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RIP RAP

Conserve. Protect. Restore.



A MOSTLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KIP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

The Drift: Words from our President.

Dam Opportunists

Beavers have once again built a couple of dams in the Trimbelle below Highway W. Both dams were built with corn stalks carried from the nearby field. One dam had a three foot head, the other over two feet. That's a lot of water pressure to hold back with a corn stalk dam. Randy Arnold and a half-dozen or so volunteers removed the dams on Saturday morning Nov 2; the effort took about 2 ½ hours.

Beavers are also an issue in Polk County's Parker Creek southwest of Amery. John Carlson is spearheading work to address this problem.

Meetings

We will not have a regular December meeting because of the banquet. The January meeting will be on the 8th. After that, we will meet on the

first Wednesday of each month.

On Nov 6 we met at the Winzer Stube restaurant. There were at least 56 people, including several new faces! Robert Hawkins talked about fishing several streams in southern Montana. Sometime in the next month or so the board will determine where to hold the January 8 meeting. Suggestions welcome. Stay tuned.

Winter volunteer opportunities:

Our chapter volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold is prioritizing some brush and tree cutting opportunities. We need to cut some box elders along the Trimbelle below this year's project. Some are on the DOT land where the 2014 restoration is planned. Some are on adjacent private land and require landowners' permission. Other opportunities are on the

upper Kinnickinnic River and along St Croix County's Parker Creek.

Stream assessments

We will be meeting with Marty Engel of the DNR to determine the stream assessments and monitoring activity to be done in preparation for work at the Red Cabin site on the upper Kinni. It will include trout density and size distribution, bank erosion, siltation, trout cover, insect life, water flow, and temperature. John Sours will draft a statement of the scope of the project and will estimate the cost. One of the goals is to achieve close to 35% overhead cover for fish. This stretch of the Kinni will be our main 2015 project.

See you at the banquet. 🐟

~Tom Henderson

Kiap activities during the past year:

February: Great Waters Expo

Jan-March: Box elder removal, upper Parker Creek

Board changes: New members Bob Trevis, John Kaplan, Greg Olson. Kyle Amundson retired as President; replaced by Tom Henderson

May: Scott Hanson "retired" as editor/publisher of RipRap; Greg Meyer stepped in.

May: Rush River Clean Up (Sarah Sanford)

May: Stream Environment Day, 8th graders at Pine Creek (Hans and Tom)

May & June: Two Fishing Clinics at Glen Park with River Falls Rec department

Established a long range planning task team for future restoration projects. (Hans) Met with DNR; walked various stretches to discuss potential projects.

Established a monitoring team (John Kaplan) Training by Kent Johnson.

Tom Schnadt began doing surveys of lapsed members.

Met with DNR and Clearwaters chapter to discuss mowing, brushing, general maintenance of stream corridors.

Parker Creek: removed brush, cut box elders above County Rd J

Trimbelle River: habitat improvement and erosion control, 2300 feet of stream.

Meeting programs during the past year:

Sept: fishing stories and photos by members

Oct: Kent Johnson: Stream monitoring methods and results

Dec: Annual banquet and auction

Jan: Kent Cowgill, author

Feb: Mike Kilgore, fishing for Coaster Brook Trout on the Sutton River near Hudson Bay

March: John Sours; annual meeting and elections

April: fly tying

May: Marty Engel

Did You Know?

Due to increased funding and substantial cost savings we realized on this year's Trimbelle project, we are able extend additional restoration downstream in 2014. Please stay tuned on how you can help the "Bring Back the Natives" brook trout initiative on the Trimbelle.



The Trimbelle at Hwy W- Before and After Restoration

Notes From the Field-Trimbelle River Restoration

Phase I of the Trimbelle River Restoration project was completed this September. Thanks goes out to all of our volunteers that donated their time and sweat to this project, and of course John Sours and the WIDNR Trout crew.

A special thanks goes out to all of the funders of this project, especially Fairmount Minerals who donated a major portion of funding and volunteer labor.

Funders for this project included::

Fairmount Minerals

Excel Energy

Patagonia Corporation

James E. Dutton Foundation

WI DNR River Grant

Trout and Salmon Foundation

Guadalupe Chapter of Trout Unlimited

WI Trout Unlimited "Friends Grant"

Trout Unlimited "Embrace-A-Stream"

Zephyr Foundation

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Photo credits:: Randy Arnold, John Kaplan, Gary Horvath, Tom Henderson, Greg Meyer, Jeff Himes

Social Event of the Season Draws Near!

The annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet will be held Thursday, December 5th. The location is the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center in Lake Elmo, Hwy 5 and Layton Ave. Have you made your reservation? Our social hour begins at 5:30, with dinner served at your table at 7:00 and our program slated to begin about 8:00. The indefatigable **Duke Welter** is our presenter and his program will focus on the Driftless Area Restoration effort, a concept he spearheaded while on the National Board.

It's easy to register and there are two ways to do it. First, as always, you may call **Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop** (651.770.5854) and place your reservation with Robert Hawkins. Second, and new this year, is the on-line option at <http://tuholidaybanquet.splashthat.com>

Whichever method you choose, you must indicate your choice of entrée. Your dinner will include salad, rolls, a vegetable medley, potato, coffee or tea and your choice of **Limoncello Chicken, Top Sirloin Steak or Salmon Rivada**. Dessert in the form of fresh baked cookies will be available as part of our fund raising effort. The cost of all this food and levity is a mere \$45 per plate, a paltry sum considering the outstanding conservation work our chapter performs each year. **The deadline**

for registration is NOON on Monday, December 2nd. Yes, we can accept walk-ins, but because of the extra burden placed on the staff we're obliged to raise the fee to \$60. It pays to reserve.

Kiap-TU-Wish has had a dinner in December since the chapter's inception, but it wasn't until Jean Mitchell suggested it years later that we began our fundraising with a silent auction attached to the dinner. Over the years the silent auction has grown and morphed into the chapter's largest fund raising event of the year and the success of our work is directly linked to the Holiday Conservation Banquet. We spend tens of thousands of dollars

Do you prefer reading? Peruse our collectable, out of print, historically significant and never-out-of-date titles. Are you a fly tier? Check out our donations of hair, feather and fur. Do you just like to fish? We have guided trips and private stream access with a gourmet lunch included. We have a weekend cabin retreat close to trout streams or x-country skiing if you prefer. Plus, this year we've expanded the scope of our raffles by increasing the number of these exclusive items.

Besides attending the banquet and engaging in our fundraising efforts, there are two other ways you can help. First, your donations to our cause are

"Swag accumulates!"
Reservation deadline looms!"

every year for rehab projects on our local trout streams; the Kinni, the Rush, the Trimbelle and Pine Creek are some of the creeks that have benefitted from our oversight, and the funding leveraged by our grant writers is based on the proceeds from this banquet.

And what kind of swag are we talkin' about at this year's soiree? Do you fancy tackle? We have new rods, gently used rods, reels and boxes and boxes of flies. Do you favor art? We have fine prints, originals, ceramics and glassware.

always appreciated. Please bring them to **Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop or Lund's Fly Shop** before Saturday, November 30th. Second, we always need a few volunteers to set up and break down, to serve as floor captains or ticket sellers, or to help with check-out at the end of the evening. The Banquet Committee, Tom Schnadt, chair; Bob Diesch, Allison Jacobs, Greg Dietl, Deb Alwin, Robert and Rhea Hawkins and I appreciate your support. 🐦

~ Michael Alwin

Photo: Robert Hawkins



Photo: Robert Hawkins



Photo: Robert Hawkins



Photo: Tom Schnadt



Just a sampling of some of the items available on the silent auction.



{Words} Bob Trevis

It's a small Kiap World

Late this summer my wife and I arranged our Western vacation to attend the Madison River Fly Fishing Festival in Ennis, Montana. The mix of speakers, events, fly-tying, auctions and the outdoor fund-raising BBQ parallels other groups' events, and directly benefits the Madison River. Plus, it's mostly outside and there are fly shops in town!

At the evening BBQ, as I returned from the beverage area to my table, I did a double take at the slightly gray-haired angler seated at another table.

"Dave?"

"Well, it's a small world –Bob?"

I had just run into a former Kiap-TU-Wish member, Dave Ballman, who left our area and retired to Lewistown, Montana several years ago. Lewistown is more or less in the eastern center of the state, nestled at the base of two smaller mountain ranges with grasslands in all directions.

It wasn't long before we started catching up on the past several years. And the next morning, at one of only two restaurants open for breakfast, who should show up but Dave and his wife. They were more than 200 miles from home, while Marce' and I were over 1,000 miles from home, and the Madison River and its trout had brought the four of us to the same destination.

In the process of catching up, I told Dave of my plans to sample Big Spring Creek in Lewistown



on our way back home, and he courteously offered to show me some accesses. Six days later, he was at our trailer in a Lewistown campground, ready to show me both well-known and little-used access points. His description of the fishing (browns below town, rainbows above) was right on, as was his description of the stream.

Big Spring Creek is over 30 miles long, and below Lewistown is about the width of the

“...the Madison River and its trout had brought the four of us to the same destination.”

lower Kinnie, but it meanders mostly through grasslands and is occasionally edged by cottonwoods and willows. “Some places I could drive my Suburban across this stream, and there are other places where my Suburban would be completely submerged under water,” he said.

I had a few hours to sample a half-mile of fishing, and Dave was not exaggerating about the variations in stream depth. He also showed me one private access point and an un-fishable hole with twelve or more rainbows visible through our Polaroids— and non were under 16”!

Our timing was such that Dave and I could not fish together, since he was committed to working at a TU booth at the Lewistown Chokecherry Festival that day. Lewistown blocks off about 8 blocks of the historic Main Street for vendor booths and a street band on the Saturday after Labor Day each year. My wife and I did not take in the chokecherry pit-spitting con-

test, but we did thoroughly enjoy wandering the vendor booths, sampling food, buying souvenirs, and even sampling a dram of Montana-distilled whiskey.

Dave was being true to his Trout Unlimited roots, and with his wife Marita and several chapter members, they were spreading the message about their Snowy Mountain TU Chapter and restoration efforts on Big Spring Creek. Big Spring

Creek is not as well known as the Madison, Rock Creek or numerous other Montana rivers, but it was bull-dozed, diverted and otherwise beaten-up in the early 1900s.

Thanks to TU and other volunteers, a lot of the stream damage has been mitigated or reversed, and the trout are responding. It now flows at a consistent 130 CFS, and any trout within a quarter mile of an access are well-educated. I am planning a return trip in 2014, scheduling time to fish with Dave and also taking in the Chokecherry Festival again. I’m also bringing Czech nymphs and streamers for the deep runs – maybe even some Pink Squirrels – just to show the trout something different! 🐟

{ ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

Bob Trevis is a chapter board member and contributor to RipRap. Bob has volunteered in stream restoration of Pine Creek and the River Falls Fly-Fishing class, and has been an instructor for fly-fishing and fly-tying events, including Women in the Outdoors, FFF seminars, Minnesota Fly Fishers classes, Northwest Sports Show, and the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.

Something Overheard...

Nestled together, rows on rows,

With their keen, sharp pointed toes,

Here’s a Hare’s Ear, there a Glory,

A Royal Coach with a wondrous story.

Wickhams’s, fairies, a tiny dun,

That could tell of an hour of glorious fun

At a deep, dark pool, in the shadows dense

When the heart beat fast and nerves were tense

And six bright beauties rose and took

Each in his turn that fateful hook.

And I care not whether they’re wet or dry

Fussy or sombre, yea not I

I love them all, yes, every fly

~H. Wheeler Perce

Fly Tier's Corner

BRIAN SMOLINSKI

LUND'S FLY SHOP

www.lundsflyshop.com

CDC Quillmerger

This effective midge emerger works also many small emerging mayfly patterns. It hangs out just below the surface film, but with it's own built-in CDC strike indicator. The bright white wing is not only natural, but sticks up above the water surface and is highly visible.

This fly is a variation of a western pattern know as the "smoke jumper" which is tied similar but with a thread body and wire rib. It's tied this way instead of a the quill body to be more durable, but with the addition of the UV resin over the quill makes the body of this fly nearly indestructible).

FLY RECIPE:

Hook : #16 Daiichi 1130 (light wire scud)

Thread : UTC 70 Denier – Olive

Body : Stripped Peacock Quill – Olive

Thorax : Dark Brown Dubbing

Wing : 2-4 CDC Feathers – White

INSTRUCTIONS:

[1] Apply a thread base

[2] Tie in stripped peacock quill wrapping back to the bend of the hook

[3] Bring thread back up towards the eye and create a slightly tapered thread body

[4] Wind quill over thread body while slight overlapping wraps. Tie off, trim.

[5] Cover the quill body with a UV resin and cure, encasing the quill in a durable high gloss clear finish

[6] Tie in CDC feathers with tips facing to the rear of the fly. (I strip off about half the feather to make it easier to work with), trim butts.

[7] Dub a thorax leaving a small gap behind the eye

[8] Bring the CDC over the top of the thorax and tie off behind the eye making a few wraps behind the wing and few wraps in front of the wing.

[9] Make a few thread wraps around the wing (parachute style), whip finish.



Rumours...

"I look into ... my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'"

~Allison Moir

"Love the Man, Love the Fly Rod.,"
in A Different Angle:
Fly Fishing Stories by Women.



Jim Thomson Passes

[February 20, 1945 - October 4, 2013]

Long time Kiap-TU-Wish and TCTU member and supporter Jim Thomson passed away in early October from complications due to lung cancer.

A River Falls resident, fly fishing guide and fly tier; he could often be seen giving fly tying and fishing instruction and advice on local streams and at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo. A member of the Laughing Trout fly fishing club, Jim frequently made donations of time,

knowledge, and flies to both TU organizations. Jim often donated time and equipment for our fly fishing clinics held at Glen Park in River Falls.

He was a humble, passionate, and adored fly fisherman, boy scout leader, teacher/guide, husband, father, grandpa and friend. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, oldest son, Chris, grandson, Gavin, youngest son, Greg, daughter-in-law, Brittany, and granddaughter, Carliauna.

FLY TYING TIPS

{Images} Greg Meyer

If you have a tip you'd like to share, please email to me at: kiaptuwish@hotmail.com

Hook Management! {Greg Meyer}

Next time you open a package of hooks, only to have them spread over your table, (or worse yet the floor) and have a few unaccounted for—instead of cursing, try this:

Next time you are in your local home supply store, purchase a magnetic vent cover. You know, the kind that go over your floor vents. These covers are white and usually come two to a pack. They are very similar to the white magnetic squares that are in the Tiemco hook packs.

The covers are very easy to cut and serve a few purposes. I have one 6 x 6 " square under my tying vice that will "catch" errant hooks and beads. I also have one in the bottom of my material waste bag that will also serve the same purpose. I have cut smaller squares that I have glued into the bottom of my fly bin compartments to prevent fly migration. All for a couple of dollars.

Bobbin Threaders {Bob Trevis}

Next time you are at your local drug store, hit the dental care aisle for a package of GUM brand Eez-Thru Floss Threaders.

These "teardrop-with-a-tail" blue monofilament threaders, meant to aid bridge-flossing, are also perfect bobbin threaders; a neat alternative to sucking thread through the bobbin tube after a thread breakage.

Dubbing Brush {Greg Meyer}

Since we're speaking of Dentistry, pick up an "interdental" brush while you're there. This small brush, made for cleaning large gaps between teeth, is the perfect size and works great as a dubbing brush.



Something Overheard...

With every cast the possibility of perfection arises. That brief moment when randomness ceases to exist and time and the universe stop to enjoy the beauty of your struggle. That pristine balance of love and loss, of hope and terror radiating from a single point at the end of a clear strand of line, up through your trembling hands and body and into your very heart, leaving it overflowing with Gods best intentions.

~Lyman Yee,

The Headlock Manifesto
Fly Rod & Reel,
July/October 2004.



Kiap-TU-Wish Board Members & Contact Info

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
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Happy Holidays!
From the Board of Kiap-TU-Wish.

Check us out on the web:
www.kiaptuwish.org



DATE: Thursday Dec. 5th, 2013

PLACE: LAKE ELMO INN EVENT CTR.
3712 Layton Avenue, North
(Hwy. 5), Lake Elmo

TIME: 5:30 PM | Doors open.
Socializing, cash bar, silent auction bidding
and bucket raffle. Dinner at 7:00pm.

COST: \$45.00 per person;
"Walk-ups" or late reservations \$60.00

Reservations for the banquet will
be taken at BOB MITCHELL'S FLY
SHOP: 651.770.5854

or online at:
<http://tuholidaybanquet.splashthat.com>

Reservation Deadline:
Noon, Monday, December 2.

Annual Holiday Banquet

It's time to register for the Kiap-TU-Wish
Holiday Banquet!

This is our chapter's premier fundraiser and get together. As always, it takes many volunteers to make the banquet a success, so if you've been sitting on your hands and letting others do the chapter work, please consider donating your time or merchandise to help out.

We are also still in need of donations of new or gently used fly tying and fishing gear, art, books, pottery, jewelry— heck, just about anything that someone may want to purchase. It all goes back to help sustain the viability of our chapter. Please make sure to read Mike Alwin's insertion for more information.

Kiap-TU-Wish will not have a chapter meeting in December

Our January chapter meeting will be on, January 8th, not New Years. Please plan to attend our annual fundraiser instead. Look inside for more details.

