



# Rip Rap

## April Meeting

**When:** Wednesday, April 1  
**Where:** JR Ranch, Hudson  
**Dinner:** 6:30  
**Program:** 8:00 Fly Tying

### President's Lines:

If you missed the last meeting...the business meeting...then you also missed one of my rare, public demonstrations of the finer points of "Roberts Rules of Order." But we still managed to elect three new members to the Board of Directors. (see pg. 2) We have convened our first board meeting with these new members, and I am impressed with the substance they will each contribute to the group.

One of the things we talked about was the need for a stream project coordinator. This chapter has a history of being very active with hands-on stream projects. We have had members transfer to Kiap-TU-Wish from other chapters simply because they wanted to do physical work on the streams. All of the officers and board members are currently involved to various degrees in monitoring projects, the video project, the annual fly fishing clinic (see pg. 2), the Christmas Banquet, dam removal, etc. There are many more opportunities to work on our local streams than are currently being pursued by the chapter, not because of a lack of will, but because there is no one person to turn a 'need' into a 'project.' If you think you might be interested in being a Project Coordinator for the chapter, please contact me to find out what such a role might entail.. We can then discuss what to expect before you decide that you would like to try your hand at it.

Since we don't have a Project Coordinator and several people have expressed interest in cleaning up the lake bed of Mounds Pond, we have decided to have a work day April 11, beginning at 9am. Meet at the parking lot where the old "Rattle Bridge" used to be. Bring garbage bags and plan on getting your feet muddy. This will be a good chance to check out the gradient of this new piece of water.

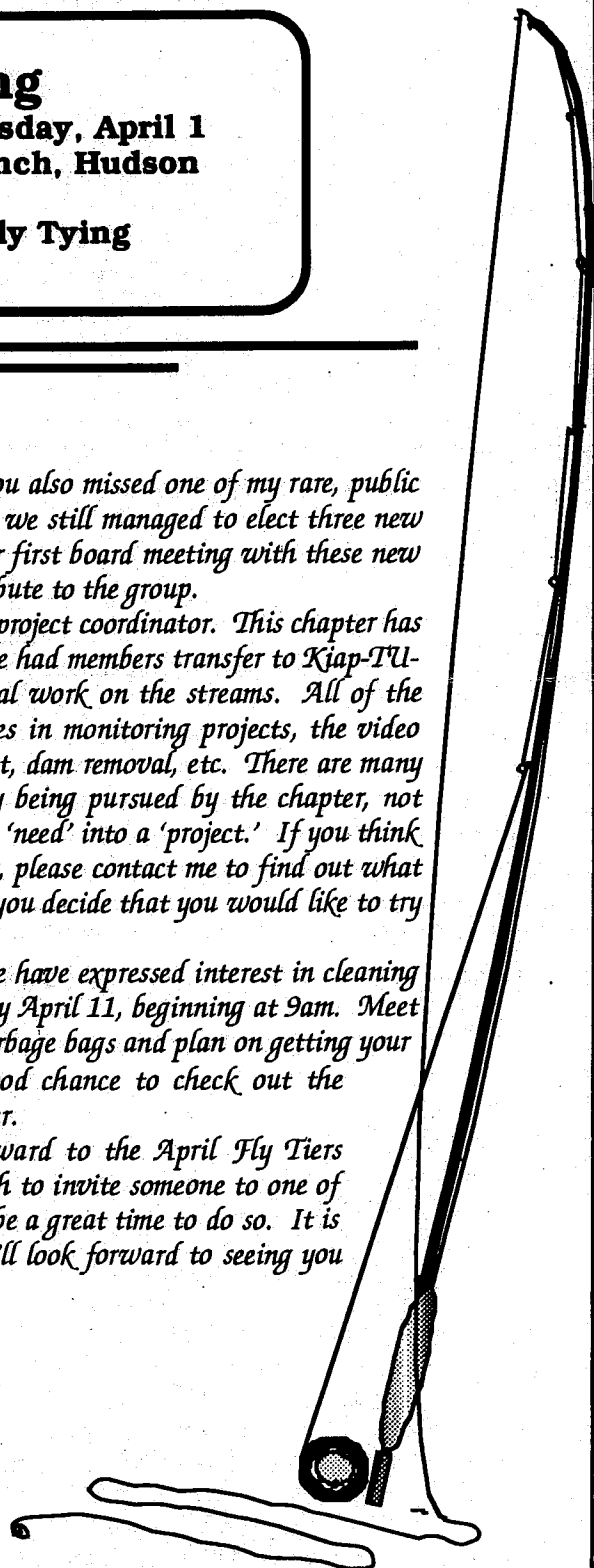
I am really looking forward to the April Fly Tiers Meeting. If you have ever thought to invite someone to one of our chapter meetings, this would be a great time to do so. It is always very casual and social. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Tony Stifter

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## **Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...**

### **Board positions filled...**

New members for the Board of Directors were chosen at the March business meeting. To replace retiring board members Chuck Goossen and Skip James, the membership approved the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and elected **Dave Ballman** and **John O'Malley**. They will serve three year terms. To fill the new, two year position on the board, **Bill Lovegren** was nominated from the floor and duly elected.

### **Video Project Fund...**

**Andy Lamberson** has successfully requested a grant from National Trout Unlimited to support part of the cost of our video project. \$6500 will go a long way toward the project goal of \$10,000. A gift from a chapter member for \$1,000 begins what Andy hopes will be a successful fund drive for local support to raise the remaining \$2500. Gifts are tax deductible. Send them to **Chuck Goossen**, Treasurer, at 1542 Summer St., Hudson, Wisconsin, 54016.

### **Rush River Warning...**

The Board of Directors of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to discourage our members from fishing the Rush during the early season due to the concerns of local land owners and the political and social issues involving the early season.

Under Wisconsin trespass law, you must have land owner permission to walk on any portion of the bank. The bottom line is:

**If your feet aren't in the water, you may be trespassing!**

### **Tiers Show Skills at April Meeting...**

Famous and infamous local tiers will be featured at our next chapter meeting. **Jon Jacobs**, (see article, this issue) **Mike Alwin**, **Tracy Peterson** (speed tier extraordinaire), **Gabe Schubert** (Mike's young shop assistant), **Tom Johnson**, and "Mr. Bass Bug," **Gary Horvath**, will be present. Come out and pick up pointers, share stories and techniques, and even tie a few yourself.

### **Chapter Schedules Spring Fly Fishing Clinic...**

In 1995, Kiap-TU-Wish created an Education Committee to inform the community and involve the membership about the value of preserving trout streams. Historically, the principal tool for accomplishing this lofty goal has been the Kinnickinnic River Fly Fishing Clinic, held each spring in River Falls. Now in its fourth year, the clinic has been a positive experience for both student and Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer teachers. Students learn the rudiments of fly fishing for trout and also begin to understand the fragile ecosystem of the Kinnickinnic River. Instructors enjoy the camaraderie with other TU'ers and the feeling of accomplishment in spreading the 'gospel' about cold water resources. The chapter benefits by receiving positive publicity about the event, and by recruiting new members from the ranks of students.

This year's clinic will be held Saturday, May 30, from 1 until 9pm. First, the education committee needs volunteers to serve as instructors, as fishing guides, or both. Spend an hour or two, or volunteer to be present for the whole day. The more volunteers sign up, the easier it is for everyone. Second, we need people to prepare, serve and cleanup the evening meal. Third, we need talented fly tiers to provide basic patterns for the box of flies given to each student. If you can tie a dozen of your favorite Kinni killer, it will be greatly appreciated. The students are made aware that their gift of flies comes from the chapter, thus providing another link between Kiap-TU-Wish and the public. \*

Discussion of the clinic will take place at both the April and May meetings. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, or serving on the Education Committee, please call **Mike Alwin** at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (612-770-5854), or **Jon Jacobs** (715-386-7822) for more information.

## **The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: A Case Study of Three Flies...**

**by Jon Jacobs**

The following is by way of prefacing the chapters annual fly tying extravaganza scheduled for the Wednesday, April 1 meeting. (Now there's Karma at work: Public fly tying scheduled for April Fools Day!). Fly fishers are, as a group, at least as prone to acquiring powerful habits as the general population. We find a few favorite flies and put the blinders on, deviating little from season to season either in fly choice or presentation method. Here are three patterns that have shaken me out of my doldrums; perhaps they'll do the same for you:

**CATCHPENNY LEECH:** It is very, very possible that **Andy Lamberson** first told me about this pattern, but, being blessed with an angler's selective memory, I've come to believe that I invented this thing. Well, at least bead heads weren't on the market back then, so perhaps I can grab the credit for the addition of the bead. I guess I can take the blame for the name, too. Catchpenny, according to Webster, means designed especially to appeal to the ignorant or unwary through sensationalism or cheapness. This fits because the fly is indeed tawdry and cheap. These are its great strengths. A one feather fly, it's incredibly easy to tie. If you need an expendable fly to toss into a logjam or under overhanging brush, this fills the bill. Slip the appropriate sized brass bead onto a size ten 3XL streamer hook. Select a blood, or Marabou short feather and tie it on at the bend of the hook, with the end of the feather thus forming a tail. Advance the thread to just behind the bead. Now twist the shaft of the Marabou feather a few turns to form a sort of shaggy chenille. Wind this forward to the bead and tie it off with a whip finish. Add a drop of head cement to the whip finish. The fly is done. Don't worry if the fly looks shaggy. It's supposed to. If there are too many loose Marabou barbules projecting here and there, tear them out. Or don't. The fish won't mind!

**Gary Borger's STRIP LEECH:** While I'm perfectly willing to rip off my friend Andy's intellectual property, I feel compelled to give the estimable Dr. Borger his due. I was much impressed years ago when I first read his book Nymphing: A Basic Book and found that the author didn't try to take credit for every fishing technique ever developed, a trait that's far too common in our sport. This pattern comes from Borger's book Designing Trout Flies and I suggest you check the color plate illustration and the tying instructions there. It's an amazing piece of work. I tie it on a size 6, 3XL streamer hook in the olive colors that Borger suggests. It has a fluorescent green Marabou tag, an olive mohair yarn body wound over copious turns of heavy lead wire, a copper rib, an olive Rabbit strip wing tied Matuka style and a Pheasant rump feather hackle.

This fly is a monstrosity to cast, but it does catch fish! Craig Mason and I fished the Rush River one Sunday last August. It was cloudy and humid, but air temperatures were moderate. There were clouds of Tricos about, but the spinner fall was slow to form, probably because of weather conditions, and while fish sporadically rose to some Trico duns and spinners, I couldn't get anything going. When I asked Craig, who was doing somewhat better (Not unusual: Craig, a frequent partner, out fishes me nine times in ten), for advice, he suggested that I try a Pheasant Tail nymph. With Craig's good advice and a really good looking narrow run ahead of me, I felt more confident. I flogged the run very thoroughly with the Pheasant Tail, one of my favorite searching patterns, but did absolutely no business. Discouraged again, I moved to the head of the run and contemplated what to do next. Opening a fly box, I spied a Borger strip leech that I had tied one night in a fit of whimsy. By this time I was ready for desperate measures, so I tied the big fly to my leader and flipped it out into the head of the run. The fly soaked up some water and began to sink. As my line straightened downstream, it suddenly went tight and I found myself connected to a very healthy brown trout in the fifteen inch range. Now I know that's a modest sized fish by Rush River standards, but I don't catch fish of that size there with any regularity, and to take one on one cast after it had to have seen my nymph not once, but several times, convinced me that there was something special about that big ugly fly. This has proven to be true on other rivers and I've become a believer.

**THE HUMPY FROM HELL:** This fly is constructed from conventional materials, usually in size 12 because humpies are difficult for me to tie in smaller sizes, with a Moose hair tail, brown and grizzly hackle, floss underbody and deer hair body and wings. It's the color choice that's unusual. I use cylindrical fluorescent orange strike indicators when nymphing. It's not been uncommon for fish to attempt to eat an indicator. I first speculated that the trout were taking it for a beetle and that may be, but I'm now convinced that the fluorescent orange has something to do with it, too. Finding decent quality fluorescent orange Deer hair and monofloss can be a challenge, but the effort required is well worth it. I've used this fly to good effect when prospecting and it offers the ancillary benefit, for my middle aged eyes, of unsurpassed visibility on the water. This fly also demonstrates exactly how malleable my fly tying ego is: I've chosen to think of myself as clever for tying a fly that imitates my strike indicator rather than to think of myself as a 'doofus' whose nymphs are so poorly tied that fish prefer blobs of fluorescent plastic foam over them.

## Skip's Loose Threads: Contemporary Experiments with Emergers...

Many species of Mayflies hatch where the world of air meets the world of water, in the skin of a river, the meniscus. Over the years, many fly patterns have been proven effective in imitating the moment of emergence, including the floating nymph, the soft hackle emerger, the trailing-shuck dun. Even spinner patterns have their place when tied with dun colors to suggest the outstretched wings of a failed transformation. Most successful emerger patterns use soft materials that move in the water, and are more suggestive than literally imitative.

Swisher and Richards' ground breaking book *Emergers* accurately described the phenomenon of crippled insects floating in the film, the natural tendency of trout to look for such invalids, and suggested patterns to imitate the various malformations that could occur: incomplete withdrawal from the nymphal shuck, uninflated wings, etc. Their fly dressing solutions, however, missed the point by being too imitative. As anyone knows, there are a lot of things that can go awry when an insect hatches, but to survive and fly away, everything has to be perfect. So imitation is important for the completely emerged dun, since all duns who fly away from the stream look alike. But all emergers who die in the film fail for different reasons, and therefore they all look different from one another. Emerger patterns should not be literal, but suggestive.

Sylvester Nemes' celebrations of the virtues of soft-hackle flies provide a counterpoint to Swisher and Richard's patterns. In his four books to date: *The Soft Hackled Fly*, *The Soft-Hackled Fly Addict*, *Soft-Hackled Fly Imitations*, and *Spinners*, Nemes presents endless variations and color combinations on a simple theme which is stated at length in book one, and which any thinking fly tier can extrapolate to his own fishing situation obviating the need for three more books. His flies, lineal descendants of British wet fly patterns, are tied with bird hackle, soft, well picked out dubbing, and usually have no tails or wings. These flies, fished in the film during a hatch, are amazingly effective. Their principal drawback is their lack of visibility, but since they are designed to be fished quartered downstream 'on the swing', most strikes are felt rather than seen. In his last book, *Spinners*, Nemes invents many new patterns to imitate familiar hatches. He also admits that he hasn't fished with them yet!

Gary Borger's modification of the soft hackle wet fly, aptly named the Wet-Dry fly, first appeared in his first book, *Nymphing: A Basic Book*. It improves on Nemes' patterns in two ways: by paying more attention to imitative body and wing color, and by the use of Duck shoulder or Rooster body feathers for hackle. These feathers, in shades of gray, are much more webby than the Partridge or Rail plumage that Nemes calls for, and they have more body. They suggest crumpled wings and legs better than the wispy strands of Grouse, and, because they are impregnated with natural oils, they float the fly extremely well. Usually, a few fibers will stick up and provide a visual clue as to the whereabouts of the fly. Borger's creation is very effective fished upstream 'dead drift' to rising trout.

Jim Leisenring's partner and ghost writer, Pete Hidy, invented the Flymph, one of the earliest and most effective emerger patterns, in the 1940's. These were wingless dun imitations, most with exaggeratedly picked out dubbing in the thorax area to simulate protowings or splitting wing cases. They were tied with soft dubbings ribbed with silk thread, compared wet to the living insect with Leisenring's attention to matching the exact shade of the bodies of the hatching species. Dave Hughes' recent book, *Wet Flies*, pays homage to the Flymph and its inventors, but consistently spells Leisenring's name wrong, which means he may never have read *Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph* in person, or else his publisher has a terrible proof reader.

The recent interest in Cul de Canard feathers has sparked new experiments in emerger patterns, (See Dorothy Bergman's article). While CDC has been most commonly employed as a substitute for stiffer wing materials, I believe as great a benefit for tying emergers lies in its uses as dubbing for abdomens or wisps for trailing shucks and legs. What will the new trout season bring? Will someone come up with a fly that incorporates all the best features of emergent patterns of the past? How about this:

### Skip's Emergent Sulphur PMD

Hook:	Tiemco 2487 (16-18)
Thread:	Fluorescent Orange 8/0
Tail:	Short wisp of gray CDC tied as a trailing shuck
Abdomen:	Cream dyed muskrat, ribbed with orange Krystal Flash
Thorax:	Natural Hare's Ear, picked out
Wing:	Light Grey Poly yarn
Hackle:	Light dun soft hackle, tied parachute

## **CDC Elk Hair Caddis Dry Fly**

**Hans Weilenmann, as interpreted by Dorothy Schramm...**

In January, I received a fine letter from Dorothy Bergman Schramm, asking me for samples of a couple of wet flies I had mentioned in a *Skip's Loose Threads* column some months before. Along with some news of Dorothy's life in Michigan, and an invitation to visit and fish with her, she sent the recipe for the following fly. She writes:

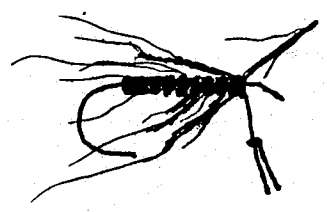
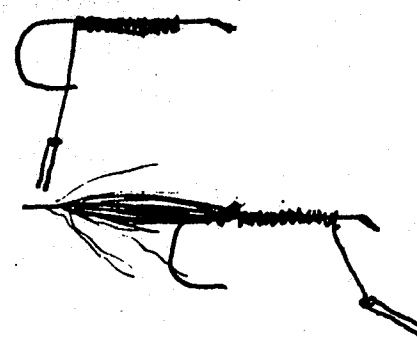
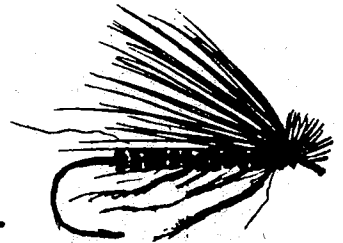
"So I don't get the reputation as a total beggar, I am enclosing a caddis dry I really use a lot. Also, the directions to tie it. It is not an original. Although I use CDC alot (many ducks in Michigan are probably dying of pneumonia because of it) this pattern was shown to me at a FFF Conclave by Hans Wielemann of the Netherlands. One of the better tiers I have ever seen."

Well, I agree with Dorothy's estimation of Hans. Mike Hipps and I met him on Silver Creek some years ago and spent three delightful days tying flies and trying to fool the giant trout in that desert oasis. At that time, Mike and I were given samples of Hans' CDC caddis, together with instructions on how to fish it. The originator was literally fishing his way across the U.S., while living in his rental car. I, too have had wonderful success with this fly. Here it is.

Hook: Standard Dry Fly sizes 14-20  
Thread: Tan 6/0  
Body: Cul de Canard natural tan or died color, black, olive or brown  
Wing: Elk or Deer hair

1. Pinch down barb. Place hook in vise and add thread starting one eye length from eye of hook continuing to point of hook.
2. Stroke barbs of stubby, wide CDC feather and gather together at feather tip. Tie in feather at bend of hook, stem pointing back and wrap thread forward.
3. Grip CDC stem with hackle plier and twist feather. Wrap twisted feather over hook shank to form body allowing some of the CDC strands to flare loosely. Tie off.
4. Cut and stack Elk or Deer hair for wing. Tie on top of the hook to form standard Elk hair caddis wing. Tie off. Trim butts at slant, Cement.

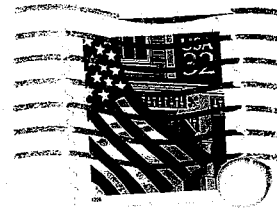
Do not use floatant on this fly. The loose strands of CDC play in the meniscus to create an aura that triggers strikes on those days when there is no surface activity. A great searching pattern.



Dorothy Schramm  
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**DEADLINES**

May 4/15/98

Visit our Website for Stream Reports and Conservation News  
<http://www.spacestar.com/users/lambcom/kiap.html>

## RifRaf...

### Flies and Impressionism...

"If you will look closely at a live dun (not one in a specimen bottle) you will observe that his coloring is "impressionistic." It is built up of many tiny variations of tone such as we find in the paintings of Renoir, Monet and others of the impressionistic school of art. The body usually varies in color from back to belly and from thorax to tail. The thorax very likely contains little accents of color- bright pink, yellow and even bluish tones. The eyes in some naturals are brilliant dark blue or violet. Frequently the legs are spotted, and sometimes of strongly differing colors, the front pair being light and the others darker. All Mayflies have delicate veined wings and some, such as the March Brown and Green Drake, have very dark and distinct wing spots of brown or black. Add to all this the iridescence of the wing as it reflects the light, and it seems quite remarkable that the trout take our poor imitations at all...

The flies used for so discriminating a fish as the trout should, first of all, have the appearance of life. I am convinced that a lifelike effect can never be obtained by using materials which lack that quality. Impressionism in the materials as well as in the form of flies offers great advantages because it is based on the principles and discoveries of the impressionist painters. As they studied the form which reflected or absorbed light and thus took on certain color qualities of its surroundings, they were dealing in life, not death. Anglers should do the same."

John Atherton, *The Fly and the Fish*, Freshet, NY 1951, pg.58f

