

# THE PERE MARQUETTE

# EXPLORER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
PERE MARQUETTE RIVER CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED  
SPRING 2019 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## Welcome to the first issue of the PMTU Newsletter, The Explorer!

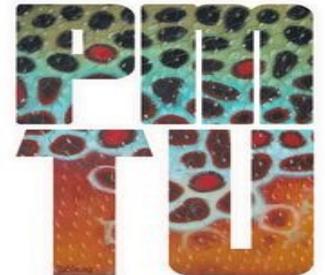
Named in honor of the man that our river is named after, this quarterly newsletter will help PMTU Members keep in touch with chapter news, events, important dates, project updates, and river reports.

PMTU has been busy with several projects involving bank stabilizations and habitat improvement. As with all such efforts, volunteerism is key to a healthy, effective chapter.

We hope to see you all become more involved for the protection of our beloved watershed, the Pere Marquette River.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PMTU CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Dear PMTU members and friends,

I took the role as President of our chapter so we can protect, restore and conserve the beautiful watershed we have all come to love. The Pere Marquette is a special place that I love to visit and I want to make sure that future generations of outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy it as much as I have. I ask that each of you to help in some form, whether it is financially, or more importantly with your time as a volunteer. Together we all can make a difference to ensure that the Pere Marquette River and it's surrounding tributaries stay safe and protected.

**Jason Dehning**

President, PMTU

## MARK YOUR CALANDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!

**PMTU Meetings** are held every first Tuesday of every month at the Pere Marquette River Lodge. Feel free to join us, we are always in need for project volunteers! There will be no meeting in May, with the annual PMTU fundraiser on May 4. All members are encouraged to attend and feel free to bring along a friend! The **2019 First Brown Bash** will be **Saturday, May 4th** at Baldwin Bait and Tackle. The kegs will be tapped at 5PM and festivities begin at 6PM. Volunteers will be needed to help set up before the event and clean-up afterwards.. See you all there!



## Success at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo!

PMTU had another successful outing at the Midwest Fly Fishing Club's fly-fishing exposition in Warren, MI on March 9th and 10th. The PMTU team of Joe Neumann, Sean O'Brien, Jason Dehning, and Dave Pratt did a nice bit of fund raising for our chapter by selling 60 boat raffle tickets and a number of sweatshirts, hats, and stickers during the 2-day event. Many thanks to Mike Batke and his Stealthcraft crew for sharing their expo space with us and displaying the beautiful boat they built for us.

## 2018 BROWN TROUT REDD SURVEY

Last fall, PMTU conducted its first annual brown trout spawning redd survey in the Pere Marquette River and some of its tributaries. The project covered the entire flies-only section of the river and to Bowman's Bridge, plus portions of the Baldwin River, the Middle Branch, and the Little South Branch. 23 members of our chapter participated by examining specific sections of the river to count and record GPS coordinates of brown trout redds over a 4-week period. The data was submitted to Jacob Lemon, Trout Unlimited staff biologist, who organized the project and is summarizing the results. Similar redd surveys in the future will be useful in determining the health of the river and its brown trout population and identifying any changes that may be occurring. A call for volunteers to help with this year's survey is expected this summer.

## 2019 PMTU FIRST BROWN BASH!

**Saturday, May 4th, 6PM at Baldwin Bait and Tackle.**

The donation to enter is only \$25 for plenty of good eats and some First Brown Ale, compliments of Atwater Brewery. As in the past, there will be donated items up for auction, included guided fishing trips, lodging, artwork and much more. Live music will be the extraordinary acoustic stylings of TU member and fly fisherman **Barney Betka!**



## WIN THIS 13 FT STEALTHCRAFT SNIPER DRIFT BOAT!



This year's **Stealthcraft Boat Raffle** is an absolute stunner with its woodgrain skin. Just picture yourself in it, proudly rowing down the PM, past all those jealous guides! The boat raffle tickets are only \$50 each, and only 200 tickets were printed. The winner will be drawn at the Bash.

**To purchase Boat Raffle tickets, contact Jason Dehning at 616-821-2582.**

**To bid on donated items for the Online Auction, go to [PMTU.ORG](http://PMTU.ORG)**