



A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

BY GREG DIETL

Annual Business Meeting!

The annual chapter business meeting will be Wednesday, March 3. There will be election of board members and discussion of chapter business. In addition, board member Bob Diesch will give his presentation on the work he has been doing with the city of New Richmond concerning the operation of the New Richmond dam and fluctuating flows on the Willow River. This is a rescheduled presentation as Bob's job can take him out of town unexpectedly. Please join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson, 6 PM for dinner, 7 PM for the meeting.

***Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson,
Wednesday March 3, 6 PM for dinner, 7 PM for
meeting and presentation.***



KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER



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**Check out all the good
things inside this issue of
RipRap!**

VICE PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

Business Meeting

Board elections will take place at the March meeting. Board terms expire for Randy Arnold and Bob Diesch. Both Randy and Bob have agreed to stand for another 3 year term. There will be discussion of the treasurer's report, budget planning process as well as chapter project planning and officers' status. Please bring any chapter issues you wish to discuss, also.

Rush River Clean Up

The annual Rush River Clean up is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, meeting at the Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club, new time, 9 AM. Sign up by sending an email to rushclean2010@yahoo.com. You may also use that address to offer assistance to Sarah for all the planning and chores that go into making this event possible.

Randy Arnold Receives WI TU Award

Chapter member, board member, and project volunteer Randy Arnold received the Wisconsin TU Most Valuable Unsung Hero Award at the State Council banquet, February 13th. We all know how valuable Randy is to the chapter and our projects; it was outstanding to see him recognized by the State Council. The award acknowledges Randy's skill with the chain saw, his total renovation of the DNR power mulcher and trailer, and his skill at directing construction of LUNKER structures. Congratulations to Randy for a well deserved award.

Chapter Award

The Wisconsin State Council also awarded Kiap-TU-Wish the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit. The award was given in "... recognition of your efforts with the Pine Creek Restoration Project. By finding funding, organizing many volunteers and partnering with other organizations you were able to restore a very important Eastern brook trout fishery. Thanks for your continued involvement in our cold water resource. Congratulations! Bill Heart, Chair WITU". Thank you to all the chapter members and volunteers who made this project so successful and the award possible.

Expo Update

The Great Waters Expo will be March 26, 27 and 28 in Bloomington. We are getting a much needed updated booth with new displays and photos thanks to webmaster Greg Meyer, and board

members Randy Arnold and Tom Henderson. We have some volunteers scheduled but need more. Please contact me by email or at the March meeting if you want to volunteer to help staff the booth.

Chapter Website

We will soon unveil our new chapter website! Greg Meyer has been working hard designing the new site and it is looking great. Stay tuned...

State Council Website

The Wisconsin State Council has a new website. All chapter members are encouraged to visit the site and register as a user. www.wisconsintu.org

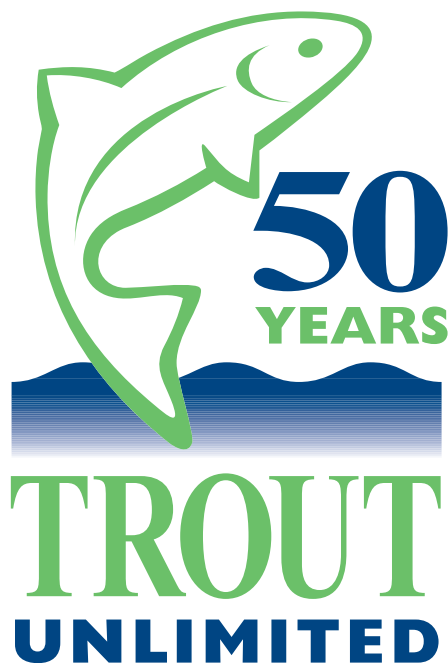
Welcome New Chapter Members

Max Felland
Trevor Penning

Hudson
New Richmond

Parker Creek Update

Brushing on Parker Creek got started on Saturday, February 20th. Brushing should continue into March. This is a continuation of last year's project. The work will be primarily in the middle of last year's work. Watch the website for work updates.



SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

Spring is such a wonderful time of year. At this moment it's only about 30 degrees outside, but that is much warmer than it has been, and the warmth just makes me giddy. Soon all the snow will be melting, trees will start to bud, and more birds and animals will be visible hanging around outdoors. And soon after you get this issue of RipRap in your mailbox, the Wisconsin Early Trout Season will open up and we can all get out and try our luck on our favorite streams. Isn't spring the best?

Spring has brought a lot of excitement to me, personally, this year. I might have mentioned last year that my wife and I had our first baby last March. Maybe you remember? Anyway, Chelsea is about to have her first birthday, so that is exciting, but what's more exciting is that she just started walking and learning how to explore the parts of our house that, up to now, haven't been accessible to her. She has metamorphosed from a cute little baby that we could plop down anywhere and trust not to move, into a rumbling, bumbling terror that moves much more quickly than we could imagine. No, she's really not too bad, but she does like to reach up on to whatever furniture she can, and pull whatever she can reach down on the floor. Needless to say our house is not quite as neat as it used to be. Next we need to teach her about "clean-up time".

Since I spent so much time last year telling you about the birth of Chelsea, I might as well make another announcement. My wife Connie and I are already expecting our second child, who we just found out is a boy. He's due around the first of July, during the long summer in which no RipRaps are printed. Look for photos in the September issue.

Spring brings a lot of excitement and activity to Kiap-TU-Wish, as well. As you will read in other parts of this issue, the chapter's new website is up and running, and looks awesome! Our new Webmaster, Greg Meyer, has really done a great job updating it and getting more and more information on it, so you should definitely check it out. Hey, it would probably be a good idea to add it to your Favorites, as well. Greg writes more about the new website on page 6.

Kiap-TU-Wish will once again have a presence at the Great Waters Flyfishing Expo at the end of March. This is always a great event where you can find out what's going on in the world of flyfishing, and the chapter can let the public know all the good things we have planned for our local trout streams. I know Greg is looking for more people to work as volunteers at the booth, so if you're interested, drop him a note at his email address, grdielt@hotmail.com.

I am still always eager to get article submissions from pretty much anyone who wants to give me one. I noticed after last month's issue went out that I had failed to include any of my contact info for those of you who might want to submit something. So, before I go on, you can send any articles, photos, or whatever you'd like to send, to my email address, which is scott@yes-tech.com. It really is fun to see your name in print, next to an article that spewed from your own brain. I would highly suggest that everyone try it at some point. How about next month?

Make sure you check out everything in this issue of RipRap, come to the Business Meeting on March 3rd at Bob Smith's Sports Club, and get out and enjoy the spring. I'll see you next month!



Chelsea showing everyone how she can walk.
Photo by The Proud Daddy



Back in the 90s I stopped off in the Black Hills to visit some friends for a few days. We hiked a little known trail in the Black Elk, signed the book at the top of the trail, ate good food, played a little guitar and eventually went fishing. To get licensed I dropped in at the Dakota Angler in Rapid City and bought a few flies, one of which was an intriguing little number from the Orvis catalog.

I don't remember what Orvis called it but it was a Prince Nymph and it sported a brass colored tungsten bead. I bought a few and used them to fish Rapid Creek down stream from Pactola. Those nymphs practically dove to the bottom, way faster even than weighted nymphs with shot on the leader and that made fishing high gradient water faster, more efficient and way more fun.

When I got back home we set about adding tungsten bead nymphs to our mix and in the last decade more and more suppliers are doing the same. Currently we have seven patterns that incorporate tungsten beads as weight and the most popular is a little confection called the Tung Head PT Nymph. Pictured here are the two colors we sell here at the shop.

Tung Head Pheasant Tail Nymph

Hook: Daiichi 1710 or any other 2X-long perfect bend hook

Thread: 8/0 in color to match fly

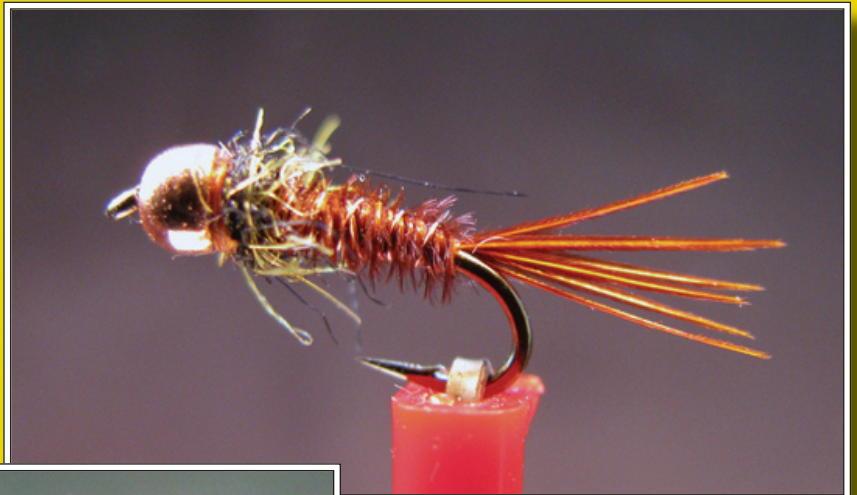
Bead: Copper or black tungsten bead, sized to the hook

Tail: Half a dozen pheasant tail fibers

Abdomen: Pheasant tail fibers wound forward

Rib: Copper wire, size small or X-small

Thorax: Peacock herl or synthetic peacock



Two different color variations of the Tunghead Pheasant Tail nymph are popular - orange is above, and olive is to the left. Both are tied on size 18 hooks.

Results of the survey that was included in RipRap last spring:

A small number of members responded, less than 10% of the membership. From those responses, the following tentative conclusions were made.

1. First and foremost, the Board is convinced that the Kiap membership is dedicated to stream habitat improvement and protection, and the membership is justifiably proud of the chapter's accomplishments. Clearly this focus of the chapter should not and will not change.

2. The survey indicated very strong support for increased education activities both for chapter members and the community at large. Members would particularly like to learn more about stream ecology. Fly tying was also mentioned.

3. Another theme that came through in the survey was an interest by members in more social activities like fishing trips, a summer gathering, and the like. How might those activities be structured and who will take leadership roles will need to be addressed?

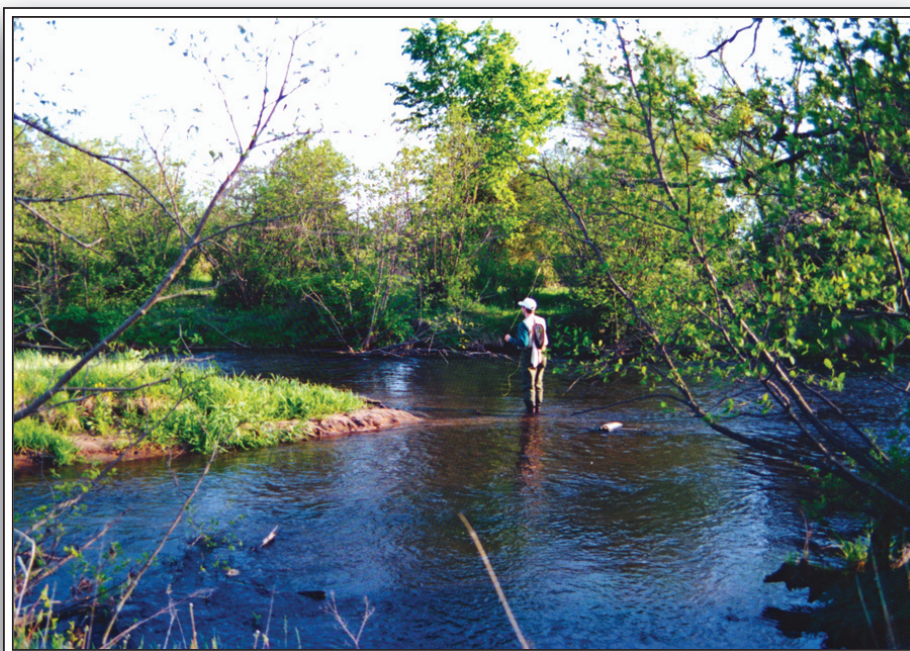
4. Among the other comments that caught our attention was the need to attract more young members if the chapter is to maintain its effectiveness. Some survey results indicated we might be more welcoming of new folks at our meetings and work days,

5. The issue of a smoky meeting place may be alleviated when the new Wisconsin law takes effect in July.

So, where do we go from here? As the board creates a budget for 2010, we expect to include some educational activities, possibly on Saturdays, possibly including families. If you have suggestions, please contact a board member or respond on our web site.

Also keep in mind that other opportunities exist. Area fly shops offer fly casting classes, fishing classes, entomology classes, and fly tying classes. There are links to their web sites from our web site. The Federation of Fly Fishers will hold a free fly casting clinic at the Stillwater athletic dome on Saturday April 24. Unfortunately, this is also the day of the annual Rush River clean-up.

Finally, attend Kiap's March business meeting. Discussion of the chapter's future activities will be on the agenda. See you there!



A lone fisherman
stalking his prey
on the Kinni.
*Photo by Anthony
Mauer*



Check Out Our New Website!

We have redesigned our website with a new look and feel. The new site features more content, worknight updates, hatch charts, links and fishing reports for the streams in our area. The new website address is www.kiaptuwish.org.

It is our goal to have an informative, easy-to-navigate site that you will visit often. Please take a moment to browse our new website, and feel free to send me suggestions for improvements or comments on how we can make the site better.

We are also accepting photos and content from our chapter members that we'll post on the site. If you have stories, fish photos, etc., we'll have an area for our members. Or, if you have events that you would like posted for your organization or group, send me an email at kiaptuwish@hotmail.com and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

Tight Lines!



Pine Creek on a lovely January morning.
Photo by Tom Henderson



EARLY TROUT SEASON OPENS MARCH 6TH

FROM THE WISCONSIN DNR WEBSITE

MADISON — Trout anglers will find new maps, loosened tackle regulations, and dozens of new trout waters when the early trout season opens March 6. The 2010 catch-and-release season begins at 5 a.m. with several changes over recent seasons:

- * Anglers are not required to use barbless hooks. Artificial lures and flies are still required.

- * Wisconsin's official list of classified trout streams has been updated and contains 58 more streams that have been classified as trout waters since 2002. Most of those 260 miles are found in west central and southern Wisconsin counties and will be open for the early season.

- * New online maps and interactive maps will make all of the trout waters easier to find and provide other information to increase anglers' success.

"It should be a good season," says Larry Claggett, Department of Natural Resources trout specialist. "Trout populations have recovered from the floods of 2007 and 2008, we've identified new trout waters for anglers to try, and our new maps should make it easier to get to trout waters once the snow melts." If the snow covering much of Wisconsin as of mid-February hangs around, access to some streams will be more difficult for the opener. But the cold, snowy winter is good for the trout, replenishing the groundwater that feeds the streams with the cold, clean water the trout need.

An estimated 230,000 anglers fish for trout, based on sales of inland license stamps, with a smaller proportion fishing the early season, Claggett says. Across both the early season and the regular inland season, trout anglers caught an estimated 1.6 million trout in 2006-07, according to results from a mail survey of anglers during that calendar year.

Regulations

The season opens 5 a.m. on March 6 and runs until midnight April 25, when there is a week of "rest" before the regular season opens. The early season is catch-and-release. Only artificial lures and flies are allowed, but new this year, barbless hooks are not required. Most trout streams are open to early fishing with the exception of most Lake Superior tributaries and most streams in northeast Wisconsin; check the current trout fishing Regulations pamphlet for specific waters.

New trout waters identified

Wisconsin's official list of classified trout streams has been updated and is available online through the DNR Web site. The county lists are available as well as printable maps in either black and white or color. The county-level maps make finding precise access points a whole lot easier. The online offerings also take anglers to interactive maps where users can customize the maps with whatever information you want, including type of ground cover and the location of structures, which could come in handy for knocking on doors to ask permission to cross private property and access remote stretches of water.

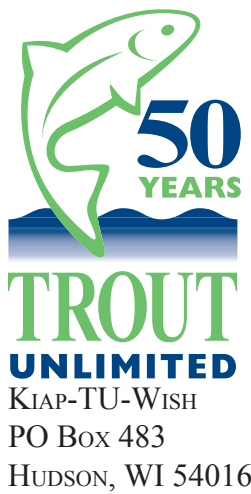
Improved habitat leads to increased natural reproduction

Improved land use is probably the biggest reason for the increase in trout waters, Vetrano says. "Better land use -- more hillside vegetation and better cropping practices -- allows more rain water and snowmelt to seep into the groundwater. These increase flows result in colder summertime temperatures and warmer wintertime temperatures. This gives the wild trout we stock a much better chance to begin to reproduce on their own."

The resulting stable water temperatures and good genetics, combined with the habitat DNR and partners are restoring through funding provided by revenues from sales of Inland Trout Stamps, are close to making all area streams thrive without any stocking. "Last year, because of more naturally reproducing waters showing up in our surveys, we dropped our stocking quotas by 60,000 fish," Vetrano says, noting that only wild strain fish, not domestic, are stocked. "Our goal is to not have to stock any trout in our streams and we think it's achievable."

Vetrano says that anglers will find some nice trout in area streams this March. "We've had two good years of natural reproduction, coupled with an abundant forage base, increased stream flows and good growth rates," he says. "Last fall we saw several fish over 24 inches show up in our surveys. If we get a normal thaw this spring we should see another recharge of the aquifer and continued good stream flows. 2010 should be another excellent year for anglers fishing our state's streams."





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE MARCH MEETING!!!

It's the annual chapter Business Meeting. Have your voice heard as we discuss all matters of business.
Wednesday March 3rd, 2010
at Bob Smith's Sports Club
Dinner starts at 6PM
Meeting begins at 7PM

Deadline to make submissions for the
April issue is Wednesday,
March 24th. Have a great month!

