

The Drift: Words from our President.

Project work: Volunteer work is well under way on the upper Kinni at North River Road (the Red Cabin site). 2.5 acres owned by the WDNR have been cleared of brush, marked trees cut, and nearly all of this has been burned. Work has now begun on the bank south of the bridge. Randy Arnold has organized work nearly every weekend since mid December. If you wish to be notified of work days, send Randy an e-mail to have your name added to the list. *rarnold@augbiomed.com*

January meeting: 44 people attended the January meeting.

Next regular chapter meeting: The next regular meeting will be on February 4 at Junior's Bar & Restaurant in the Best Western hotel at the south end of Main Street in River Falls. Andy Roth will be our guest speaker.

There is plenty of parking at Junior's if you know where to look: 50 spaces in the underground garage (in the basement with access from the back side of the hotel), some surface parking behind the hotel, plus a lot on Main Street across from the hotel. The banquet room is on the first floor and should hold crowds as large as those we have for our April fly tying meeting.

State banquet: February 6th in Oshkosh. At least five Kiap members will attend.

Expo: The Tom Helgeson Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo will be held again in Blaine, MN on March 20-22. If the state fair is called the Great Minnesota Get-together, then the Expo should be known as the Great Midwest Fly Fishers' Get-together.

WDNR stuff: The price of Wisconsin trout stamps has remained constant for a long time, and inflation has gradually increased the cost of supporting the fishery. One result is that some hatcheries have been closed, reducing the number of brown trout available for stocking. This year only rainbows will be stocked in the upper portions of the Apple and Willow rivers. . .and fewer of those. The monitoring program is also being reduced. The budget erosion has been gradual but persistent.

Little Falls dam: For some time the gates in the dam within Willow River State Park have not been operable due to cracking and shifting. Later this year the reservoir will be drawn down to inspect the dam. Watch for meeting notices to inform the public and obtain feedback.

Fishing season: Not far away. Is your equipment ready?

Enough said. ~ Tom Henderson

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



Volume 8 I Issue 6 February 2015

NEW VENUE!

The February 4th meeting is at Junior's Bar & Restaurant in River Falls. Junior's is located inside the Best Western hotel on the corner of Main Street and Cascade Avenue.

Junior's Bar & Restaurant 414 South Main Street River Falls, WI 54022 715-425-6630 http://www.juniorsrf.com/

The photo above was taken January 10th at the Red Cabin project site on the upper Kinni. K-TU volunteers were hauling brush, cutting trees and getting some exercise.

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Upcoming Election on March 4th

The chapter meeting on March 4th is the annual Kiap-TU-Wish business meeting when we elect board members. This year the three-year terms of three board members expire: Allison Jacobs, Tom Schnadt, and Hans Jung. Allison and Tom have chosen to seek re-election to the board whereas Hans has decided after eight years to step aside. The board solicited nominations and contacted several individuals about serving on the board. We are pleased to announce that John Carlson, Loren Haas, and Sarah Sanford have agreed to be candidates for election to the board. So for the first time in recent memory the chapter has more candidates than open board seats—a contested election—five candidates for three seats! The by-laws also allow for nominations from the floor during the meeting. Let the campaigning begin. However, we ask all candidates to limit their campaign spending to those dollar amounts imposed on candidates for public office in Wisconsin-whatever those limits might be, if there are any limits anymore. And please don't make campaign calls during the dinner hour!

After the membership fills the three board openings at the chapter meeting, the first order of business at the March board meeting will be to elect officers. Tom Henderson has decided to step down as president, Hans Jung will no longer be vice-president, and Gary Horvath has reached his three year limit as treasurer under the chapter by-laws. So we will need current and/or new board members to assume these respon-



sibilities. Perhaps you might inquire of the candidates which of these offices they would be interested in filling.

The board thanks Allison, Tom, John, Loren, and Sarah for their dedication to serving the chapter. Our success depends on volunteers at many levels. All of the candidates would be excellent board members, but there are only three board openings so the membership will have to choose. You can only vote for your favorite candidates if you attend the chapter business meeting, no proxy voting; so we hope to see you March 4th.

More background information: Positions on the board are three-year terms elected by the general membership at the March meeting, and may be re-elected. Officer positions are one-year terms elected by the new board of directors at the first board meeting after the annual March meeting. The only limit on officer re-election is a maximum of three years as treasurer.

~ Hans Jung and Tom Henderson



I like going to brushing work days for a lot of reasons. One of my main motivations for joining Kiap-TU-Wish in the first place was because we are a chapter that actually does work. Brushing is something fun to do outdoors that helps break up the winter months, it helps me keep in touch with friends, I get to see moving water in the winter, and it's good exercise. ~ Ken Hanson

It's a great way to get outside, get some exercise and feel like you're accomplishing something over the winter. It's also a good way to get to know other club members and start dreaming about fly fishing come spring. ~ Scott Wagner

In the January 2015 issue of Rip-Rap an opinion piece decried the proposed Penokee Hills iron mine project and modern agriculture as "bad ideas." While I agree that we must work to avoid negative environmental consequences from mankind's actions, in my opinion the article presented too simplistic of a view. The world is a complex place and if we do not understand the drivers and interactions among competing forces, then solutions acceptable to the public will be impossible to achieve. Agriculture and mining provide the products modern society wants. As the holiday season just illustrated, people want more stuff—be it steaks, electronic gadgets, or fishing gear. The public's demand for goods and services will determine what level of environmental damage is allowed.

I know little about the details of mining, so I cannot speak with any authority on that subject; but I am very familiar with agriculture and feel compelled to correct, clarify, and extend some of the previous comments. To label "corn" as a bad idea is simply incorrect. Corn has become the dominant crop in the Midwest because it is the best crop in our environment for producing the carbohydrates demanded by the livestock, food processing, and ethanol industries. Farmers have responded to this market demand just like any business would.

Use of corn for ethanol production has certainly lead to an increase in acres planted to corn, but there is no point in arguing if the subsidy for ethanol is a good or bad idea-most every major industry receives subsidies of one form or another. Ethanol production from corn totaled 13.3 billion gallons in 2013. If we had not added ethanol to gasoline, we would have needed another

angle...

Bad Ideas? Not So Simple

{Words} Hans Jung

462 million barrels of oil to produce the extra gasoline. Where would that oil come from-fracking, tar sands, off-shore drilling? Each of these energy sources comes with environmental costs and oil adds more CO2 to the atmosphere than ethanol. So pick your poison. How many gallons of gasoline did we burn this past year traveling to fishing destinations?

There is not enough room here to debate the environmental costs from corn production. No question erosion occurs when corn is grown, and we use more fertilizer and pesticides than opdemanded by the marketplace would increase several fold. Would that better safe-guard our trout streams?

Cattle evolved to eat grass, but cattle produce more milk and meat per pound of feed from corn than grass. And methane (a potent greenhouse gas) production per unit product is also less on a high corn than a grass diet. So there are good reasons to feed corn to cattle, although even in US dairy and beef production systems more grass than corn is fed on a life-cycle basis. Confinement of dairy cows has resulted in much less grazing and associated

"If modern practices were outlawed, then the land area needed to produce the corn demanded by the marketplace would increase several fold. Would that

better safe-guard our trout streams?"

timum; but current farming practices result in much less damage to the environment per bushel of corn produced than at any time in history. And modern agriculture achieves ever-increasing corn yields/acre (from less than 30 bu/acre in 1900 to almost 160 bu/acre in 2013) through improved technologies, including biotechnology. If modern practices were outlawed, then the land area needed to produce the corn

damage to stream banks. A large confinement dairy operation must spread manure under a management plan designed to avoid water contamination. Contrast that to small herds which routinely spread manure on frozen ground, leading invariably to manure run-off into streams with snow melt. Unfortunately small herds cannot afford the manure storage facilities {continued on next page 7}

Editor's Note

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, February 13

I attended a surprise party for Bob Nasby, a new inductee to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. After the surprise sunk in, Nasby talked about his life in fishing. His speech wasn't focused on the number or size of fish caught, but rather the people with which he spent that fishing life. I suspect that most of us have similar sentiments about our fishing lives—which is where Kiap-TU-Wish comes in. We've all got big fish stories, but it's a lot more fun to share those stories over hotdogs with other brushing volunteers, or at a chapter meeting while waiting for dinner, or at the banquet trying to outbid someone for Paul Johnson's box of flies, or at a fly fishing clinic teaching folks how to cast—or to read Greg Olson's story of delivering trout eggs to an elementary school to shouts of "The trout eggs are here! The trout eggs are here!" That's really something to remember.

The trout eggs are here! The trout eggs are here!

Brian Burbach's 5th grade class at North Hudson Elementary had the trout aguarium set up from the first day of class. They were ready for the eggs to arrive! Finally in late December the brown trout eggs had "eyed," making them much less fragile for transport. I found out that the whole school had been waiting for this day. Walking down the hallways with a cooler from the fish farm marked, "Caution – Trout Eggs," kids from all grades pointed at the cooler and whispered, squealed, or shouted, "THE TROUT EGGS ARE HERE."

Brian's class had been studying what to do once the eggs were delivered and the students quickly took over, gradually adding aquarium water to the eggs so they adjusted to any temperature differences. Cloudy eggs that had not fertilized were removed and the students handled some of them. A few of the eyed eggs were examined under magnifying glasses, where they were able to get a closer look at the developing eyes, bones, and other organs.

Checking back this past week and delivering some food for the fish, it is great to see that almost all the eggs have successfully hatched and the fish are swimming about in the bottom of the net basket, still with egg sac attached. When the small fry begin to surface and fill their air bladders, they will be ready to feed and leave the confines of the basket, since they will now be "buoyant."

The class is doing a great job monitoring the temperature and chemistry of the water. They love to check in on the progress of the fish every day and can't wait to begin feeding.

I have to admit, I love checking with Brian's class and the trout. I wonder if TU would consider starting a TILR program, Trout in the Living Room. I think I could spend many a winter's night watching the trout grow and develop.

~ Greg Olson







Brian Burbach photos



Brian Burbach's 5th grade students (& Greg Olson in photo

Water, Rights and Doing Our Part [Words] Tom Henderson

When it stops raining, why don't streams stop flowing?

Mountain streams are sustained mostly by snow melt through the summer. There is virtually no ground water in a mountain that is solid rock. Therefore, there are virtually no springs to feed the streams.

In Wisconsin and Minnesota, the snow has all melted by May (well, maybe by June) but the streams continue to flow because ground water seeps out in the form of springs. This is often called "base flow." Rainstorms add run-off water to the base flow, raising the water level in the stream. However, it is the base flow that must sustain the fish and aquatic insects between rains.

The water table can be defined as the top of the water level in the ground. If this is deep, you can dig a basement and

it will stay dry. If the water table is shallow, your basement might be wet. If a hillside dips below the water table, the water will seep out as a spring. Several factors affect the water table: how much rainwater and snow melt soaks into the ground, how much leaks out as springs, how much is pulled out by plant roots, and how much is pumped out.

In purchasing land in states like Colorado, Wyoming, or Montana, the wa{Words} Jonathan Jacobs

The Good Stuff Quality is what you like.

- Robert M. Pirsig, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

Rubbermaid Cooler: High end roto-molded coolers are all the rage now, with Yeti leading the charge. They work phenomenally well, but they are breathtakingly expensive. I bought my Rubbermaid, a fifty quart model with a clever partitioned lid, on sale at a Shopko in Duluth seven years ago. I needed a cooler badly at that moment and my primary criterion was minimal cost. I've hauled it to Montana and back a number of times since. The goods within it remained cold on those endless trips across the Great Plains. It's my boat cooler and has withstood all manner of abuse in that role. My specific model is no longer in production and if I had to go looking for a replacement, I would remember what I read in an aside in a comparison test of high end coolers: the Coleman Xtreme coolers offer performance close to the elite units for a fraction of the cost. That's something to think about if you're shopping for a cooler.

Maglite Flashlights: Made right here in the USA of heavily anodized aircraft-grade aluminum alloy with finely machined components, adjustable focus, a foolproof switch and shipped with a spare bulb in the cap, these flashlights are simply elegant. I have the first one I ever bought over twenty five years ago. It's the three D cell model favored by some para-military forces for the purpose of going upside folks' heads. I haven't used mine in that manner, but I've abused it any number of other ways and, aside from a few scratches in the anodizing, it's as good as new.

Swiss Army Knives: I have a guide friend who has used his Swiss Army multi-tool hard for as a long as I've known him. Watching him whirl and twirl that tool as he ties on a fly, cinches a loop knot and trims its tag end is a little like watchMuch of the stuff we use in everyday life is simply banal. Some of it is poorly made, but most of it fulfills a function in a way that makes it almost invisible in its lack of remarkableness. That's what makes it so pleasing to find things one truly likes, things that meet Pirsig's definition of quality and make us feel good every time we use them. The following items are like that for me. Most, but not necessarily all, involve a life in the outdoors. There is no endorsement, express or implied, here; your results will vary.

ing a tempura chef at work. That multi-tool is another one of those finely designed and manufactured items that simply feels good in the hand. I am equally impressed by the kleine wunder of that family, the Classic SD. Only two and a quarter inches long, this little beauty features a stainless knife blade, a file with a screwdriver tip, a wonderful scissors, a toothpick and a tweezers. Considering that the genuine article costs only around fifteen dollars, I'm astounded that knockoffs exist.

Zip-front Waders: Admittedly, these things aren't cheap, but, gosh, are they functional. Beyond the obvious and not insignificant benefit for old guys, the zip up feature makes putting waders on and taking them off again much simpler and faster, particularly if one is layered up for cold weather angling. Too, if you've walked a distance and have warmed up a little too much under all that layering, it's a simple matter to unzip and cool off.

Boa System Closures: Wading boots from several suppliers now incorporate this system, which substitutes stainless steel wire for laces. The ends of the wire attach to a ratcheting knob, which the user rotates to draw the wire tight. Pulling the knob out to a stop releases the tension on the wire. I've never experienced better ankle support than in wading boots equipped with this system.

{continued on next page 7}

ter rights that go with it are an important consideration and can significantly affect the value of the land. Many laws and legal precedents center around this issue. Values in our area may be affected by shoreline, but not by ownership of the water itself. This may change.

People in White Bear Lake, Minnesota are intensely aware of the effect of pumping water out of the ground; their lakeshore has receded hundreds of feet. People who fished the Little Plover River in Wisconsin were dismayed when the stream went dry due to excessive

pumping. Laws in both states are beginning to address groundwater issues.

So who should have a right to the water? Should domestic use have precedence over commercial interests? Private wells versus municipal wells? What will happen to our best trout streams as a bigger population makes greater demand? Development of homes and businesses along stream corridors obviously precludes fishing an undeveloped stretch of stream, but also may someday eliminate the stream itself.

Part of the answer lies in a paradigm shift: don't just use the water and then send it down the Mississippi, but clean it up and put it back into the ground. Don't let all of the rain run off; make some of it go into the ground. Don't create huge lawns that require water that must be pumped out of the ground.

In the next few years, there will be laws written to address groundwater rules. Pay attention. And do your part. To paraphrase something out of the 1960s: Please be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

{Words} Margaret LeBien

CASTING TIPS

Sure, catching a fish with the fewest number of strokes is the way you win the fly fishing game. But for many of us, just being there, swinging the rod back and forth, is the ultimate joy in fly fishing. Honestly, it's one of the most pleasing things in life. Fly casting can become a form of meditation, refreshing and calming. You do more of it and, by and by, you get better at it and you catch more fish.

The best fly casters have disciplined, precisely controlled casting strokes. They appear unhurried and smooth, with an efficiency of motion in the same way that fine poetry has an economy of words. The late, great Tom Helgeson was a beautiful fly-caster. Over time, he honed a technically functional cast into a work of art. He played his rod like a virtuoso, with beauty, power and emotion. But even for Tom Helgeson, his casting grace, like art, did not come easy. He practiced outside his Beltline Blvd. office (maybe 25 swings or so) every day that he could, because he loved it. He put it this way:

When everything is clicking, there is a state of grace that exists between you, your fly rod and the moving line above you. As a simple athletic event, it is unexcelled.

Not only do you engage your feet, legs, hips, shoulders, arms and hands when you cast well. If you let it, even your mind can achieve a state of grace. A good day of fishing will leave you pleasantly satisfied - physically, mentally, and emotionally. But, like anything, if you push it too far, you will get tired and grace will elude you. Then, woe unto you-your casting will become sloppy. You try to compensate. You cut corners to save energy and your cast is wrecked. You tighten your grip, crushing it to corkdust. You lose power even when you know you can't make a cast go farther by throwing it harder. It gets worse. Your now stiff-fingered death grip won't allow you to "feel" the cast. You can't relax your hand, so the rod tip continues to oscillate rapidly down and back up and throw waves of slack into the line. Slack waves rob the cast of the energy you need for the line to unroll.

Stop! When things are collapsing, take a 10-minute break. Sit down and drink some water. Look around you. Relax. Take a deep breath. Remember why you are there. Think of Tom Helgeson. Feel the love. Then start fresh again with a definite goal to s-l-o-w e-ve-r-y-t-h-i-n-g d-o-w-n....Good Luck!

FLY TIER'S CORNER {Words:: Images} Brian Smolinski

Some of my friends are planning a Bighorn trip this early spring, and it got me thinking about midges and other small flies typically fished at that time. It seems like many of my customers who plan trips to the Bighorn use a lot of red, pink, and gray flies. This fly came about by trying to class up a zebra midge with a wing and a tail while using some of those popular Montana colors.

The Senyo Fusion Dub is an interesting material. It's basically a synthetic fiber dubbing, but long, really long. It can be cut up and used like normal dubbing, or as flash in smaller streamers, or even stacked to form bulky wool style heads. There are so many new synthetics on the market these days. While natural materials will never be replaced, the uses for some of these new materials are only limited by our imaginations.

If you have questions, stop in at Lund's and ask Brian in person, or send him an email at brian@ lundsflyshop.com. He thinking about joining his friends in Montana this spring, so cut him some slack if he's not in the shop.

b's 2-tone red midge

Hook:: Daiichi 1120 - Size 16

Bead :: 3/32" Tungsten - Metallic Red Thorax :: UTC 70 Denier Thread - Red Body :: UTC 210 Denier Thread - Gray Rib :: Fine Ultra Wire - Metallic Red

Tail & Wing :: Senyo's Fusion Dub - Fishmas

INSTRUCTIONS:

- [1] Start by wrapping the 210 Denier thread onto the hook and tie in wire rib, laying the thread flat as you wind back to the bend of the hook.
- Take out a pinch of the fusion dub and pull the pile apart from each end. Then combine each stack and repeat until a majority of the fibers are lined up.
- Tie in the dubbing fibers at the rear of the hook with just enough length sticking out to form the tail
- Wrap the 210 Denier thread back up to behind the bead, covering up the dubbing fibers while pulling them towards the front of the fly to form the wing and create a slightly tapered thread body.
- [5] Counter-wrap the wire rib forward just behind the wing and tie of the wire with the 210 thread.
- Make a couple wraps between the bead and the wing to force the wing fibers back with the 210 thread and let bobbin hang below the fly.
- Start the 70 Denier red thread over the gray thread with wraps in front of and behind the hanging thread to lock both threads into place.
- Cut off the gray thread and the tag end of the red thread and make several tight wraps behind the bead to make the red thorax.



{Good Stuff from page 5}

Battenkill Mid-arbor Reel: I heeded the wisdom of old-time outdoor writer Ted Trueblood's adage on this one – If you find something you like, buy two because they'll quit making it. Actually, I ended up with three frames and five spools. For some reason Orvis struggled to market this reel, which in its largest size was supposed to retail for close to two hundred dollars a few years ago, but I bought all of mine at a deep sale price, or at a deep sale price with a free spool thrown in and finally at closeout pricing. If one could get past the Chinese origin of this reel, it was great. It was handsome and well made with a smooth and powerful disc drag and a simple left to right hand wind conversion system. One departed my vehicle at road speed on Sawyer County W one time (Never mind how or why!). It survived nicely, with the only damage being a little road rash and an easily straightened bent rim on the spool.

Seaguar Grand Max Fluorocarbon Tippet: Unlike monofilament, this stuff can bump up against a rock or stick without losing three quarters of its strength. It's very slow to hinge at the knot and it just plain does its job – always! I have confidence in it every time I draw a knot tight and give it a yank or two to test it out. I once watched a friend drag an eight foot long, four inch diameter water-soaked log out of the depths of the Bois Brule and onto the beach with the 2X version of this stuff.

Fly Tying Equipment and Materials: I've owned three fly tying vises in my life, all wonderful. The first was one my father made from a hardwood dowel, through-bolt and wing nut. I still have it, but I use a Regal Inex and, more recently, a Renzetti Presentation vise, both of which were gifts from my far better half. The vises are miles apart in terms of cost, but both, by golly, work and work well. That's true for so many of the fly tying tools I have, from the old Wishbone bobbins to the teardrop hackle pliers to the Dr. Slick scissors. Also, every time I step into a well-stocked fly shop I am staggered by the quantity, quality and variety of material. These are the good old days of fly tying. Threads, hooks, dubbings, beads, eyes - they are all wonderful and, for the most part, inexpensive. Chicken feathers can stand in stark exception in their price, but the quality and variety of dry fly hackle today is simply astounding. About the only down factor in this industry in recent years has been the virtual disappearance of the beautiful dyed grizzly saddle hackles that the hairdressing industry stole from us.

I hope you have such a list and if you do, I'd love to hear what's on it — maybe I can add stuff from your list to mine!

{Bad Ideas? Not So Simple from page 3}

which are required on large dairies. Yes the occasional manure spill from a large dairy farm has major impacts on trout, but is that worse than the continual pollution from small farms?

All large-scale human endeavors, be it agriculture or mining or road building or simply building houses, lead to negative impacts on the environment. I do not have a solution for the growing world population and the increased affluence that drive demand for goods and services - I really needed, OK wanted, that new fly reel for Christmas. So my personal bias is

that we should make systems as productive and efficient as possible. If we must devote an acre of ground to corn production, then let us achieve as high a yield as possible from that acre so that we can spare another acre from the plow. We must demand that high production be done in as environmentally benign a manner as possible. That requires enforced regulations. Unfortunately the voters in Wisconsin and much of the rest of the country have voted for less regulation in the last few elections. So the struggle will continue. Ultimately society will obtain the materials it wants; our goal must be

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to limit environmental damage while meeting these demands.

Hans Jung does not come from a farming background, but he did spend 30 years as a scientist with the USDA and as a professor at the University of Minnesota. His specialty was dairy cow nutrition, with a research focus on increasing the digestibility of grasses to keep them in cow diets. Towards the end of his career he became heavily involved in cellulosic bioenergy projects.

The opinions expressed in From This Angle are strictly those of the author and are not endorsed or approved by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, its officers or its board of directors.



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Check us out on the web: www.kiaptuwish.org

DON'T MISS the FEBRUARY 4th MEETING! at JUNIOR'S in River Falls

NEW VENUE!

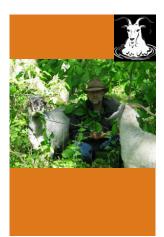
Junior's Bar & Restaurant is located inside the Best Western hotel on the corner of Main Street and Cascade Avenue. It's not usually busy on Wednesdays, so you should find parking without trouble.

You can find parking:

- In the basement garage (50 spaces)
- In the surface lot behind the hotel
- In the surface lot across Main Street

Junior's Bar & Restaurant 414 South Main Street River Falls, WI 54022 715-425-6630

Dinner begins at 6PM (your dime). The meeting begins at 7PM.



Andy Roth on February 4th

Caught in the Current:

Ramblings on Catching, Conservation & Connectivity

Making sure child-like exuberance and a twisted sense of humor is not lacking, Andy Roth, guide and owner of *Gray Goat Fly Fishing* will wade deep into a river of issues concerning our local fish, fishers and fisheries. 2015 will be a busy year for anglers and conservationists to play a big role in shaping the rules, regulations and policies concerning the use and well being of our cold water resources.

Don't miss this one!

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, February 13

RipRap is **ALWAYS** on the lookout for writers, photographers, story suggestions, etc. Send info or ideas to Maria Manion by the second Friday of the month for submission. Please do! manion.maria@gmail.com