

The Drift: Words from our President.

Holiday Conservation Banquet: The Kiap-TU-Wish annual banquet is Thursday, December 3rd. Besides being a fun, friendly venue to discuss and reminisce about the year's past fishing adventures, the banquet is an important fund raising event for the chapter. Proceeds from the banquet support the chapter's habitat restoration projects, advocacy efforts, and educational programs. I hope to see many of you there.

Trout In the Classroom: Kudos to Greg Olson for his persistence in understanding the scientific and bureaucratic details of the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. Through his efforts and John Carlson's efforts, the chapter has expanded TIC to the Amery school district. Plus with Greg's help, the Clearwater Chapter is establishing their first TIC program. See Greg's article for more details.

Trimbelle/Trudeau Project: The three-year Trimbelle project continues to garner attention. Wisconsin Outdoor News, in their October 30th issue, wrote a complimentary article about the restoration work. Dan Wilcox reports that Trimbelle landowners, after seeing the completed project, are expressing an interest in establishing easements with the WDNR.



Kiap's Trimbelle restoration featured in the Wisconsin Outdoor News.

Wisconsin TU Council Meeting: Gary Horvath and I attended the October 24th WI TU quarterly council meeting. Some of what we learned at the meeting include:

• The Wisconsin TU license plate is selling at a rate where the 1,000 level threshold is going to be reached—generating \$25,000 annually to the council.

- TU National is emphasizing education at the chapter level as a critical component of their strategy moving forward. Another area of emphasis is risk management.
- Two new positions were created in the Chequamegon National Forest: a habitat

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



Social Event of the Season!
Registration Deadline Looms!

See inside for details!

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project manager and a stream crossing project manager.

- The WDNR shared that on January 2nd, a Wisconsin state trout fishing map will be available online. Some of its features include all easements, access points, aerial photos, and integrated GPS locations.
- The council is very active at the legislative level on several issues: the sale of public lands (spring ponds) and the proposed ground water legislation.

Wisconsin TU State Banquet: The 45th WI TU Banquet is set for February 6th (4:30PM-9:00PM). The location is the Best Western Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh, WI. Tickets are \$35.00. Contact Tom Schnadt via e-mail at thschand@ hotmail.com if you're interested in attending.

~Tom Schnadt

Expanded Trout Season

The WDNR recently announced the expanded trout season and revised regulations. Here are the highlights.

Early catch and release trout season runs from 5 a.m. on January 2 until Friday May 6, 2016 on waters where the early season currently exists. The regular trout season opens Saturday, May 7, 2016.

The fall harvest season will extend to October 15 in 2016.

Simplified regulations, developed to create more uniformity for anglers who fish on different trout streams and within small geographic areas.

GREEN means go fish, with no length limit, a bag limit of five fish and no bait restrictions.

YELLOW means caution, with an 8-inch length limit, a bag limit of three fish and no bait restrictions.

RED means special regulations are in place. Anglers are advised to stop and understand the regulations before fishing.

To learn more about the regulations, visit DNR.wi.gov and search "trout review."



2014-2015 TIC students transporting their classroomraised trout to the release site on the Willow River

KIAP-TU-WISH is expanding its Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs for 2015-2016. In 2014-2015 KIAP assisted Brian Burbach's 5th grade North Hudson Elementary class with their TIC program. While this experience was a huge success for Brian's class, he decided that he would not have the time for TIC with some new classroom activities he was implementing this year. While we will certainly miss working with Brian's class, KIAP is assisting two new TIC programs in our

area: John Mueller's 5th grade class at River Crest Elementary in Hudson and Jeremiah Fisk's 5th grade class at Amery Elementary. Near the end of the school year, River Crest will stock brown trout fingerlings in the Willow River and Amery will do the same in an area trout pond. KIAP is assisting the Clearwater Chapter with starting a TIC program at Menomonie High School, and also helped draft some TIC guidelines for the TU state council for use by all Wisconsin TU chapters.

We look forward to working with these three new programs this school year! ~Grea Olson

Changes at the Wisconsin DNR...

On October 16th, John Sours retired from the Wisconsin DNR. He had spent 35 years making our fishing world a better place as supervisor of the trout crew. His understanding of stream behavior has been immense, with experience and observation built upon his degree in geology. Taking his usual fall break from habitat work, he will start by bow hunting for deer. Next spring, he plans to spend more time with a rod in his hand instead of the controls of an excavator.

Nate Anderson will take the reins doing the habitat work. Nate has a degree in resource management, and has been working with the trout crew since 2000. During the 2015 construction season, Nate handled the Gilbert Creek project while John worked on the Trimbelle.

Recently, Randy Arnold and I met with Nate, John, Marty Engel, and their manager Heath Benike at the WDNR office in Baldwin to discuss future projects. Although funding remains tight and politics remains a challenge, they expect little change in the general format of projects. The recent trend to do more brush cutting/maintenance along streams will also continue

...and Future Projects

The wet weather during the first half of the 2015 habitat construction season delayed restoration work. One result was that the project on the upper Kinnickinnic River, the Red Cabin project, was postponed until next year. Nate Anderson hopes to have some of the rock delivered to the site before January; the funds from one of our partners must be spent before the end of this year. The current plan for the Red Cabin site on North River Road is to complete the work by June 30th, 2016.

The 2017 project will most likely be on the Trimbelle at 640th Street. Details, possibly including opportunities to cut box elder trees, are being developed. Nate Anderson expects to do one project within Kiap territory and one within Clearwater Chapter territory each season. There is still quite a bit of work that can be done on stretches that the WDNR owns on Gilbert Creek. Because working on WDNR land does not involve coordination with landowners, it is easier to work on such parcels at the end of the season. That way, unforeseen weather conditions that can prevent project completion do not affect private landowners. ~Tom Henderson

Editors Note...

This morning I drove east to the Trimbelle to take a photo for the cover of the newsletter. I was up at 6am, sipping coffee by 6:15 and on the road by 6:30. I wanted to be on the river by sunrise to get a bright, crisp photo with maybe hoarfrost on the grass - the closest thing to snow. You see, I was hoping it would snow before this issue of RipRap was sent to print, so that I could adorn it with snowflakes that, to me, herald the holiday season. The temp was 50 degrees by 8am and I left my coat in the truck. (Snowflakes are on the cover anyway.)

While walking along the river this

morning, camera in hand, I thought of a remark which someone made to me last year after suffering through holiday shopping at the mall. "Oh man, I wish I could just buy a trout stream."

Well, look at it this way; our Holiday Conservation banquet is a chance to get exactly that - our own trout stream. We get to shop in the company of like-minded people, to peruse a range of fishing and non-fishing items in a single location with libation in hand, to take a break for a snack of steak or salmon or pasta, to listen to an interesting speaker, to "shop" some more, and then pay for all items at one time - the proceeds of which go to support Kiap's restoration, advocacy and

education efforts.

Hope to see you on December 3rd. I'm going to get myself a trout stream.

~ Maria Manion

Oh, and a few things about what's inside. . .

- 1. On the cover photo, you can just see a recently installed bat house in the distance.
- 2. I'm going to use COPM and FOPM to amaze my friends with my aquatic environment knowledge.
- 3. That's what Van was saying? "Hands are full of a fishin' rod /And the tackle on our backs?
- 4. I too have awoken from dreams of brook trout.
- 5. Huh. Fusion Leech. Gotta try that.

The K-TU Holiday Conservation Banquet NEWS

The annual K-TU Holiday Conservation Banquet is days away and registrations are accumulating daily. The Lake Elmo Inn staff is attentive and highly professional and the food is wonderful! There will be no rubber chicken at this soirée.

Attendees at this year's gala will find an exciting array of swag in our silent auction: books, including collectibles, out of print and historically significant and some never-outof-date titles; a gorgeous Lloyd Hautajarvi landing net; a fabulous Yeti cooler courtesy of Dave Johnson; and trout fly selections from Bob Torres and Paul Johnson. If you're not already drooling, there's more: fish art, jewelry, artistic stoneware, a gourmet lunch and access to private water on the Kinni, a guided smallmouth trip from Hayward Fly Fishing, rods, reels, fabulous fly assortments and other tackle. Plus, thanks to a dear friend and benefactor, Pat Farley, we will have additional fine tackle courtesy of his estate. PLUS... we have two tiers of bucket raffles with an absolutely stunning assortment of raffle items at each level. PLUS...this year only, we have an exciting raffle for you, an exquisite bamboo rod fashioned by master rod builder, Dave Norling. Only 100 tickets are available for a mere \$20 apiece. Buy as many as you wish; when they're gone, they're gone.

Naturally we hope to see you at this year's banquet. If you'd like to help our efforts, and our efforts are prodigious, there are two ways. First, clear out that closet. Your donations to this event, be they a vintage Airstream, a rebuilt Mac or 3rd generation iPad, that 1938 Martin Herringbone D-28 quietly gathering dust, a good fishing book or a plate of double fudge brownies will all help the cause. Second, consider devoting a few hours helping out at the banquet. We always need a few folks to help set up and break down the event, serve as floor captains or help sell raffle tickets.

Register! We'd like to see you there.

~Mike Alwin

WHEN: December 3, 2015

WHERE: Lake Elmo Inn Event Center

3712 Layton Avenue, Lake Elmo

TIME

5:30 Social Hour

7:00 Dinner and Program

8:15-8:40 Steve Kinsella

9:15 Final Bidding and Close

MENU: Top sirloin, salmon ravida or

butternut squash ravioli PRICE: \$49 per person **REGISTER by NOVEMBER 30**

Call Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop: 651.770.5854

Online: https://2015kiaptuwish.splashthat.com/

NORLING ROD RAFFLE TICKETS

Available now! Tickets (cash or check only) can be purchased via:

- Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls
- Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo
- Tom Schnadt: thschnad@hotmail.com
- Mike Alwin: mikealwin@gmail.com



From the Field:

Three bat houses were installed along the Trimbelle in late October by Dan Wilcox, John Rock and myself. Mike Trudeau (the land owner) stopped by to say hello. Bat house poles were supplied by Fairmont Santrol. ~Randy Arnold

In the summer of 1958 I caught a brook trout in a North Shore stream a half mile from home. The trout was eleven inches long, and I caught it with a worm. I brought it home on a forked stick. I earned high praise from my parents for catching the fish, and because it had been eating natural food for six weeks since leaving the hatchery truck, it was delicious. This started my long career of fishing for brook trout.

I chased hatchery plants for a couple of years, and then I hiked upstream and found wild fish. These were smaller sometimes, but they were smarter, stronger, and more beautiful than the fish from the truck. They tasted better, and only lived in the cleanest water and the prettiest places.

The best fishing was a long walk from the road, or where no one expected to find them. I knew where some brook trout lived, and I wasn't telling.

Brook trout have a reputation for striking at just about any fly or lure, and some people use bright flies and catch some fish. I won't deny them their success, but I catch more fish and my biggest fish with flies tailored for specific streams. Over three years I developed one pattern that was outstanding on two major streams and parts of another. It was the only fly to use, all season long, where it worked. But it was only fair below 1100 feet in elevation (Lake Superior is at 602 feet), and just about useless in two other neighborhood streams, where the fish went for a sparse Orange Fish Hawk instead.

I've moved a couple times since then, and I'm now living in the trout-free zone of Wisconsin north of Highway 8. But I've always lived within an hour's drive of brook trout, and I wouldn't want it any other way.

I've had some good teachers. Kiap-



"With winter approaching I wake at night from dreams of brook trout."

TU-Wish member Ted Mackmiller was the best when it came to brook trout. Ted showed me his tricks and he took me to overlooked creeks where he acted like he didn't care if he caught a fish, which of course is important to catching them, and when he acted like that, of course he caught them.

With winter approaching I wake at night from dreams of brook trout. In the latest dreams I am twelve years old, lying on a bank above a shallow current watching a half dozen bright

fish holding over the gravel, moving to catch the caddis drift, or I am a few years older, a mile from the road and carrying a shotgun in the grouse season, flicking bits of my apple to a pod of brook trout in spawning colors. A fish rises to grab a piece, he spits it out, the apple piece rises toward the surface and is taken by another fish. These are more than dreams, really. They are memories. And similar scenes will be played out by others if we can keep our coldest and cleanest waters at the source of all rivers.

{Words} Mike Alwin

KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part IV

A Primer on Mayflies

It's actually kind of funny to watch people's eyes glaze over when the discussion becomes even a little scientific. Here, let's try it. The scientific literature will tell you that mayflies are found in the Class; Insecta, in the Order; Ephemeroptera, which means short-lived winged insect. The next sub heads are Family, Genus and species, with Genus being the most important for the average fly angler.

The Nymph

Mayflies are incomplete metamorphizers, meaning that they do not pupate. For this reason they are considered by entomologists to be relatively primitive as insects go. The larva (nymph) emerges from the egg in a few weeks or a few months depending on the species. Most are herbivores and so they spend their time grazing on the substrate (stream bottom) over a period of growth stages called instars. Eating what, exactly? The answer is diatoms, algae, and detritus, which is divided into two types: Coarse Organic Particulate Matter (COPM) and Fine Organic Particulate Matter (FOPM). You've probably picked a maple leaf from the stream bottom in spring and noticed that the only thing left of it was the venation. The insects that graze on the leaf are the responsible parties. If the maple leaf was a COPM, what is a FOPM? The answer to that are the algae and diatoms and anything that the invertebrates consume but can't completely digest. Mayfly larva mature in a few weeks, a few months or a couple of years, depending on the species.

Drift

Something that should be mentioned here is the phenomenon known as "drift". We're all aware that during a flood many fish and insects are lost to the raging waters. This phenomena is known as catastrophic drift and results in measurable loss. Another form of drift was identified by Dr. Thomas Waters and is referred to as behavioral drift. This behavioral drift occurs just after dark and again just before dawn and involves large numbers of invertebrates. It is thought that behavioral drift is a dispersal mechanism. Finally, there is something called constant drift, a low-level, all-day phenomena in which small numbers of invertebrates apparently lose their grip and are assigned to a new zip code.

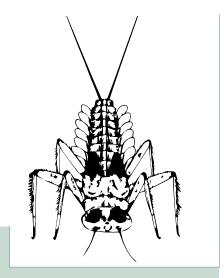
The Hatch

What we call the "hatch" is really the emergence from the larval stage to the winged insect, known as the subimago or dun. The subimago forms in the last larval instar. The emergence could be concentrated or random and could last weeks or just a few days. (Hint: The emergence seems to be tied to water temperature.) The nymphs might crawl or swim from the water, or they could emerge under water. No matter the manner of emergence, when the time is right the nymphal exoskeleton splits open and the winged, sexually immature subimago emerges.

Depending on the species and the weather, the mayfly's time on the surface could be a few minutes or as little as a couple of seconds. The winged stage of the mayfly has atrophied mouth parts because their lifespan is only a day or two.

Reproduction

In order to perpetuate the species the subimago must go through a molt to the imago, or sexually mature stage. In this process the insect changes from dark or figured wings to clear, glassy wings while the body coloration becomes more vibrant. At this point the sexually mature mayfly has these purposes: to swarm, mate, occasionally migrate upstream, and oviposit (lay eggs). Most mating commonly occurs near dusk or near dawn, weather depending. Males will gather in a swarm over the stream (if they're lucky) and the females will fly through the swarm where the males will grab and copulate with them. After copulation the female will oviposit by either extruding the egg mass on the surface, dropping the egg mass on the surface or by crawling or swimming below the surface. This is species dependent. After ovipositing the females die almost immediately while the males might live a little longer. How does that strike you as a survival mechanism? Imagine how many humans there would be if we followed the same strategy, sex followed by death. Yet for the lowly mayfly, it seems to work; the last time I counted there were over 600 species of Mayflies in North America.



Epeorus pleuralis: Clinging mayfly nymph of the Quill Gordon (illustration by Robert H.

Pils from Gary Borger's book Naturals: A Guide to Food Organisms of the Trout)

This mayfly's taxonomic classification:

- » Class Insecta (Insects)
- » Order Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)
- » Family Heptageniidae (March Browns, Cahills, Quill Gordons)
- » Genus Epeorus (Little Maryatts)
- » Species pleuralis (Quill Gordon)

The Fishing in Song

Sometime during one of our long national nightmares, in this case the Nixon years, a friend and I were killing part of a winter afternoon by scrolling through the five channels available on local television. We caught the very opening of a "fishing show." At that time, unbelievably to me now, I had not fished in several years. The opening theme song began, "You get a line, I'll get a pole." I began reflexively to sing along. My friend looked at me as though I'd just rotated my head three hundred and sixty degrees. I was shocked, too, having no idea how I knew this song, which, as it turns out, is an old American folk standard. I had to think it through. It finally dawned on me that my father used to sing it as we motored from our farm toward Gutenberg, lowa to fish the Mississippi. My father was fascinated by the backwaters above the dam there and likened them to bayous, so on occasion I'd also hear him sing, "Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou," the refrain from Hank Williams' Jambalaya.

There are frequent references to fish and fishing in popular songs, with the cliché being the bad country song that somehow ties together fishin' poles, girls in Daisy Duke shorts, mass quantities of cheap beer and a party down by the lake. We can do better, though, and if you're looking for something to listen to while you fight your way through traffic on your way to the trout stream, there are plenty of possibilities. At the highbrow end we have DieForelle, or The Trout by Franz Schubert. It's quite a piece of work, to be sure, but to me - and there is a difference – fishing is more rural than pastoral, so the music found in the broad categories of rock, blues and folk hold more interesting possibilities. There is Fishing Blues wherein Taj Mahal advises that "Many fishes bite if you've got good bait." Or the classic Catfish Blues, which has been recorded many times, but based on both his artistry and his most appropriate name, let's go with Muddy Waters, who sang, "Well I wish I was

reference in his angry rant Hurricane when he wrote, "And when it's over I'd just as soon go on my way/Up to some paradise/Where the trout streams flow and the air is nice." Singer-songwriter Greg Brown has written several songs with angling references, including If I Had Known, which includes the lyrics "Well grownups they ain't always right/Jimmy and me walked home slow that night/Right down Main Street in our P.F. Fliers/With two 5 lb. bass making grown men liars." There is also Spring Wind. This is nearly an anthem for

"There is also Spring Wind. This is nearly an anthem for those of you who labor on K-TU work projects."

a catfish swimmin' in a oh, deep, blue sea, I would have all you good lookin' women, fishin', fishin' after me." If you are a catch and keep sort, and even if you are not, you'll want to give a listen to Louis Jordan's Saturday Night Fish Fry where "It was rockin', it was rockin', you never seen such scufflin' and shufflin' 'til the break of dawn." This song has been done and done again. Asleep at the Wheel turned in a respectable effort on it, but if you're looking for a more esoteric version, you might go with the duet by Pearl Bailey and Jackie "Moms" Mabley. If this song doesn't get you going, you'd best have your serotonin levels checked. In the world of folk rock we have Van Morrison's It Stoned Me where he sings "Hands are full of a fishin' rod /And the tackle on our backs/We just stood there gettin' wet/ With our backs against the fence." Even Bob Dylan, the Bard of Hibbing, whose lyrics tend to be somewhere between oblique and opaque, included a sporting

those of you who labor on K-TU work projects. To wit: "Oh to clean our dirty planet, Now there's a noble wish, And I'm puttin my shoulder to the wheel 'cause I wanna catch some fish."

Lastly, I maintain that if Delta Bluesman Robert Johnson had been a well-born Yankee like e.e. cummings or an ex-pat like T.S. Eliot, graduate students to this day would be parsing every word he ever wrote seeking the deeper meanings in his allusions and imagery. I offer in support of my contention these lyrics from his deathless Dead Shrimp Blues:

Everything I do babe you got your mouth stuck up Hole where I used to fish, you got me posted up Everything I do, You got your mouth stuck up And the hole where I used to fish baby you've got me posted out

I got dead shrimp here someone fishin in my pond I got dead shrimp here someone fishin in my pond Catchin my goggle eyed perches and they barbequein the bone

Now you take my shrimp babe you know you turned me down I couldn't do nothin, till I got myself unwound

"... but to me – and there is a difference– fishing is more rural than pastoral, so the music found in the broad categories of rock, blues and folk hold more interesting possibilities."

{Words :: Image} Brian Smolinski

FLY TIER'S CORNER: b smo's Fusion Leech

Hook:: Size 4 Daiichi 2461 Streamer Hook

Thread:: UTC 140 Black

Head :: Fish Skull Sculpin Helmet – Size Mini (black)

Tail & Body :: Senyo's Fusion Dub - Midnight



Instructions

- [1] Lay a heavy thread base from behind the eye of the hook to just above the barb.
- [2] Grab a clump of Fusion Dub fibers and divide into two equal parts. Then lay the fibers back on top of each other and repeat 2 or 3 more times until you have one clump with all the fiber running the same direction and about 1.5" long.
- [3] Pull the ends on the clump slightly so it's about 2" long and the tips of the fibers are a bit more staggered.
- [4] Tie in the fiber clump at the rear of the hook with about 2/3 of the fibers extending out past the bend.
- [5] Lash down the fibers so they are tight and secure. Pull the front facing ends back over the rest of the clump so all ends are pointed back. Add a few more wraps over the bundle directly at the same point.
- [6] Lay down a light base of super glue or head cement on the thread-covered shank. Add dubbing wax to your thread and dub with a heavy amount of fibers.
- [7] Wrap up towards the eye of the hook, add more wax and fiber, and wrap back to the bend of the hook.
- [8] Once again, add more wax and fiber to your thread and wrap back to the eye of the hook. You'll end up with 3 layers of dubbing over the entire hook shank. It should look like a woolly bugger without the hackle.
- [9] Build up a tapered head behind the eye with thread. Whip finish, tie off and cut.
- Brush out the body of the fly with a dubbing brush or the hook side (plastic part) of a piece of Velcro until you have a shaggy body.
- Add a drop of gel super glue to the tapered, thread head and push on the Sculpin Helmet. Then build up some thread in front of the head and whip finish again.

Notes: This is a really easy way to make a sparse-bodied, flashy streamer. It does have a bunch of steps, but because you have so few materials it ties quickly. To simplify it even more, you can easily substitute the fish skull helmet with a bead and some turns of lead wire. Hook and loop Velcro is a great tool for teasing long dubbing fibers. The plastic hook part of the Velcro does a great job of grabbing fine fibers and teasing them out. Grab a piece of self adhesive Velcro and add it to the end of a pencil or a popsicle stick which makes a great addition to any tying tool kit.

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

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Next RipRap deadline: Friday, December 18

If you have a good story to tell, or an idea for an article you'd like to see in RipRap, please shoot me an email:

manion.maria@gmail.com

Thanks much!



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For all the latest news . . .

www.kiaptuwish.org &

Facebook









Jane Doe 123 Anystreet Hudson, WI 5401

Please join us.

The Holiday Conservation Banquet December 3rd at the Lake Elmo Event Center

Please see inside for details!

Kiap-TU-Wish will not have a regular chapter meeting in December. Our January chapter meeting will be on January 6, 2016. Please plan to attend our annual Holiday Conservation Banquet instead.