



The Drift: Words from our President.

Holiday Conservation Banquet: Kiap's Conservation Banquet is rapidly approaching. The date is Thursday, December 7. Seating is limited to 120 guests. Please make your reservation now for this important fundraising and fun social event. If you can't attend we have a limited number of raffle tickets available—a \$20 Norling bamboo rod ticket or a \$10 Yeti 65-gallon cooler ticket. If you'd like to buy one (or more!) contact Tom Schnadt by e-mail at thschnad@hotmail.com.



Tundra Yeti Cooler
65 gallon

100 tickets at \$10 each.
Retail value \$450



Norling Bamboo Rod

5-wt, 7'-6" rod with two tips, agate guides,
rod sock & aluminum travel tube.

100 tickets at \$20 each.
Retail value \$1000

2018 Wisconsin TU State Banquet: The state banquet is Saturday, February 3. I have a limited number of tickets. Banquet tickets purchased prior to December 31 include ten (free) raffle tickets. Contact me to buy banquet tickets either by phone **651-245-5163** or by e-mail at thschnad@hotmail.com. — Tom Schnadt

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



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*Holiday
Conservation
Banquet*

The photo above was taken on the Trimble last June. The Trimble is just one of the rivers we're restoring, and just one of the reasons to celebrate our efforts at this year's banquet. We hope to see you there!

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, December 15.
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects



Holiday Conservation Banquet

Thursday, December 7 marks the date of this year's Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. Last year the banquet finally achieved its long-sought goal of being the chapter's biggest fundraising event. To continue that history, we need you in attendance. The cost of this year's soiree is \$49 and we are absolutely positive you'll have a great time. The venue is the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center, 3712 Layton Ave. Lake Elmo, MN. The dance card is filling up but **there's still time to register, and you can do so right now in one of two ways: by phone at the Alwin residence (651.739.3150) or Lund's Fly Shop (715.425.2415), or on-line at 2017kiapbanquet.splashthat.com.**

When you register, give us your choice of entree: braised short ribs on a bed of polenta, salmon ravigote with fresh herbs, or Montrachet Chicken stuffed with asparagus, roasted tomato and goat cheese with a red pepper cream sauce. Your dinner will include forest blend salad, sautéed vegetable medley and rosemary roasted red potatoes. Check-in and happy hour begin at 5:30pm. Dinner will be served at 7:00pm and the featured speaker will be introduced at 8:15pm. **This year we are honored to have Dean Hansen, PhD, present one of his patented and delightful programs on aquatic invertebrates.** Dean is a very enthusiastic and skilled teacher and we are dead certain you're going to be amazed.

The Banquet Committee is dedicated to showing you a good time; we're having a party, People! So have a glass of wine (the bar is very good), strike up a conversation with another party-goer, buy a few raffle tickets and take a crack at that Yeti cooler or this year's edition of a Dave Norling cane rod. Peruse the items in our silent auction where you will find art works, tackle, pottery, jewelry, books, fly tying materials and so much more (go ahead and bid on something) and the surprising two-tiered bucket raffles. Visualize yourself the winner of one of several exclusive fishing trips. Buy some cookies for dessert.

Our banquet started life as a silent auction/tackle swap years ago at the suggestion of Jean Mitchell. It has grown to its current proportions through the generosity and vision of our members. Yes, we are delighted to accept your donations to the silent auction. Clean 'em up and bring us those gently used cast-offs, those shaggy dogs of a bygone era. You may be surprised at what they'll fetch in the silent auction and the chapter could definitely use your support. We are particularly interested in items of tackle, and fly tying tools and materials. Your much-appreciated donations may be dropped off immediately and up until December 2nd at Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls, Mend Provisions in Minneapolis, or Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in St. Paul.

Because we are a small chapter, it's difficult to raise the money for our many projects. However, with the proceeds from this banquet and partnerships with Fairmont Santrol, our grant writers, Greg Meyers, Maria Manion, Loren Haas, Gary Horvath and Tom Henderson, are able to leverage those dollars into significant projects on the Trimbelle, Eau Galle and Kinnickinnic. That would not be possible without the generosity you show at the annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. We'll see you on December 7.

— The Banquet Committee

WHEN: Thursday, December 7, 2017

5:30pm	Social Hour
7:00pm	Dinner & Program
8:15pm	Dean Hansen
9:15pm	Final Bidding

WHERE: Lake Elmo Event Center
3712 Layton Ave, Lake Elmo MN

MENU: *Forest Blend Salad: *mesclun greens, blueberries, apricots, candied walnuts, maple vinaigrette*

*Entree Choices: *braised short ribs on a bed of polenta; salmon ravigote with fresh herbs; or Montrachet Chicken stuffed with asparagus, roasted tomato and goat cheese with a red pepper cream sauce*

*Sautéed vegetable medley
*Rosemary roasted red potatoes

PRICE: \$49 per person

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Monday, December 4, 5:00 PM

Register by phone:

Lund's Fly Shop: 715-425-2415

Alwin Residence: 651-739-3150

Register on-line:

2017kiapbanquet.splashthat.com

Note that if you register for more than yourself online be sure to scroll to bottom of registration and follow the simple prompts to register a guest or guests.



Decision on Fate of Dams Inches Forward

The City of River Falls wrapped up its Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning Charrette on October 28 with a public presentation of design concepts generated during the four-day workshop. The charrette results—which included scenarios in which the dams were removed or left in place—can be found by

searching the web for “Kinini River Corridor Project” or visiting the City of River Falls website.

With the tech talks and charrette now concluded, the difficult task of determining the fate of the two dams comes front and center. On December 7, the Kinini Corridor Committee will begin deliberations on their recommendation to the City Council which is due January 25. During this time period, the Utility Advisory Board will discuss relicensing of the hydro stations. Their board will meet on December 18 to discuss the relicensing and then follow that with a public hearing on January 15. **The public hearing on January 15 is a critical meeting and chapter members should attend to voice support for dam removal.** Upon completion of the public hearing, the Utility Advisory Board will provide their recommendation to the Kinini Corridor Committee before the committee's January 25 recommendation deadline to the Council.

The River Falls City Council is tentatively scheduled to address the issue at their regular meeting on February 13. Dates for public hearings on the dams are not known at this time, but they are critically important, so please watch for the dates and plan on attending. Look for more information in the January issue of RipRap, on our website, on Facebook, or sign up for our email alerts by contacting Randy Arnold at randyca999@gmail.com. — Gary Horvath

Amazon Smile: Give a little when you shop

Why wait until our conservation banquet or spring appeal to give a few pennies to Kiap-TU-Wish? AmazonSmile—the charitable arm of Amazon—allows users to give .5% of their spending to a non-profit of their choice. Kiap-TU-Wish is registered and happy to accept a small portion of your purchases. If you are inclined to shop on amazon.com, try smile.amazon.com instead. The site looks and acts just like the regular amazon.com, it just gives you the opportunity to send a few pennies to a charitable organization of your choice. *TIP: When selecting Trout Unlimited from the drop down list, be sure to look for the Hudson, WI chapter.*

Editor's Note

If you remember, last month Jonathan Jacobs wrote about our community of people at Kiap-TU-Wish. Well, the upcoming banquet is our big party to celebrate just that. The monies we raise are important, very important, but let's not forget about having fun, appreciating our volunteers, making new friends, talking with old friends, or walking away with an early holiday gift from items donated by other chapter members. Last year I left with a wooden net previously owned by Randy Arnold. It was my net of choice last year, and I thought of Randy whenever I netted a trout. My previous years' "catches" include boots, books and flies who remind me of our chapter community every time I use them.

Sometimes though, we forget that our newcomers might not know who-is-who. This month, Judy Lutter helps us close the gap by profiling Gary Horvath—a face you might recognize, but a history you might not. Judy's got more profiles on the way, so stay tuned.

I hate to get in the way of a writer and their muse, so I refrained from asking Jonathan Jacobs for a holiday gift guide. I didn't have to, though, because Jonathan sent a list of items (and books, see page 6) that I might find on the banquet auction tables.

And finally, Skip James writes a short and sweet story to remind us of warmer days and the joys that come of our volunteer efforts. Happy Holidays friends.

—Maria Manion

2017/2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

Here's an overview of activities thus far. We'll update the list each month with details — location, time, etc.

• **Holiday Conservation Banquet**
Thursday, December 7, 2017
Lake Elmo Event Center

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Speaker: Matt Mitro, WDNR's Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist

Topic: Wisconsin's Inland Trout Populations: A 2018 Update on Trends and Research

• **WI State TU Banquet**
February 3, 2018

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
Speaker: Rich Osthoff, Local guide and author

Topic: Flyfishing the Driftless; Techniques and Strategies. One hour presentation with some video excerpts

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, March 7, 2018
Annual business meeting.
Elect new board members

Speakers: Nate Anderson, WDNR
Topic: 2018 Habitat work

Barb Scott, WDNR
Topic: Fish Survey Results

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Fly Tying Demonstrations

• **AMERY MEETING**
Monday, April 9, 2018

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Speakers: Heath Benike, WDNR Fisheries Supervisor & New Fish Biologist, WDNR
Topic: Review WDNR programs supporting coldwater conservation

A Holiday Gift Guide: *By Jonathan Jacobs*

From the Idiotic to the Moronic to the Ridiculous

My first suggestion for gift buying this year is that you shop hard at the K-TU Holiday Banquet's silent auction. There are bargains to be had on unique, high quality goods and the proceeds go to further the chapter's conservation work. If you don't find what you need there, you might consider the following. And remember, there's no hard and fast rule that says that you can't give yourself a gift. Here we go:

An 8-weight fly rod: Let me explain. An eight-weight is the warmwater and saltwater equivalent of a five-weight rod for trout fishing in that it covers a broad spectrum of angling opportunities, including all freshwater bass, northern pike and even light muskie angling. If you're not fishing for the fish mentioned, you should be. They are all great gamefish and likely available within a few miles of where you live. If you want to expand your horizons and take the trip of a lifetime, it's a great rod for most bonefish, redfish and snook, for example. It's also an ideal rod for single-handed steelheading and a great deal of salmon fishing.

Another trout-weight fly rod, one different than what you have: Because you can never have too many and because variety is indeed the spice of life.

A Flycraft inflatable boat: This canoe-sized inflatable raft/drift boat intrigues the daylights out of me, probably because of the expert job the manufacturer has done in using videos to promote their product. Visit the web and look at <https://www.flycraftusa.com/> to see what I mean. The people in the videos are having almost illegal amounts of adventure and fun. The boats are cleverly designed and appear to be well-made. Be forewarned, you may experience sticker shock. If you buy one, take me fishing, please.

Now to be just a little more practical, but not necessarily more parsimonious:

Flip Focals: Or a similar device. These magnifiers take the frustration out of threading a tiny spinner onto 7X tippet in poor light. They cost right around twenty dollars.

Simms nippers: Sure, you can cut leader materials with two pieces of stamped steel spot-welded together, but why would you when you could do it with Simms nippers, which are machined from

forged aluminum and equipped with replaceable jaws that are sharp enough to cut cleanly through the heaviest nylon or fluorocarbon that you'll ever encounter? They're fifty dollars, American, but they should last a lifetime and that's less than the seventy-nine dollars that Orvis gets for their analogous product.

Tippet spool organizer/retainer: I learned a lesson the hard way (Don't I always?) this fall when my stack of five spools of tippet worth thirty dollars disappeared from a pocket in my vest. The Orvis company has two products available. One costs around ten dollars and the other around twenty-five and both look like they'd do a good job.

Dropper rig fly box: It may not be an elegant setup, but there is no arguing that a two-nymph rig is an effective fish-catching device. There are specialty fly boxes on the market that allow you to pre-rig these setups, a substantial convenience, particularly in cold weather. They are available from Orvis, among others, for around thirty dollars.

Chest or sling pack: The traditional fishing vest, something iconic in our sport, is being pushed hard for primacy by these packs. I love my old Simms Guide vest, which has served me well for a couple of decades at least, but its design encourages me to pack it full of stuff until it weighs an ungodly amount. That weight is more and more of a drag on my aging shoulders. The packs redistribute that weight in a more ergonomically friendly way. Some are waterproof, a nice feature when fishing in inclement weather or when clumsy. The packs are available at a wide variety of price points and, as usual, you get what you pay for in terms of durability and features.

Wading staff: If an angler you like is fishing treacherous waters or is simply wobbly on his or her pins, you might consider giving that person a wading



staff. Both Fishpond and Simms have clever collapsible models available for around one hundred dollars.

Landing net: For sheer beauty and craftsmanship, it's nearly impossible to do better than an LDH net made in Minnesota by Lloyd Hautajarvi, who happens to be one of the nicest men on the planet. In comparison, Fishpond Nomad nets look like they've been beaten with an ugly stick, but they are light-weight, durable and can be purchased with a fish-friendly rubber net.

Water purifier: These devices allow one to forego dragging potable water along. There are various technologies and configurations available at modest cost.

LED headlamp: Now that the angler's new sling pack is fitted with all the accessories mentioned, fishing will be such a pleasant experience that our angler is likely to extend the fishing day into the gloaming and beyond. It's amazing how much lighting technology one can purchase for a modest amount of money.

Flask: There's nothing like a nip to take away the nip in cold weather and a celebratory pull after landing a big one is always welcome and one can't be blamed for wanting a quick snort to calm one's nerves after losing Leviathan and a little communal tipping on arriving back at the trailhead is always warranted, but this business of drink, drink, drink all day long has got to stop!

Happy Holidays. 🍷

Meet Gary Horvath

By Judy Lutter



TU's National Board of Trustees toured our area in 2016. Here, Gary was describing the history of our chapter's work with River Falls, including past efforts to mitigate stormwater run-off and the current issue regarding potential removal of the dams on the Kinnickinnic River.

Anyone who has been involved with Kiap-TU-Wish for any length of time has surely come in contact with Gary. His ready smile and easy manner are part of his value to the chapter. But Gary's history is long and his contributions many. Gary joined the Kiap-TU-Wish Board of Directors in 1989 and has served on the board, or as an officer, almost constantly since. He says he would be happy to give someone else a chance. He rotated off for three years but came back and has remained since. He is hanging on until the River Falls dam issue is resolved one way or the other. Gary has been chapter president several times and spearheaded an important change in the rules early on so that Minnesota residents could also serve as president. Gary estimates that about 50 percent of the 300-plus Kiap-TU-Wish members are from Minnesota.

The president serves a one-year term, but can hold three consecutive terms. "It is sometimes hard to recruit officers," says Gary, "and it's important that potential candidates know that people bring different talents. I am a policy wonk, that's what I like and believe I am good at. I didn't like some of the administrative things, especially if I had to ask people for money or merchandise, but you concentrate on what you do best and other board members can be called on for tasks you don't like or do as well."

There is a core group who have built the chapter and continue to be willing to serve because they believe so strongly in the mission. They are pleased there are now two women on the board and are hoping to recruit more along with younger members. "I'll always be involved but we need new ideas and

new energy."

Gary started river fishing with his dad when he was about ten, but it wasn't until college at Steven's Point that he found a group of guys who liked to fly fish. He says he is mostly self-taught and one of the things he likes best is exploring new streams and areas. "I'm not the guy who worries about how many I catch," he said. "For me it's about the place, the beauty, the solitude." Now living in River Falls, Gary says he does much of his fishing on the Kinni and especially likes one spot where you sometimes can catch a brookie.

Gary has always been interested in conservation and loves learning more and trying to preserve the wonderful waters he fishes. He is concerned about what will happen with the dam in River Falls and about ground water withdrawal caused in part by high-capacity irrigation wells which have totally turned some streams into dry river beds. He shares the concern with many members who also see development as another problem. "A lot of it has to do with education, but I also think we have to be proactive, especially at this time in our history."

What are some of the things he hopes the chapter can do in the years ahead? He's excited about Kiap-TU-Wish programs of education in the schools. "It is hard to minimize the importance of getting kids knowledgeable and then involved in conservation." He hopes new, younger members of the chapter can help with outreach, with new ways to use the media for education and recruitment. Gary hopes someone might come forward to address the issue of kayaks, which has become a growing problem in the last 10 years. "Some

western states have agreements with the outfitters, where they don't start as early in the day, or self-regulate in some other manner. We need to make it work for everyone."

I want to thank Gary for his many contributions to the chapter and share his wish that Kiap-TU-Wish will be vital, strong and continue to grow in the years ahead. 🐟

From the Field

It takes more than chainsaws and bonfires to get work done on the trout stream. In addition to afternoons spent cutting, hauling and burning brush, the chapter is also organizing safety training for our volunteers. Randy Arnold and Shannon Griebel recently arranged a first aid training session. Fifteen people participated. Most were from Kiap-TU-Wish and the Clearwater chapter; a UWRF student joined us. Chainsaw safety courses continue to be offered as well. The courses are difficult to schedule, so when one is available, Randy sends out a notice with the details. To get on his list, send him an email at randyca999@gmail.com.



Tom Schnadt photo



Light Too Bright! By Skip James

98 degrees...no shade...looking directly over shimmering water into the late afternoon sun. Standing on a little outcrop of river rock in the Bighorn with friend and legendary guide Ron Granneman. There was a Baetis hatch. You could see heads coming up, but the glare was so strong, you couldn't follow your floating fly. Of course Ron, who has the eyes of an eagle, and many Boone and Crockett bow-hunting records to prove it, was catching the rising trout with regularity, while I hooked the occasional fish more by accident than intention. I had dark polarized sun glasses on my face, and I wondered if two sets worn at once would make a difference. After awhile, Ron offered a solution to my problem. He showed me his fly, which sported black wings, unlike mine, with the standard light gray set. He said that the darker wing provided a better contrast to the glare, and obviously, the trout didn't care. For the last couple of hours, we'd both fished with flies that I'd tied, a floating pattern that worked well on the rising fish

we'd seen; but this unique light situation, which we couldn't overcome by casting from a different spot, demanded a color change. When I tied on one of Ron's black-wing Baetis, I began to catch trout, because I could finally spot my fly on the water.

A few years ago, fishing the Trico hatch on the Rush, I ran into the same problem... looking into the rising sun over a riffle, I simply could not see my floating spinner imitation. I wasn't very successful that morning until the angle of the light changed. Remembering the Bighorn experience on the drive home, I wondered what might happen if I tied a Trico spinner with a black wing. The next morning, I was standing in casting distance of the same riffle, with the same rising trout, looking into the same brilliant glare of the rising sun. This time, there was a #22 Trico spinner on my tippet, tied not with the standard white wing, but black. It made all the difference. I did battle with fourteen Browns who confidently ate the black-wing fly. 🐟

Trout in the Classroom: an update

Sadly we have lost the Hudson school for this year's TIC program. John Mueller—the fifth-grade teacher who ran the program in previous years— has retired. His replacement is adjusting to the new position and can't dive into TIC this year. However, she plans to pick it up again next year. As for new TIC programs, we had interest from other schools, but nothing definitive has developed. We'll let you know if it does.

Author, author!

By Jonathan Jacobs

While researching recently in advance of a trip, a friend discovered the writings of Ernest Schwiebert and found both Schwiebert and what he'd written fascinating. An architect by profession, he wrote voluminously on the practice and history of fly fishing. He fished throughout the world with magnates and trout bums alike. The books that sprang from his angling obsession include his two-volume magnum opus *TROUT, Remembrances of Rivers Past, Death of a Riverkeeper* and *A River for Christmas*. Discussing this with my friend set me to thinking.

With the notable exceptions of works by Thomas McGuane, W.D. Wetherall, James R. Babb and John Gierach, much of the writing about fly fishing in the last forty years has been dominated by technical works, like Swisher and Richards *Selective Trout*. However, there was an earlier golden era (among the many that fly fishing has had) beginning with America's new-found confidence and prosperity following World War II and extending, roughly, into the 1970s, that produced more reflective, sweeter prose. Schwiebert was but one of the authors from that time. Mostly, these authors were prosperous and well-educated Easterners who wrote primarily to satisfy an artistic urge. The most lyrical of them may have been Dana S. Lamb, who wrote nine books on trout and Atlantic salmon fishing, among them *On Trout Streams and Salmon Rivers*. Wall Street Journal reporter Alfred W. Miller, who wrote under the pen name Sparse Grey Hackle, penned the classic *Fishless Days, Angling Nights*. Advertising executive Leonard M. Wright, Jr. produced the semi-technical work *Fishing the Dry Fly as a Living Insect*, an awkward title for such an elegant book. Michigan state supreme court justice John Voelker, writing as Robert Traver, authored the delightful books *Trout Madness* and *Trout Magic*. Lastly, Nick Lyons not only turned out some fine work like *The Seasonable Angler*, he established the publishing house Lyons Press, which concentrated on angling titles.

Some of the books mentioned are out of print, but the miraculous age of the internet will help you find nearly any of the works by these authors at reasonable prices. And, by the way, all of them make fine gifts. 🐟

FLY TIER'S CORNER: B Smo's Grey Squirrel Jig Nymph

Fly & Recipe & Photo: Brian Smolinski



Hook: Hazard HH10 – Size 16

Bead: Hazard 3mm Slotted – Black Nickel

Thread: Uni 8/0 72 Denier – Rusty Dun

Tail: Veevus Iridescent Thread – Shrimp Pink

Rib: Veevus Iridescent Thread – Shrimp Pink

Body: SLF Squirrel Dub – Natural Gray

Thorax: Dubbing Mixture of 2 Parts Shrimp Pink Ice Dub to 1 Part Gray Squirrel Dub

- 1) Start thread on the hook and make several wraps behind the bead locking it into place.
- 2) Wrap halfway down the shank and tie in a piece of the iridescent thread so there is enough to make the tail and the rib.
- 3) Wrap back to the bend covering both halves of the iridescent thread.
- 4) Dub a tapered body all the way up to bead, then counter-wrap the rib forward and tie off behind the bead.
- 5) Dub the thorax mixture over the area where the rib is tied off making sure to bring it tight up against the bead.
- 6) Whip finish right on the edge of the bead and pull tight on the thread sucking it into the space between thorax and the bead.

I know, I know, another pink squirrel knock off. I have just been addicted to tying these tungsten head jig style nymphs lately. Then I was messing around with some different dubbing blends and came up with this gray/pink blend and it looked so nice I just had to do it! Then after having some of my regulars test this fly out for me (since I never seem to get out of the shop anymore), the verdict was I needed to add this fly to our arsenal.

– Brian Smolinski

Kiap-TU-Wish

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RipRap Contributors:

Jonathan Jacobs is a longtime chapter member and de facto, monthly columnist. He's also the guy who introduces everyone by name at chapter meetings.

Judy Lutter is a longtime chapter member whose late husband, Hap, started our chapter's spring appeal. Judy bikes and writes and angles and has often donated a gourmet lunch and fishing for the holiday banquet.

Skip James is a long-time chapter member and former editor of RipRap. Retired from his position as keyboardist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, he is currently the music director at Bethel Lutheran Church in Hudson, WI.

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



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Like us!

2017 Holiday Conservation Banquet



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

Our January chapter meeting will be on January 3 when Matt Mitro, WDNR's Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist, will speak about Wisconsin's Inland Trout Populations.