

**VOLUME SEVEN**

issue 6

February 2014

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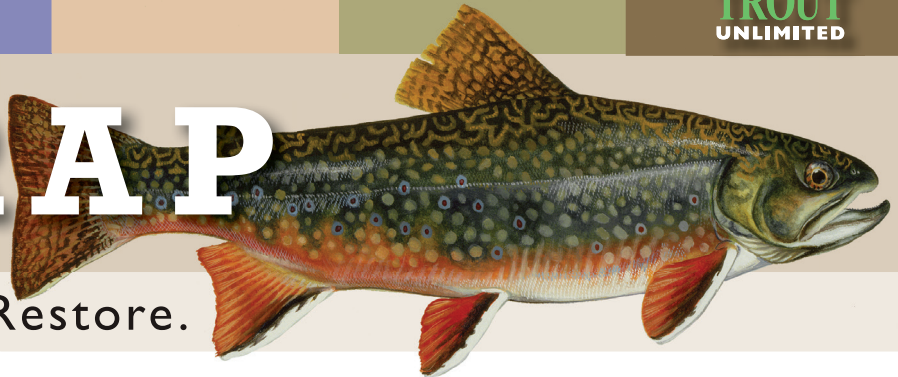
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# RIP RAP

Conserve. Protect. Restore.



A MOSTLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KIP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

## The Drift: Words from Our President.

### Work Days

Winter brush and tree cutting work is being planned by volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold.

Two areas will be targeted this year. One is Parker Creek between Pleasant Avenue and the mouth of the Kinni. It has some nice gravel beds and pools, but is not fishable due to overgrown brush. The DNR crew will plow a road to the work site, starting from the parking lot on Pleasant. The other is on the Trim-belle River immediately downstream from the work we did in 2013. Along the Trimbelle there are about 400 small invasive box elders to remove....nothing like the 3000 plus in last year's project.

Equipment was moved to the Trim-belle site during the early January cold snap. A temporary access road across the wetland will be created starting at highway 65, and allowed to freeze so that 80 ton trucks with rock can stage materials during the winter.

### January Chapter Meeting

Kiap members Margaret LeBien, and John and Wendy Carlson, attended the Joan Wulff fly fishing school on the Beaverkill in New York last year. They presented pictures and commentary at the January meeting. Interesting; full of history and lore.

### Annual meeting and election of board members.

The board has been meeting on the third Monday of each month at Perkins in Hudson. The meeting is open to all Kiap members, and occasionally non-members make presentations as well. If you wish to attend and talk about an appropriate topic, please let me know in advance so that you can be included when the agenda is prepared. The most appropriate topics are related to our mission: to Conserve, Protect and Restore our cold water fishery.

Back to the subject of volunteer work days: It is important to record the number of hours that you work. Most of the grants we receive require matching funds, and they give us credit for volunteer hours, many at a rate over \$20.00 per hour. Randy Arnold generally has a sheet to sign in and sign out; look for it on the hood of his car or ask someone. We also report the total volunteer hours each year to the national TU office; it is taken into consideration when we apply to be re-chartered every few years.

There may be a call for volunteers to assist with fish surveys (electro-shocking) in the future. From time to time, the DNR has trained people in the technique and work required. We do not have a list of trained people. If you have experience and/or training, please let either John Kaplan or me know so that we

## Notice of Annual Meeting and Elections

The Kiap-TU-Wish annual meeting will be held as part of our March 5, 2014, chapter meeting. The meeting will be brief and will include election of board members.

Each director is elected to the board for a three year term, and may be re-elected. At the next board meeting the directors choose the officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) for one-year terms.

A nominating committee will present a slate of board candidates. Additional people can be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.

can create a list of people to contact when the time comes.

Mark your calendar: the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for Feb 21 - 22 - 23. We will have a booth.

Enough said. 🐟

~Tom Henderson

## Did You Know?

The Kiap-TU-Wish web site has links to many trout stream maps for Wisconsin and Minnesota. So next time you want to explore a new place to fish, make sure to check out the link section for more info.

There is also a handy section containing links to local fly shops, informative blogs, and much more. If there is a link you recommend we have on our site, make sure to drop us a note. We'll be happy to accommodate if relevant.



FOR LOCAL FLY PATTERNS, HATCH CHARTS and MAPS :: Visit our web site at: [www.kiaptuwish.org](http://www.kiaptuwish.org)

## Kiap-TU-Wish Supports CFR Reunion Retreats and Women's Fly Fishing Events.

With the help of Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers, two reunion retreats for women who have attended the Casting for Recovery (CFR) program will be held at a cozy cabin on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River.

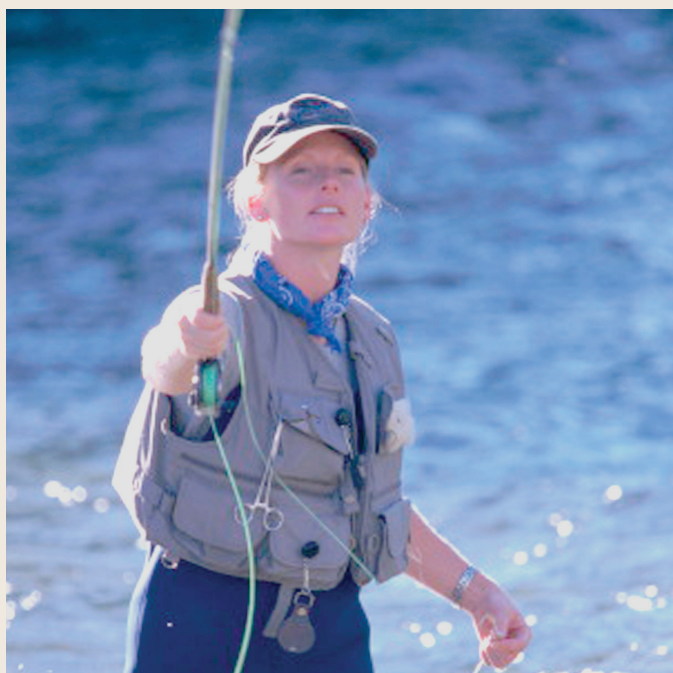
Casting for Recovery is a national nonprofit organization that enhances the quality of life of women living with a breast cancer diagnosis by providing weekend retreats designed to promote healing through mutual support and the sport of fly fishing. Since 2008, about 70 women from Minnesota and Wisconsin have benefitted from the program. Volunteers who are willing to share their years of accumulated fishing wisdom as "river buddies" are the heart of the success of CFR. Visit [castingforrecovery.org](http://castingforrecovery.org).

CFR reunions allow the opportunity for participants to take delight in fly fishing on a premier trout stream, to rekindle friendships formed at the retreats and to enjoy spending time in a relaxed, natural setting with others on a similar journey.

The reunion weekends are scheduled for May 23rd-25th and September 26th-28th, 2014.

### WOMEN'S WEEKEND TROUT SCHOOL

The first annual women's weekend trout school on the Kinnickinnic River is set for June 20-22nd. The school will uncover the secrets of fishing small streams from a woman's perspective, including casting instruction using



the Joan Wulff method, tackle, knots, wading safety, fly selection, presentation skills, hooking and releasing fish, practice strategies, river stewardship, and putting it all together on the river along with Kiap's patient fishing coaches. The school includes text, equipment, instruction, delicious cuisine, and lodging. Class size is limited to a maximum of 6. Beginners are encouraged to attend.

**For more information on both events, please contact Margaret LeBien at [mrlebien@comcast.net](mailto:mrlebien@comcast.net).**



# Cleopatra: Queen of the Flies



Cleopatra

In 2012 Robin decided that we would raise a few chickens. These would be for tick control, mostly, and if there was any other benefit, that would be just a bonus.

In the spring two dozen healthy chicks arrived in the mail, and we put them up in a wire dog crate in the garage. With chicken starter food, lots of fresh water, and a heating lamp, the chicks grew larger, and began to grow their first feathers.

As the weather warmed we moved the growing chicks into a coop in the barn, a repurposed horse stall, and brought them out during the day in

Each time I moved the tractor, I went back to the old ground and picked up a few dozen clean soft hackles. By early June, they were ready to free range, and they were given the run of the barnyard, lawn and pastures.

These chickens are not pets, and they were not to have names. Of course a few were named. Elizabeth, and Lisa, and Star, and Clark Gable and Peter Sellers all were named. And then there is Cleopatra.

The chickens are New Hampshire Reds, Buff Orpingtons, and Americanas. The Reds are red, and the Orpingtons are light ginger. The nine

**“I’ve made several nice catches of brook and brown trout with the “Cleopatra.” It’s almost unfair to the fish.”**

a device called a “chicken tractor,” which is essentially a four by eight foot floorless outside pen which could be towed from place to place to give the growing chickens access to new green grass and weeds and bugs. The chickens continued to grow, and as they did, they molted their first feathers.

Americanas are all different colors. Elizabeth and Lisa have black heads, gold mantles, and barred black and gold bodies. Star is a silver badger, without any hint of red. Some of the girls are blue and buff barred. Cleopatra is unique in her coloring, blue feathers with gold edges. Cleopatra is special in that regard.

Clark Gable and Peter Sellers turned out to be roosters, rather than hens, and by the time they were full grown and harassing the girls, they were dispatched. Clark went into a coq au vin recipe and Peter was oven fried, and they were delicious. Their capes and saddles are providing plenty of materials in the winter tying season.

I used a few of the feathers I had picked up under the chicken tractor to tie soft hackles, most notably the blue and gold feathers left behind by the growing Cleo. I trimmed the hackle fibers short on a large feather and wrapped it the length of the shank of a size 12 hook, to make a stubby body. I counter wrapped the body with copper wire, and then applied three turns of a smaller Cleo feather as a hackle.

I’ve made several nice catches of brook and brown trout with the “Cleopatra.” It’s almost unfair to the fish. I pity them their inability to resist this fly. I’ve fished with a lot of flies. This is a good one.

As I write this, it is the middle of winter, the hens are doing fine out in the barn. It’s cold out there, but they are wearing down underwear. Cleopatra is laying about five eggs a week. From this little flock we’re collecting about ten dozen eggs a week. They come in a range of brown colors from the Reds and the Buffs, and the Americanas lay green or blue eggs. Another bonus.

Why more of us don’t raise a few hens in the back yard? Maybe there will be another Cleopatra, with blue feathers edged in gold. 🪰

## { ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

*Perry Palin is a chapter member and contributor to RipRap. He also generously ties and donates flies that are given away at our monthly chapter meetings. Perry’s new book “FISHING LESSONS” is now available from Whitefish Press.*



# Early Season

{Words :: Bob Trevis }



Winter Solitude on the Rush- Greg Meyer

## Where will you be March 1st?

**THE EARLY CATCH AND RELEASE** Season for most Wisconsin trout streams opens at 5 am on March 1st. Driven by cabin fever and the need to "get on the water," a number of Kiap-TU-Wish members may head out in early March, armed with midges and black stoneflies, dressed for the cold and hoping for temps above 32 degrees.

But where to fish? Choose any legal trout water and realize water temperature is Number 1. Not for your comfort, but for the trout's comfort and survival. Trout metabolism is tied to water temperature, and the temperature of a trout stream dictates trout activity and/or willingness to feed. If anything, a trout in winter is much like a trout in the heat of summer – at the mercy of water temperature and dissolved oxygen.

To improve your chances on-stream, sleep in. Trout will be more active in the afternoon, once the sun has had a chance to heat the water a bit. Even one or two degrees of warmer water make a difference. And since shallow riffles heat more rapidly than deep pools (and have more

oxygen), they are worth targeting, especially at the end of long riffle runs.

That doesn't mean deep pools won't pay off, and undercuts and outside bends are also worth probing. Stealth is the name of the game, so sneak up on likely holding water and use your Polaroid glasses before making a cast. And if a stream has an ice shelf, but you suspect or know the water underneath is holding water, fish the edge of the ice shelf. You may be surprised by what is hiding underneath!

Spring water usually comes out of the ground at 50 degrees F or less, and fishing below incoming springs will greatly improve your chances of finding feeding trout. The benefit of fishing below springs also increases as air temperature rises, and/or if the sun is bright. Fishing downstream of incoming springs may also mean your guides won't ice up!

As for fly selection, since black stonefly or midge hatches are often sporadic (or rare), plan on fishing nymphs or streamers. The largest nymphs in the stream will be the ones that emerge in April and May – not the Caddis and BWOs of mid-summer. Think size 12 or 14 nymphs to imitate Hen-

dricksons and March Browns, as well as Caddis larva imitations. You can always toss a Bead-head Prince or a Pink Squirrel, but my preference is a Bead-head Hare's Ear or an Evil Weevil. Black (or Golden) Stoneflies are present on many streams, and make a good weighted point fly on a two-nymph rig.

Finally, all snide "bobber" comments aside, consider using a small strike indicator – perhaps a foam Roll-on or half of a Palsa fold-over. This is not the time for large Thingamabobbers; takes are likely to be soft and tentative. (Wooly Buggers or other streamers fished slow and deep are an exception.)

One last suggestion: Carry a cigarette lighter! If you do take a tumble, you may need to start a fire to avoid hypothermia. In fact, it's always a good idea during the early season to fish with another angler, for your mutual safety, and also so you have someone to complain to about how cold it is! 🐟

#### { ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

*Bob Trevis is a chapter board member and contributor to Rip-Rap. Bob has volunteered in stream restoration of Pine Creek and the River Falls Fly-Fishing class, and has been an instructor for fly-fishing and fly-tying events, including Women in the Outdoors, FFF seminars, Minnesota Fly Fishers classes, Northwest Sports Show, and the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.*

## Rumours . . . .

“Fly-fishing is the most fun you can have standing up.”

~Arnold Gingrich

# A Far Cry from Huck Finn

{ WORDS :: Randy Arnold }

I was born and raised in Monticello growing up in the 50's and 60's and spending some of my most cherished moments from the age of 8 upwards heading down to the Mississippi river on days from ice out in the spring when the carp were running and I could easily catch thirty 5-10 pounders in a day to the last days of fall when I would catch walleyes and smallmouth bass until the river froze over solid (this was a time before the nuclear plant there kept the river open year round. In all of my years as a kid fishing the river there, I could count on one hand the times each year when I ever saw a motorboat on the water. I owned a canoe and prior to being able to drive, would get my mom or dad to drive me up to the bridge at Clearwater where I would put in for a nice leisurely day of drifting and fishing my way back down to the park at Monticello where I would pull out.

About 10 years ago, when my mother was in her 80's and still alive, she commented to me how she had always lamented having driven me upriver for my drift trips and never actually experienced floating the river herself. I made a point of taking her on a drift trip about two weeks later in my aluminum canoe. It was a fall day and most of the leaves were off the trees and the river was high and stained from some recent

heavy rains. With her in the bow, I guided us down the river occasionally breaking out a spinning rod to throw a jig into some choice looking pools. Several miles downstream from Clearwater, we encountered a sight which I had seen on the river before but never experienced from my seat in a canoe, a jet boat with a driver and two fly fishermen speeding upriver at what appeared to be 40 mph or better. The noise of the crafts powerful engine interrupted the otherwise serene experience which my mother and I were sharing. We ended up crossing paths with that boat three or four more times that day as it raced first upstream and then down looking for a place where the two anglers could hook up with a smallie on their surface bass bugs.

At the recent annual gathering of my in-laws' family for Christmas, my recently retired brother-in-law who lives in Monticello was eagerly approaching every person there and showing images on his cell phone of what I suspected to be one of his newer grandchildren. I could not have been more wrong as Bill approached me and stuck the phone in front of my face to reveal his latest purchase. . . . a \$40,000, 300 hp, River Pro jet boat which he is set to take delivery on next month in anticipation of spending some 'quality' time on the Mississippi now

that he is retired and likes to take the grandkids out fishing. Not sensing my immediate revulsion of the image, Bill asked me if I would like to spend a day on the river with him once he took delivery of his boat. I explained to him that my idea of quality time on the water was greatly diminished by the presence of anything powered by gasoline racing upstream and down and that a canoe or drift boat were the only true ways to experience the beauty which the river has to offer. Needless to say, Bill is not about to cancel the delivery of his pride and joy but, should you be on the river between St. Cloud and Elk River this summer or any future summer and have your solitude disturbed by a passing jet boat, don't hesitate to raise your voice over the roar of that 300 hp Mercury engine to holler 'Hey Bill, would you slow that damn thing down?' Being one of four individuals on this stretch of water who own these craft, you have at least a 25% chance of addressing the right guy and, don't feel shy about mentioning my name if you get engaged in a conversation with him.

#### { ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

*Randy Arnold is a long-time chapter member and the board Volunteer Coordinator. When Randy is not being handy crafting one of his nice fly tying tables, you can probably find him hacking down acres of invasive trees on a stream near you.*



## b smo's Bunker Buster

I have been wanting to come up with my own streamer pattern for trout for a while now. I wanted something simple without too many materials. Yet, I wanted something that would have a ton of movement in the water. Most importantly, I wanted to create a pattern I could chuck into a pool or deep hole that could get down towards the bottom even in a speedy current.

I am a little afraid to admit this, but I used the Pass Lake Streamer as inspiration for this fly. It seems the name "Pass Lake" sparks something in fly anglers in the Midwest. Yes it can be a very productive pattern, but it seems to be also a point of contention (especially among fly tiers). I have read and overheard so many disagreements on the "proper" way to tie a Pass Lake, and whether or not a fly tied this way or that way could be called a Pass Lake or not (or is it a Rio Grande King!)

So to avoid any of these debates I knew that if I was going to tie my own version of a "Pass Lake" it had to be outside the box, so the Bunker Buster tube fly was born..

### FLY RECIPE:

**Base :** 1.8mm Plastic Tube

**Thread :** UTC 140 Black

**Tail :** Hot Orange Schlappen

**Wing :** Cream Craft Fur

**Head :** Large Red Tungsten Cone

**Weight :** 7/64" 3/16" Brass Bead

**Collar :** Hot Orange Schlappen

**Body :** Woolly Bugger Flash Chenille – Black

### INSTRUCTIONS:

[1] Start by heating the end on the tube with a lighter creating a lip on the end of the tube and slide it onto a needle secured in the vise jaws.

[2] Slide on a 3/16" brass bead on to the tube (it may need to be slightly drilled).

[3] Start a thread base behind the bead and tie in the a schlappen feather by the tip. Palmer the schlappen around the tube a few times while pulling back the barbs over the bead, tie off and trim excess (save the rest of this feather for later).

[4] Tie in the chenille and wrap to the front of the tube, then tie off & trim.

[6] Tie in the remaining section of the schlappen feather and palmer a few more wraps, again pulling the barbs back as you wrap. Tie down the schlappen and cut off the rest.

[7] Cut a clump of craft fur. Hold the clump securely, pull out any fluff or "under fur," then trim.

[8] Tie in craft fur with the butt end facing rearward and push them up against the palmered schlappen.

[9] Before the craft fur is tightly lashed down, spin the fur around the tube so it is evenly surrounding it. Then make a few tight wraps flaring the butt ends of the fur.

[10] Push the fur back and while bringing the thread in front of the fur, make several wraps up against the bundle of fur pushing it back without wrapping on top of the fur (hollow fly or reverse tying style).

[11] Make a small head of thread, finish and cement

[12] Slide the tungsten cone head onto the tube, covering up the thread. Then cut the tube just beyond the cone and heat the end with a lighter. This will flare up the ends of the tube securing the cone.



Tube flies are amazingly easy to tie and you end up with patterns that are not bound by the geometric constraints of the hook's shank. Normal Vise jaws can easily be adapted to hold tubes by simply clamping a needle or a pin in the vise and sliding on a tube made from plastic or metal.

## Rumours . . . .

"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."

~John Steinbeck

Brian Smolinski is the owner of Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls. If you have questions on this fly or materials, he can be reached by email at: [lunds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lunds@sbcglobal.net).

# FLY TYING TIPS

{Words :: Images} Greg Meyer

In this column we will be offering up tips and ideas for making your fly tying more enjoyable. As you know, most ideas in fly tying are not original, rather improvements on what has come before us. I cannot take credit for most of these tips, and I will try my best to give credit where credit is due.

If you have a tip, please mail me at:  
[kiaptuwish@hotmail.com](mailto:kiaptuwish@hotmail.com)

## Add Flash to Stretch Tubing

I use stretch tubing for all different types of applications. My favorite is for nymph and dry fly bodies, because you can get a nice tapered, segmented look that is quick and natural looking—and way faster than dubbing. You can also use this tubing for ribbing on some larger patterns. You can also use a Pantone Marker on the tubing to color your fly bodies a two-tone natural look.

If you are a tubing fan, try this for streamers:

Use a bobbin threader to pull a piece of Krystal Flash, small Flashabou, or even Ultra Wire into a piece of tubing. The flash material gives the tubing a glow unlike anything else.

## Clogged Hook Eyes-Part II

Just about all fly patterns call for the application of head cement as the final operation in the tying of a fly.

If you are not very precise with you cement and bodkin, you will end up with cement in places unintended.

By applying the cement to the thread just before whip finishing, you will cement precisely where you want it without creating a mess you don't want.



## Something Overheard...

It doesn't even get away,  
The Big Fish, but —

Year after year of snow's  
Melting and plunging toward  
ocean —

It swims deep  
And deeper, as I cast, and  
casts Into depths, among  
shadows, a shadow I

See always and  
Always downstream from

My long and longer —  
as the day

Grows shorter — own.

~Ralph Salisbury

## Kiap-TU-Wish Board Members & Contact Info

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Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168  
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#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Duwayne Fries — St. Paul, MN  
B. Battig — Hudson, WI  
Gerry Brusletten — Deer Park, WI  
James Egan — Osceola, WI  
Debbie Elmer — Amery, WI  
Tim Francis — Wayzata, MN  
Paul Goudreault — River Falls, WI  
C.R. Hackworthy — Hudson, WI  
David Johnson — River Falls, WI  
Mark Johnson — Cushing, WI  
Tim Lawson — Hudson, WI  
Margaret LeBien — St. Paul, MN

Check us out on the web:  
[www.kiaptuwish.org](http://www.kiaptuwish.org)

## Please Join Us. Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter meeting

Wednesday, February 5th, 2014  
**Winzer Stube Restaurant**  
Downtown Hudson

Dinner begins at 6pm (your dime)  
with the meeting to follow at 7pm.

Our chapter meetings are open to all.  
Why not bring a friend and stop by?



It's the dead of winter, folks. Head down to the Winzer Stube on Wednesday, February 5 to see some pictures that will give you hope for the year ahead and for some advice that may be worth heeding.

### Presentation:: Fishing the Bighorn River

At the February meeting, chapter members Greg Meyer and Jonathan Jacobs will offer their views on one of America's great trout fisheries, Montana's Big Horn River. Located southeast of Billings, this amazing tailwater provides a quality fishery the year around for brown and rainbow trout. Smooth, regular flows, steady water temperatures and a huge benthic biomass combine to create the potential for an outstanding angling experience. Best of all, the river is only a one-day drive away. Because the river offers such world-class angling, a "trout infrastructure" exists there to make your trip an easy one.

#### Want to Volunteer for Work Days?

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Randy Arnold at [ramold@augbiomed.com](mailto:ramold@augbiomed.com) to be added to our work day list.