williams so brook trout will continue their resurgence after being absent from the watershed for over 50 years. Over 700 - 5 gallon buckets of limestone fines which equated to 10 tons were moved by everyone along the 1/4 mile bucket brigade line to the dump site this year. The Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited (ENCTU) started making donations to WVDNR for limestone sand projects in 2004 and makes donations every year for 3 projects including the Middle Fork of the Williams.



South Charleston Public Library

&

The ENCTU

By Max Robertson

The Chapter's Silver Trout Award, given to the South Charleston Public Library (SCPL) at our March Banquet, has been hung in the right rear of the SCPL center. A display shelf with all of the books the Chapter donated to the SCPL has been set up in the same area also along with the Library's "loaner" spinning rods.

Last October the Chapter donated more than 60 books related to trout and trout fishing to the SCPL. The library now houses a number of excellent books that includes authors such as Brooks, Schweibert, Wright, McNally, Lieser, Gierach, McClain, Rosenbauer, Swisher, Richards, and Tillis. There are map books for several western states, and books on fishing nearby states and areas such as Maryland, Virginia, and the Smoky Mountain National Park. **Be sure to make use of these good books.**

Charles Krepps and Jack Williams presented these books to Patricia Brown, Library Director. They were previously held in the ENCTU library or were donated last fall to the Chapter on Gene Burkett's behalf by Gene's wife, Patricia.

Also the Chapter has participated in a number of SCPL sponsored programs recently: Charlie Krepps participated in the SCPL craft show last December 16, selling and tying flies. Tom Moody represented the Chapter at the SCPL's "Boys Night Out" on April 21 with a display and discussion on Trout in the Class Room. Ken McDaniel represented the Chapter on June 17 in the summer Adult Reading Program. This SCPL program was presented in June and July.

Get to know the fine staff at the SCPL as follows:

Patricia Brown: Library Director, Janet Christman: Circulation Clerk

Clay Kriese: Youth Services Librarian, Joseph Cuda: Circulation Clerk, Shawana Camehl: Circulation Supervisor, Joan Cox: Circulation Clerk, Claudia Benton: Cataloger, Pam Turpin: Library Assistant, Anita Weber: Youth Services Assistant, Ken Saunders: Library Assistant, Teresa Matheny: Youth Services Assistant, Matt Lawson: Page, Billy Holcomb: Circulation Clerk, Lester Hammons: Clerk.



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Michigan Steelhead Adventure

By: Dave Hansford

The adventure of a life time always begins with planning and anticipation. This was no exception. I have never fished for steel head because I never had an opportunity to seek out these massive trout species, until this year.

It all began with the 2014 annual banquet of the Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited. As an attendee I always buy bucket and raffle tickets in hopes of winning an overnight stay at one of our state attractions or win a new piece of fishing gear. But this year's banquet had a new adventure in the fundraising bundle. I bought the tickets and put in my chances to win a different kind of adventure. Four days and nights of trout fishing on the world famous home waters of Trout Unlimited "The Au Sable River" of north central Michigan. That's right the famous Au Sable River. And to add icing to the cake the sponsor of the trip has a vacation home (not a cabin or camp) right on the banks of the South Fork of the Au Sable River.

Wow trout fish the very river where Trout Unlimited was conceived and first chartered. The home of the famous and infamous fly fishermen of the last 100 years. The kind of trout fishing history and adventures that Hemingway would have written about.

Well I didn't win the fishing trip!

I went home after the banquet and sat down to plan this year's fishing trip for myself and my fishing partner and brother Kenny Hansford.

On the Monday following the banquet I got a message at the office to call Jeff Nelson about a winning ticket at the banquet. My first thought was about my "fly in fishing trip" and the winner of that trip. I called Jeff and he asked if I would be available for a four day "Michigan" fly fishing trip as soon as the last week of April thru the first week of May this year, pretty short notice. But I said "well if it involves trout and fly fishing I am pretty flexible" he then said "Well you are the winner of four nights stay and guided fishing on the Au Sable River in Michigan but the dates have to be the last of April thru first of May this year". I immediately said alright this is a joke.....I heard whose name won that trip! Jeff said "Well he can't go

on the dates it is offered and had to decline". He went on to say he had spoke to the person who offered the trip and explained the situation, then asked if he would mind if they pulled another ticket from the box. He said that would be fine. So he had another name drawn and it was mine.

Well here we are! What should I do.....? Enough of that I said "Give me the details while I start packing".

Here is where the story begins to unfold, Jeff explained that a good friend of Ernie Nester and former TU member from West Virginia had offered the trip to the Au Sable River in honor of his old friend Ernie Nester.



Ben Pinti in his kitchen, he makes a great Pizza

Ben Pinti was a former member of the Bridgeport Chapter and also served on the WV State Council of TU where he first met Ernie. Ben moved to Michigan in the mid-1980s and later bought a home on the South Fork of the Au Sable near Roscommon Michigan. He never forgot the friends he met back here in West Virginia, in fact his mother still lives in Bridgeport.

When he read about the passing of Ernie and the renaming of our chapter to the Ernie Nester Chapter he reached out to Jeff Nelson with an offer to extend a fundraising trip to the chapter that included four nights at his home on the Au Sable and guided trout fishing.

I told Jeff that I would be honored to go on such a fishing adventure and I would clear my calendar and my brothers' (he's retired and keeps his fishing gear

packed and ready to go) and got the contact info from Jeff. I called Ben and began the plans and looking at maps for the closest airport I could fly my plane to. During my numerous contacts with Ben in planning the trip Ben asked if I or my brother had any food or meal preferences. I said we will eat whatever you eat. He said "If you want I like to make Pizza from scratch and that would be one of our meals". (He prepares everything including the crust dough from scratch and it was a fantastic meal.) So I guess you get the picture now great food, great accommodations and the promise of great trout fishing. What more would you want?

While talking to Ben he explained the reason for the short time span on the offer for the trip is that he was there hoping to catch the Hex hatch (more about this in a minute) and steelhead run on the lower Au Sable and if I would be interested in doing a steelhead trip he would give me the info on a great guide for steelhead. I jumped on that like a Rainbow on a grasshopper. Ben hooked us up with Kelly Neumann of Michigan Streamside Outfitters.

The weather forecast for the first week of May turned out to be too stormy for me to take my plane so Kenny and I drove up to Roscommon on Wednesday April 30th. We arrived at Bens home around 5:30pm without any problems. We were scheduled to meet up with the guide at 9:00am on Thursday May 1st. We had to drive east about 1 ½ hours so we left early. We were told to bring nothing but warm clothes, rain gear and a set of strong arms. We were off to try our hand at the Lake Huron Steelhead run on the lower Au Sable River. We put in the boats just downstream of the first Dam on the river. The water was high due to recent rains and the weather was very changeable all day long with sun and rain. The river banks were lined with people fishing the Steelhead run. Our guide Kelly took us to several locations on the river over the next two days and put us on the steelhead but it was a struggle. Not to hook up with one but to land one of these behemoths.

This turned out to be a fantastic trip we both had over ten hookups each day but these are some strong fish and with the river running high it was a

hard two days on the river but two days I will never forget. I did get to try my hand at brown trout fishing on the North Fork of the Au Sable River but rain, high water, and strong winds made the trout fishing tough. I had one Brown chase a streamer but got no hook ups.

This was a great adventure and I wish to thank Ben Pinti for his hospitality, great accommodations and even greater food. I would go again in a heartbeat and I highly recommend the Steelhead fishing to everyone. Just wish the weather had cooperated for the trout fishing.

Just to fish the Au Sable River is a thrill in its self. Nothing but waist deep water, gravel bars, undercut banks, dead tree stumps, brushy bank line, and clear cold spring fed water. I am making plans to try the night time brown trout fishing. Yes you heard me "night time fishing for browns. There is a giant Hex hatch that occurs on the Au Sable during the mid-night to 4am time frames every year about the first week of May. These are 2-3" mayflies that just cause the browns to explode the water during the 1-2 day hatch that only happens at night when the big boys come out to play. Never thought about fishing at night but Ben explained his experiences with the Hex hatch and how you just stand in the river with no lights and cast to the sound of the rising browns. He said you usually catch fish no smaller than 18 inches during the hatch. I can't imagine standing in the river in pitch dark and casting to the sound of rising fish. But I'm willing to give it a try. Check out this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et-mfVlfqIQ>.

Once again thanks to Ben Pinti for this great fly fishing adventure.

Dave Hansford with a 10LB Steelhead





DAVIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & DESIGN, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Wildlife and Fisheries Resources Program at WVU is dedicated to developing the next generation of young fisheries and wildlife professionals.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Resources Program at West Virginia University is a fully accredited program with undergraduate, M.S., and Ph.D. programs that can lead to professional certification as wildlife or fisheries biologists. This curriculum focuses on both wildlife and fisheries; preparing students for careers or graduate education in both fields, in the area of management, biology, and ecology.



Eric Merriam, a doctoral candidate in wildlife and fisheries resources in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, is the second WVU student ever to be awarded the EPA's STAR Graduate Fellowship. He will receive up to \$42,000 a year to cover tuition, fees and stipends for graduate school.

The goal of Merriam's research is to protect water resources in Appalachian watersheds from the effects of mine runoff. Watersheds are areas that drain to a common waterway, such as a river or creek, and help sustain life for many plants and animals. His research can improve modeling and prediction capabilities so that scientists can assess how current and future

land-use activities, like mountaintop mining and the Marcellus Shale gas development, will affect water quality and habitats.

"A major theme of my research is the importance of placing surface-mining impacts within the context of other human impacts," he said. "For example, the impact of surface mining combines with the impact of untreated municipal wastewater, which is unfortunately common throughout much of the central Appalachian region."

"Management efforts that focus solely on surface mining will have minimal benefits to water quality and ecological conditions, such as recreational fisheries," Merriam explained. "We need to start developing management approaches that address all relevant stressors, including insufficient wastewater treatment infrastructure, legacy impacts from historical mining, as well as contemporary mountaintop mines."

Promoting stewardship of water resources is one of WVU's five "Mountains of Excellence," areas that address significant challenges, particularly for the state and the region.

"Eric's research has been well funded by both the EPA and industry through the Appalachian Research Initiative in Environmental Science," said Todd Petty, professor of wildlife and fisheries resources and associate director of the Environmental Research Center at WVU. "Eric is also well published in the journal *Freshwater Science* and he has several additional papers in the pipeline."

As part of his fellowship responsibilities, Merriam will be teaching a course on the ecology of Appalachian rivers and attending a weeklong symposium with other STAR fellowship recipients from around the country. He will also be completing a final portion of his dissertation that will determine whether or not water quality in streams throughout southern West Virginia have changed as expected over time as the intensity of mountaintop mining has changed.

From WVU's Website



Project Healing Waters - Veteran's Benefit Banquet

The West Virginia Region, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) will be hosting the first annual veteran's benefit dinner on September 18, 2014, at the Charleston Marriott from 7:00 till 9:00 P.M. The proceeds of the event will go to the West Virginia Region to support the disabled veterans in the basic training needs of fly tying, casting, rod building and especially the overnight outings to fly fish, catching that all-time great fish (WV Trout.) These outings continue to be stimulating and very therapeutic for our veterans. The continued support of fund raising, we will be able to offer them more activities, adding more programs to the Region's PHWFF groups.

The tickets are on sale now for \$45.00 per person in advance and \$50.00 at the door. Do you want to have your group or firm represented by reserving a table of ten, at a discounted rate per-table \$400. Volunteers are welcome to assist with tickets sales. Tickets must be presented at the door. There will be limited seating. Limited sponsorships are available. Please make checks payable to Project Healing Waters. Credit cards are accepted.

Please call Paul Moore (304) 993-7108 for more ticket information and to purchase tickets.

There will be a silent auction and raffle

Silent Auction Items	Valued
Tabor Light Tail Water CL with extra spool, backing and fly line	\$600.00
Mystic Reaper Fly Rod 5 weight	\$229.00
Orvis Streamline Combo Rod/reel backing and fly line	\$225.00
Heritage "Rough Rider" single action (22lr/22mag) cowboy 6 1/2" barrel	\$229.00

Raffle items

Water color painting of (3) Trout, Artist unknown but signed
 Water color painting "Gotcha", Artist Mrs. Barbara Wamsley
 Water color painting "Gotcha", Artist Mrs. Barbara Wamsley
 Water color painting "Purple Heart", Artist Mrs. Barbara Wamsley
 Water color painting "Purple Heart", Artist Mrs. Barbara Wamsley
 Water color painting "Patriot Fly", Artist Mrs. Barbara Wamsley
 Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Ball Cap
 Postage Stamps and folder "Medal of Honor WWII" signed by Woody Williams
 The little Red Book of fly fishing

Additional Items will be added prior to the event If you wish to donate an item for the auction or the raffle, contact Paul Moore

UPCOMING ENCTU EVENTS

September 6th, Blue Creek Stocking, meet at the Cedar Grove GoMart 10:00 AM, coordinator: Don Lyons, 304-595-1244.

September 9th, Membership meet South Charleston Public Library 7:00 PM—9:00 PM, See program speaker article page 5.

September 23rd, ENCTU Board Meeting, SCPL, 6:30 PM - 6:30 PM.

October 4th, Elk River stocking, meet at Elk Springs Resort 10:00 AM, event coordinator: Steve Young, shy1wv@suddenlink.net.

October 14th, Membership meeting, SCPL 7:00PM—9:00PM, program will be TU staff on WV projects.



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