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## UPCOMING 2011 & 2012 EVENTS

- **Annual Winter Banquet**—November 5
- **Okpik Winter Camping** begins—January 6
- **Jim Scott Memorial App's due**—April 15, 2012
- **DAC Scout Show**—April 28, 2012

**Mark Your Calendars!**

## In Pursuit of Trout

**The truth about fishing** is sometimes slowly revealed. Adults, who perhaps have fished most of their lives, know the pleasures (and frustrations) that can be found when on the water and understand the truism, "An angler may fish all their life and only later understand it wasn't the fish they were after."

Fishing fills a person's mind and emotions with anticipation, of time on the water, patience, passion, the pursuit of the quarry, the thrill of success. If you have a youngster new to fishing, teaching them these elements of fishing can be the difficult, particularly the part about patience.

**Just as Camp Tahosa** has been a place in transition the last couple of decades, Tumblesome Lake is in a transition of its own ever since the lake was drained and the dam repaired almost two years ago. The mystery has been, since the lake refilled, "Where'd all the brookies go?" Theories include: fish were flushed out during the draining, many were lost to winterkill, more were lost to a family of river otters who took advantage of the small puddle the fish were concentrated in and feasted on brookies. All or parts of several theories applied, the fact is there didn't seem to be many brook trout to catch when the lake refilled.

**Your Tahosa Alumni Association** took the initiative to pay for restocking the lake. Learning that Brook trout are no longer reared in area hatcheries (Rainbow trout are the fish of choice for stocking while Brook trout have fallen out of favor because of their predatory ways and tendency to take over habitats), 1,200 Rainbow trout were ordered and delivered to camp during the June Reunion.

**Stocking was the easy part**, the hard part has been the catching of just one of those 1,200 trout. If you've of a



*Camp dog Niko examines 1,200 Rainbow trout as they're stocked into Tumblesome Lake in June 2011.*

mind to pursue those fish and if that includes a youngster, some preparation will be beneficial. Based on experiences of Alumni members, a few tendencies of the fish should be kept in mind. That part about patience alluded to earlier is going to be key. (Please note: with the hard hit taken by the Brook trout population and introduction of the Rainbows, Denver Area Council has insti-

tuted a *catch-and-release policy* until further notice. Handle any caught fish as little as possible and return them to the water immediately.)

**Mention trout fishing** in Colorado and many are thinking bait fishing: worms, eggs, smelly stuff in jars; all suspended on hooks and weights under bobbers. This is a good way to introduce youngsters to fishing because little skill is needed but may not be the best for the fish as the fish will tend to swallow the hook with the bait, increasing the likelihood that they won't survive being hooked and released. Some mortality of caught fish is expected but as good stewards of our resources we should do all we can to release those fish back to the water safely and unharmed. So having said all that, if you bait fish, have needle-nose pliers or forceps at the ready to remove hooks quickly and as easily as possible.

**When you or a young angler** are ready to advance to more challenging ways to fish, Tumblesome Lake is a good place to experiment. Throwing spinners on a lightweight spinning rod and reel is challenging and rewarding. The challenge is—what works? and the reward is solving what the fish are attracted to and you successfully hook

*Tahosa Alumni  
Association—  
Keepers of the  
Flame for Camp  
Tahosa*



The latest news from  
Camp Tahosa.

## From the Ranger's View

**Camp Ranger Marc Lyman** is happy to report that Camp Tahosa set attendance records this past summer! Good to great attendance at our High Adventure programs, training programs like Big Horn and, perhaps because of the economy, units wanting to stay closer to home. What was unusual were some large Cub Scout Packs that came to camp, which bodes well for the future because those young Cubs will someday return as Boy Scouts. And big numbers in camp meant big sales in the Trading Post.

**A successful Order of the Arrow** Cony Party helped complete 12 projects including completion of thinning of immature trees from the 1988 burn area. OA members and candidates put up 225 more yards of fence along the county road.

**Two examples of future projects** include

widening the bike trail around the perimeter of camp to accommodate the utility ATV

Marc uses to get around camp. An accessible trail can permit quick access to the backcountry for an emergency or to haul in tools for work projects. A second project is to install peeled and split logs to the face of the concrete dam and spillway. Its part beautification and part stabilizing an aging concrete structure.

**Marc isn't always laboring** over projects, he's been able to observe Brook trout fingerlings in the lake (yea, that means the Brookies are reproducing) and the newly stocked Rainbows are biting—sometimes. Anglers are either catching the Rainbows with ease or none at all— I guess that's why they call it fishing and not catching.



## Heard Around the Campfire

**The collection of Scouting memorabilia** that belongs to the TAA Museum Project has now been inventoried, catalogued and valued. The size of this collection has grown considerably this past year and it will soon be placed in storage at DAC's headquarters for safekeeping. The collection will be available to support the display case at Scout headquarters, the Scout Show, a future museum and new material is always welcome to build the collection. A list of duplicate items has been prepared and these surplus items are available for purchase with preference given to TAA members. The list of sale items include jamboree materials, books, camp and insignia patches, for example, and can be emailed to interested members by emailing [jeffhaley7@comcast.net](mailto:jeffhaley7@comcast.net). A big thank you goes to Marty Zinn who recently donated an extensive collection of items dating back to his youth and a lot of jamboree materials.

**Further refining** of the Camp's appearance was done this summer when a wall of architectural blocks was installed in front of Pickle's Aerie Wel-

come Center and Trading Post. Not only will this wall control erosion but it really dresses up the first building visitors see when they drive into camp. The plan for 2012 is to extend the wall up to the Campmaster's Cabin, the front of the Training Lodge and the Picnic Shelter near the spillway. Once the walls are in, new gravel will be installed to improve the roadway.

**Two of the three Lodges** have been newly stained with a durable new product that should help preserve and protect these important buildings. Just as important is the updated color— it's a deep-toned honey color and does it ever make the Lodges look handsome. As time goes by, all the camp buildings will receive the new look.

**Camp Tahosa— A History Unfolding** by TAA member John Meeker is an all new update of the history book published in the 1980's. Included in this important book is a CD containing the first history book. Learn about the early Denver BSA camps that predated Camp Tahosa plus learn more about our camp's ongoing history. Copies are available for \$25 (includes S & H), send a check or money order to PO Box 102938 Denver, CO 80250. Thanks!

# Bruce's Lure- The President's Message



## Greetings Fellow Tahosa Alumni Members-

I hope this finds all in good spirits. As the summer comes to a close, though I do not have the official numbers, I have been told the summer programs were very well appreciated and attended, so much so, that records were set. I would like to make a special thank you to Philip Ball for once again performing Camp Director duties. Philip has dedicated so much to Camp Tahosa and though leaving DAC employment, he will not be forgotten and we hope to see him now and again.

The Association continues to strive to be more communicative and efficient in our processes and expenditures. Toward these efforts, the Association will have its own professionally developed website come online soon, it will be distinct and separate from the website we've had through DAC. It is hoped the first version will be up and running by the early fall. Eventually, it is planned to maintain our calendar, feature special articles and have the ability to communicate directly with the Executive Board as well as complete financial transactions, including payment of dues, payment for functions, purchase TAA promotional items and, last but not least, make donations!

Our Annual Winter Banquet is coming up, Saturday, November 5 at the Lakewood Elk's Lodge. We have a number of by-law revisions that need to be ratified, not to mention, good fellowship, a great meal and installation of new officers. Plus, the Winter Banquet is where we have our one major fund-raiser of the year and we'll have fantastic auction items. You don't want to miss this one, so I hope you will make a special attempt to attend. Use the information from the enclosed flier to make reservations, payment and plans to be there!

As always, it is my pleasure to represent you as the President of the Tahosa Alumni Association and welcome anyone with any comments or suggestions to please contact me directly.

**Yours in Scouting and anything Camp Tahosa,**  
Bruce Brown  
Tahosa Alumni Association President

## The Pursuit of Trout, continued

and land fish. Often the same equipment that was used to bait fish can be used to spin fish. Using a spinning rod and reel (either a closed-face or open-face reel), 4# to 8# mono or fluorocarbon line and an assortment of lures, an angler can take on the trout. But, wait you ask, which lures? Small chrome and brass colored Kastmaster (brand name) lures have proven successful on our lake. These lures are well-known to trout anglers and readily available in sporting goods and fishing supply stores locally. There is no wrong way to fish these lures (or most spinners for that matter), cast them out and reel them back with a steady cadence or do a stop & go retrieve or with a popping or jigging action. Adding "action", such as stop & go, is meant to stimulate a reaction by the fish, make them feel like they're pursuing a wounded bait fish. Let the fish tell you what works by experimenting with the color and size of the lure and the style of retrieve.

Another popular fishing method in Colorado is fly-fishing. Fishing with artificial flies is both more stylized and challenging than the other methods described. A successful fly fisher will have knowledge of local insects, the proper pattern of fly to use to imitate the insects and how to present it on the water. A terrific program at Camp Tahosa is **Hooked on Tahosa**, through this weekend program you can learn

the rudimentary steps on how to become a fly-fishing angler. (Watch for details on this program coming up in 2012.) Fly patterns that have been used to catch fish at camp are Prince Nymph, Elk Hair Caddis and Woolly Buggers. Sounds exotic? Maybe it's time to explore the Internet or a fly-tying manual for illustrations.

Once caught, prepare to properly handle the fish. Don't try to grasp the fish without first wetting your hands, a dry hand can remove the protective slime or coating on the fish. The typical fish caught from Tubesome Lake may be only 8" long, grasp it firmly but not too tightly, remove the hook, either with your fingers or with the pliers or forceps you brought with you. Admire the fish, look at the colors, ID it, get your photo taken with your catch and release the fish back to the water. Some day we'll be able to keep a few trout for a fish dinner but the practice of catch & release is a habit that safeguards our resources whether that practice is encouraged or not.

The pursuit of trout can be the pursuit of knowledge, the fulfillment of something ancient in all of us and can become the tie between generations of fisher folk who spend time together on the water sharing their lives. Come share some of that time at Camp Tahosa.