



## From the President

There are many ways to get involved with your TU chapter this summer so plan to join us at Duschee Creek for our members meeting on July 11. We've done stream work on Pickwick Creek, taught fly-tying and casting at the T.U.N.E. camp, plan to be at the

Olmsted County FREE Fair, and are organizing the Driftless Rendezvous for early September. So come join your fellow TU members for dinner, fishing and find out how you can get involved or just swap fish stories.

### SAVE THE DATE! You Won't Want to Miss the Driftless Rendezvous

September 9, 10 and 11 at the group camp in Whitewater State Park Hiawatha Trout Unlimited, Twin Cities Trout Unlimited and Win-Cres Trout Unlimited chapters along with Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota and the Federation of Fly Fishers are planning a weekend filled with fun, fellowship and of course, fishing. Details are still in the planning stages but you can mark your calendar and expect a flyer and registration coming your way soon. With this group of organizations all dedicated to the conservation of our area trout waters and to the art of fly fishing it's going to be an event you do not want to miss.

The weekend will include:

- Great educational programs... for adults, children and youth
- Fishing the area streams
- Meals served in the group hall
- Campfire under the stars
- Old friends and new

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- Up Coming Meetings/Events
- "My Fly Fishing Adventures" by Jan Karnas



## MY FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

(and what I learned along the way) *By Jan Karnas*

### Steelhead Fishing



I recently had a weekend where I was able to fit in a day Steelhead fishing. I've been Steelheading before, but only near the Grand Marais area, never down by Duluth. I have heard that once the Steelhead start running, it can get very crowded near the Duluth hotspots. I think weather may have been a factor, but I didn't find that to be the case and yes, I was out on a Sunday.

I traveled first up to Gooseberry Falls State Park. I don't particularly like to camp there but I've enjoyed hiking there and I really enjoy the new visitor's center. There are some pools right before the falls that I'd seen last summer that would be just right for Steelheading! I started out the morning by taking on the pool right below the second falls within the main visitor area. I felt a little 'on display' while casting in front of all the visitors watching but soon felt comfortable when the first few casts didn't catch a nearby tree. During the winter months, I had been making 'yarn eggs' in order to supply myself with the many needed for a trip like this. I really had to laugh when I noticed that nearby tree looked as if it had been 'decorated'. There were many colorful egg patterns just like mine, hanging all over the tree. Now I truly admit that I never like losing one of my own flies and some would say that I've gone to extreme measures in order to recover them. I've even gotten some 'bonus' flies recovering someone else's stash that was abandoned. (It's always reassuring for me to know I'm not the only one getting flies stuck in the same places I'm casting to!)..... If I could only get to the Salmon Eggs hanging from this location! I'd have a year's supply!

At the falls area of Gooseberry, the wind coming off the lake didn't really affect me. It's pretty sheltered inland so my layers of wool kept me nice and warm. It was in the low 30's that day with that wind off the lake also blowing at least 30 mph.

I hooked two fish (I assume both Steelheads) but lost both. I was told later that there are some Suckers in the stream but I'd like to think mine were both Steelhead! I love to fish them with a fly rod especially when you can visually see them in a clear stream. It's a true test of your accuracy of casting. First the cast, mend the line, adjust for distance, maybe mend again, and watch your egg practically bounce off the forehead of your spawning Steelhead. The Steelhead I've witnessed seem to bite the fly out of irritation, not hunger. It's almost as if I can see 'The Look' on their fish faces. Grrrrrr.... Just like the look when Scott burns' the bratwurst on the grill at our on-stream meetings. Grrrrrr....

From Gooseberry I traveled south to Silver Creek, and then ended up at the Knife River. The Knife had a few fishermen on the stream, and as far as I could tell, all were fly fisherman. I've heard of this Mono line stuff on a fly reel and assume it's only for deep water. Still can't say I get it.

By this time it was really starting to feel cold. There's no protection from the wind on the Knife being a wider stream and closer to the lake. When your feet are in cold water all day, even with a couple layers of wool socks, you can start to feel cold as the day progresses. I didn't get any other Steelhead to bite that day...but you know what they say about Steelheading....you get to count even the ones you've hooked....so I got 2!!!!

## UP COMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

### MEETINGS

#### Monday, July 11th

Meeting stream side on Duschee Creek at the DNR parking lot. Cookout 6:30 pm and fishing

### BOARD MEETINGS

#### Tuesday, July 12th

7pm at Gander Mountain Board Meetings are open to the public

### UP COMING EVENTS

#### July 25th - 31st

Olmsted County FREE Fair, HTU education programs in the Conservation Building.

#### September 9th - 11th

HTU Whitewater Rendezvous





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