



RipRap

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

JANUARY, 2012 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5

Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects

JANUARY PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY KYLE AMUNDSON

The annual Holiday Banquet went very well as we raised some \$4500. Thanks to all who participated. We handed out several awards at the banquet including Volunteer Appreciation Awards for Tom Schnadt and Bob Lorenzen; a Gold Net Award to Randy Arnold for all the project organization he does; and the Golden Trout lifetime achievement award for Gary Horvath, who has served the chapter in every capacity as a board member and officer for the last twenty years. Thanks to all of these folks for their volunteerism.

We look forward to starting work on the Trimbelle River this next year as we are currently seeking grant money from various organizations. Speaking of grants, Greg Meyer has taken over our grant writing function and he has done an outstanding job, putting in countless hours of research and solicitation writing.

The board will have two open positions starting in March as long time board members Jon Jacobs and Greg Dietl will be stepping down. Jon has served in most officer positions as well as being the editor of RipRap, and serving on the banquet committee. Greg has served as president and vice president and led us through the nationally proclaimed Pine Creek project. If you get a chance, make sure to thank them for their enormous contributions throughout the years. Please consider contributing your time to the organization as a board member.

Professor Kerry Keane of UWRF will speak at our January meeting on stream monitoring techniques. Board member Hans Jung has begun looking into a chapter volunteer monitoring effort, with members recording stream temperatures, etc. on a limited basis to help detect any stream health changes.

Welcome new members: Russell Berg (Frederic); Ron Ginsbach (Elmwood); and Danny Rorabeck (Hudson). Please visit the Kiap-TU-Wish website for more chapter information.

Winner
Bollinger Award
Best Newsletter
2010

**Kiap-TU-Wish
meetings are held
at Bob Smith's
Sports Club, the
first Wednesday
night of the
month. The
January meeting
is on the 4th.
Dinner begins at
6 PM, Meeting to
follow at
7 PM.**



Happy New Year! I always enjoy celebrating the arrival of a new year, but then I always don't enjoy the month of January. It's always the coldest part of winter, which makes me yearn for the warmth of summer. Heck, January even makes me yearn for the warmth of February! I guess some of you diehards (which I used to be, as well) will get out and do some trout fishing in Minnesota in January, but in my advancing age I have given up on that. I like to feel my fingers and toes, so I have taken to staying inside where it's warm. January always makes me feel so blah, which is the reason I chose to have a whitefish adorn the cover of this month's RipRap. There isn't a member of the trout family that is more blah than a whitefish, so I thought it would fit perfectly with the month of January.

One thing that will surely liven up the month is the January Kiap-TU-Wish meeting, happening on Wednesday, January 4th at Bob Smith's Sports Club in Hudson. You won't want to miss it. The rest of the month can be made exciting by reading every square inch of this issue of RipRap. You especially won't want to miss Maria Manion's piece, *A Flurry of Tricos*, on page 6. Don't skip ahead, though. The rest of this issue is filled to the brim.

Have a great January, or at least as good as January can be! See you in February.

KIAP-TU-WISH BOARD MEMBERS & CONTACT INFO

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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LOOKING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEERS

BY GREG MEYER

Starting in January, Kiap-TU-Wish will have a presence on facebook and LinkedIn. Are you on facebook or LinkedIn? Always wanted to volunteer with Kiap-TU-Wish, but weren't sure how to be involved? We need your help! We are currently looking for chapter members to serve as editors/contributors to help with our social media presence.

We'll be including information on current chapter projects, volunteer opportunities, environmental issues and whatever is relevant and timely.

If you'd like to help or have questions, please contact Greg Meyer at: kiaptuwish@hotmail.com.

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Chad Borenz

651.261.8277 or

chadborenz@gmail.com



STREAM WATCH

BY HANS JUNG

As we tie flies this winter and imagine rising trout next spring, this is an opportunity for us to consider how fortunate we are to have such excellent streams nearby to pursue our passion. We are also very fortunate to have professionals like Marty Engel with the WI DNR monitoring the health of our region's streams and their trout populations. But in these times of shrinking public investment in environmental protection and restoration, we cannot become complacent if we are to continue enjoying the resource we so treasure. It is our responsibility to assist our partners in maintaining vigilance in protecting our trout streams. That is why the chapter board is proposing a Kiap-TU-Wish membership Stream Watch program for the 2012 fishing season.

All of us know that stream flow, temperature, and clarity are among the most important factors that contribute to abundant trout populations. The DNR regularly surveys streams in our region for these characteristics, along with conducting fish counts by electro-shocking. However, there is only so much that our DNR partners can accomplish. So let's help out by making a few simple measurements when we are out fishing. Obviously Kiap members spend lots of time on the water and visit many streams during the course of the season. Think of all the information we can collectively contribute if chapter members make a just few measurements and record a handful of observations every time we go fishing. These data would supplement the DNR's intensive data collection efforts and the continuous electronic water temperature measurements Kiap already supports on a few streams (the Kinni, Pine, and Willow).

So what are we asking you to do? Well on every fishing trip during 2012 we ask that you record water temperature, assess stream clarity and flow, and keep a count of number, species, and size of trout caught. In consultation with Marty, we are developing a fishing diary in which to record these data. The format of the diary is not finalized yet, but obvious things like date, location, and time spent fishing will be included. Diaries will be collected after the 2012 season ends and the data will be passed on to the DNR for comparison and addition to their own data.

Data from any stream you fish are welcome, but we also encourage you to nominate stream locations (access point, not your special honey hole) that you expect to fish at least once a month from April through September. Nominated stream locations will be listed on the Kiap web site so others can add the location's data set. For example, I will nominate the 690th St. crossing (Stonehammer bridge) on the Rush River because I expect to make regular fishing trips there in 2012. We will create a system for electronic data reporting (email or a web page) during the season. If multiple records are submitted for specific stream sites, then each month I will post graphs on the web site that track water temperature, stream flow, fishing success, etc. to keep the membership abreast of Stream Watch progress. After the season ends I will present a summary of the data collected during 2012 by the Kiap members.

Let's harness the enthusiasm and dedication of the Kiap membership for preserving our favorite streams by making this Stream Watch program a success. Further details will be forthcoming at our winter chapter meetings starting January 4 and on the web site. Bring your thermometer to the January meeting if you would like to check it against a National Institute of Standards and Technology calibrated thermometer.



FLY SWAP IS BACK!

BY GREG MEYER

We will again be featuring our monthly fly swap for Kiap-TU-Wish members and friends in the months of January through May. Each swap will have a theme that participants will tie flies for. Representing the best “secret” flies for our local waters (and favorite destinations) as tied by our chapter members and guests.

Basic Overview

We typically tie a baker’s dozen (13) flies of one pattern. In return, you will receive 12 flies that were tied by other swap participants. The extra fly will be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish to help with their fundraising activities. Swaps are limited to the first 12 people that sign up each time.

For example, our first swap may be “winter nymphs.” Participants will tie 13 flies of one pattern of their favorite winter nymph, send it to the swap master (me), and get 12 different flies back in return. We will post photos and recipes of each participant’s flies as they are submitted. Suggestions from participants will determine the next featured fly theme to swap.

Please contact me if you’d like to participate in this year’s fly swaps, or have any questions, at: kiaptuwish@hotmail.com



THE BANQUET, CONDENSED

BY TOM HENDERSON

Rob McKim of The Nature Conservancy was the guest speaker at our annual banquet. He highlighted the similarities and differences between TNC and TU. Both are primarily interested in preserving and restoring our natural heritage, but with different focuses and methods.

Land acquisition: TNC uses outright purchase to preserve tracts of land, usually quite large. It often transfers ownership to other entities, such as land trusts and governments. In contrast, TU generally avoids land ownership, primarily due to concern about becoming responsible for cleanup of contaminated parcels. However, Kiap-TU-Wish does assist land trusts to purchase land that includes streams and riverbanks.

Biology: TNC strongly prefers to purchase tracts that are biologically diverse. TU prefers to restore coldwater habitat. Organizational structure: TNC has a headquarters near Washington DC, and offices in all states plus many foreign countries. Offices have paid staff. TU’s national office in Arlington, VA has a small paid staff, but the state councils and local chapters are run entirely by volunteers. Each local TU chapter has its own by-laws and elects its own board of directors.

Geography: TNC operates in all 50 states and many foreign countries. TU is only in the US. Both are 501 [c] 3 non-profit organizations.

The Nature Conservancy can be very creative in structuring a purchase. For example, in one case where a foreign government was unwilling to set aside a special undeveloped region, the Conservancy purchased some of that country’s poorly rated debt at deep discount price, and then traded the bonds for the land. Wildlife benefited, the people benefited, and the government got rid of some debt without using tax money. Ultimately the land became a national park. Win-win-win, at a cost to the Conservancy that was far below market value.



A BANQUET THANK-YOU

BY MICHAEL ALWIN

Here's an "If...Then..." for your consideration. If the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet was a success it was because of three groups of people.

First, you folks who attended. Because of you we had one of our biggest banquets with better donations and a bigger contribution to our chapter's coffers.

Second, our volunteers who showed up on the eve of the banquet and helped smooth out the rough spots. Paul Wiemerslage got dragooned into picking up and storing all the donations for the silent auction and then delivered them to Tartan Park and helped set up the auction. Tom Schnadt and Bob Wiesner served as Floor Captains, helping set up the auction and patiently steering donations and donators to the appropriate locations. Allison Jacobs and Matt Schneider served as Treasury Assistants at the end of the evening, helping purchasers get organized before dropping that big check on the Treasurer.

Third, the folks who serve on the Banquet Committee deserve a pat on the back. Tom Henderson, Deb Olmstead, Emily Wemlinger, Jonathan Jacobs and Greg Dietl have been meeting since September to organize and flesh out this year's Banquet. In addition to our meetings each one of these Committee Members has had a list of responsibilities they were charged with and all achieved their objectives as evidenced by this year's event; clearly they are a special bunch.

Regrettably, two of our Committee Members are leaving the fold. Jonathan Jacobs has officially retired from his duties on the Banquet Committee citing fatigue and burnout. Emily Wemlinger has resigned her position on the Banquet Committee because she has accepted a position in Missoula, Montana. Both of these people will be sorely missed.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER ROB MCKIM FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (MIDDLE)
TREASURER TOM HENDERSON CHECKING PEOPLE OUT AFTER THE SILENT AUCTION (LEFT)
EMCEE JON JACOBS & PRESIDENT KYLE AMUNDSON AT THE PODIUM (RIGHT)

ALL PHOTOS BY GREG MEYER



A FLURRY OF TRICOS

ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARIA MANION

We had our first real snow of the season this past weekend. It came slowly, first as drizzle, then as soft rain, then soft rain and slush, then slush, and then, finally, snowflakes. I stood in it and—despite the upcoming Christmas holiday and the excitement for a season of wood fires, boots dripping with melting snow near the front door, and the metallic scrape of my neighbor's shovel—found myself thinking of a late July morning where the Midwestern heat came rolling over the farm fields to where I stood in a trout stream amidst a flurry of tricos.

I never expected to be so fond of the trico spinner fall (the tiniest of mayflies, spent from mating and falling to the river's surface in the wee morning hours), or to spend so much time fishing it. I'd prefer to sleep, particularly after a week of rising early for work, linger over a cup of coffee and hard-boiled egg, and check the backyard tomatoes to see whether critters have taken a bite. But the expectations of my Labrador and the memory of previous mornings when the river seemed to boil with fish, kicks me out of bed.

On this first morning of my trico season, I got up later than intended, fed the dog, made a cup of instant coffee, and grabbed a few slices of cheese for the drive to the stream. Once there, I looked to the sky above the stream for a cloud of swarming tricos, hurried into my waders, dug my vest out of the duffle, grabbed my fly rod, locked the truck, unlocked the truck to get my hat, locked the truck again, swung on my vest, waded the river at the tractor crossing and hoofed it



down the path to where I had a good day's fishing the year before. In our haste—me and my lab—we missed the point of easy access to the river, instead whacking our way through hemlock and stinging nettle to get to the river's edge. We popped out just where I had hoped, but the trip getting there wasn't pleasant.

While my lab splashed in the water near the bank, looking for submerged sticks to chew, I judged the state of affairs while quickly assembling my rod. Upstream near the car, a thick cloud of tricos hung above the stream. Here, downstream, they were filming the water's surface and trout were

starting to rise at alarming frequencies. Thrilled, rod assembled, I looked down to sort out my leader, forgetting that I had removed the whole lot a week before, including the loop at the end of my fly line. Panicked, I searched my vest for a new tapered leader, snipped off the corresponding loop, struggled to tie leader to line with a blood knot—a knot I've tied many times before with great success—screwed up, watched rises, started again, screwed up, tried deep breathing, and resorted to tying the biggest ball of knot I'd ever seen, a knot far too big and unshapely to get through any of the guides on my rod, but a knot sufficiently strong to get me fishing. So, somewhat satisfied, I turned attention to my vest, to the flies, and to my box of trico spinners. Which I left in the truck. In the truck.

I tied on an olive CDC emerger and started fishing.

Happily I can report that I caught fish, enough fish. First I cast the fly so that it drifted downstream, submerged in the film. I picked up trout at nearly every point on the drift. Next I cast the fly upstream, dry, where it managed a perky attitude in the ripples. I caught a few trout there too.

At this point my lab had explored every stick within a decent radius and was getting antsy to move. We waded upstream, along the riffles edge, until I spotted sporadic rises in the flat water above the riffles head. My darling lab, now heeling at my right, watched with me.

And as we watched, we slowly found ourselves enveloped by a cloud of tricos. The sunlight, caught in their crystalline wings, transformed the spinners into a million minute snowflakes which were falling all around us. I put out my hand as I would in a winter flurry and they landed tenderly, exquisitely. I almost expected them to melt as a cold flake on a warm hand. Standing there, even the water's rushing seemed silent. I turned to my darling Labrador upon whose black coat snow-white tricos had reposed. "Wow. Wow. What about this, huh?"

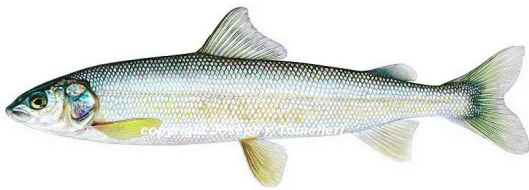
I've told that story a few times since it happened and I never get the beauty of that moment adequately painted. So if you're able, stand in the midst of a soft snowfall, hand outstretched. It was like that.





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE JANUARY MEETING!!!

Wednesday, January 4th
@ Bob Smith's Sports Club
in downtown Hudson, WI

The deadline to make submissions for the
February issue is Wednesday, January 18th.
Thank you!

