

Challenge Chapter TU General Meeting March 9, 2004

Attendance: Bill Thorsted, Doug Shore, Greg Baughman, Jon Bird, Paul Adesko, John Eisel, Robert Sparks, Carl Hueter, Dave Parker, Dave Smith, John Marsh, Dave Shantz, Bill Womack, George Fetherston, Jim Zyla, Don Silsbe, Bob Truman, Nancy Spence, Jeff Schodowski, John Angeliu, Rob Zimmermann, Dave Scott, Tom Burke, Mike McGregor, Russ Holmes, Alan Amendt, Bill Harber, Martin VanFossan and Rich Bowman.

President: Don introduced our guest speaker, Todd Fuller with NBOC, Carl Hueter & Rich Bowman with MITU. Don asked Rich to speak to us and turned the meeting over to him.

Rich Bowman: Rich thanked Don for the opportunity to speak to our chapter. He said he would like to address the following issues that have come up in the past few weeks. Ice Mountain litigation: Judge through out everything except; they need a wetlands permit and they have applied for one. DEQ was wrong saying that they didn't need one. Withdrawing ground water that impacts down stream water users or property owners is illegal. This is what TU is lobbying against. As far as the grant money that Ice Mountain has given MITU, the Michigan council decided to accept the grant money from Ice Mountain, but we have put it in escrow and has not been received yet. TU accepts grants like this from many sources, and some may be ones that we have issues with or lobbied against. This doesn't mean that they are trying to buy our silence; they give grants like this all the time. We are not selling out to get the money.

Rich met with the Forest Service Chief in DC to discuss the exploration in the Mason Tract. The Forest Service has been expediting oil and gas drilling permits in the west. They do not have grounds to deny the permit for drilling wells in the Mason Tract.

Savoy has agreed to do drilling in the winter months to reduce the noise; there will be no containment pit, they will truck out materials that would normally be in pit. Our main issue is the way permits are issued.

Mike Breamer, with the forest service in Mio, is in charge of this area. If you want to let him know that you are against this, contact Mike. Rich is also working with the state legislators on getting some support for swapping mineral rights between state & feds because the mineral rights don't always match the land swaps they have done. They are interested in looking at this but we don't think anything will happen very soon.

Treasurer's Report: Russ reported that we now have \$6,000 in checking. He has requested the \$20 deposit from all those who have signed up for our outings.

Fundraising: Martin sold raffle tickets for the Orvis T3 travel rod. Next month is drawing for the Orvis T3 8 Wt. and at the May meeting we will have the final auction for the Winston Rod- tonight's raffle will be for the signed book, For the Love of Trout by George Griffin.

Don Silsbe asked for a motion on the February meeting Minutes and the March board notes as presented. Motion to accept was made by Russ Holmes and 2nd by John Marsh-motion carries.

Conservation-Wayne Glessner: Outings-We still have room for more members at our outings. Please consider joining us this year. We have some very good work projects scheduled and great food, companionship and fishing too. He passed out a request from the Cedars of the Au Sable for adopting a section of the Au Sable River to plant and maintain 50 cedar trees each year for 15 years. This is a huge commitment, please read the material, because we will discuss this and decide if we will support it at the April meeting.

Challenge Chapter TU

Expo-signup sheet for expo-we need your help for staffing our booth-great opportunity to meet members and see a great show, speakers, and tiers. Get a badge from George Fetherston. You can pick up your nametag at the booth.

Nominating committee-Dave Shantz, John Marsh & Jim Zyla. Dave will head the nominating committee this year. They will have the slate for next year's board at the April meeting.

By-law revision will be discussed at April meeting.

Education: Tom Burke: Our Fly-Fishing School will be in June and we still have openings if you are interested. There are flyers at the back of the room with all the details on the school.

State Council: Paul Adesko-Michigan council-every chapter has 2 votes-we would like to see more attendees. Please come to the council meetings if you can. Everyone is welcome.

Next Meeting will be on April 13, 2004 at Hickory Grove Elementary School located at 2800 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills, MI. We will meet in the gym at 7:30PM. Driving instructions to new location are: I-75 take Square Lake exit westbound. Continue west to Lahser and then turn south on Lahser.

Adjournment: After the business portion of the meeting, Don introduced our speaker, Todd Fuller with the North Branch Outing Club. Todd gave a history of the Douglas Hotel, now known as the North Branch Outing Club. In 1898, T.E. Douglas brought his family to the banks of the AuSable's North Branch in search of a fortune in the lumber industry. In a few short years, T. E. developed a very successful lumber milling industry and built a general store, post office and established other needed services to support his lumber operations in Lovells, MI. As the lumber resources dwindled, T. E. realized that he needed to expand his business if he was to stay on this beautiful river. In 1916 he opened the Douglas Hotel. His plan was to provide the world with first class accommodations; services and access to world class fly fishing and hunting. Men and women from all around the world came to the North Branch to experience this fishery, beautiful river and relaxed atmosphere. Henry Ford, the Dodge brothers, Thomas Edison and many other famous Michigan people stayed at the NBOC. The North Branch Outing Club served sportsmen until the Douglas Hotel closed its doors in the early 1960's. In 1996 the Fuller family bought Douglas Hotel and the restoration of the historic landmark began. Today the North Branch Outing Club once again offers first class lodging, fly fishing and hunting. Todd Fuller has a guide service their and they use the Au Sable river boat which is 24' long & 3' wide to float the North Branch. I have had the opportunity to stay and fish with the Fuller family and I highly recommend the NBOC.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Thorsted
Secretary