



The Drift: Words from our President.

Holiday Conservation Banquet: By all accounts the conservation banquet was a rousing success. The event was sold out with 120 guests. The food and atmosphere were great, as was the guest speaker, Dean Hansen, who talked about insect life in a stream. Dean teaches the Bugs in the Classroom course which has been a key component of Trout-in-the-Classroom. Dean received the Silver Trout award for his efforts and commitment. Thanks to the banquet committee (Deb Alwin, Mike Alwin, Scott Wagner, Allison Jacobs, Greg Dietl and Bob Diesch) for organizing this important fundraiser. A big thanks to all of the Kiap folks that worked at the banquet and our generous membership and local businesses that donated bucket raffle and silent auction items.

Baldwin Fish Biologist: Just after Thanksgiving Heath Benike, WDNR Fisheries Supervisor, shared the news that Kasey Seibert has been hired to fill Marty Engel's fish biologist position. Kasey has a BS degree from SE Missouri State University and a graduate degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Her work history includes research on large river fish populations in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. She's also worked in fisheries management for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as a lead fisheries technician working with westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, kokanee and warm-water fish populations in the panhandle region's lakes and rivers. Kasey starts January 9th.

Pierce County Land and Conservation Department (LCD): Rod Web, Director of the LCD, hosted a joint planning meeting with the WDNR and Kiap-TU-Wish. Based on the information shared at the meeting, upcoming project work is likely the Trimble/Gutting project in 2018, and Plum Creek-Brunner Creek/Von Hutom in 2019-2020. At this moment we're waiting for the final Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cost sharing information and approval before starting the Trimble/Gutting project.

Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) Field Trip: Based on Dan Wilcox's article in the River Falls Journal about the University of River Falls class tours of the stream restoration work on the Trimble, NRF representative Lauren Koshere contacted Kiap-TU-Wish about hosting a field trip this summer. Chapter board member Perry Palin had positive past experiences with NRF tours and volunteered to work with Michelle Milford, NRF Outreach Coordinator, to set up a stream restoration tour this summer in Pierce County. The tour will be featured in NRF's 2018 catalog. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase coldwater stream restoration to a broader audience interested in local conservation work.

— Tom Schnadt

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

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Please join us at our January 3rd chapter meeting in River Falls. Matt Mitro, WDNR Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist, will be speaking about inland trout population trends and research. Don't miss it.

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

The photo above? A wintry vignette of the Kinnickinnic River.

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, January 19.
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects



Left: Greg Olson (right) presenting Dean Hansen (left) with the Silver Trout Award. Right: Dean teaching kids—and a Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer—about the live insects he brought into the classroom that day.

Thank you Dean Hansen!

This year the winner of the Silver Trout Award, presented at our Holiday Banquet on December 7th, was Dean Hansen. His unbridled passion for aquatic insects was on display to all in attendance, as he happened to be the banquet speaker. He is a great presenter, with incredible photos during his talk. Dean has presented on the subject of aquatic entomology at 20 Great Waters Fly Fishing expos, written 36 articles for Midwest Fly Fishing magazine, and taught over 20 classes at three area fly shops. He is an incredible resource and educator for our area.

We have been so lucky to have Dean presenting at our Trout in the Classroom programs and helping collect and identify insects during our trout release parties at the end of the school year. In 1993, Dean started "Bugs in the Classroom" in area schools. He has continued every year, reaching over 800 children a year. Dean goes beyond showing slides or showing vials of preserved, dead insects. He works hard to find living samples of all the aquatic insects in our area, insuring that the kids get hands-on learning with what Dean humbly calls the "real stars of the show." His enthusiasm rubs off on the children and teachers alike, always drawing rave reviews from each.

It is for this outstanding work that Dean was presented the 2017 Silver Trout Award and we look forward to working with him again this year. Congrats and thanks again Dean! —Greg Olson

A successful banquet!

The 2017 Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet was a resounding success. The Banquet Committee achieved their goal of producing an entertaining as well as profitable venture. Dean Hansen delivered one of the most entertaining and dynamic presentations we've seen and was the recipient of The Silver Trout Award. We hosted 120 attendees who perused 25 tables of goodies for the silent auction and various raffles. A final accounting will most probably be made at the January meeting. In the meantime the Committee wishes to thank all of you who attended and helped make the banquet a success.

Special thanks goes to these enterprises who supported us so generously: Andy Roth at Gray Goat, Kinni Creek Lodge, Tenkara, Scott Sorensen at Fly Box and Co, Hayward

Fly Fishing Co, Joe's Sporting Goods, Laughing Trout, Colleen Manning at Uno Bello Salon, Cardinal Corner Bird Store, Scott Holway at 3M, and Gabe Schubert.

Another shout-out goes to these volunteers who helped us with sorting merchandise, set-up, selling tickets and check-out: Ken Hanson, Maria Manion, Scott Thorp, Bruce Maher, Judy Lutter, John Kaplan, Trish Hannah, Laurie Ashworth, Greg Olson, Mark Peerenboom, Tom Henderson, and Gary Horvath.

The Banquet Committee (Allison Jacobs, Deb Alwin, Greg Dietl, Bob Diesch, Scott Wagner, Mike Alwin) wishes to thank Tom Schnadt for leading this incorrigible group through another successful campaign.

—The Banquet Committee

Trout (& Bugs) in the Classroom

A couple items:

1. This year's "spawning run" is scheduled for January 3. Stay tuned for an update about Greg Olson's adventures delivering trout eggs to the TIC classrooms.
2. If you felt inspired by Dean's presentation at the banquet and want to volunteer for his Bugs in the Classroom program—or other TIC events such as release day—contact Greg Olson at Greg.Olson@diasorin.com. You don't have to know all about aquatic insects, raising trout or fishing to help. Honestly, it's worth taking a day off of work!

Fairmont Santrol's commitment to conservation



Fairmont Santrol photo

The Wildlife Habitat Council presented Fairmont Santrol with two awards at their Conservation Conference in Baltimore in November. The awards included the Species of Concern Project Award and the *Caves and Subterranean Habitats Project Award*. Both awards pertained to the company's efforts to protect local bat populations. The *Species of Concern Award* recognizes commitment to long-term or permanent protection, and the data collected about the target species is shared with external organizations.

Late last year Fairmont Santrol committed to formal care and maintenance at Pine Creek through the WDNR's Adopt-A-Fish-and-Wildlife-Area program. They will be mowing for invasive species, maintaining signage and fencing, removing litter, planting trees as requested by the WDNR, and monitoring and maintaining cavity-nesting bird houses.



Maria Manion photo

Trout clinic scheduled

The 2018 edition of the Kiap-TU-Wish Fly Fishing For Trout clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd, from 1:00-9:00 PM. Last year we coached the students through casting lessons, entomology, more casting, stream strategy, wading safety and knot tying. After feeding everybody supper we raced down to the Lower Kinni and took the students fishing until 9:00 PM. Our spirits were not dampened by a little rain and everybody had a great time. There were 13 chapter volunteers (Mitch Abbott, Mike Colling, Herb Lundberg, Maria Manion, Mark Peerenboom, Joe Schreifels, Sarah Sanford, Kyle Amundsen, Scott Holway, Scott Thorpe, Ron Kuehn and Gary Richardson) and every last one of them will tell you they had fun. Please consider joining us this year. —Mike Alwin

2018

EVENTS CALENDAR

Here's an overview of activities thus far. We'll update the list each month with details — location, time, etc.

• Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Speaker: Matt Mitro, WDNR's Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist

Topic: Wisconsin's Inland Trout Populations: A 2018 Update on Trends and Research

• WI State TU Banquet

February 3, 2018

• Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Speaker: Rich Osthoff, Local guide and author

Topic: Flyfishing the Driftless; Techniques and Strategies. One hour presentation with some video excerpts

• Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Annual business meeting. Elect new board members

*Speakers: Nate Anderson, WDNR
Topic: 2018 Habitat work*

Barb Scott, WDNR

Topic: Fish Survey Results

• Great Waters Fly Expo

March 16-18, 2018

*Hamline University
St. Paul, MN*

• Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Fly Tying Demonstrations

• Amery Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018

• Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Speakers: Heath Benike, WDNR Fisheries Supervisor & New Fish Biologist, WDNR

Topic: Review WDNR programs supporting coldwater conservation

Stream of Consciousness *By Jonathan Jacobs*

By the time this issue of RipRap reaches you we will have passed the winter solstice and the hours of daylight per day will be increasing. Today, however, the night is arctic in length and the sun is but a phantasm. Seeking solace in the face of nearly constant darkness I find myself soliciting from the recesses of my mind remembrances of rivers past, to borrow a phrase from Dr. Schwiebert, who in turn had borrowed it, with some modifications, from Marcel Proust. Today I am wading through four decades of memory and up a half mile of most hallowed river.

When I first started trout fishing, I would gain access to the only stretch of trout water with which I was even vaguely familiar by driving down a rutted little stretch of two-track and parking in a small meadow. Once geared up, I would walk a short distance west to the river. Since this was, in my experience, the only place there was to ease my new addiction, I fished there hard and frequently. Then, wanderlust kicked in and I found new water and left my first love behind.

Today, in the theater of my mind, I am recalling a return trip made years later.

At first I am rebuffed by a guardrail at the old approach and stern NO PARKING signs on the road, but I find remote parking, gear up, walk up the road and hop over the guardrail. There is little evidence of the old path and I begin to doubt my memory, but when I look to the right, I see through the brush the crumbling remains of an old foundation, a landmark I recognize. But where is the meadow? It has disappeared without a trace, overwhelmed by tree growth and shrubbery. Yet the river must be there. I plunge through the undergrowth and, sure enough, come to moving water. But where am I, exactly? I don't know until I see at my feet two boulders piled

together in an odd enough way to jog my memory. I have serendipitously arrived at riverside in exactly the place I'd always used as a starting point.

Buoyed by that minor success, I begin to look around. There is a familiar riffle immediately to my left and alongside that, a particularly dense copse of alder where I once took refuge when a brief but intense summer shower blew through. I smile as I recall how the rain had seemed to trigger the densest hatch of mayflies I had ever seen there and how I'd made the best of that.

Wading in and moving upstream it takes a moment to recognize, because of the foliage on the bank, the long, wooded, left-leaning curve leading to the deep pool where I once flung size twenty-four cream midges at persnickety trout to little effect. My brow furrows a little at that, but I smile when I recall coming upon a group of college-age kids skinny dipping there on a different day.

Above that a tiny little spring creek enters on the right. Once, on a mid-winter exploration there, I'd been surprised to see bright green watercress leaves surrounded by sparkling snow.

Further up on the left is the muddy little back eddy that inexplicably held an amazing number of fish.

Upstream, another short riffle. In the

middle of it, extending from the right-hand bank and lying flat on the water is the live alder branch where I'd learned that, if I could sweep a nymph under it, I'd be sure to find a willing trout. Then, on the left, is the huge root ball from a cottonwood tree that had come down years ago. When I first fished the stretch, the current came in hard from the right and hit the well-anchored wood, creating a small, but deep scour hole, another classic piece of holding water. However, sometime in the intervening years, a major runoff event has deposited enough sand in front of it to put it on dry land.

The old CCC-installed rock boom that pushed the current left is still there, though, on the right. It was there one evening at last light during a heavy caddis hatch when I caught the first trout that actually felt heavy in my hand. It was probably no more than a foot long, but it was a trophy on that night.

There is a long, bouncy riffle above that. My personal name for it is the Oil Drum Riffle, for obvious reasons. Amazingly, the drum is still there. At the lower end of the riffle, in the left-hand stream margin, a little spring continues to boil up through a patch of white sand. The length of the riffle, with its rock and cobble bottom was always productive and I recall with pleasure how pleasant



Today I am wading through four decades of memory and up a half mile of most hallowed river.

it had been to make nearly continuous short, flicking casts as I made my way through it.

Above the riffle in a waist-deep flat, I chuckle after a near disaster. The submerged and unseen boulder that had been my near undoing time and again back in the day is, of course, still there, as is another little spring creek that spills in from the right.

Upstream, above some featureless water, the river spills in hard from both sides of a little island into an enormous and forbiddingly deep pool. I can wade along the side of the pool on a narrow ledge that gives way to inky black depths. I see sticks protruding at odd angles from the side of the ledge and guess that all of this has something to do with an ancient beaver dam and pond. Then I remember how one night, on my way back down in darkness, fish were rising wildly at the head of the pool. I guessed that they were taking either emergent or egg laying caddis. I guessed wrong as I failed to catch even one of the seemingly thousands of rising fish.

Moving beyond the big pool, I am nearing the end of my journey. There is a fine old farmstead on a little rise

river left. The water in front of me is neither riffle nor pool but something in between, but the prosaic term "run" doesn't do this lovely stretch justice either. I will think about finding a better word, but at present I think about this June evening when sulfur mayflies form little flotillas on the water and the trout hunt them down. As is so often the case in heavy hatches, the fishing was great, but the catching was only good. The trout had too many options. One fish would take an Andersen's OJ while the next fish would disdain it in favor of an emerger pattern. By rotating through four different sulfur imitations, I had a fine evening of it.

But now, even in the long summer day, the light is fading. I climb out of the stream at an old tractor ford and head through the trees back to my car. Even though it's a mild evening, I am a little chilled in the gloom of the woods and look forward to driving into town to buy a cup of hot chocolate to ward off the chill and keep me from getting drowsy on the road home. 🐉

From the Field: an update

Kiap-TU-Wish representatives met with the WDNR to get an update on the status of the Trimble/Gutting project, as well as to see what future projects are in the works for Pierce County streams. The start of tree and brush removal at the Trimble/Gutting site is on hold until the finalities of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant are worked out and the contract signed. This is expected to occur sometime in mid to late January at which point in time we would concentrate our brushing efforts on this site to get it ready for the bank work slated for this summer.

In the meantime, the chapter was asked to spearhead the effort to remove the box elders and other invasive trees and bushes from a half-mile stretch of Wilson Creek just over the border in Dunn County. This stretch of water is scheduled to be restored with funding coming from another NRCS grant. Bank restoration is scheduled for this coming summer as well. Though technically situated in the Clearwaters TU chapter area, Nate Anderson (habitat crew leader from the WDNR) felt that tapping into the strength and organization of the Kiap-TU-Wish habitat volunteer crew was his best



option in terms of assuring that the work at Wilson Creek gets completed.

We are currently working in concert with the Clearwaters chapter on this project. Our first full workday at Wilson was on December 9. Twenty-eight (28) volunteers logged in, including eight from Clearwaters and two or three others who forgot to record their hours. **With close to 2,000 box elders at this site, it will take a continued strong showing of volunteer support in order to finish the effort at Wilson Creek.** I will continue to schedule workdays at the Wilson Creek site until such

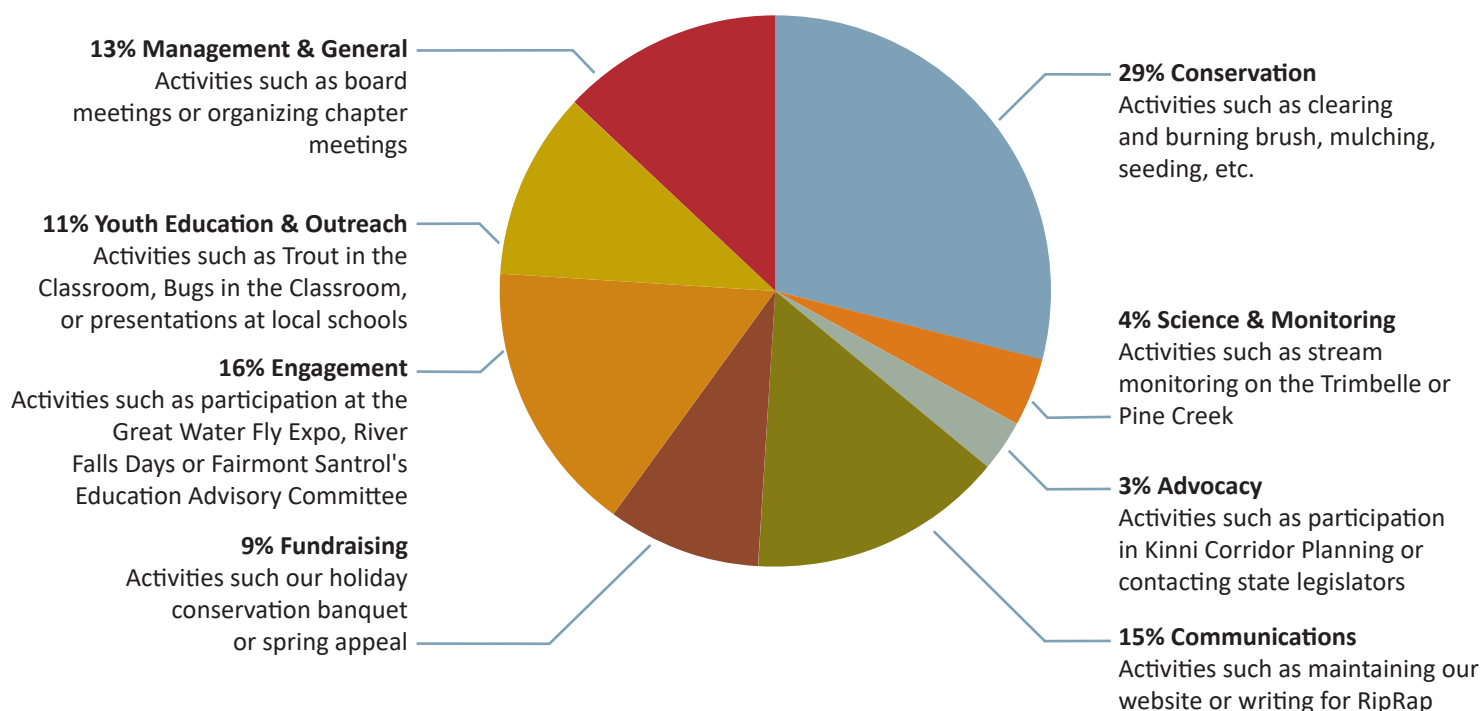
time as we get the go-ahead to begin work at the Trimble/Gutting site. The Wilson Creek site is located just east of Knapp, Wisconsin, downstream of the County Road O bridge and continuing downstream to the 190th Street bridge.

Any individuals not currently on the habitat volunteer list who are interested in getting involved with tree/brush removal at this site or at the Gutting/Trimble site should contact me at randyca999@gmail.com to have their name added to the list of those receiving workday notices.

— Randy Arnold

2017 Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer hours

Each year our chapter is required to submit an annual report to the national TU organization. The report outlines our revenue, expenses, assets, and more. One of the items in the report is a summary of our volunteer hours. In 2017, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers logged a total of 4,137 hours. Here's the breakdown.



FLY TIER'S CORNER: B Smo's BWO Glomerger

Fly & Recipe & Photo: Brian Smolinski



Hook:	Daiichi 1150 – Size 18
Body Thread:	Uni 6/0 136 Denier – Olive Dun
Head Thread:	Uni 8/0 72 Denier – Iron Gray
Rib:	UTC Ultra Wire Extra Small – Gunmetal Blue
Wing:	Top Secret Midge Flash – UV Dun

- 1) Start the body thread slightly behind the eye and tie in the rib material on top on the hook shank.
- 2) Wrap back to halfway down the hook bend, keeping the wire on top of the hook.
- 3) Wrap forward, to just behind the eye, to create a smooth uniform, completely covered, thread body.
- 4) Put a half hitch in the thread and counter-wrap the rib forward. Tie off with the body thread.
- 5) Start the head thread behind the eye and lock down body thread securely, then trim tag and body thread.
- 6) Tie in five (5) strands of the wing material in the middle, about an eye's length behind the eye. Then secure with two (2) tight wraps, keeping the wing on top of the hook.
- 7) Fold the front half of the wing material back so you have a total clump of 10 strands, then lash it down with a few thread wraps. Add enough thread wraps to form a head slightly larger than the hook.

Notes: As the wing material—the Top Secret Midge Flash—is a single strand, the easiest way to make a stack of five strands is to wrap the midge flash around your fingers, making a coil of 2 and a half tuns. Remove the coil and flatten it. You've got a clump of 5 strands!

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Special thanks to Gary Richardson for his roving photographer role at the Holiday Conservation Banquet.

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



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Chapter Meeting

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"Wisconsin's Inland Trout Populations: 2018 Update on Trends and Research" by Matt Mitro

Matt Mitro, Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist at WDNR, will be speaking about Wisconsin's inland trout populations at our January 3rd chapter meeting. He'll give us an overview of recently completed and ongoing trout research projects such as the use of archival tags to measure thermal habitat use by brown trout during summer; the distribution, prevalence, and intensity of gill lice infecting brook trout in Wisconsin streams; temporal trends in trout abundance and recruitment; and brook and brown trout age and growth.

Matt will also fill us in on what's next for trout research in Wisconsin and answer any of our questions on trout research or management issues.

Please join us on January 3rd!

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