



The Drift: Words from our President.

Website: Kiap's website has an updated look and more content! Greg Meyer—a former Kiap board member and RipRap editor—worked countless hours adding features and improving the functionality of the site. The enhanced website is going to be a great tool for promoting our mission and events. Thanks for all of your efforts, Greg!

River Falls Film Festival & Expo: Thanks to Randy Arnold, John Kaplan and Scott Wagner for manning the Kiap booth. As an added bonus, Paul Johnson donated flies which were for sale at the booth. The flies were very popular and over \$300 was raised.

Red Cabin Project Site: Approximately 25 loads of rock have been delivered in preparation for work this spring. John Sours, retired WDNR habitat crew leader, will be back and he and Rod Frederick will start the heavy equipment work in May. When road restrictions are lifted the WDNR crew will remove stumps and begin contouring and sloping the banks and armoring them with rock.

photo courtesy of Tom Schnadt



Board members John Kaplan and Tom Schnadt at the Kiap-TU-Wish booth at the River Falls Expo.

Trimbelle/Trudeau: Chapter member Dan Wilcox worked with Caitlin Smith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase prairie seeds with funds from a North American Wetlands Conservation grant. On March 7th, Randy Arnold, Caitlin Smith and I spread the seed mix along the riparian corridor of the Trimbelle. Caitlin offered this thought regarding the growth of the prairie grasses and forbs: "The first year it sleeps, the second year it creeps and the third year it leaps."

River Falls Dam: The City of River Falls is waiting for a ruling by FERC to see if the City's appeal of FERC's previous denial for a deadline extension (for relicensing the hydro-facility on the Kinni) will be granted. While waiting, the City sought Kiap-TU-Wish feedback regarding the sediment study results prepared by Inter-Fluve. The City is also seeking feedback on their proposed Kinnickinnic River Corridor Study which includes soliciting input from community members on the future use of the river through River Falls. This study will gauge community support for dam removal.

Election of Board Members: At the March chapter meeting Randy Arnold, Gary Horvath, John Kaplan and Greg Olson were reelected to the board. Scott Wagner and John Carlson were newly elected to the board. Many thanks to retiring board members Bob Diesch and Bob Trevis for all of their efforts and contributions while serving. ~Tom Schnadt

The KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER's
almost monthly publication



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Please join us at our April 6th chapter meeting in River Falls. It's the annual "Dry Fly Dick" Frantes fly tying meeting. This year's theme: guide flies! See inside for details.

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www.juniorsrf.com

The photo above was taken on Pine Creek in March. On a 50+ degree day, winter was a memory and the promise of a great spring fishing season was high.

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If you would like to learn more about Hap Lutter and the Spring Appeal, please visit our web site: www.kiaptuwish.org. Click on any of the pages - OUR CHAPTER, NEWS, CONSERVE & PROTECT, OUR RIVERS, RESOURCES - to find this link. 



Hap Lutter Memorial Spring Appeal

Hap Lutter was a Kiap-TU-Wish member (and chapter treasurer) who passed away in 2009. The Kiap-TU-Wish Spring Appeal is part of his legacy.

Hap recognized the need for a funding source beyond our annual Holiday Conservation Banquet to supply the dollars needed to reach beyond sometimes limited grant funds. Hap launched the initial Spring Appeal because annual dues go to TU National, but little of that money ever comes back to the chapter to benefit the waters we love to fish.

If you fish the trout streams of western Wisconsin or have another interest in keeping these waters healthy and productive for generations to come, we hope that you will consider making a generous donation to this year's Spring Appeal. Money raised will go directly toward funding current and future habitat work on the Trimbelle and Kinnickinnic rivers, as well as restorations still in the planning stages. Monies will also help support Kiap's stream monitoring efforts, education efforts and operating costs. Last year the Spring Appeal raised over \$11,000 from generous donors.

2016 plans to be an even more active year for the chapter. We need your financial support in order to continue our habitat and education work and to ensure the longtime health and care of our coldwater streams.

So, watch for the colored Spring Appeal envelope in your mailbox. Please support your passion, and Hap's legacy, with a contribution. Whether a check, an employee match, or a stock gift, your support will be greatly appreciated. And don't forget, your contribution is tax deductible!

Thank you for sharing Hap's vision by supporting Western Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries!

To make a donation more tempting, we are offering first-time donors a half-dozen nymphs, tested and proven to work on the Rush and Kinni. If you contribute \$125 or more, a half-dozen specially-tied dry flies will come your way.

~Bob Trevis

Upcoming Events

Fairmount Santrol Rush River Cleanup

- Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club
- Saturday, April 23rd
- Registration 8:00-9:00AM
- Lunch Provided

2016 KinniRiverCleanup

- Saturday, April 30th
- See Kinnickinnic River Land Trust website for details
- kinniriver.org

Amery Kiap-TU-Wish Meeting

- Monday, April 25th
- Village Pizzeria in Amery
- 6:00PM Dinner (your dime)
- 7:00PM Program: Presentation on Trout in the Classroom by Jeremiah Fisk, 5-grade teacher at Amery Intermediate School

Kiap-TU-Wish Fly Fishing Clinic

- River Falls
- Saturday, June 4th
- To volunteer contact Brian Smolinski (715-425-2415, brian@lundsflyshop.com) or Michael Alwin (651-739-3150, mikealwin@gmail.com)

From the Editor. . . As I write, newsletter weekend is over. I managed to squeeze in most of the submissions and hopefully did them justice. Typically I have all the content by Friday afternoon and I spend the night with a cocktail, ruminating about the sentiments and info contained in each piece. If I'm lucky I'll come up with something pertinent to say in my editor's bit.

This month I'll be blunt. Please donate to our annual spring appeal. It helps support the chapter's ongoing habitat work, but also the many and varied activities you see in the pages of this newsletter. Certainly Hap's legacy for the Memorial Spring Appeal stemmed from a passion for fishing and our fisheries—as it does for so many Kiap-TU-Wish members. I remember those handwritten notes from Hap and his wife Judy, and I remember donating because those notes embodied that passion in a personal way. My donation, no matter how small, was important to Hap and to the chapter.

Finally, I was thrilled this past month when I received a poem in my inbox. It's from Kiap-TU-Wish member Ed Constantini who discovered it while going through his father-in-law's scrapbook. Ed and his father-in-law fished together for more than 15 years, 10 of those spent on the Kinni for the opener. At this time of year Ed reads through memories of those times in his fishing journal; this poem reminds him of those opening-day outings. While Ed apologized for the gender bias in the fifth stanza, one can hardly take offense. Happy spring. Happy fishing.

~Maria Manion

Let's Go

Don't know why along in April
I get shivers down my spine,
Just a thinking and a planning,
Of my trips with rod and line.

In the evenings I'm a dreaming,
Of a stream that's swift and deep,
And I get so darned excited
That at bedtime I can't sleep.

When I close my eyes I see 'em,
Big trout darting here and there,
All so eager for my lures
As I sit here in my chair.

So I guess friends, I'll be going,
To those streams I long to see,
Now that winter has released them,
Bet they missed both you and me.

So come on son let's get ready,
Take some bacon and a pan,
Let's be off where pine trees tower,
Where a man can be a man.

And now that we're on our way son,
Let's just say a silent prayer,
That we live in this great country
Where the fishing's free as air.

~ L.E. Farley

GUIDE FLIES

the life of R.M. “Dry Fly Dick” Frantes and the work he did on behalf of coldwater conservation. This year we are turning to the pros, active and retired, for advice on how to tie the one fly each of them would never be without. We’ve gathered up a remarkable group from both the coldwater and warmwater ends of the angling spectrum to show us, if not their secret fly, their surest bet. The lineup includes Bob Bickford, Joseph Duncan, Jim Kojis, John Koch, Andy Roth, Scott Thorpe, Bob Trevis and Bob White. These are names you are sure to recognize both by professional reputation and by their character. In addition to those named, there are two or three other guides who expressed a genuine interest in participating and may appear if their schedules allow.

“Guide flies” are always interesting. They are effective, too, or they would have been assigned to the dustbin of history long ago. They are, for the most part, durable and absolutely as straightforward to tie as is practical. You don’t risk losing a nymph by dredging the bottom or a dry by chucking it under tight overhead cover if it took you an hour to tie it and you adorned it with exotic and expensive materials. And, if you’re working ten and twelve hour days, you make the most of your time at the vise by means of an enforced simplicity and anvil-like durability. And when your burn rate is such that every penny counts, you employ materials that are just expensive enough to get the job done.

You’ll find the details regarding the where and when of this event elsewhere in this issue of RipRap. Come prepared, first of all, to have perilously close to too much fun, but be prepared to accidentally learn a little something, too.

~Jonathan Jacobs

In April, the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter’s fancy turns to fly tying demonstrations, while simultaneously celebrating

Fly Fishing Clinic: The Kiap-TU-Wish Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic will be held in River Falls on Saturday, June 4th. An all-day affair, the clinic will teach casting, knots, entomology, fishing strategy and safe wading practices. The clinic will also include supper and guided fishing in the evening and the students will receive leaders and a bunch of flies.

In years past this clinic attracted upward of twenty students and was a big success in the chapter’s outreach. June 4th is Wisconsin’s free fishing day and we usually have pretty good insect activity at that time. The clinic will start at 1:00 PM with instruction all afternoon, a supper break at 5:00 PM and guided fishing from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

Right now we’re looking for volunteers to act as guides/mentors/teachers. There are no requirements for these positions except for a desire to help folks get a good introduction to this wonderful sport and to see the value in this very fragile resource. We currently have four volunteers. If you can be with us for the whole day that’s great, but if your schedule is full please consider an afternoon or evening shift, or consider tying some flies for the clinic.

Contact Brian Smolinski (715.425.2415, brian@lundsflyshop.com) or Michael Alwin 651.739.3150, mikealwin@gmail.com). ~Mike Alwin



Maria Manion photos

Scouts & Trouts: On February 27th, a group of nine women from Kiap-TU-Wish, Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota spent the morning with a troop of Girl Scout Juniors in Menomonie. The volunteers taught the girls about coldwater streams, fly fishing and conservation. The event, which included a stream game, fly tying and live insects, was the first of two for which the girls can earn a fly fishing badge.

At the event, the 9 and 10-year old girls played *Run Riffle Pool*, a stream game invented by the volunteers. Girls (and volunteers) donned paper trout hats and moved through the stream first as water and then as fish. In each instance the scouts picked up game cards that highlighted physical characteristics of the stream and things that trout need to survive. After moving through the stream and being subjected to predators – volunteers pretending to be eagles or anglers, etc. – the girls sorted their cards and a long discussion began about fish, rivers and fly fishing.

In addition to *Run Riffle Pool*, the scouts also learned about tying flies and aquatic insects. Kiap’s Sarah Sanford gave a mesmerizing fly tying demonstration after which each girl tied her own woolly bugger. Live insects collected by two graduate students from the University of Minnesota were also on display. The girls got to watch scuds, nymphs, and larva move through water or crawl on rocks and plants. At one point the girls were comparing a fly box full of midge patterns with the real thing. All agreed that midges, and the hooks on the midge imitations, are tiny!

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event happen, and stay tuned for a report on the second half of the Scouts & Trouts adventure: fly fishing on a local stream.

~Maria Manion

Clockwise from top left: sorting game cards and talking about fish, fishing and streams; examining bugs; snack break in which the girls decorated fish cookies as different types of trout

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS: Sarah Sanford, Monta Hayner, Ellen Murphy, Linda Radimecky, Cindy Winslow, Margaret LeBien, Kelly Edwards, Jessica Miller, Kara Fitzpatrick

Trout Habitat 101: Groundwork, Structures, Bank Stabilization & Sediment

NOTE: Last month our WDNR trout habitat crew leader, Nate Anderson, gave us a summary of what happens long before Kiap volunteers start cutting and burning brush on site. This month he outlines the ground work process, how it happens and why it's important.

Winter Ground Work: Once the paperwork is completed, actual ground work can begin. The initial step is removal of weak-rooted trees, such as box elder, that inhibit the development of erosion resistant grass turf. Box elders often collapse into the stream tearing away at vertical banks, divert the water current and exacerbate the erosion process. Few turf grasses or plants are able to grow beneath box elder, so bare earth is exposed throughout much of the year.

Most sites are surrounded by farm fields that are planted in the spring with crops or located in very wet areas. The best—and at times only—way to haul the rock onto the site is in the winter months while the crops are off the field and the ground is frozen. Projects can take anywhere from 500 tons of rock to over 4,000 tons of rock. At 16 tons a load, that means a lot of trips with the dump trucks.

Field Season & Stream Structures: The field season typically starts in late May to early June. Once the heavy equipment gets to the site, stump removal and LUNKER covers can be built. LUNKER (Little Underwater Neighborhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotactic Salmonids), are designed to increase the combination of pool and overhead cover habitat for adult trout in high-gradient streams that have cobble and rubble substrates. They are a prefabricated, sandwich-like wooden platform that rests directly on the stream bottom. They are constructed with oak planks, blocks or spacers that are used to create the space where the trout hide. Each platform is anchored in place by several pieces of rebar driven into the coarse substrate.

Jetted structures are built into outside bends in streams composed of sand or loose gravel. (LUNKERS are not ideal in these streams because there is a greater possibility they would sink or tip in without a solid base.) Jetting is done by using pressurized water to bore a hole in the substrate for each

piling. Planks of green-cut hardwood are nailed underwater to the pilings to form stringers. Green hardwood planks are then nailed to the top of the stringers to form an underwater wooden platform.

Once a LUNKER or jetted structure is in place, large flat rocks are placed along the outside edge of the structures, backfilled with rip rap, covered in dirt, and seeded to make the stream bank appear natural. Narrowing the banks of a stream increases flow which helps to flush away deposits of sand and silt that cover gravel and rubble substrates. Exposure of gravel and rubble provides spawning sites for trout and more productive habitat for many prey organisms. Flow can also be guided underneath structures which scours a deep pool beneath them. Flow is generally guided across the channel towards the next structure in an accentuated meander pattern. All projects differ according to a stream's gradient and particular problems, but the main goal of narrowing streams is to increase water velocity, scour pools, and recreate floodplains, as well as provide the cover adult fish need to rest and feed.

Boulder clusters are placed within the main channel of a stream to provide mid-channel pocket water for trout to use when they're actively feeding. They also can create deep scour holes. Plunge pools and cross logs create deep pools for over-winter cover and prevent any head cutting in higher gradient streams.

Bank Stabilization: After stream structures have been built, the stream banks are back-graded to a gradual 4:1 slope to allow floodplain access, increase stream bank stability and reduce erosion. The removed soil is contoured into the surrounding landscape, seeded with native plants/grasses and immediately straw-mulched. Rip rap is placed from the bank of the stream to the annual bank full height to prevent undercutting and to reduce the possibility of slope failure. Stream reaches with excessive width are narrowed, and in areas of multiple braids, side channels can be blocked and flow diverted into a single channel. Rock grade controls are placed in appropriate channel locations to limit channel degradation and continued head cutting.

Sediment: Reducing sedimentation is the key to creating a stream environment

where trout can thrive. To spawn, a trout uses its body to excavate a nest (a redd) in clean gravelly substrate—usually at the upstream end of a riffle. The female trout lays the eggs and the male fertilizes the eggs and leaves. The peak spawning time for brown and brook trout occurs in early November; the eggs don't hatch until March. During that time, if excess sediment washes into the stream and covers the nest, it can cut off oxygen to the eggs and kill them. (Excess sediment can also kill a newly hatched trout, called a fry.) To grow, trout depend on clean gravel to attract dinner. Gravel and rock bottom streams have more insects than a stream full of fine sediment. Narrowing of the channel will increase fine sediment transport, maintain stream depth and prevent deposition on clean substrate vital to a healthy trout stream.

~Nate Anderson



Randy Arnold photos

Top to bottom: Kiap's Sarah Sanford building a LUNKER; stream banks graded to a gradual slope; Kiap's Tom Schnadt seeding a mixture of prairie plants & forbs

Steelhead Trip to the Brule, Anyone?

{Words} Scott Wagner

"I can't see the bottom," I said as I stared into the brown moving water.

"It's down there. It's a nice firm gravel bottom"

"I know it's down there. What I don't know is how far my body will plunge down there before coming to a rest on this gravel bottom you say is down there."

"Oh, ye of little faith! Didn't I tell you I've been fishing this river ever since I was a little kid and I know every inch of it like the back of my hand? You can never see the bottom in this river. The tree roots make the water turn brown. Now wade across this gravel bar to the submerged log. You'll know you're there when you bump into it. Step over the log and start casting upstream into Meany Manny Hole. It's the best darn spot on the whole river. I'll work downstream and fish in the far worse hole beneath the next waterfall. Yell when you hook a big fish and I'll come back up and help you net it."

Thus encouraged, I stepped lightly off the moss-and-pine-needle-covered bank into the above-the-wader 48 degree rushing water and was promptly swept downstream. Little did I realize that my impassioned "Yelp!" would rather serve as a warning to the anglers downstream that a really big one would soon need to be fished out beneath the next waterfall.

So began the first morning of my first steelhead fishing trip on the Brule River.

We spent the next three days hiking along the banks of the Brule River, dropping down from time to time to fish promising holes. The access points were all public. We used 7-weight rods, 12 lb. tapered leaders and 10 lb. tippet. We mostly fished a colored egg pattern beneath a #10 stone fly, pheasant tail, or prince nymph. We tried to fish close to the bottom and focused on resting spots near the main current. We fished in clouds, sunshine, light snow and rain, sometimes all in the same morning or afternoon. The forest and river valley both shielded us from the wind and wrapped us in the warm, rugged beauty of Lake Superior National Forest.

Steelhead fishing on the Brule River is a simple, relaxing way to hike through the woods with a fly rod in your hand and a dream in your heart, seeking a powerful, elusive, beautiful fish. Not to be underestimated is the enjoyable "solo camaraderie" among steelhead fishermen and women. Like fly fishing, steelhead fishing is mostly solo on the river, but mostly social before and after the fishing with other steelheaders at the local cafes, restaurants and watering holes.

If you dream about steelhead fishing someday, the most important thing isn't to learn everything about steelheading before your go, or having all the right equipment, or even having a fishing partner to teach you. You will learn all about steelheading and meet plenty of steelhead fishing partners along the way. The most important thing about steelhead fishing is to block some time out of your schedule and JUST DO IT!

"I sure would like you to catch a fish on your first steelhead fishing trip on the Brule River," my friend said, as we walked along the wooded bank of the Brule late in the afternoon, heading back to where we accessed the river a mile and a half downstream.



"I sure would like to catch a fish on my first steelhead fishing trip on the Brule River. You've caught three fish and lost just as many. I only hooked one little wannabe and lost him right away."

We kept walking, watching the sun getting lower in the pines, smelling the damp woodland smells, listening to the stream working its way through a riffle next to us.

"According to my far and wide ranging knowledge of this river..."

"The last time you said that the only thing I learned was that my waders were just as good at holding 48 degree water *in* as they are at keeping it *out*."

"According to my far and wide ranging knowledge of this river, there should be a nice fish at the bottom of this riffle, right up against the far bank," said my friend as we came down to the top of the next pool. "If you cast your 'legs and eggs' right up there," he said as he absentmindedly showed me where to cast by casting his "eggs and legs" in the general direction, "you should catch your first fish!"

As the sun set behind the pines on my first steelhead fishing trip on the Brule, I waded downstream to net my first fish, as my erstwhile friend played it in. 🐟

Scott Wagner is a new board member and budding steelhead angler. He's also a regular on Kiap-TU-Wish project workdays.

TIC Trout Alert:

Fish grow despite some setbacks

Amery High School received 300 fingerlings a few weeks ago and still has 280+ fish. Their fry have added 30-40% to their original mass and 1/4" to 3/8" in length.

The Amery 5th graders had a filter malfunction and are now down to 100 fish. Hudson 5th graders had a fish die-off too, for unknown reasons, but it was not as severe. Both teachers have used it as a teaching experience, showing how trout can be a "canary in the coal mine," when it comes to stream health since they are so susceptible to increases in farm runoff, contamination, and water temperature.

The recent fish kill, due to a manure spill, on February 18th in Castle Rock Creek near Fennimore was used in class as an example.

~Greg Olson

KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part VIII

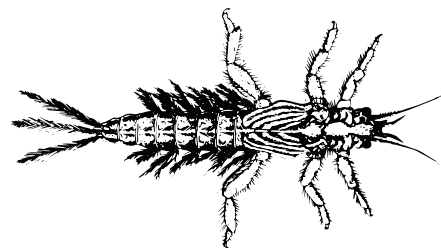
Burrowers

The last shape we visit are the burrowing mayflies. These larva have cylindrical shapes and long filamentous gills. Some species have tusks on the front of their heads. While they make the larva look fearsome, the tusks have only the excavation of the burrow as their function. The important families in this group are Polymitarcyidae and Ephemeridae.

Ephemeridae larva range between 12-32mm. The larva prefer silt, silt-marl and silt-sand for their burrows. All are particle feeders (FOPM). The eggs hatch in summer and the larva take a year to mature. Some species of *Hexagenia* take two years to fully mature. The larva swim to the surface to emerge and many species, presumably owing to their size, make a commotion on the surface. Emergence usually occurs at dusk or later. The molt to the imago takes place in 24-48 hours. The most recognizable genera in the groups are locally important and are known as the Hex and the Brown Drake. Because of their size and behaviors, even though they are

only locally important, it's a good idea to carry imitations for each stage: nymph, emerger, dun and spinner.

The larva of Polymitarcyidae range between 12-35mm and prefer silt, silt-clay and silt-sand substrates for their burrowing purposes. The eggs over winter and the larva grows over spring and early summer. They feed on algae and detritus. Some species swim to the surface to emerge while a few migrate to the bank to emerge. The only genus of importance to the angler is Ephoron, known locally as the White Fly. In this genus, the males molt immediately, sometimes trailing their sub imago exoskeleton while in flight, thereby appearing almost ghostlike. Equally interesting is the observation that the females do not molt but are sexually mature after emergence. The males fly upstream, swinging from bank to bank while searching for a mate. The most descriptive phrase for this phenomenon was written by our friend, Jim Humphrey, who described the males flight as "metronomically patrolling the river."



Burrowing mayfly nymph of the Brown Drake (*Ephemera simulans*) (illustration by Robert H. Pils from Gary Borger's book *Naturals: A Guide to Food Organisms of the Trout*)

Where they are locally important, they are very important and very frustrating. They can appear in droves one night and be missing entirely the next. When they are abundant it is sometimes not possible to buy a fish and other nights impossible to keep your fly on the water.

So there's an overview of mayfly types (burrowers, swimmers, clingers and crawlers) and the various niches they inhabit. The purpose was not to make you an expert at mayfly identification, but to stir your interest and to show you that everything is connected to everything else. In the final issue we'll discuss the references used and dissect the scientific method.

FLY TIER'S CORNER: TP'S little caddis thing

{Recipe :: Words} Mike Alwin
{Image} Brian Smolinski

Hook :: standard length dry fly hook, #16 or #18

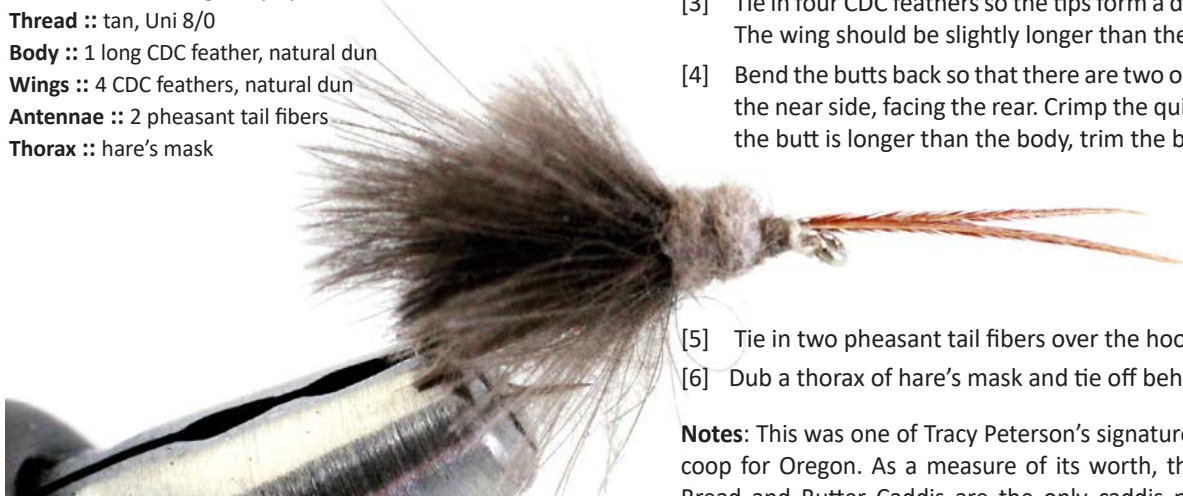
Thread :: tan, Uni 8/0

Body :: 1 long CDC feather, natural dun

Wings :: 4 CDC feathers, natural dun

Antennae :: 2 pheasant tail fibers

Thorax :: hare's mask



Instructions

- [1] Clamp the hook in the vise, attach the thread and run it to the tie-in point (opposite the barb).
- [2] Stroke the fibers of one long CDC feather toward the tip. Tie it in by the tip at the tie-in point, then advance the thread. Twist the feather four or five times and wind it forward past the half way point.
- [3] Tie in four CDC feathers so the tips form a down wing over the body. The wing should be slightly longer than the body.
- [4] Bend the butts back so that there are two on the far side and two on the near side, facing the rear. Crimp the quills and tie them down. If the butt is longer than the body, trim the butts.
- [5] Tie in two pheasant tail fibers over the hook eye.
- [6] Dub a thorax of hare's mask and tie off behind the eye.

Notes: This was one of Tracy Peterson's signature flies before he flew the coop for Oregon. As a measure of its worth, this and Rob Kolakowski's Bread and Butter Caddis are the only caddis patterns I carry. Patterns made entirely of CDC are not unusual; chapter member Skip James wrote about a similar pattern in an earlier RipRap and I believe he might have gotten it from Dorothy Schram. Tracy perfected it and made it bullet proof.

Questions? Stop in at Lund's Fly Shop or email Brian at brian@lundsflyshop.com



"Better to fish half the river well than the whole of it badly" ~Anonymous

We all get frustrated when our casts fall apart after a long winter away from the stream. But if things are funky more often than not, remember Casting 101: the casting stroke is a smooth application of power to an abrupt stop. Start slow, speed up only when the whole line is straight and moving, then stop dead. You know that if you mess up any part of this rule that your good cast will go bad.

Wait a Second: Is your fly consistently short of the target? If you drop the rod tip too soon after your stop on the delivery cast, you lose much of the brisk kinetic energy that unrolls the end of the line. The leader lands in a heap — which is only beautiful if your intention was to make a short parachute cast that piles your leader and fly. However, if your plan is for the line and leader to straighten out nicely in the air, then make that dead stop on your delivery and really, really pause. Concentrate the hold on your rod tip. Notice your thumb pointing at one o'clock. Don't move the rod tip until the fly begins to fall. Once you get this working again, you can gradually start to smooth it out and follow through to get the fly, line, and leader landing on the water at the same time.

Think Straight: Can't push it out there past 30 feet? The only way to get a really tight, high-energy loop for line speed and distance is to move the rod tip in a straight line, front to back and side to side, through the delivery cast. You know this, too. If you desire a slow, open loop, or you intend to sail your fly around an obstacle, then you positively must move your rod tip (aka your hand) in some shape other than a straight line. Swing your hand/rod tip around in a semicircle during the stroke and the line will do the same; twist your wrist and the line will curve left or right.

Look at Your Loop: If the top and bottom legs of the line are not parallel above and below, then your rod tip is not traveling in a straight line. Visualize a tight powerline above you. Lift your line up to the leader connection, then trace that powerline exactly, back and forward, with your thumb. Once you get your rod tip tracking a straight line again, your loop will tighten up and distance will come easily. Good luck!

What I Learned From Gordy {Diagrams: Words} Mike Alwin

Many years ago, Gordy Seim came into the shop with a problem and a boatload of frustration. He had spent the morning fishing nymphs on one of the local streams and had buried his leader in the fly line while reeling up at the end of his excursion. It's hard to do anything when you're angry, so I got him some coffee and spent thirty minutes untangling the mess. When I was done I wound the line back on his reel and took a look at his leader.

Actually, I studied his leader. I got a leader gauge and measured the thickness of each of the three sections. Then I measured each section's length. Each section was 32" long and the entire leader stepped down from .013" to .009" to .007". Gordy had built an eight foot leader tapered to 4X and with an extremely thin butt section. Gordy probably never paid attention to George Harvey, but both of these guys had discovered the same thing; you don't need a thick butt section in order to turn over a leader.

The easy nymph rigs in last month's article started with a packaged leader, most of which have thick butt sections of .021" to .024". The problem with a thick butt section

is that it reacts against the current much like your fly line. With a dry fly leader this causes drag, creating unnatural movement. With a nymph leader it causes your nymph to not reach the trout's feeding zone. This is what Harvey discovered back in the '90's and why he redesigned his dry fly leaders with a .015" butt section. Gordy accomplished the same thing with his leader.

1 If you want to try it, all you need is two additional spools of tippet material: .013" and .009". The leader is constructed of three sections of material, each 32" long. Use .013" for the butt, .009" for the taper and .007" for the tippet. Cut the sections to 34" and join them in sequence with a blood knot or double overhand (surgeon's) knot. You can still use a strike indicator and you can add shot above the tippet knot. The only real disadvantage is that it's a one-fly rig. You can add another tippet section and

Fig. 1

Fig. 2



Kiap-TU-Wish

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another fly, but then you have a very long, unwieldy leader.

2 If you like the advantages of that rig but want to fish two nymphs, here's a second and a very simple solution; build a leader with shorter sections. Modify that original 8' leader so that each section winds up only 25" long. Take that leader to the stream, thread your first nymph on to the 4X tippet, then add 20" of 5X tippet and another fly. Now you're fishing two nymphs on a leader approaching 8', which gets you closer to your point fly and the only disadvantage is that when the tippet knot breaks you'll lose two flies.

Mike Alwin is the former proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo.



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
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April 6th Chapter Meeting

Junior's Bar & Restaurant
414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-6630
www.juniorsrf.com

Dinner starts at 6pm (your dime).
The meeting starts at 7pm.

On April 25th, Kiap-TU-Wish will
hold a meeting in Amery at the
Village Pizzeria. Same drill as above:

- Dinner starts at 6pm (your dime).
- The meeting starts at 7pm.

Jeremiah Fisk from Amery
Intermediate School will be speaking
about his 5th graders' Trout in the
Classroom program.

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, April 15
Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

Don't miss our chapter's annual,
"Dry Fly Dick" Frantes fly tying
meeting. This year's theme. . .

GUIDE LIES

The pros, active and retired, will give advice on
how to tie the one fly each of them would never
be without. We've gathered up a remarkable group
from both the coldwater and warmwater ends of the
angling spectrum to show us, if not their secret fly,
their surest bet. **April 6th. Don't miss it.**