

Rendezvous Wrap Up

Hello to everyone. Our 12th annual Rendezvous is over for another year. Thanks to all of you who helped out and contributed items to raise funds. Also a big thanks to all who bought raffle tickets. Our winner this year was Gary Kruse. Congratulations Gary. The end of the Rendezvous is always the voice auction of flies tied by our members. It's always amazing to see how many talented individuals live right here among the rest of us. Thanks to all the tiers and bidders. Due to computer difficulties a list of contributors will appear later.

Attendance was poor, again. I'm at a loss to understand why. We have 231 members and for the past two years we have had only 24 participants.. Even less participate in any other activities. Perhaps the spread out nature of our Chapter could be the answer but the vast majority of our members just don't seem to care.

While I am on the subject of poor attendance I should say that the purchase of raffle tickets for our one and only fund raiser for the year are embarrassingly poor. Of 231 mailings sent to members we received responses from only 38. Why? If we have a raffle in 2013 we will be sending only one book of tickets and the price will go up. This will help reduce costs of printing tickets, letters, buying envelopes and of course the cost of postage. We just can't continue to lose money on the only fund raiser we have. If you don't want to buy tickets please make a donation to **your** TU Chapter.

On a related note we do receive a couple of very nice donations each year from the same couple of members. I don't want to mention names but you know if you have donated and on behalf of everyone in the Chapter thank you.

But on the other hand this year I received a disturbing telephone message from a member. He felt compelled to call and inform me that he did not join Trout Unlimited to sell raffle tickets. I am glad that he did call and leave this message. I probably should have called him back and told him why we sell the tickets and that he wasn't asked to sell tickets just buy the ones he was sent. I didn't call him back because frankly his message and what he said so angered me that it was obvious that calling him back would be a mistake. I am probably wrong to feel this way but I really wondered just why this guy paid for a membership. What is he getting out of it? Or maybe it's me who is wrong here. Maybe instead of contributing to an organization trying to improve trout fishing where I fish for trout I would be better off hoarding my nickels and dimes and traveling to the great western trout waters not to support their programs but to use their resources for free. Am I really wasting my time trying to do something for Iowa Trout?

The 2013 Rendezvous date hasn't been set yet. If the facility is available it will again be held at the Berndes Center in Monticello.

So far this year we have only one project we are helping to fund. It is a project spear headed by the Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation District. They are doing water monitoring on the upper end of Waterloo Creek. They will be developing a plan for eliminating some pollution sources and assist land holders in improving their watersheds to protect Waterloo Creek. We will be posting results on our web site.

Also it is important for you to contact national TU to update your e-mail address as this is how we can notify you of work days and other Chapter activities.

We are always looking for opportunities to improve trout fishing in Iowa. If you have any suggestions please contact us.

Nate Hopkins
President, Spring Creeks Chapter