

The Drift: Words from our President.

Holiday Conservation Banquet: The December 3rd Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet scored high marks on all fronts. It provided a comfortable, congenial atmosphere to socialize with fellow coldwater enthusiasts. The speaker, Steve Kinsella, educated the audience on the growing effort to move Federal public lands to the stewardship of individual states and explained the negative possible consequences. The banquet was also a good venue in which to recognize the efforts of Kiap-TU-Wish members and, based on the preliminary numbers, it looks like the chapter's funding goal will be achieved too. Three Kiap-TU-Wish members—Trish Hannah, Scott Thorpe and Jack Sackrison—received certificates of appreciation and a \$25 gift card for their 2015 volunteer efforts.



Banquet attendees perusing silent auction items.

Bob Bradham received the Silver Trout award for his long-time Kiap involvement and his specific dedication in keeping the chapter's newsletter affordable and available to members. Kiap-TU-Wish Volunteer Coordinator Randy Arnold did a great job recognizing John Sours (recently retired from the WDNR) for his thirty-plus years of stream restoration work in the upper Driftless Region. As a bonus, John then shared with the audience his view of how important organizations like TU are to the protection and restoration of coldwater resources. A big thanks to the committee that put on this first-class event: Mike Alwin, Deb Alwin, Allison Jacobs, Scott Wagner, and Bob Diesch, plus many other volunteers. Also, thanks to the individuals, corporations, and private businesses who generously donated both premium raffle gear and gently used silent auction items.

Watershed Partnership Meeting: On December 7th Duke Welter convened and moderated a discussion with watershed stakeholders in the upper Driftless area. Topics discussed included: future project work, possible funding sources and collaboration between public agencies, conservation groups and private citizens. Kiap was well represented with Loren Haas, Randy Arnold, Tom Henderson, Dan Wilcox and myself in attendance. The local WDNR committed to doing two projects

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



Volume 9 | Issue 5
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**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

At our February 4th chapter meeting, Mel Baughman will be joining us to talk about planning a wilderness river trip. Don't miss it.

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

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

The photo above? Attendees at this year's Holiday Conservation Banquet, perusing auction items, celebrating the season and raising funds for Kiap's education, project and advocacy efforts.

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a year going forward with one slated for TU's Clearwater district and one in Kiap's geography. The other benefit of the meeting was the chance to meet and talk with personnel from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Natural Resource and Conservation Service.

Field Work: In mid-December Randy Arnold is going to tour potential brushing sites with Marty Engel and Nate Anderson. I'm sure come January 1st Randy will have a list of project areas, so yes, it is safe to add a chainsaw, chaps or lopper to your Christmas list.

Upcoming Speaker: February 3rd, Wednesday. Jon Jacobs—Tools and Methods to Scout New Fishing Spots.

~Tom Schnadt

Upcoming Events

WI TU State Banquet

- Best Western Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh, WI
- Saturday, February 6th
- Best Western Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh, WI
- 4:30PM to 9:00PM
- Tickets are \$35
- Contact Tom Schnadt, thschnad@hotmail.com for tickets

Fly Fishing Film Tour

- River Falls University
- Friday, March 11th
- Doors open at 5:00PM
- The show starts at 7:00PM
- Tickets are \$15
- Kiap-TU-Wish will have a booth in the concourse

Fly Fishing Expo

- UWRF Campus/University Center Ballroom
- Saturday, March 12th
- Hours 10:00AM to 7:00PM
- Kiap-TU-Wish will have a booth

Great Waters Expo

- Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
- March 18th-20th
- Check website for hours and programs
- www.greatwatersflyexpo.com

Memberships: Stay with Kiap-TU-Wish

Technological snafu? Logistical snafu? User snafu? Whatever the reason, some of our members have had their chapter affiliation designated elsewhere. Most often this occurs when our Minnesota members renew. To remain in Kiap-TU-Wish—or to help others who might encounter this situation—please take a look at the following suggestions.

Designating Kiap-TU-Wish

- Call **800-834-2419**: The operator will assist you in changing your chapter designation. Make sure the operator knows you want this to be a permanent designation.
- Another option: E-mail trout@tu.org and ask them to change your membership to #168 Kiap-TU-Wish. Make it known that you would like this to be a permanent designation.
- If this is not successful, for some reason, call or e-mail TU's Membership Services Coordinator, Mary Campbell at mcampbell@tu.org or **703.284.9419**.

Setting up a New Membership

- Go to tu.org/intro and select #168 Kiap-TU-Wish from the Wisconsin options in the drop down box.
- When you do this, you will remain in Kiap-TU-Wish every time you renew your membership (even if you move elsewhere, at which point you can call or e-mail TU to have them update your information). *An additional bonus: Sign up for a TU membership in #168 Kiap-TU-Wish at this tu.org/intro site, and the cost of membership is ½ off, only \$17.50. Our chapter will receive \$15 of those dues at the end of the year.*

Editor's Note

I have a new British Labrador pup, Treacle, named after a sweet, molasses-like syrup. She's adorable with her squished up snout not yet expanded into its adult shape; legs that aren't quite coordinated when she runs; earthy, puppy breath and fingernail-size tongue; jet black, suede-like foot pads; and desire to nap on your stomach while you recline on the couch watching Netflix. She's also bitey, not yet housetrained, fascinated with all power cords and carpet fringe, and seemingly ambivalent about rising fish taking midges on a December afternoon. But, more than likely, she'll be a good fishing partner, as was her predecessor, The Cricket.

At least that's the hope. It'll take years, I expect, and I'll try not to compare what was the best of my fishing partners, Cricket, with this unproven commodity. It's like having a great day on a river, catching a lot of fish or the fish of a lifetime or whatever the measure, and forever trying to recapture the day—and forever being disappointed. It's a new day. It's a new dog.

Outside of my new dog, it's also a new winter trout season in Wisconsin. Jonathan Jacobs gives some advice for winter fishing in his article Winter Wonderland, and Margaret LeBien provides tips on how to set up an indicator rig—a common setup for winter fishing. Randy Arnold fills us in on potential brushing opportunities this season and Mike Alwin gives on the dope on bugs. (Pun intended.) Don't forget to check out the new fly recipe and wrap-up from our recent conservation banquet. There are a lot of events coming up too, so get those on your calendars.

You know, one thing that I didn't do with Cricket was teach him to sit very still in a canoe. I'm going to train Treacle, though. Maybe this month's speaker, Mel, has a few tips?

~ Maria Manion



Treacle, not impressed by rising fish on a December afternoon.

BANQUET SUCCESS!

The 2015 edition of the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet was, by any measure, a resounding success. While we haven't received all the financial information as this edition of RIP-RAP went to press, the Banquet Committee has been assured that the contribution from this year's banquet was considerable. This year we served 107 attendees, had a terrific dinner served by the superb banquet staff at the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center and were provided with a memorable program featuring awards to several members for meritorious service. Most important, we got a stirring lesson in conservation politics from our speaker, Steve Kinsella. Steve delivered a memorable presentation on the threat to public lands by groups meaning to profit from those lands.

Though lacking the usual assortment of fly tying tools and accessories, the merchandise in the silent auction was high quality and bidding was lively throughout the evening. The two levels of bucket raffles and the playing card raffle were busy and well received all evening as well. Two items of special interest were the raffle for the Dave Norling cane rod and the additional raffle for the Yeti cooler. Both raffles generated considerable excitement.

The Banquet Committee (Tom Schnadt, Chair; Allison Jacobs, Greg Dietl, Bob Diesch, Deb Alwin and this poor writer) wishes to thank the many contributors and volunteers who made this year's banquet a success. These businesses helped contribute to our success this year: Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Lund's Fly Shop, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, Colleen Manning at Uno Bella Salon, Mend Provisions, Joe's Sporting Goods, Lloyd Hautajarvi at LDH Landing Nets, Fairmont Santrol, Cardinal Corner, Cabella's Woodbury and Kinni Creek Lodge. We received major contributions from the Pat Farley Estate, Bob Christenson, Randy Arnold, Sarah Sanford, Bob Torres, Paul Johnson, Dan Wilcox, John Carlson, Judy Lutter, Dave Johnson, Dave Norling, Scott Holloway and Stan Tekiela.

Finally, many thanks to these volunteers who donated countless hours to this effort: Scott Wagner for organizing

thousands of flies from the Pat Farley Estate into collections and for helping organize the swag; Ken Hanson and Jonathan Jacobs for helping to organize the swag and to set up the raffles and silent auction; John Kaplan, Scott Thorpe, Maria Manion, Trish Hannah and Bob and Marcy Trevis for selling raffle tickets; Gary Horvath and Mark Peerenboom for checking out all those lucky guests and all their swag. All of you deserve a solid round of applause. Many thanks.

~Mike Alwin



Top photo: John Sours, recently retired from the WDNR, who was recognized for his thirty-plus years of stream restoration work in the Upper Driftless Area

Center photo: Steve Kinsella, banquet guest speaker, and banquet crowd

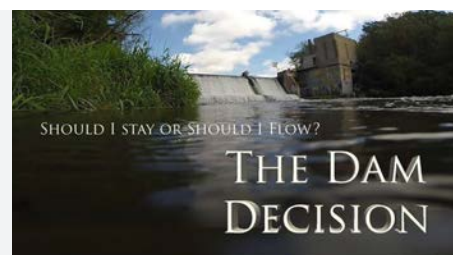
Lower left photo: Bob Bradham and Jonathan Jacobs. Brad received the Silver Trout Award for his long-time Kiap involvement and his specific dedication in keeping RipRap affordable and available to members

Lower right photo: Kiap-TU-Wish members Scott Thorpe, Trish Hannah and Jim Sackrisson receive certificates of appreciation and gift cards for their 2015 volunteer efforts

The Dam Decision

The Dam Decision is a documentary short by University of Wisconsin-River Falls student filmmaker Sydney Howell. The film centers on the potential restoration of the Kinnickinnic River through dam removal and features interviews with key stakeholders, information pertaining to the issue, and spectacular footage of our beautiful community.

You can watch the Dam Decision on YouTube. Go to YouTube and search for "The Dam Decision documentary, River Falls."

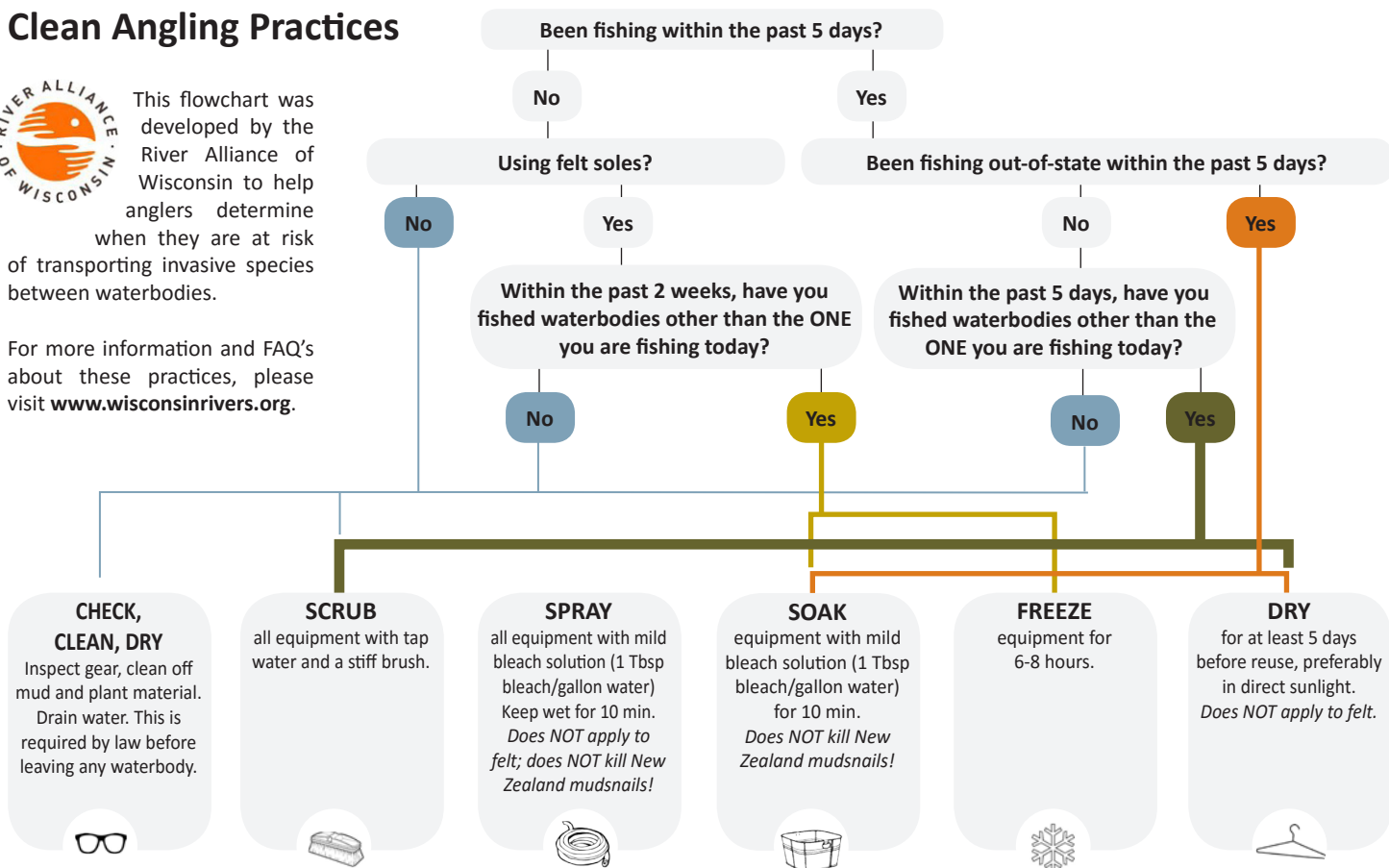


Clean Angling Practices



This flowchart was developed by the River Alliance of Wisconsin to help anglers determine when they are at risk of transporting invasive species between waterbodies.

For more information and FAQ's about these practices, please visit www.wisconsinrivers.org.



BUILDING AN INDICATOR RIG

{Words} Margaret LeBien

Between hatches, couch potato trout hang in the slower bottom currents, near the “food court” area, looking for a quick meal without expending calories. If you offer your artificial morsels without the fuss of a strike indicator and enough weight to tempt the lazy bottom feeders, you will be passing up fish that either never saw or unceremoniously spit your fly.

Once you accept and succumb to the ball and chain of nymphing with an indicator and shot, you will need a go-to “tandem indy rig”. There are many ways to set these up, but here is an easy one to get you started:

1 The butt section

Buy a tapered 7.5-foot 3X monofilament leader. Run your hand about two feet up the leader starting at the thin end. Cut off the level tippet section just before the leader starts to taper, leaving about 5-½ ft. of butt section. Loop it to your fly line.

2 The mid-section

Gauge (or guess) how deep the fish are feeding. I usually tie on a 4X fluorocarbon tippet mid-section of around 4 ft. My arm span is 4.5 ft. so I use that as an easy measure

for the mid-section. Tie the 4X section to the 3X butt section with a triple surgeons knot. (This knot will serve as a “stop” to keep your indicator from sliding.)

3 The last section

The end section of your leader is usually 1X lighter than the midsection. Tie about 12-18 inches of 5X fluoro to the 4X section with a triple surgeon’s knot. (This second knot will serve as a “stop” for your split shot.)

4 Tie on your first fly

The first fly is variously called the “top”, “lead”, or “point” fly. I usually tie on the heaviest fly first with an 8-turn clinch knot.

5 Tie a 12-14” piece of fluoro tippet to the hook bend of the first fly.

This piece is usually 1X lighter than the last section, i.e., 6X

6 Tie on the second fly

The second fly is variously called the “dropper”, “bottom” or “tail” fly. Tie it to the 6X fluoro piece with an 8-turn clinch knot.

7 Add split shot to the leader

To start, I use at least 1 or 2 micro shot. The weight can be placed above the 4X knot

but usually I put it 1 to 8 inches above the 5X knot. Don’t pinch it too tight to avoid weakening the leader.

8 Attach the Indicator

Loop on a thingamabobber or whatever your preference to the leader about an inch above your first knot –the one between the 3X mono butt section of the leader and the 4 ft. fluoro section of your rig. Congratulations! You just built a good indicator rig.

Note: Many anglers place the indicator on the butt section of the leader about a foot from the line/leader junction, and leave it there permanently, whatever the water depth. Generally, the indicator is placed from about one and a half to twice the depth of the water. The exact placement really depends on the size and weight of the flies, the depth and speed of the water and how much wind there is. Be prepared to keep adjusting: to get deeper, move your indicator closer to your fly line. To fish shallower, move your indicator closer to your first fly. Take off weight if you snag bottom, keep adding more if you aren’t bumping bottom occasionally.

Good luck!

KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part V

Mayflies That Swim

Mayflies are classified by taxonomists by the larval body type and preferred method of locomotion. There are clingers, burrowers, crawlers and swimmers. Identifying these basic body types is another clue toward recognizing what's going on around you. The mayflies you find in a swift riffle won't be burrowers and, depending on the substrate, will most likely be clingers or crawlers.

Swimmers are typically torpedo-shaped larva in the families Baetidae, Siphonuridae, Metropodidae and Oligoneuriidae. Siphonuridae species measure 6-20mm and generally are found clinging to the substrate, although they're good swimmers and their body type fits the category. These are generally grazers but some species seem to be opportunistic feeders. Their preferred habitats are the littoral (shallow) zones to the extent of the vegetation and broken, sandy bottoms. They commonly crawl from the water to emerge. The best known are several Gray Drake species.

Baetidae

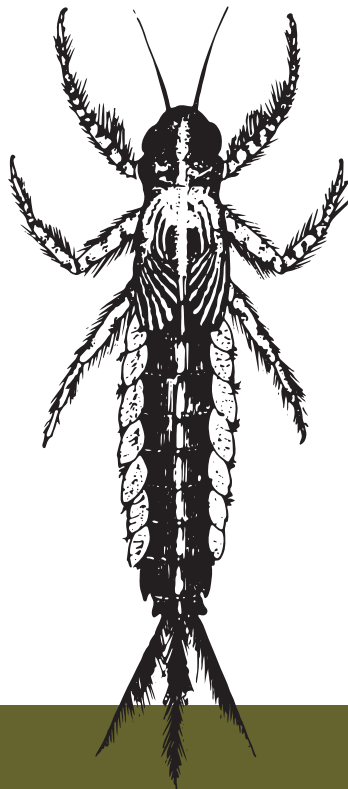
Baetidae species measure 3-12mm and are found clinging to the substrate and vegetation. They are excellent swimmers (McCafferty calls them small minnow mayflies) found in a wide variety of habitats from still waters to mountain streams and in warm and cold water; with over a hundred species they define diversity. Baetids are typically bivoltine (two or more broods per season) and most species swim to the surface to emerge. Some species swim or crawl beneath the surface to oviposit (lay eggs). The most important species are the Baetis (Blue Wing Olive) and also the Plauditus.

Oligoneuriidae

Oligoneuriidae species measure 8-17 mm and are elongated, flattened larva... an ideal sprawling body, but a powerful swimmer. This is a family of filter feeders rather than grazers and their preferred habitat is a mix of interstices in sandy substrates. Most species crawl from the water to emerge, but the exception is also the best known sub species,

Isonychiidae. The genus Isonychia is best known as Slate Drake or Leadwing Coachman.

The various Drakes seem to be locally important. As an example, there are claims that there are two or three emergences of Gray Drakes on the Frying Pan in Colorado. One angler has identified all three species of Isonychia on the Namekagon. However, by far the most important family of swimmers in the upper midwest are the Baetids. Pay attention to them.



Swimming mayfly nymph of the Leadwing Drake (*Isonychia bicolor*) (illustration by Robert H. Pils from Gary Borger's book *Naturals: A Guide to Food Organisms of the Trout*)

From the Field:

winter brushing update

We've been experiencing strange weather this fall. Hopefully things will change, some snow will arrive, and the atmosphere will be much more conducive to cutting down trees and brush, starting a huge bonfire, and roasting hot dogs while warming up after a hard day's work.

This next week, I'm meeting Marty Engel and Nate Anderson of the WDNR to visit potential sites for brushing work this winter. With the brushing prep work completed at the Red Cabin site, I hope to concentrate our efforts this winter on maintenance clean-up at previous restoration sites, and possibly sites where brushing would not be followed up with full-blown restoration.

One of the sites we will visit is the restored section of Cady Creek where several of our chapter members have asked me to direct some attention. Marty Engel would join us there with another WDNR employee who holds a chemical applicators license; we would be able to cut the trees/brush close to the ground and treat the stumps immediately to prevent subsequent regrowth. I am currently pursuing my own certification through the state of Wisconsin so that Kiap volunteers under my supervision would be able to chemically treat stumps immediately after cutting them. This would enable us to take on more brushing projects where we would not have to coordinate follow-up with a WDNR crew that same weekend or the subsequent spring for stump removal. One such site where brushing of this nature is being considered is the stretch of the Kinni immediately upstream of the Liberty Road bridge.

The ClearWaters Chapter completed a project this past summer on Gilbert Creek in Dunn County. The restoration work will be continuing on Gilbert as time and WDNR resources allow and I hope to schedule a couple of brushing days over there this winter. As we get into the new year, watch for email notices of workdays. I will also forward information regarding TPE (The Prairie Enthusiasts) workdays in case any of you are interested in joining similar brushing efforts to help restore native prairie remnants in our chapter area. Sharpen those saws, ready your muscles, and build up an appetite for some hot dogs slathered with your choice of mustard, Heinz or 'she-she'.

~Randy Arnold

Winter Wonderland

{Words} Jonathan Jacobs



For the first time in many years, Wisconsin has a true winter trout fishing season. It begins on Saturday, January 2, 2016 and extends until the traditional whack 'em and stack 'em season opens on Saturday, May 6 (The one week early season closure in advance of the regular opener has been eliminated). It's a catch and release affair and is open virtually statewide. Streams throughout the Driftless Area are open while counties on and near the Door County peninsula are closed and the season applies only to select streams in the northern regions of the state. A DNR guide to the early season can be seen by following a link at this web address: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/TroutRegs1516.html>

So, you now have two more months of the year available to you in which to chase salmonids. Obviously, fishing in the dead of winter, even in this season of El Nino or perhaps calentamiento global, is not the same experience as fishing a June evening when the earth is bursting forth with life, but it can still be a worthwhile experience. In fact, getting out there and seeing what a trout stream is like in the dead of winter is a good part of what makes it worthwhile.

"Worthwhile" is not necessarily the same thing as "enjoyable," but with proper gear and preparation, winter angling can be both. Much depends on staying safe. In subfreezing temperatures this mostly means staying

warm and once you are clothed properly, staying warm is substantially dependent on staying dry. Modern winter outdoor clothing works phenomenally well. Layering, of course, is the key. Good base-layer underwear, wool socks, fleece pants, a fleece or wool top, a windproof and waterproof jacket, a neck gaiter and a good cap all go a long way toward bettering a day outdoors in snappy weather. I wish I had a solution for keeping one's fingers relatively toasty. I've not been impressed with neoprene gloves and the various kinds of fingerless gloves seem to fool my circulatory system into thinking that if my palms are warm, everything is aces, which often leaves my fingertips stinging

"... getting out there and seeing what a trout stream is like in the dead of winter is a good part of what makes it worthwhile."

and colder than they would be if went gloveless. Perhaps stuffing one's hands inside one's pockets intermittently is as effective as anything. Breathable waders are de rigueur, as are wading boots with some sort of rubber soles (Felt soles are treacherous on ice and create a buildup of snow that will have you inches taller after hiking in to the stream) and if the rubber soles have metal cleats imbedded in them, so much the better.

All that wading gear is, in a way, insurance. The best way to stay dry

is to not wade at all and to fish from the bank. That's an ideal, but it may lack practicality. If you must wade, do so with a double dose of caution and assiduously avoid bank ice, which is both unstable and slippery. If you do get wet, your day is over. Head to shelter and warmth immediately; hypothermia is a treacherous thing.

As for angling gear, feel free to use what you use in summer. I'd add the caveat that it might be best to reserve cane rods for use in more clement weather. Also, you might find it easier to remove ice from the guides on a little seven footer than on a ten foot switch rod.

Flies and presentation are a matter of personal tastes, too, but I'd suggest that winter is no time to be a dry fly purist. You may see the occasional, sporadic rise to a midge and maybe, just maybe you can convince a fish to take a swinging wet fly, but the odds of connecting with something piscine in frigid water are better with something fished slow and deep under an indicator. If you can tolerate two-fly rigs, something like a weighted stonefly nymph or a Pink Squirrel trailed by a very small pheasant tail nymph or midge larva fished under an indicator in slow, deep slots can work well.

I suggest finding that slow, deep slot on a stream with guaranteed public access, by the way. A landowner who tolerates anglers on the bank during the regular season may not have your enthusiasm for the winter season and the traffic it may bring, so proceed with caution. If you do intend to angle on

streams flanked by private lands, it may be best to seek the permission of the landowner before proceeding.

The final key to enjoying winter angling lies in recognizing that it's a bonus and that two or three hours spent angling in the most pleasant part of the day with a fish or two brought to hand may be all you can expect. It's certainly two or three more hours astream than you had available to you previously and learning to count that as a blessing may be the beginning of wisdom. 🐟

{Fly & Recipe :: Image} Ron Kuehn :: Brian Smolinski

FLY TIER'S CORNER: Better Than Bleach 2.0



Hook :: Daiichi 1560 size 14

Thread :: UTC 140 Brown

Weight :: Black Tungsten Bead 3/32"

Tail :: Twisted Uni-Floss Olive

Rib :: Olive Veevus Iridescent Thread

Abdomen :: Hare's Ear Plus Olive Brown

Thorax :: Hare's Ear Plus Black

Instructions

- [1] Put bead on hook, put hook in vise.
- [2] Wrap thread on hook.
- [3] Cut a 5"-7" piece of floss. Double the floss. Double it again. Hold the butt ends. Twist the other end. The center of the floss will naturally want to twist. As it twists pinch the floss together to leave about 3/8" of twisted floss.
- [4] Secure the tail to hook creating a tail that is approximately 3/4 hook length long.
- [5] Tie in the ribbing.
- [6] Dub the abdomen.
- [7] Wrap ribbing forward and tie off ribbing.
- [8] Dub the thorax. A dubbing loop can be used here if desired.
- [9] Whip finish, apply head cement, and brush out thorax.

Notes: This revision of my go-to fly has a unique twist. The tail, while complicated to describe, is very easy to tie. It should take just a small amount of practice to perfect the technique. Some variations on this tail could be the addition of a strand or two of flash, adding a second color of floss, or perhaps coating it in a UV-cured epoxy. I have also used this technique for midges. The Serendipity midge can be tied with this as the abdomen.

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

Kiap-TU-Wish

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**Next RipRap deadline:
Friday, January 15**

If you have a good story to tell, or an idea for an article you'd like to see in RipRap, please shoot me an email:

manion.maria@gmail.com

Thanks much!



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
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news . . .

www.kiaptuwish.org
&
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Like us!

DON'T MISS the
January 6th MEETING at
Junior's Bar & Restaurant in
River Falls.

Planning a Wilderness River Trip with Mel Baughman January 6th. Don't miss it.



Mel with a lake trout on the Snowdrift River,
Northwest Territories.

Learn about planning a wilderness river trip from an experienced canoeist who also is an avid angler. Mel will cover crew member selection, choosing a river, costs, transportation, maps, potential hazards, emergency plans, equipment, fishing tackle, food, and recording memories. Give Mel your e-mail address and receive a detailed equipment list.

Dr. Mel Baughman is a retired forestry professor from the University of Minnesota, now residing in Hayward, Wisconsin. Over the last three decades his 22 canoe trips covering portions of 32 rivers have ranged over five Canadian provinces plus Alaska. He has paddled, camped, and fished across a range of habitats from boreal forest to tundra. He especially enjoys fishing for arctic grayling and lake trout in the barrenlands. He is a past president and newsletter editor of the Minnesota Canoe Association and frequently gives travel lectures based on his canoeing, backpacking, and international travel.