

TROUT TIMES



**Vanguard
Chapter**

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Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner: Midwest Expo Results

WARREN—Yes, we have a winner from the Vanguard Chapter raffle held at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo sponsored by the Michigan Fly Fishing Federation at Macomb Community College in early March. In fact, we have three winners, and they won more than chicken dinners. (If you're interested in where the phrase, "winner, winner, chicken dinner," comes from, you can Google it. Most recently the phrase was used in the movie "21.")

The winner of the grand prize raffle item, two guided float trips, was Marc Poulin. Nice. The second prize winner of the Orvis Sling Pack was Bob Johnson. It just so happens that both are Vanguard members, so their loyalty to the Chapter obviously paid dividends since tickets were purchased by many people who were simply attending the Expo with no affiliation to TU or the Vanguard Chapter. More on Marc and Paul in a minute.

The big winner, however, was the

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BEAUTY & FLY FISHING: Paint Creek as Art & with New Fishing Regulations

By Joe Barker

ROCHESTER—Capturing Paint Creek with a dreamy surrealism is obviously an artistic accomplishment. The photo below shown with photographer Ted Lang, titled "On Paint Creek, Rochester," won first place and a blue ribbon at the 2011 Photographic Show at Margot's Gallery in Oxford. Not only does that photo capture Paint Creek in a dreamy state, but also Vanguard member James Singer, who no doubt is dreaming of catching a big, fat Brown Trout in the photo.

Here's the story according to James.

"I met a photographer on Paint Creek last fall. He was in the stream with a tripod and camera. I stopped to chat with him, he told me that I was fishing upstream and as he was about to shot a picture I moved to different casting position. Bummer.

"Anyway I suggested that I start fishing again and he could take all the photos that he wanted as long as I didn't pose, I would just fish (nothing caught at this spot). We reviewed the photos in the camera and we agreed to meet later and that I could pick one out for myself."

Winter came and went, and the next thing that James heard was that the photograph with him in it was an award winner. James went to the Margot Gallery to view Ted's creation.

"The photo is stunning to say the least, whether I'm the subject matter or



not," said James. Fortunately, Ted must have air-brushed out James' notorious tailing loop in his cast. Just kidding, James, who wants it noted that he was using an aesthetically pleasing bamboo fly rod at the time. "Joan and I will soon go to the artist's personal gallery to get my own copy of this."

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PAINT CREEK

Continued from Front Page.

Ted, who lives in the Detroit area, spent many years as a professional commercial, wedding, portrait, and travel photographer, and then was an art gallery owner and custom picture framer before turning his profession into artistry. Ted explained what he was trying to capture with his photo of Paint Creek and why it is an award winner.

“There are a number of elements in this image that caused the art show jurors to award it a blue ribbon,” said Ted. “Those include the composition and the dramatic evening lighting and color. But, I like to think that the most important aspect of this image is the feeling and mood that it conveys. In my photography I try to capture and express the mood and feeling of the moment.”

“In this case, what I sensed was a certain connection between a man and nature that can happen during fishing. Can we call it serenity? A spiritual experience? I don't know for sure. Perhaps it's inexpressible. But it was there. And I tried to capture it. I think each person can find their own meaning in art, so I don't claim to explain it fully.”

Ted does enjoy fishing too, but he says that these days he spends most of his time in the outdoors capturing images of nature and working on them in his studio. Ted has also photographed many other waterways in Michigan, as well as in other states, and in Europe.

“But, funny thing is,” says Ted, “I just realized this winter that I need to invest in a pair of waders if I want to open up more opportunities for better images. I chose Paint Creek for this picture because I am trying to prove something to myself and to some of those who are interested in photography and in art. That is, you don't

necessarily need to travel to exotic places to get great photographs nor to create worthwhile art. No, the more important thing is to be ready and able to see. To really see. There is awesome beauty very near to us. But, it so easy to drive right by it every day and never really see it. Most people that look at his image, as well as other images I have done, never imagine how close to home it is. I wonder if this lesson applies to fishing, too?”

It most certainly does, Ted. You can view Ted's website by going to <http://www.tedlangphotoart.com>.

And speaking of Paint Creek, there are new fishing regulations that apply this year on the traditional trout opener at the end of April. The five mile stretch of Paint Creek from Gunn to Tienken Roads will

be limited to artificial lures only and the minimum size has been increased to 14 inches. Also, there is a two fish per day limit. The changes are part of a host of new regulations this year by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment aimed at improving the quality of fishing on several trout fisheries throughout the state.

So enjoy our local treasure called Paint Creek. Although you may not be able to capture its artistic beauty as well as Ted, take a mental picture that you can stow away in your fishing memory book.

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**Joe Barker, Editor
Tom Quail, President**

RAFFLE

Continued from Front Page.

Vanguard Chapter. Vanguard members working the Chapter's booth hawked a total of \$964 worth of raffle tickets (1082), which after expenses resulted in a net profit of \$572.

As pointed out by Chapter Treasurer Joe “the Banker” Swantek in his report on revenues from the Expo, “As you see, we did fairly well on Saturday and Sunday sales this year as compared to previous years. The key to success is the pre-show sales as we did in 2010.”

Although the number of raffle tickets sold compared to last year was down (1,648 for gross sales of \$1,444), our revenues were proportionately greater due in large part to the donation of the guided trips as the grand prize this year. Net revenue for 2010 was \$879. However, this year's revenues were considerably better than in 2009 when only 798 tickets were sold, realizing a net profit of only \$120.27.

Special thanks is in order to those Vanguard members who help set up/take down our display and manned the booth during the two day event. They did their best to pry money out of the tight fists of Expo attendees: Scott Hummon, Dave Watson, Joe Swantek, Tom Quail, Larry Walla, Matt Walla, Pete Howard, Frank Penkala, John Sabina, and Phil Church.

As Joe “The Banker” is quick to point out: “The show isn't all about money. It's an opportunity to meet old friends, meet other chapter members and businesses, sign up new members, and educate the public on our mission!”

Indeed, the Vanguard Chapter welcomes seven new members who were signed up at the Expo in March: A.W. “Skip” Schafer, Gareth Allen, Brad Hunsancer, Bill Benson, Scott Elsey, Richard Rhynord, and Steve Mourkewich. Let's hope we can get all of them involved in Chapter activities and events as soon as possible.

Now, back to our raffle winners.

Please see **RAFFLE**, next page.



On Paint Creek, Rochester
© Copyright Ted Lang, 2011

RAFFLE

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Marc Poulin has been a Vanguard Chapter member since 2007. He is a resident of Rochester Hills and he is recently retired. He's new to fly fishing within the last four to five years. Member John Sa-



With Members John Sabina, Dave Watson, and Scott Hummon looking on, Joe Swantek holds the raffle bucket as the winning ticket is plucked by one of the vendors at the Expo.

bina sold the winning ticket to Marc on Saturday of the Expo. It just so happens that Marc has gone on guided float trips with guide Chuck Scribner before but never with Kelly Neumann or Mike Batcke. He was a very excited and a happy winner according to Tom "The Quailster" Quail, who contacted Marc about winning.



Grand Prize winner Marc Poulin accepts congratulations from John Sabina and promptly has a beer in celebration.

In congratulating Marc by email, The Quailster emphasized that "Vanguard Chapter thanks you for your membership in TU and our Chapter and your continued support of our fundraising efforts. All the

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President's Corner

By Tom Quail

"To conserve, protect and restore Michigan's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." Michigan Trout Unlimited's mission

Finally, it's that time of the year; it's time to go fishing! The Michigan Trout Opener is April 30th, steelhead have been on the big bite since March, and the ice is off the lakes. This is always a special time for fly fishers; it's kind of like Christmas and your birthday all wrapped up in one.

Some have traveled to fly fishing destinations but it's not the same, it's not our home waters. Admit it, every time you travel past Paint Creek you look down into the waters and imagine where a big brown is holding. Now's the time to go hunt that big brown trout with that new fly pattern you tied this past winter. Well, you'd better wait until April 30th or our local Conservation Officers will give you a little love note.

Speaking of Paint Creek, we've got new gear restrictions on a very fishy reach of the creek. The restrictions cover the water from Gunn Road downstream to Tienken Road and include the following restrictions; **Gear Restriction:** artificial lures only, **Fishing season:** last Saturday in April through September 30 for all species of trout, **Possession season:** last Saturday in April through September 30 for all species of trout, **Daily Possession limit:** two (2) fish for all species of trout, **Minimum size limits:** all species of trout - 14 inches, **Mileage:** 5.0 miles.

This was made possible through the efforts of The Paint Creek Gear Restriction Coalition that campaigned for this designation last fall. The coalition included CRWC, Vanguard Chapter TU, Clinton Valley Chapter TU, Challenge Chapter TU, & Paul H. Young Chapter TU, Michigan Fly Fishing Club and Fly Fishing Fellowship.

We had a successful raffle at the 2011 MFFC Fly Fishing Expo. Both of our raffle winners were chapter members. Marc Poulin won the Grand Prize; two all day float trips with Kelly Neuman & Mike Batcke for two anglers. Marc is my new best friend. Bob Johnson won the second prize, an Orvis sling pack. Both winners were very surprised at winning and appreciative to the chapter.



We are not having a spring conservation banquet this year, instead opting to have a capital funding campaign to raise much needed funding for our chapter's 2011 conservation, education and awareness projects & programs. These include; signage construction &

installation and map updates announcing the Paint Creek gear restrictions, woody debris management (WDM) on Paint Creek, conservation efforts on the Upper Black River, Adopt-A-Stream monitoring (May & October - w/2two chapter teams), youth fly fishing education programs including fishing gear donation, Hawk Woods Asian Carp display, Salmon-In-The-Classroom sponsorship, youth fly tying workshops, Michigan TU Youth Trout Camp, Clinton River Coldwater Conservation Project (CRCCP), CRWC River Rally, CRWC River Day, SE Michigan TU Chapter picnic & Paint Creek conservation restoration, Huron Pointe Heritage Days, MITU River Keepers, etc.

We have fishing outings to the Rayburn Lodge in May, Smallmouth, Carp and Hex outings in June, outing(s) to be announced in July (we need an outing in July!), Salmon outing in September, and others to be announced through the website, monthly email blasts and this newsletter.

We continue to promote and support

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RAFFLE

Continued from prior page.

proceeds raised from this raffle go toward coldwater conservation projects on Paint Creek, the Clinton River, the Upper Black River of the Black Lake Watershed, and other coldwater conservation projects advocated by Vanguard Chapter and Michigan Trout Unlimited."

Second prize winner Bob Johnson has been a Vanguard Chapter member since 2006. He also is a resident of Rochester Hills and has been fly fishing quite a while, but doesn't get out as much as he'd like. Bob bought his winning ticket on Saturday from Vanguard member Bob Hannah. According to the Quailster upon notifying Bob, "he was also very surprised to have won the Orvis Sling Pack and was quite appreciative."

PRESIDENT

Continued from prior page.

monthly chapter fly tying. Jeff Gerwitz heads up this activity. This activity is done very proactively with theme fly patterns that match the season, expert instruction with video support, and all materials are furnished. This includes the vise if you're a newbie and just want to check out fly tying before making an investment in equipment. This class accommodates both new and experienced tiers alike.

We have a lot going on in Vanguard Chapter. Please come to a meeting or one of our events. I promise you'll have a great time!

Finally, I'd like to thank our active group of volunteers who continue to make things happen for the chapter and for our coldwater resources.

2011 is shaping up very well for Vanguard Chapter. We have a lot to be proud of at Vanguard Chapter and I'm glad you all are such great members.

Tight Lines, Tom Quail
Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited #378
President

EDITORIAL

"FRANKENFISH": WHERE'S MY ROD AND WHERE CAN I FIND THEM?

By Joe Barker

The winter issue of Trout magazine, our TU parent's national publication, featured as its cover article, "'Frankenfish' Looms Large," with a scary picture of presumably, genetically-altered fish embryos. There was plenty of legitimate handwringing in the article concerning the potential threat from a biotech North Atlantic Salmon that a Massachusetts aquaculture company was experimenting with. The company was able to fertilize eggs from North Atlantic Salmon with "blended genetic material" from a Chinook salmon as a growth hormone along with a second "antifreeze gene" from an ocean Pout fish. The result was a North Atlantic Salmon that could grow year-round, rather than only in warmer months, thereby reaching eight pounds for market in 18 months instead of 36.

It made me think of some of those old jokes, "what do you get when you cross awith a" [fill in the blanks and add a punch line]. I'm certain this is no laughing matter. Although the FDA assures the public no health hazard is presented by this North Atlantic Pouting Chinook Salmon, I agree that environment impact studies are needed to determine what would happen if these supposedly sterile female fish, that are being raised in the mountains of Panama, somehow managed to escape into the ocean and find a way to reproduce. I'm not quite sure how that mountain hike or sex change might work, but assuming it does, is this really a threat or better fishing through science?

I say this only half jokingly. Sure, I like the aesthetics of fishing for native fish. Yellowstone cutthroats in the Yellowstone River, Brook trout in the Black River, Brown trout in the Manistee. But wait a minute; Brown trout aren't native to the Manistee, nor anywhere else in the

Americas, including the Big Horn and many other western rivers where they grow to mammoth proportions. However, I sure don't want to eradicate them here or anywhere else. The Great Lakes fishery would not be what it is today without the introduction of hatchery Chinook and Coho. And what about those Steelhead and Rainbow in our streams? None of them are native to Michigan and many have been bred as specific strains for this environment.

I could go on endlessly. The point is, all fisheries evolve over time, more often lately with human intervention both intentionally and unintentionally. Would the Great Lakes benefit from an Atlantic Salmon that grows twice as fast and potentially twice as big? I think it probably would and it would probably eat any Asian Carp that tried to gain a foothold. Might it out-compete and replace the other salmon that have already been artificially introduced? Maybe. Certainly, the salmon introduced into the Great Lakes have supplanted Whitefish, Sturgeon, Lake Trout, and any other number of species that were native to the Great Lakes, but I haven't heard any uproar.

Just think what genetic engineering of sport fish could mean? A brook trout crossed with a Chinook Salmon could be the size of Steelhead. Won't that be a rod bender! How about a Rainbow trout crossed with a Sailfish? Not only would it be bigger, but it would have a huge top fin and we could plant them in warm water, maybe even the Clinton River. How would you like to see one of those babies cruising through Rochester!

Heritage fish have their esthetic appeal. We don't necessarily want to lose them. But time and science marches on. I say let's not limit our options. Better fishing through genetic engineering? It's been done before.



Improve the Life of a Stream: Become an Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer

By Joe Barker

ROCHESTER HILLS—It's time to enlist and head off to basic training. No, we're not talking about the Army and Uncle Sam. It's your neighborhood stream that needs you and Uncle Dave; Dave Watson that is.

"It's time to shake out the waders and get back in the streams," says Dave. "Vanguard TU have been assigned Kings Cove, a great area off Tienken Road on Paint Creek. So far we have 11 members keen to start on May 7th."

The "they" which has assigned the Vanguard SWAT team this section of Paint Creek is the Clinton River Watershed Council, which Vanguard has partnered with on numerous occasions in the past on stream improvement and public awareness programs.

"They all [CRWC] are planning to have the basic training this month to ensure we are all on the same page as far as the data is concerned," says Dave. "Jeremy Geist [Watershed Programs Coordinator for the CRWC] has received a great response to the Adopt-A-Stream program. We [Vanguard TU] hope to have two teams this year working on Paint Creek."

Dave explained what Vanguard volunteers can expect to do on the creek: "We net the river for bugs then identify and record them. Whilst in the river we take readings of the depth and take recordings of the habitat. This is a good way to see how healthy the streams are and find the leaks in your waders."

In announcing the program to the Vanguard Chapter, the CRWC points out that becoming an Adopt-A-Stream volunteer, you help your community make informed decisions and improve water quality.

"Assessing the health of the creeks and rivers in the Clinton River Watershed is a pretty big task," the CRWC points out in noting that the land that drains into the Clinton River covers 760 square miles and includes over 1,000 miles of streams in addition to the 80-mile-long main branch.

"We live in the most populous watershed in Michigan and we're still growing! As our population grows, the potential for complex water quality issues in our watershed also grows," the CRWC noted.



In order to protect the health of area residents, recreational opportunities and the overall health of the watershed, the CRWC believes there must be a better understanding of the impact these problems have on water bodies in our local neighborhoods.

"The over 60 municipalities, county agencies, and nonprofit conservation groups in our watershed are hard at work, developing and implementing plans that will help maintain and improve the health our waterways," says the CRWC.

But, the CRWC knows they can't do it alone. In these times of fiscal austerity, governmental agencies don't have the staff or funds to continuously monitor each body of water without local community assistance.

"That's where you can help by getting involved and volunteering as an Adopt-A-Stream volunteer," the CRWC urges. "The Clinton River Watershed Council's Adopt-a-Stream program is a volunteer-based program that empowers community members to protect local streams and rivers by monitoring their health."

As Uncle Dave pointed out previously, volunteers are teamed up, assigned stream sites, given equipment, data sheets and a collection protocol, and then sent out to gather information on streamside habitats, physical/chemical characteristics and macroinvertebrate populations. Twice a year (May and October) teams of trained volunteers visit their adoption site and collect data. After the initial three-hour training session each volunteer dedicates approximately 3-4 hours of their time per year.

The data collected is then used by the CRWC, municipalities, and the state to assess the health of our streams and rivers and make decisions regarding their protection and restoration.

If you would like more information on Adopt-a-Stream volunteer monitoring opportunities or would like to register for training sessions, contact Dave Watson at (248) 601-3828 or email him at dwatson@vanguardtu.org. You can also get more information by calling the CRWC at 248-601-0606 or sending an email to contact@crwc.org



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Talk about a Big Chill: Vanguard Members Round-Up Bugs at CRWC Stonefly Search 2011

ROCHESTER HILLS—Vanguard volunteers braved 6 degree temperatures back in January to participate in the “Stonefly Search 2011” at Yates Park in Rochester Hills, or the “Stonefly Round-Up” as some referred to it, as part of the Clinton River Watershed’s Council’s Adopt-A-Stream program

Scott Hummon was one of the Vanguard members who attended the round-up and had this to say: “It was a very productive day, with many stoneflies, caddis flies, scuds, sow bugs and more turned up.”

Dave Watson, Frank Penkala, Jeff Gerwitz, Bob Hannah, and Joe Swantek were also there representing the Vanguard Chapter.

Dave described how the day unfolded. “The weather forecast looked pretty grim for bug searching. On arrival at Yates Park, the Clinton River Watershed team gave us a warm greeting nourished with hot coffee and chocolate.

“Frank Penkala arrived early with his fire pit and logs. He had a wonderful fire going providing an excellent warming station ready for the bug searchers. Thanks also to Scott Hummon who also brought logs for the fires.

“Jeremy Geist and Jason Davis of the CRWC welcomed the volunteers and explained the purpose of this interesting search, recording these bugs give a good indication of the water quality in the Clinton River.”

According to Dave, 59 volunteers were divided into 2 groups, one at Yates Park in the Clinton River, and a second in Stony Creek at Van-Heusen Farm in the Village of Stony Creek. Eight Vanguard members, some with their bug ID training and adopt-a-stream experience, helped with groups

“I joined Jason Davies’s group at the Yates Park location,” said Dave. “Ice had formed around the waters edge making the first choice entry point too difficult.



Volunteers brave the elements at the Stonefly Round-Up on the Clinton River in January orchestrated by Clinton River Watershed as part of the Adopt-A-Stream program.

Further upstream we found the better access point, shallow with good gravel beds.

“Several volunteers with warm waders armed with nets and buckets soon caught several bugs for the bug ID stations on land to sort and record. We soon had six stoneflies and several other larvae in the sampling trays. Amazing how active the Stoneflies were in these temperatures.”



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The group stopped sampling at 11:45 a.m. and hot pizzas arrived at noon.

“The weather did not deter our enthusiasm,” said Dave. “We had dressed with multiple layers, having hot drinks and fire pits to keep us warm. It was a very productive day, with many stoneflies, caddis flies, scuds, sow bugs. Jeremy and Jason were very pleased with the stone fly count and the large group of interested people who helped with the search. This is a great way to start the year.”

As Jeremy Geist of the CRWC pointed out, “the stonefly search had terrific attendance, and Vanguard TU was definitely well represented! Thanks to all of you who showed up.”

**YOU'RE THE SOLUTION
TO WATER POLLUTION**

THE HEX OF EARLY SUMMER NIGHTS: Chapter Outing Slated for End of June

By Joe Barker

GRAYLING—It is supposed to happen every summer and does. The trick is being there when it does happen. If you're not there, it is like asking the question does a tree falling in the woods make a sound if no one is around to hear it.

I'm talking about the Hex hatch. If you're lucky enough to be on the stream when it happens, you're in for some of the best fishing of your life. The water will be alive with fish and there will be some big fish. I'm talking 20 inch plus fish.

But that's the rub. It's been a while since the annual Vanguard Chapter Hex Outing on the upper Manistee River has hit it just right. Sometimes we're too early in the season because of a cool spring. Last year, we were apparently too late because it had been a very warm May and early June. But then again, those who live on this section of the river swore it never materialized.

The fact is, however, that there is always a Hex hatch and spinner fall, otherwise there would no longer be any Hex in the river. Fortunately, by having a cabin on the Manistee, I'm on the river for more than just the weekend of the Hex Outing, which this year will be June 24-26.

If the weather cooperates, the hatch will come off as scheduled, pretty much every night for about a week on this section of the river at the end of June. But, it can also happen that crazy weather patterns can cause the hatch to be advanced, delayed, or sporadic.

A sporadic hatch can mean no predictable emergence and/or spinner fall at night, but rather short, abbreviated Hexes spread out over a period of time. This period of time has sometimes been as early as the end of May when I've seen Hexes mixed in with Pale Evening Duns, and as late as September when they'll be coming off in the middle of day when the water has warmed enough to their liking.

Whether the Hexes cooperate or not, beginning to fish in the late evening and into the night is an experience. You can expect that you're going to hook your share of trees and branches along the bank and more than a few stumps in the water, because that's where the fish will be feeding, if not on Hexes, then on Little Fat Bastards or maybe even caddis.

What can be more unexpected is stepping into a hole or some muck and losing your balance and floating your hat. Don't worry, the water's not that cold this time of year, only really wet. Also, the current is rather modest and the water is not over your head in any spots (of course I'm 6'3") so no one's has drowned yet.

Nonetheless, you might want to pick your spot before it gets dark and know the area around you if you plan on moving around after dark. I have the advantage of knowing where about every stump and hole in the river is, so I usually cover a lot of river, sometimes the same sections more than once in a single night.

The main thing is don't give up too early and be persistent. Last year Joe Swantek and Al Woody stayed out until almost midnight even when it was rather cool and there were few fishing feeding. Al threw to what he thought was a fish feeding and was rewarded with a 23" Brown trout.

So plan on coming to this year's outing. Arrive on Friday afternoon if you can. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be cooked that evening. A full meal on Saturday evening, with breakfasts and lunches, is included for a meager cost of \$25 for the weekend. The cabin has six beds available on a first come basis. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and bath towel. A tent is available for those arriving later, or BYOT (bring your own tent).

Email me at jbarker@vanguardtu.org if you're interested in joining us this year and I'll send a map.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See our website for an updated calendar of events at www.vanguardtu.org

Also, get monthly updates on activities by email from President Tom Quail by contacting him at tquail@vanguardtu.org

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

ARE HELD THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, EXCEPT DURING THE SUMMER, AT THE DINOSAUR HILL NATURE CENTER IN ROCHESTER. SEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DETAILS.

