



The Drift:

Words from our President.

Project work: This time of year, work centers on three areas: drafting reports of 2014's projects, grant writing for 2015 projects, and the early stages of project selection for 2016. Some reports are due to be sent to granting organizations in early December. Meanwhile, volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold will be planning the winter's tree and brush cutting with the DNR. Stay tuned for opportunities. Let Randy know if you want to receive e-mail notices of work days. They are an excellent remedy for the winter malady known as Cabin Fever.

New easements: The DNR is working on some new easements, but I have no details to report at this time. Maybe next month.

November meeting: Forty-nine people attended the November meeting. Perry Palin talked about fishing some remote locations on north shore streams, making wooden rods (he had examples) and a variety of other interesting thoughts and topics. Very entertaining.

Next regular chapter meeting: There will be no regular meeting in December, due to the banquet. The next regular meeting will be on January 7, 2015.

Meeting venue: We want your comments. If you attended either of the last three meetings at the Valley House, what did you think of the location, the menu, etc. If you did not attend, was it due to the distance or other factors? Send your comments to kiaptuwish@hotmail.org.

Banquet: Mark your calendar for December 4th at the Lake Elmo Event Center. The speaker will be Dennis Anderson, outdoors columnist for the StarTribune.

Expo: The Tom Helgeson Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo will be held in Blaine again, on March 20-22. If the state fair is called the Great Minnesota Get-together, then the Expo should be known as the Great Midwest Fly Fishers' Get-together. Every year, I enjoy seeing many familiar faces and meeting new people as well as looking at new stuff and doing a bit of wishful thinking. Also every year I seem to leave behind a bit more money than planned.

Enough said.

~ Tom Henderson

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

Volume 8 | Issue 4
DECEMBER 2014



Holiday Conservation Banquet
December 4: Lake Elmo Event Center

Sal V. Linus snapped the above photo a week after this year's first snowfall. It's taken along the upper Kinnickinnic, not far from K-TU's 2015 Red Cabin project site.

Inside

Holiday Conservation Banquet	2
Angling Lit: Multimedia Review	3
Trout in the Classroom	4
Casting Tips	5
Fly Tier's Corner	7

The Holiday Conservation Banquet: December 4th

The date is Thursday, December 4 for this year's Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. This is our chapter's biggest fundraising event of the year and we need YOU in attendance. The COST is \$45, the same price for three years running. Yes, we can accept walk-ins, but the price rises to \$60 because of the extra burden on the staff; it pays to REGISTER, and there are two ways to do so. You may call Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, 651.770.5854, or register on-line at <http://2014tuholidaybanquet.splashthat.com>. When you register, be sure to indicate your

silent auction items, bid on something, then buy some cookies for dessert. Remember, this is an important fund raiser and your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Items of interest in the silent auction include various items of tackle (rods, reels, lines, etc.), books, pottery, jewelry, fly tying material, fishing trips and innumerable works of art. Our bucket raffles were so successful last year that we've expanded them a wee bit. Expect to find a Go-Pro camera, a Sage Trout rod, Lamson Litespeed reels and Winston rods up for grabs. As always, we are delighted to

“This is our chapter's biggest fundraising event of the year and we need YOU in attendance.”

choice of entrée: Salmon Rivada, Top Sirloin or Chicken Calvados. The deadline is Monday, December 1 at 5:00 PM. The VENUE is the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center on Hwy. 5 in Lake Elmo. CHECK-IN and HAPPY HOUR begin at 5:30. DINNER will be served at your table at 7:00 and the PROGRAM will begin at 8:00. StarTribune outdoors columnist, Dennis Anderson is our featured speaker. Dennis is an accomplished and dedicated sportsman with real insight into what's needed to shape the next generation of conservationists. Not coincidentally, his topic is the necessity of recruiting anglers to the cause.

The Banquet Committee is dedicated to showing you a good time; we're having a party, People! Have a glass of wine (the bar is very good), strike up a conversation with another party-goner, buy some raffle tickets and take a whack at that Winston rod, peruse our

take your donations to the silent auction. Bring us those gently used cast-offs, those shaggy dogs of a bygone era. You might be surprised at what they'll fetch and the chapter could use your support. You may bring your donations to Lund's Fly Shop or Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop through the end of November.

Being a small chapter means it's difficult for us to raise a lot of money for our projects. However, with the funds from this banquet and partnerships with companies like Fairmont Santrol, our grant writers, Gary Horvath, Tom Henderson and Maria Manion, are able to leverage those dollars into significant projects on the Trimbelle, Eau Galle and the Kinni. That would not be possible without the generosity you show at our annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. We'll see you on December 4th.

~ Mike Alwin

PLACE:

Lake Elmo Inn Event Center

TIME:

- 5:30 PM—socializing, auction & raffle
- 7:00 PM—plated dinner
- 8:00 PM—program starts

SPEAKER:

Dennis Anderson—outdoorsman & columnist for the Minneapolis StarTribune newspaper

COST:

- \$45 per person
- \$60 per person if you forgot to register or show up unannounced

REGISTER:

- Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop at 651.770.5854
- on line at <http://2014tuholidaybanquet.splashthat.com>

DEADLINE:

5:00 PM on December 1

Angling Lit: Multimedia Review

{Words} Jonathan Jacobs



Back when RipRap appeared as cuneiform characters scratched into clay tablets, I would occasionally use the newsletter as a venue to offer opinions about books. If you are too young to have a direct recollection of the Nixon/Khrushchev kitchen debate, you likely missed these gems of literary criticism, so allow me to sum them up: The good old boys of the mid-20th century (Leonard M. Wright, Jr., Ernest Schwiebert, Sparse Gray Hackle, Robert Traver, Nick Lyons, Ed Zern, et al.) knew what for. The finest book ever written in the English language is Norman Maclean's **A River Runs through It and Other Stories**. The best how-to guide for beginners is Sheridan Anderson's comic book **The Curtis Creek Manifesto**. Tom McGuane's **The Longest Silence** is the best collection of essays available. The best fishing writer of the last thirty years is John Gierach.

I thought it might be time for an update, but, alas and alack, it seems to me that, with the exception of the redoubtable Mr. Gierach (about whom

"With the book trade in the doldrums, one can turn to periodicals for written sustenance, but it seems as though the magazine industry is in no better shape generally, with, for example, *Fly Fisherman* magazine, the original eight hundred pound gorilla, shrunken to marmoset size."

more later), it's been a long downhill trip for the art of the angling essay lately. There are plenty of technical works written that I am sure are dandy within the confines of that genre, but the genre never much appealed to me anyway and now the topics seem just incredibly narrow, with titles along the lines of **Proven Techniques for Taking Tailwater Golden Trout** or **The Fifty Best Water Daphnia Imitations**.

With the book trade in the doldrums, one can turn to periodicals for written sustenance, but it seems

as though the magazine industry is in no better shape generally, with, for example, *Fly Fisherman* magazine, the original eight hundred pound gorilla, shrunken to marmoset size. *Fly Rod & Reel*, while reduced to quarterly publication, soldiers along and still publishes fine essays on environmental topics by Ted Williams and the aforementioned Mr. Gierach is yet there with his fine back page column, which is capably illustrated by chapter friend Bob White. The magazine continues with

{continued on page 6}

John Kaplan photo



A couple members of the Kiap-TU-Wish stream monitoring crew on the Trimbelle. It was October. The water was cold. But in light of recent weather events, it looks almost balmy.

A Note from the editor

Next RipRap deadline: December 12

It's chilly outside—an understatement, really. As I write, I'm glancing at the odd bird which comes to rest on the snow-covered hop vine I planted a couple years ago. Each time a bird lands or departs, a mound of snow atop a dried hop blossom tumbles down in a mini-avalanche. Can it really be mid-November?

Earlier in the day, from the comfort of my sun-bleached sofa, I listened to my neighbor shovel snow and my husband blurt out headlines from an online news aggregator. (Jonathan Jacobs has a remark in his angling lit review about such aggregators.) Most of the headlines were negative, and many of them pertained to water or land or wildlife, each of which are in dire circumstances.

After ten minutes of listening to these hopeless headlines, my stomach hurt. So I decided to finish my cup of coffee, get off the couch and make cookies instead.

{continued on page 5}

Reaching Out: Trout in the CLASSROOM!



Brian Burbach's 5th grade class ready and waiting for their brown trout eggs from Seven Pines Fishery

Brian Burbach photo

Brian Burbach's 5th grade class at North Hudson Elementary, embarked on a new project this fall with some help from Kiap-TU-Wish. Brian's class has begun a Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. TIC allows students to grow trout from eggs to fingerlings. Along the way, students learn important lessons about water quality, stream habitat, conservation, and ecosystem connectivity, regardless of whether they are fly fishers or not. Teachers have included it into almost every subject in school, from using math to calculate how much food to give the young fry, to teaching English composition by writing essays on conservation issues affecting trout habitat.

TIC was started by Trout Unlimited nearly 20 years ago in New York State. It started with four classrooms in 1997, and now New York has over 200 such programs. It is gaining popularity in Wisconsin with a handful of classrooms participating.

Over the summer, Brian was able to obtain funding through a grant to purchase a TIC setup, which entails a tank, chiller, food, gravel, water

chemistry compounds, etc. — everything that is needed to raise trout from eggs to fingerlings.

Kiap-TU-Wish was able to aid Brian on what kit to order and point him in the direction of some on-line tank setup, trout care, and lesson plans. We also worked with the state to get Brian a permit for what is legally a "fish farm," obtained a health certificate from the hatchery providing the eggs, and identified a veterinarian that is certified to test the health of the fish before release. Marty Engle, our DNR fisheries biologist, was consulted and it was decided to raise brown trout to be released into the Willow River near Hudson this spring. This will be an awesome experience for those 5th graders!

Currently, we are waiting for the fish eggs to be harvested from the Seven Pines Fishery in Lewis, WI in late November. As Brian explores the curriculum and lesson plans for TIC, there may be some opportunities for some classroom discussions from some of our members. We will keep you updated on this exciting project.

For more information about Trout in the Classroom, including examples of student art and poetry inspired by the TIC program, visit www.troutintheclassroom.org

~ Greg Olson



{A Note. . . from page 3}

Deb Alwin, a longstanding organizer of the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet, has recruited a handful of folks to make cookies for the event. The cookies are sold by the package as dessert, more than suitable for dunking in coffee while listening to the speaker or nibbling in the car on the drive home. I decided that while I might not be able to sort out the drought in California, I could at least make a trial batch of cookies for my TU chapter's conservation banquet.

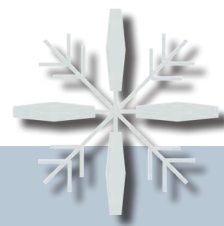
Although I'd been a Kiap-TU-Wish member for a while, I didn't have the time to get much involved. Now that I do have time, I'm learning a lot more about the chapter's accomplishments, work in progress, future goals and dedication of chapter members. I'm also learning that chapter efforts and activities could not be accomplished without the financial contributions stemming from the annual conservation banquet. If you feel squished for time like I did for so many years—maybe thinking that your attendance at the banquet is a minor contribu-

tion--please know that your presence is anything but inconsequential.

The banquet is also about celebrating our people. It's time to recognize volunteer efforts, chat with old friends, make new acquaintances, enjoy good food and, as one of Jane Austen's characters might say, savor the delights of the season.

Please join us. We'd like your company.

~ Maria



CASTING TIPS

{Words} Margaret LeBien

You can do a couple of simple outdoor drills to keep your casting muscles limber over the winter. Keep a rod strung up with an old fly line in your garage where you will see it immediately after you walk the dog or when you get in or out of your car. It's best to practice in the dark unless you enjoy entertaining the neighbors.

Stand in the driveway and start warming up with the rod tilted at about 45 degrees or at whatever angle clears the top of the snow bank. Keep your hand in close to your body and grip the cork very lightly. Lock the line under your gloved index finger and keep your line hand warm in your coat pocket.

Start false casting with just one rod length of line out of the tip. With a smooth, even tempo, move the rod tip in a straight-line path just above eye level. Pull the line through the stroke, back and forward. Focus on suddenly squeezing the cork at the very end of the stroke to stop the rod, then instantly relax your hand. Start slowly, then increase the casting tempo until your loops tail.

Lengthen the line one foot and repeat. If you have the space, continue on as above until you have three or four rod lengths of line out. If you feel clever, switch the rod to 45 degrees off vertical on your non-dominant side. Or, switch to casting with your other hand.

Now turn it upside down. . .

Before going inside to collapse on the couch, spend a little time false casting with the rod upside down. Yes, turn it all over and lock the reel in under your forearm. This exercise forces you to move your upper arm. It forces you to lift your elbow into the back cast and to lead with your elbow on the forward cast. It reinforces that pulling action of the fly line so you will really feel the rod loading and unloading. The upside down exercise effectively forces you to stay loose and relaxed, even when you are stiff with cold.

Do these drills daily in the frosty air and your casts will stay languid, relaxed and silky smooth. Maybe you will even feel the rod make the cast rather than you.

Good luck!

Moonlight Driveway Drills

{Angling Lit from page 3}

its Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award and this year's winning story was a good one. That being said, much of the remaining content is pretty thin

"However, there are two bright spots on the horizon.

The lads at *Fly Fish Journal* and *The Drake* are doing fine work. . ."



gruel. However, there are two bright spots on the horizon. The lads at *Fly Fish Journal* and *The Drake* are doing fine work, with a fresh, irreverent attitude that presumes that the reader either knows how to fish or that the reader's level of fishing skill is of no concern to the writer. Both have a polished graphic appearance and seem to take real pride in the quality of the photography that appears in the magazines. I used the word "lads" earlier. That was deliberate. If any criticism can be leveled at these magazines, it's that they both veer heavily into "Dude!!!" or "Bro!!!" territory too easily and too often. I'm willing to dismiss most of that criticism on the grounds that at least that's evidence that there is a generation beyond the Boomers that's going fishing.

The Drake has an impressive website, too. It includes both web-only content and articles from the print edition. There are blogs and there are forums with submissions that will leave you recoiling or laughing uncontrollably. The magazine sponsors video awards (Many of the nominated films are also a part of the Fly Fishing Film Tour, an excellent source of mid-winter solace for the angling deprived. It will be presented this year in both Minneapolis and River Falls) and excerpts of the winning films are archived on the site. The URL is www.drakemag.com. Check out "Tarpon Season" and let me know if it gives you saltwater fever.

As long as I've mentioned the many-headed Hydra called the internet, it must be said that anything remotely connected to angling can be found there. YouTube, of course is a ubiquitous purveyor, but many fly shops

have excellent video and article libraries attached to their websites along with excellent fly pattern recipes. An excellent web resource for angling news, essays and videos is Midcurrent.com. I would call it a "fly fishing clipping service" first and foremost. I think

"An excellent web resource for angling news, essays and videos is Midcurrent.com."

I've seen the term "web aggregator" applied to things like it, although that may be my own private nightmare of a term. You will find there both original work and links to news, essays and fly tying instruction, among other things.

There are interesting blogs, too. *Gink and Gasoline* and, if you're the retro sort, *The Fiberglass Manifesto* are always worth a look and, if you're looking for a local connection, Andy Roth, who did a presentation at a chapter meeting a while back, has a steady

"Gierach's latest book, *All Fishermen are Liars*, was a pleasant exception to my contention that angling books have fallen on hard times."



hand on his blog at Gray Goat Fly Fishing. You can subscribe to a weekly email report from Blue Ribbon Flies. It features evocative submissions by Craig Matthews.

There are e-magazines, too. *Southern Culture on the Fly* and *Montana Fly Fishing Magazine* do nice work and

they're free! Filmmaker Todd Moen and photographer Brian O'Keefe collaborate on a nice subscription-based e-mag called *Catch Magazine*.

You might be surprised by what you can find archived on the websites of two very traditional print magazines. In the *Sports Illustrated* "Vault" you can find work by literary lions like Thomas McGuane and Jim Harrison. If you want to read a fine yarn that will leave you thinking, look up Corey Ford's classic, *The Road to Tinkhamtown* at www.fieldandstream.com.

Now that we've circled back to conventional magazines, it's time to praise *Fly Rod & Reel* for having the good sense to turn John Gierach loose

at the back of the magazine. The current issue is only seventy two pages, but five of them are given over to Gierach's excellent essay on the artistic process. If you know Gierach's writing, you know that he takes plenty of interesting side roads and detours on his way to making his main point, but the journey is worth it.

Gierach's latest book, *All Fishermen are Liars*, was a pleasant exception to my contention that angling books have fallen on hard times. Mr.

Gierach is a man who not only writes well, but thinks well. He has written about the craft of writing and the pride he takes in it. His pride is justified. The Trout Bum has been at it for decades now and he's not coasted on his reputation, but has instead steadily honed his craft. The book is available in hardcover at a list price of \$24.00. 🐟

FLY TIER'S CORNER

{Words :: Images} Brian Smolinski



b's Big Pink jig

Well you had to know that another pink squirrel variation was bound to come out in another Fly Tier's Corner. Love it or hate it, the pink squirrel has become one of the most popular nymphs in our area. This is my big jig version. These tungsten beaded jig hook style flies have been starting to crop up all over the place. I haven't fished a ton of them, but the principle seems sound to me. The heavy bead and the jig style hook help your fly get down deep with less chances of snagging the bottom.

This style of "fly" is also gaining a lot of popularity among ice fisherman. Flies are one of the most effective bait to use on panfish and this style fly has the look of a nymph but can be easily fished vertically in deep water with its heavy tungsten head and level jig style hook.

FLY RECIPE:

- Hook ::** Daiichi 4663 Jig Hook Size 8
- Head ::** 3/16" Slotted Tungsten Bead – Black Nickel
- Thread ::** UTC 140 – Fluorescent Pink
- Base Layer ::** Antron Yarn – Dark Brown
- Body ::** Fox Squirrel Dubbing mixed with a little UV Pearl Ice Dub
- Thorax ::** A mixture of Fluorescent Pink Rabbit Fur & Fluorescent Pink Ice Dub
- Tail ::** UV Pearl Krystal Flash
- Rib ::** Medium Ultra Wire – Metallic Red

INSTRUCTIONS:

- [1] Start the thread behind the bead and wrap back on the shank until you are even with the hook barb.
- [2] Make a few turns forward and tie in the antron yarn.
- [3] Wrap the antron forward with tight overlapping turns, toward the bead, building a tapered body as you go. Wrap back over the antron with your thread making a solid base to dub on.
- [4] Tie in the wire and the krystal flash for the tail back even with the hook barb or slightly beyond it. I use just one piece of flash and double it over several times to create the tail.
- [5] Dub the squirrel mixture from the point where the tail is tied in up until about an 1/8" from the bead and tie off your thread.
- [6] Counter wrap the wire rib over the dubbed body and tie off the wire behind the bead.
- [7] Dub the thorax with the hot pink dubbing mixture and tie off thread and finish right behind the bead.

If you have questions, stop in at Lund's and ask Brian in person, or send him an email at brian@lundsflyshop.com

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Next RipRap deadline: Friday, December 12.

RipRap is always on the lookout for writers, photographers, story suggestions, etc. Please feel free to shoot me an email, tap me on the shoulder at chapter meetings, or even send me a bona fide letter. Any way you choose, have your material, comments or suggestions to Maria Manion by the second Friday of the month for submission.
manion.maria@gmail.com



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
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*Happy
Holidays!*

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



Jane Doe
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Hudson, WI 5401

Please join us.

The Holiday Conservation Banquet **December 4 at the Lake Elmo Event Center**

Please see inside for details about how to make reservations. The registration deadline is December 1.

Also inside:

- North Hudson fifth-graders raising trout
- Moonlit casting warm-up for cold weather
- Review of angling lit in all its forms (with even a few holiday gift ideas)
- Pink squirrel fly recipe (a variation for pink squirrel aficionados)

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

Our January chapter meeting will be on January 7, 2015. Please plan to attend our annual conservation banquet instead. See inside for more details.