

# BANQUET TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Save The Date! Banquet March 3, 2017

<http://wstrout18.auction-bid.org>



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER



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### Fly Shop Secrets

At Ruby's Inn on N. Reserve

January 10, 2018

6:30 for Fly Tying and 7:00 for the Program



**BLACKFOOT RIVER OUTFITTERS**



This month's meeting, Fly Shop Secrets, will be held at Ruby's On North Reserve Street. We will return to the Double Tree for February, but make sure you let others know that the meeting is at Ruby's. And what a meeting. Representatives from all four fly shops will be there. Each shop has chosen a fly and will demo tying that fly. They're also going to let us know the best way to fish it and let us in some of the secrets you pick up talking to guides and fishermen all day. There will be a wealth of local fishing information on display Wednesday night, so take advantage of this unique opportunity to find out what the shops know. Expect some good stories, too!

## GET YOUR BANQUET TICKETS NOW!

Donate Items To The Auction

The WSCTU banquet and auction is being held on March 3 and it promises to be another great one. It helps the Chapter immensely if you purchase your tickets early. Here's a link to buy online. <http://wstrout18.auction-bid.org> We've kept the price at \$60 per ticket. We will sell out so get your ticket while you can.

We are always looking for donations. Do you have a cabin that would make for a nice auction item or some artwork you no longer want? Or fishing gear or other things of value for the silent auction. A couple dozen flies in a box are always big sellers. Simply bring them to the member meeting in January or February.

## THE ROCK CREEK PROJECT

WSCTU's Most Ambitious Undertaking!

\$80,000 Committed Over 2 years

The WSCTU, in conjunction with TU National and Montana TU, has pledged \$80,000 over two years to fund half of the salary, benefits and expenses of a full time Rock Creek Project Manager. After two years it is expected that become a self-sustaining position funded by grants.



Our model is based on the Big Blackfoot Chapter's exceptionally successful program, run by Ryan Neudecker. For almost 20 years, Ryan sought out grants and applied them to the Big Blackfoot watershed. Through this program, they connected over 700 miles of stream back to the Blackfoot, and created countless improvements that will benefit the watershed and fisheries for years.

WSCTU is going to do the same thing for Rock Creek. Rock Creek may be the quintessential trout stream in Montana, home to thousands of trout, salmon flies famous world-wide and a beauty that is rivaled by few. WSCTU, Montana TU and TU National are joining forces to make sure that Rock Creek maintains its pristine feel and clear, cold water. As the world gets warmer, pressure on rivers increase and humans expand their territory, our streams pay the price. This project will give us a head start on minimizing the repercussions of expansion.

The Project manager's task will be concentrated in three main areas: stream flow, habitat and fish passage. Increasing stream flow will be accomplished by cooperating with landowners all along Rock Creek, working together to maximize efficiency and minimize irrigation draw. This has been done successfully in many drainages and we expect it will be just as successful in the Rock creek watershed.

Riparian habitat will be addressed along the length of Rock Creek. There are places that receive a lot of pressure, or have been naturally degraded. The project manager will identify these areas, and design a plan of action addressing the habitat concerns. Fish passage will be addressed at the heads of culverts and irrigation ditches. Working in conjunction with agriculture and land owners, projects will be developed to provide modern fish screens to minimize migration into these piscatorial dead ends. The screens have proven to bolster fish populations, ensuring spawning trout don't lay eggs where they won't hatch, and prevent entrapment of juveniles and adults.

These water conservation techniques have been used successfully by WSCTU and Montana TU across the state. What differentiates this project is the scope. WSCTU is helping provide seed money for a dedicated project manager. There are 10 years worth of projects that will prove to be exceptionally beneficial, and many more will present themselves. It will provide Rock Creek with increased flow, better fish passage and habitat, which combines to build a healthier watershed and a more robust trout population.

We hope that the funding provided by WSCTU will serve as a model for other chapters in the state and around the country. That makes the impact even larger than we will enjoy on Rock Creek.



We couldn't do this without the support and dedication of our membership and the Missoula business community. Whether it is boots on the ground, or monetary donations, your generosity is never taken for granted. The fact that we have the funding to even contemplate this program is a bit overwhelming to the longer serving board members, who remember a day of much leaner budgets. It's gratifying to the board, and we hope to you as well, to have the ability to positively affect one of Montana's premier rivers. As a board, our excitement for this project is only outweighed by our acknowledgement of our membership's generosity.

### 2nd Annual Tie-A-Thon for Quiet Waters

January 20 at Ruby's

Calling all fly tyers! Starting at 10:00 AM and going until 4:00 PM at Ruby's. WSCTU will be sponsoring a Tie-A-Thon for Quiet Waters. WSCTU is a non-profit based out of Bozeman, dedicated to helping re-integrate traumatically wounded post 9/11 soldiers to society. Their goal this year is to bring more than 125 wounded warriors to Montana, and through fly fishing, continue the healing process.

We can help by providing these men and women with the flies they'll need to fish. So bring your tools, some materials, and get these vets the flies they'll use to go fly fishing.

This year there is some added incentive. WSCTU has issued a challenge to every chapter in Montana. On a per member basis, the chapter which donates the most flies for Quiet Waters will win a \$900 Winston rod to use for fundraising for their chapter. We hope to have 100% participation from the 12 other state chapters. So now we have some tying competition. And competition provides motivation! For us to win the rod, we're going to need a lot of flies! So get your friends, grab your materials, and let's do some tying for our veterans. Last year we contributed over 3,000 flies as well as providing a \$1,000. Let's beat that record and beat the other chapters at the same time.

#### IF YOU'RE NOT A TYER—You Can Still Help

If you don't tie, but want to help, stop by a local fly shop and grab a couple dozen flies. Or rummage through your fly boxes and donate some flies that you are not using. Drop them off at Ruby's, say hello to the tyers, and chat for a bit, and maybe drink a beer, too!



### February Meeting Switched to Tuesday, February 13

With a Special Women Only Event

It seemed only fitting that we move the February meeting on Wednesday, Feb 14 to Tuesday the 13th. Not completely clueless. It's not going down well when you tell the Significant Other that you're bagging flowers and dinner to head to a TU meeting!

Heather Hodson will be speaking about her road trip of "30 Days of Fly Fishing the West," and we are really looking forward to hearing her speak. But before the

main meeting, *and for women only*, there will be a reception with prizes, refreshments and the chance to meet some like minded fisherwomen. Please help spread the word about this event to women who have an interest in fly fishing and stream conservation. We hope this is going to lead to a series of events and projects to help women get more active in fly fishing and conservation. Kate Hasterlik, board member is leading this initiative.

### Travelling With WSCTU

#### Sponsored Trip To Pyramid Lake



Last month, we learned how to fish for the giant Lahontan Cutthroat that inhabit Pyramid Lake. Rob Anderson cut through a trip for our chapter, April 14 through 18. The cost per member is \$300 for three days of semi-guided fishing and includes breakfast and lunch, flies and ladders. The drive from Missoula to Pyramid lake is about 12 hours, and there will be additional expenses such as gas, lodging, dinner and beer! This will be an exciting and fun trip for those who want to try their hand at catching and landing a trout in the 10 pound range, and provide memories that will last a lifetime. Talk to your fishing partner- this is an opportunity that doesn't come around very often. Keep in mind, the trip is limited to 12 anglers, so sign up soon. Contact Mark Kuipers to get your name on the list.

#### Not Too Soon For 2019!

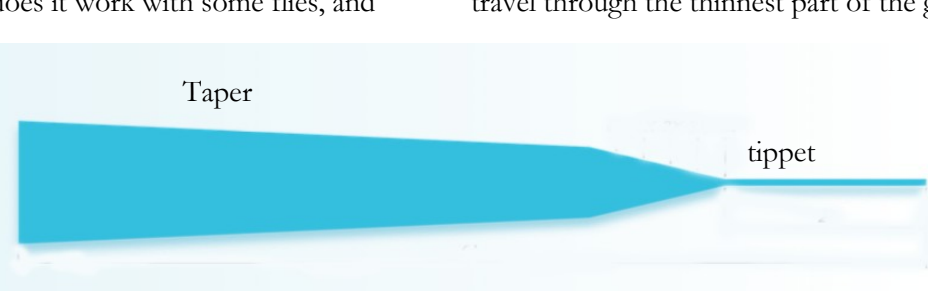
Wondering how to escape the arctic temps that traditionally hit Missoula in January. Wondering what it might be like to see a 20-pound peacock bass come to the surface and inhale your fly? WSCTU and Rob Anderson are combining to provide a chance to beat the weather and hook some monster fish. Like a lot of guides, Rob goes south for the winter. And by south I mean Brazil, where he fishes for Peacock Bass. Peacock bass are known for their outrageous surface takes, hard fight and beautiful colors. Called Pavon by the natives, they grow to almost 30 pounds, but most landed fish range in the 15-18 pound range. A strong 8- weight or a 9-weight rod is the preferred tackle, and the flies are simple, if a bit long. They readily eat flies and will readily take a popper or a Dahlberg Diver. We're still ironing out the details with Rob, but if big fish and warm weather sound appealing right about now, then it's not too early to look ahead to 2019! The trip is limited to 8 anglers and the cost will be \$4,650 per angler, plus airfare and lodging in Miami and Brazil. The estimate total cost is about \$6,500. Rob is donating one of the trips to the Chapter so \$4,650 will go to the Chapter's Montana conservation work. Talk to Mark Kuipers at the meeting for more details



### Tippet 101

One of the most confusing aspects of fly fishing is tippet. So many questions surround a simple piece of monofilament! When is a piece of mono tippet? Why is the pound test so weird? And why does it work with some flies, and not with others? Let's see if we can find some answers.

First, we need to imagine a cross section of a tapered leader. If tapered, it would look like an elongated wedge, with a level section on the end. The reason a leader is tapered is to transfer energy efficiently. Think of it as a continuation of the fly line taper. An easy way to visualize how it works is to imagine a gutter laying on the ground. If you tossed a bucket of water at the gutter, some water would go in the gutter and run for a certain distance. Now imagine that the gutter width slowly narrowed. Now the water would be more concentrated by the ever narrowing gutter, and would flow further. For our example, the narrowing gutter mimics the tapering of your leader. So that's how a leader works.



For most trout fishing applications, the tippet is defined as the narrow end of the leader, defining its strength and size. An example would be a 9', 4X leader. So what's with the X designation? Where does that come from? It comes from the pre-monom filament days, when leaders were made from soaked gut. Soaked gut came in very few sizes, and tippet were very thin. So when an angler required a thinner tippet, he pulled his gut through the V once, and it became 1X- one time through the V-shaped shaver. Pull it through again, 2X- two times through. Which is why, as the X designation gets larger, the monofilament becomes thinner. For the leader nerds (Which I proudly am!) there is the rule of 11. If you subtract the X designation from 11, you get the monofilament diameter in hundredths. So our 4X tippet is .007" in diameter. (11-4=7)

Which explains those pesky pound test denominations. Monofilament for spin fishing is designed to be a specific pound test, and is manufactured with strength in mind. Diameter is not a factor. Fly fishing monofilament is designed to be a specific diameter, and then the manufacturer makes it as strong they can. Why is the diameter so critical? Because of the rule of 3 and the rule of 4. Stay with me!

Let's say you have a size 12 fly. What size tippet is correct for that fly? What is going to allow that fly to float naturally, with a drag free drift? The easiest way to decide tippet diameter is to divide the fly size by 3, which for a size 12 fly is 4. So 4X would be appropriate. Or divide the fly

size by 4, and for a size 12 it's 3. So 3X would also be appropriate. This is important for a couple of reasons. If we go back to our gutter/energy example, only so much water/energy can travel through the thinnest part of the gutter/leader. So a 3X tippet will carry more energy because it's thicker, and will be able to turn your fly over more easily.

And imagine a fly attached to a piece of rope. The fly that is attached to the rope will be easily turned over, as the rope carries a great deal of energy. But it is so thick that it will drag the fly all over the water, and won't sink very well, because of its thickness. Now the fly on the thread will move completely unimpeded by the pressure of the thread and will sink very rapidly. However, thread is nowhere thick enough to turn over, because it can't carry the energy, and would be very inaccurate to cast. Which is why we have the rule of 3 and the rule of 4. The thicker leader choice will turn over better, and be more accurate (energy equaling accuracy). The thinner tippet will allow the fly to float more freely and sink more quickly. So it's a balancing act.

Let's add to the balancing act. Take a 4' piece of monofilament, extend it, and pull it tightly with both hands. The fly that is attached from your left hand. It droops and falls. Now take 2" of that monofilament, pull it tightly with both hands, and drop the mono from your left hand. The 2" piece sticks pretty much straight out. So the length of your tippet makes a difference. Too short, and you don't get the benefits that a thinner tippet provides. Too long, and there won't be enough energy transferred through the leader, and your casting will probably be inaccurate, with some tangles thrown into the mix. For simplicity, a standard tippet length is 2-3 feet.

So that's sum up. Tippet is sized by diameter, not pound test, and that diameter is expressed as an X. You need to know your fly size to properly choose the correct size tippet using the rule of 3 and the rule of 4. The length of your tippet will also affect how your fly behaves on the water. So now you know you need a spool of 4X tippet. There's a bunch of them. What should you choose?

There are differences between tippet brands. Some are softer than others- they allow a better drift but are less accurate. Stiffer tippet is more accurate and less forgiving of the drift. To get better float from a stiffer tippet, lengthen it. To get better accuracy from a soft tippet, shorten it. Pretty simple. We get not even going to get into the difference between nylon, copolymer and fluorocarbon, or which knot to use. The only thing to remember is that no matter what material you choose to use, the information above applies. Hopefully, that should take a little of the guess work out of tippet.

## THE BANQUET IS SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD

University Center Ballroom at 5:30 PM

See You There!