

The Riffle and Pool

WRVTU Chapter Newsletter

Our website is: www.wrvtu.org

May/June 2010



Image taken from a 1936 South Bend Bait Company catalogue

Next time your spouse complains about you spending too much time in your waders, you might point out that fishing is a very healthy thing to do. And, with so much attention being paid to controlling weight and living healthy lives now-a-days, how can she/he object. I found this cover image on a 1936 South Bend tackle catalogue, promoting fishing as a way to feel fit way back then.

However, just as with anything we do, we all must be careful while pursuing our outdoor endeavors. Last year I contracted the rare fungal pneumonia disease blastomycosis, better as known as “blasto”, probably not while fishing, but since the fungal spores are known to be released into the air when humans or dogs disturb rotting leaves or logs, or even damp soils such as along the streams that we fish, it’s good to know the symptoms of blasto. In my case, I started with an annoying cough that persisted for several weeks, then, became considerably worse all at once, with fever and chills. I spent five days in the hospital, but after taking the medication prescribed by my pulmonologist, I am completely recovered.

I really don’t know exactly how or where I contracted the disease, but I do know that it seems to be somewhat prevalent along the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers. I live along the Prairie.

As there was a death from blasto in Lincoln County recently, the news media has published considerable information about it. I encourage you to check out WAOW Channel 7’s website <http://www.waow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12230357> which provides much good information. It is a rare disease that you are not likely to contract it but it is good to know about it as it can be deadly.



Chuck Sauer

“.....cast your fly with confidence.”

Theodore Gordon (1914)

Board Member Needed for WI River Valley Chapter

Please consider joining our Board. Meetings and presentations are held on the second Mondays, September through May at Gander Mountain, Wausau. The term is three years and we meet from 6:00 pm until the chapter meeting and presentation begin at 7:00 pm. Contact John Meachen at 4js@charter.net or 715-675-4920 to apply for the position or get more information

Banquet success!

The Chapter annual fundraising banquet was attended by 138 people on April 9 at Memories Ballroom. All told, dinner tickets, raffles and auctions netted approximately \$4,700 which will be used to fund future stream projects as in the past. Brian Marmholtz reports that this total is just about \$50 more than last year. Not bad considering the economy is still not all that great. Next year's banquet is scheduled for April 9, 2011.

Publication Notice

The **"Rifle and Pool"** is the official newsletter of the WI River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Upcoming editions for 2010 will be May/June, September/October and November/December.

Copy related to TU events, cold-water resources, or trout and salmon fishing is welcome. Deadline for copy is two weeks prior to publication date. The May/June edition's copy deadline is April 15, 2010.

To submit copy, contact chapter president John Meachen at 4js@charter.net or 715-675-4920.

In defense of Trout Unlimited

For those of us who are trout fishers, these next two months are the best that Wisconsin offers. The early C&R season is fun but there is something about the new warmth and the coming muggy evenings which stir the hearts of those of us who love trout and the places they inhabit. I hope that all of you get to take the time to experience what Wisconsin and North Central Wisconsin in particular has to offer. We are fortunate to live in this part of the world.

I heard something said about Trout Unlimited and its members prior to the past two Conservation Congress meetings which frankly, isn't true. I don't normally get steamed about this stuff but these lies can't be left out there unchallenged. They are being preached by a small group of disgruntled folk who are trying to derail the good work that you and the rest of TU has been doing for the past 50+ years. The lies are that TU and its members are a bunch of elitist fly fishermen who release every trout they catch and have an agenda to make it so for everyone who fishes for trout. In addition, we supposedly want restrictive, protective regulations on every piece of trout water in the state so we can keep the kids and the old folks off the streams. Hey, I'm not making this stuff up; this group is using these false assertions to take us back to the "good old days" of chasing the DNR stocking trucks from bridge to bridge.



First, TU and its members are far from elitist. We are you and I who fish for trout with flies, spinners, bait and tackle of all kinds. Yes, we even keep a few now and then for the dinner table. It is true that we fight hard for protective regulations when they make sense to protect healthy populations of native stock but we far from want to blanket the state with them. It wouldn't make any sense. We have over 10,000 miles of designated trout water in this state with only about 5% having any protective regulations attached to it. These folks are still upset with the creation of the three tiered designation of trout water. They love to say that it keeps youth from trout fishing because it is too confusing. Most of the kids that I know are downloading music to their iPods while they are texting their friends on their cell phones. I doubt that a map with four colors is going to confuse them that much.

I am very proud of the work that TU has done and continues to do to make Wisconsin one of the premiere fishing destinations in the upper Midwest. We are the envy of our neighbors. We work hard in this chapter to preserve our cold water resources, protect them when they are threatened and involve youth in education and the outdoor sports.

Most of the time TU has ignored the negativity and falsehoods thinking that reason and common sense will always prevail. Well we can't sit still and have folks lie about an organization which does so much good. We have too much work to do and too many fish to catch to allow a few misguided grumpy old men to spout lies about us.

See you on the stream!

John



Breathable Wader Care

Next to rods, reels, and lines, there are more questions about the repair and care of breathable waders than any other piece of equipment.

All breathable waders will eventually leak. The hardest leaks to find are pinhole leaks. The method that Simms recommends is to spray the waders in the area of the leak with regular 70% drugstore isopropyl alcohol.

I spray the outside of the waders and then turn the waders inside out. The alcohol will seep through the pinhole and you will see a dark spot on the inside of the wader lining. By putting the repair on the inside of the wader, the repair is hidden. Circle the dark spot with a marker or a grease pencil. If you can't find the leak by spraying the alcohol, you can try spraying and rubbing over the area.

I use Aquaseal for the actual repair. It is the recommended product for repairing wader leaks. Aquaseal will cure in 24 hours. If a faster curing time or a thinner coating is desirable, Aquaseal makes a product called Coto1-240 that is a urethane thinner and accelerator. Toluol or toluene are paint thinners available at local hardware stores, and they are cheaper and work just as well as Coto1-240. Aquaseal plus an accelerator will be ready in 8 to 12 hours.

Once a tube of Aquaseal has been opened, it will begin to harden in the tube. To prevent this and to keep the cap from becoming glued to the tube, I coat the cap threads with a small amount of petroleum jelly and store the tube in the freezer. Stored in this fashion, a tube of Aquaseal will last for years. Five minutes in a glass of hot water makes it ready for use. Breathable waders have a Durable Water Repellent (DWR) coating to prevent water from soaking the outer surface. If water does not bead up but rather coats the outside of your waders, the DWR needs to be renewed. Waders without a DWR can cause a condition called "wet-out" which simulates a leaking wader.

With wet-out there is no leak in the wader. Instead, the lack of a DWR keeps the waders from breathing and your perspiration condenses on the inside of the wader. Wet out most often occurs in the foot and lower leg region of the waders, and most often it occurs in both legs at the same time.

There are two types of DWRs, all-in-one products that wash and apply the DWR in the wash, and spray-on DWRs that are applied as a second step after a prep wash. I have found that the wash-in products do not work as well as the spray-on product.

I have had great success with Nikwax TX direct spray. To use this product, the waders should be hand washed with a non-scented *powder* detergent like Ivory Snow. Scented detergents will leave a chemical residue on the waders as will liquid detergents. Rinse the waders multiple times to remove all traces of the detergent.

Hang the waders upside down and allow the water to drain out of the waders. While the waders are still a bit damp, spray the DWR per the directions. I then place the waders into the clothes dryer on the lowest permanent press temperature setting to "set" the DWR. Wader companies will tell you not to use the clothes dryer, but I have never had a problem when the lowest temperature setting is used. However, use a dryer at your own risk. Alternatively, you can use a hair dryer on a low setting to set the DWR.

There are other DWRs such as the Tectron product that do not require heat setting. I have used Nikwax and the same procedure to renew the DWR on my Gortex fishing jacket. After treatment, water will bead up on your waders and jacket just like it does on a freshly waxed car.

Henry Kanamoto

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Chapter meetings & programs

As summer approaches and the fishing season is upon us, there will not be another meeting and program until September 13.

A complete meeting schedule and agenda of programs will be announced in the September/October edition of “The Riffle and Pool”

Have a great and safe summer!



WI River Valley Chapter
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