

# Adams Chapter Update

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*It's been almost 10 years since I started writing a president's report to all of you Adams Chapter members and now I'm leaving that office; but leaving the Chapter in good hands. Dave Stellingworth and Jeff Jocks will be the new President and VP and the Chapter will benefit from their enthusiasm and fresh ideas. The Board of Directors is stronger than ever with the addition of Tom Wilcox and Mark Andres.*

*The Adams Chapter has come a long way since its 1996 founding. We've somehow created a successful format for our annual banquet and, with your help, found a way to channel our profits to local stream restoration, preservation and advocacy efforts. A point of great pride has been that the Chapter has always spent your money locally. My personal goal was always to net \$100 from each banquet seat and, while we never netted the \$20,000, we came close a couple of times. Even with the difficult economic climate, I remain optimistic. No one runs the Chapter alone and, during my tenure, I received quality help all along the way. Steve Largent has been invaluable. His knowledge made up for my environmental and scientific deficiencies. Ken Gum and Gabe Schneider stepped up to the plate and took over the newsletter and web site roles; if that hadn't happened I would not have lasted the last 4 years. The Adams Chapter is not much different than any other loosely organized, volunteer, organization... 300+ members, maybe 20*

at the general meetings, maybe 10 that can be coerced into jobs that they really don't want... every year I'd worry about pulling off a successful fundraiser and every year members would magically appear, do more than their share and then drift back to their normal pursuits and fishing, my sincere thanks to all of them. We have a number of members who, very understandably, prefer stream work and heavier labor. These chapter volunteers are rarely seen at our meetings, yet they provide the backbone of our restoration projects. I have always been thankful for their hard work.

*Working with kids on the stream, publically talking about the Chapter's mission, interacting with other environmental groups... all of that has really increased my love of our wonderful, local, trout streams and made me even more committed to their protection. None of my presidential duties have helped one iota with my hook setting abilities or prevented my chronic inattentiveness on the stream... in such beautiful places, the mind must wander.*

*I look forward to more fishing time and encourage all of you to find a couple of additional hours for our Chapter. Our precious resources are continually threatened and, without your attention and the voice of organizations like the Adams Chapter, often suffer at the hands of those with no vision and little concern for the rivers and woods that we leave to coming generations. Thank you and I'll thank you again when we meet on the river.*



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**New Leadership:** (pictured from left to right) Outgoing president Bill Fernandez, Steve Largent, Mark Andres, Jim Zachow, Tom Wilcox, Larry Thompson, Jeff Jocks, Dave Stellingworth, Gabe Schneider (hiding behind Dave), Dennis Taylor, Kirk Novak and Ken Gum.

perform a real service in making people aware of the challenges our cold water fisheries continually face. In addition, the Chapter plays an important role in giving resources back to the community; resources that help protect rivers and streams not only today but for future generations. When I became involved in the Adams chapter, I was surprised at the extent of the contributions raised and then distributed back to the community – over \$200,000 in 10 years. These contributions are the result of the efforts of individuals in this chapter and something that every member should be very proud of.

*On behalf of the chapter*, I'd like to thank Bill Fernandez for his dedication and leadership over the past decade. It goes without saying that he'll be a hard act to follow. I do look forward to helping the Adams Chapter continue to make significant contributions to help protect our valuable coldwater resources. I also look forward to meeting more of you and hearing your thoughts on how our chapter can continue to grow and improve.

*Hope to see you* at the January meeting!

## **Boardman River Dams**

*Plans to remove the Boardman River Dams* is moving forward. Traverse City based Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) was selected as project managers by the City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County. CRA covers watersheds in 13 counties in north-west Michigan that contain numerous aging dams. The experience they gain through the Boardman Dams process will prove valuable with future dam removal projects.

*The process is guided* by an oversight committee called the Implementation Team (IT). The IT is made up of representatives from the City, County, MDNR, MDEQ, Traverse City Light & Power, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians and the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition. Representatives from the Grand Traverse Conservation District, CRA, the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and Rotary Camps & Services were added as Ex-officio members to roundout the Team.

*IT meetings are held* the third Thursday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on the Second Floor of the Governmental Center. Meeting agendas and minutes can be accessed on the City of Traverse City's home page at [www.ci.traverse-city.mi.us](http://www.ci.traverse-city.mi.us). If you have any questions feel free to call me anytime (231) 883-9960.

*Adams Chapter Members, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself, as the President-Elect of your chapter. My name is Dave Stellingworth and I have been a Life member of TU for almost 10 years. During that time, I have been involved with three different TU chapters around the country and then five years ago, decided to retire to Northern Michigan to enjoy the region's abundance of local streams and rivers, quality of life, and more importantly, to chase trout.*

*I believe that Trout Unlimited and the Adams Chapter per-*

## Adams Chapter Communication Challenges

At the recent general membership meeting, a discussion was held regarding our communication process and methods to get information to the membership in a timely and cost efficient manner. Many organizations like ours are faced with similar challenges of using a variety of methods; web sites, general emails, and traditional mailings to relay information to the membership.

Our chapter has several challenges that should be addressed:

- **Cost of Mailings/Returned Newsletters:** The costs continue to rise on mailings of the newsletter and other pieces of chapter correspondence. In addition, every mailing results in newsletters or pieces of correspondence being returned for out of date addresses, which the chapter is charged for, compounding these costs.
- **Resource Utilization:** As an organization dedicated to protecting and conserving our natural resources, we should explore options of disseminating information to the membership while making an effort to reduce paper and the use of other resources that have a negative effect on the environment.
- **Consistency/Timeliness of Information:** As the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Adams Chapter, we have to make an effort to ensure that all communications are current, consistent and get to you, the member, in a timely fashion.

At our next General Membership Meeting, January 27th, further discussion on these topics is planned. Formation of a Communications Committee will be discussed which, if implemented, will continue to discuss the above challenges and hopefully come up with some creative solutions, which would then be adopted by the Executive Committee over the course of the next year.

If you are interested or have expertise in this area, please contact the chapter officers or directors for more information and plan to attend the January 27th meeting at Traverse City Eye Consultants, 5199 North Royal Drive at 7:00 pm to learn more about how to join in this challenging process.

## Amendment to By-Laws

The membership present at the Membership Meeting December 2 unanimously amended Article X, Section 1 of the Adams Chapter By-Laws. The amendment allows future By-Law amendments to be made at specially called

membership meetings during the regular year instead of only at the annual Membership Meeting. Some of the Adams Chapter Directors proposed the amendment because they felt By-Law changes prior to the next annual Membership Meeting would be valuable. Look for a special membership meeting to be called sometime during the summer of 2010 for consideration of more amendments. Please attend and let your voice be heard.

## Chapter Grants

Once again the Adams Chapter is seeking grant proposals that focus on science based education of our area youth concerning water quality and coldwater conservation and for river restoration or stream habitat enhancement activities. In 2009, the Chapter handed out nearly \$15,000 in grants and support. The Chapter is able to offer such grants on an annual basis because of the strong support we receive from all of you at our Annual Spring Banquet. **Applications must be post-marked by March 13th, 2010.** For more information please visit our website at [www.tctROUT.org](http://www.tctROUT.org) or by calling (231) 883-9960.



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# 2010 CALENDAR

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**January 27**

**General Membership Meeting**

7 p.m., Traverse City Eye Consultants, 5199 North Royal Drive, TC

**March 19-21**

**Outdoor Show**

Traverse City Civic Center

**March 24**

**General Membership Meeting**

7 p.m., Traverse City Eye Consultants, 5199 North Royal Drive, TC

**April 17**

**Adams Chapter Annual Fundraising Banquet**

Williamsburg Showcase Dinner Theatre, 4230 E. M-72, Williamsburg

**September 17-19**

**Adams Chapter WaWaSum Weekend**

WaWaSum Lodge on the AuSable

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