



## The Drift: Words from our President.

December is a time for snowflakes and frozen ponds and busy preparations for the holiday season. December is also the time for our annual conservation banquet, which was held on Thursday, December 6th at the Lake Elmo Event Center in Lake Elmo, MN. 135 trout-fishing, conservation-minded souls gathered for an evening of socializing, tale-telling and celebrating our volunteers. We also raised a significant amount of funds to continue our chapter's conservation efforts into the new year. As Mike Alwin reports later in this RipRap, our members enjoyed having a shorter program and having a longer time to visit with their friends. However, we ran out of food partway through the evening, which was not acceptable. We are working with the Lake Elmo Inn to determine how this happened, but in the meantime we want to sincerely apologize to our attendees who didn't get enough to eat. If anyone would like to talk to me more about this, please call me on my cell phone at 715-781-6874.

On a brighter holiday note, due to the incredible generosity of our donors, we had an amazing number of things to bid on this year. Corporate donors included Joe's Sporting Goods, Woodbury Cabela's, Dry Fly Sales, Sokol Associates, Tenkara USA and Lund's Fly Shop. Trip donors included: Gabe Schubert, Duke Welter, Judy Lutter, Bruce Maher, Hayward Fly Fishing Company and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. Artist donors included Joshua Cunningham, Nick Markell, Ted Hansen and Janice Nelson Johnson. Individual donors included Dave Norling, Sr., Dave Norling, Jr., Paul Johnson, Bob Christenson, Jim Sackrison, Ray Morris, Bob Diesch, Norm Michel, Bob Torres, Dave Johnson, Sarah Sanford, Debra Enstenes, Bob Nasby, Herb Drake, Jon Jacobs, Gary Richardson, Perry Palin and many, many more. Thank you to all of the named and unnamed donors for helping make this year's annual conservation banquet a fun and financial success!

December might be a time for snowflakes and holiday gatherings, but January also has its own special things to look forward to. January is a time for frozen toes, Siberian high pressure ridges and the opening of inland trout fishing in Wisconsin! Woo hoooo!!! (For some unknown reason, my lovely wife thinks I've gone nuts.) Happy Fishing. — Scott Wagner

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



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**

Volume 12 | Issue 5  
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### WHAT

Chapter Meeting:

Eloise and Dahlia Olson will talk about their time at the TU Youth Camp, and Kasey Yallaly, our WDNR fisheries biologist, will talk about WI stream access laws and online resources.

### WHEN

January 9, 2019

Dinner begins at 6PM (your dime).

The meeting begins at 7PM.

### WHERE

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

### DON'T FORGET:

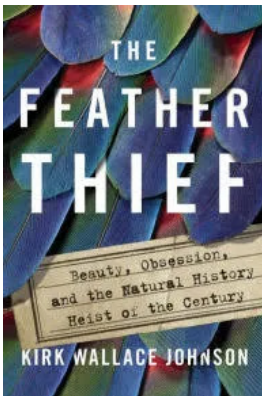
- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, January 18.
- Send info to: [manion.maria@gmail.com](mailto:manion.maria@gmail.com)

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

## K-TU Tie-A-Thon

HELP! The Fly Wrangler, Bob Trevis, is running out of appropriate flies for our Spring appeal and fly fishing clinic. In an effort to restock we're planning the first ever Kiap-TU-Wish Tie-a-Thon. Brian Smolinski has generously offered Lund's Fly Shop for an evening in February so we're actively soliciting tiers for this event.

We're envisioning eight to ten folks who will sit down for a couple of hours trading barbs and helping to restock the Chapter's Fly Library. This first evening will be devoted to tying nymphs, wet flies and maybe some damp emergers. Another evening in March will be devoted to dry flies and some dry emergers. Hook sizes for both events will be in the 12-16 range. Doesn't this sound like fun? If you're interested, contact: [troutchaser@msn.com](mailto:troutchaser@msn.com). We'll publish the February date in the next Rip-Rap.



### Belle Rivière Book Club: January 15!

Due to a scheduling snafu, the club's next meeting will be held at **6:30pm on January 15th** in the back room of Urban Olive & Vine in Hudson. The group will be discussing *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. You don't have to be an angler, fly tyer, casting phenom or trout nerd. You just need an interest in reading and chatting with others who like to read too. If you know of any women who might be interested in joining the group, please contact Jennifer Medley at [jennifer@turningleafstudio.com](mailto:jennifer@turningleafstudio.com).

### TIC Update

All Trout in the Classroom (TIC) classrooms are checking equipment—and testing water quality and water temperature—while preparing for the egg delivery on January 4th. Greg Olson and John Kaplan will be spearheading two "spawning runs" this year, splitting up to make sure the eight TIC classrooms receive their trout eggs on time.

Until then, the kids have been in training for their fish responsibilities. In this photo from Joe Young's classroom in River Falls, two-year veteran aquaculturist and middle schooler, Lexi Schultz, teaches a new group of fourth graders how to test the water.

Steve Papp of Greenwood Elementary made a video of last year's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) / Bugs in the Classroom (BIC) experience where the bugs are the real stars of the show. To watch it, go to YouTube and search **Steve Papp Trout in the Classroom** or type <https://youtu.be/8PXFBDPJxo> into your browser.



## 2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Chapter Meeting**  
**January 9, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Kasey Vallaly: Online Stream*  
*Access Resources in WI & TU Youth Camp Presentations*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**January 15, 2019 / 6:30-8pm**  
*Urban Olive & Vine, Hudson, WI*
- **K-TU Tia-A-Thon**  
**February 2019 / Details TBA**  
*Nymphs, wet flies and emergers*  
*Lund's Fly Shop, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**February 6, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Guide Carl Haensel: Inland Trout*  
*Fishing in Northern WI and MN*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**March 6, 2019 / 7pm**  
*WDNR Projects & Fish Survey Results*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **K-TU Tia-A-Thon**  
**February 2019 / Details TBA**  
*Dry flies and emergers*  
*Lund's Fly Shop, River Falls, WI*
- **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo**  
**March 15-17, 2019**  
*Hamline University, St. Paul, MN*
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**March 2019 / Details TBA**
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**April 3, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Annual Fly Tying Night*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**May 1, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Chapter Social & Trip Planning Night*  
*Details TBA*
- **TIC Bugs in the Classroom**  
**April-May 2019 / Details TBA**
- **TIC Trout Release Days**  
**May 2019 / Details TBA**
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**May 2019 / Details TBA**

You can support Kiap-TU-Wish when you shop online. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), choose Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited and for every online purchase, Amazon will donate to the chapter.





## Banquet A Success

Most of the people we talked to after and during the banquet were very happy with the new format and a few were even effusive. There was plenty of time to socialize, no one was confined to a chair for the duration of the very brief program, the food was good—although there wasn't enough of it—the bar was busy, and there was plenty of really great eye-popping swag. Plus, our treasurer reports that our sales were up measurably.

The most significant awards were the Silver Trout Award given to Sarah Sanford for organizing and running the Rush River Cleanup for about a decade and the Gold Trout Award given to Michael Alwin for close to forty years of service to the Chapter.

Volunteers who helped with sorting merchandise, setting up, tearing down, checking in, selling tickets and check-out were: Tom Schnadt, Jonathan Jacobs, Greg Dietl, Jim Kojis, Scott Hanson, Ken Hanson, Scott Wagner, Janelle Schnadt, Scott Thorpe, Maria Manion, Allison Jacobs, Bob Trevis, Dave Johnson, Benji Kohn, John Kaplan, Mark Peerenboom, Suzanne Constantini, Gary Horvath, Anna Kuehn, Dave Drewiske, Bruce Maher, Hans Jung, Gary Richardson, and Ed Constantini.

The Banquet Committee (Allison Jacobs, Deb Alwin, Scott Wagner, Bob Diesch, Greg Dietl, Tom Schnadt, Mike Alwin) would like to thank the membership and the attendees for supporting this year's Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. It is our intention to make the evening fun and memorable while putting on a first rate fundraiser. Thanks very much for your patience when things go slightly askew.

## A Humble Thank You

At the Holiday Conservation Banquet on December 6, 2018, our chapter gave me a Gold Trout Award in appreciation for my forty-odd years of service to the chapter. Guys like me don't usually get awards so I was surprised speechless. I said "thanks" a couple of times and that's about all. But let me tell you, it's nice to be recognized.

When I was in college I got a plaque from the guys on my floor when the college fired me from my job as an RA.... something about attitude. Years later some kids I was giving guitar lessons to gave me a framed quote by Thoreau. You know the one; "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." I think they liked my attitude. The Ladies Books and Tackle Society gave me the Dame Julianna Berner Award a few years ago for helping women anglers.

I like all of these awards and they share space on the wall in the Inner Sanctum. I like this Gold Trout Award better. We're a volunteer organization, so I volunteer. It's nice to be recognized.

Thank you. — Mike Alwin

Top: Kiap-TU-Wish Volunteer Coordinator, Randy Arnold, presented Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers Dale Dahlke (left) and John Rock (right) for their work on stream restoration projects.

Middle: Kiap-TU-Wish President, Scott Wagner, presented Silver Trout Awards to Dave Norling Jr. and Dave Norling Sr. of Norling Rodsmiths (left) and Laughing Trout, accepted by Paul Johnson (right), for their years of support to our Chapter.

Bottom: Kiap-TU-Wish President, Scott Wagner, presented the Silver Trout Award to Sarah Sanford (left) for her years of organizing the Rush River Cleanup; and the Gold Trout Award to Mike Alwin (right) for his nearly forty years of service to the Chapter.

*Photos by Gary Richardson who worked as Chapter photographer during the banquet. Thank you, Gary!*



## Why do I enjoy fly fishing for trout?

by Tom Henderson

We often answer by saying “Trout live in beautiful places.” It’s more than that. We do it to experience nature and to contact the natural world.


I know an avid golfer who considers himself successful if he avoids going into grass more than an inch high. He calls it “the rough.” He also tries to stay out of sand. Wet sand is even worse. And there better not be a single rock in the sand. His golf course is outdoors but not natural. His goal is to put the ball into a hole in the ground...not an animal burrow, but an artificial plastic cup. I prefer rocks with sand and water a foot deep. Moving water. With bugs and other critters.

I know a man who claims that his favorite sport is football. He can sit in his lazy chair and watch football on TV for hours. He doesn’t play; he watches others do that...on artificial turf in a building that shields everyone from sunshine and rain and snow and nature. If he would switch to baseball, at least he could see someone slide in the dirt once in a while. I would prefer to slide down a muddy river bank to get to a good casting spot, and do it myself, although it can be amusing to watch someone else slip.

I love my wife but she’s a city girl. When we go for a walk she insists on a sidewalk or a paved trail. Less likely to trip. I would rather walk a fisherman’s trail along a river bank, step over logs, go carefully through a fence. I’ll take a chance on tripping and making intimate face contact with nature. Her only contact with nature happens if she doesn’t notice some poodle poop on the sidewalk.

There are many people who never in their lives come in contact with a natural surface. Almost everything they touch was manufactured or altered by man: furniture, walls, the floors, the sidewalks, their vehicles, etc. They never sit on a log or a rock.

I love the feel of a river current on my legs. I test the water temperature with my bare hands. I love the wiggly feel of an anxious trout as I unhook it. I enjoy a rain shower if I know it will end soon and the fish will be feeding.

I like to fish because “Trout live in natural places.” 



## A Winter Wonderland

by Joseph Duncan, Contributing Editor

**B**y the time this newsletter reaches all of you, the holiday season will have passed, but my favorite fishing season will have just begun. Winter is a magical time of year for fisherpeople in the Driftless who are willing to brave the snow and wind. If you do, it is likely you will find solitude along the partially ice-covered streams that are filled with hungry trout. The fishing itself is relatively simple but the preparation is a little more difficult. Here are a few things I've learned.

► **LAYERS:** Finding the proper clothing and layering up is an absolute must for those typical 25-degree days with 15 mph winds. Get a good hat and wear at least one pair of thick wool socks if you want to be comfortable. I also like wearing my thick duck hunting waders because they are much warmer when the water temps are just above freezing.

► **GLOVES:** Gloves are definitely the trickiest part of setting up your ensemble for winter fishing. Wool stays warm even when wet but unless you fish barbless flies (which you should), it's likely you'll lose a couple flies to tangles in your gloves. Simms makes other types of fingerless gloves but they get a bit more chilly once they take a dunk in the stream. I recommend just wearing any type of fingerless gloves and being careful not to get them too wet. This sounds a little weird because your hands always seem to be wet when fishing, but it's the best way to go.

► **HANDLING FISH:** Net your fish, keep it in the water, and use your forceps to pop the hook so you never have to freeze your hands. Don't struggle to unhook the fish while holding it out of the water. Leave it in the water so you completely eliminate the chance of freezing their gills or dropping them in the snow. It's likely you will have plenty of practice unhooking fish in the winter because they are often very hungry! The downside is that it is not the ideal time for hero shots of all your fish. I like to reserve winter pictures for really big fish and temps above freezing, and even then I hold them just above for no more than 5-10 seconds. The fish and your freezing hands will thank you.

► **FLY PATTERNS:** Unlike summer, the patterns you need for winter fishing are extremely basic because there's very limited active insect life. I usually carry a small variety of anchor flies such as size 14 tungsten prince nymphs and pink squirrels. Additionally, I'll have a selection of dropper flies consisting of size 18-22 zebra midges, miracle midges, and Dorsey's top-secret midges. If you end up fishing a day above 30 degrees, it's always smart to have some size 20 Griffiths Gnats and basic hackled midges just in case you luck into a hatch. You probably won't see these dries when you fish them but you will see the splash!

► **WHEN TO FISH:** For the best chance of finding active fish, whether nymphing or dry fly fishing, fish in the middle of the day. Most days, I have found there is a window of success between 11am and 3pm with almost no bite before or after it.

► **CHANGE OF CLOTHES:** My final recommendation is to bring a change of clothes because if you fall, it's unimaginably cold. I've done it a few times and bringing an extra couple layers made the difference between calling it a day and keeping on catching fish.

I'm sure that if you go fishing a few times in the winter you will realize that there's something breathtaking about it. The colors of the trout pop against the snow-covered limestone cliffs. The good fishing is just a bonus.



# TALES FROM AN EXPERT NOVICE: *by Jennifer Medley*

## Things I think I know, but only a little better than I think you know

**A**t the first Belle Rivière Book Club meeting in November we discussed *Uncommon Waters*, a compilation of fishing stories written by women. These stories triggered fishing memories that I had not thought of in a really long time.

One such memory took place on my honeymoon, five days after Dan and I were married in February 2007. I had moved from Ely to Michigan, and in the process of loading and unloading all my things, we left my fly rod in "a very safe place" that was so safe we forgot about it until the day after our wedding. We were packing for our honeymoon week in a romantic cabin in the mountains of Tennessee where we planned to do some fishing. This would be Dan's first time fly fishing, and his idea (swoon!).

But, I didn't know where my fly rod was. Dan thought it might be in the trailer he had borrowed from his neighbor when he helped me move months before. So on our way we stopped at the neighbor's and hopped in his trailer. Sure enough, my fly rod was up in that "very safe place," hidden in a compartment on the ceiling. Dan got it out and we headed to Tennessee.

Several days later, we visited a fly shop to get the scoop on where to fish and with what, bought a small box of flies, and headed out to the river that was suggested to us. Apparently a lot of snow had melted because when we got there, it was running high, fast, and thick. But, we were on our honeymoon! We were going fishing! Together! I got out my waders, creel, rod and reel and strung up my line. Dan started doing the same thing, but we realized that the reel had been loaded with fly line for a right hander which clearly disturbed him because he is a lefty.

Since I was ready to get fishing, I quickly explained that it didn't really matter how the line was on the reel because he's going to be stripping his

line in anyway. He could just reel with the other hand, or turn it around and wind it backward when he needed to. Strangely, it was as if he hadn't heard me. So, I said it again. "Hey, hon, you don't really have to worry about which way the line is on because you can just pull the line in and then cast it back out." I expected him to respond "Why yes, of course you are right, my dear bride! You know so much about this! Thank you for correcting my errors so soon in our marriage!" Oddly enough, he did not. Instead he proceeded to unspool all the line from the reel into neat, long rows on the ground. I stood there in my waders with my rod in hand, a bit puzzled (and perturbed) about this man who I just pledged to live the rest of my life with. He put the reel on the rod the "left" way, and wound the line back up as time and the wind blew by.

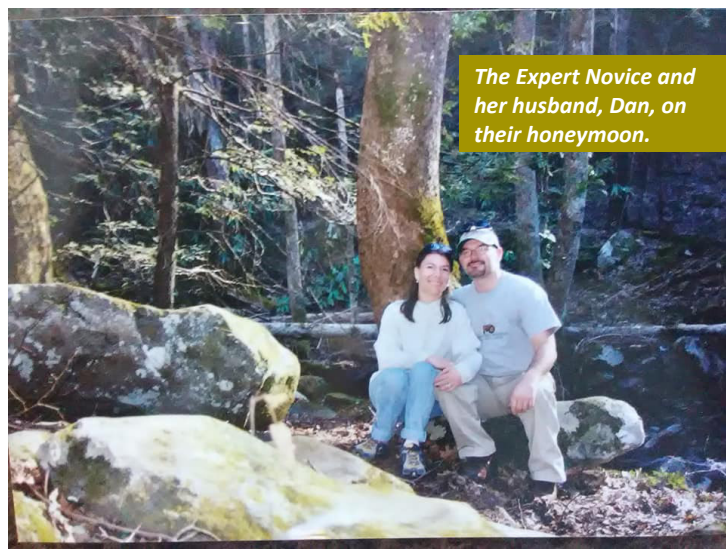
Dan's furrowed brow and brisk back-and-forth walking as he wound the line back onto the reel was enough to tell me that he wasn't feeling honeymoony anymore. And because I remember how he picked up his pace and his face got even more scrunchy, I'm pretty sure I pointed out, again, that he really wouldn't have had to unspool the whole thing.

When he finally finished, neither of us felt like fishing next to each other, so we went and found our own spots far

apart on the river. Fishing was pointless due to the water conditions, but I whipped some flies here and there just cuz. The roaring of the water matched the roaring in my head. After a time, we called it quits, packed up and drove in silence to another "romantic spot" to picnic. I remember starting the grill in silence, opening beer bottles in silence, and staring into flames in silence. We eventually softened up as the beer and the venison steaks took effect.

I don't think any lessons were learned that day as newlyweds, but we've been

**"Fishing was pointless due to the water conditions, but I whipped some flies here and there just cuz. The roaring of the water matched the roaring in my head. After a time, we called it quits, packed up and drove in silence to another 'romantic spot' to picnic."**



*The Expert Novice and her husband, Dan, on their honeymoon.*

married almost 12 years and, looking back, I see how I had thought I knew something better than my husband did, so therefore, he should have done it my way. But in the end, he wound up taking care of his problem so he could fish properly then, and in the future. I wonder, though, if he would have done it differently, if the trout were rising... 🐟



In December, the Kiap-TU-Wish stream monitoring team wrapped up another successful year of monitoring the quality of our local trout streams and the success of our stream restoration projects. See below for some monitoring highlights.

# 2018 Stream Monitoring

by John Kaplan (Kiap-TU-Wish Monitoring Coordinator) & Kent Johnson

## Water Temperature

Continuous water temperature monitoring is being conducted at 25 sites on 4 rivers and streams:

- Kinnickinnic River (8 sites)
- Pine Creek (8 sites)
- Trimble River at Cty. W (6 sites)
- Willow River (3 sites)

Water temperature data are being used to evaluate the impacts of stormwater runoff, hydropower dams, and climate change. Data obtained at our two case study sites for stream restoration (Pine Creek and Trimble River at Cty. W) are being used to determine whether our projects are improving stream temperature regimes and “armoring” them against climate change.

## Water Quality

Water quality monitoring is being conducted on a seasonal basis (spring, summer, fall, winter) and during large runoff events at 6 sites on our two case study streams:

- Pine Creek (3 sites)
- Trimble River at Cty. W (3 sites)

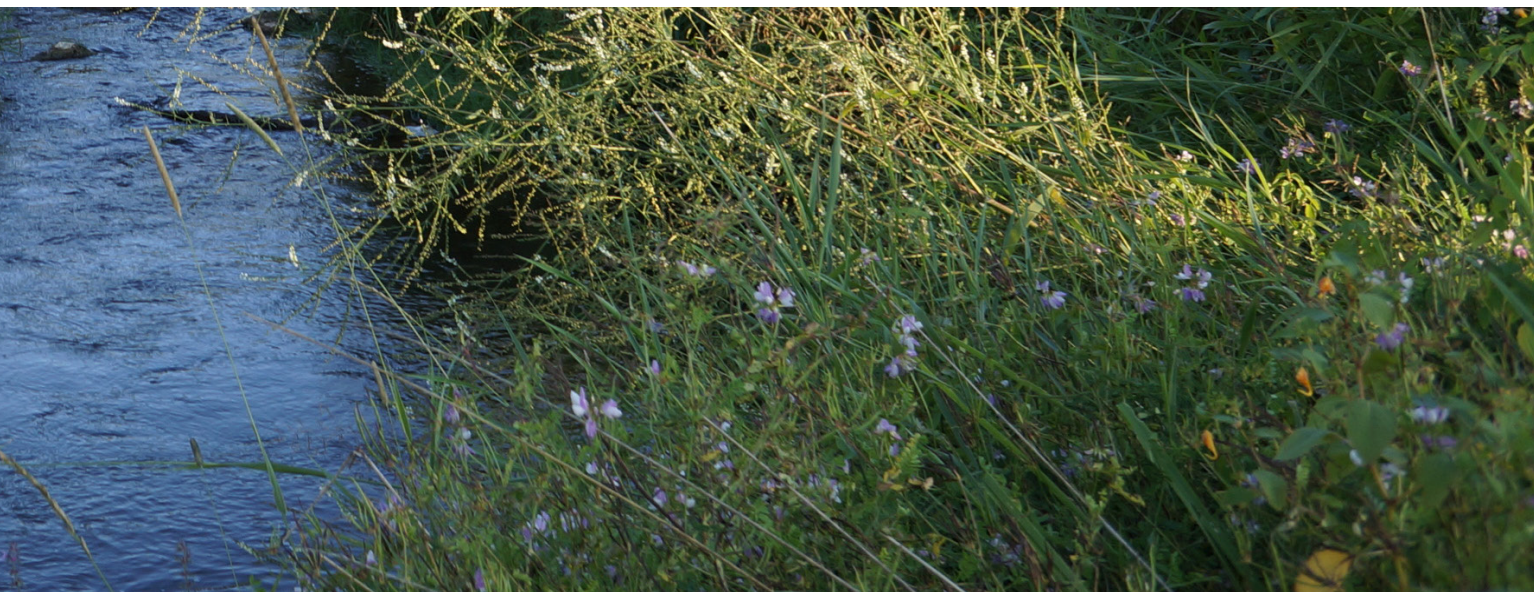
Water quality variables, which are analyzed by a contract laboratory, include turbidity, total and volatile suspended solids, and nutrients (2 types of phosphorus and 5 types of nitrogen).

Water quality data are being used to evaluate the impacts of watershed runoff and groundwater sources on our restored stream restoration reaches. The data are also revealing that our restored stream reaches have an ability to reduce concentrations of water quality pollutants by capturing and processing them in the floodplain.

Water sampling at the Trimble River (Cty. W) during flood events on September 5, 2018 (top photo) and October 10 (bottom photo)







## Trout

WDNR fisheries staff, currently led by Senior Fisheries Biologist Kasey Yallaly, have been conducting annual surveys of trout populations in our local waters for many years, providing one of the best long-term datasets in the country for trout management. The annual trout surveys of our stream restoration projects are invaluable for documenting project success and/or revealing unintended consequences that are opportunities to modify our restoration techniques.

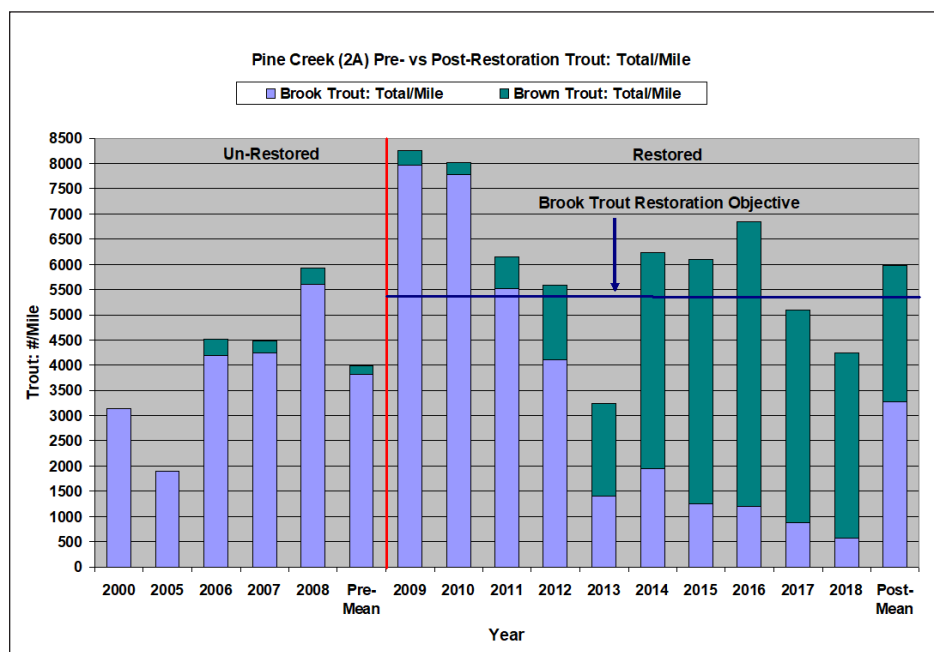
The post-restoration population of brook trout continues to decline in Pine Creek, an unintended consequence of the restoration project.

The hands-on support for WDNR trout survey work has been one of the most popular Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer opportunities, and chapter members once again participated in 2018.

## Macroinvertebrates

Macroinvertebrates have a tale to tell about the health of our coldwater streams, as they are influenced by temperature, hydrology (water flow), water quality, and habitat suitability.

In June 2018, John Kaplan and Kent Johnson conducted post-restoration macroinvertebrate monitoring at 5 sites on the Trimble River at Cty. W. Macroinvertebrate samples were also collected at the same 5 sites in 2014, before restoration work was completed on this stream reach. The 2018 samples are currently being analyzed by Dr. Len Ferrington at the University of Minnesota. Using multiple metrics, we can compare the pre-restoration macroinvertebrate data (2014) to the post-restoration data (2018), to determine whether the restoration project benefited the macroinvertebrate community.



*Many thanks to the Kiap-TU-Wish members who participated in all of our 2018 stream monitoring work! The chapter's long-term volunteer involvement and financial support of our monitoring program has been key to providing critical science-based information to conserve, protect, and restore our coldwater resources.*

*In 2019, Kiap-TU-Wish members will have an opportunity to participate in water quality monitoring via a mobile phone app (WQ mApp). Our chapter has been invited to participate in a TUDARE pilot project that will ultimately use crowdsourcing of trout anglers to collect water quality data throughout the Driftless Area. Stay tuned for more details in an upcoming issue of RipRap.*





# The Forward Look

By Jonathan Jacobs

Last Saturday I was chatting with Maria Manion, the dazzling editor of this august publication, when the topic turned to Kiap-TU-Wish history, which led Maria to ponder who among attendees of current chapter meetings might have the most seniority. She made a guess and it was a good one, but I said, "Hah, I've been around longer than him." But then, when I thought about it, I realized that I've been around longer than nearly everybody. There's only one possible end to that realization: Considering that I was approaching what we euphemistically call "middle aged" when I attended my first K-TU meeting, one can only conclude that I have more fishing seasons behind me than I have ahead of me, an uncomfortable conclusion and one that's not easy to absorb while the days grow shorter and the nights grow

longer. However, I am taking counteractions.

First, I can look back on seasons past and think about the wonderful experiences I've had, the precious friendships I've developed, the places I've visited and, yes, the fish or two that I've managed to catch in those years. I treasure all those memories but looking through the wrong end of the telescope for too long can induce a particularly malign form of myopia. Thus, I'm invoking "The Forward Look," a catchphrase I'm lifting from the Chrysler Corporation, which used it in the last half of the 1950s to describe the styling of the Virgil Exner designed finned wonders the company

was then producing. (This has nothing to do with my subject, but it's interesting trivia and it offers an indication of how long I've been around.) Looking forward requires developing a goal and plans to proceed toward that goal. This past November Tom Schnadt and I were guests aboard Gabe Schubert's drift boat for a day of musky fishing.

**"After we shook hands and said our goodbyes, Gabe hesitated for several moments before he said, 'I've just gotta say, you fish hard for guys your age.' "**

For hours we constantly cast flies larger than most of the trout I catch. At the end of the day Gabe shuttled us back to our car at the upper end of the float. After we shook hands and said our



goodbyes, Gabe hesitated for several moments before he said, "I've just gotta say, you fish hard for guys your age." Damned straight, Gabe, and fishing hard is exactly what I intend to do in the coming year.

Fishing hard involves four strategies: maintaining fishing rituals, fishing familiar water, fishing new water, and trying something entirely new. There is real value in detailing these strategies—they keep you from frittering away the year.

## **"Fishing hard involves four strategies: maintaining fishing rituals, fishing familiar water, fishing new water, and trying something entirely new."**

As for rituals, a week in June in a cabin in a state park with a trout stream running through it was confirmed the day after we left the park last year. The twentieth annual Gathering of the Flambeauzeaus scheduled for August went in the books while the nineteenth was in progress. My companions and I have committed to another trip to the treasure state and have further committed to firming up plans for it as soon as possible. A visit to Wisconsin's South Shore in pursuit of potamodramous salmonids is a matter of exactly when and not if. Lastly, Tom and I were again the fortunate high bidders on the trip that Gabe Schubert so graciously donated for auction at the chapter's recent banquet and I'd call that a ritual in the making.

Fishing familiar water is like putting on your favorite pair of slippers or collapsing into your favorite chair after a long day. It just feels good. That you usually fish well on familiar water raises the question of whether that's because you know the water well or because intrinsically great water drew you there repeatedly until it became familiar. It goes beyond that, though. There's also a charm in the progression of insect emergences through the

year, perhaps something like midges, olives, caddis, stoneflies, sulfurs, tricos, terrestrials and *Plauditus* mayflies appearing in approximately that order. Trout water is never ugly, but I'd guess that when on familiar water, you look forward to seeing a particularly lovely meadow or canyon or woods.

New water helps us maintain a childlike sense of adventure, an important weapon in the war against creeping crustiness. There is plenty of this available to all of us and it likely

doesn't require much in the way of travel.

As a personal example, I can, believe it or not, cite the Kinnickinnic River. Sure, I've fished a lot of it and a lot of it hard, but I can

count on one hand the number of times I've fished either above Interstate 94 or downstream of County F. I intend to change that this year. Will it be worthwhile? Yes, without doubt, although it may not be particularly productive. The headwaters and the reaches just above the confluence with other rivers of most of our local streams likely present interesting possibilities for exploration. Also, look at the maps in the WDNR's Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations. All those squiggly colored lines on the maps are trout streams. They vary in quality of course, but exploring any one of them would be an interesting experience.

I'm not sure what I'll do this year that will be entirely new, but the angling world is rife with possibilities. Perhaps I'll finally fish in saltwater. Maybe I'll convince my companions that we ought to duck over the Montana border into Idaho where I've never fished. Perhaps it won't be that exotic; it could be as simple as catching a white bass from a school in a feeding frenzy on the St. Croix. I'll take any or all of those possibilities and be thankful for the opportunity to fish hard for a guy my age. 🐟

## **From the Field**



Last winter, volunteers spent over 2,000 hours removing unwanted trees and streamside brush from four different project sites. This winter promises plenty of opportunities to reach or surpass last year's milestone. We've already removed sand bar willows on the West Fork of the Kinni; cleared box elders and buckthorn at the lower end of the Red Cabin easement on the Kinni; and started brushing in Boyceville on Tiffany Creek. Efforts will soon turn to the far southeastern reaches of our chapter territory when we'll start to clear the banks on Plum Creek's Von Holtum easement located about 3 miles downstream of Plum City. The WDNR crew will begin bank work there this summer after completing work at the Boyceville site.

If you haven't been to one of the chapter's volunteer workdays, please join us. It's a great way to spend time on the stream during the winter. Although it might seem cold on some days, once a fire is started and you begin to move around, it can get warm enough to shed your coat and work in shirtsleeves. Those operating chainsaws need to have completed certified chainsaw safety training, but there is more than ample opportunity to drag slash to bonfire piles, working at your own pace with nobody to crack the whip and tell you that you aren't working fast enough. Camaraderie with hot dogs roasted over a bonfire, accompanied by a cookie or doughnut, awaits you at the end of the work session. Even if you only stop by for an hour or two, it all helps and you can say that you were a part of it. Contact Randy Arnold at [randyca999@gmail.com](mailto:randyca999@gmail.com) if you want to receive future workday announcements. —Randy Arnold

# KNOW YOUR BUGS: A Primer on Stoneflies by Mike Alwin

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

In May, 1994, Bob Mitchell walked me through the fly shop showing me where everything was. When we got to the waders, this is what he said: "Here we are at the waders. What can I tell you about waders? Waders are a pain in the neck, but you have to have them."

That's essentially the way I think about stoneflies. These are critters so unsophisticated (altogether, "How unsophisticated are they?") they don't swim well, don't fly well, inhabit only a few niches, are incomplete metamorphosers and, unlike mayflies and caddis, can't fly and copulate at the same time. But you have to have them.

Because of their size (many are quite large) and their propensity to emerge during all months of the year, they are the third insect leg of the angling triumvirate. Clumsy though they are, the larger species produce legendary fishing out west. While the smaller species are more abundant, the larger species take two or more years to mature and so are in the substrate year round. So you have to have them.

There are approximately half as many mayfly species as there are caddis species. There are approximately half

as many stonefly species as there are mayfly species. Stoneflies present a conundrum because of their limited speciation and the way authors write about them. Though identified to genus and species, some writers refer to them by families or sub families. This makes it harder to cross reference. Consequently, this discussion will be filled with glittering generalities and will be organized around seasonal emergences. We'll start with what are referred to as "winter stones" and mess around with the biology in the next installment.

In winter it's common to find midges crawling around on the snow next to the stream. One year, Dean Hansen even found a mayfly (*Baetis*) on Valentine's Day. And during winter projects we used to watch little black stoneflies struggling on the water surface.... before being gobbled up by small trout. It's generally accepted that the two most common stoneflies emerging in the dead of winter are the genera *Allocaenia* and *Taeniopteryx*, and these are fairly common emergences.

*Allocaenids* are referred to as Tiny Black Winter Stones. The larva are found in small- to medium-sized

streams. They are detritivores and are typically found in leaf litter, sometimes in small cobble and rubble. Larva range in size from 5-10 mm in length depending on the species. Go measure your nymph hooks. Emergence occurs from late January through March and is frequently masked by the slightly larger genus, *Taeniopteryx*.

*Taeniopteryx* is known by anglers as the Black Winter Stone or the Early Brown Stone. This genus occurs in medium to large streams, almost always away from the main current, and captured specimens frequently have sand or silt attached to their bodies. Also detritivores, they are usually found in leaf litter. The prominent dorsal stripe is diagnostic. Larva are 10-15 mm in length and emergence occurs from February through April.

Larval imitations of either of these stoneflies should be on the slender side. A black fur nymph with plenty of brown mixed in would be a good choice and since they're not good swimmers and are only infrequently in the drift, any imitation should be fished on the bottom.



*In February's RipRap: Spring Stones*



## Want to read more about stoneflies and other insects?

Pick up a copy of Clarke Garry's *In the Kinnickinnic: Stories of a River and Its Insect Life*. From Kiap-TU-Wish member Kent Johnson's review of this book last year:

"Now retired and living in northern Minnesota, Clarke was a biology professor at UW-River Falls for 30 years. During his tenure at UWRF, Clarke and his students conducted numerous surveys of the Kinni's insect life, providing outstanding scientific information on the presence of these river residents and river health. Kiap-TU-Wish contributed funding to support Clarke's comprehensive survey work in 1999 and 2001-2004, which resulted in the report: A Survey of Benthic Macroinvertebrates of the Kinnickinnic River of Western Wisconsin (2006). Clarke's survey experiences and observations of the Kinni provide rich and fascinating material for these essays, some of which have previously appeared in *RipRap* and Tom Helgeson's *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine.

Clarke's passion for the Kinni and its insect life emerges in every essay as he describes the uniqueness of this special resource, including geology, history, biology, ecology, river health, and present and future threats to the river. . . **Clarke is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from book sales to Kiap-TU-Wish and the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, 'in their efforts to conserve, restore, and protect the Kinnickinnic River.'**"



## FLY TIER'S CORNER: Pocket Lint Jig

*Fly & Recipe by Brian Smolinski*



**Hook:** Hazard HH11 #16 Wide Gap Jig Hook  
**Bead:** 2.5mm Hazard Slotted Tungsten – Matte Black

**Thread:** Uni 6/0 136D – Light Olive  
**Rib:** Small Ultra Wire – Gunmetal Blue  
**Collar:** Mogwai Fuzz Dubbing – Webster

- 1) Start thread behind the bead and tie in the wire rib on top of the hook shank.
- 2) Wrap thread about a quarter of the way down the bend of the hook. Then wrap towards the bead, and again back down, this time stopping two thirds of the way.
- 3) Repeat the previous step, but wrap only one third of the way down from the bead toward the bend and back up. This is a quick and easy way to create a tapered body, with just your thread. Then, spiral the ribbing wire to the bead and tie off.
- 4) Bring your thread to right behind the bead. Take a clump of dubbing fibers and hold them around the hook with the midpoint of the clump behind the bead.
- 5) Make a couple loose wraps around the dubbing and, if needed, adjust the clump so it's evenly distributed around the hook shank.
- 6) Tighten your thread and make another wrap over the dubbing clump snugging it down. Pull the forward-facing fibers back and make a couple wraps in front of them.
- 7) Before you pull down to tighten those wraps you can pull out any excess dubbing fibers to create the desired collar size.
- 8) Tighten up those thread wraps and whip finish.

At the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet this year there was box of flies in the dice game that were all tied by myself. A few were signature patterns that we sell in the shop, but most were flies that I tied while just messing around with new materials or samples of materials I had recently accumulated. This month's fly, the Pocket Lint Jig, was in the box and was the pattern that, over and over, people stopped me to ask me about. So, why not put the recipe in this month's Fly Tier's Corner? The dubbing is a mix of natural and synthetic fibers blended with some UV flash. But really, any dubbing blend would work, especially if it has a mix of textures. If you don't have anything like this, experiment by mixing some yourself. Of course, you could always just use some pocket lint!

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

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

**Jennifer Medley** is a chapter member and a founding member of the chapter's Belle Rivière Book Club.

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



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## January 9, 2018

There are two great reasons to attend this chapter meeting:

**1** Eloise and Dahlia Olson, last year's Kiap-TU-Wish-sponsored participants at TU Youth Camp, will tell us about their experience. Youth, fish and fun!

**2** Kasey Yallaly, our WDNR fisheries biologist, will talk about WI stream access laws and online resources to help us find more places to fish in Wisconsin. More knowledge, more water, more fish!

