MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED

2014 Annual Report
Dear TU Member:

Michigan TU accomplished so much this year. We are on a great path going forward to accomplish even more in 2015…

more in Conservation, Education, Communications, and Development

To do all of the tasks we have set out for ourselves… to work stronger and harder with all of the local chapters… to keep the quality staff full-time staff that we have… we need annual financial operating support. Please show your support for Michigan TU by taking this opportunity to make a special end-of-year contribution.

Michigan TU’s platform and focus in the next two years consists of the following:

Conservation. The Conservation Committee is focusing on three segments: Advocacy, Government Affairs, and Habitat Enhancement. Conservation is what TU’s foundation is built upon. Focus on these three key segments will provide more concentrated attention to conservation issues throughout the state.

Communication. We will publish four issues of Michigan Trout magazine and do more In-the-Stream email blasts. We will meet face-to-face with each chapter at board meetings and banquets.

Education. We will support the chapters involved with Salmon in the Classroom, the Youth Trout Camp, the Fly Fishing School, and Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshops. We will focus on educating our local communities. Our local communities provide so much of our support and are the key to future growth in our membership and coldwater conservation efforts.

Operations & Finance. It is our obligation to be fiscally responsible. We will continue to operate within our means, protect and secure our endowments, and ensure our donors that we are investing in our coldwater resources as these funds were intended. We will continue to move the financial needle in the right direction.

Development. We will increase membership in the Aquifer Club. We will seek additional corporate support like the new DTE Energy Foundation grant. We will keep a strong relationship with Regulators and Legislators to have a voice in Lansing and Washington. We will continue in our efforts to ensure a self-sustaining organization to future leaders of Michigan TU and its local chapters.

Help us continue on the path of accomplishments we have seen this year, and to achieve even more in the coming year. PLEASE Make the most generous contribution possible.

Sincerely,

John Walters
John Walters - Chairman
Our Mission:
To conserve, protect and restore Michigan’s coldwater fisheries and the watersheds that support them.

Our Vision:
In the state where Trout Unlimited was founded, Michigan TU will work to ensure clean, healthy streams and rivers supporting thriving populations of wild trout and salmon, for future generations to come.

Our Plan:
While Michigan TU is always present to react to new coldwater fishery threats, we operate from a comprehensive, proactive agenda to meet the needs of Michigan’s coldwater fisheries. It is ambitious because the challenges of sustaining our coldwater fisheries into the future are daunting. Yet, we’ve assembled a plan that is achievable and strategically efficient given current resources.
At Michigan Trout Unlimited, we organize our conservation work into PROTECT, RECONNECT, RESTORE and SUSTAIN categories ("PRRS"). The Sustain category encompasses all the things we do to maintain a vibrant and productive organization and network of members that will continue to be up to the challenges of maintaining incredible coldwater fisheries in our state. PRR comprise the majority of our core “conservation” efforts. 2014 was a busy and productive year on all PRRS fronts. Our efforts toward SUSTAIN are explained in subsequent pages of this annual report, but here’s are some highlights from the PRR:

PROTECT: Michigan TU staff invested hundreds of hours in efforts to improve the state’s large-quantity water withdrawal regulatory program, through participation and leadership of the Water Use Advisory Council, which made over 50 recommendations on improvements to the program. On-the-ground, we doubled down efforts to document real-world baseflows of trout streams to ensure their appropriate protection from adverse resource impacts. We also worked to ensure that potentially harmful legislation were reshaped to avoid impacts to trout streams.

RECONNECT: 2014 saw the conclusion of our litigation on the Pigeon River’s Golden Lotus Dam. We ensured the dam would be removed, and were integral in shaping how it would be completed in 2015. Elsewhere, Michigan TU successfully lead and completed the partial removal and natural fish passage installation past a dam on the lower Prairie Creek River in Ionia, MI. We’ve been at work in numerous ways on several other dam removal projects across our state, and on plans to help move the practice of dam removal forward statewide with development of new inventories and guidance tools. We are also at work, with our local chapter, planning road culvert replacements to help brook trout migrate to thermal refuge in a watershed in the U.P., and launching a large effort at culvert replacements in the NW lower Peninsula.

RESTORE: Our TU chapters in MI annually conduct trout habitat enhancements on rivers and streams across the state. 2014 saw as large an effort at this as at any time in the past. Michigan TU helps to identify future restoration efforts through a variety of means, but is anchored by our River Stewards habitat assessments. We’ve now mapped out every run, riffle and pool, in 10 mainstem trout fisheries in Michigan; with more planned for 2015, and a new swath of restoration efforts resulting in 2015 and 2016. We also worked with the DNR to initiate new regulations aimed at restoring coaster brook trout to certain streams in the U.P.

These are just a few highlights from 2014 – always look to our magazine, emails, and website for more information about all we do!

Executive Director:
Dr. Bryan Burroughs

Activities & Accomplishments
River Stewards Program: Michigan TU’s hallmark coldwater conservation program uses data collection to prioritize restoration efforts and to track the health of high quality streams over time. Data is used to identify stream restoration projects based on science to ensure their long-term effectiveness.

The River Stewards program uses science-validated protocols and trained volunteers and interns to collect stream data cost-effectively, creating a valuable database that would otherwise be unavailable to water resource managers due to budget constraints.

The River stewards program conducts flow monitoring, habitat mapping, and data collection for assessing stream health. To date, stream data has been collected in 23 watersheds around the state. For more information about the program, go to www.michigantu.org/river-keepers.

In 2014, the primary watersheds of focus were the Pine, Manistee, Little Manistee, Boyne, Boardman, Rapid, and Gun. Stream baseflow was monitored at 22 critical sites in the Boardman, Rapid, Upper Manistee, and Gun River watersheds to provide additional data for groundwater protection, a critical step in ground-truthing the state’s system for allowing large-scale water withdrawals. In addition, over 90 miles of in-stream habitat was mapped by seasonal interns and volunteers on the Pine, Upper Manistee, Little Manistee, and Boyne Rivers.

Elsewhere in the state, River Stewards provided technical support for pre-restoration monitoring on the Rogue River, a Home Rivers initiative of TU National. Volunteers performed macroinvertebrate monitoring on the Rogue, Kalamazoo, and Au Sable Rivers in cooperation with the state’s MiCorps program. Temperature monitoring is also being done by many chapters around Michigan; Michigan TU staff assists with data analysis and dissemination in many cases.

Chapter Support: Michigan TU provides assistance and support to our 19 chapters located throughout Michigan. Data analysis, project prioritization, report writing, and grant writing assistance are all provided to our chapters to ensure Michigan TU is always doing what is best for coldwater fish in Michigan. Chapters also receive help with targeted fish sampling, communication with local biologists, and general project support.
Education:

Activities & Accomplishments

**Michigan Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School:** The Fly Fishing School has been in operations for over 40 years, featuring 3 full days of instruction to interested fly fishermen & women of all ages and skill levels; experience varies from advanced to beginners, all are welcome. The school is limited to the first 70 applicants for the school which is scheduled for early June each year at Ranch Rudolf just a few miles from Traverse City, Michigan on the Boardman River.

The instructors for the school are TU members, with a wealth of experience and are expert fly casters. Some instructors are professional guides and many are Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructors. This year’s school is scheduled for June 12, 13, and 14, 2015. For additional information and registration forms visit: www.tuffs.org

**Michigan Youth Trout Camp:** The 2014 camp marked its 18th year of providing young boys and girl’s ages 12-16 years old the basics of fly fishing. The camp teaches casting skills, fly tying, knots, proper catch and release techniques, entomology, reading the water and what makes a good trout stream. Other activities include a stream restoration project, canoe trip and several opportunities to catch trout on the beautiful AuSable River. The 2014 camp hosted 23 eager campers with fourteen full time counselors to provide special two on one instruction to all campers. The camp is educational but is also designed to be fun. The Youth Camp is made possible through the efforts of TU National and the many volunteers from the Michigan TU Chapters, DNR, DEQ, AmeriCorps Interns and the staff of the Ralph A. Mac Mullan Conference Center (RAM). The 2015 camp will be held at the RAM Center on July 5th through the 9th which is located on Higgins Lake at 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, Michigan 48653. Go to www.kvctu.org for registration information and forms. The deadline for applicants is May 31st, 2015.

**Salmon in the Classroom:** Michigan Trout Unlimited and the DNR’s Fisheries Division have partnered to provide a hands on program that allows students to interact with a living resource. It is a unique opportunity for teachers and students to learn about the Great Lakes and our fresh water resources, and the life cycle of salmon in their classroom. The DNR provides salmon eggs in the fall, the eggs are hatched during the school year and the young fish are released into the Great Lakes in May. The 2014 program had approximately 30 Michigan schools involved in the program which represented numerous classrooms and students throughout the State. Twelve of the nineteen TU Chapters supported the activity by providing equipment, volunteers and or funding for each classroom or program. For additional information on how you and your Chapter can become more involved in this great program contact Josh Henley, Michigan TU’s Project Manager at bjoshhenley@gmail.com

**TU’s Women's Initiative:** The Women’s Initiative is a nationally supported program to increase the involvement of women in TU. Michigan Trout Unlimited will be working to make our council and chapters welcoming environments for women within the organization, increasing women's presence in both volunteer and leadership positions. Michigan Women in TU hopes to increase new women membership numbers by making our council and chapters diverse and inclusive environments.
Development & Fundraising:

Activities & Accomplishments

Strengthening Relationships with Key Partners: During this past year, Michigan TU worked closely with Anglers of the Au Sable and the Mason-Griffith Chapter to protect the Holy Waters from encroachment or damage due to natural gas drilling operations. We worked with the Pigeon River Country Association and the Headwaters Chapter to ensure the drawdown and restoration of the Song of the Morning Ranch impoundment on the upper Pigeon River. And, after many years of encouragement from Michigan TU, TU National has hired, the second full-time field staff position to work exclusively on coldwater conservation in the Great Lakes basin.

Development Committee: Sustainable financial support continues to be a critical need for Michigan TU’s mission fulfillment. During this past year, significant progress was made toward a linchpin of that: having diverse funding sources. To that end, funding was secured in the form of a major grant from the DTE Energy Foundation that will be used to significantly expand the River Stewards Program. Michigan TU’s efforts to increase the participation rate and level of financial support from our local chapters resulted in 95% of chapters donating to Michigan TU, and the highest total level of chapter giving in many years. Efforts to increase the response rate to the Spring and End-of-Year Appeal mailings also paid off with increased contributions.

Aquifer Club: One of Michigan TU’s development achievements, the Aquifer Club is a cornerstone providing unrestricted funding for the exclusive support of the Executive Director and staff. This funding from individuals provides a core of dedicated partners who understand and appreciate the importance of Michigan TU’s mission from an unbiased perspective. This past year, the Aquifer Club has grown to 25 “deep giving” members and we continue to seek out and welcome new prospects. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining this core group of supporters and protectors of cold water resources; please contact Bryan Burroughs, byranburroughs@michigantu.org, 517.599.5238.

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

- Native American proverb
Michigan TU’s fiscal year (FY) 2014 was the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. For FY2014, total operating income was $323,212, up from $177,970 in FY2013. Total operating expense was $268,739, up from $214,294 in FY2013. Net operating income was $29,925, up from -$22,595 in FY2013.

Michigan TU’s annual operating loss disappeared in FY2014 resulting in a positive income position. This continued Michigan TU’s goal of reversing annual losses, begun four years ago. This is the first positive net operating income in recent memory for our organization. It is the expectation of our organization to continue this trend into the future.

Activities conducted during FY2014 were performed by Michigan TU’s two full-time professional staff (Executive Director; Aquatic Ecologist); five part-time seasonal employees (up from two in FY2013); and 6920 hours of volunteer time provided by Michigan TU’s Council and its committees, an 8% increase over FY2013.

Balance sheets highlights for FY2014 are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Net Assets</th>
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<td>$597,578</td>
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The annual financial audit for FY2013 was conducted by Yeo & Yeo, P.C., Saginaw and will be again for FY2014. Accounting and bookkeeping activities are being conducted by Amy Geer, CPA, CVA, Principal, Hoerner & Associates, Chesaning. Financial reports are compiled monthly. These are posted to Michigan TU’s website; and reported quarterly at Council meetings.

Detailed financial reports are available upon request. Contact Ed Roden, current Operations & Finance Chair; 248.373.8238; eroden@michigantu.org or Tom Quail, FY2014 Finance & Operations & Finance Chair, current Vice Chairman; 248.495.2615; tquail@michigantu.org

“I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, … and finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant – and not nearly so much fun.”

- John Voelker (aka. Robert Traver), Michigan Trout Angler and Supreme Court Judge.
Chapter Contributors
Adams
Ann Arbor Challenge
Charles A. Fellows Clinton Valley Copeland Copper Country Fred Wara Headwaters Kalamazoo Valley Martuch Mason Griffith Miller VanWinkle Paul H. Young Pine River Schrems West Michigan Vanguard William B. Mershon

Aquifer Club

Individual Donors

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Thomas Leppek
Jim Lewis
Jana Lindberg
Robert Linsenman
Lennart Loefstrom
John Lowery
Joseph Maggini
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Sid Manning
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William Savage
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Stephen Werner
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Joseph Whelan
Todd Williams
Mark Wilmot
Stephen Wiseman
David Wodowski
Walter Wurst
Edward Yurewicz

In Memory of
Kenneth Sink
Robert Herner

In Memory of
Donald Lohman
Craig & Tamara Metz

In Memory of
Marc Twinney
Pete Miller

In Memory of
Forest Becker III
Rebecca Pehovic

Corporate/Other Contributors
Anglers of the Au Sable
Charlevoix Co. Community Foundation
Detroit Edison Foundation
Joyce Foundation/MEC
Kroger Cares
MITU Fly Fishing School
Susan and David Scott Fund
Trout Unlimited National
United Way - Washtenaw County
Wege Foundation/Fresh Water