

New Products

Adamsbuilt Youth Fly-Fishing Combo

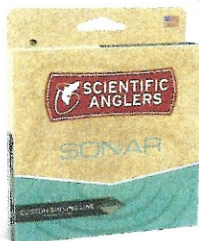
What do you do with 10 million (and counting) plastic bottles poised to magnify the worldwide problem of plastic waste pollution? Patagonia's answer to that vexing problem is to make sure those plastic bottles never end up in a landfill.

The eco-friendly company upcycles plastic bottles for use in constructing its popular Black Hole line of more than two dozen different gear and travel bags. That's a lot of plastic repurposed instead of piled onto a burgeoning environmental problem; moreover, it's a lot of plastic tasked with maintaining the Black Hole reputation for toughness and durability. The Black Hole line of water-resistant bags includes hip and waist packs, daypacks, a sling pack, cube packs, totes, duffels, and rolling duffels. Prices range from \$29 for the mini hip pack and small cube pack to \$349 for the largest wheeled duffel, with many options in between. For more information and to purchase, visit www.patagonia.com (click on the "shop" tab and then select "Black Hole Bags").



Scientific Anglers SONAR Musky Fly Line

Big flies need fly lines with big performance capabilities, and when it comes to casting beefy streamers for muskellunge, pike, and other apex predators, nothing beats the new Scientific Anglers SONAR Musky. A custom-taper sinking line



specifically designed to effortlessly turn over the largest flies, the SONAR Musky (\$89.95) features an aggressive 30-foot Sink 5 front taper (4.5 to 6 inches per second) and oversize intermediate running line for enhanced line management and positive strip sets. Using proprietary tungsten formulations and unique tapering, the SONAR sinking technology gets flies down and keeps them there. Built on a braided-monofilament core, the SONAR Musky is ideal for cold to moderate climates. This versatile line, excellent for lakes and rivers, also features Advanced Shooting Technology (AST), Scientific Anglers' patented dry-slick technology that provides continual line slickness, allowing the line to shoot farther as it moves through the guides. For more information and to locate your nearest retailer, visit www.scientificanglers.com.



Winnemucca Lake, CA

By Don Vachini

Jack Throne and I gained more than 400 feet in elevation over a 1.2-mile route to reach Winnemucca Lake, our ascent made pleasant by cool air and the soothing symphony of tiny Woods Creek bouncing through a landscape sprinkled with colorful wildflowers. Approaching the lake's outlet, we were rudely chastised by the harsh *waack-waack* calls of several Clark's nutcrackers. Within 15 minutes of rigging up, we both became mesmerized by red dots amid blue halos adorning the flanks of the brook trout we gently cradled in the icy water. Indeed, these collective episodes had tickled all our senses.

Guarded by 9,585-foot Elephants Back along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, this 15-acre, bowl-shaped gem sits at 8,980

feet in the Mokelumne Wilderness. Woods Creek, the outlet stream, offers limited spawning habitat to trout before it cascades down into Woods Lake in the Eldorado National Forest. Farther downslope, it feeds massive Caples Lake before eventually reaching the Silver Fork of the American River.

Timber is sparse around 70-foot-deep Winnemucca Lake, which is adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail, but the lake offers ample food for trout in the form of caddisflies, midges, and mayflies. In addition, anabatic winds routinely deposit terrestrials and winged-insects on the lake's surface, helping support healthy, self-sustaining brook trout along with a few Kamloops-strain rainbows. Most fish are 8 to 12 inches, with a few up to 14 inches.

With casting virtually unhindered, a 9-foot, 4-weight rod is ideal, and carry spools with both floating and sinking lines to present size-10 to -16 high lakes standards. Early- and late-day shadows provide a produc-



PHOTO BY DON VACHINI

tive sliver of time when the fish are most vulnerable.

On our recent morning visit, Throne and I enjoyed consistent action using a variety of dry flies—Parachute Adams, Renegade, and Purple Haze—all lightly caressing the glassy surface over the transition zone between shallow and deep water. As surface action waned, we sought the outlet, which abuts a sheer granite wall on the south side and a small swath of timber on the other. Employing roll casts, we twitched beadhead nymphs across the channel to entice another half dozen brookies.

Anglers must be prepared to deal with the persistent winds, which usually pop up in late morning, last until evening glass-off, and can be in-

timidating. As gentle zephyrs chopped the surface, a beadhead Copper John under a high-floating Rubber Legs dry fly helped us probe the tiers of the water column. The lapping waves created a seductive action to the nymph and, by adjusting the length of the dropper, we effectively covered deeper transition zones.

When winds shift into high gear producing midday whitecaps, fish retreat to the sanctuary of deeper structure located between the two small islands and sheer rock walls on the east side of the lake. Here, a size 10 or 12 purple, cinnamon, or white conehead Woolly Buzzer or minnow-imitating Zonker fished on a sinking line and retrieved through the depths can be highly effective on the larger fish.

Winnemucca Lake is a pleasant and productive fishery for a half-day outing. Expect an invigorating climb, bejeweled brookies, midday winds, and heightened senses.

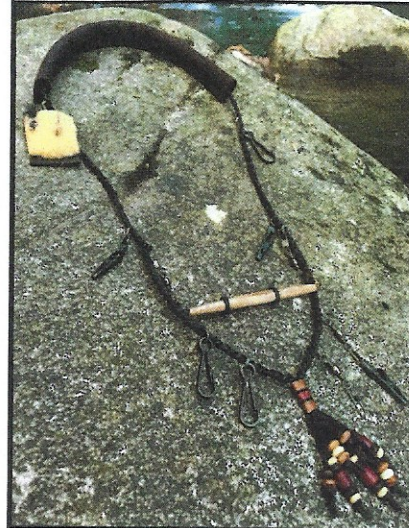
The trailhead is located near State Route 88 west of Carson Pass, which is 28

miles southwest of Minden, Nevada, and 61 miles northeast of Jackson, California. One mile west of the pass, turn south onto Woods Lake Road. Continue to the trailhead parking and locate the sign to the Winnemucca Trail at the Woods Lake outlet. The lake is open from the last Saturday in April through November 15, but at this elevation, summer and early autumn are prime time. U.S. Forest Service campsites are available at Woods Lake, (530) 622-5061, www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/eldorado/; Woodfords Inn (530) 694-2111, www.woodfordsinn.com, provides comfortable lodging; and Sorensen's Resort, (800) 423-9949, www.sorensensresort.com, offers dining and lodging along with trail and angling information.

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