



ADAMS CHAPTER Update

A publication of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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President's Report

This is my first President's Report so let's get the formalities out of the way. I live in Traverse City with my wife and two young boys who are bugging me to play as I write this. I love our fish and our rivers, and hope I can live up to our past Presidents.

There are some great things happening in the Adams Chapter right now. Among those are some new Board members who are motivated and have already made some great contributions. The Board has also begun a visioning and planning process with the goal of documenting our goals for the rivers in our district and how we intend to achieve those goals. The process will result in new messaging and communication tools so the Adams Chapter's voice is heard by the public and our governmental officials. Finally we intend to find ways to make our money go farther in the coming years by using it to work on and complete more of our own projects. These documents and plans will be unveiled over the next few months and at the 2011 Banquet.

The Banquet is set for April 16, 2011 at the Williamsburg Dinner Theatre which has been a great venue. We will be making some changes to better use the space as well as adding some exciting new raffle and auction items. If you have ideas, items to donate, or are willing to lend a hand we would love to hear from you. Expect to hear more soon as we work out the details.

Finally, I want to leave you with some thoughts on the future of the Boardman River. The Boardman is in the center of our district and will be seeing some exciting changes very soon. The proposed schedule for beginning the Brown Bridge Dam removal is June of 2012. That is 16 months from now! Dam removal means many opportunities to make the Boardman into the trout stream that it can and should be. The Adams Chapter should be a leader and make sure it happens. It will take a lot of work and a lot of time, but together we can do it. Of course, then we'll all have to do our best to keep it a secret.

Jeff Jocks

Calendar of Events

February 23 General Membership Meeting (Union Cantina on Union St. downtown next to Cousin Jenny's) 7 p.m.
Presentation – "Fishing in Labrador" by Ken Gum

March 23 General Membership Meeting (Union Cantina) 7 p.m.

April 16 Adams Chapter Banquet
Williamsburg Dinner Theatre

June 22 Outdoor meeting at CCC Bridge

August 24 Outdoor meeting at Ranch Rudolf

September 16-18 WaWaSum Outing

October 12 General Membership Meeting (Union Cantina) 7 p.m.

December 7 General Membership Meeting/
Elections (Union Cantina) 7 p.m.

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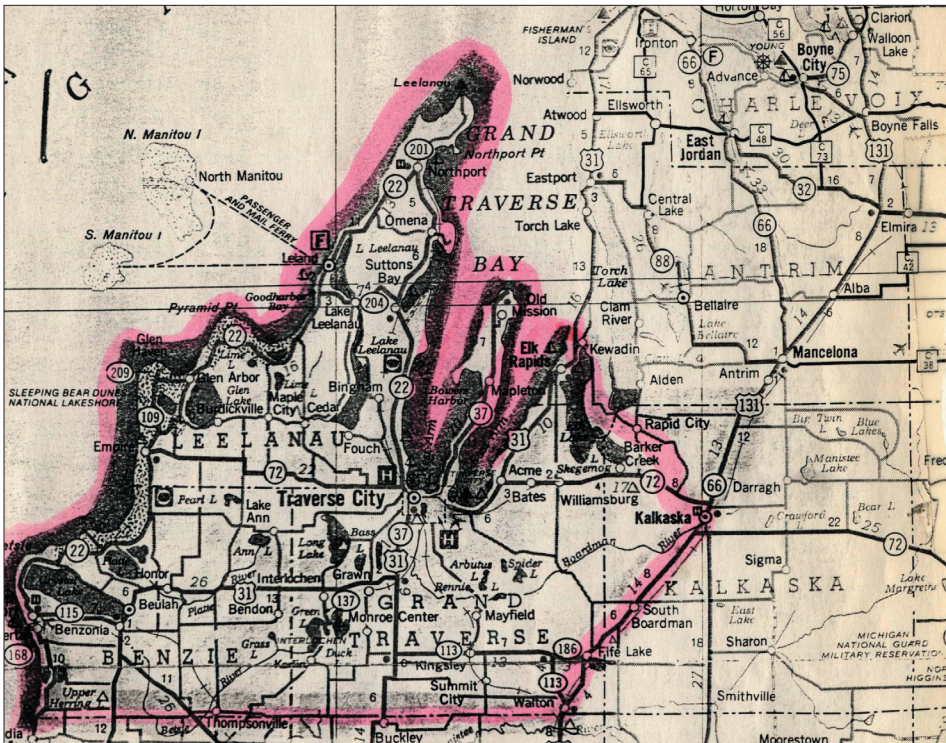
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Adams Chapter watershed area (we are investigating the addition of the entire Boardman upper reaches to our area so that we may service the entire Boardman watershed).

Dam Removal Status

The Boardman River Dams Removal Project is well underway with a recent grant award from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust of one million dollars for the removal of Brown Bridge Dam. The optimistic time line is for deconstruction to begin late in 2011.

The City expects to hire a consultant by the end of February to oversee the work. Environmental and engineering designs and plans will be finalized by early summer.

The Adams Chapter continues to monitor the process and is working with the City and County to make sure that any removal efforts include monitoring closely and accounting for any and all sediment in the system.

The Chapter is also finalizing its position of maintaining a barrier to fish passage at the location of Sabin Dam once that dam is removed.

Asian Carp

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in consultation with other federal agencies, Native American tribes, state agencies, local governments and non-governmental organizations is conducting the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Inter-basin Study (GLMRIS) pursuant to Section 3061(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. GLMRIS will explore options and technologies – collectively known as aquatic nuisance species (ANS) controls that could be applied to prevent ANS transfer between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins via aquatic pathways.

On January 27, the Corps held a public meeting in Traverse City to gather comment on this study. While the study is aimed at exploring options to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, the issue at the forefront of all commentators at the public meeting was focused on Asian Carp. The meeting was well attended with over 150 people at the first of two meetings that day. The large majority of comments focused on the federal government's lack of a timely and meaningful response to the Asian Carp threat. The Army Corps acknowledged this frustration but stated that this study – because of the breadth and scope (studying all ANS) -- would take time and money. Federal legislators, including Senators Levin and Stabenow as well as Congressman Camp have all called on the Corps to expedite this study or to complete a separate study focused only on the issue of Asian Carp. More information on the GLMRIS study can be found at <http://glmr-is.anl.gov/>.

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“Fly Casting Accuracy”

The novice fly angler learns early on that a feeding fish and a perfect fly are meaningless unless they can deliver an accurate cast. This article will deal with the accuracy of the cast and the obstacles that interfere with it. These are difficult concepts to visualize without a rod and line. So, take your time and think through the rules and then try to apply them when we have some warmer weather. For the sake of discussion, we will assume you are casting on the lawn to practice.

Let's begin with the most obvious of obstacles, the ability to reach your target. Wide, inefficient loops are easily blown back or “puddle” short of one's target. Similarly, it is common for one to apply power too abruptly when trying to reach a distant target only to create a tailing loop that knots up well short of it. So, the first point to remember when trying to make an accurate cast is that a tight, controlled loop is essential if one is to reach the target.

Secondly, the trajectory of the cast must be considered. Ideally, we want the line to lay out fully just above the ground to avoid bouncing back or being blown off target. Thus, if you're trying to cast tight loops to a target only twenty feet away, the cast must be angled downward to the ground and the back cast must go very high. This short cast is one of the most difficult targets to hit for a novice because it requires such a high back cast which is difficult for novices to achieve because they often fail to watch their back cast and thus do not always stop the rod early enough. And, if the back cast is not high enough, the low cast in front will result in a large inefficient loop that will fail to reach the target.

Aiming too high or too low can also affect the accuracy of your cast. If you allow the line to lay out fully too high above the target, the leader will bounce or blow back, land short, or off to the side. On the other hand, longer casts must be aimed higher above the ground to avoid falling prey to gravity before the line has had a chance to lay out fully or shoot to the target. But one should aim only high enough to allow for the line to shoot to the target and lay out just above it. The closer your target, the more your casting trajectory must be tilted forward. Conversely, the farther your target, the higher you must aim.

Next, practice directing the fly line accurately. In a perfect world, your loops are tight and the line will lay out in a straight line to the target. Yet, there are factors that affect accuracy. For the sake of this discussion, let's assume there are no external elements to affect the cast. First, the fly will go where your rod tip is pointing when you stop it to form a loop. The most accurate casts result from a perfectly perpendicular (*not off-the-shoulder or side-armed*) rod and a tight loop that lays out straight toward the target. Since we almost always add more power than is needed to make the line lay out fully, the fly wants to continue beyond a straight line. For every degree a right-handed caster cants the rod off-the-shoulder, the fly will go a corresponding distance past the target to the left of it. When accuracy is paramount, use a perpendicular cast to the target. As the distance increases, it will surely challenge your accuracy.

Remember too that the length of cast is crucial to your hitting the target. This requires judgment that can only

be learned through practice. To gain this judgment, practice in the yard with paper plates set out at twenty, forty, and fifty feet. Put a small piece of yarn on (*or a hookless fly*) and practice hitting the targets. Then add a reach to the cast (*Shooting Lines, July 2007*) to help eliminate drag when you get to the water. Learn to stop the rod to send the fly on its way to the target and to mend the line in the air while the fly is traveling to the target and you will be able to adapt to almost any situation on the river. Try these exercises each time you practice. They will greatly improve the accuracy of your casts.

Other obstacles will interfere with your accuracy as well. Wind (*Shooting Lines, 5/97*), current (*Shooting Lines, 2/95*), drag, fly size, weight and density, desired fly action and stream structures are all problems that frustrate all of us. Yet, the basic principles of accuracy will get your fly to the target in most situations. Practice these things and you will enjoy greater success on the river.

Finally, this June's Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School (June 10, 11 and 12 at Ranch Rudolf) marks its forty-first year. It's a great place to learn and practice these principles. I hope to see you there!

Dave Leonhard is a master certified fly casting instructor for the Federation of Fly Fishers, casting instructor for the Michigan Council TU Fly Fishing School, a life member of TU, a charter member of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Traverse City, Michigan, owner of Orvis Streamside in Traverse City, Michigan, and director of instruction for the Orvis Michigan Fly Fishing School at the Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor, Michigan.