



## The Drift: Words from our President.

Shades of grey and brown. As I drive through Western Wisconsin at this time of year, that's all I see. Grey, leafless bushes along the roads and bare grey trees across the fields. Light brown corn stubble in the fields and light brown grass and weeds in the ditches. The ponds have a thin layer of grey ice on them, while the rushes and sedges surrounding them are all light brown, except for the dark brown cattail pods. Maybe the harvested corn and bean fields give farmers a sense of satisfaction, of a job well done and of crops harvested and safely stored away in their grain bins, but to me, the harvested fields look empty and bleak, as do the leafless woods and the frozen ponds beside them. There is a certain beauty to it all, but it's a subdued, somber beauty and it makes me think.

It makes me think by reminding me that it wasn't always so. Just last April we were clapping our hands together trying to stay warm and blend into the still grey and light brown surroundings as we snuck up on early-season brook trout on the South Fork. In May, there were bright, light-green leaf shoots, woodland wildflowers blooming, migrating birds flitting all around us and, best of all, blue wing olive hatches like clockwork on the Rush. June started well with bushes leafing out, birds nesting and both sulfurs and caddis flies being gratefully consumed on the Kinni. Then things got busy with summer activities, the weather warmed and I have no idea what happened in the woods or on the water in July and early August. Thank goodness for a big hopper hatch that started in July and continued into late August and September, and that brought the season to a strong close.

But that was then and this is now. The fields still look grey and brown and empty through my windshield. Thinking about this past spring and summer reminds me that we really do have a lot to be grateful for in the past year and specifically in Wisconsin. Maybe November really is a good time to pause and remember important people in our lives, like my dad (who loved the outdoors) and who passed away peacefully in July at the ripe old age of 92. Maybe November is also a good time to remember important places in our lives, like the over 13,000 miles of classified trout streams we have to enjoy in Wisconsin. I don't have any way of verifying this, but I recently heard a WDNR biologist share that we probably have more Class I trout water in Wisconsin now than at any other time since the 1850s. Now that's something to be grateful for!

{continued on page 2}

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



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**

Volume 12 | Issue 4  
December 2018

December 6, 2018

at the

The Lake Elmo Event Center  
3712 Layton Ave No  
Lake Elmo MN 55042

*Holiday  
Conservation  
Banquet*

### DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, December 14.
- Send info to: [manion.maria@gmail.com](mailto:manion.maria@gmail.com)

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement &  
Preservation through Research And Projects

{The Drift. . . from page 1}

We all know that trout streams in Wisconsin were severely degraded by early agricultural and logging practices in the state. To get Wisconsin trout streams back to where they are today has been a long, steady, concerted effort by those trout fishers, cooperative farmers and loggers and many others who, like my dad, have gone before us. Now it's our turn. It's up to us to protect what they've accomplished up to this point and to carry their coldwater conservation efforts forward. We can all do that in some way: by sharing the importance of our coldwater resources over coffee with friends; by attending our Annual Conservation Banquet in December; or by responding to Randy Arnold's calls for volunteer help on brush clearing days this winter. In whatever way you choose to respond, know that you will be in good company with many others, carrying the long, steady, worthwhile effort of coldwater conservation forward in the State of Wisconsin. – *Scott Wagner*

## Editor's Note & What Not

Before you read any further, go to the back pages of this newsletter and look at the pie chart summarizing all of the volunteer hours that our chapter accrued last year. It's the sum of time spent doing things like brushing on winter workdays, planning future restoration projects, teaching kids about what trout eat, writing for this newsletter, sitting behind a booth at fishing expos, writing grants for TIC equipment, and so much more.

After you've looked at that pie chart, continue reading the articles that illustrate the passion and appreciation

that people of all ages have for our coldwater resources.

Then get your tickets and come to the Holiday Conservation Banquet to celebrate with friends old and new. Yes, we need money to keep going and your spending it freely on raffle and auction items allows the work to continue; but the banquet is also about our community of people socializing, having fun, applauding chapter achievements, and recognizing the volunteers who have given freely of their time and effort. Hope to meet you there. – *Maria Manion*



photo courtesy of Tom Carlson

### Wild Tiger Trout:

This wild tiger trout was caught by Tom Carlson. The tiger trout is a sterile hybrid cross between a brown trout and brook trout. They're rare in the wild, appearing only in areas where brook and brown trout share spawning grounds.

### Silent Auction Teaser:

Each year, Kiap-TU-Wish member Sarah Sanford creates something unique for our holiday conservation banquet. One year it was a handbag made from license plates, one year it was a man's tie made from custom-designed fabric, one year it was a leather tooled reel case—the list goes on and on. This year she's made a lined, leather purse with brass fittings, interior pockets, and interchangeable straps for shoulder and cross-body wear. When completed, she mailed the purse to Jeff Kennedy, the artist behind the blog and book *Drawing Flies 365*, and asked him to paint something on it as a donation to Kiap-TU-Wish. He readily agreed and played off the wave-like shape by adding a rising brown trout. She fought the urge to keep it after seeing Jeff's painting, but it's already got a bid. Just a heads up.

## 2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Holiday Conservation Banquet**  
**December 6, 2018**  
*Lake Elmo Event Center, Lake Elmo, MN*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**January 9, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Kasey Yallaly: Online Stream*  
*Access Resources in WI & TU Youth Camp Presentations*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**January 2019 / Details TBA**
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**February 6, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Guide Carl Haensel: Inland Trout*  
*Fishing in Northern WI and MN*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**March 6, 2019 / 7pm**  
*WDNR Projects & Fish Survey Results*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo**  
**March 15-17, 2019**  
*Hamline University, St. Paul, MN*
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**March 2019 / Details TBA**
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**April 3, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Annual Fly Tying Night*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**May 1, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Chapter Social & Trip Planning Night*  
*Details TBA*
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**May 2019 / Details TBA**



Sarah Sanford photo

# Holiday Conservation Banquet Approaches!

**The Date:** Thursday, December 6th  
**The Time:** Check-in begins at 5:30  
**The Venue:** The Lake Elmo Event Center  
3712 Layton Ave No  
Lake Elmo MN 55042  
**The Price:** \$45 if you register ahead of time,  
\$50 at the door if you're not registered

Only a few  
days left to  
register!

## To Register By Phone:

Lunds Fly Shop (715/425-2415) or the Alwin residence (651/739-3150)

## To Register and Pay Online:

[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search for "Kiap-TU-Wish"

Those are the details, now here's the fun part. You don't have to sit at a table unless you want to. There will be seven food stations which belie the idea of appetizers. There will be a table serving rounds of beef with a creamy horseradish and spicy Dijon mustard. There will be a station serving garden-fresh julienned vegetables, fresh fruit and mini caprese kabobs. Another station will feature the famous Lake Elmo Inn smoked salmon served with cream cheese, capers, onions, chopped eggs and bagels. Yet another station will offer an international selection of cheese, including herbed, smoked, aged, soft and hard, and served with a selection of breads and crackers. There will be a station featuring crab cakes and cucumber slaw and a Thai chili sauce.

Another station will serve potstickers, a seasoned pork and vegetable dumpling pan fried with Teriyaki sauce. Finally, you will find a station with a delicious sweet potato tart in a flaky crust topped with a walnut chutney. Plus, you'll find a station serving fresh decaf coffee and ice water. Of course, the bar is open for your aperitif, cocktail and the appropriate food beverage whether beer or wine.

This truly is a party. You can buy a glass of wine, hob nob with friends, make some new friends, wander from one station to the next, buy a few raffle tickets, bid on some really nice swag in the silent auction, cruise by the bar for a refill, buy some cookies for dessert, increase your silent auction bid and remember...it's all for The Cause. The cause is continuing to fund our ever

more important coldwater conservation projects. Take a look at our work on Pine, the South Fork or the Trimbelle. That's what we do, Folks.

We have collected really nice tackle so far and expect to acquire more. We have a beautiful Dave Norling cane rod for which there are only 100 tickets available at a mere \$20. We have a super premium Cabela's cooler for which there are only 100 tickets available at a mere \$10. We have a stunning oil painting of Pine Creek by Joshua Cunningham for which there are only 50 tickets available at a mere \$20. The bucket raffles promise to be rewarding and the tables will groan under the weight of the silent auction items.

But tackle isn't all we're about. We like art work, books, jewelry and assorted bling, craft items and fly tying tools and materials. And we would like your material contributions to the silent auction. Please take them to Mend Provisions in Minneapolis, Bob Mitchell's in St. Paul, or Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls by Friday, November 30. That way we'll be able to sort and price them on Sunday, December 2. Thank you.

We always need some volunteers, so if you'd like to help with check-in, ticket selling, check-out or tear-down let us know: we are Deb and Mike Alwin, Allison Jacobs, Greg Dietl, Scott Wagner, Bob Diesch and Tom Schnadt.



## Raffle Tickets Available Now

1. Norling bamboo rod / \$20 each, 100 available
2. Cabela's 60-quart cooler / \$10 each, 100 available
3. Oil painting of Pine Creek by Joshua Cunningham / \$20 each, 50 available

Tickets can be purchased from Tom Schnadt via email or phone: [thschnad@hotmail.com](mailto:thschnad@hotmail.com) or 651-245-5163

The raffle winners will be drawn on December 6th, the night of the banquet, and you do not have to be present to win. So, buy your tickets—lots of them—now.

**Book Review I** *One of Skip's Loose Threads* by Layton James

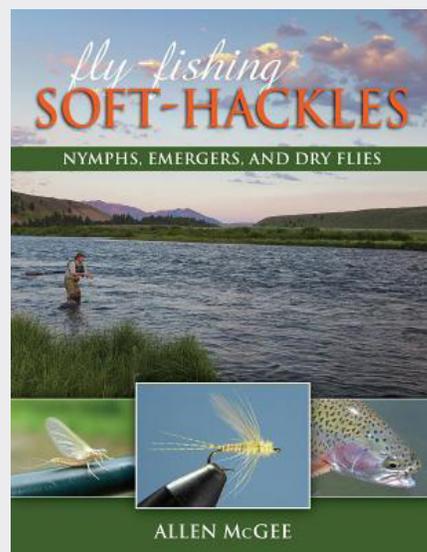
## Fly-Fishing/Soft Hackles/Nymphs, Emergers, and Dry Flies

This book would make a wonderful Christmas present! The recipient, cooped up inside because of the cold, snow and ice, would hunker down at the vise and begin to tie pattern after pattern, beautifully photographed on heavy, glossy paper, and then be seduced by the stunning scenes of famous trout streams at the conclusion of the book, from the Delaware and Firehole to an almost make-believe river in Ireland. In addition to hundreds of original fly patterns, there are useful charts of the sink rates of various sizes and materials of bead heads, hook shapes, and leader formulas. The latest synthetic and natural furs and feathers, flashy ribbing, colored monofilament, beads and chains are all digitally photographed in hi-def color. McGee is not just presenting soft hackles, but techniques for fishing them as well. I almost expected him to teach me how to cast with a fly rod!

So what's not to like in a book like this? I miss a sense of history. The index contains no mention of Pritt, whose Spiders were the original soft hackles, used in Scotland in the 19th century. Although McGee mentions the virtues of mixing colors and textures in materials, he gives no credit to the artist, John Atherton, whose book "The Fly and the Fish" established the principle of color break-up, and showed how fly tiers could learn from the French Impressionist painters. Likewise, the name of Sylvester

Nemes, who wrote four books on soft hackles, gets not a sentence. Although McGee prides himself as a member of The Brothers of the Flymph, there's no mention of Jim Leisenring, whose association with Pete Hidy, inventor of the flymph, made another book about soft hackles possible. The Wet Dry Fly, a soft hackle pattern championed by Gary Borger, is not mentioned either.

One of the great opportunities offered by our sport is the chance to explore, to invent, to try to understand how Nature works. I have been on many collecting trips to local trout streams, where I turned over rocks searching for Mayfly nymphs and Caddis larvae, and returned home to tie flies that matched them. I have an insect net that I use to collect winged insects, too. There's little required of the reader of McGee's book, except to follow the directions and patterns that he has provided. The author doesn't encourage experimentation, he simply wants to lay out everything he knows at once. I suppose there are trout fishers, probably young, relatively inexperienced, and eager to catch fish at all costs, that will hungrily gobble up the recipes he provides, but I'm afraid I'm not one of them. Allen McGee doesn't offer the final summing up of the fly fishing experience any more than Schwiebert's two volume "Trout" did. And I value that author's effort to catalog all the Mayflies in America in

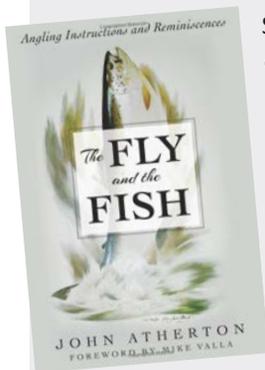


*Fly-Fishing/Soft Hackles/  
Nymphs, Emergers, and Dry Flies*  
by Allen McGee, Stackpole Books,  
2017, 268pp, \$29.95

"Matching the Hatch" complete with his own hand-colored drawings of each natural. That book came out in 1955, before genetic hackle, SLF, nylon thread, tempered hooks, crystal flash, etc.

My first fly tying book was the *Family Circle Guide to Trout Flies and How to Tie Them* by Jim Deren, proprietor of the Angler's Roost in New York City. It was published in 1954, when I was thirteen. Some years later, it was republished as the *Noll Guide to Trout Flies and How to Tie Them*. One rainy afternoon, I met Jim Deren at the Roost, and he autographed the book for me.

### More Recommendations



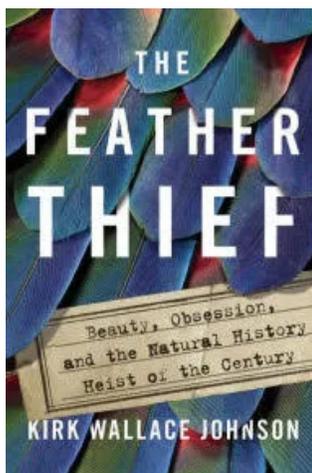
Some of Skip's favorite books on fly fishing for trout:

Sid Gordon's *How to Fish From Top to Bottom*

Vincent Marinaro's *A Modern Dry-Fly Code*

John Atherton's *The Fly and the Fish*

Any book by Dave Hughes



### Belle Rivière Book Club

The Kiap-TU-Wish women's book club held its first of four gatherings in mid-November. It was a small but lively group, so focused on their book that they, unknowingly, kept the wait staff at Urban Olive & Vine long past closing time.

The club's next meeting is January 17th, location TBA. The group will be discussing *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. If you know of any women who might be interested in joining the group, please contact Jennifer Medley at [jennifer@turningleafstudio.com](mailto:jennifer@turningleafstudio.com).

The more the merrier!

# Day Break at Pine Creek

*a painting and a reflection by Joshua Cunningham*

Joshua has donated this original oil painting to Kiap-TU-Wish for fundraising efforts at the Holiday Conservation Banquet.

**D**ay Break at Pine Creek captures a humid July morning many years ago, prior to its restoration. This painting was carefully created as a study as reference for a larger studio painting. Pine Creek is nestled in a valley not far from Maiden Rock, Wisconsin, along County Road AA. I came upon this view very early in my career as a landscape painter. The first time I saw it was back in the early spring of 2004. I thought it had potential, but the more 'senior' artist I was with at the time, thought we should pass, and we did. However, in the years that followed, I have painted in and around Pine Creek over a dozen times. It has come to be a touchstone of sorts for me, not only in its beauty and potential for paintings, but also as a reminder to listen to my own sense of what makes a painting.

In this painting, the valley is private and the creek is little more than a cut bank pasture creek. Now it is a stunning trout stream open to the public. In the spring of 2008, I remember seeing a mountain of rubble showing up in the pasture, and worried the valley was about to be developed. I was so wrong. It was about to be restored. I painted the area a great deal, and would 'look-in' on the progress. And now the place has come to mean much more and offer much more than the view depicted in this painting.

It is the fruit of a vision, education, fundraising, and I am guessing a lot of meetings. Now I have walked up the many forks of the creek to where it springs forth from the foot of the bluffs. I had a bold fawn walk along the creek with me, as I carried my easel, looking for the morning's painting. In the winter, I have followed the creek to where it joins the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin.

Variations of this wonderful experience have occurred again and again,



**"I feel so grateful for how much this beautiful landscape has not only been opened up, but also is being looked after."**

as I come across the little parking lots, and public land set asides during my searches for subject matter. I feel so grateful for how much this beautiful landscape has not only been opened up, but also is being looked after. I paint a tremendous amount along the Trimble River, and have taken a great deal of comfort in the continued and expanding stewardship I have seen expand as it makes its winding way down to the Mississippi River.

I am so excited to make this donation to Kiap-Tu-Wish to help continue your work. I have come across many Kiap-Tu-Wish projects, and every one of them has enriched my life and work. As a boy growing up in rural Minnesota, there was a creek not far from our home. My brothers and I found it to be a seemingly endless source of curiosity and connection to how our lake was linked to the wider world. In the spring, it felt as though we could have walked across the creek on the backs of fish as they went upstream to spawn.

The summers gave way to fishing and frog-catching along its banks. All those memories simmer at the surface while I paint places like Pine Creek and the Trimble. I hope you buy all the tickets and raise as much money as possible for future projects, education, and continued stewardship. ↩

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*Joshua Cunningham lives in St. Paul, with his wife Shannon, their children, Greta, William and a sheep dog, Louie. He is a member of the Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, Oil Painters of America, and the American Impressionist Society. His work has garnered national attention by Plein Air Magazine and Informed Collector. The University of St Thomas commissioned him to commemorate their 125th Anniversary, and the Science Museum of Minnesota selected him to be an artist in residence for the St Croix Watershed Research Station at the historic Pine Needles Cabin. Joshua joined Groveland Gallery of Minneapolis in 2017.*

*For more information about Joshua and his work, see [www.joshuacunningham.com](http://www.joshuacunningham.com).*

# Is the West the Best?

by Joseph Duncan, Contributing Editor



The American West draws anglers like moths to a lamp but the Driftless seems to fly under the radar a bit more.

When I started fly fishing a few years ago, I always dreamed of the wide-open, high mountain rivers in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the rest of the West. Then I started taking trips to Wyoming every year in July, and my dreams came true. I finally got to experience the stereotype of big fish eating outrageously large, high-floating, dry flies. These trips made me sit back and think about what I love so much about the West but also what I appreciate about the Minnesota and Wisconsin Driftless area.

First of all, a saying I heard at the TU youth camp rings true. "If you can catch a fish in the Driftless, you can catch a fish anywhere." In my experience, it seems that if you head west with your basic Driftless staples like pink squirrels, parachute adams, and some smaller terrestrials, you're probably going to catch fish. On the other hand, if a westerner comes to the Drift-

less, it's likely they'll find some smarter trout that don't want anything to do with their size 4 Chubby Chernobyl hopper except for maybe a couple

there are a couple of drawbacks, such as the slightly shortened fishing season because of snow. Here in Wisconsin, we have runoff for a couple of days,

**"These trips made me sit back and think about what I love so much about the West but also what I appreciate about the Minnesota and Wisconsin Driftless area."**

weeks out of the year. Though it may not seem like it when you have a good day, fly fishing the Driftless can be a serious challenge especially on more pressured waters. That brings me to the next point: with minimal effort, you can usually find yourself alone on the river out west. It's a great feeling when you can see for miles in either direction and spot only rugged mountains instead of other people. Here in the Driftless though, the fishing is often incredible but it's highly likely that you'll run into others on the river. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but there's something freeing about not having to worry about somebody cutting you off.

While the West seems like paradise

but many of the river valleys in the West can be unfishable for weeks to months in June and the greater part of July, depending on the year. Also, as the snow piles up, the majority of mountain streams become inaccessible, while here we have the blessing of paved and plowed roads to get us to the Kinni or the Rush in January. Last but not least, in Wisconsin we don't have to worry about Grizzly bears thinking we look like a nice snack. That is by far my least favorite part of Wyoming. Overall, I love the West and it's wild, high mountain rivers teeming with cutthroat trout, but I can't help but appreciate the fantastic Driftless fishing we have here almost year round.



# A New Fly Rod

by Perry Palin

Last year a wonderful fly rod came into my hands.

For each of a number of years Minneapolis rod maker Dave Norling has donated a bamboo rod for a fund-raiser raffle by Kiap-TU-Wish. The drawing is held at the annual Holiday Banquet. Two years ago I bought a ticket and did not win, and I was devastated. Last year I resolved to buy the winning ticket, and I did it.

The rod is a two-piece, two-tip, 7 ½ 5wt rod, with a ferrule plug, aluminum tube and cloth bag. It is a beautiful rod to see and to hold, and a delight to use. I wrote to Dave Sr. to ask for a line recommendation. He congratulated me on the win, and told me what line he likes on that rod. He said that the donated rods are based on the Paul Young Perfectionist taper, because he has never met a fisherman who disliked that rod.

Over the years I have owned between 80 and 100 fly rods. I don't have that many now. The early ones were fiberglass, and then graphite. I got my first bamboo rod in 1980, a Paul Young Midge. I later began to carve my own rods from wood in a quixotic effort to

teach myself about rod actions and to teach myself to cast better.

One afternoon when Jean Mitchell and I were the only ones in Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, we discussed the rods that a person would need if fishing only the trout streams in the Driftless Area and western Wisconsin. After turning over all considerations we agreed that a person could get by with as few as a dozen well-chosen rods. I'm a little above that number now, but I was always on the lookout for another good rod.

With the Norling rod, I may not need another. I fished the Norling rod about ten days this year. I used dries, wets, nymphs, and small streamers. The rod handled them all well, and handled well the fish that took the flies. I didn't catch a big fish on the Norling this year, nothing over 16 inches, but next year I think I will.

I plan to buy another raffle ticket this year, as a contribution to the chapter. I don't expect to have my ticket drawn two years in a row. Congratulations in advance to this year's winner. You will love your new Norling bamboo rod. 🐟



Dave Norling and his son Dave Jr., have been building finely crafted bamboo fly rods for over 15 years. To learn more about these beautiful rods, go to their website [davenorling.com](http://davenorling.com) or search "Dave Norling" on YouTube and you'll find a Minnesota Bound interview with Dave Sr.

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Raffle tickets for the Norling cane rod are \$20 apiece—only 100 are available—and can be purchased at the banquet. If you can't attend the banquet, you can still buy a ticket before then by contacting Tom Schnadt at [thschnad@hotmail.com](mailto:thschnad@hotmail.com) or 651-245-5163.



## Why bamboo?

Bamboo is warm in texture, appearance, feel and smell. This perhaps means more to us who are from Minnesota or the Northeast than others, but who wouldn't choose warmth over cold, feeling over object, journey over a quick destination?

*Photo and excerpt from [davenorling.com](http://davenorling.com)*

# Finishing strong By Jonathan Jacobs

My angling year is best summarized in these lyrics from the Grateful Dead's "Truckin":  
*What a long strange trip it's been.*

**“ Sure, the season had its high points. The week-long state park trip in southeast Minnesota was filled with fine camaraderie and blazing campfires.**

This year's Gathering of the Flambeauzeaus provided similar camaraderie. Drift boat fishing on the area's big rivers yielded one productive trip in the Ladysmith area. We fished a stretch of the Mississippi so lightly regarded that when Roy the Shuttle Guy said that he had a question for me and I said, "What's that?" he replied, "Why are you doing this?" Naturally, we tore it up that day. There was an earlier trip when my guide friend Bob invited his friend Scott and me on a "tune up" run prior to the start of his guiding season when we were shocked by the productivity of the fishing. Later, when I had the pleasure of showing Bob a stretch of the river new to him, every fish in the river seemed hungry. And I had some of the most pleasurable July and August small creek trout fishing I've had in a long while after I stumbled on the efficacy of ant patterns and the "Hippie Stomper."

**“ Our trip to southwest Montana was among the best road trips I've ever had.**

After getting settled in a friend's condo in Big Sky, we raced down the mountain to the Gallatin River Guides fly shop. While John bought his Montana license, Greg and I looked around. A staffer there asked where we intended to fish. When she heard my answer, she pursed her lips and shook her head slowly side to side. One of her

co-workers soon sidled over to reinforce the bad news; the fish had been pounded, the water had gone low and the hatches were long gone. Fortunately, the angling was better than predicted, but I think we'll all remember the scenery longer than we remember the fishing.

Our timing may have been off on the Montana trip, but weather and high water were the primary conspirators in a plot to wrap this season around the axle.

**“ On one of the few days in January that had an air temperature above the freezing mark, I attempted to make my way through deep snow to the river.**

I stepped off a roadway into the ditch, the snow gave way beneath me and I pitched forward, jamming my shoulder as I thrust my arm out to break my fall. Sore, but determined, I slogged through the snow to the river and caught, oh, a fish. One fish. The shoulder was sore for weeks.

On a late-winter day with the skies that threatened snow and the temperature in the mid-thirties, I risked getting stuck in the funny little parking lot just downstream from Liberty Road, expecting to find trout chasing early stoneflies. I huffed and puffed into my waders after layering up so that I looked like the Michelin Man only to find the river inexplicably high and the color of *café au lait*.

As I said, the state park week was terrific as a boys' gathering and daytime fishing with nymphs was decent to good, but the sulfur mayflies that are supposed to be one of the highlights of

this trip never appeared. The Yellow Sally stoneflies were mostly AWOL as well. We speculated that recent high water and soaring air temperatures had thrown the hatches off kilter. The same kind of weird weather and careening water levels threw the fishing on the Flambeau into a cocked hat. It's difficult to complain about good trout fishing, but the reason I spent so much time on little creeks in July and August is that the big rivers on which I spend most of high summer floating were out of their banks.

Water levels on the Mississippi were often, to say the least, not conducive to productive fishing, but even when the river was in good shape, things were odd. One week after Bob and I had a field day, at my urging, Greg accompanied me on that same stretch of river. Except for the carp that seemed to be everywhere, fish were nearly impossible to find.

**“ In early October a proposed steelhead trip to the South Shore became a reunion with old friends and an opportunity to meet new members of their clan while the river raged two miles to the west.**

I came home from that trip and planned to say goodbye to the inland trout season on October 15. Water levels in local trout streams were falling after an unseasonably strong storm had pummeled the area. I drove to my primary destination to find the river a little high and little off-color, but those factors coupled with an air temperature in the upper thirties made me think I ought to drive around and develop a new plan. I drove to a brook

A day for the ages: Tom Schnadt holding a large northern pike that he caught when fishing with Gabe Schubert.



trout creek. At least there the high waters had laid the tall grasses on the bank back sufficiently to allow some casting room.

“ But the day was sharp and bitter, and the highlight of that day may have been inadvertently chasing a pair of invading browns off a redd.

By now you are likely wondering how the title of this lament even vaguely relates to its content. Here's how: At last year's Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet, Tom Schnadt and I had teamed up to be the high bidders on a musky trip donated by Gabe Schubert. It looked as though scheduling difficulties, in tandem with my old nemesis, high water, might force us

to delay the trip into 2019, something none of us wanted. But on November 1 under bright skies, calm winds and manageable water levels, Tom and I climbed aboard Gabe's ClackaCraft and experienced one of the best days I've had in many seasons. We did not boat any large muskies, but Tom did roll a big boy and in an amazing moment that thrilled Gabe, we caught a double on muskies, the fish of a thousand supposed casts. We also caught several solid northern pike, fish that fought above their weight, invigorated by the cold water. What really made the day special, however, was Gabe's company. This young man is truly a student of the art of angling. He had an incredibly intimate knowledge of the water we fished and was one of the best oarsmen I've ever seen. His

knowledge extended to our quarry, knowledge that he freely shared with us as he explained the musky's life history, habitat preferences and pursuit habits. Gabe supplied the flies, works of art that came alive in the water and were, despite their substantial size, relatively easy to cast.

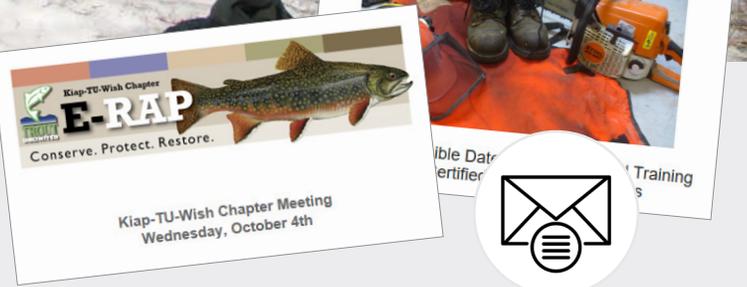
“ All in all, it was a day for the ages.

Now you have a chance to finish strong as well. Gabe has donated a trip for auction at this year's banquet, too. I challenge you here and now to come to the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center on December 6 and outbid Tom and me for the pleasure of a day on the water with Gabe. See you there.





Winter workdays have begun. Volunteers clocked a lot of hours last year. See below. Let's try for even more in 2019!



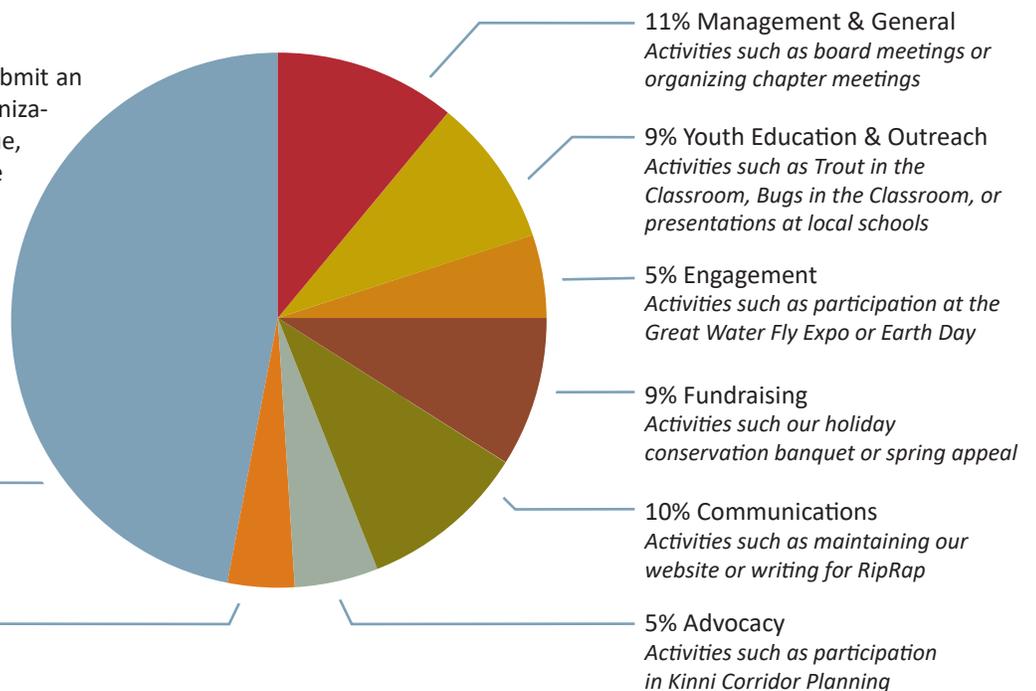
## Kiap-TU-Wish Email List

To receive general announcements or information about upcoming workdays on stream restoration projects, send your name and email address to Randy Arnold, our chapter's volunteer coordinator: [randyca999@gmail.com](mailto:randyca999@gmail.com)

## 2018 Volunteer Hours

Each year our chapter is required to submit an annual report to the national TU organization. The report outlines our revenue, expenses, assets, and more. One of the items in the report is a summary of our volunteer hours. In 2018, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers logged a total of 5,056 hours. Here's the breakdown.

————— Thank you volunteers!



# FLY TIER'S CORNER: Chocolate Emerger

Fly & Recipe by Brian Smolinski



**Hook:** Hazard HH9 Barbless Larvae Hook - #18

**Thread:** Uni 8/0 72D – Dark Brown

**Tail:** Antron Yarn – Dark Brown

**Rib:** Small Ultra Wire – Copper

**Wing:** 2mm Sheet Foam – White

**Thorax:** SLF Squirrel Dub – Dark Brown

## Tying instructions:

- 1) Start thread on the hook and tie in the wire rib.
- 2) Wrap over the wire to about halfway down the bend of the hook and wrap back up making sure to leave plenty of gap behind the eye.
- 3) Tie in 6-8 strands of Antron and wrap down making sure to evenly cover the entire hook. Wrap back up to a point that's about even with the hook point.
- 4) Wrap the wire toward the eye in the same direction as you made your thread wraps. Wrap the wire in open, even turns creating the rib of the fly.
- 5) Tie off at the thorax point and make a single wrap of dubbed thread to create a small dubbing bump at the base of thorax.
- 6) Tie in a 2mm-wide strip of the 2mm sheet foam at the thorax point and trim excess.
- 7) Wrap over the tie-in point of the foam with more dubbing and build up enough to create a desired thorax. Whip finish the thread in front of it to create a thread head.

## Kiap-TU-Wish

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*Perry Palin is a Kiap-TU-Wish board member and proud owner of a Dave Norling cane rod.*



You can support Kiap-TU-Wish when you shop online. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), choose Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited and for every online purchase, Amazon will donate to the chapter.

Questions? Stop in at Lund's Fly Shop or send an email: [brian@lundsflyshop.com](mailto:brian@lundsflyshop.com)



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

Our next, regular chapter meeting will be held on January 9, 2019.

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*  
*Holiday Conservation Banquet*