



A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
APRIL, 2010 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

BY GREG DIETL

Fly Tying Meeting!

Thanks to Jonathan Jacob's perennial organization and recruitment efforts, we once again will be treated to the Annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes Fly Tying Event at the April membership meeting. The meeting always draws a crowd so get there early for dinner. Please see Jon's enticement inside. The drawing for the fly box will also be held at the meeting. The date is Wednesday, April 7, 6 PM dinner, 7 PM for meeting and tying, Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson. Please join us!

***Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson,
Wednesday April 7th, 6 PM for dinner, 7 PM for
meeting and presentation.***



Tying a Woolly Bugger
by Scott Hanson

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER



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**Check out all the good
things inside this issue of
RipRap!**



VICE PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

New Chapter President

Kyle Amundson is the new Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter President! Kyle was elected to the position by the Board of Directors at the March 15 board meeting. Please thank Kyle for stepping up and taking the position which has been vacant for the last year.

Other Board and Officer News

Randy Arnold and Bob Diesch were reelected to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting in March. Tom Henderson has stepped down from the board but will remain as Treasurer. Greg Meyer was appointed by the board to serve the remainder of Tom's board term. Greg will be serving as chapter webmaster and on the board of directors. Gary Horvath was elected as Secretary and I will stay on as Vice President.

Chapter Treasury

Tom Henderson has done an outstanding job as the chapter treasurer. The Board of Directors has been meeting monthly and working on a chapter budget. We will soon have an annual budget.

Chapter Website

You need to see the new chapter website. Greg Meyer has redesigned the site; it is up and running, easy to navigate and full of information. Greg is also preparing a new chapter email system through Constant Contact which should be functioning soon, also. More information will follow. As you can see, Greg has been working hard on these two vital chapter communication functions. www.kiaptuwish.org.

Parker Creek Update

Work has continued on Parker Creek. Volunteers have felled a forest of box elders and the site is has many piles of brush ready to be fired. We have had good volunteer efforts on the project and have logged over 250 hours since the end of February. Work will continue on Saturdays at 9 AM until further notice. Keep an eye on the website for updates. The email system may be running soon and will be used for project notification, also.

New Chapter Members

Welcome to new chapter members:

Mark Newman	Hudson
Chad Svacina	New Richmond

May Meeting

Marty Engel, DNR Fisheries Biologist for our region will give his annual presentation at the May membership meeting. This is always one of the best attended meetings of the year. Make plans now to attend the May meeting for Marty's update on the state of our waters. The meeting date is May 5th.



SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

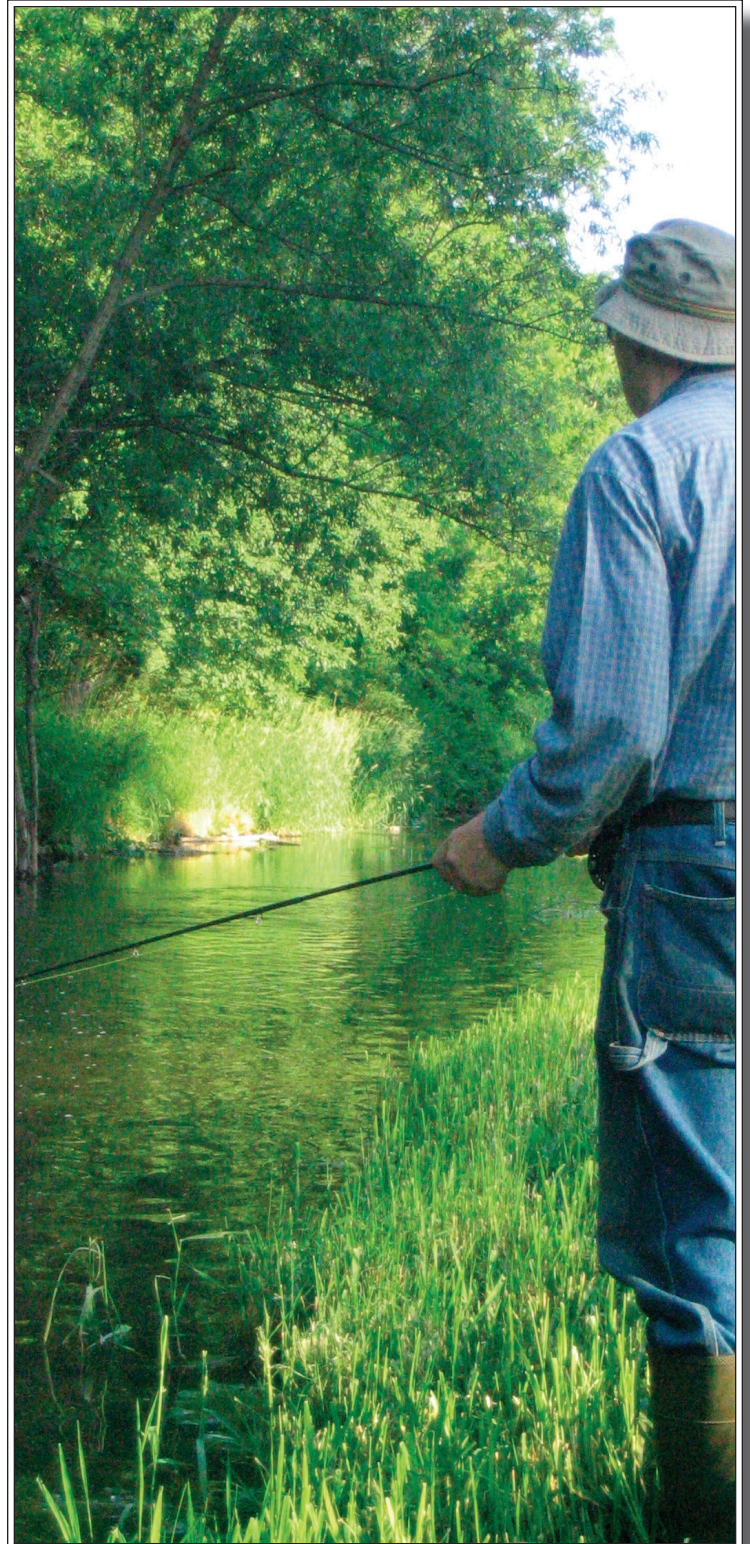
I thought that it was going to take a long time for our local streams to get through run-off this year. With all the snow pack we had, I figured that streams would be running high and muddy through the entire month of March, at least, and maybe even in to April. Boy, was I wrong, huh? The warm weather in early March got the snow out of here quickly, and the streams flushed it down to the Mississippi faster than I ever thought they would. After just a few days of unfishable water conditions, our local streams are running close to normal levels and clear as a bell. I have heard nothing but positive fishing reports so far, and size 16 black stoneflies seem to be hatching like crazy wherever you go. I have never heard so many gushing reports about fast action fishing with stonefly dries. I would say that, if all my sources are correct, you should get out and try to hit this hatch soon.

Before you do that, however, you should definitely read through this entire issue of RipRap, which is chock full of good information. First of all, check out Rob Kolakowski's article on the very stoneflies that I just mentioned. Is this newsletter timely, or what? Rob ties beautiful imitations for this hatch, which you can find at both Lund's Hardware and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, along with other quality imitations.

You also will want to read Jonathan Jacobs' article about the upcoming April meeting, which is the Annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes Fly Tying meeting. Jon was nice enough to ask me to tie at the meeting this year, and hopefully I will be able to make it. There is the definite possibility that a different sort of meeting might pop up on my calendar that will keep me from being there, but I will do everything I can to avoid that scenario. It is always great fun, and extremely informative, to attend the fly tying meeting, so make sure to go so you can learn some new techniques and tricks at the vise.

Sarah Sanford has written a short piece about the Rush River Clean Up, which is quickly approaching. Scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, you'll want to circle the date on your calendar to make sure you make it to help out on this great day of work and fun. Check out Sarah's story on page 6 for more information and contact info.

That's about all I have for this month, other than to say that the last RipRap of the year is coming up in May, so if you want to get your name in print, you have to do it quickly. Send me your ideas, articles, photos, or whatever else you may have, to scott@yes-tech.com, by Wednesday, April 21st. See you next month!



Casting to rising trout on a summer evening.
Photo by Scott Hanson



MORE APRIL MEETING INFO

BY JONATHAN JACOBS

Been fishing? I am fortunate to have been out twice recently. The water had dropped and cleared after runoff. The sun was warm and strong and blazed away up in clear blue skies. Best of all, there were little black stoneflies about and trout were rising to them. I used a pattern that I like, a modified Hemingway caddis, to catch some of those fish. My friend Michael Alwin, a fly shop owner, told me that one of his customers has developed a pattern to imitate this bug that has a polypropylene underwing and a dark elk hair overwing. It sounded real good to me. This all leads to another question: Are there any things much neater than spring, trout fishing and fly tying? Kiap-TU-Wish will celebrate all three at its annual tribute to Richard “Dry Fly Dick” Frantes on Wednesday, April 7th at Bob Smith’s Sports Club in Hudson.

Dry Fly Dick, who was both an ardent conservationist and a demented angler, rounded up flytiers to show off their skills at the April meeting for many years. Dick liked to develop a theme for each year’s show. I think this year’s would please him. After wandering around the fly tying universe a little over the past few years, we’re going back to our roots. It’s a trout fly show, folks, and we have some dandy tiers lined up. Cole Madden and Tom Carlson represent our chapter’s youth movement. Representing the chapter’s volunteer spirit is Cline Hickok who answered a call put out by Greg Dietl at the March meeting. We have as a group Greg Meyer, Randy Arnold, Scott Hanson, Bob Diesch and Tom Henderson. Every one of these gentlemen serves an important role within the chapter’s leadership. They are a dedicated and hard working bunch who also really know their way around a fly tying vise. This should be a splendid event. Come early to get a good seat. Dinner will be available from 6 PM and the meeting will begin at 7 PM.

A few flies you might see being tied at the April Kiap-TU-Wish meeting



WINTER STONEFLIES

BY ROB KOLAKOWSKI

I'll be the first to admit I'm not an entomologist. I know few Latin names for insects. What I can do is identify the different orders and life cycles. This is usually all you need to know to catch some fish. As the years go by I find specific identification less important. Some of my fly patterns have morphed together to cover stoneflies, caddis flies, and mayflies. Most important is the presentation.

The fly in the photo is an adult stonefly. It starts out as an egg, turns into a growing nymph for most of its life and finally emerges from the water as an egg-laying adult for a short period of time before it passes on. I call all the stoneflies I see this time of year Winter Stoneflies. I'll find them from mid January to mid March. They are usually black in color and range in size from #22 to #18. The fly in the photo is a dark amber color about size 18. This is the first time I have seen them this color during this time of the year.

Stoneflies are not good swimmers or flyers. You'll find them crawling among the rocks in faster water. If dislodged they tumble downstream until they can get hold of something. When they emerge they crawl out of the water and turn into an adult on the bank. Often they end up on the water's surface by accident or to lay eggs. You'll often see them flapping around trying to get out of there. Easy pickings for fish at this point.

Any small dark colored nymph will work well to represent the winter stones. They are often in the drift with a host of other insects in various sizes, so size is not critical. For the adult I often fish the good old Griffith's Gnat in a size 20. This fly does double duty, because it also works well for the midges that have been hatching. These hooks are tiny so using a short shank wide gap hook will increase your hook ups. Offsetting the point also helps. Experiment with the action of the fly, because the adults usually don't sit still on the water. This is a simplistic approach to cover the small black stoneflies that emerge this time of year.

Another insect to watch out for is what I call the Early Stonefly. I've seen them from early March through April. They are black and considerably larger than the Winter Stones. Usually about a size 14 or 16. I don't think many escape the eye of a trout as they blunder across the waters surface. The Early Stoneflies seem to be very abundant this year, for some reason. Get out and try to match the hatch before they're gone for the year.



An amber-colored Winter Stonefly and an adequate imitation.

Photo of natural by Rob Kolakowski, photo of imitation by Hans Weilenmann



RUSH RIVER CLEAN UP

By SARAH SANFORD

The sixth annual Rush River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday April 25th, 2010. Volunteers arrive at the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club at 9a.m.. Coffee and rolls will be provided by the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club. Get your stream assignments, trash bags and maybe connect with a clean-up team and carpool with them to your spot. Around noon, head back to the club with your collected trash and recyclables. Lunch is created by Josh Nelson of TCTU. We thank Cub Foods, Whole Foods, and A. Nonymous for supplying lunch. Soft drinks are provided by Dennis and Gretchen Vanden Bloomen of the Wisconsin Clearwater chapter of TU. The Ellsworth R&G may also have the downstairs bar open at lunch time. Hiawatha TU will bring cookies for dessert, which will sell for \$1, to get a head start on funding next year's event. Trash and recyclables will be collected on Monday the 26th by our friends at the Pierce County Highway Department and Solid Waste/Recycling. Email rushclean2010@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

PROTECTING THE ST. CROIX BASIN

FROM THE WISCONSIN DNR WEBSITE

SPOONER - Plans on how to attain a 100-ton phosphorus reduction in Lake St. Croix will be the focus of the 11th annual "Protecting the St. Croix Basin" conference, which will be held Thursday, April 8, at the University Center in River Falls.

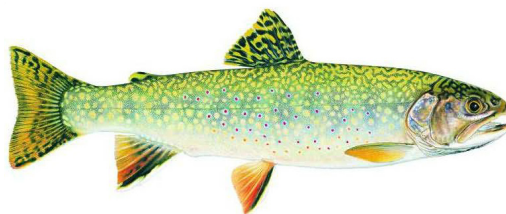
A 25-mile stretch of the St. Croix River between Stillwater, Minn. and Prescott, Wis., known as Lake St. Croix, was designated as an impaired water in 2008 due to excess phosphorus.

"While phosphorus is an essential nutrient in lakes, too much of it stimulates excessive growth of algae or aquatic plants and impairs water quality, says Kathy Bartilson, St. Croix Basin Watershed Supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The states of Minnesota and Wisconsin are working together with basin citizen groups to improve water quality in this important scenic and recreational lake. This year's conference will provide information on the water quality improvement plans and will allow businesses, farmers, municipalities and citizens in the basin to share ideas about how to attain the phosphorus reduction goal.

The conference, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, DNR and the St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team, is open to the public and advance registrations are being accepted through April 2. More information on program content and registration is available on the St. Croix Basin Web page [exit DNR] or by calling (715) 635-7406. The cost is \$50 with a special \$25 rate for students. Breakfast and a buffet luncheon are included.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: (715) 635-7406



THE GREAT POOL

BY JAMES HUMPHREY

The great pool is 60 feet wide and 150 feet long, and perhaps seven feet deep. There is a fleet of very large brown trout down there. Late in the day when the sun beams from the west, if you wade warily from the flat above, you may see them finning slowly, flashing sometimes when they chase a minnow or pick off a crayfish. Those busters will not rise easily to any ordinary fly, certainly never in the daytime. How to catch them, that is the question.

Al and John have tried, I have tried, laying innumerable casts with everything in the boxes until arms have gone dead. Once, Al had one on briefly, but it shook off and decamped into the riffle and run down towards the high bridge.

I have thought often of the pool as a puzzle devoutly to be resolved. Yesterday, in Edward Hewitt's marvelous memoir of his 75 years as a fisherman, his past and my past crossed. Hewitt described his "Skater" for coaxing big trout from big pools on the Nev-ersink. It was a two inch diameter, palmered, Brown Bivisible. I remembered my black and white, palmered Spider. And even before the Spider, I used a #12 Brown Bivisible as my starter or searching fly on diverse waters for different fishes.

I forgot about the Brown Bivisible after my wife Joyce bought a box of flies from Gokey's as a Christmas present. She had the Gokey's expert select them, and I was amazed that they were so small, several even tiny. But I got used to them because that was obviously the thing to do, and the Brown Bi and the Spider went into a reserve box, eventually to be lost in the shuffle. In short, the Brown Bi worked so well that I forgot about it.

Later I asked Perry Palin to tie a half-dozen Brown Bivisible Skaters, two inches in diameter. Sometime soon, I hope, I will visit the great pool towards evening and await the rise.

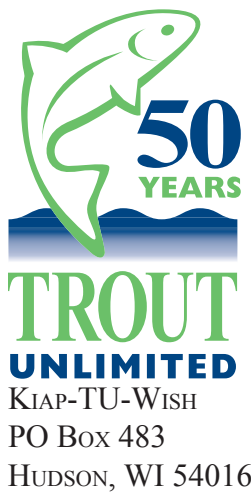
The skater or spider is difficult to turn over at the end of a cast, so it's necessary to overpower the cast to create a hinge in the tip-pet. I can see it now, how the fly will fall as lightly as milkweed seed to skate with wind patterns and invisible currents. I imagine the explosion under it.



Brown Bivisible

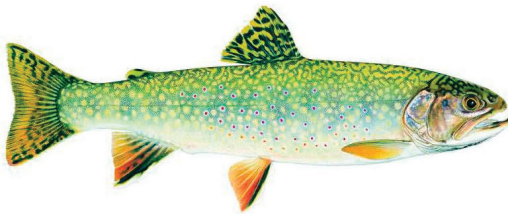
*Photo courtesy of
Fish4Flies.com*





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE APRIL MEETING!!!

It's the annual Dry Fly Dick
Frantes Fly Tying meeting.
Check out some of the area's
best fly tiers. Wednesday
April 7th, 2010
at Bob Smith's Sports Club
Dinner starts at 6PM
Meeting begins at 7PM

Deadline to make submissions for the
May issue is Wednesday,
April 21st. Have a great month!

