



The Drift: Words from our President.

Cat-like reflexes. It's just gotta be his cat-like reflexes. He can cast a bit farther than I can, but I think I make up for it with my stealth. I'm shorter than he is, which definitely helps when you're trying to put on the sneak. We're both using Pink Squirrel anchor nymphs with small dark midge droppers. We're both getting strikes, but he's catching twice as many fish as I am. I keep missing most of mine, but he seems to connect almost every single time! It's just gotta be his cat-like reflexes.

It's the second Sunday of the open season and I am fishing with Joseph Duncan, one of our younger members. Joseph and his siblings grew up fishing with their father, Dan Duncan, in Wyoming, where Dan grew up. Dan brought Joseph to a couple of chapter meetings a few years ago, where Joseph learned about trout camp. Joseph applied for a Kiap-TU-Wish scholarship to the camp and attended the following summer. He came back from camp, fished more and attended some chapter meetings. Then he applied to be a youth counselor at trout camp the next summer. Now, Joseph is mentoring other young trout fishers, writing articles for RipRap and politely putting some of his "elder" chapter members to shame on certain unnamed tributaries to certain unnamed rivers in Western Wisconsin. All this started with an adult—in this case Joseph's father—sharing a love for the outdoors with a young person, and then other adults sharing their experiences at places like Trout Camp, until an interest and love for the outdoors ignited itself within the young person and it became their own.

Other Kiap-TU-Wish participants from Trout Camp, like Grady McAbee, Anna Kuehn, Eloise Olson, or Dahlia Olson, could share similar stories of learning new skills, growing in self confidence and coming back from Trout Camp with more enthusiasm for trout fishing, coldwater conservation and spending time with other young people who enjoy the outdoors. All of our campers have come back and shared about their camp experience at a chapter meeting, which is impressive in itself. Many have taken on active roles, sharing their skills and youthful energy with our chapter. All have seemed comfortable interacting with adults at our meetings. In my opinion, our campers are a pretty impressive group.

I haven't been to Trout Camp yet, but it sounds like a pretty neat experience. If you would like to volunteer at camp this summer, or better yet, if you know of a young person who might enjoy attending Trout Camp this summer, contact me at

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 12 | Issue 6
February 2019

WHAT

Chapter Meeting: Guide Carl Haensel:
Inland Trout Fishing in Northern
Wisconsin and Minnesota

WHEN

February 6, 2019
Dinner begins at 6PM (your dime).
The meeting begins at 7PM.

WHERE

Junior's Bar & Restaurant
414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Cover photo: Disks of ice and frozen
foam in an eddy on the Willow River.

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, February 15.
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement &
Preservation through Research And Projects

(715) 781-6874, or jswagner@bremer.com. There are a limited number of youth we are allowed to send to camp each summer. We ask interested youth to complete a short application to apply for these spots. Normally, campers need to be 12-16 years of age and be interested in learning more about bait, spinner and fly fishing for trout. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to and from Trout Camp. Kiap-TU-Wish pays the \$250.00 cost for the applicant(s) we send to Trout Camp each year.

Oh, and one more thing. If you happen to be out fishing with one of our younger members, and he innocently asks to take a picture of you with a puny, but colorful trout you just caught, beware! That picture could be posted all over social media before you're even half-way home. Happy Fishing! — Scott Wagner



Editor's Note: Science!

Science! Citizen science!

I'd like to direct your attention to page 4 and 5 of this newsletter where you'll find information about a very exciting opportunity. Kiap-Tu-Wish has been chosen to participate in a pilot project to test water quality in our Pierce County streams. Kiap-TU-Wish members can be citizen scientists, collecting information—with a cool mobile app—to improve understanding of our resources and what is needed to protect them. John Kaplan and Kent Johnson explain it in detail, so read up and contact John or Kent if you'd like to participate. I'm planning on it.

Years ago, the Bob Mitchell's of old sold a small, rectangular, spiral-bound notebook for recording observations on fishing outings. It had line items to fill out about water temperature, water clarity, precipitation, insects and more. Almost every year I'd buy one as a sort of New Year's resolution, and like a new year's diet or exercise program, it didn't stick. One theory about my lack of follow-through is that recording all that info just for me wasn't enough, or at least science-y enough. I keep a fishing journal, but it's filled with observations of nature and fish and weather that fit within paragraphs of narrative versus a more organized format. The WiseH2O mApp pilot project is a game-changer for me; I'll keep my prose recordings of fishing expeditions, but now fill my wanna-be-scientist urge by making an actual contribution to the data which helps us learn more about our rivers and ultimately, how to best protect them. It's an exciting proposition, that's for sure. — Maria Manion

2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Chapter Meeting**
February 6, 2019 / 7pm
Guide Carl Haensel: Inland Trout Fishing in Northern WI and MN
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **K-TU Tie-A-Thon**
February 23, 2019 / 10am
Nymphs, damp emergers & wet flies
Lund's Fly Shop, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
March 6, 2019 / 7pm
WDNR Projects & Fish Survey Results
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **River Falls Fly Fishing Festival**
March 8, 2019 / 5pm
Riverview Ballroom, University Center
UWRF Campus, River Falls, WI
- **K-TU Tie-A-Thon**
March 2019 / Details TBA
Dry flies and emergers
Lund's Fly Shop, River Falls, WI
- **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo**
March 15-17, 2019
Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**
March 25, 2019 / 6:30-8pm
Urban Olive & Vine, Hudson, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
April 3, 2019 / 7pm
Annual Fly Tying Night
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
May 1, 2019 / 7pm
Chapter Social & Trip Planning Night
Details TBA
- **TIC Bugs in the Classroom**
April-May 2019 / Details TBA
- **TIC Trout Release Days**
May 2019 / Details TBA
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**
May 2019 / Details TBA

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 to the chapter.



K-TU Tie-A-Thon: Tiers Wanted

Our first Kiap-TU-Wish Tie-a-Thon has been scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd from 10:00 until sometime in mid afternoon. The location is Lund's Fly Shop in scenic River Falls, Wisconsin. The reason for this event is to restock the Chapter's dwindling fly library, primarily for our two biggest needs, the Trout Fishing Clinic in June and the Hap Lutter Spring Appeal.

We need you...up to eight or so fly tiers willing to sit around the table at Lund's Fly Shop trading insults and tying a dozen or two dozen flies to be donated to the Chapter. This event will focus on nymphs, damp emergers and wet flies in the 12, 14 and 16 size range. Tiers can whip out a standard fur nymph or soft hackle, or a secret nymph or emerger that is a sure-fire deadly pattern. Another session in March will focus on dry flies.

Coffee and a hearty lunch will be

provided. If you'd prefer an adult beverage you're welcome to bring it. By all means bring your tools, hooks and materials for whatever fly you're tying. If you're missing something Brian will undoubtedly have what you need...it is a fly shop, after all. To register, contact: troutchaser@msn.com —Mike Alwin

WHAT:

Help the Chapter fill up its fly boxes. Join others to tie nymphs, damp emergers and wet flies on the first of two tie-a-thon events this year.

WHEN:

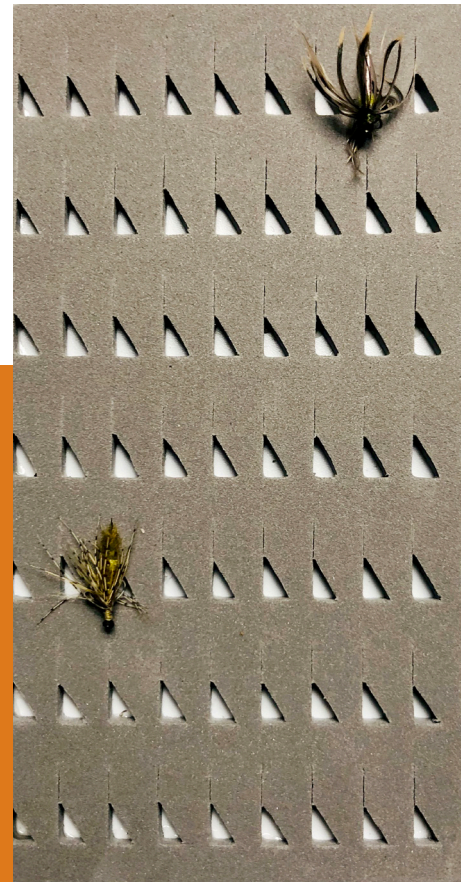
Saturday, February 23, 2019

WHERE:

Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls

REGISTER AT:

troutchaser@msn.com



Status Of The Dam In Willow River State Park

Construction of the new dam in Willow River State Park is expected to be complete by late 2019. It will be capable of discharging cooler water from the bottom.

In 2015 the old dam was breeched and the lake drained. 2019 will be the fourth and final year that the lower stretch of the river will flow freely, although it is somewhat controlled by the dam at New Richmond.

This website has current information and a streaming video of the construction site: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/willowriver/littlefallsdam.html>

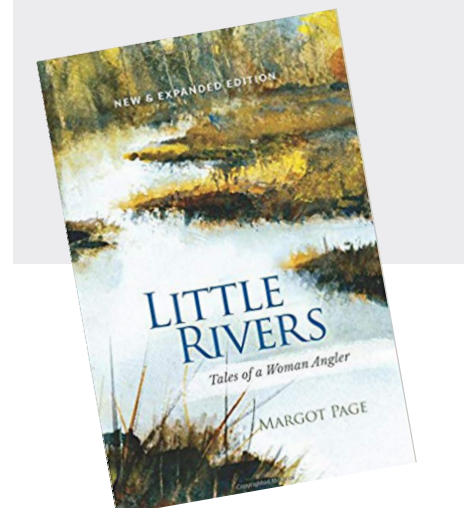
This USGS website shows current and historical flow rates at the gaging station below the dam site: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/uv/?site_no=05341752&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060. If that address is too long to type, go to waterdata.usgs.gov and follow the drop-down menus to reach the Willow River station.

photo from WDNR streaming video



Belle Rivière Book Club:

The next book club gathering will be held on Monday, March 25th at Urban and Olive in Hudson, Wisconsin. The group will be discussing *Little Rivers* by Margot Page. You don't have to be an angler, fly tyer, casting phenom or trout nerd to join the gathering. You just need an interest in reading and chatting with others who like to read too. If you know of any women who might be interested in attending, please contact Jennifer Medley at jennifer@turningleafstudio.com.



TUDARE WiseH2O Mobile Application (WiseH2O mApp)

The Problem

Poor water quality and degraded habitat conditions can be major detriments to the health of our coldwater resources. Lack of available data on these conditions often hinders our understanding of where trout streams need protection and restoration. Therefore, accurate information is critical for targeting our limited conservation resources.

Angler Science Via Mobile Phone Technology

Using patented mobile phone technology and chemical test strips, MobileH2O, LLC has developed a water quality screening method that is fast, inexpensive, and easy for use by anglers wanting to understand water quality conditions and play a part in ensuring the health of their fisheries. Through angler science, natural resource managers have access to a larger quantity of relevant data, allowing them to better manage water quality to address protection and restoration needs.

TUDARE WiseH2O mApp

Trout Unlimited's national science team is currently partnering with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O mApp) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams. Via the TUDARE WiseH2O mApp, anglers can quickly make the following measurements:

- Alkalinity (mg/L)
- Hardness (mg/L)
- Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)
- Nitrite-Nitrogen (mg/L)
- pH
- Orthophosphate (mg/L)
- Stream Disturbances
- Temperature (°F)

Measurements of alkalinity, hardness, nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃), nitrite-nitrogen (NO₂), pH, and orthophosphate can be made using test strips provided to participating anglers.

Observations of any local stream disturbances and/or habitat degradation can be made using photos and notes via the WiseH2O mApp. Examples of such disturbances may include fish barriers (culverts, beaver dams), livestock (grazing on banks or accessing the stream), stream bank erosion and siltation, trash, and drain tile inlets.

Water temperature can be measured using a high quality digital field thermometer, with the measurement entered in the WiseH2O mApp.

Kiap-TU-Wish Pilot Project

Before launching the TUDARE WiseH2O mApp for angler use on a broad regional scale, several pilot locations have been selected for testing within the Driftless Area. In 2019, Kiap-TU-Wish members have been invited to participate in a pilot location that includes Pierce County.

John Kaplan, who serves as the Kiap-TU-Wish Monitoring Coordinator, will lead the pilot project, with support from Kent Johnson. Here's how you can be involved:

1. Membership Survey: As a starting point, we'd like a broad cross-section of our membership to complete a short survey on the WiseH2O mApp, as a means to gauge interest in use of the app and assess the support needed for users. In early February, we'll send a survey link via our Mailchimp contact list.

2. Target Anglers: We need a small, hardy group of "target anglers" (8-12) who will be monitoring at designated stream sites on a prescribed schedule, to ensure that the project meets its goal of representing broad spatial and temporal variations in stream water quality throughout the Pierce County project location. Essentially, we're asking each target angler to "adopt" a stream site and use the WiseH2O mApp approximately 10 times during the March-October period, generally once per month. A draft list of stream sites up for adoption is as follows:

- Kinnickinnic River in Lower Glen Park (River Falls)
- Rocky Branch Creek in Lower Glen Park (River Falls)
- South Fork Kinnickinnic River at 900th Street
- Trimble River at County Road W
- Rush River at 570th Avenue
- Eau Galle River at WI Highway 29 (near Spring Valley)
- Cady Creek at 50th Street (near Elmwood)
- Pine Creek at County Road AA (near Maiden Rock)
- Isabelle Creek at County Road EE (near Bay City)
- Plum Creek at Plum City Park

If you are interested in participating as a target angler, please contact John or Kent (see contact information above), and also indicate your preference for an adopted monitoring site. Sites can be adopted on a first come-first serve basis, so pick your angling favorite early!

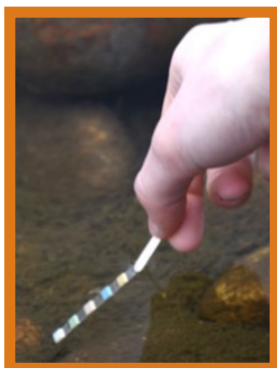
Want to participate?

Contact John or Kent:

John Kaplan
K-TU Monitoring Coordinator
jmk8990@comcast.net
612-963-1699 (Cell)

Kent Johnson
d.kent.johnson@gmail.com
612-845-7258 (Cell)

1. Dip a test strip

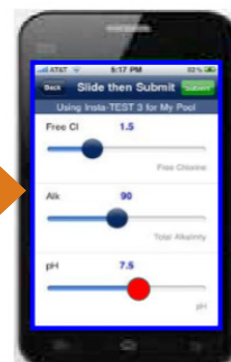


2. Take a photo



~30 seconds~

3. Get results



3. General Anglers: We'd also like to invite a larger group of "general anglers" (50-100) to participate. These anglers will have the flexibility to monitor stream sites of their choice throughout Pierce County. Depending on the number of general anglers participating, each angler will be able to use the WiseH2O mApp 2-3 times during the March-October period, on their own schedule. If you are interested in participating as a general angler, please contact John or Kent.

The WiseH2O mApp will have a built-in training module, and the app has been designed for easy use. So there is no need to fear this technology if you're a mobile phone user. Nonetheless, John and Kent will be well-trained users who are available for support. We may also schedule a training session in March for those who are interested. Stay tuned for more details on the March training session via RipRap or Mailchimp.

National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on Angler Science and the benefits it provides: "Anglers gathering scientific information about the fish and the places they love". Stream water quality monitoring is one of the key Angler Science initiatives. Kiap-TU-Wish participation in the TUDARE WiseH2O mApp pilot project provides us with an outstanding opportunity to showcase the use of mobile Angler Science technology, with the potential for expansion to regional and national stages. We invite your participation and are looking forward to working with you on this project!



The Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE), coordinated by Trout Unlimited, is a geographically-focused, scientifically based, broad partnership operating in support of the National Fish Habitat Partnership to improve rivers and streams throughout the Driftless Area region.

The partnership was formed to jointly address the issues of habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation and alteration of cold, cool and warm water rivers and streams in the Driftless Area of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois.

DARE's goals are to:

- Reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to Driftless Area rivers and streams.
- Conserve and restore habitats that increase the natural abundance, diversity and health of fish and other aquatic life through landscape-scale community restoration and land protection efforts.
- Increase the quantity and quality of angling and other recreational opportunities.
- Increase public awareness about Driftless Area resources and the importance of aquatic conservation and restoration

Visit www.dare restoration.com to learn more about DARE (The Driftless Area Restoration Effort).

From the Field: Habitat Update



Tiffany Creek

Work on Tiffany Creek—where it runs through the Boyceville middle/high school campus—was completed on January 9th. We spent seven workdays at that site, and I thank all of the volunteers who helped. What I had estimated to be a 3-4 day project removing box elders and other unwanted trees from the immediate stream corridor turned into a major undertaking when the Boyceville school board asked us to remove almost all of the mature maple and ash trees from the park just north of the creek. The trunks on some of those trees measured in excess of 40" and bringing some of them to the ground safely was no easy task. Fortunately a sawmill operator is taking the long straight trunk sections from many of these trees and the locals will claim much of what's left as firewood.

Plum Creek

Work has now begun on Plum Creek where there is over 4,500 feet of stream to be cleared of box elder, buckthorn, honeysuckle and some willow trees to be cleared over the course of this winter and into next year as well. Nineteen volunteers turned out for the initial workday, and I hope we can retain that level of interest as the brushing season progresses. There are almost 270 individuals who have asked to be included on the list of workday announcements via Mailchimp. Thirty to forty people have showed up for the workdays so far and I hope to see others of you yet this winter. If you're not already getting workday announcements and would like to, please contact me at randyca999@gmail.com and I will add your name to the list. If you show up to work, you can work at your own

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers clearing brush and trees in Boyceville.

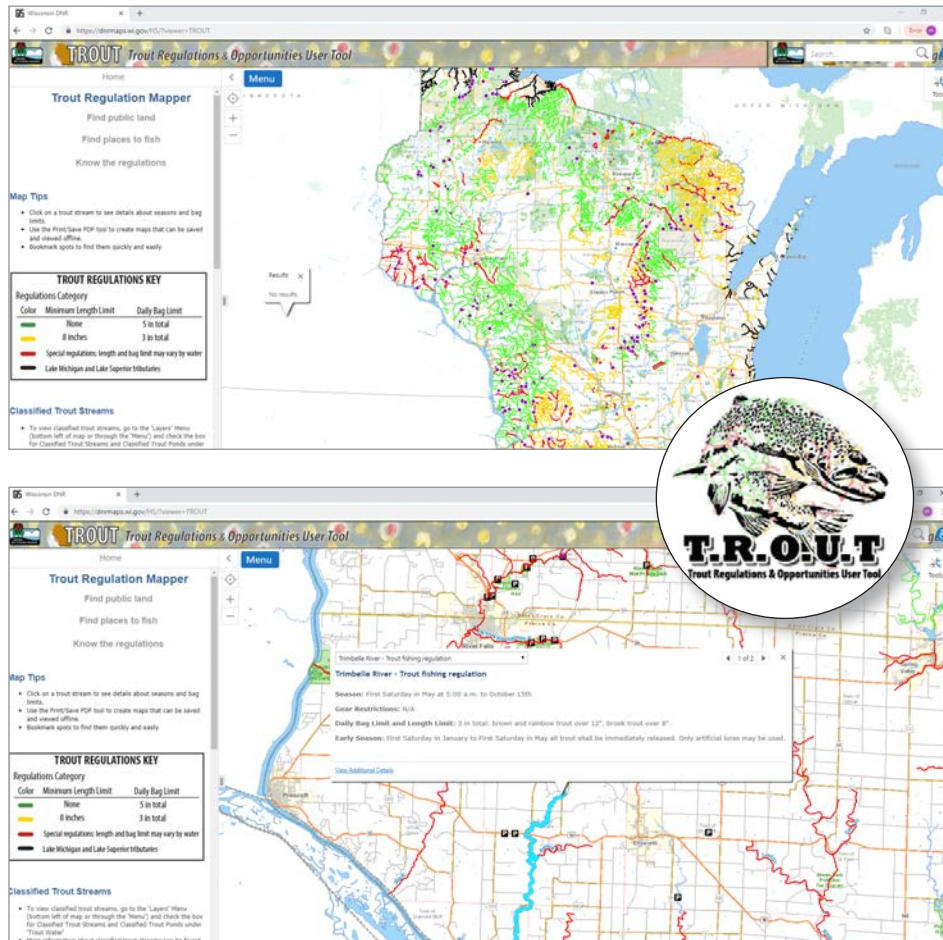
pace and come and go as you please. I provide donuts and/or cookies for those who hang around until we take our lunch break of hotdogs roasted over one of the worksite bonfires. I generally try to schedule workdays on Saturdays but occasionally one is scheduled for a Sunday due to weather or volunteer request. In the case of Plum Creek, I expect that there will be some mid-week workdays as well to accommodate workers from Covia (formerly Fairmount Santrol) and give them an opportunity to help with the project.

It's a fair commute to Plum Creek and chapter member Trish Hannah has volunteered to organize a carpooling effort, pairing up volunteers who wish to ride share. — Randy Arnold

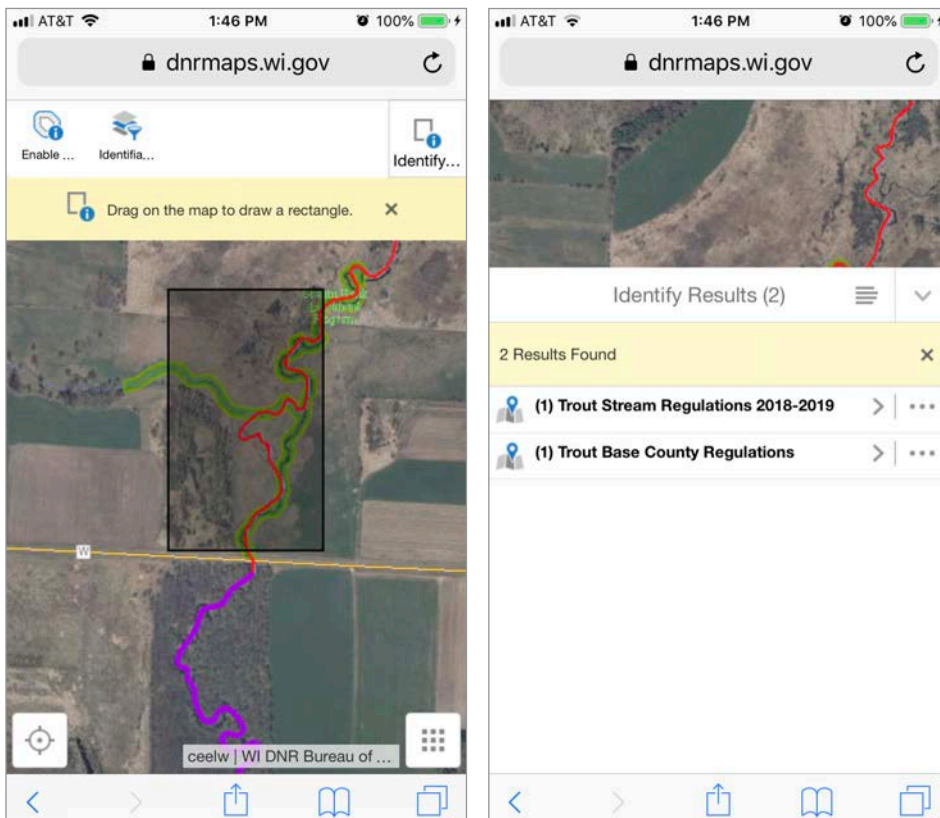
WDNR Launches TROUT

The WDNR has a new online tool available to save as a favorite on your smartphone or home computer. It's called the TROUT (Trout Regulations and Opportunities User Tool) tool and it is essentially an online version of the color maps and regulations found in the printed Trout Fishing Booklet, except much better. It's zoomable and searchable. For example, type in Trimbelle River into the search bar, and all the regulations pop right up. It can toggle between street view and satellite view. Roads and highways show up and unlike the print version, the mapping is suitable for navigation. Public lands are color coded and streams are shown in their regulatory color codes. Find it by going to <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/trout.html> and press "Launch Trout" button.

The TROUT tool is constantly being updated and improved, but feel free to contact Kasey Yallaly, our WDNR fisheries biologist, if you have any questions. kasey.yallaly@wisconsin.gov



Above: The TROUT tool as it appears on a desktop or laptop computer. It's searchable, zoomable and has various drop-down menus to pinpoint information such as easements, parking areas, etc. Click on rivers to pull up regulations.



TROUT Highlights:

- On-the-go mobile access to trout streams and regulations
- Roads, aerial images, and fishing easements
- The ability to find your location, measure distances, and print/save a customized map for a fishing trip
- NEW! Trout habitat project locations and details from 2011 through 2016, including timeline, project purpose, targeted species, habitat techniques, habitat impairments and project partners.

Left: The TROUT tool as it appears on your smartphone - all the functionality of the desktop or laptop, just a slightly different interface.

Note: There are geolocation issues with Google Chrome on Android devices

The Find Me/Follow Me feature does not currently work on Android devices running Google Chrome. To continue to use Find me/Follow Me, launch the web map in an alternative browser such as Firefox.

A Look Back

By Jonathan Jacobs

I've had to answer the question "How long have you been fly fishing?" twice recently, once in order to prove to a web site that I wasn't a robot and another time in response to a survey from TU National. Then came the contretemps in our nation's capital over the State of the Union (Parenthetically, that speech could be pared down to these six words: "The union is in total disarray"). The combination of these events induced in me a desire, despite my recent vow to look forward, to look backward over about four decades to render my view of the current state of trout angling-related affairs. This will be a macro-level analysis and didactic; things will have become either better or worse in that time span.

In the better column:

► **Trout fishing in western Wisconsin:** The season is much longer. Regulations regarding bag limits, while always in need of tweaking, are more effective. The trout we pursue are more and more likely to be stream-born and bred. Generally speaking, there's more available high-quality trout water and access to it is better, both in terms of public easement and through cooperative private landowners. One excellent example of this improvement is the Rush River. Thirty-odd years ago it had the reputation of a "hog hole," a river that held ten-pound brown trout. That was true, but it was also true that the river was heavily dependent on stocking, that summertime water temperatures often approached highs of nearly eighty degrees, that guaranteed public access was almost non-existent

"Generally speaking, there's more available high-quality trout water and access to it is better, both in terms of public easement and through cooperative private landowners."

and that any major rain event would muddy the river for days. Now, the obese hatchery-bred browns are gone, but in their place is a robust population of feral brown trout. (Fish counts per mile are multiples of what they once were.) Our native char, the brook trout, once found only near spring

sources like feeder streams because of their need for truly cold water, are common throughout the river system. One can see this process repeating on the Trimbelle River and other area watercourses.

► **Trout Unlimited at all levels:** Kiap-TU-Wish has always been an effective organization with board members and officers who have done their level best for the area's trout resources, but as the organization has more than doubled in size over the last thirty years, its ability to take on larger projects requiring sophisticated financing and technical expertise has truly blossomed. The chapter has been true to its rock-rolling and brushing roots, too, but the intensity and frequency levels have ratcheted up at a pace that has exceeded membership growth. And that membership is now more diverse than it once was with younger and female faces accompanying the Old Boys who once comprised much of the chapter.

When I was elected chapter president thirty years ago, Chuck Goossen, a man of considerable discernment, gave me a briefing. He opined that the Wisconsin State Council likely didn't warrant our

participation. I have no reason to doubt Chuck's outlook, but thirty years on the State Council is a well-organized unit with frequent well-directed

". . .but as the organization has more than doubled in size over the last thirty years, its ability to take on larger projects requiring sophisticated financing and technical expertise has truly blossomed."

meetings, a solid relationship with the WDNR, a terrific quarterly tabloid and a fund-raising banquet that provides part of the financing for grants to local chapters. (K-TU has received invaluable assistance in this manner.)

When I joined Trout Unlimited, the national organization was headed by the former commissioner of a state DNR. He was a hale fellow well-met sort, but it could be fairly said that he was in over his head, particularly in the area of finances, and solvency was a pressing issue. His replacement righted the financial ship, but was obsequious to wealthy potential donors, many of whom let the CEO know that it would be best if the organization steered clear of things like public access issues. The current president and CEO, Chris Wood, is directing an organization that does a terrific job of balancing the need for fiscal health with actually standing up for the resource and for the rank and file membership. I'd be

remiss if I didn't mention that TROUT magazine has become one of the most readable, informative and well-edited publications of its type anywhere.

► **This publication:** In the mid-1980s RipRap was sometimes nothing more than a postcard that served as a meeting notice. It improved immediately and immensely when Craig Mason and Andy Lamberson co-edited the first version to be created on word-processing equipment. Every editor since has improved on that urtext and Scott Hanson's version even won a much-deserved Bollinger Award. That said, I am honored to the point of being flattered to be allowed to contribute to RipRap's current iteration. In my opinion, this version has better writing, a greater diversity of voices, sharper graphics and better layout and presentation than any that have gone before.

► **Angling gear:** Anything and everything you can name is simply better. Sundry things from cold-weather gear to vests to wading staffs to tippet materials to fly patterns are all better. Perhaps the best example can be found in waders. Back in the day waders were made of such things as rubber-coated canvas, which weighed a ton, or coated nylon fabric that was lightweight, but retained heat and admitted cold in a way that defied the laws of thermodynamics. To show how desperate we anglers were, we welcomed the introduction of neoprene waders, which were cozy in cold weather and comfortable after a fashion, but woe unto those who had to walk any distance in them on a warm day. Today

even low-end breathable waders are comfortable in warm weather and, with proper layering underneath them, suitable for cold-weather use.

► **Information sources:** One can easily make the case that print magazines concentrating on fly fishing have gone in the tank in the last thirty years. The ones that haven't disappeared have mostly shrunk to something about the size of a feed store sale flyer and contain editorial content to match. The explosion of the internet, however, more than offsets this loss. How-to videos, online magazines, mapping resources and GIS systems and fisheries agencies websites are but a few examples of the kind of information available with the click of a mouse. Print isn't altogether dead, either. For example, I recently finished reading *Astream*, an anthology published only five years ago that's one of the best I've ever read.

In the blessedly brief worse column:
► **Governmental interest in protecting the environment:** You know where I want to go with this, but I'll mostly bite my tongue. Let me just say that when I first fished for trout in Wisconsin, the WDNR commissioner served independently of the governor and there was an

"Anything and everything you can name is simply better. Sundry things from cold-weather gear to vests to wading staffs to tippet materials to fly patterns are all better."

entity called the Office of the Public Intervenor that had the responsibility of representing the public's interest in matters concerning environmental issues. The commissioner is now a

political employee and the Public Intervenor's office has been abolished. That leads to things like this: This month a judge in Milwaukee ruled against the DNR in a lawsuit, saying that the DNR cannot bargain away water quality protections written into law in order to quiet the complaints of the dairy industry. That's a positive outcome, but that we have a DNR that had to be told by a judge to do its job is inexpressibly sad. And that pales in comparison to the way the state sold what little remained of its soul in the Foxconn fiasco by agreeing to waive nearly every environmental rule ever written so that the world might have more liquid crystal displays. Multiply those disasters by a factor of approximately infinity and you have the United States EPA and Department of the Interior in action. If that's how our society is going to operate in the twenty first century, I suggest that it's time to fish hard while the fishing's good because it ain't going to last.

The preceding paragraph paints a grim picture of our future. But we are not bound to it. The Wisconsin Idea, now more than a century old, expresses the ideas that technology and research, along with "well-conducted legislation" can better our lives. The Idea informed the actions of Wisconsin conservation giants like Aldo Leopold, Gaylord Nelson and Warren Knowles and Wisconsin served as a model for both conservation and good government. What once was can be again. If we are willing to work hard enough within Trout Unlimited and in our civic lives, we can return to a position of leadership in protecting our environment – and our heritage. 🐟

KNOW YOUR BUGS: Spring Stones (pardon the pun) *by Mike Alwin*

The second of three installments about this insect leg of the angling triumvirate

Here's the least amount of stonefly biology I can give you. Count your blessings. Stoneflies need unpolluted, highly oxygenated water, which helps explain why emergences out west are prolific and those in the Midwest and east are sparse. Stoneflies, it turns out, are hydropneustic and take up oxygen through their skin or exoskeleton. The gills, if they have them, simply add more surface area. Large species are usually predaceous, smaller species are detritivores.

However, some species begin life as detritivores and add predation to their limited skill set as they mature. Mating occurs streamside on the ground or in the bushes. Hmmm? Stonefly larva have two wing pads, two antennae, two tails and two claws on each foot to help you distinguish them from mayfly larva.


Ya gotta respect an organism that emerges from cold water to an even colder terrestrial environment in the middle of winter. Either that or you

question its IQ. Gary Borger has said that a trout's IQ is 6. What are we to think of a stonefly's? And how is it that some "winter" stoneflies are still emerging in spring? Obviously there is some overlap, as you will see.

As for habitat, besides highly oxygenated water, stonefly larva prefer certain habitats. Some prefer large boulders and the concomitant rubble; think mountain rivers. Others prefer coarse gravel and rocky areas. Still others are found in fine gravel, while some others are found in aquatic moss. Finally, a few genera favor leaf matter and other detritus. Except for the smaller species, stonefly larva are seldom found in the drift except for the catastrophic kind. While almost all are found in streams of unpolluted, highly oxygenated water, a precious few are found in lakes with rocky beaches and plenty of wave action. And one species is entirely aquatic, spending its entire life 70 meters below the surface of Lake

Tahoe.

To add to this cacophony, here's a look at some "spring" stoneflies. The Early Brown Stone, *Strophopteryx*, is a March-April emerger and is found mostly in gravel, although you might find them on a log or in leaf litter. Common on some streams, the larva is easily imitated with a reddish brown Hare's Ear Nymph fished on the bottom. The larva are typically 8-12 mm. Did you measure your nymph hooks?

Another early spring stonefly is the Medium Brown Stone, known to the scientist types as *Isogenoides*. This critter ranges from 15-20 mm and begins emerging in April. The larva is yellow with distinct colorful brown markings on the thorax and sports brown stripes on the abdomen. Regardless of abundance, they can be important due to their size, visibility and behavior because as predators they are actively searching for supper. 

In March's RipRap: The Rest of the Story

Challenge yourself

by Tom Henderson

Author G. E. M. Skues wrote about an avid fisherman named Theodore Castwell. Mr. Castwell feared which way he might go after he died, but he arrived at a place that any fisherman would call heavenly: a beautiful stream. He was assigned a beat that would be his for all eternity. There would be no change in the beautiful weather. He no longer needed to eat nor sleep, so there would be no night-time. He could fish 24-7-365.

On his first cast, he caught a two and a half pound trout. On his second cast he caught a two and a half pound trout. On his third cast he caught a two and a half pound trout. On his fourth.....you get the idea. He was not allowed to fish anywhere else. He was guaranteed to catch a two and a half pound trout on every cast and for all eternity would never be allowed to stop fishing. Since he was dead, there would be no need to stop to eat nor sleep....just keep on fishing. Forever. Catching the same fish, over and over.


He was not in heaven after all.

For Mr. Castwell there was no longer any challenge in fishing. Some of our greatest pleasures come from overcoming a challenge.

It is exhilarating to tackle something difficult and succeed. We learn, we grow, we feel good.

There are many challenges in fly fishing. The primary one is obvious: can I catch a fish today? There are many others available: Will I ever learn to cast? What kind of bug is that? Can I learn to tie my own flies? Can I cross this stream at this spot? Can I cast under that tree? If I do, will I catch a fish? What kind of insects are in this stream, when do they hatch, and which artificial is the best imitator? Can I cast just upstream of that rock?

Most of the potential failures do not have severe consequences, the most common being that I don't catch a fish this time. More costly but not fatal is losing a fly in a tree. Those failures drive me to try harder next time. Successes feel good: my fly drifted close to that log and a trout took it. Yay!

Choose your challenge. Learn what you must learn. Keep trying; don't fear failure. Fly fishing makes available an unlimited number of challenges and a lifetime of rewards. Maybe you are already in heaven. 

"Fly fishing makes available an unlimited number of challenges and a lifetime of rewards."

FLY TIER'S CORNER: Mile High Stonefly

Fly & Recipe by Ron Kuehn; Photo by Brian Smolinski



Hook: Daiichi 1100 – Size 14

Thread: Uni 8/0 72D – Light Olive

Wing: Dun or Grey Deer Hair

Abdomen: Adams Grey Superfine Dubbing

Body: 2mm Strip of 2mm Black Sheet Foam

Hackle: Grizzly saddle hackle

Instructions

1. Start the thread near the mid point of the hook. Wrap back towards the bend of the hook stopping above the barb. Dub a thin tight noodle and wrap forward to about 2 or 3 eye lengths behind the eye.
2. Cut a strip of 2mm foam approximately 2mm wide. Tie the foam in about 1 eye length behind the eye. Ensure that the butt end of the foam is completely covered by thread and well secured. Trim the foam so it extends slightly past the bend of the hook.
3. Cut, comb, and stack a small clump of deer hair. Tie in the deer hair on top of the foam, about 1 eye length behind the eye. The tips of the deer hair should extend just past the end of the foam. Trim the deer hair butts
4. Lay a smooth thread base down from the rear of the eye to 1 or 2 eye lengths behind the eye
5. Tie in the grizzly hackle by the butt end and wrap forward 4-6 turns.
6. Make a small neat head, whip finish and add head cement

Kiap-TU-Wish

Board Members & Contact Info

Randy Arnold
randyca999@gmail.com

Suzanne Constantini / Treasurer
smcon26@gmail.com

Loren Haas
loraud2@gmail.com

Gary Horvath / Vice President
magshorvath@comcast.net

John Kaplan
jmk8990@comcast.net

Pete Kilibarda
pkilibarda@spa.edu

Maria Manion
manion.maria@gmail.com

Greg Olson
Greg.Olson@diasorin.com

Perry Palin
perrypalin@hotmail.com

Tom Schnadt / Ex-Officio Board Member
thschnad@hotmail.com

Scott Wagner / President
jswagner@bremer.com

Diversity Liason: Sarah Sanford
sarahsanford@yahoo.com

KiapTUWish.org
Ken Hanson / Website Administrator
Meyer Creative / Website Design

RipRap
Editors: Maria Manion & Joseph Duncan
Printer: Bob Bradham
Proofreaders: Bob Trevis & Judy Lutter
Stamps/Seals/Mailing: Deb & Mike Alwin

RipRap Contributors:

Tom Henderson is a longtime chapter member, former Kiap-TU-Wish president.

Jonathan Jacobs is a long-time chapter member and de facto, monthly columnist. He's also the guy who introduces everyone by name at chapter meetings. You can contact him at turirap@hotmail.com.

Kent Johnson is a longtime chapter member and a water resources professional who was instrumental in establishing numerous water quality monitoring programs in Western Wisconsin.

John Kaplan is a chapter board member and Kiap-TU-Wish Monitoring Coordinator.

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



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
P.O. Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016

www.kiaptuwish.org



February 6, 2019
Chapter Meeting

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



February 6, 2019

Please join us on February 6th when Carl Haensel, a fishing guide based in Duluth, Minnesota, will speak about inland trout fishing in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. See you then!

Dinner starts at 6pm (your dime).
The meeting starts at 7pm.