

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited March 2004

Annual business meeting set for March 3rd

By Jonathan Jacobs

In accordance with Article II, Section 1 of the Kiap-TU-Wish By-Laws as amended March 5, 2003, notice of the chapter's business meeting is hereby rendered. Members will elect two candidates to three year terms on the chapter's Board of Directors and will elect one candidate to a two year term on the board. The nominating committee has named Greg Dietl and Eric Forward as candidates for three year terms on the board. Ted Mackmiller is completing a two year term and will accept the required nomination from the floor for another two year term. Additionally, officers and committee chairs will submit reports on chapter activities and the membership shall conduct other such business as comes before it. The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 3 at 7 PM at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street, Hudson, WI.

In the interest of time management, considering the number of issues facing the chapter, there will be no entertainment program. However, as usual, dinner will be available in the meeting room from 6 PM.

On being there

Editorial by Jonathan Jacobs

I strongly encourage you to attend the March business meeting for several reasons. First, the election of board members is a critically important thing. This year's nominating committee has worked hard to recruit two new people, both of them outstanding individuals, to the board. Ted Mackmiller would appreciate your support in a floor nomination so that he can continue to do his good work. A large turnout would provide an excellent vote of confidence for these gentlemen. Second, there are huge trout conservation issues facing the chapter. People who have been wrestling with these issues will be at the meeting to offer reports and to solicit your help in continuing to work on them. Third, the business meeting, particularly this year's, goes to the very center of what it means to be a volunteer worker in a conservation organization. You'll notice, for example, when you read the listing of projects and committees at the end of this newsletter, that there are positions available in the program and membership development positions. Those jobs might be yours to do effectively. This is **your** organization; play a real part in it.

Dry Fly Dick Frantes Memorial fly Tiers to tie favorites in April

By Jonathan Jacobs

Through the winter we've been kicking around in the pages of RipRap (See, for example, **Sarah Sanford's** and **John Koch's** contributions on the subject in this issue) the concept of our six all-time favorite, never fail, wouldn't be without, can't miss, sure bet flies. We're going to delve further into that theme at this year's Dry Fly Dick Frantes Memorial Fly Tying Demonstrations (a title nearly as verbose as the late R. M. Frantes, by the way).

We're always looking for fresh faces to include in the tying group. If you haven't participated in this event, or haven't in some time, contact Jonathan Jacobs to make your interest known. This is always a pleasant and enjoyable evening, so please consider joining in.

Kiap-TU-Wish and Ojibseau join in fundraising effort

By Jonathan Jacobs from source material provided by John Koch

The two western Wisconsin chapters of Trout Unlimited have joined forces to create a dynamic – and fun – fundraising raffle to benefit trout stream restoration efforts on Gilbert Creek and the Eau Galle River. The raffle features two grand prizes: A three piece, four weight, seven and a half foot single tip six strip bamboo fly rod handcrafted by Jay Johnson and a fifteen and a half foot Bob's Special Model redwood strip canoe.

The rod features Leonard style nickel silver step down ferules manufactured by A.J. Thrasher, a Rush River Rod reel seat with a nickel silver cap and band on a butternut insert, a 5½ inch cigar style handle, and red agate stripping guides and bright chrome snake guides and tip top. Mr. Johnson has donated an REC aluminum tube and Kiap-TU-Wish has donated a Hardy Featherweight reel to match the rod.

The canoe is an extremely lightweight craft of good carrying capacity, perfect for a pair of anglers with fishing gear or for a solo tripper. Fairly wide, with a flat-bottomed hull for stability and with low ends for easy portaging, it is similar to a 1950 Chestnut Canoe Company design from a traditional Canadian style. Made of select-grade hardwood, basswood, ash, maple, and black walnut, the canoe

features cabinet grade construction and many of the maker Prine's trademarks. If desired, the maker will apply graphite sheeting to the bottom of the hull for added scuff protection.

Look for the rod to be on display at fly shops in the area and at the Greater Midwest Flyfishing Expo. Plans currently call for the canoe to be displayed at the Expo as well.

Tickets are twenty dollars each and are available from both Kiap-TU-Wish and Ojibseau.

The prize drawing will be held April 22, 2004 at 8 PM at the Ojibseau TU Banquet, Eau Claire Ramada Inn. The first drawn ticket holder will choose one of the two prizes. Second prize will be awarded to the second drawn ticket holder. The winner need not be present to win. License Number R0003579A-20830.

Fundraising Committee Chairman Corey Mairs reports at press time that Kiap-TU-Wish forces have sold approximately \$1,000 worth of raffle tickets while Ojibseau reports similar success.

Remember, every \$20 ticket purchased will result in that much stream improvement effort. The twenty dollars may restore enough stream length to hold your personal fish of a lifetime. Participate as much as your wallet will allow.

Conservation Congress Spring Hearings set for April 12

By Jonathan Jacobs

The joint spring hearing/Conservation Congress meeting will convene at 7:00 PM on April 12. Locally, the Saint Croix County hearings will be held at Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Auditorium, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., in New Richmond. The Pierce County hearing will be held at the Ellsworth Senior High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest in Ellsworth.

Likely to be of particular interest to trout anglers this year are Trout Committee Questions 53, 54, 55 and 56.

Question 53 asks voters if they are in favor of reinstating stream access up to the ordinary high water mark.

Question 54 asks voters if they are in favor of increasing the inland trout stamp fee to \$10 dollars, while the related Question 55 asks if voters are in favor of increasing the

inland trout stamp fee to \$10 for resident anglers and to \$12 for non-resident anglers.

Question 56 asks voters if the Wisconsin DNR should seek added legislative authority to be able to deny high capacity wells that could have adverse or undesirable impacts on wetlands, fisheries, ground and surface wells.

The following web address will provide more information:

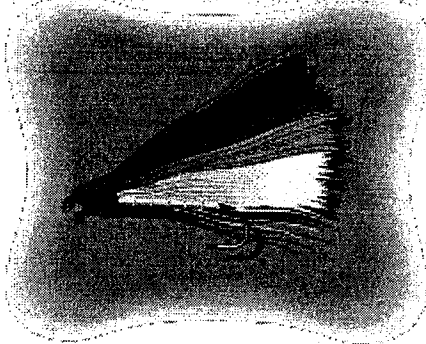
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/2004/index.htm>

Midwinter tips

By Michael Alwin

Here are a couple of ideas to make your first foray into the local trout stream a little more enjoyable. Start by checking your equipment. Clean the rod with a little Pledge® and a soft cloth. Run a nylon stocking through the guides to check for abrasions. Dust the reel off with an old soft bristle toothbrush. Scrub it in warm water if the mud is caked on. Put a drop of oil on the spindle. Clean the line in warm water and Ivory liquid. Rinse it, dry it and then treat it with a line cleaner. Let it sit overnight, and then polish it with a soft cloth. Patch your waders BEFORE you go fishing. Check over your flies. Do you have some flies that didn't work? Some flies you tied for that special hatch that you never fished again? Some flies you just don't know what to do with? Put them aside in a bowl or box. Start your tea kettle. When the steam is rolling, run each one of your discards through the steam column for one second. This will freshen them to the point where they'll look good enough to donate to the Chapter's annual trout fishing clinic in River Falls. Pretty sneaky, huh?

Michael Alwin of Stillwater, MN, is the proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN, and is chair of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's Education Committee.



Groups ask DNR to adopt emergency waterway rules

From the February 15, 2004 edition of WSNetwork News

Twenty-eight conservation and environmental groups have written a letter to WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett asking the DNR to propose emergency rules for the February Natural Resources Board Meeting restoring the environment regulatory standards to protect public rights in navigable waters that were removed from Chapter 30, Wisconsin Statutes, by the Legislature in 2003 Wisconsin Act 118, (which has been referred to as the Jobs Creation Act of 2003). Specifically, the letter asks the DNR to adopt emergency rules for activities that were exempted from getting DNR permits such as the placement of certain structures, culverts, and material on the beds of lakes and streams and the removal of material from the beds of waterways. The letter requests that the rules require that the exemptions not harm fish and wildlife habitat including fish spawning, natural scenic beauty and water quality, impede navigation or in any other way harm Constitutionally established public rights in navigable waters. "It is critically important that these rules be in place to protect the very important near-shore fish habitat especially those areas of our lakes and streams that are spawning and nursery areas for walleye and other fish," stated Tom Soles, Executive Director for Walleyes for Tomorrow. "Our organization has spent untold amounts of money to increase fish populations in this state and we do not want to see valuable fish habitat destroyed throughout the state because the Legislature removed public rights protections from the statutes."

SOURCES: George Meyer, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (608) 516-5545, Steve Hiniker, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin (608) 320-5569 and Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter (608) 256-0565.

GROUPS SIGNING DNR LETTER

The following organizations have signed the petition to the Natural Resources Board asking for emergency rules to restore navigable water protections lost in the recent Job Creation Act:

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation,
Walleyes for Tomorrow,
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited,
Wisconsin Association of Lakes,
Sierra Club,
1000 Friends of Wisconsin,
Midwest Environmental Advocates,
Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton League,
Clean Wisconsin,
River Alliance of Wisconsin,
Wisconsin Wetlands Association,

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters,
Wisconsin Audubon Council,
WISPIRG,
Lake Superior Binational Forum,
Trout Unlimited-Green Bay,
Brown County Conservation Alliance,
Door County Environmental Council,
ECCOLA,
Soul of Superior,
Concerned Citizens of Newport,
Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin,
AWARE,
Northern Thunder,
Northeastern Wisconsin Beagle Club,
Random Lake Association,
The Woodlands, and Rock River Coalition.

Rasmussen new DNR watershed management director

From the February 1, 2004 WSNetwork News

A veteran state employee critical in Wisconsin's successful efforts to create comprehensive rules to prevent polluted runoff from entering Wisconsin waters has been promoted to lead state water protection programs. Russell Rasmussen, 51, started work Monday as director of the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Watershed Management. The bureau has 110 employees and is responsible for managing activities that influence water quality and land uses that affect public health and safety, including preventing and regulating water pollution from industries, municipal sewage treatment facilities, construction sites, farms and urban areas. Previously, Rasmussen led the runoff management section within the bureau, which focused on preventing animal waste and stormwater from entering Wisconsin lakes and streams. Rasmussen succeeds Al Shea, who became administrator of the DNR Air and Waste Division.
SOURCE: Russell Rasmussen, WDNR, (608) 267-7651

The alternative six

By John Koch

There you stand: The river slides around your thighs as the colors around you melt away in the gathering twilight; a slight chill fills the air as a mist works its silent way upstream. Fish are rising. Big fish, too, bigger than any you've seen yet today.

Yet there you stand, fly line floating in a morose mass around your legs, rod up under your arm, hat pushed back on your head in disgust. You're picking through a fly box any fly box at this point, in a desperate, yet futile attempt to find SOMETHING that will elicit a response from the feeding trout. Which, by the way even as we get better at reading the water, identifying hatches, and develop a rudimentary understanding of trout behavior, continue to feed. A lot.

We've all been there, and, we will always experience situations where we would have been better off just calling it a day and having a beer (If you disagree and insist you've never been skunked, nor ever will be, I think you're deluding yourself, but to be on the safe side, I want to fish with you).

The assigned subject for this essay (Thank you, Mr. Jacobs) was outlined as *An Angler's Top Six Fly Patterns*. Because I'm an adult, and because it's my prerogative as the author of this treatise, I've changed my assignment slightly to the "Top Six Flies That I Wouldn't Want To Be Without When My Top Six Flies Have Failed Miserably..." and not necessarily the six patterns to choose to cover any situation. These are the patterns that I like to have on hand when faced with especially persnickety, uncooperative trout:

The **Parachute Deer Hairs**, the **Klinkhammer Specials**, and the **Bivisibles** that I carry all fall under the same loose category as patterns that could match a number of different hatches - mayflies, caddis flies and stoneflies all together, but nothing specific.

I tie the PDH in green and tan, and have had results with both colors fishing during both caddis and mayfly hatches. I especially like this pattern when the small crane flies are on the water.

I like to tie a variety of Klinkhammers, varying the color, material and size of the fly. Again, I've had great results using this pattern during caddis and mayfly hatches.

Perhaps my favorite trout fly of all, the elegantly simple old Bivisible, has proven to be a stalwart fish-catcher. I fish a variety of color combinations of this pattern, and have the best results when fishing this fly with a surprisingly fast action.

I learned about the **March Brown Spinner** the hard way, by standing in the cold, clammy river watching a blizzard sulphur hatch. I say watched, because that's pretty much the most worthwhile thing I could do at that moment; I had tried every sulphur pattern in my book, including the one that had absolutely slain the trout the night before, but on that night it had absolutely no effect. I knew about the

emergence of the large March Brown mayfly, *Stenonema vicarium*, and had heard rumors of its mysterious "invisible" spinner fall at the end of the day. Not until I tied up and fished a spinner pattern called the X-Spinner did I realize what I had been missing out on.

The **Princess of the Waters** and the **Gold Murderer** are two wonderful old streamer patterns that I stumbled onto years ago. I tied the first Princess streamers in a fit of fly-tying boredom while looking through John Veniard's fly pattern book, *500 Fly Dressings*. I remember it was a cold, ugly day when I first tied one on, with high, frothy brown water remaining barely within the riverbanks. A very large brown struck the bright yellow and orange deer hair streamer on the second cast, breaking my too-light tippet immediately. Since it was an experiment, I had tied only two flies, so I was extremely upset when on my next cast I was broken off again by another savage strike from a large brown. I now try to keep at least a half dozen on hand, and the Princess of the Waters is one of my go-to high and dirty water streamers. I've had similar results using the Murderer streamer, an elegant, simple feather-wing streamer that relies on the barred stripes of two grizzly hackle wings over a gold body.

John Koch is a frequent contributor to RipRap. He lives in rural Spring Valley, WI.

Sarah's six

By Sarah Sanford

[Editor's note: Sarah Sanford, after some urging from yours truly, took time from her busy schedule to file the following dispatch. I must admit that I'm mighty curious about item 2 on her list, but not sufficiently so to risk asking her about it. I was intrigued, too, by her assertion, "I could go on." Perhaps we can convince her to do just that in the April issue.]

1. Elk hair caddis - Kinnickinnic fish seem to take it almost anytime and it makes an excellent strike indicator.
2. No Name Nymph - if I told you I'd have to kill you. It's a producer winter through fall in both natural colors and wild ones.
3. Brook's Sprout - an emerger we used in the Black Hills last spring and have kept in our boxes to fish from Alberta to Iowa.
4. Partridge and Wire- gold wire, red wire, green wire, whatever. Fine wet fly in sizes 20-16.
5. Harrop's Hairwing Dun- colors to suit. Some tied wing forward, some EHC style, including my favorite Elk Wing Olive.

6. Everything else in my fly box. If it's late summer in Alberta we need the parachute hopper, if we need a hi-vis dry fly, a Royal Coachman or its orange and black variant. I could go on.

Twin Cities resident Sarah Sanford is a widely traveled and enthusiastic angler. She recently sent Ed. a photo of a very substantial brown trout that she took from a stretch of river that Ed. has pounded intensively with remarkably dissimilar results.

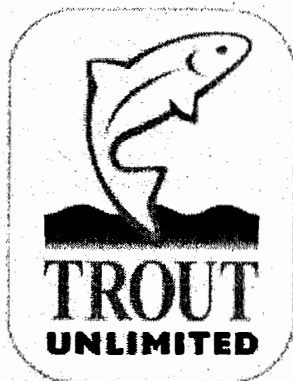
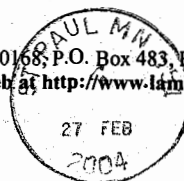
The fifties

By Jonathan Jacobs

No, I am not harking back to the Eisenhower years. I'm talking about a day in the early Spring of 2002 involving a confluence and blending of various fifties: Air temperature, water temperature (barely, I may be employing a little literary license here), percentage of cloud cover, wind speed – seemingly, and two anglers of a certain age.

My angling *bon ami* Michael Edgerly and I were out on a largely unheralded stretch of a local trout river. The day was raw, but after a long, long winter, it felt great to be out being abused by the elements. The water quality is good here, but the water is often too shallow, too sandy or too featureless to look particularly attractive. Yet somehow this stretch holds numerous fish. On this day the water was a little high and a little cloudy. It looked to be a day for slinging weighted nymphs and split shot, which I did without success. The more sensible Mr. Edgerly picked his spots and his casts carefully and had better fortune with midge patterns. About the time reasonable people would have called it a day, we clambered out of the river and up on to the low bank. We walked upstream, mostly to warm up a bit. I stopped to look at a spot where some boulders had tumbled into the water off the low limestone wall on the opposite bank. It looked like a place that should hold fish. As if on cue, a pod of brown trout appeared and began to rise to the typically intermittent parade of blue winged olive duns floating over them. It took about a thousand casts, or so it seemed, to get a decent drift over the uppermost fish. Fortunately, after a long winter it's difficult to put a hungry fish off its feed, and the fish took on the first good drift. Soon after, its companion, which Mr. Edgerly described as looking "like two fish hooked together," tipped up and ate my size 18 Rene Harrop hairwing dun without hesitation. Too dumbfounded to think my way into fouling up playing the fish, I landed my largest dry fly fish ever.

With snow pack measured in feet and with recent below zero temperatures, it's comforting to know that very soon we'll have the opportunity to get out there and get cold and miserable. Have fun in the early season.



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MEETING SCHEDULE:

MARCH 3: BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 7: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS

MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR APRIL RIPRAP: FRIDAY, MARCH 26

CHAPTER COMMITTEES, ONGOING PROJECTS AND CONTACTS:

Kinnickinnic Monitoring: Kent Johnson, Project Leader

Willow River Monitoring: Chuck Goossen, Project Leader

Fundraising Committee: Corey Mairs, Chair.

Publications: Jonathan Jacobs, Editor.

Program Committee: Vacant

Education Committee: Michael Alwin, Chair

Habitat Committee: John Koch, Chair.

Website: Andy Lamberson, Webmaster

Dam monitoring and removal: Ted Mackmiller, Chair

Chapter membership development: Vacant