

The Riffle and Pool

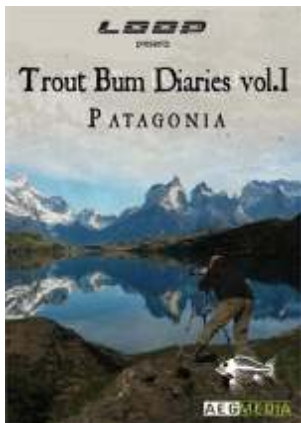
WRVTU Chapter Newsletter

Our website is: www.wrvtu.org

January/February 2010

Northland Adventures with Dave Carlson: First Program of 2010 Will Start New Year Right!

Our first program of 2010 will be January 11, 2010, at 7:00 PM in Gander Lodge of the Wausau Gander Mountain. It is our honor to present the host of the award winning program "Northland Adventures" seen locally on WAOW television. One of Dave's most recent recognitions was to be honored for his conservation work by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Dave has years of experiences to share with us during his visit. Don't miss this informative and entertaining night for the whole family. Check out his program's website at: www.northlandadventures.com



Trout Bum Diaries, Volume One: February Meeting is "Popcorn and a Movie Night"

Join us for the February member meeting and program: "Trout Bum Diaries, Volume I, Patagonia." The meeting is on February 8, 2010, at Gander Lodge of the Wausau Gander Mountain at 6:30 PM. **Please note the earlier starting time!** Our chapter has obtained permission from AEG Media to show this great video for our February program.

Want a great way to break up the long, cold winter? Want to saturate your senses with huge trout attacking dry flies in some of the most brutal and yet beautiful surroundings known to man? Want an excuse to be with a group of people that ooh and aah at what most people don't understand? Then we have an evening for you. The popcorn will be ready, and when the lights go out we will end up in Patagonia with some of the wildest trout fishing footage ever recorded. See you at the movies. To check out this and other AEG videos, got to: www.creeksidemedia.com

Chapter News and Activities.....

Learn to Fly Fish

The Board of the WI River TU Chapter is in the planning stages of constructing a "Learn to Fly Fish" class. This will be a two day (or more) class that covers everything a new fly fisher needs to know and be able to do to have a successful day on the stream or lake. From buying equipment and rigging the line and leader to casting, fly selection, and presentation techniques, it is our chapter's goal to make this fun fishing option easy to learn. We will need at least 10 students for this class to "go". Our target audience will include persons who have never fly fished. It will also include those who have some experience and gear, but who have never felt comfortable or skilled with their fly fishing skills. To be on an "interested, tell me more" list, contact John Meachen at 4js@charter.net or 715-675-4920, or sign up on at our January or February meetings. Once you are on this contact list, we'll keep you informed of the dates, times, cost, curriculum, and location of the class. Being on the contact list does not obligate you to attend the class, it only indicates interest and a desire to know more.

Stream Improvement Work for Northeast TU Chapter Waters

The northeast region of Wisconsin TU chapters met on December 5th to plan 2010 activities. When the dust settled these chapters committed over \$51,000 to cold water resource work in our region. These contributions along with trout stamp money will fund projects to control beaver damage, restore stream habitat and fund work crews. Many miles of stream work will be done and we can be proud of our chapter's contribution to this work. \$15,000 was committed by the northeast region to fund a local project on the Prairie River. Stay tuned for details on how we can participate in this project.

Board Member Needed for WI River Valley Chapter

Due to the resignation of Mike Pierce we are in need of a board member to fill his vacant seat. 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

Mike Pierce Resigns as Newsletter Editor: New Editor Needed!

Mike Pierce took over the job of creating and editing our chapter newsletter over two years ago. Mike transformed our newsletter into an informative, attractive and enjoyable publication. His prior experience of editing the Hawkeye Fly Fishers Newsletter became a gift to us as a chapter. Mike also has served as a board member with great insight and with the ability to ask very good questions. Mike officially is stepping down as editor and board member due to his need to be attentive to health issues in his extended family. I personally will miss Mike's contributions on the board and as editor. Mike will remain a supporter of the chapter and we look forward to working with him in the future. We wish him all the best along with our sincere thanks.

This means we are in need of a newsletter editor. Our newsletter is produced bimonthly. Mike has created the template for the newsletter and is willing to train anyone interested in this important position. While Mike has done much of the hard design work, some basic computer skills are needed. If anyone is interested in becoming the newsletter editor or has questions, please contact John Meachen at 4js@charter.net or 715-675-4920.

-John Meachen

Publication Notice

The "**Riffle and Pool**" is the official newsletter of the WI River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Upcoming editions for 2010 will be March/April and May/June.

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 March/April edition's copy deadline is February 15, 2010. Deadline for the May/June edition will be April 15, 2010.

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

President's Cast..... Resolutions

For 2010.....

We stand at the beginning of another new year and it is time to make resolutions. This year I plan to keep every one of my resolutions, unlike the ones I made and didn't keep last year.

This year I plan to:

1. Get in shape and lose 30 pounds
2. Fish more
3. Tie at least a dozen flies each week before the opening day
4. Fish more
5. Explore new waters instead of fishing the same old places
6. Fish more
7. Refinish the old South Bend 290



By the way, did I mention I want to fish more this year?

Funny thing about those resolutions, they look suspiciously like the ones I made last year. This year will be different. I promise.

While we make individual resolutions, we also can and should make them as a chapter. Each of us has a responsibility and an opportunity to make a few TU resolutions. Here are a few chapter resolutions for 2010 that together, as a chapter, we might want to keep.

1. Attend chapter meetings
2. Volunteer on stream projects and educational events
3. Teach a kid to fish
4. Edit our newsletter or submit articles and photos to it
5. Become a board member
6. Contribute prizes and attend our annual TU Banquet
7. Help with or attend the proposed Fly Fishing School
8. Bring your voice to the Conservation Congress meeting
9. Fish more

During these difficult economic times, our coldwater streams and the trout need our help more than ever. Add in the long term drought we have been facing in the northwoods, and Trout Unlimited's support of habitat rehabilitation and preservation is a critical component of preserving coldwater resources. None of us are called to do everything alone, but we can address these resolutions as a chapter together. If we work together we can enjoy the resolution to "fish more" on waters that have been restored and preserved by our mutual resolve.

Happy New Year!

-John

A Simple Bodkin Project Yields Great Tool at Good Price

Here is a simple project that will make your fly fishing and fly tying a little easier. It's a miniature needle that is carried on a zinger that you can use to untangle those pesky leader knots and to clean out head cemented hook eyes. They can also be used as a bodkin when tying flies. Buy a package of DenTek dental flossing brushes and a package of small sewing needles about the same diameter as the wire of the dental brushes. The left brush is shown as it comes out of the package and the right brush is a completed bodkin assembled with technique shown below.



You'll need a pair of pliers in addition to the brushes and needles to make a bodkin. To make a fly tying bodkin, just pull out the brush from the handle and replace it with the needle. The protective cap that comes with the brush can be used to protect the needle once the bodkin is assembled.

If you want to attach it to your vest, you will also need a drill, a length of Dacron fly line backing, and a bobbin threader. Drill a hole at the base of the needle handle. This DenTek brand already has a dimple in the spot you should drill. Then cut a length of Dacron backing. I use #30 lb. backing because it is thicker and makes a bigger knot. This is important in a later step.



Use a piece of stiff monofilament, a bobbin threader, or a dental threader to thread the Dacron line through the base of the handle. Then use the same threader to pull the Dacron line through the top of the cap. The DenTek brand has a preformed hole in the top of the cap. If you buy a brand that does not, you will need to drill a hole. Flip the bodkin around so that you can estimate the amount of line needed to insert the needle end of the bodkin into the cap. Tie a big enough knot in the line so that it can't go back through the hole in the cap. Even with #30 lb. Dacron, I had to tie 3 knots for the DenTek cap.

Here are the final assembled bodkins with and without a Dacron loop. Place the Dacron loop on a vest zinger and you have a knot picker and eye cleaner with a protective cover. It is also handy to have an extra, safely covered bodkin on the fly tying bench or in your fly tying travel kit.

-Henry Kanemoto

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Calendar of Upcoming Chapter Events

January 2010

January 11th: Regularly scheduled member meeting in Gander Lodge at the Wausau Gander Mountain. Member program starts at 7:00 PM. Board and officer meeting will be at 6:00 PM prior to the program. Speaker Dave Carlson, host of “Northland Adventures”, will share numerous outdoor adventures and insights. Dave has been recently honored by Wisconsin TU for his conservation work on behalf of coldwater resources. Don’t miss this one!

February 2010

February 8th: Regularly scheduled member meeting in Gander Lodge at the Wausau Gander Mountain. Member program starts at 6:30 PM. Please note the early starting time! Board and officer meeting will be at 6:00 PM prior to the program. Program: A showing of the acclaimed “Trout Bum diaries, Volume I, Patagonia.” Popcorn will be provided for this “chase the winter blues away” popcorn and movie night

March 2010

March 8th: Regularly scheduled member meeting in Gander Lodge at the Wausau Gander Mountain. Member program starts at 7:00 PM. Board and officer meeting will be at 6:00 PM prior to the program. River Alliance of Wisconsin will present a program on invasive species. Most of us are under-informed on invasive species issues. Come hear the experts on invasive species tell us of the seriousness of the threat and how we can remain vigilant in protecting our waterways.



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