



# RipRap

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

FEBRUARY, 2012 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 6

**Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects**

## FEBRUARY PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY KYLE AMUNDSON

### February

**Allison Jacobs** will present at our February meeting. It will be a delight to have her as a presenter and to listen to the finer points of fishing from the female persuasion. Also, the state banquet will be held in Wausau the first week of the month.

### Trimbelle River

Stream embankment clearing continues for the Trimbelle, please watch for Randy's emails for work times. Greg Meyer has written the introduction letter and the grant proposal for sending out to the various funding sources. We will attempt to garner enough support and monies to work on the Hwy 10 project this summer. We will keep everyone posted. Great job Greg!

Our business meeting is in March, we will discuss our goal direction, budget state and vote in two new board members.

Welcome new member: Brian Smolinski (River Falls). Please visit the Kiap-TU-Wish website for chapter information.

**Winner**  
Bollinger Award  
Best Newsletter  
2010

**Kiap-TU-Wish meetings are held at Bob Smith's Sports Club, the first Wednesday night of the month. The February meeting is on the 1st. Dinner begins at 6 PM, Meeting to follow at 7 PM.**



# SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

**T**his winter is flying by at break-neck speed, at least for me. It probably has something to do with the fact that we have been having very spring-like weather around here. Nice weather makes the days go by much faster. Last year, when we had four feet of snow on the ground, and it seemed like more was falling every day, time moved at a snail's pace. It felt as though it might take years for spring to arrive. It finally did, but the wait nearly killed me. This winter, it seems like just yesterday I was waiting hopefully for the start of my beloved Vikings' season, cautiously optimistic that they would have a good year. Like every other year, the Purple's season ended in disappointment, but this year the end came earlier than usual. Maybe that fact has had something to do with the fast winter; maybe without the excitement of waiting for every Sunday's game, work weeks went by more quickly and without fanfare. I bet the biggest factor for this speedy winter is the fact that my wife and I are not quite ready for our third child to arrive in March, which makes time speed up as we hopelessly try to get our house and other affairs in order. Chaos seems to be the rule in our household. I should probably just accept that, and try to find time to go fishing before the baby comes. I'll see you on the water, and next month, in the pages of RipRap. Have a great month!

## KIAP-TU-WISH BOARD MEMBERS & CONTACT INFO

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## SAVE THE DATE

BY SARAH SANFORD

### Rush River Clean Up April 21

Hello all you Rush River Clean Up friends,

The date for this year's event is April 21, starting time 9 a.m. I'll have more details for you at a later time.

Please use my new address: [rushclean2012@yahoo.com](mailto:rushclean2012@yahoo.com) to let me know if you would like to be getting Rush River Clean Up emails.

### FLY FISHING BOOKS & DVDs FOR SALE

All books are in like-new condition and priced to sell.

Fly Tier's Benchside Reference, Barr Flies, Tying Emergers, Gierach, Borger, Trout Bum Diaries and many more!

Email me for a full list today.

Conveniently located in Cottage Grove, MN.

20% of proceeds will be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish.

Call, text or email.

Chad Borenz

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# UNDERGROUND STREAM FLOW

BY TOM HENDERSON

Much of the rolling farmland of western Wisconsin lies on an ancient sea bed, 1000 to 1200 feet above sea level and 300 to 500 feet above the level of the Mississippi at Lake Pepin. Over the centuries, streams cut coulees or canyons from the old sea bed down to the Mississippi, each coulee with many branches.

Between 1850 and 1910 major perturbations occurred in the watersheds. Logging and farming practices allowed the soil to erode, and sediment filled the lower valley floors. Much of this sediment was sand and silt.

On today's maps, fine blue lines often trace the bottoms of the coulees and valleys, indicating the presence of waterways. Many of them are dry at the surface but water still moves through the sand and gravel beneath. These dry washes converge and converge again downhill, down the valley, until eventually the water is forced to the surface in springs.... at a temperature of 45 to 50 degrees F. Thus a cold-water stream is born.

During the last hundred years the headwater streams have cut down into coarse substrates, while the rest of the valley floors have become covered with sand and silt. Those reaches that have narrow channels and stable banks flow rapidly, maintaining a clean gravel substrate or bed. Other streams have unstable banks, not well anchored by larger rocks nor dense root systems, and are able to widen. Their summer time flows becoming slow and their beds remain covered with silt and sand. The wide, slow streams gain heat energy from the summer air and from the sun. Their silt beds are not used by trout for spawning, and their temperatures will not support all life stages of cold water species.

Typical restoration work that is done by Kiap-TU-Wish along with the Wisconsin DNR has the goal of changing wide, slow, eroding streams to narrower, faster, stable streams that support all life stages of coldwater species.



**DRY RUN THAT FEEDS THE SPRING**

PHOTO BY TOM HENDERSON



# A QUICK COMPARISON

BY TOM HENDERSON

In an earlier article, I compared The Nature Conservancy with Trout Unlimited. The following is an overview of some other local organizations.

The Federation of Fly Fishers has its national headquarters in Montana. Its structure is similar to the TU structure, with local chapters that are run entirely by volunteers. Whereas TU is mostly interested in stream restoration and preservation, the FFF places heavy emphasis on education, especially casting instruction. It trains and certifies casting instructors. The local chapter, named for a very active early member (Lew Jewett) has several certified instructors, and extends that emphasis to such organizations as Healing Waters (teaching fly tying, casting, and fishing to wounded veterans) and Casting for Recovery (a program for women with breast cancer.) The Lew Jewett chapter has four dinner meetings each year, a few outings, and at least one casting clinic. All are described on the website, [www.lewjewett.org](http://www.lewjewett.org)

If you want a description of the Saint Paul Fly Tiers and Fishermen's Club, then just read the name. This may be the oldest fishing club in Minnesota, meeting weekly since 1952. I use the word "meeting" loosely. Members gather nearly every Thursday at Schroeder's on Dale Avenue, starting more or less at 7:30. Some arrive a couple of hours early, set up tying vises, go downstairs to eat, and swap fishing information over a beverage or two. Others arrive (with or without their tying equipment) and eventually everyone goes back upstairs to tie and talk about fish, flies, and tying techniques. Newbies are welcome, even if they know nothing about tying. The club holds 8 or 9 outings per year on weekends. This club operates an extensive fly tying area at the Great Waters Expo each year. Website: [www.stpaulflytiers.com](http://www.stpaulflytiers.com)

In addition to Kiap-TU-Wish, there are other Trout Unlimited chapters in our area. The Hiawatha Chapter meets in Rochester, the WinCres Chapter meets in Winona at the Holzinger Lodge, and the Twin Cities Chapter meets at the REI store in Bloomington. While they are all structured similar to Kiap, each has its own personality. Members pay annual dues to the national organization. TU National automatically assigns members to a local chapter based on the member's Zip code, but members may opt to switch to a different chapter if they wish. TU national does not automatically forward a portion of dues to local chapters, but any chapter that does actual stream work may apply for grants from TU national and that way dues go back to the active chapters.

## LUDDITE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Twenty years ago, as that mountain bike race wore on, I felt I was developing somewhat of a cult status amongst the group I was with. I wound up passing quite a few others (the benefit of starting off slow), and while some pedaled furiously so not to be eclipsed by a guy on a bike like mine, more often than not, I got plenty of words of encouragement, that I was riding so well "on a bike like that." Funny thing is that if I rode the race today on that bike, I would not look that out of place. Many people have abandoned the full suspension bikes that were the rage back then. The extra weight and lost energy of all that full suspension flexing has been deemed a detriment to riding in the Midwest, where one is rarely bouncing down a boulder strewn trail. In fact, many are now racing bikes with no gears, preferring the simplicity and durability of a single speed bike with no gears that can fail when plugged with mud and sand. That bike and I do not see the trails much anymore, but it now is a great commuter bike, never failing to get me to work. I like things that stand the test of time, and hey, retro is now cool! With renewed interest in rod materials like bamboo and fiberglass and reel manufacturers bringing back click and pawl reels, I will probably not be singled out on the trout stream anytime soon. If you see me, stop and say hi though, especially if you forgot bug spray, flashlight, sandwich, split shot, camera... whatever I need, I will have it in my vest.



# FLY SWAP - STREAMERS

BY GREG MEYER

February's fly swap will be themed "Streamers." Sign Up deadline is February 3, 2010. Flies are to be mailed by February 29th. All skill levels are invited.

## Basic Overview

This swap will have the theme "Streamers". Representing the best "secret" flies for our local waters (and favorite destinations) as tied by our chapter members and guests.

We typically tie a baker's dozen of flies (13) of one pattern. In return, you will receive twelve flies that were tied by other swap participants. The extra fly will be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish to help with their fundraising activities. Swaps are limited to the first twelve people that sign up.

We will post photos and recipes of each participant's flies as they are submitted. Check back often to track the progress, and for new themes or to participate in the swap. Suggestions are welcome.



The first swap theme was "Midges". People participating in the January swap were:

Bob Trevis, Scott Thorpe, Greg Meyer, Skip James, Paul Johnson, Jim Miller, Paul Goers, Ryan Myers, and Todd Harper.

Check out the Chapter web page at [www.kiaptuwish.org](http://www.kiaptuwish.org), and then click on the link for "This Month's Fly Swap." On this page you will find a place for photos of our flies, recipes, etc. At the bottom of the page you will also find a PDF of toe tags to download and print to be attached to each fly you create, as well as rules of engagement. You can also contact me for more info: [kiaptuwish@hotmail.com](mailto:kiaptuwish@hotmail.com)

Tight Lines

## KIAP-TU-WISH ON FACEBOOK

BY GREG MEYER

Yes, we've made the leap into Social Media. For news and information that's more current than the old snail mail, or a new way to interact with other TUsers, please check out our new Kiap-TU-Wish Facebook site. We're still looking for a few folks to get involved and help maintain our presence, so if you are interested, please let us know. You can contact Greg Meyer at [KiapTUWish@hotmail.com](mailto:KiapTUWish@hotmail.com) for more information.

We encourage you to interact with other Kiap and TU members by posting to our page. And don't forget to like us!





# THE LUDDITE

BY GREG OLSON

Webster's describes luddite as: "one who is opposed to especially technological change." I first heard the term luddite applied to me 20 years ago. I was participating in a mountain bike race, the Chequamegon Fat Tire 40, a 40 mile race from downtown Hayward to Telemark Resort in Cable. I was racing (rather a strong term for the slow speed I was going) with a \$300 Trek mountain bike that at the time broke the bank. I was a graduate student, often living off ramen noodles for the last week of each month until the next meager, teaching assistant paycheck arrived. As I was passing someone he glanced over and said to me, "you know they have clip-less pedals and something called suspension now. What are you, some kind of luddite?!" Many of the racers had bikes that were worth more than my truck, and this guy was riding a bike that went for \$2500. Needless to say, guys with a bike like that don't like to be passed by a guy like me. My inexpensive ride was due to limited funds to be sure, but truth be told even if money was not an issue, I'm not sure my upbringing and Scandinavian blood would allow me to ride something so flashily, so extravagant, when a dependable, simple, and durable alternative existed. Plus, I'm not someone that happens to be an "early adapter." Before you decide to read any further, perhaps I should disclose that I am one of the few people in the world that does not own a cell phone.

This is the time of year I start going over my fishing equipment, seeing if I need anything new, wiping down the fly rods, cleaning reels, as well as lines. This year, I started to notice some trends in my equipment versus the new stuff being sold and am wondering whether my fly fishing is going the way my biking did many years ago.

First of all, I noticed that when giving my 3, 4, and 5 wt lines a bath and rub down, in no instance did the grime layer extend past the head of the line and into the running line. I reluctantly must add that my backing did not see the light of day... for yet another year. Anyway, I started asking myself, "why am I fishing a weight forward line, and not a double taper?" I know the arguments essentially come down to: 1) a WF line can shoot line further, due to its thick, heavy head and thinner, lighter running line. 2) a DT line has the same thickness throughout as the head of a WF line, and therefore can perform longer roll casts better, and when one end wears out you can just turn it around and use the other end. So why not go DT, if I am never casting more than the first 35-45 feet of fly line where there is virtually no difference in the front taper of comparable WF and DT lines? What am I missing here? Differences in tapers do come in if we are talking the "mega" head fly lines that have now cropped up where the line is half a weight heavier to slow down the ultra fast fly rods being made today. Which brings me to my trout fly rods. I noticed they all fall in the medium to medium-fast range. Before I move on to rods, though, first let me say that my next trout fly line is going to be a double taper.

Every year fly rod manufacturers come out with their updated and new models. The one improvement that almost all new rods have in common...they are lighter and faster. Most feel way too stiff when I cast them. Now I know that, more than any other piece of fly fishing equipment, the fly rod "feel" is a matter of preference and that one person's broomstick is another person's buggy whip. However, I was recently reading reviews about a top rod maker's latest offering. It stated without a hint of sarcasm that the 5 wt rod being tested was too stiff for a WF 5 wt line, but it really came into its own with a WF 6 mega head line, which as discussed above is really a WF 6.5 wt. This sentiment was echoed by numerous others who had cast this latest offering. No one pointed out that if I went down to my local fly shop to buy this \$700 five wt rod, what I would really have is a 6.5 wt rod. This was supposed to be a 5 wt right? If I want a rod that performs like a 6 wt, wouldn't I buy a 6 wt? I do think that fast action rods have their place, as I do own a fast action 8 wt for hucking tandem nymph rigs with a few split shots and a large indicator, for when I'm steelhead fishing on the Brule. However, for the fishing I do in this area, I am not making long casts with heavily weighted flies into a strong wind. In order to compensate for these overly stiff fly rods, some manufacturers are making a fast action rod with a soft tip, which is supposed to aid with short, accurate casts and mimic the gentle presentation of a medium action rod. This may be, b



to me these rods feel disjointed, as if they took the tip section of a medium four piece rod and married it with the bottom three pieces of an ultra fast rod. Maybe it just boils down to this: everything I do these days is fast. Between work and kids' activities, I eat too fast, drive too fast, and sleep too little. The last thing I want to do during the little time I can carve out to be on the stream is to fish too fast. Fly fishing is one of the few relaxing activities I have. The progressive flex of a medium action rod helps me to do just that. There is also a new trend toward longer rods. However, I noticed a dedicated preference in my fly rods to be 8'6" or shorter. I would have to say that 9' or greater fly rods may be the more versatile, since the extra length comes in handy for nymphing. However, I have to agree with Tom Morgan, former owner/rod designer for Winston, that "8' to 8'6" fly rods just feel lighter, livelier, and are more fun to fish than 9' rods." In fact, now that Tom is making rods on his own, he does not make a rod longer than 8'6". He also does not charge under \$1400! I would probably love fishing these rods as they are medium action, but I will not be fishing one unless I win the lottery.

When cleaning my reels, I realized my affinity for standard arbor fly reels with a loud clicker. These reels sound and look like how a fly reel should, to me. I love the sound it makes as a nice fish peels line from a quickly rotating standard arbor reel. I like to hear the reel when I strip line off and the clicker always keeps the reel from over-spooling, even on the lowest drag setting. On today's reels, the arbors keep getting bigger and the reels quieter. Also, to keep pace with the new fly rods, they are getting lighter and lighter too. Still an 8 1/2 to 9 foot rod is a pretty long lever, and to balance that, a lot of the reels today are too light, if you care at all about balance. I feel that a balanced outfit makes for a more comfortable and more accurate day of casting. The increased line retrieval speed of a large arbor reel is not a factor for me when



ing on the Rush and Kinni, since most of the time I wind up playing the fish off the reel. I used to feel the need to get every fish on my reel, but I found that I actually lost more fish that way. If a fish is big enough, it will take the extra line eventually, and I will have him on the reel nonetheless. As for the argument that large arbor reels cause less line memory, I don't find that much of a problem with my reels. Today's fly lines are getting so good that I think that is becoming less of an issue. A standard arbor reel holds so much backing, that the line on a standard arbor isn't wound much more tightly than it is on a large arbor.

Another trend is a lot of fly fishers are going away from a traditional vest toward smaller, lighter chest and waist packs. I have everything I could possibly need for a day on the water in my vest and it still doesn't feel heavy to me. If I am only going out for a couple hours during nice weather on a familiar stretch of water, I will, at times, grab a small fly box, nippers, forceps, and a spool of tippet, which fit into my chest pockets, but it leaves me feeling... naked. For most of my trips, I grab my vest because you never know what you might encounter. This summer while fishing out West with my best friend, Mike, we hiked to the river under blue bird skies, sporting short sleeves in the 80 degree weather. By late afternoon, we could see a storm moving in. "No big deal, in the mountains this is expected," we thought. It is also expected that these storms only last a few minutes and move on. However, this one did not move on. It rained so hard, we couldn't see the river 15 feet away. But no problem, I dug out my raincoat from my vest. Meanwhile, Mike, with his waist pack and no jacket, huddled further under the shrub we were sharing. Then came the pelting hail with a 30 degree drop in temperature. But no worries, I found my fleece hat and gloves in my vest. Mike hugged himself and burrowed still deeper into the shrub. Not wanting to start a long hike out in exposed grasslands during the lightning storm, an hour passed. Hunger and thirst set in, so I retrieved the water bottle and granola bars from my vest and offered some to my friend. It was hard to hear him over the hail, and his speech wasn't too clear with his uncontrollable shivering and all. I had to open a granola bar for him, since his hands had a blue hue to them and did not seem to function except to apparently keep his arm pits up. My point is that I had everything I needed to be comfortable for any situation on the water.

**LUDDITE CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**





## TROUT UNLIMITED

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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

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### DON'T MISS THE FEBRUARY MEETING!!!

Wednesday, February 1st  
@ Bob Smith's Sports Club  
in downtown Hudson, WI

The deadline to make submissions for the  
March issue is Wednesday, February 22nd.  
Thank you!

