

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

MARCH, 2012 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7

Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects

MARCH PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY KYLE AMUNDSON

Trimbelle River

Stream embankment clearing has gone well on the Trimbelle, thanks to all of the volunteers including the Fairmount crew that provided the wood chipping machines. We will be taking a short break to discuss a plan of action as we have some requirements to fulfill in order to apply for some grants.

March Meeting

March is our business meeting. We will go over our budget, review the past year's events and discuss our future goals. We will also vote in two new Board members. Alison Jacobs and Tom Schnadt have agreed to join the Board.

The chapter will once again have a booth at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, March 23rd -25th. We will need volunteers to man the booth; volunteers receive free entry.

You can contact a board member or send an email to the web site address if you would like to volunteer.

State Banquet

The state banquet was another huge success and was well attended by Kiap-TU-Wish, including: Kent Johnson, Greg Meyer, Randy Arnold, Gary Horvath, Jon Jacobs, Greg Dietl and myself. Contributions from our chapter included a flybox and flies tied by board members, and a custom made fly tying desk from Randy Arnold.

Welcome new members: Greg Breault (Hudson), Eric Elkin (Amery), Peter Rogers (Hudson), John Tourville (Star Prairie), Doug Vandyke. Please visit the Kiap-TU-Wish website for more chapter information.

***Kiap-TU-Wish
meetings are held
at Bob Smith's
Sports Club, the
first Wednes-
day night of the
month. The
March meeting is
on the 7th.
Dinner begins at
6 PM, Meeting to
follow at
7 PM.***



TROUT season is upon us! What a wonderful time of year. I would usually say that the weather is starting to change for the better, but with our warm and snowless winter this year, it's been March-like for the past couple of months already. It feels like spring, it smells like spring, and there's an electricity in the air that can only mean that it's almost time to go fishing. It's time to get your fly boxes filled up with your secret early season flies, whether you tie your own or buy them at your local fly shop. Which brings me to today's topic. A few months ago, I ran an article here in the pages of RipRap that some people thought probably shouldn't have been run. It was an article by chapter member Paige Olson, who owns the Kinni Creek Lodge & Fly Shop in River Falls, touting her business and the services she provides. I thought it would be beneficial for chapter members to know what businesses are out there, catering to their interests, but some people saw it as providing free advertising space, which was not my intention. I apologize for blurring the lines on the issue, and will not run such articles in the future. For now, though, I feel that it would only be fair to list the other fly shops serving western Wisconsin and the Twin Cities:

- The Fly Angler - Blaine, MN•
- Lund's Fly Shop - River Falls, WI•
- Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop - Lake Elmo, MN•

I hope you have a wonderful start to the trout season! I hope to see you at the March meeting on the 7th, but if not, I'll see you in next month's RipRap.

KIAP-TU-WISH BOARD MEMBERS & CONTACT INFO

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kyle Amundson | President | kdamundson@gmail.com |
| Greg Dietl | V.P./Conservation Chair/Board Member | grdietl@hotmail.com |
| Gary Horvath | Secretary | magshorvath@comcast.net |
| Tom Henderson | Treasurer | tomhenderson136@comcast.net |
| Randy Arnold | Volunteer Coordinator/Board Member | rarnold@augbiomed.com |
| Bob Diesch | Board Member | bob@etestinc.com |
| Hans Jung | Board Member | hansgjung@gmail.com |
| Jonathan Jacobs | Board Member | turiprap@hotmail.com |
| Greg Meyer | Board Member/Webmaster | kiaptuwish@hotmail.com |
| Scott Hanson | RipRap Editor | scott@yes-tech.com |

SAVE THE DATE

BY SARAH SANFORD

Rush River Clean Up April 21

Hello all you Rush River Clean Up friends,

The date for this year's event is April 21, starting time 9 a.m. I'll have more details for you at a later time.

Please use my new address: rushclean2012@yahoo.com to let me know if you would like to be getting Rush River Clean Up emails.



FLY FISHING BOOKS & DVDs FOR SALE

All books are in like-new condition and priced to sell.

Fly Tier's Benchside Reference, Barr Flies, Tying Emergers, Gierach, Borger, Trout Bum Diaries and many more!

Email me for a full list today.

Conveniently located in Cottage Grove, MN.

20% of proceeds will be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish.

Call, text or email.

Chad Borenz

651.261.8277 or

chadborenz@gmail.com

KIAP-TU-WISH PHOTO CONTEST

By GREG MEYER

Kiap-TU-Wish will be sponsoring a Photo Contest in 2012. The photo contest is open to any Trout Unlimited member. Each participant may enter up to a total of five digital photos. Photos must be taken within Polk, Pierce, St. Croix and Pepin Counties. Rules and categories are listed on the Chapter web site (www.kiaptu-wish.org). Winning photos will be displayed at the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet, on the chapter web site, in RipRap, and other locations.

We are working on getting some exciting prizes for the winning entries. Please visit our web site for more details. Winning entries will be automatically submitted to TU DARE and TU National for consideration in their photo contests.

The deadline to enter is October 3, 2012. All photos must be submitted in hi-resolution digital format (2MB minimum size); no printed photos or slides will be accepted. Participants can enter as many as five digital photos each.

The four photo categories are:

1. River landscape (must show one of our wonderful trout streams)
2. Trout release in stream setting
3. Action photo
4. Misc

Only Trout Unlimited members are eligible to compete. Winning entries will be announced at the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet in December. The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited reserves the nonexclusive right to use all submitted photographs in publications, exhibits or for other promotional purposes. Submit photos on a CD or via email according to entry guidelines on the chapter website. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Meyer (651-271-9792) or email to: meyer-creative@comcast.net

TO SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO:

Mail your CD to the Kiap-TU-Wish mailing address, email, or deliver in person at the next chapter meeting. Mailed photos must be received by Wednesday, October 3, 2012.

Include the following info:

1. Category
2. Name of Photographer
3. Address and phone number
4. Title of photo and location where shot
5. Date when photo was taken.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Kiap-TU-Wish Photo Contest
P.O. Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016-0483

EMAIL ADDRESS: meyer-creative@comcast.net



FLY SWAP - MARCH FLIES

BY GREG MEYER

This month's fly swap will be themed "March flies." Sign Up deadline is March 7th, 2012. Flies are to be mailed by March 31st. All skill levels are invited.

Basic Overview

This swap will have the theme "March flies". Representing the best "secret" flies for our local waters (and favorite destinations) as tied by our chapter members and guests.

We typically tie a baker's dozen of flies (13) of one pattern. In return, you will receive twelve flies that were tied by other swap participants. The extra fly will be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish to help with their fund-raising activities. Swaps are limited to the first twelve people that sign up.

We will post photos and recipes of each participant's flies as they are submitted. Check back often to track the progress, and for new themes or to participate in the swap. Suggestions are welcome.

Check out the Chapter web page at www.kiaptuwish.org, and then click on the link for "This Month's Fly Swap." On this page you will find a place for photos of our flies, recipes, etc. At the bottom of the page you will also find a PDF of toe tags to download and print to be attached to each fly you create, as well as rules of engagement. You can also contact me for more info: kiaptuwish@hotmail.com

Tight Lines



KIAP-TU-WISH ON FACEBOOK

BY GREG MEYER

Yes, we've made the leap into Social Media. For news and information that's more current than the old snail mail, or a new way to interact with other TUs, please check out our new Kiap-TU-Wish Facebook site. We're still looking for a few folks to get involved and help maintain our presence, so if you are interested, please let us know. You can contact Greg Meyer at KiapTUVish@hotmail.com for more information.

We encourage you to interact with other Kiap and TU members by posting to our page. And don't forget to like us!



FLY TYING CORNER: DRESSED-UP DACE

BY SKIP JAMES

Materials

Hook: Mustad 3665A (or other 6x long streamer hook) #6

Thread: Black 6/0 Uni, or monocord

Tag: Pinch of filoplume from dyed red rooster hackle

Rib: Embossed gold oval tinsel

Body: Medium black chenille

Underwing: White bucktail

Overwing: Brown bucktail



Instructions

Clamp hook bend in vise and anchor thread 1/4" behind the eye. Tie in tinsel and spiral wrap down the shank to a spot above the hook point. Strip a pinch of filoplume (the soft marabou) from the stem of a dyed red saddle hackle and tie in. Tag should not extend beyond the bend of the hook. Tie in the chenille and then wind the thread back to a point half an inch behind the hook eye. Wind a single layer body of chenille and tie off half an inch behind the hook eye. Now spiral the tinsel over the chenille and tie off at the same place. If you have a rotary vise, turn the fly upside down. If you don't have a rotary, simply take the partially finished fly from the vise jaws and re-clamp it so that the point of the hook is up. Get a small pinch of white bucktail and tie it in with three or four tight turns. The white bucktail should extend from half an inch behind the eye to the point of the hook. Add several drops of head cement to your winds and the butt ends of the bucktail and let it dry a minute or two. Then trim the excess white bucktail at a slant. Reverse the hook in the vise again, and prepare a small clump of dark bucktail. Tie it in on top of the shank about 1/4" from the hook eye, making sure that it is longer than the white bucktail, but doesn't extend past the bend of the hook. Add a drop or two of cement to your winds, then taper trim the excess toward the eye. Make a small, tapered head with the black thread, whip finish, and coat with lacquer or cement.

STREAM WATCH, ROUND 2

BY HANS JUNG

Just a quick reminder; the Chapter plans to institute an informal, membership participation, stream monitoring program during the 2012 trout season. Every time you are out fishing this season in western Wisconsin we hope you will collect data on water temperature, clarity, stream level, and time spent fishing and your success. In addition we hope you will consider nominating a stream access point where you expect to fish regularly. We have had three access points nominated by members already; Wonderland (730th Ave. and 490th St.) and Stonehammer Bridge (690th Ave. and 450th St.) on the Rush, and the new KRLT Lower Kinni access point off Co. Rd. FF. Rather than count on the nominators for these locations to provide all the data, please add your own results when you fish these access points. The Chapter will provide simple log books on waterproof paper for those who are interested. And if you don't have a thermometer, we will gladly accept the other data. Send me an email (hansjung@gmail.com) if you would like to nominate an access point and/or want a log book.



BOB HUNT TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME

Wisconsin has historically pioneered new concepts and ideas. A number of progressive steps toward the conservation of natural resources have originated in Wisconsin, including: the first rural zoning law in the U.S., the first pilot soil conservation demonstration project in the U.S., the first general conservation curriculum started by Fred Schmeckle, and the first bond issue for outdoor recreation.

These progressive ideas and programs have been accomplished through the continuing efforts of leaders in the conservation field. These individuals have exhibited wisdom, foresight and perseverance, and have gained support of the Wisconsin citizens.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame and Hall of Fame Foundation have been established to permanently recognize the people who have made contributions in resource management. The Hall of Fame encourages citizens to involve themselves in efforts to manage resources effectively and to beneficially promote an interest in conservation among Wisconsin youth and to encourage continued education about conservation issues so they inspire leadership in future resource conservation efforts.

The inductees into the Hall of Fame have significantly contributed to conservation programs, projects, public understanding, and conservation ethics within the state of Wisconsin and the nation.

This year noted trout biologist Robert Hunt was selected for induction into the hall of fame. The induction will take place at the Sentry Insurance building in Stevens Point on April 21st. Bob is a retired Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries research biologist. He received his formal education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and served as a graduate student advisor. He was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 33 years, retiring in 1992 as Leader of the Cold Water Research Group. Mr. Hunt is an American Fisheries Society Certified Fisheries Scientist and was elected to the AFS National Hall of Excellence in 1999. He has received a number of other awards including the 1982 Gulf Oil Conservation Award, served as a technical review consultant to four professional journals, and was an advisor to a Trout Unlimited scientific advisory board. His efforts generated public support for a State Inland Trout Stamp that generates \$1,000,000 annually for trout habitat improvement.

Mr. Hunt promoted the use of trout stream habitat improvement as a management tool and conducted research that not only produced new in-stream structures, but clearly demonstrated their benefits to trout populations. He pioneered evaluation of stream bank de-brushing and the use of brush bundles and half-log structures. His wild trout research was done at a time when widespread indiscriminate stocking of hatchery trout was the major trout management thrust. His findings not only generated an awareness of the role of wild trout but resulted in the establishment of a trout stream classification system that recognized the wild trout component. Many streams were eliminated from Wisconsin's stocking roll. He spent his career researching the ecology, habitat relations, and management of wild trout populations and served as an international consultant.

In 1975, Mr. Hunt was co-chairman of the first Workshop on the Management of Brook Trout and helped organize a similar symposium on brown trout. In 1978 he organized the first North American Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop, held every two years with international participation.

Robert L. Hunt published 46 papers and one stream habitat book, "Trout Stream Therapy". Two of his widely known bulletins are titled, "Production and Angler Harvest of Wild Brook Trout in Lawrence Creek, Wisconsin" and "Responses of Brook Trout to Habitat Development."

The Wild Trout Symposium was pleased to honor Bob for his long-term contributions to the cold-water fishery resource with its' Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal. Members of Trout Unlimited owe a debt of Gratitude to Bob for his tireless work on behalf of our trout resources.



OTHER FISH

BY SCOTT HANSON

There are a lot of cool fish in our local trout streams, other than trout. If you have never stopped to observe some of the other species of small fish that live alongside all of our salmonids, I suggest that you do. There is a large array of other fishes that are fun to watch.

I'm sure most of you are familiar with the sculpin, which is so ugly and fierce-looking that it's cool. These little guys are a beautifully mottled brown color, and have a big, fat head that makes them look like they're ready to fight. Sculpins stay near the bottom of the stream and hide in and amongst all the rocks.

Another group of small fish that live in our trout streams is known as darters. Not as many people know much about darters, probably because they haven't been thought of as trout food by fisherpersons, unlike the sculpins. Darters are actually small members of the perch and walleye family. Many of them are beautifully colored, especially in the spring when they are in their spawning colors. Some of them have gorgeous red, blue or green bars along their sides, and a few have rainbow colored fins. Like sculpins, darters stay near the bottom of the stream and "dart" from rock to rock.



RAINBOW DARTER BY JOSEPH TOMELLERI

Some of the minnows in our local streams are pretty cool, too. If you can find a redbelly dace in its spawning colors, you'll be amazed. Like their name suggests, they get the brightest red belly that you'll probably ever see. I'm not lying to you when I say, "They're cool."

Next time you're out fishing, if you've stayed in one spot in the river for a while, I would urge you to look around and see if any of these other fish have come out of their hiding spots and are swimming nearby. You might be amazed at what you see.

SECRET SPOTS

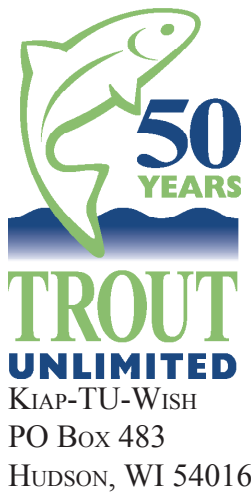
BY SCOTT HANSON

Having secret spots to fish is one of the best feelings a guy (or gal) could have. That's been my experience at least. In the past couple years I have been fortunate enough to find a healthy handful of secret spots within a day's drive of my house. Just knowing that they're out there is half the fun. My goal for the rest of this season is to get out and find another handful of secret spots. I'm sure that I'm not the only person in the world to know about these secret spots, but when I've fished them, I've seen very few other people around. So in my head I tell myself that I must be the only person to know about them. Although, I didn't even find them all myself. One or two of my secret spots were revealed to me by good friends who swore me to secrecy. I vow to take their secrets to the grave.

I admit that I have sometimes had trouble keeping myself from blabbing about my secret spots. As I have grown older and wiser (?) though, I have come to the realization that there are very few secret spots out there to be found, and there will be fewer and fewer as the years go by, so I have gotten more and more tight-lipped about my spots. You couldn't pry them off my lips with a crowbar now.

Just the other day, when I was working at one of the local fly shops, a customer came in practically screaming to anyone who would listen, about how great the fishing is at one of my favorite secret spots! As you can imagine, it took all my strength not to strangle him. Unfortunately, my boss told me long ago that it is definitely not cool to strangle a customer. So, instead, I decided to take this customer aside and tell him to keep his (and my) secrets to himself. But, alas, he left the shop before I had the chance. So, take this as a warning: Don't tell too many people about your secret spots. If you do, it won't be long until loud-mouthed people start to blab, and the crowds will arrive. I just hope the next time I visit this favorite secret spot, the crowds won't be too big.





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE MARCH MEETING!!!

Wednesday, March 7th
@ Bob Smith's Sports Club
in downtown Hudson, WI

The deadline to make submissions for the
April issue is Wednesday, March 21st.
Thank you!

