

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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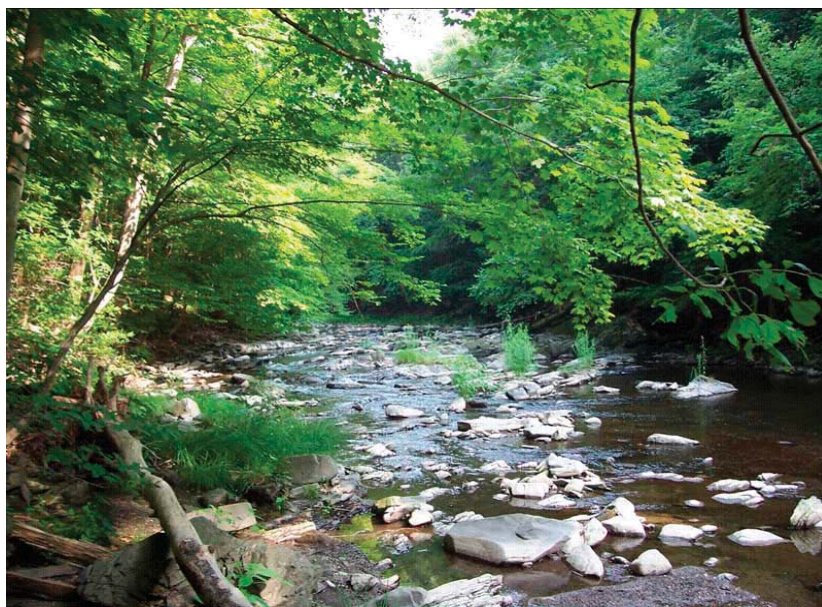
APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

BY JONATHAN JACOBS

The natural order of things around this time of year is thus: 1) After fourteen consecutive months of winter, the early season opens and we have hope. 2) The vernal equinox arrives and we have joy. 3) Fly tiers descend on Bob Smith's Sports Club at the April meeting to celebrate their art and to pay tribute to the memory of Dry Fly Dick Frantes and we have warmth in our hearts.

Just recently someone asked me about Dick's "secret" journal, a document that some regard as the DaVinci Code of trout angling. This person also pointed out to me that, while Dick may be etched in my memory, time marches on and that there are a great many chapter members who never knew him. For many years my standard line has been that if you knew Dick, there was no need to explain him and if you didn't know him, there was no way to explain him. I can't sum it up better than that, but I will try to provide a few details. After thinking it over for a very long time, I believe that the most salient thing

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KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER



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**Check out all the terrific
fly tyers at the Dry Fly Dick
Frantes Fly Tying Meeting.
April 1st, 2009**



PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

Board of Directors Update

At the annual chapter business meeting Wednesday, March 4, chapter members elected new and returning board members. Stepping down from the board were Gary Richardson, Andy Lamberson and Hap Lutter. Hans Jung's and Kyle Amundson's terms expired. The board appointed nominating committee presented a slate of candidates to the membership. No nominations were received from the floor.

The following were elected to the Board of Directors:

Randy Arnold for Andy Lamberson

Jon Jacobs for Gary Richardson

Tom Henderson for Hap Lutter

Kyle Amundson reelected

Hans Jung reelected

The chapter thanks Andy, Gary and Hap for their service to the board and Kyle and Hans for standing for another term. Welcome and thanks to Randy, Jon and Tom for stepping up and joining the board.

Officer Update

The Board of Directors will be meeting soon to elect officers.

Parker Creek Update

Work schedules for Parker Creek will be posted on the discussion page of the website and emails should be sent. If you are not on the chapter email list go to the website and signup. Remember, we are at the mercy of the weather and DNR scheduling availability. We'll do the best we can to alert you to the schedule and to changes. The Parker Creek project is located on County J approximately 3.5 miles east of Hiway 65 north of River Falls. There is an abandoned farm house on the site and you are encouraged to park in the yard.

Expo Recap

Attendance appeared to be good at the Expo on Friday and Saturday this year and not so good on Sunday. We had a lot of visitors, especially Saturday and picked up a few new members. Our booth needs updating. I would like to see a committee formed next fall to spruce up the booth and our presentation.

Thanks to all the volunteers: Nick Westcott, Bob Diesch, Jon Jacobs, Tom Henderson, Kyle Amundson, Tom Schnadt, Gary Richardson, Hap Lutter, Bob Lorenzen, Randy Arnold, Ken Hanson, Dave Gilbraith, Chad Borenz, yours truly.

Usually I'm traveling for work this time of year. I dodged the schedule this year and will be able to attend the April meeting. I hope I stay this lucky the rest of the year. See you In April!

MEETING INFO CONTINUED

FROM PAGE 1

about him was the great effort he made to convince people that he was A Crusty Old Angler. There was his clothing, which looked like it had been supplied by the wardrobe department. There was the vast Chevrolet Suburban, always ready and packed with fishing gear that bore the vanity plate "DRIFLY". There was the bumbling and addled mien that made him seem as though angling might be the only thing of which he was capable. It was all an act. In reality he was a well-educated businessman with a wide variety of interests. He was an active advocate for the natural world and gave generously of his time and talent to several environmental organizations, chief among the Kiap-TU-Wish, which he served in the capacity of Secretary for several years. He enjoyed the ruse immensely, though, and I think he sometimes blurred the line between acting and being.

The supposedly secret journal was a part of the act. I've seen it and there are only a couple of water-courses listed in it that aren't familiar to almost everyone reading this. One thing that makes it special is the level of detail recorded in it. Dick did get out there and he did fish hard, so I guess it wasn't all an act after



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When I first started thinking about Scott's Scoop for this month, my mind wandered back to last month's issue, when I wrote about the impending birth of my first child, and the trout-themed mural I painted in the baby's room, and I thought to myself, "that's probably more than anyone wants to know about my personal life. I better get back on track this month and just write about trout-related issues." Now that I am actually writing this article, my mind has come to the conclusion that, "I'm the Editor here, so I'll write about whatever I want to!" With that, I am thrilled to announce the newest future flyfisher born in to this world, my daughter, Chelsea Lynn Hanson. My amazing wife, Connie, started going in to labor late last Thursday, March 12th, and Chelsea was born, without the use of any pain medications I must add, at 5:03 Friday morning, March 13th. Mom and baby are doing wonderfully, and I am giddy beyond belief, but now I find myself right up against the deadline for getting this issue to the printer. I am very grateful to Carrie Jacobson and Vern Alberts who got me their articles very early in the month. Maybe I should put out a warning every month that there is an impending birth in my family so that I get submissions in plenty of time! Thank you to everyone else who made submissions as well. On the topic of article submissions, I need to warn you that next month's issue will be the last RipRap until next fall, so if you want to see your name in print in the near future, be sure and send me your article soon.

Make sure you get to Bob Smith's early on April 1st, since the Fly Tying meeting is always one of the most well-attended of the year. There will be several great tiers on hand, along with Ron Kuehn, so you won't want to miss it.

See you next month!



Chelsea Lynn Hanson at 6 days old

MEETING INFO CONTINUED

FROM PAGE 2

all. What is perhaps most surprising is how marginal much of the water was when Dick fished it and how much more high quality trout water there is now. I like to think that's because people like Dick worked hard as advocates for the resource and taught many of us how to carry that battle forward before they left us.

Another thing Dick did for the chapter year after year is round up fly tiers for the April meeting. Thus, I proudly take up Dick's mantle as I announce to you this year's line up. We have at press time seven folks scheduled to join us. Self-described "recovering attorney" Duke Welter is taking time from his involvement in national TU matters to drive over from Eau Claire. Pete Kilibarda is coming down from New Richmond. Kline Hickock and Greg Meyer responded to the call for volunteers at chapter meetings. Sgt. Ron Kuehn, U.S. Army, retired, stepped up at the local fly shop. College student and Alaska guide Tom Carlson used Facebook, the social networking page, to say he was willing. Local high school senior and tying phenomenon Cole Madden is setting aside his homework for an evening to come down. There may be a couple of surprise mystery tiers as well.

The meeting is April 1, 2009 at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd St. in Hudson. Dinner is available in our meeting room from 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.



REMINISCING

BY CARRIE JACOBSON

This is written in response to “Scott’s Scoop” from the March TU newsletter. I want to say congrats to Scott and family on the new addition. I personally have yet to find an acceptable fly fisherman to make a family with. However, I reap the bennies of having a nephew.

Secondly, I enjoyed Scott’s article about becoming a father. I noticed his strong desire to teach his passion to his own young. For a minute I thought I was in time travel. I flew back 20 years when I was the young student, with my father teaching me the art of fly fishing. For three weeks every summer we camped and fished in Pine Dale, Wyoming. My father would drag me through riverbanks and endless ranch lands. He taught me how to cast and reel-’em-in. This was all done with a small amount of fear for the long-horned steer staring at us from 80 yards away.

While fishing with my father, I learned the basic principals of fishing. He told me to have “soft feet”, “no talking”, and he said the “pools aren’t for swimming!” I learned the technical parts such as casts, knots, and flies. More importantly than any of those things, I learned a father and daughter can form a lifelong bond and have a lifetime of memories by having this kind of experience and adventure together. All it took was a nice day and a bag lunch and we were off to a day of amazing fishing. It is a gift to have a father who was willing to guide my heavy feet through the creeks. Back then it was about the adventure to me, but now I see it meant so much more.

Around the holidays this year, my mother told me Dad had been busy for a week “building something downstairs”. On Christmas Eve, I was presented with the greatest gift I ever could receive. My father had built me a handmade fly rod. This was one of his many talents. I was completely taken aback and it brought the entire family to tears. At that moment I realized that in my growing up, and his growing old, we continue to hold a strong bond which stems from a simple common interest.

With that said, I wish Scott and family the best with the new baby. I hope he gets to teach his child(ren) his passion as my father did. Some of the best memories come from those times, and the times to come. Even though all this time has passed, we will continue to make bonding memories together. I plan on breaking in my new rod with my father in Arizona in March, despite his now heavier feet.

FILL THE FLY BOX CHALLENGE-UPDATE

BY CHAD BORENZ

It’s the time of the year when thoughts of the upcoming season are upon us. Maybe you’ve already been out for the MN/WI early seasons, or maybe you are waiting until the start of the regular season. Either way you have probably spent the winter months riffling through your fly boxes, organizing and figuring out what you need to buy or tying a few dozen up in preparation.

I have been spending my off season tying a few patterns to refill my own boxes, but also tying up a few more for the fly box challenge. We have filled 120 of the 150 boxes so far, which means we have 30 to go.

So while you are getting ready for the season think about tying up an extra dozen for the box or reorganize your current collection and donate some that you don’t use. A dozen of each would be great, however if you donate just a few flies in a specific size or pattern there is a good chance that someone else already donated a few



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FLY TYING CORNER: BROOKIE COOKIE

BY SCOTT HANSON

Brook trout hold a special place in the hearts of many Upper Midwest anglers. Generally speaking, though, brook trout are not known to be especially discriminating eaters, so there have been relatively few fly patterns developed specifically for them. I, too, have a special fondness for brook trout, but when I go fishing for them I tend to just tie on any old generic-looking dry fly, usually some form of Elk Hair Caddis or an Adams, and usually am able to do pretty well. There are a few flies out there that were conceived specifically with brook trout in mind, however. One of those patterns, the Brookie Cookie, has been very popular amongst customers at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. We have been tying the Brookie Cookie for the past several years, and always sell several dozen each year. It is a fairly simple pattern, but has just enough attraction built in to tempt even the wildest of old brookies. The Brookie Cookie was originated by Tom Fink, an angler from Pennsylvania, but we at Bob Mitchell's have changed things around just slightly from the original recipe. Our altered recipe is what's listed below. Tie some up and give them a try next time you're on one of our nearby brook trout streams.

BROOKIE COOKIE

HOOK: Size 14 Tiemco 100 or other standard dry fly hook
THREAD: Red 8/0
TAIL: Dyed Red rooster hackle fibers
RIB: Red thread
BODY: Peacock Herl
HACKLE: Grizzly dry fly hackle



FLY BOX CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

of a similar size or pattern. Some individuals have donated two dozen or more and others have donated a hodgepodge of sizes, colors and patterns. They will all be put to good use in the box. The goal is to have the box full by the beginning of summer so the raffle can commence this coming fall.

I couldn't have gotten this far without the generous support of our local businesses, Mike Alwin of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Lake Elmo, MN. Joseph Meyer of One More Cast Fly Shop, Countryside, IL. A collection of flies from Vern Alberts. Chapter members Randy Arnold, Ken Hanson, Jim Humphrey, Sarah Sanford, Bob Torres, Bob Trevis and Ron Zaudke. Twin Cities TU chapter member Josh Nelson and a few anonymous donors.

Streamers, nymphs and dries are still needed. Flies can be sent directly to: Chad Borenz, 9031 79th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016 or given to any of the board members. I will also be at the April meeting in case you wanted to give them to me in person.

Contact chadborenz@gmail.com or 651.261.8277 with questions.



A SHORT HISTORY OF FLY TYING

BY VERN ALBERTS

As I approach the four score and eight year anniversary of my birth, I find myself reaching back in my memory bank and thinking about the many changes that have occurred during my lifetime. The one change that I'd like to talk about here is how the development of the art of fly tying has changed over the years. I started tying flies in the late 1940s. I tied for about eight years before I ever saw anyone else tie. I taught myself out of the few books that were available – namely Trout by Ray Bergman, and George Leonard Herter's fly tying handbook. Sources for fly tying materials were very few and sparse in the Twin Cities. The two local sporting goods stores were Kennedy Bros. Arms Company, located on the corner of 5th and Minnesota, and Callenders Sporting Goods on 6th Street. Both these stores had a small supply of hooks and materials. The main fly tying supplier was Herters, located in Waseca, which put out a large catalog and mostly did mail order. When I first started going down to Waseca the store was located on the main street, above the drug store. After a few years they built a modern showroom and warehouse on the outskirts of town. Most of their materials and supplies are not available today: jungle cock necks, Bali duck feathers, whole golden pheasant and silver pheasant skins, patches of polar bear skins. Herters stocked Japanese hooks that were of good quality and very reasonable – I used a number 933 ring-eye hook for panfish and bass that sold for fifteen cents a hundred.

Some time in the mid-1950s an oil salesman called on me at work. The conversation turned towards fishing, and I found out that he was a trout fisherman and a fly tyer, and he introduced me to the St. Paul Fly Tiers and Fishermen's Club. From then on, and for many years, I attended the weekly meetings in the back room at Kuby's Bar. I became acquainted with many good fishermen and fly tyers. Ben Egger started the club and was one of the most dedicated fishermen that I know of. One of his fishing buddies told the story that the two of them sat on the bank of the Kinni after an evening of fishing once, and they realized that they had fished 58 days straight.

Since most of the materials that we used at that time were from natural sources, we were constantly on the lookout for material that we could use to construct our flies. We went through many lengths to acquire material. I used to send an order to the Schwartz Co. of New York which was a wholesaler of feather products. I would buy a hundred market-run gamecock necks, which were small and of Phillipine or Indian origin. I would pay \$50 for a hundred necks, and I took them to the Fly Tiers meetings where I would sell the first ones for \$1 each and then I would drop the price until the last ones were given away for free. I would be lucky to end up with a ten spot for my effort.

In another instance, one of my friends had been given a well-used polar bear rug which we cut in to small pieces which we then sold. Soon we had saturated the market, so we had a work day in which we dyed the pieces many different colors. After all that effort I still ended up with a three foot piece which I held on to for 25 years until I donated it to the Fly Tiers Club along with the bulk of the materials that I had hoarded over the past 50 years.

I am not much of a writer, but I just wanted to give some of the young and aspiring tyers an idea of what it was like 50 or more years ago.



WADING RULES

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

This is serious business: Ignore the rules at your peril.

As with any great game there are dangers inherent in fly-fishing for trout. Pratfalls happen, dunkings in cruel cold water occur. Hooks may lodge in uncomfortable places: fingers, earlobes, even eyebrows. And isn't that a pretty sight to take to the doc's amused nurse-assistant?

Barbed wire snares are common in farm country, and one might someday meet that foot stomping, fire breathing bull. You will be warned against rattlers in hill country, but that's mostly bull too, a threat introduced into a conversation to discourage competition for a prized stretch of river.

Of all the dangers, a swim in swift cold water is the most deadly. A wading staff is described in "Tackle," and its use is recommended when you wade powerful rivers or deep pools. The staff is always slung over the shoulder on a shock cord, front to back and available for instant use. I'm not sold on the folding staff that fits in a holster, because an angler may wait too long before springing it loose. It is even possible to use two staffs in unusual situations. I have a second cane with an angled handle that I can hook into an armhole inside my vest when it's not in use. If you are using two staffs, stuff the rod butt into the top of your waders; don't try to fumble with that mickey-mouse loop and snap strap sewed into your vest. I've never found that manufactured nuisance useful. In rough water, two anglers may lock arms and cross a current where one wader would be swept away. A four-legged stool is infinitely safer than a three-legged, as witnessed by the change from three-wheel to four-wheel ATVs.

In doubtful waters, first tighten your belt, then test the power of the stream. Standing parallel to the flow, legs side by side, staff on the downstream side, try to move up against the flow by sliding your upstream foot in small increments against the bottom. If you can't move easily you are at the edge of trouble. Back out.

Whenever you get into deeper or faster flow than you intended, always back out, sliding one heel back, then the other. Do not attempt to turn to face the shore. If you feel the sand or gravel moving under your feet at any time, back off.

If it is necessary to turn at any time, do not make the turn to put the power of the current at your back. Turn into the flow. If, in spite of your caution you are lifted and swept away, face downstream and bend your knees to take a shock if you hit a rock. I have read that anglers draw up their knees to trap air in their waders so they can float out of trouble. I have never tried that, and I intend not to.



Don't miss the April Kiap-TU-Wish meeting. It's the Annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes Memorial Fly Tying Meeting. Come and watch several of the area's best fly tyers work their magic at their vises.

Wednesday, April 1st

Dinner at 6PM

Meeting begins at 7PM

Bob Smith's Sports Club

Downtown Hudson





KIAP-TU-WISH
PO Box 483
HUDSON, WI 54268

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:
WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/KIAPTUWISH/



DON'T MISS THE APRIL MEETING!!!

It's the annual Dry Fly Dick
Frantes Fly Tying Meeting
Wednesday April 1st, 2009 at
Bob Smith's Sports Club
Dinner starts at 6PM
Meeting begins at 7PM
See you there!

It's your last chance to make a submission until next fall.
Deadline for the May issue is Wednesday, April 22nd.

