



The Drift: Words from our President.

Reader Alert! My mind is “drifting” all over the place as I attempt to write the Drift this evening. A damp, grey weekend, being in between book club books and not fishing for over a month! have all combined to produce a writing state I am calling “Uninspired.” So, I went to my fishing journal to find Inspiration.

Before you start dreaming of a pristine, well-organized, faithfully kept fishing journal, tastefully decorated with artsy sketches of streamside flora and fauna, let me introduce you to my fishing journal. I started it in 2012 to record water temperatures, weather conditions, numbers of fish caught, flies that caught said numbers of fish and other notes that I felt would be appropriate for an aspiring fly angler. Things didn’t end up quite where they began. I quickly discovered that recording water temperatures and weather conditions were a lot easier than catching trout. Instead of catching trout, I recorded things like how many flies I lost, or how much tippet I had gone through. It was probably a good thing that early on I had decided my journal would record facts and not feelings. Otherwise, the feelings expressed in my first few years of fly angling would have needed an expanded version of the English language to express properly and probably would have caused a Marine Corps Drill Sergeant to blush. Instead of catching fish, I recorded the different spring wild flowers I had seen and the variety of migrating warblers I had encountered. One time, I waded underneath a willow bush that overhung a stream I was fishing in and watched a whole flock of warblers work their way through the bushes upstream. The warblers went right through the bush I was hiding under! I noticed that raccoons, deer and foxes didn’t seem as scared of me when I was in the middle of the stream, half submerged in my waders. I wanted to record caught fish in my journal so badly, that I started recording refusals and misses with as much rigor and detail as I would have recorded caught fish had I caught them.

Then I started meeting people on the stream. Trout anglers, of all types, and some of the nicest people I had met anywhere. They were from all walks of life, all ages, occupations and, I’m sure, of all political parties and religious beliefs. The one thing they all had in common was a great love, almost a reverence, for the outdoors and the streams they fished. They noticed the spring wildflowers and migrating warblers, too. They lost flies in trees and bushes, too. They didn’t all catch fish every time they went out and the word, skunked, appeared in their journals, too. (Maybe just not as often as it appeared in mine.). They didn’t have it all figured out, but they loved the outdoors, they loved angling for trout, and they made it OK for me

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The **KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER’s**
almost monthly publication



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 13 | Issue 4
December 2019

December 5, 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 20.**
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects



**Thursday,
December
5**

Holiday Conservation Banquet

KIAP-TU-WISH BANQUET NEAR!

HIGHLIGHT OF THE SOCIAL SEASON!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE LOOMS!

Yes Dearies, it's that time of year. The leaves are down, we've had our first snowfall and the annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet is on the horizon. This year's gala is on Thursday, December 5th. Once again, the venue is the esteemed Lake Elmo Event Center, 3712 Layton Avenue, Lake Elmo MN. The price is \$49 and the registration deadline is Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 PM, but registration this year is limited to 125 so register early. Check-in and happy hour are at 5:30 and dinner will be served around 7:00.

Be prepared to have a good time. The dinner choices are: 1. pork chateaubriand with caramelized onions, an apple bourbon pecan glaze and rosemary roasted baby red potatoes, 2. braised short ribs on a bed of soft polenta, 3. salmon ravigote with fresh herbs and shallots and Minnesota wild rice. All dinners will be accompanied by a festival salad and a vegetable medley. And, just like last year, there is no program other than some chapter awards for our outstanding volunteers. Just like Vegas, you'll be able to spend more time at the tables! Order another glass of wine and peruse the swag: art works, jewelry, tackle, crafts, pottery, books, fly tying folderol and more! Visualize yourself winning one of our exclusive guides fishing trips. Buy some cookies for dessert.

And tables we will have. Over the years the silent auction has been the backbone of our banquet fundraising and we fully expect that to be the case this year as well. In order to achieve that we're eagerly anticipating your donations of books, art, crafts, gently used tackle and especially fly tying tools and materials. Oh, and we are particularly hoping for more gear for our female guests as well as some bling. And did I mention our raffles? The hard working gents who run the Banquet Committee have gone out of their way to increase the depth and breadth of our raffles and last year those raffles made up more than half of our total sales, bespeaking their popularity. Take a chance on a beautiful cane rod made by the Norlings, Dave Sr and Dave Jr. Cripes, take two chances; the rod is that good. Or buy a couple of tickets for the practically bullet proof cooler from Cabela's or the impossibly beautiful painting of Pine Creek by Joshua Cunningham.

If you have items to donate they may be dropped off at Lund's

WHEN: Thursday, December 5, 2019
5:30pm Social Hour
7:00pm Plated Dinner & Chapter Announcements
Raffle drawings and final bidding after dinner

WHERE: Lake Elmo Event Center
3712 Layton Ave, Lake Elmo MN 55042

MENU: **Festival Salad:** pears, apples, oranges, dried cranberries, pecans, and gorgonzola on mixed greens with a champagne vinaigrette

Entrée Choices:

1. **Pork chateaubriand** (sliced Calgary pork tenderloin) on a bed of caramelized onions topped with an apple bourbon pecan glaze, served with rosemary roasted baby red potatoes
2. **Braised short ribs** on a bed of soft polenta
3. **Salmon ravigote** with fresh herbs and shallots, and served with Minnesota wild rice

All entrées also include a fresh vegetable medley.

PRICE: \$49 per person

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, December 2, 6:00 PM

Register and pre-pay online:
www.eventbrite.com & search "Kiap-TU-Wish" or type in this long link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-kiap-tu-wish-holiday-conservation-banquet-tickets-77738537057>

Register by phone and pay at the banquet:

Alwin Residence: 651-739-3150

**Register early!
We can ONLY
accommodate 125
celebrants.**

Fly Shop in River Falls, Mend Provisions in Minneapolis, and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in St. Paul. Please help us; our grant writers leverage the proceeds from the banquet into the very significant projects we've completed on western Wisconsin trout streams. This is very important work.

To register for the banquet you may go on-line at www.eventbrite.com and then search for "Kiap-TU-Wish." To register by phone call the Alwin residence at **651-739-3150**.

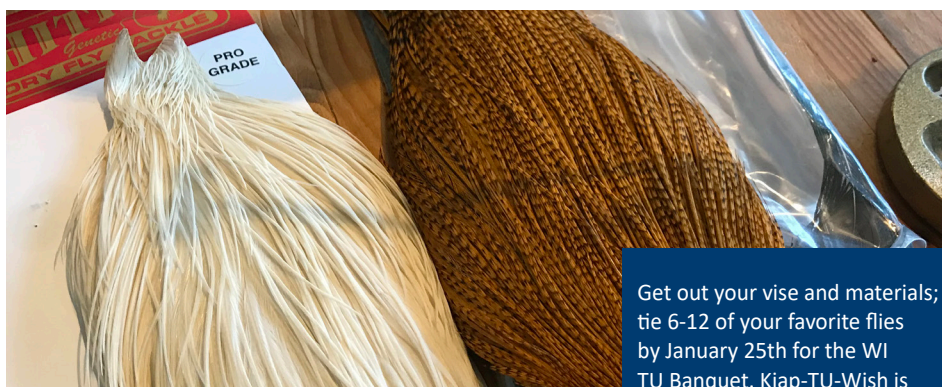
{The Drift. . . from page 1}

to be out there losing flies, counting refusals, trying to figure out how on earth to catch fish, because that was exactly what they were doing, too.

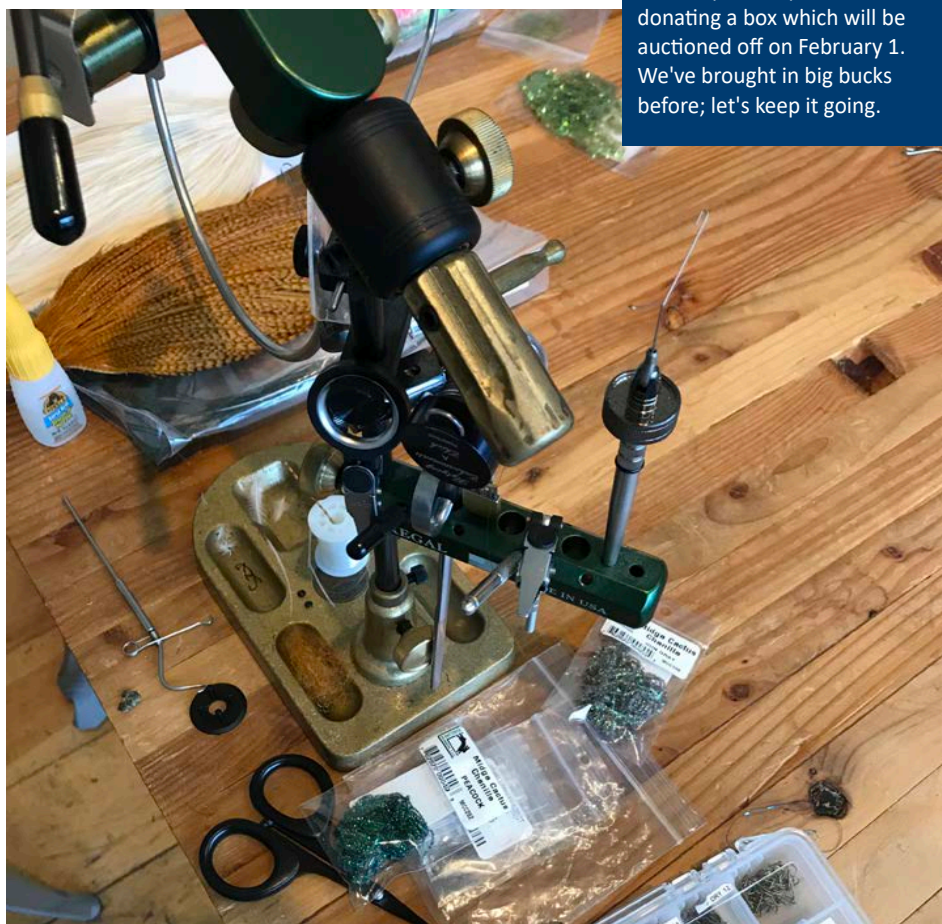
These people didn't just make me feel OK with where I was at in my angling journey; they enriched my life. They have become acquaintances, mentors and fellow conservation volunteers. A few have become close friends. Which brings my "drifting" to a happy end. This Thanksgiving, one of the things I am most grateful for is all of the farmers, land owners, conservation volunteers, trout anglers and just plain nice people, who have become a part of my life through fly angling. Thank you. Thank you all. — Scott Wagner

Calling All Fly Tyers!!!

Wisconsin TU has requested that our chapter provide a fly box of flies for hatches specific to our area (yes, the pink squirrel counts as a hatch). This fly box will be auctioned off at the state banquet on February 1st. We would ask that you provide 6-12 flies of your favorite pattern(s) by January 25th. Please contact the "Fly Wrangler," Greg Olson, via email: driftless23@gmail.com, if interested. Your help and flies are much appreciated!



Get out your vise and materials; tie 6-12 of your favorite flies by January 25th for the WI TU Banquet. Kiap-TU-Wish is donating a box which will be auctioned off on February 1. We've brought in big bucks before; let's keep it going.



2019-2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Holiday Conservation Banquet**
December 5, 2019
Lake Elmo Inn Event Center
Lake Elmo, MN
- **Chapter Meeting**
January 8, 2020 / 7pm
Erik Helm, Classical Driftless Fly Angler
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Wisconsin TU Banquet**
February 1, 2020
4:30pm Doors Open
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Award
Oshkosh, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
February 5, 2020 / 7pm
WIDNR Presentation on Trout
Management Plan
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
March 4, 2020 / 7pm
Dick Frantes Open Fly Tying Night for
Chapter Members
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo**
March 20-22, 2020
Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
- **Chapter Meeting**
April 8, 2020 / 7pm
Kiap-TU-Wish Business Meeting &
Trout Camp Presentations by
Camp Attendees
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
May 6, 2020 / 7pm
WIDNR presentation on project work
& fish surveys
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI



You can support Kiap-TU-Wish when you shop online. Go to smile.amazon.com, choose Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited and for every online purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchase price to the chapter. Every penny helps.

Conservation Banquet Raffles



Cabela's Polar Cap Equalizer Cooler

60 QT, 7 days of ice retention,
bear proof, air tight, rope handles,
integrated bottle opener &
glow in the dark tracker

100 tickets at \$10 each
Retail Value: \$400



Norling Bamboo Rod

5-wt, 7'-6" rod with two tips, agate guides, rod
sock & brushed aluminum travel tube with brass
cap by renowned rod makers Dave Norling Sr. &
Dave Norling Jr.

100 tickets at \$20 each
Retail Value: \$1800

Kiap-TU-Wish is raffling off three items at this year's Conservation Banquet on December 5. Raffle tickets for the items can be purchased in advance and attendance at the banquet is not required to win.

To buy tickets, contact **Tom Schnadt: 651-245-5163 / thschnad@hotmail.com**.

Creek Song

An original oil painting by award-winning artist,
Joshua Cunningham captures the beauty of Pine
Creek. 16"x12". Oil on linen

100 tickets at \$10 each
Retail Value: \$1100

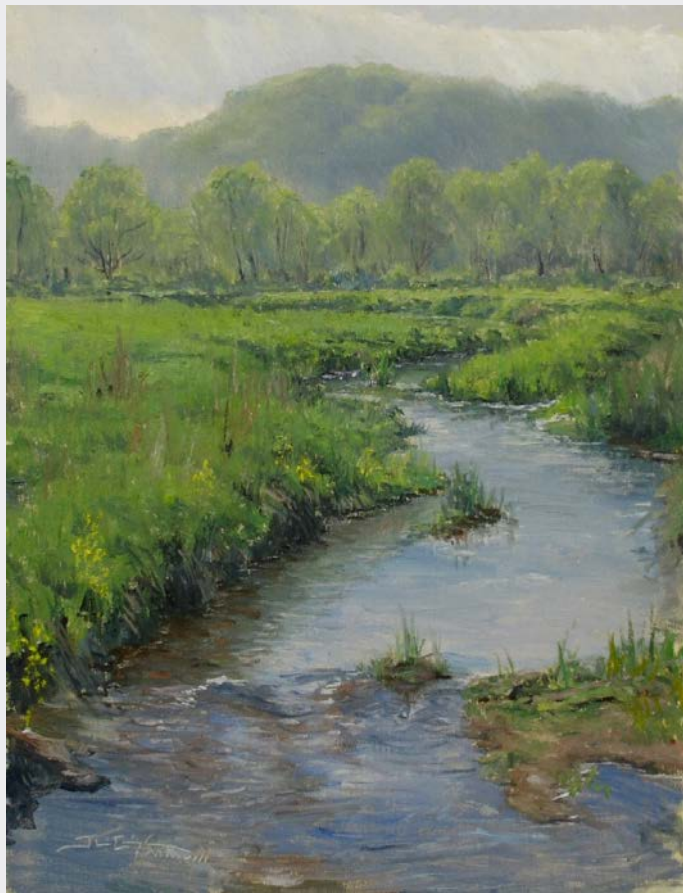
Creek Song a painting and a reflection by Joshua Cunningham

"Creek Song" captures a May morning back in 2008. This painting was created on location, en plein air, along Pine Creek, nestled in a valley not far from Maiden Rock, Wisconsin, along County Road AA. Last year I donated a painting from the same spot, but that piece was painted in the thick of summer. Each season and everyday offers its own light. I imagine, when you are out walking a bank and wading across a river, the character of the day weighs heavily on your experience.

This bright spring day was almost unreal. The rain moved on before the dawn, and the rising sun was coming in strong. New leaves let in light, stirring the place. The young greens and fresh flowers challenged the lively pigments in my paint box. The light, the air, and the verdant spring come together making a vivid morning.

Just beyond the edge of this painting is a mountain of stone waiting to rebuild the banks and future waterfalls of a soon to be restored creek. It was the first of many similar projects that I have come across, criss-crossing the valleys of western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. A decade later, it is a veritable garden of eden. The variety of flowers along the banks this summer was so rich and varied that I left my painting gear in the car and just walked the bank thinking about how this project took root over ten years ago.

After exploring and painting countless creeks and valleys for 15 years, projects like Pine Creek mean a great deal to me. I am pleased to donate another painting to support Kiap-Tu-Wish. I enjoyed meeting many of you at last year's annual conservation banquet, and am looking forward to joining you again. This is a unique opportunity to acquire an original oil painting while supporting the critical work of your organization.



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. See Joshua's website joshuacunningham.com for more information about Joshua and his work—or visit with him at the banquet on December 5th.

From the Field

Service Learning Project: We held our second workday on November 16th at the Oscar Lee easement on the upper Kinni doing preparation work for a Greenwood Elementary 4th grade service learning project. Students will be helping out with a brushing project by dragging, stacking and burning the slash from buckthorn and box elder trees which we have cut. Eight volunteers turned out on November 14th and another eight volunteers turned out on November 16th. Those who have helped with this project include Dave Gregg, Dan Wilcox, John Skelton, Tom Anderson, Jim Tatzel, Dennis Anderson, Matt & Rown Janquart, Judie Babcock, Ed Constantini, and Dustin Wing. Thanks go out to them for their dedication and help.

The actual student workday will be in early December or January when the 66 kids will take an afternoon off from their regular classes. Twenty parent chaperones and the fourth-grade teachers led by Steve Papp—who was the driving force behind making this event happen—will accompany the kids.

Kiap volunteers will be needed on the day of the actual event to supervise the work of this group. A notice seeking volunteers will go out via MailChimp. Because all of the trees and brush have been cut ahead of time, I am hopeful that we can stage the event without the need for dangerous chainsaws or other power equipment around the students.

Kasey Yallaly is also planning to participate in this event and talk about the importance of maintaining a healthy riparian corridor. I am hoping that the event can conclude with the students participating in roasting some hot dogs and sharing some hot cocoa and cookies around the bonfire before heading back to school.

I will hold subsequent Kiap workdays at the site to burn up any of the brush which the students are not able to handle during the event.

Plum Creek: Look for work to begin on Plum Creek again in early December as Nate Anderson is hopeful that he can complete the restoration on the remainder

of the Von Holtum easement this coming summer rather than stretching the project out over a third year. Several of us from the chapter including Scott Wagner, Loren Haas and myself will be attending a meeting with the WIDNR at their Baldwin office on December 10th to hammer out a plan for the Chapter's role in the long-term maintenance of restoration sites.

Watch for upcoming emails!

— Randy Arnold



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



Randy Arnold photo

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers helped prep the Oscar Lee site on the upper Kinni for the Greenwood Elementary Service Day.

Still Looking for the Next RipRap Editor



My desk at home where RipRap comes together, and one of the cubbies filled with fishing-related debris including a reel that my neighbor found near Minnehaha Falls and a Trico spinner recipe from Skip James.



I should be writing about the upcoming conservation banquet—tell you how hard the banquet committee works to organize it, how it's a chance to see old friends and make new ones, how it's a fundraiser but also a celebration of all the Chapter and its volunteers have accomplished—but I'm distracted. Read the other pages in this newsletter to learn about the happenings; I've got the hard news.

We've been on the lookout for the next newsletter editor. Sadly, we have no leads. The bottom line is that if the Chapter doesn't have a new editor lined up by the end of February, the last issue of RipRap in its current form will be the May 2020 issue. The chapter board does not yet know what format, if any, the newsletter will take; that's something we'll resolve in March should no

one volunteer.

So in case you've been mulling it around but haven't yet contacted anyone, I'll tell you what happens each month when putting this together, and hope it will spur you on.

RipRap is the labor of many people, so you wouldn't be alone should you choose to give it a go. I'd finish up the year and show you the ropes along the way. I would always be around to support you. So, the gist of it:

Tools: I use Adobe InDesign (and some Photoshop and Illustrator). I have a template, of sorts, so there's less time spent arranging content. Former editors have used other programs.

Timeline: The newsletter is assembled three weeks before the chapter meeting. I send an email notice to a RipRap email list—board members, regular contributors,

proofreaders, the printer, and stamper/sealers—a week before the Friday newsletter deadline. People are fantastic about sending info on time.

Assembly: Typically, by Saturday morning, all the content is in my inbox and I start assembling. I insert all the pieces to see what I have and how much editing of content or curating of photos is required. A little graphic know-how helps, but there are tricks to learn that make it easier.

Content: The president supplies a column each month—the Drift. The board and other volunteers also supply updates and news. The board will help get you that content. The stories and other material comes from board suggestions or from various people I've met and asked if they would write for the newsletter.

Time? It takes some coordination time—emailing each week and the like—but the majority of work happens over two days. I start on Saturday and ideally, by the end of Sunday, the draft is sent to the proofreaders. They alert me to screw-ups and I fix them Monday evening before sending the final copy to the RipRap list and printer. I also send the monthly mailing list, which any board member can take care of, so no worries there. After that, coordination of the printing and mailing happens without me. The stampers/senders take over and it shows up in our mailboxes a week or so later.

So that's how I do it, but my method is not the definitive one. You, the next editor, should feel free to edit and compile the newsletter as best works for you. RipRap has been an extension of our chapter community and whether it's in black and white or color, whether it's produced with a suite of Adobe products or a basic word processing program, whether it has lots of photos or none, it still communicates our volunteer efforts and common interest in coldwater conservation. There is no right or wrong way to be the RipRap editor. I hope you'll consider it and help keep our newsletter tradition alive.

Please give me a call if you might be interested. I won't twist your arm, but will happily answer any questions. 612-325-1005 or manion.maria@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at the banquet!

— Maria Manion

2020 Wisconsin TU Banquet on February 1, 2020

As most know, our annual banquet is the State Council's largest fundraiser, and is incredibly important to our organization. The funds we raise at this event helps make Wisconsin TU's mission possible, and helps our streams, our stream access, our work with kids, and our work with United States Military Veterans.

This year's event will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center, at 1 North Main Street, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

A block of rooms is available. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at 855-230-1900, or 920-230-1900.

The doors will open at 4:30 and the cash bar will be flowing by 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and awards at 7:30 p.m. An incredible raffle with over fifteen-thousand

dollars worth of prizes will be held during the event, with live auction fishing trips, silent auctions, and bucket raffles!

Tickets (\$35 ea.) may be purchased online at wiscotu.brownpapertickets.com, or RSVP the names of the attendees to jkuhr101@gmail.com and make arrangements to pay at the door.

So please come on out, support Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, and make our incredible mission possible.

Thank you for all that you do for Wisconsin TU.

— Scott Allen, 2020 WITU Banquet Chair

TAKE NOTE: Wisconsin TU Banquet tickets are paperless this year. See the announcement for info on how to get yours.

A Summer Internship

By Judy Mahle Lutter

Bethany Olson had a unique and special summer as part of the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program which provided an internship for her to work with the WIDNR.

Bethany can't remember when she started fishing with her dad and other family members but fly fishing has been part of her life for a long time. She says she still loves to go out with her family because it gives them time to be together doing something they all enjoy.

Bethany is from Lakeland, Minnesota where she just graduated from high school in the spring of 2019. She is currently a freshman at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where she is majoring in conservation law. In addition to her studies, Bethany also runs cross country and track which is something she loves.

Bethany thinks her dad, Greg, longtime member, board member, and volunteer for Kiap-TU-Wish, heard Kasey Yallaly—our region's fisheries biologist with the WIDNR—give a presentation and asked if there were volunteer opportunities for young people. That is how Bethany learned about the 8-week internship which is open to high school students from ages 15 to 18. At the completion of the program, the student selected receives \$4,000 to be used as a scholarship.

During the summer Bethany worked with Kasey every day. Kasey decided on suitable projects and became a great mentor for Bethany.

One of the projects where she worked with technicians as well was netting sturgeon and giving them tags. Some of these sturgeon had been tagged earlier so they could get details about the size of the population, health, and age. Another project was catching catfish on the bottom of the Red Cedar River. Bethany said "handling the catfish was interesting because they were so big and blubbery." She learned several techniques for sampling fish including hoop nets and electrofishing. Over the course of the summer, the projects took her to about 70 different streams and rivers, including the Tiffany, Otter, Trimble, Kinni, Willow, and Rush. They were electro-shocking both



photo by Barb Scott

Bethany Olson (left) and Kasey Yallaly (right) measuring brook trout while electrofishing.

"I would recommend this program to anyone who loves to be outside and wants a rewarding summer job with lots of variety. I met a lot of people this summer and made some good connections that could help me in the future."

brook and brown trout. Bethany says it was fun to learn more about the management side. In several streams, Kasey wanted to keep the browns out to protect the brook trout. It was a great way to learn about habitats and how to protect them.

Another project that offered a different perspective on fly fishing was working with Kasey on habitat restoration projects. Bethany said it was very interesting to learn that a good share of Kasey's time was involved meeting with landowners to try to get easements and otherwise promote the health of the streams and rivers.

I remarked that, as a much older woman, many opportunities had been limited by my gender and that I was encouraged to know that her mentor was a woman. Bethany said she loved it when her team of four would include only women trained in all aspects of what needed to be done. "There isn't anything we did this summer that

couldn't be done by a woman. There has definitely been an increase in the number of women having careers in natural resources, but I think there could still be more encouragement for girls to feel confident and capable to get jobs as biologists or other natural resource professions," says Bethany. She would encourage other girls and women to expand their horizons.

Since this program is specifically for people of high school age, Bethany is not eligible for another year. There are opportunities for what is called "limited-term employment" over the summer which she might pursue.

"I would recommend this program to anyone who loves to be outside and wants a rewarding summer job with lots of variety. I met a lot of people this summer and made some good connections that could help me in the future." 🐟

Adventures

By Jonathan Jacobs

I've known adventures, seen places you people will never see, I've been Offworld and back... frontiers! I've stood on the back deck of a blinker bound for the Plutonium Camps with sweat in my eyes watching stars fight on the shoulder of Orion... I've felt wind in my hair, riding test boats off the black galaxies and seen an attack fleet burn like a match and disappear. I've seen it, felt it...

—from a draft of the screenplay for the movie “Blade Runner”

The closest I've come to being Offworld was probably sometime back in the early seventies when I interacted with an excess of Jim Beam, but here on Earth I've always valued adventure, even if it's of a kind that pales in comparison to science fiction. The effective end of the fishing season at the end of October and the effects of an infirm hip have put me in a reflective mood about the places I've been, the things I've done and the wonderful people I've met along the way. Beginning in 1982, I kept journals of my angling activities. Looking through them in the last few days, I've come to regret that I abandoned the practice, with but a few false starts since, in 2012. I regret it because it meant the end of a record of remarkable series of discoveries, experiences and interactions with people who became close friends. Francis Mallman, the Argentine celebrity chef, has written that it's his belief “that life's richest moments occur at the intersection of home, travel, love, taste and wilderness, even at the edge of uncertainty.” I am in hearty agreement.

The journals tell me stories of waters fished: Virtually all the trout streams in the Northern Driftless, a substantial number in Southwest Wisconsin, Southeast Minnesota and Northeast Iowa. From there the list spirals out to rivers further away in Wisconsin—the Brill, the Yellow, the Namekagon, the Brule, the East Fork of the Iron, the Peshtigo, among others. Then there are the storied rivers of the Black Hills and the mountain West—the South Platte, Madison, Big Horn, Yellowstone, Missouri and Firehole. And I can't move on without mentioning the magnificent warmwater rivers of our region—the Mississippi, St. Croix, Chippewa and Flambeau, among others. I thrill at the mention of these names.



"Beginning in 1982, I kept journals of my angling activities. Looking through them in the last few days, I've come to regret that I abandoned the practice, with but a few false starts since, in 2012. I regret it because it meant the end of a record of remarkable series of discoveries, experiences and interactions with people who became close friends."

Then there are the friendships forged on rivers. Space allotment in this newsletter precludes an exhaustive list of the many fine people who, because of fly fishing, I am proud to call friends, but here are a few of them, in no particular order:

I think first of the late Craig Mason. Craig was the first angling friend I made after I moved to Wisconsin in 1985. On September 30, 1988, we began what became a semi-annual event where we used two vehicles, parking one at the upper end of the day's fishing then driving down to the starting point. This was frequently a bridge-

to-bridge affair, but the first trip began by descending a cliff on the lower Kinnickinnic River, a descent that Craig had described to me as “kind of dangerous.” Fortunately for a clumsy acrophobe like me, it really required only a reasonable attention to what one was doing. We hiked and fished for at least ten hours that day before finishing up at “The Farm,” as we called it, land to which the property owner had graciously granted us access. And it was Craig, who, in 2001, after years of coaxing, finally convinced me to try Fall steelheading on the Bois Brule, something we did annually until I saw him

catch what proved to be his last steelhead in the fall of 2013.

There's John Hanson, a co-worker who became a friend. Let me be blunt: Just as I've never tried to make enemies at work, I've never put in any real effort at making friends there, either, but John is a relentlessly cheery and decent fellow. He expressed an interest in trying fly fishing the day he discovered that I was a clumsy practitioner of the sport. My journals tell me that I first took him to

of western Wisconsin on July 20, 1997 in my vintage Cadillac sedan, Cruella deVille. That day I had the most interesting experience of watching him step into McCann Creek and disappear before bobbing up and exclaiming, "That's cold!" He had stepped off a boom cover on the deep side of the creek. Years later it was my honor to witness a more propitious moment in his life when I served as his best man at his wedding to his lovely wife Deb.

craft downstream, but when we came to a bridge at the approximate mid-point of our planned journey, common sense overtook us and we aborted the trip and sought a ride back to Paul's pickup. Subsequent trips to southwest Wisconsin, the Menominee, Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Montana have gone better — much better.

The thing is, I didn't know how any of these things were going to work out at their outset. Would the rivers hold fish? Would they be dangerous? Boring? Would the people be boon companions or baboon-like companions? It all worked out better than I ever could have planned it.

"Skimming through my journals also led to a rediscovery of sorts, one that I think points out the value of going out there and absorbing and interpreting what you see and feel."



the Kinnickinnic River on May 27, 1998. Twenty-one years later, John was in the back of a drift boat as I rowed a drift boat on the Madison River.

I know Greg Dietl because he was at one time the president of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, but we really hadn't interacted much socially until I invited him on a trip in my drift boat on August 26, 2006 after he did an enormous favor for me. Thirteen years later Greg was in the front of that drift boat on the Madison this summer.

Michael Alwin and I had been friends for some time when I took him on a trout tour

I didn't do enough research to find out whether or not July 26, 2006 was the first time I fished with Paul Wiemerslage, but our trip that day to a stretch of the Chippewa above Bruce, Wisconsin was certainly a memorable time. We used the little V-hull boat that Paul had owned since childhood. The Chip was low that day and the aluminum skin of the boat more than once stuck fast to the river's rocky bottom, but our real enemies that day were air temperatures in the nineties coupled with extraordinarily stiff winds blowing directly upstream. Paul did his best to push the little

Post Script: Skimming through my journals also led to a rediscovery of sorts, one that I think points out the value of going out there and absorbing and interpreting what you see and feel. Here's what I wrote after angling on September 24, 1998:

The setting was spectacular, with high limestone bluffs visible downstream and wooded hillsides just beginning to show fall color. Sturdy cattle meandered contentedly through the pasture. The sun's warmth soaked into my tired shoulders while a pleasant coolness wafted out the shade of riverside groves. The river flowed glass clear over a long stretch of bouncing ripples. A huge, watercress-choked spring shone like an emerald on the far bank. A flock of wild turkeys moved stealthily through the trees. Even now I can't explain the feeling that came over me then. It wasn't déjà vu and it wasn't simply an acute case of melancholy, but standing there in that pastoral setting, I began to think of my father. That isn't uncommon; not a day goes by without me wishing that I could tell him something, but this was somehow different. Maybe I thought that this was a place of which he would have heartily approved. Maybe I was just a little sad because I couldn't tell him about it. But somehow, this seemed like a place where he and I had been together. I understood on an intellectual level that this was not so, but on a purely emotional level, I liked the thought and felt better for having thought it. 🐸



Throughout its history, our nation has been blessed with an extraordinary band of men and women who have sacrificed so much for the people of our nation. Regardless of the situation, regardless of the danger, these brave individuals have answered the call to protect our liberties and freedoms. Trout Unlimited is appreciative of their sacrifices and their service. In ever-growing numbers, our members are stepping up to provide healing, rehabilitation, hope and community to all veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

The Veterans Service Partnership (VSP) is a nationwide effort initiated by Trout Unlimited in 2011 to bring the healing power of water to those who have served our nation so boldly. The goal of VSP is to get TU chapters and members thinking about how they can actively engage our nation's active duty military and veteran population locally by serving those who have served us in events and activities associated with fishing.

Dustin Wing, a Kiap-TU-Wish member and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, is setting up a VSP program for our chapter. He needs help from us to get started, so please email him at dustinrwing@gmail.com with your response to the following questions:

1. Are you a veteran, active duty, guard/ reserve or immediate family member of someone with military service? Please explain.
2. Would you be interested in participating or volunteering at VSP events held by Kiap-TU-Wish or partner organizations?
3. Would you be interested in serving on a VSP sub-committee within Kiap-TU-Wish?

For details about the program, visit the TU website and search "Veterans Service Partnership."

FLY TIER'S NOOK

TRES HEUVOS: *by Mike Alwin*



1. Put 3 beads on the hook.
2. Thread flash through the beads.
3. Pull the beads down in order to tie in the flash with the thread near eye.
4. Tie off thread and Zap-a-Gap the beads in place.
5. Apply UV glue over beads and trim shuck to length.
6. Store in Dr. Juice until ready to fish.

Hook: TMC 2487 size 16

Thread: White 14/0 Veevus

Shuck: Midge Crystal Flash

Beads: 11/0 Clear glass beads with fuchsia center. Custom and purchased from Mend Provisions.

Glues: UV resin and Super gluebrown for the male

Background on this pattern: Was created by local French nymphing legend who would like to remain anonymous. Thought any pink fly could catch fish and made this. Turned out it's an excellent pattern akin to the pink squirrel. Deadly on picky rainbows fresh out of the hatchery truck.

FLY TIER'S CORNER

The Dirty Vicar: *by Mike Alwin*



The genus *Ephemerella* holds a number of colorful anglers names for various species. Names like sulphur, Hendrickson, Light Hendrickson and pale morning dun signal to an angler what species is present. They also signal the general size and coloration, although our friend and author Jim Humphrey once offered that “color is a very subjective commodity.” Of the two *Ephemerella* on the Kinnickinnic, the larger one has been variously described as tan, tan with a pinkish cast, creme, or yellowish tan. The species has been positively identified a *E. excrucians* and a search for photographed specimens will yield a trove ofolive colored mayflies. The samples from the Kinni are quite simply not olive.

The Dirty Vicar is an attempt to imitate this specific mayfly and the name was appropriated from the musings of Dr. Patrick Daly. *Ephemerella excrucians* is widely distributed throughout North America though the size and coloration vary. A number of citations refer to this species out west as the pale morning dun and they show up as pale olive in 16's and 18's. Samples in our neck of the woods are more in the tan color range and measure around 8-9mm. That translates to about a size 14, depending on your hook brand.

Hook: #14 dry fly, or #16 if tied as illustrated
Tails: Light dun rooster or synthetic fibers
Dubbing: Blend of light tan and light olive
Wing: Deer hair, tied as Comparadun or Spundun

The body for this fly was a mix of 1/3 natural beaver and 2/3 PMD beaver. If you chose to tie a comparadun style fly, start with a #14 hook and measure the shank from behind the eye to the start of the bend. If it's longer than 9mm, find the 9mm mark and tie the tails on right there. (I think another good pattern would be a hair wing hackle fly.) This sample was tied on a #16 hook with the abdomen going all the way around the bend to simulate the curve of the natural. That makes the fly 9mm long. The entire fly was tied upside down.

Mike Alwin wrote a series of entomology articles for RipRap—Know Your Bugs. This fly pattern corresponds to insects described in those articles. If you would like a copy of those articles, email me at manion.maria@gmail.com. If you have questions about this fly pattern, email Mike at mikealwin@gmail.com.

Kiap-TU-Wish

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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 8, 2019.

Thursday, December 5, 2019
Holiday Conservation Banquet