

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Fall! and Winter! We seem to be lacking transitions into seasons but I am happy that our meeting season has begun. We have had some great meetings with new faces.

I continue to be in awe of our board and chapter as whole. KVCTU is able to put on some great events and presentations because of our amazing membership. Thank you to all our sponsors and patrons.

We will be having a sale of Herb Spencer's fishing gear at the December meeting to support his widow Judy. Herb was a long time KVCTU member. He always made me smile with his stories and jokes.

We have some spectacular presenters coming up and some Happy Hour Hatches in the near future. If you are bored, it is not from a lack of events from KVCTU! Check the [chapter website](#), emails and [Facebook](#) for upcoming details.

Have a very Merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Emily



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TIE-A-THON CHAPTER CHALLENGE!

- - Greg Potter

Michigan Trout Unlimited is hosting a Tie-A-Thon challenge for all Michigan TU chapters.

The contest is pretty simple: Members sign up to tie 100 flies the same size and same pattern from the list provided. Tie at least 100 flies and give them along with your name, shirt size, and mailing address to your chapter's Tie-A-Thon representative by March 15, 2023. You will receive a limited edition Tie-A-Thon T-shirt as a thank you for your donation.

The chapter contributing the most flies, and the chapter with the highest percentage of their members contributing flies will receive awards that they can use as fundraisers or gifts. To

keep things even we will be handicapping the contests by factoring the number of members in each chapter.

The Tie-A-Thon began 15 years ago (in our chapter) to provide flies for our Michigan Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation & Trout Camp. Since then Tie-A-Thon has donated over 165,000 flies, tied by volunteers, to support organizations that use fly fishing as a way to help improve the lives of others.

This year's flies will be donated to [Reeling in Recovery](#), the [Mayfly Project](#), and the [New York Brotherhood of the Junglecock](#).

Keep our KVCTU tradition going! Sign up today and start tying!

For more information, see the [Tie-A-Thon website](#) or [Facebook page](#). To sign up or if you have any questions contact Greg Potter. Email: hipboot@icloud.com Phone/text (269) 289-7787

Keep our KVCTU tradition alive! Sign up today and start tying!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- - Emily Gundlach

FALL CHAPTER MEETINGS

September

This year started out with a great picnic at Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery. Hot dogs were abundant, as were the stories and bucket raffle items.

October

We tried a new venue Indian Run Golf Course. We had an outstanding presentation by our own chapter member Eric Jeska. Now retired, Eric is an avid fly fisher and fishing tackle historian by avocation. Eric has written several articles for The Double Gun Journal, The Reel News (the publication of the Old Reel Collector's Association), and the Anglers' Club Bulletin about our fishing tackle history. His latest focus chronicles the development of the glass fiber Wonderod by Dr. Arthur Howald and the Shakespeare Company. Eric's presentation "The Age of Wonder" features many anecdotes told to him by his uncle Henry Shakespeare about Dr. Howald's conversations with notable anglers and rod makers like Charles Ritz, Paul Young, and Sewell Dunton. Eric has updated this presentation with new information and many new photos. His unique research puts to rest many of the recent myths behind the origins of fiberglass rods. On display will be a prototype fiberglass rod by Dr. Howald from 1946, the first year Shakespeare Glastik Wonderod of 1946, a first year Narmco Conolon fly rod from 1947, a first year Pacific Laminates Sila-Flex fly rod from 1948, an early 1950's Paul Young fiberglass fly rod, and many more from his collection.



Eric fishing the Hex Hatch in northern Michigan with the Wonderod given to him for his 12th birthday. Photo by Keith

November



Shooting the breeze at the November chapter meeting.

Our November meeting was supposed to be a 101 style. But the first good snow storm definitely showed up.

Nevertheless, some flies were tied and stories were swapped at Warner Vineyards.

We are very excited to have had new people at every meeting this year. Hopefully the trend continues! Hope to see everyone at our upcoming events/meetings.

Taking a break after working on our twice-a-year Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on M89 in Richland are Al Henderson, Char Hammond, Andrew Strombeck, and Paul Hammond. Seated are Andrew's daughters Claire and Olivia. Well done, KVCTU crew!

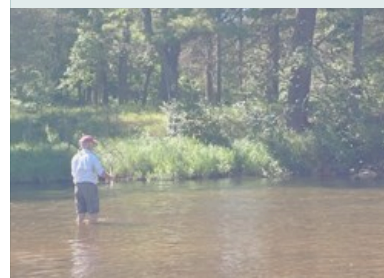


STREAM NEWS

RICE CREEK

KVCTU was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from the [FishAmerica Foundation](#) to continue trout habitat improvements at Rice Creek in Marshall. We thank Jon Chizmadia for submitting the winning proposal. Jon, along with Pete Huver, Greg Potter, and John Keagle, have been surveying the creek to decide where to focus our efforts.

Stay tuned and plan on doing some hands-on, waders-wet work next spring/summer!



PORTAGE CREEK

As of July 1 2022, fishing is permitted at Portage Creek in Milham Park. The city passed an ordinance after the dam was removed in 2021.

We hope to see more people casting a line in the park. And one day, let's hope we see trout being caught!

Check out the stories:

["Kalamazoo to allow fishing at more city parks"](#) (Kalamazoo Gazette article)

["Fishing returns to Portage Creek"](#) (WMUK broadcast/article)

[River Re-Born: The Revitalization of Portage Creek at Milham Park](#) (Michigan Wildlife Council video).



MISSING HERB

- - Paul Tulgetske

Our chapter recently lost a very active member who was loved by all who knew him and we will miss him greatly.

Herb Spencer was an active chapter member for over forty years. He served as editor of *Slacklines* for a while and was a long time member of our board of directors.

Herb had a marvelous sense of humor and could tell a joke or a story like no one else.

In his younger days Herb decided to take some fishing buddies on a road trip to the UP to meet John Voelker (aka Robert Traver). They became

good friends and Herb was often at Frenchman's Pond to fish with John.

A memorial service was held at the beginning of October and while it is sad to lose a friend, you get a sense of how much more there is to a person's life than just the little bit that you got to share with them.

Goodbye Herb. You will be missed!



Former KVCTU presidents attending the memorial for Herb Spencer: Char Hammond, Paul Tulgetske, Mick Kolassa, Terry Wittorp, Barney Naylor.

TAKE HOME A TREASURE

On December 15th at the KVCTU monthly meeting at the Fountains in Plainwell, we will have a chance to win Silent Auction items from the estate of Herb Spencer. Judy Spencer is giving us an opportunity to bid on some very nice rods and rod/reel combinations once owned and fished by our dear friend Herb, God rest his soul.

The items available for bid are:

Rod and reel combos

- Sage Flight graphite fly rod, 4 wt, 7'6", 4 pcs, with a rod sock, tube and System 2 reel.
- Cabela's graphite fly rod, 4 wt, 10', 4 pcs, with a rod bag and Cabela's CZN WR1 reel.
- Sage graphite fly rod, 6 wt, 9', 4 pcs, with a Scientific Anglers System1 reel (7-8-9 wt).
- TFO Lefty Kreh PS2 graphite fly rod, 4 wt, 9', 4 pcs, with a rod sock, tube and Cabela's RLS reel.
- TFO Lefty Kreh Finesse graphite fly rod, 2 wt, 7'3", 4 pcs, with a rod sock, rod tube and Orvis reel.

Fly Rods only

- Sage B680GFL bronze color graphite fly rod with rosewood reel seat, 6 wt, 8', 2 pcs, with a rod sock and aluminum tube.
- Handmade black fly rod with rosewood reel-seat, snake foot line guides, 4 wt, 8', 2 pcs, with a rod sock and aluminum tube.
- Cortland GRFP1000 graphite fly rod with down-locking black reel seat, 5/6 wt, 8', 4 pcs, with a rod tube.
- Fenwick World Class graphite fly rod, 6 wt., 8'6", 2 pcs, with a rod sock and tube. This is a commemorative rod celebrating the 1st million dollars for conservation by Trout Unlimited.
- Handmade black fly rod with rosewood reel seat, snake foot line guides, unknown wt. (but our best guess is a 4/5wt), 8', 2 pcs, with a rod sock and aluminum tube.
- Powell DF86-1 graphite fly rod with up-locking reel seat, 4/5 wt, 8'6", 2 pcs, with a cloth rod sock, and an aluminum rod tube.
- Handmade black fly rod with down-locking rosewood reel seat, unknown rod blank material, snake foot line guides, 3/4 wt, 7'6", 2 pcs, with a rod sock and aluminum rod tube.

Judy will be at the December 15th meeting, available to share stories about their travels and life together. If you have stories about Herb, or pictures of him, she would love hear and see them.

KVCTU HONORED WITH ART NEUMANN AWARD

We are proud to announce that Michigan Trout Unlimited has presented our chapter with the Art Neumann Award, in recognition of our many years—and many volunteers—hosting the Michigan Youth Conservation & Trout Camp.

The award recognizes any individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution to the overall mission and vision of Michigan Trout Unlimited.

A visionary group of KVCTU leaders started the annual trout camp over 25 years ago. Since then, hundreds of young folks have learned the importance of protecting our coldwater resources as well as the joys of fishing. Many of our former campers remain involved in stewardship, TU, and the sport to this day.

We extend our congratulations and thanks to the countless volunteers from our chapter and all over the state who put in thousands of hours to make each camp a success. We also thank our members and donors who financially and materially support the camp.

Congratulations to all who have played a part in earning this well-deserved award.



Char Hammond, Lauri Siebert, and Andrew Pokorski and accepted MITU's Art Neumann Award on behalf of KVCTU.

SUPPORT TROUT CAMP! OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 1ST!



The Michigan Youth Conservation & Trout Camp is not possible without the support of our TU community.

We do our best to keep the camp affordable. This is especially important as we strive to expand the opportunity for a more diverse group of campers.

If you have not done so already, please consider supporting youth camp by purchasing a one-of-a-kind sponsor pin designed by one of our very own 2022 MITU Youth Camp participants.

Just \$20! A beautiful pin to wear proudly, a chance to win some awesome prizes, and the pride of knowing you are nurturing our future stewards.

Click [Here](#) by January 1, 2023 to purchase your pin and be entered for your chance to win some great prizes from [Wildcat Creek Woodcraft](#), [Gates AuSable Lodge](#), [1884 Fly Shop](#) and [Pleasant View Kennel](#).

Pins will be mailed out to participants after the drawing for the prizes in early January.

Thank you for your support!

Here's a fun listen!

Tune in to hear Jon Chizmadia and Andy Pokorski, our Michigan Youth Conservation & Trout Camp chairs, on the October 7 [Lovells Township Historical Society podcast](#). If you prefer to listen on another device, search your podcast app for The Backcast, by lthsmuseums.

While there, you might want to listen to Trout Unlimited president and CEO Chris Wood (November 15 podcast), as well as Michigan TU aquatic ecologist Kristin Thomas (October 24).





Water levels were low, but still a Rocky Mountain high.

MONTANA IN SEPTEMBER

- - Paul Tulgetske

It was disturbing to watch the events unfold in early summer as rainfall mixed with snowmelt and created massive flooding in Yellowstone National Park and along the Yellowstone River outside the park. With many roads being washed out or completely gone, the fishing in the north part of the park had become inaccessible.

I had planned a trip to visit a friend in Livingston and he told me “don’t come out, everything is a mess.” So I cancelled my plans and just like that he called me two days ahead of the now cancelled trip and said “the fishing is phenomenal, get out here.” The runoff had ended, the Yellowstone had cleared up, and because of the flooding Montana Fish, Game, and Parks had closed many fishing access points. So no one else was fishing near my friend’s house, giving him a hint of what Montana was like fifty years ago.

So I fished vicariously through regular phone conversations about the great fishing. By mid-August I couldn’t resist any longer so I planned a trip to northern Montana to fish the North Fork of the Blackfoot.

I picked up a friend who had moved to Wisconsin for the drive to Montana where we joined my Livingston friend on the North Fork. There is an outfitters campground north of Ovando that gives access to the river but also to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. With deer and elk season in full swing the campground was pretty busy. Some of our neighbors had scored on elk.

We set up camp and made our plans for fishing the next day.

This was the latest time of the year that I had been to Montana and I was shocked at how low the river level was. Many places that would be deep holes were too shallow to hold fish. There were fish to be caught but you really had to work to find them.

The first trout I hooked was immediately chased around the small pool I was fishing by a two-foot-long bull trout.



A fine westslope cutthroat.



Another westslope cutthroat beauty.

“It was a great way to close out my fishing season.”

The next day we decided to explore some of the nearby creeks and we hit the jackpot. Water levels were normal and the fish were where you would expect them to be and they were willing to rise to a fly.

These are westslope cutthroats, but I even caught a bull trout on a dry fly. It was about nine inches long and I was really excited. My friend didn't understand my excitement until I explained that this is evidence that successful spawning is taking place in these creeks.

We packed up camp and left for home a day early because a bad storm was closing in. Turned out to be a wise decision as the storm came along with 40 mph winds.

It was a great way to close out my fishing season.



A beautiful Montana trout stream.

KVCTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Members at Large

Bill Comai
Leroy Heikes
Al Henderson
Pete Mathews
TJ Morse
Jim Shotwell

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We've got some exciting speakers coming up, not to mention our annual banquet in March. You won't want to miss them, so be sure to ink the dates now.

December 15	Show & Tell Night	The Fountains, Plainwell
January 19	Michigan Guide Kevin Feenstra	The Fountains, Plainwell
February 16	Michigan Guide John Gouker	The Fountains, Plainwell
March 16	KVCTU Annual Banquet	The Fountains, Plainwell
April 20	DNR Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter	The Fountains, Plainwell

KVCTU BOARD MEETINGS

KVCTU Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, September through April. An additional meeting is usually held midsummer.

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Because locations vary, if you would like to attend a board meeting please contact board president Emily Gundlach (emilygundlach@kvctu.org) for the time and place.

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1/3 page ad: \$57/issue

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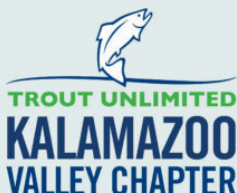
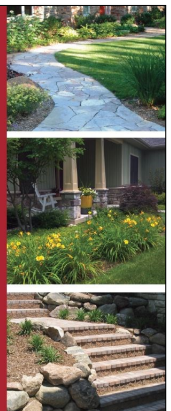


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Contributing to this issue of *Slacklines*: Dick Chamberlin, Jon Chizmadia, Emily Gundlach, Char Hammond, Connie Morse, Greg Potter, Paul Tulgetske.

Please send your articles, feedback, and suggestions to Editor ConnieMorse@kvctu.org