



The Drift:

Words from our President.

Project work: By the time you receive this issue of RipRap, work will have begun on next year's project site. On December 12, Randy Arnold and I met with four people from the DNR (Marty Engel, John Sours, Barb Scotts, and Matt Andre) at the site and marked trees to be removed. The primary goal of this project on the upper Kinni is to improve habitat for larger trout. By opening the canopy to allow sunlight to hit the stream, more vegetation should grow. Of course, there will be bank improvement and in-stream structures as well.

The long range planning committee will be meeting with John and Marty to update the list of potential projects for 2015 through 2017. A few new easements are becoming available and a couple of sites on the list are being completed.

December banquet: 113 people attended the December banquet.

Next regular chapter meeting: The next regular meeting will be on January 7 at the Green Mill restaurant in Hudson on the south side of I-94 at the Carmichael Road exit. UMD professor and research Tom Hrabick will be speaking about research projects in Mongolia and the related fly fishing opportunities.

Are you a fly tier? Each year we fill a fly box to be auctioned at the state banquet. We could use a couple dozen more to fill this year's box. If you would like to help us meet this goal, bring 6-12 flies with you to our January chapter meeting, or send them to our mailing address: Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016-0483. If you choose to mail your flies, be sure we have them no later than mid-January so that we have time to cover any shortfall.

Expo: The Tom Helgeson Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo will be held again in Blaine 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. Every year, I enjoy seeing many familiar faces and meeting new people as well as looking at new stuff and doing a bit of wishful thinking. Also every year I seem to leave behind a bit more money than planned. Bob Diesch will schedule volunteers to work at our booth; contact him if you would like to help.

Enough said.

~ Tom Henderson

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



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**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

NEW VENUE!

The January 7th meeting is at the Green Mill restaurant in Hudson, on the south side of I-94 at the Carmichael Road exit.

Green Mill Hudson
2410 Gateway Court,
Hudson, WI 54016
715-386-9900

www.greenmill.com/hudson-wi

Sal Trutta emailed the photo above which was taken somewhere along the Rush River this past fall.

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Kiap-TU-Wish Banquet a Hit!

The 2014 Holiday Conservation Banquet is now history, but the 113 people who attended will remember it as the highlight of their social calendar and the best K-TU banquet ever.

Indeed, the attendance set a record for this event. Alas, due to the demands of editorship, this edition of Rip-Rap is going to press too soon to be able to share financials with the loyal readers. However, the merchandise this year was better than ever, due in part to a windfall from the estate of Pat Farley and the generosity of many very creative K-TU members. One of the reasons the banquet drew so well was because of our speaker, StarTribune Outdoor Columnist Dennis Anderson.

Dennis delivered a memorable and timely presentation on the value of introducing new people to our outdoor activities. In addition, guests had plenty of time to peruse the merchandise and purchase tickets for the eigh-

teen items in the bucket raffle selected by the Committee as premium items. Plus, there were many, many door prizes awarded and many grab bags of fly tying materials were available for

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Maria Manion photo



K-TU "Stalwarts" Recognized

At this year's annual banquet, four individuals were recognized for their multiple hours spent on stream improvement work during 2014. Randy Arnold, Volunteer Coordinator, presented Certificates of Appreciation, as well as \$25 Gift Certificates from local fly shops, to Loren Haas, Dennis Anderson, George Ruth and Scott Wagner. Boxelder trees aren't safe when these four, plus other Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers, follow Randy into the woods.

Also recognized that evening were Dan Wilcox, who received the Silver Trout Award from President Tom Henderson for his involvement in and coordination of the Trimbelle River project at County W. This Bring Back the Natives project is the beginning of a hoped-for "Brookie Corridor" along the upper Trimbelle.

The Gold Net Award was presented to Greg Meyer, former Board Member and creator/custodian of the chapter's internet presence and website. Tom Henderson also noted Greg's willingness to take on and continue the Rip-Rap newsletter, as well as his intense involvement in (and success) writing grants for habitat improvement projects.

~ Bob Trevis



Janelle Schnadt & Heather Logelin photos

Thank you to these remarkable volunteers for all their efforts.

Top Photo, Left to Right: Loren Haas, Scott Wagner, Dennis Anderson and George Ruth Bottom Left: Dan Wilcox and Tom Henderson Bottom Right: Greg Meyer

{Banquet from previous page}

the paltry sums of \$5 or \$10. As they say, a little something for everyone.

The Banquet Committee, (Tom Schnadt, Chair; Allison Jacobs, Greg Dietl, Deb Alwin, Bob Diesch, Robert and Rhea Hawkins and this writer) wishes to thank everyone who made this year's banquet a roaring success. These businesses helped contribute to our success this year: Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Lund's Fly Shop, Mend Provisions, Gray Goat Fly Fishing, Carter Ave. Frame Shop, Cardinal Corner, Joe's Sporting Goods, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, Fairmont Santrol, Cabela's Woodbury, Kinni Creek Lodge and Colleen Manning at Uno Bella Salon. We received major contributions from these individuals: Margaret LeBien, Bob Torres, Karlyn Ekman, Lloyd Hautajari, Sarah Sanford,

Randy Arnold, Judy Lutter, Perry Palin, Mel North, Bob Diesch, Al Hope-man, John Carlson, Phil Smith, Janelle Schnadt, Herb and Corky Lundberg, Scott Holloway and Paul Johnson.

Finally, many thanks to these folks for donating their time and effort to this cause: Paul Wiemerslage, Jonathan Jacobs and Scott Wagner for helping to organize the swag and set up the auction and raffle; Ken Hanson for helping with the set-up; Margaret LeBien, Maria Manion, Scott Thorpe and Bob and Marce Trevis for allowing us to dragoon them into selling raffle tickets; Gary Horvath, Tom Henderson, Scott Wagner and Hans Jung for taking on the job of checking out all those lucky guests and all their swag. All of you deserve a round of applause.

~ Michael Alwin

A Word from the editor. . .

For years my husband and I have spent Friday nights with a fishing friend or two. Inevitably the talk turns to fishing equipment and while I appear enraptured, I'm silently wondering why it is I just don't care as much as they do about the details, the particulars. After one of these Friday night gatherings, I decided that in order to be an engaged participant in these conversations, I needed to know the details. I needed to commit myself to learning the nitty-gritty of rods, reels, lines, tippet, hooks, etc.

There's not enough space here to expound on the why and how of my method, but in short, I spent one afternoon on a rod maker's website, jotting down notes about rods and their specifications on 4x6 index cards. I started with the manufacturer of my "little trout" rod and figured I'd branch out from there. I admit it, I severely underestimated this kooky idea of mine long before my husband walked by and said "What the hell are you doing?"

The point to this odd and embarrassing tale is that somewhere along the line I realized I should really commit myself to learning more about weightier issues, issues similar to what Jonathan Jacobs mentions in his opinion piece, or what I read in TU's Trout magazine, or what I glean from working on restoration projects. I may have to put away my flashcards outlining the 3 technologies used in the 6 categories of 23 rod lines, utilizing either the MPS or AMPS systems. . .

Final note: Speaking of learning things on stream restoration projects . . . I've learned that keeping track of volunteer work hours is really important. We use those hours in grant applications for our stream projects. (In a recent grant application, the volunteer labor rate was \$22.55/hour.) Be sure to find Randy's sign-in sheet and include your time on site, as well as the time spent getting there!

~ Maria

Movie Night

Last year a showing of the F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour occurred in River Falls. Requests for tickets were through the roof, and the show was sold out in less than two weeks. This year, the event has moved to a larger theater: the Riverview Ballroom on the UWRF campus. Set for just over 400 seats, we're expecting a sellout.

This is a fund raising event and all proceeds from ticket sales go directly to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. Numerous door prizes, auction items and bucket raffle prizes have already been donated. Be there to give back to a community and a great organization whose goal it is to protect this outstanding resource.

Besides the films, there will also be fly tying demonstrations, loads of locally tied flies, fly fishing & hunting themed artwork, hats, shirts, and other merchandise for sale. There will be lots of options for food for sale and of course Rush River beer! Come early and take part in the fun raffles, games and other festivities!

When: Friday March 6th 2015

Doors Open at 5:00pm

Films Begin at 7:00pm

Where: Riverview Ballroom/

University Center – UWRF

500 Wild Rose Ave., River Falls, WI 54022

Tickets can be purchased locally in advance at Lund's Fly Shop & Kinni Creek Lodge for \$12 (or \$11 cash) and through F3T online. If the event is not sold out, tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event for \$15 (cash only). Student discount available for cash sales with a student ID (\$10). All ticket sales are final, sorry no refunds or replacement tickets available. SEATS ARE LIMITED!

~ Brian Smolinski



From this angle. . .

Bad Ideas

{Words} Jonathan Jacobs

We humans are a clever lot. After all, we've subdued our planet after nearly becoming extinct not so many millenia ago and now there are more than seven billion of us crawling over the face of it. A few of us have traveled to a destination a quarter million miles distant and our machines have reached out beyond our own solar system. Our technologists create miraculously complex products on a daily basis. Given that, how is that so many Bad Ideas take root and grow? Here are just two of those many bad ideas:

Iron mining in the Penokee Hills: Political "leadership" in Wisconsin meekly passed legislation to allow Gogebic Taconite—an alleged Florida company that is in turn a subsidiary of Cline Resource and Development Corporation, which appears to be an instrument of Chris Cline, a mining baron whose fam-

"Wisconsin has fourteen thousand lakes, which causes one to wonder if it really needs one more."

ily's roots are sunk in the coal fields of West Virginia—to have its way with the Hills. The basic idea is to rip a gash twenty miles long, a half mile wide and a thousand feet deep through the Penokee Hills in Ashland and Iron counties with the goal of extracting iron ore. The hills have several fine trout streams running through them and serve as the headwaters of the Bad River, which flows into Lake Superior on the lake's south shore. Some of the trout streams would be buried under slag heaps, while the Bad's water quality, if history is an indication, would be badly degraded. That water

"But wherever the truth may lie, this much is crystal-clear: our bigger-and-better society is now like a hypochondriac, so obsessed with its own economic health as to have lost the capacity to remain healthy. . . . Nothing could be more salutary at this stage than a little healthy contempt for a plethora of material blessings."
- Aldo Leopold

would then flow through the Bad River Indian Reservation's wild rice beds and thence into one of the world's great repositories of clean water. Keeping a pit a thousand feet deep dry enough to mine would require pumping massive amounts of degraded groundwater from it, depleting the aquifer. Once the mine is played out, the mine would be "rehabilitated" as a lake, while the slag heaps, the mine's backers suggest, would could be ski hills, perhaps serving almost as well as the hills that are there now. Wisconsin has fourteen thousand lakes, which causes one to wonder if it really needs one more. This is all being done under the boosters' banner of "Jobs, jobs, jobs!" Of course, little mention is made of the fact that not many locals have mining skills and that all the jobs would

up. And yet, here we are, we clever Wisconsinites with metaphorical shovels in hand, eager to inflict scars on our homeland that will remain until the next glaciation levels the whole wretched mess.

Industrial Agriculture: I come from a family that farmed for generations and I think I understand that most farmers are as chained to the wheel of commerce as any of us and haven't many choices in method of operation if they want to stay on the land. Still, there are so many Bad Ideas in agriculture that it's hard to know where to begin, so let me tell you about one that involves any number of other Bad Ideas: it's *corn*. This golden grain could likely be the death of us. We are turning our arable lands into *monocultures* to grow it. We suck aquifers dry to *irrigate* it. We plant it so *densely* that we deplete soil quality to the point that we have to pump the land full of *petro-chemically derived fertilizers* to grow it. We plant it in *unsuitable places* and watch as topsoil and stream banks are washed away to grow it. We develop *genetically modified Frankencorn* because we are desperate to grow more of it. Why are we so eager to do this? It surely isn't to forestall starvation among the world's burgeoning masses, as we are often told by King Corn's industrial boosters. Here are two unpleasant truths about much of the terrible hunger around the world: First,

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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.

The Brushing Song

(sung to the tune of
Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)

Hot dogs roasting on an open fire
Box elders falling down around
Kiap members in their brushing attire
As chainsaws belt out their sound

Everybody likes to dream
For streams with easy accessibility
So here's your chance to join the team
And make the dream a reality

I may seem obsessed with my calls to arms
As winter leaves us short of normal things to do
My email notices often lack in charms
To that I say 'Boo Hoo'

So get up off your duffs this winter season
And venture out with our volunteer crew
Should you need a better reason
I promise you'll feel good about the work you do



WDNR's Barb Scotts and Marty Engel marking trees to be cleared on the Red Cabin project site

Tom Henderson photos



Notes From the Field: a call-to-arms from our volunteer coordinator, some of it set to music

Red Cabin work: Tom Henderson and I recently met WDNR's Marty Engel, John Sours, Barb Scotts, and Matt Andre at the Red Cabin project site to mark trees and plan out our winter brushing work. Over the winter, we'll clear trees and prep the site for next summer's stream bank restoration.

Parker Creek work: I also anticipate continuing work which we began last winter in removing box elder trees and other invasives from a stretch of Parker Creek, downstream of the Pleasant Avenue Bridge.

When to show up: I typically send out notices for volunteers mid-week looking for help on either Saturday or Sunday depending on the weather forecast. Watch your inbox. Send me an email rarnold@aug-biomed.com if you are not on the volunteer list for our brushing work and would like to be included.

What to expect: The work can be as easy or as strenuous as you want to make it as you will be working at your own pace with other volunteers. I typically start work at 8:00 or 9:00am and work until early afternoon. I am grateful for anyone who shows up, even if you're only able to work for an hour or two because of other commitments. I typically bring along hot dogs and some chocolate chip cookies for a little relaxing lunch break around noon.

Gear to bring and clothes to wear: If you have a chainsaw and are comfortable felling trees, you are welcome to do so, but I strongly encourage you to bring safety gear as well. (I do offer free chain grinding for those who help out with the cutting and don't mind sending their chains home with me until the next workday.) For others, a good pair of work gloves and weather-appropriate clothing will prepare you to drag and stack the felled trees in piles where we will burn them. Once a fire has been started, it is usually pretty easy to stay warm even on the coldest of days.

Sign in: I always have a sign in sheet and ask volunteers to log their hours. This season I would like you to include your travel time to get to and from the site as well.

I hope to see many of you soon.

~ Randy Arnold

CASTING TIPS {Words} Margaret LeBien



Do you remember your first rod outfit? Mine was a 5'3" blue-light special that came complete with leader and woolly bugger. Due to operator exuberation, it snapped in half the first time I fished it.

A fast 9-foot graphite rated for a no. 5 line came next. It promised to be "the One" rod I would ever need. Sensing my inexperience, the man behind the counter advised over-lining it by two line sizes so I could "feel the load" — whatever that meant. I soon discovered that the no. 7 bent the stick well enough, but the line wouldn't go anywhere. Dropping in back, drooping in front, my casting distance decreased the harder I worked. Over time, I adjusted to muscling the extra weight, lashing it to and fro like an old sourdough skinning a mule team. Yee-hawh!

Three fishless years later, I tried a friend's 6-½ footer perfectly matched with a no. 2 double taper. Oh, the simple joys I had been missing! With no effort, this elegant wand could make a dry fly alight like dainty butterfly toes on liquid glass.

After a search, I found an elfin-like 7 footer that was rated for either a no. 4 or a no. 5 or a no. 6 line. Remembering that stiff "the One" rod, I chose a no. 6 weight forward, figuring that more must be better.

After trial and mostly error, I learned that less than 30 feet of line outside the rod tip would effortlessly load this Lilliputian rod. Casting about 36 feet of the no. 6 WF became the weight equivalent of a no. 7 line, way too much for the rod design and the skill of this caster. If I had tested it at the point of sale, I might have noticed the line sag when making a short cast. A no. 4 line would have been a perfect match.

If carrying more than 30 feet of line is your usual style, try dropping a line size and see how your short rod performs. The rod might flex as if you were casting only 30 feet of a heavier line. You just might form tighter loops because less line mass means less air resistance into the wind. And you might even be able to get away with a shorter leader, since a lighter line will create less commotion landing on the water.

Don't be absolutely committed to using the line weight marked on the rod. Experiment either up or down, and you may be pleasantly surprised how it affects your casting.

Good Luck!

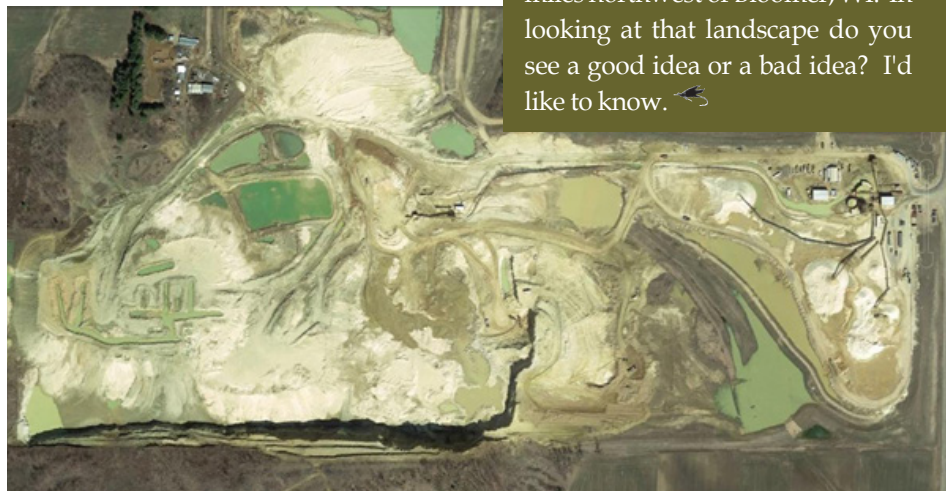
{Bad Ideas from page 4}

much of it is due to sociopolitical factors. Starving one's enemies is an extraordinarily effective weapon of war and a low cost, low-profile method of getting rid of "undesirables." Second, our species proclivity for reproduction is always going to have the most vulnerable among us on the brink of starvation with populations rising to more than match any improvement in agricultural output. We grow corn to produce *fuel ethanol*, an idea so bad that it would disappear without generous tax subsidies provided by politicians seeking contributions from agribusiness donors while running for congressional or senate seats in Corn Belt states. We grow it to produce cheap *high-fructose corn syrup*, which is rendering our nation obese. We grow

it to fatten cattle, an animal evolved to eat range grasses, which we raise in CA-FOs (*Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*), where we confine creatures with far too little genetic diversity to ensure herd health and then we cope with that with copious doses of antibiotics, all so

that burgers might be on a dollar menu somewhere.

Lastly, here's one I am putting to a vote. Look at the Google image below. The industrial site in it is situated in the rolling hills a few miles northwest of Bloomer, WI. In looking at that landscape do you see a good idea or a bad idea? I'd like to know. 🐞



b's pink & gold scud



FLY TIER'S CORNER

{Words :: Images} Brian Smolinski

If you have questions, stop in at Lund's and ask Brian in person, or send him an email at brian@lundsflyshop.com

FLY RECIPE:

Hook :: Size 14 Umpqua C300BL
(Curved Czech Nymph)

Thread :: UTC 70 Cream

Weight :: .025" Lead Wire

Base Layer :: Hot Pink Ice Dub

Mid Layer :: Cream Antron Yarn

Top Layer :: UV Resin

Ribbing :: Fine Silver Ultra Wire

INSTRUCTIONS:

- [1] Start with 6 turns of lead wire right in the middle of the hook shank.
- [2] Cover lead with thread wraps and build a slight taper up and over the lead.
- [3] Tie in the wire rib material and a piece of Antron yarn. Leave a long tag end of the Antron and wrap it down the entire length of the hook shank leaving a few fibers sticking out past the hook eye.
- [4] Bring the thread to the back of the hook where the Antron and wire are tied in. Wrap forward with the dubbing building layer of dubbing on the entire hook length, stopping just before the eye of the hook.
- [5] Wrap the Antron over the dubbed body with overlapping turns and tie off just behind the eye.
- [6] Counterwrap the wire rib with wide turns. Tie off the thread, finish, and cut thread.
- [7] Darken the top of the fly with a permanent marker and cover with several light coats of UV resin, curing with a UV light in between each coat. (Do not coat the underside of the fly.)
- [8] With a fine point X-Acto knife, slice the uncoated belly of the fly right down the middle. Be careful to only cut in between the wire ribs, do not cut through them.
- [9] Using a wire dubbing brush and bodkin, pick and brush out the fibers of the underbelly exposing the hot pink dubbing underneath.

Sometimes one of my favorite aspects of tying is experimenting with different techniques, new materials, or unique ways of attaching fibers to hooks. This fly is basically wrapped Antron yarn that has been glued down on the top to secure it and then sliced down the middle lengthwise to create a bunch of legs. The great thing about Antron is that it is not only shiny, but slightly transparent, so the color of the fly is affected by the bright pink layer underneath. Then I used a gold metallic marker to add some sparkle and alter the color of the fly even more.

Kiap-TU-Wish

Board Members & Contact Info

Tom Henderson

Chapter President/Grants
tomhenderson136@comcast.net

Gary Horvath

Chapter Treasurer
magshorvath@comcast.net

Hans Jung

Chapter VP/Planning Committee Chair
hansjung@gmail.com

Allison Jacobs

Chapter Secretary
allisonmjacobs@hotmail.com

Randy Arnold

Board Member/Volunteer Coordinator
rarnold@augbiomed.com

Bob Diesch

Board Member /Fly Fishing Clinic
bob@etestinc.com

John Kaplan

Board Member/Monitoring Coordinator
jmk8990@comcast.net

Maria Manion

Board Member/Grants & Newsletter
manion.maria@gmail.com

Greg Olson

Board Member
Greg.Olson@diasorin.com

Tom Schnadt

Board Member / Banquet Chair
thschnad@hotmail.com

Bob Trevis

Board Member / Spring Appeal
troutchaser@comcast.net

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, January 16.

RipRap is always on the lookout for writers, photographers, story suggestions, etc. Please feel free to shoot me an email, tap me on the shoulder at chapter meetings, or even send me a bona fide letter. Any way you choose, have your material, comments or suggestions to Maria Manion by the second Friday of the month for submission.
manion.maria@gmail.com



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

Jane Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 5401

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

DON'T MISS the
JANUARY 7th MEETING!
at the Green Mill in Hudson



Tom Hrabik with a taimen in Mongolia.

Green Mill Hudson
2410 Gateway Court
Hudson, WI 54016

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

Tom Hrabik, a University of Minnesota-Duluth professor and researcher, will be joining us on January 7th.

Tom Hrabik is a UMD professor and researcher whose teaching and research interests involve aquatic diversity and ecology, conservation biology and aquatic food web interactions. Some of his current research focuses on the food web and fishery dynamics in the Great Lakes and the effects of climate change on cold water fish species in Minnesota's small lakes.

Tom is an avid fly angler and you may have already bumped into him on the Brule chasing steelhead or along the Rush River during the spring mayfly hatches. While studying in Stevens Point and Madison — on the long road to his PhD in oceanography and limnology — Tom spent a fair amount of time in our area and now returns each spring.

Aside from all that, Tom recently had the opportunity to travel to Mongolia and participate in science projects on taimen, grayling and lenok. At the chapter meeting, he'll tell us about those projects and share his experience about the related fly fishing opportunities. Don't miss it.