



The Drift: Words from our President.

Wisconsin State Council Meeting: Legislative Chair, Henry Koltz, offered insightful discussion on important conservation issues that will be addressed at the legislature this session. In brief:

- efforts to split the DNR don't appear to have legislative support
- there appears to be growing support for periodic review of high capacity wells
- there doesn't seem to be interest in additional sale of Wisconsin state land
- there is general agreement to ban net pen aquaculture on the Great Lakes
- there is general agreement by sportsman's groups for a \$5.00 fee increase on user fees such as the trout stamp. The fee increase is designed to provide funding for habitat programs.

Advocacy Training: As an outgrowth of the challenging political environment, the River Alliance, in tandem with Wisconsin TU, offered advocacy training at the Wisconsin Council Meeting. Randy Arnold, Gary Horvath, Scott Wagner and myself participated. The training provided an easy-to-follow template on how to effectively engage public officials. If advocacy is of interest to you, please contact any Kiap board member to learn more. As an aside, I was surprised to learn how attuned public office holders are to constituents that contact them via phone, letter, e-mail or in person. Your efforts are noted and do influence legislators' stance on conservation issues.



Marty Engel and Greg Dietl were honored at the Wisconsin TU banquet for their years of service to TU and conservation.

Wisconsin Banquet Awards: Greg Dietl, long time Kiap member, received a certificate of appreciation for his many years of service to Trout Unlimited. Marty Engel, recently retired WDNR

fish biologist, received the Robert Hunt Resource Professional award for over 30 years of conservation work.

Mowing: Recent staffing issues with the WDNR may force them to skip or reduce their summer mowing program in 2017. Kiap's board is working with the WDNR to figure out how to continue this popular program.

Great Waters Expo: 3/17-3/19: Please consider signing up to staff Kiap's booth at the Expo. It is a good time and great way to meet fellow trout anglers. Time slots are available for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I can be reached via e-mail, thschnad@hotmail.com or cell, 651-245-5163.

~Tom Schnadt

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 10 | Issue 7
March 2017

Don't miss our March 1st chapter meeting: Kiap's annual business meeting, board member election and comments from our WDNR trout crew leader, Nate Anderson.

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

FRONT PAGE PHOTO:

The photo above was taken on Sunday, February 12th at the Trimbelle River. Volunteers were cutting, hauling and burning brush in preparation for this summer's restoration work. Lots of people showed up to help, but not all remembered to sign in. In the future, be sure to record your time on the volunteer log; each volunteer hour is assigned an hourly rate and helps the chapter when applying for matching grant funding for stream restoration.

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, March 17th.
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

Kinni Corridor Project “Tech Talk” No. 2 – River Ecology set for March 9, 2017

The City of River Falls kicked off its series of technical talks or lectures on January 26th with Kinni Corridor Planning 101 at the Public Library. More than 150 people attended and heard Ed Freer of the firm Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) discuss the process and approaches used in a planning effort centered on a river corridor. This talk is available on **YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u4es7q2Ojk>** or at the City of River Falls website.

These “Tech Talks” are intended to educate, inform, and engage the community in the planning process which will be used by the City Council

to design future amenities, natural areas, and most importantly determine the fate of the two dams on the Kinni.

The next “Tech Talk” is scheduled for March 9th at the Library in River Falls. As of this writing, the City was in discussions with potential speakers including; Matt Mitro, a coldwater researcher with the Wisconsin DNR; Chapter Member Kent Johnson with the Metropolitan Council; Marty Melchoir of InterFluve; and Carrie Jennings, a Water Resources Professor at the University of Minnesota. Chapter members and all interested people are highly encouraged to attend.

~ Gary Horvath

Upcoming “Tech Talks”

- April 6th: Economic & Neighborhood Development
- May 18th: Hydro Facilities & Relicensing
- July 20th: Dam Removal Alternatives
- September 7th: Recreation & Tourism

Upcoming Events

River Falls Fly Fishing Film Festival

- UWRF University
- Friday, March 3rd
- Doors open at 5:00PM
- The show starts at 7:00PM
- Tickets are \$15, available at Lund’s Fly Shop
- Kiap-TU-Wish will have a booth in the concourse

Great Waters Expo

- Hamline University
- March 17th- 19th
- Check website for hours
- greatwatersflyexpo.com
- Kiap-TU-Wish will have a booth
- Booth volunteers needed

River Falls Trout Fishing Clinic

- Glen Park, River Falls, WI
- June 3, 2017
- 1PM-9-PM

River Falls Trout Fishing Clinic

This year's Trout Fishing Clinic, sponsored jointly by Kiap-TU-Wish and Parks and Recreation, is set for June 3rd, from 1:00 - 9:00 in Glen Park. If last year is any indication, the clinic will be quite popular and well attended; we could have twenty students again this year. This clinic will cover casting, knot tying, entomology, fishing strategy and wading safety. The chapter will provide supper and guided fishing in the evening.

What we need from our chapter members is your service as instructors, guides, mentors and lunch servers. Mark your calendar for June 3rd and then volunteer by contacting mikealwin@gmail.com or brian@lundsflyshop.com. I guarantee that you'll have fun.

~ Mike Alwin

Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Young people who enjoy the outdoors can now apply for a \$250 scholarship to attend the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Camp, July 20-23. All lodging, meals and materials are included; about the only cost to parents is transportation to and from Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca.

In addition to learning the skills necessary for trout fishing (spin-fishing and fly tackle), emphasis is also on ethics, conservation, safety and sportsmanship. There will be opportunities for lake fishing and for one-on-one stream fishing with a TU volunteer guide.

If you know of a potential camper, please request an application form from a Kiap-TU-Wish board member (email addresses are on page 7) or visit the chapter website to download a copy: www.kiaptuwish.org

The completed application and 300-word essay are due May 1st. Each applicant will receive a dozen trout flies for their effort. Can't beat that!

Memberships:

Stay with Kiap-TU-Wish

Technological snafu? Logistical snafu? User snafu? Whatever the reason, some of our members have had their chapter affiliation designated elsewhere. Most often this occurs when our Minnesota members renew. To remain in Kiap-TU-Wish—or to help others who might encounter this situation—please take a look at the following suggestions.

Designating Kiap-TU-Wish

- Call **800-834-2419**: The operator will assist you. Make sure the operator knows you want this to be a permanent designation.
- Another option: E-mail trout@tu.org and ask them to change your membership to #168 Kiap-TU-Wish. Make it known that you would like this to be a permanent designation.
- If this is not successful, for some reason, call or e-mail TU's Membership Services Coordinator, Brandon Baker at bbaker@tu.org or **703-284-9414**.

Setting up a New Membership

- Go to tu.org/intro and select #168 Kiap-TU-Wish from the Wisconsin options in the drop down box.
- When you do this, you will remain in Kiap-TU-Wish every time you renew your membership (even if you move elsewhere, at which point you can call or e-mail TU to have them update your information). *An additional bonus: Sign up for a TU membership in #168 Kiap-TU-Wish at this tu.org/intro site, and the cost of membership is ½ off, only \$17.50.*

From the Field: Habitat Update

Our winter brushing work got off to a late start this year. A change in leadership and policy within the WDNR required volunteer chainsaw operators to complete a chainsaw safety training course before working on state owned or controlled lands. The company which supplies the training, Chainsaw Safety Training Specialists, does not typically conduct a lot of classes during the winter months. However, I was able to arrange a class in January, and 15 volunteers attended. Mike and Susie Holst, who own the quarry which supplies the rock for most of our projects and who own an easement on which restoration work is scheduled for this summer, were gracious enough to offer up their maintenance garage for the classroom portion of the training. The hands-on portion was conducted just across the road on the Trimbelle easement which they own. I think it's safe to say that everyone who attended the class—including myself who has been operating a chainsaw for over 30 years—left with newfound knowledge.

Brushing work on the Holst easement began in earnest on the weekend following the safety training. Seventeen volunteers showed up and we got a good start on removing the box elder and other invasive species. Twenty-two volunteers turned out the following weekend. At times it's a challenge to find enough dead, dry wood to build a good base for our burn piles but, once going, the fires have done a good job of eliminating the massive amount of limbs and branches.

As I write this, another workday is planned for February 12th and I am hoping again for a stellar turnout. The lack of snow and unseasonably warm temperatures could force an early end to further brushing work. Last winter we started brushing in December and volunteers turned out for 15 brushing workdays. That mark will be tough to beat this year. Thank you to all who put up with my calls for volunteers and to those die-hards who show up week after week for a little fresh air and exercise amid the noise of chainsaws, only to be rewarded with a hot dog and a handshake. ~ Randy Arnold



Editor's Note

Nip and tuck. Jam-packed. Neck and neck. Crammed. This issue of RipRap is chock full of chapter happenings, upcoming events and stuff to read and learn about. Thank you to all the contributors. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

This month I offer up one of my own journal entries, with some embarrassment. Jon Jacobs writes about leaders in this issue. Well, I build my own leaders out of necessity when the tapered leader has lost its taper. I'm lazy and not mindful of proper construction. I paid for it with the fish below. That was one beautiful fish, too.

~ Maria Manion

August 2008/Rush River

Fished tricos. Got to Rush around 7:30am. Still very cool. Waited for maybe 1 hour before fishing. Sat near willow watching bugs & water. Swarms of tricos would move upstream, high above water - a big cloud. One little fish was rising & so I eventually got up to fish for it. Caught it on 4th or 5th drift with Jacob's Special. Then nothing. Could see fish lying on other side of pool. Tried everything, eventually a Copper John. Caught the 1 fish I had watched all morning!! Turned out to be huge!! Couldn't net it, my leader was too long and somehow twisted round the tip. I grabbed the line & lost it. D@!%!

Trout in the Classroom: Trout Alert

All five classrooms had successful egg hatching! This week (02/06) they have released the fry from the egg basket and into the main tank now that the fish have used up their egg sack and can swim well. The students noted that the fry like to face upstream in the current and use the pebbles and rocks to rest behind. This might be valuable information for those of you braving the elements and doing some winter fishing.

The four elementary schools are having Dean Hansen and his popular *Bugs in the Classroom* program make the rounds in mid-May. We will need volunteers for that and for the release parties, which will be in the same timeframe. Stay tuned for exact dates! ~ Greg Olson



Joe Young photo

Jeremiah Fisk photo

Take me to your leader

By Jonathan Jacobs

At the February TU meeting I showed Kenny Hanson a photo of him astream with the legendary Dry Fly Dick Frantes. The photo was probably shot in the late 1980s and Kenny had, for a few minutes, difficulty placing himself in it. When the fog of thirty years began to dissipate, he recalled that on that outing, Dick had hung his backcast in the weeds behind him as he approached. When he plucked Dick's fly from the shrubbery for him, he noticed that the leader attached to it was "full of knots." He presumed that Dick had put "wind knots" in his leader. He offered Dick a new leader from his stock. It was then that Dick explained that he was fishing with a hand-tied, segmented leader comprised of sections of ever finer diameter monofilament, something with which Kenny, who was then near the beginning of a long and illustrious fly fishing career that continues to this day, was unfamiliar. This story set me to pondering how many folks today have never fished with anything other than a one-piece tapered leader with a level tippet molded into it and if there might be some value in a discourse on leaders.

There is nothing intrinsically "wrong" with a one-piece leader. They are convenient to use, low cost and, as one presumes with mass-produced items, consistent in performance and manufacture. On the other hand, because they are mass produced, there is automatically a "one size fits all" approach in force, with little variety in stiffness, taper, butt diameter and tippet length available, at least within a brand. Further, by the time the fly on the tippet end has been replaced a few times, the tippet is likely to be so short as to need a fresh length tied to it, which puts an end to the leader's life as a one-piece unit.

There are commercially made hand-tied leaders, but I would argue that making your own is an interesting endeavor. Building leaders is another of those heuristic experiences that puts you in deeper touch with the craft of fly fishing and helps you hone your overall skill set. Kits comprised of spools of various diameters of nylon (or fluorocarbon) are available from Umpqua, Frog Hair and Maxima, among others. Admittedly, the kits are not cheap, but there's sufficient material in them to tie a lifetime's supply

of leaders – if you remember to store the kit in a cool, dry place away from light. A somewhat more frugal approach would be to examine a few leader formulae that interest you with an eye toward finding common diameters within them. You might also consider mixing and matching materials by brand name and type. For example, you might find that a leader built with a brown Maxima or Mason hard nylon butt, Rio monofilament transition sections and a fluorocarbon tippet might provide terrific turnover and durability. You might, that is. If that isn't your experience, you may experiment until you find your personal magic leader elixir.

Where does one find leader formulae,

book *Practical Fishing Knots*. The authors maintain that in nearly any situation other than dry fly fishing, a leader need have no more than three sections plus a tippet. In this system, the three body sections consist of a butt of a certain length and two transition sections, each one half as long as the one preceding it. Leaders built by this method are the mainstay of my warmwater, steelhead, streamer and heavy nymph fishing. As an example, a basic warmwater leader consists of brown Maxima with sections of four feet of 40 lb, two feet of 30 lb, and one foot of 20 lb with a small perfection loop tied in it. Looped to that is a two-foot section of Ultragreen Maxima in the 8 to 12 lb range to create a nine-foot

"Building leaders is another of those heuristic experiences that puts you in deeper touch with the craft of fly fishing and helps you hone your overall skill set."

you might reasonably ask. A full-on kit will come with many of them, but a web search will turn up a plethora of them. If you are a traditionalist, you might look up the print edition of Joe Humphreys' classic *Trout Tactics*, in which he expounds and expands on the George Harvey leader system. Humphrey lists an interesting variety of leaders with applications ranging from dry fly fishing on spring creeks to chucking nymphs under overhanging brush. If you want to see just how absurd a pursuit the construction of a bespoke leader can be, check out Art Lee's *Fishing Dry Flies for Trout on Rivers and Streams*, one of the more awkward titles ever emblazoned on the cover of a book since the development of moveable type. The prose between the covers is, if anything, even more awkward, but the various leader formulae simply beggar description. Suffice to say that a basic ten-foot, 5X leader is constructed of eleven sections with the shortest two inches long. Some of the leaders stretch to fifteen feet and look more like the work of cost-plus government contract work than a practical fishing tool.

In contrast to Lee's complexity, there is the delightfully simple theory put forth in Mark Sosin's and Lefty Kreh's

leader that will deliver even the most air resistant bug accurately to the target.

Sosin and Kreh recommend the use of a modified one-piece extruded leader for dry fly fishing. Take a commercial nine-foot, 5X leader, chop off the existing tippet, put a loop in the body and a corresponding loop in a length of tippet material and you have a leader that's easy to freshen as needed. I once had the pleasure of having Roger Rehurek guide me on a day's fishing on the Big Horn River in Montana. His nymphing leader was a variation on this theme. He started with a commercial nine-foot, 3X monofilament leader with an 18-inch length of 5X fluorocarbon blood-knotted to that. He used an improved clinch knot to attach a nymph. He tied another 18-inch length of 5X fluorocarbon to the hook bend of that nymph and then tied on a second nymph at the distal end. Split shot as necessary went above the blood knot where they could not migrate further down the leader due to the bulk of the knot. It was simple, durable and functional, a hard combination to beat.

There are still other kinds of leaders. About the time Kenny learned about segmented leaders, the Orvis Company

{continued on page 7}

LUNKERS: history & use

by Nate Anderson

LUNKERS are a stream repair practice used to provide undercut bank habitat, resting areas for fish, and streambank toe protection along meander bends. **LUNKERS** have a significant potential to enhance fish habitat and refuge areas by creating overhead cover. Originally developed in the 1980s for trout stream enhancement in Wisconsin, the term **LUNKERS** is an acronym for “Little Underwater Neighborhood Keepers for Rheotactic Salmonids.” While their use has primarily focused on providing trout habitat, they are applicable to other species as well.

NOTE: Last year we asked Nate, our WDNR trout habitat crew leader, to give us some thoughts about stream habitat work—the process, factors, methods and value associated with Kiap’s restoration effort. In this article he outlines the history and use of **LUNKERS**. If you’d like a copy of Nate’s articles from last year (Trout Habitat 101) email manion.maria@gmail.com.



Use & Structure

LUNKERS are wooden, crib-like structures that are installed below the water surface along the toe of outside bends. Mostly made of rough lumber, they also can be designed out of large flat boulders. The usual building component is rough-sawn and untreated wood. Oak is preferable due to its density, which contributes to the structure’s ability to be handled by heavy equipment, to withstand considerable weight placed on it, and to be rot-resistant. Each LUNKER is constructed of horizontal wooden planks separated by vertical spacers to form a crib-like box. Spacers are made from on-site short sections of tree trunks. Oak planks are nailed to the tops and bottoms of the blocks, forming stringers which tie into the stream bank at right angles. Oak planks are then nailed to the top and bottom of the stringer boards. These boards parallel the stream bank. The whole structure forms a crib, which is constructed on land and then moved to the site with heavy equipment. When built, they are roughly 8-feet long by 4-feet wide by 1-foot tall. Holes are drilled through the oak planks so rebar can be driven through the structure and into the streambed.



Location & Placement

For LUNKERS to function properly and provide the intended benefits, consideration must be given to their location and placement. LUNKERS are located below the low-flow water surface and placed fairly level on the outside of meander bends so that they will receive enough current to flush out sediment. The lower two-thirds of a bend are preferable. This ensures that the water flow and force will always be directed into and through the structure. Sometimes in a wide outside bend a boulder or root wad can be placed on the inside of the bend to direct flow over to the LUNKER to keep the sediment flushed out. Two to three units are commonly used in sequence. Four is usually the max amount of units for one outside bend because the stream generally lacks sufficient energy to scour the last (downstream) structure, so it in effect becomes a sediment trap. LUNKERS are not suitable for straight reaches or the inside of meander bends because these areas are

subject to sediment deposition. LUNKERS work best in medium to large streams with cobble/gravel substrates. LUNKER placement involves setting the structure on a firm base to ensure stability. In low-gradient streams where post settlement alluvium is often several feet deep, LUNKERS may be installed into an excavated portion of the streambed and into the bank.



Anchoring & Finishing

Once the receiving area has been prepared, the excavator lifts the LUNKER into the area, where it is hand placed to rest in its final orientation. The 4-foot perpendicular stringers will abut the old bank and serve as anchor points. Metal rebar is then pounded into the stream bottom to pin the LUNKERS to the streambed. A layer of face rock (large rocks with flat bottoms and faces) are then placed on top of the LUNKER on the outside edge to hold the LUNKER in place. After that, a well-distributed gradation of shot rock is placed in the existing space from the back edge of the face rock to the pre-existing old bank edge. Shot rock works best because it consists of rock of various sizes, which fill the voids and locks everything into place. Large boulders are then placed on the upstream and downstream sides of the LUNKER to prevent it from moving. Shot rock is used as backfill to ensure that the structure will not be

isolated by water back-cutting during flood events. Top soil is placed on top of all the rock and graded back to a 4-to-1 slope. All of the disturbed area is seeded and mulched with a turf grass with a deep root system that will prevent erosion. After installation of LUNKER structures, stream banks that once had severe erosion, silted stream beds, and overly wide channels, blend into the natural setting and last a long time.

KNOWING YOUR BUGS: CADDIS Part II

By Mike Alwin

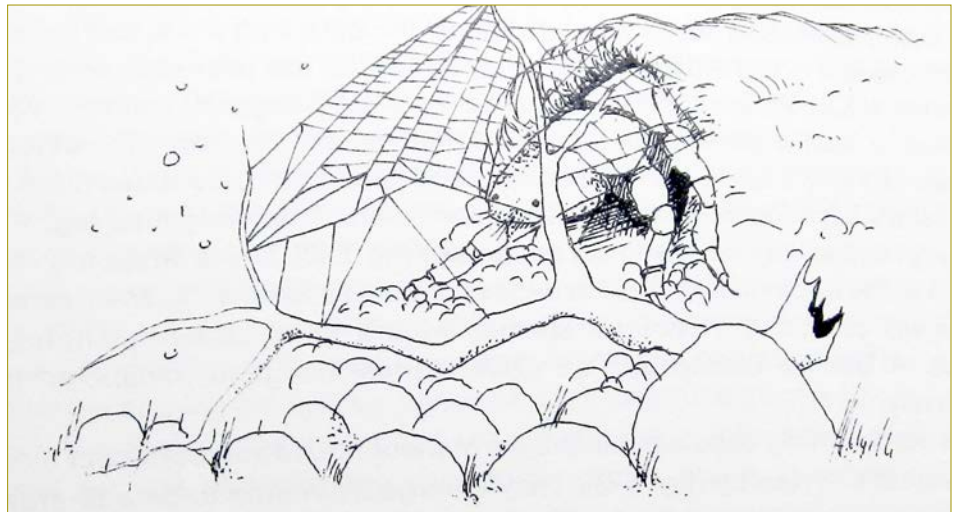
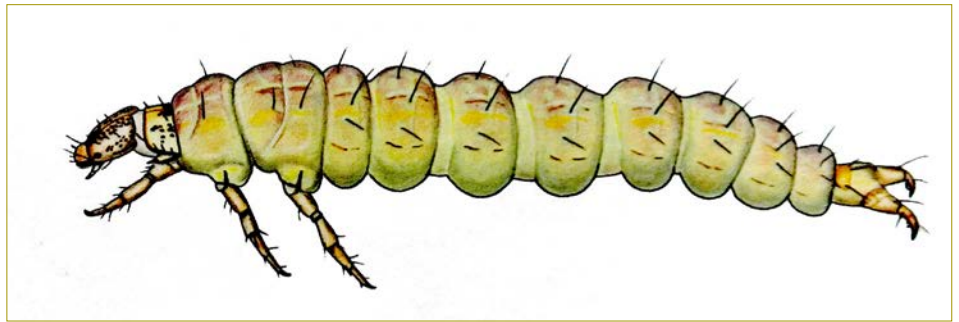
Last year we learned that identifying mayflies down to the genus level can be accomplished with a handy device known as a key and a hand lens or microscope. Identification to this level opens up the literature for you so that you can learn everything you need about that insect's life cycle. It's possible to ID a caddis down to the genus level as well but, since most caddis construct a little shelter to live in, it's hard to get the little bugga out of its retreat. Observant entomologists began to recognize a pattern; many caddis cases were exactly alike. After more study they recognized that each caddis family used specific materials and a specific design for their case. Furthermore, the use of silk to build the shelter and collect food were also diagnostic.

Science operates on a certain level of precision. For a scientist, identification of living creatures proceeds to the species level (kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species), but we anglers only need to proceed to the genus for mayflies and to the family for caddis. That makes our pursuit of knowledge, theoretically, a little easier. Many scientists group caddis families into super families which seem to be based on these factors:

1. Whether the specimen has a case or is free-living
2. Whether the case is fixed or portable
3. Whether the portable case is made of organic material or mineral material

So this is how your caddis identification begins. If you pick up a rock and find a bunch of little bumps that look vaguely unnatural you've probably found cased caddis. Your next step is to determine if the case is made of organic (plant) material or mineral (sand/gravel). Then answer these questions: What kind of plant material? What shape is the case? What size mineral particles? What shape is the case?

Now suppose you can't see cases? If you wait a few seconds while the water drains from the rock you may see caddis larva (previously invisible) begin to emerge from their silk retreats. Eureka! You've found caddis without a portable case. Let's start our examination of super families here. Generally speaking, there's a level of sophistication inherent in the diagnostics because of the use of silk,



ABOVE: Rhyacophylidae drawing by Arvin V. Provonsha, *AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY*, W. Patrick McCafferty 1981

BELOW: Drawing by Robert H. Pils, *NATURALS*, Gary Borger 1980

which we will see as we wander through this process.

There are two types of caseless caddis, those that are free living and those that create a silk shelter. So, on your rock you might find one or two larva without a shelter. In the superfamily Rhyacophyloidea, Rhyacophylidae are most likely the larva you'll find. They are always free-living. Predacious, they make their living roaming around their rock eating other life forms. One other caddis that lives without a shelter is Hydroptilidae, which does not complete a shelter until its final instar (growth stage). Unlike Rhyacophylidae, these larva are herbivores, grazing on algae almost exclusively. Specimens of Rhyacophylidae and Hydroptilidae are considered to be less sophisticated on the evolutionary scale because they don't use silk.

Suppose you stare at your rock for those few seconds and see neither cases or free living caddis? It's likely the rock is colonized by caddis that make a silk shelter. In the superfamily

Hydropsycoidea, there are four families, the most common of which is Hydropsychidae. This superfamily is referred to as net-spinning, meaning the way they construct and use silk nets to trap supper, putting them a step higher on the evolutionary scale. You might have a hard time seeing these nets with the rock in your hand because the nets collapse without the force of water against them. Most of these species are omnivore/detrivores, meaning algae, diatoms and detritus all find their way to the table. The shelters are primarily tube-like, although the tube shapes vary by species. Some others are shapeless shelters, anchored to the rock, and may be camouflaged with bits of sand or leaf material.

When you return your rock to the stream bottom, try to put it in nearly the same place, maintaining its original orientation to the current. That way the nets have a better chance of expanding and fulfilling their function of catching food. 🐞

FLY TIER'S CORNER: Mil-Spec Mayfly Nymph

Fly: Ron Kuehn | Recipe & Photo: Brian Smolinski



Hook:	Daiichi 1130 – Size 18	Wing Case:	Medium Tinsel – Mirage Opal
Thread:	Uni 8/0 72 Denier – Light Olive	Wing:	Antron Yarn – Olive
Tail:	Hen Hackle – Speckled Gray	Thorax:	Superfine Dubbing – BWO

- [1] Start thread on the hook and wrap back until about even with the barb.
- [2] Tie in a clump of the hen hackle fibers as a tail, and adjust length to about equal size of the hook gap.
- [3] Wrap forward over the rest of the fibers adding a little bulk to form the body of the fly. Trim any excess, leaving a small gap before the eye of the hook.
- [4] Evenly wrap the thread back to the tail tie-in point to keep a smooth thread body.
- [5] With a black or dark brown Sharpie, color about two inches of thread and wait a few seconds for thread to dry.
- [6] Wrap forward with evenly spaced wraps to create a contrasting rib or segmented look.
- [7] Tie in a piece of tinsel and then tie in about half the thickness of a piece of Antron yarn on top at the rear of the thorax.
- [8] Dub the thorax with a small amount of Superfine Dubbing, just enough to coat your thread.
- [9] Pull the Antron forward, spread it out evenly over the top of the thorax, and tie off.
- [10] Split the fibers off to each side of the fly and tie down so they are facing rearward. Pull the tinsel forward between the two clumps of Antron.
- [11] Tie off the tinsel and whip finish a head. Trim tinsel and Antron fibers to create a wing.

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

{Take Me to Your Leader. . . from page 4}

was touting monofilament braided leaders. The company trumpeted the smooth turnover these leaders provided. That was true, but the braid held water and the spray emanating from it as it turned over sent fish bolting for cover. Today's furred leaders offer similar turnover advantages without the accompanying spritz. Lastly, and by way of *True Confession*, I have to tell you that much of my dry fly angling, such

as it is, is done with a Lucky Dog leader butt with a length of monofilament tippet looped to it. The Lucky Dog is sold by a Missouri-based company that is a retailer with a catalog/online presence. It's basically a seven-foot tapered butt section with perfection loops at both ends. Again, it's simple, durable and functional, even if it is a little too simple. Simple minds long for a simple leader, I've always said. 🐞

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Nate Anderson is a trout habitat specialist and leader of the WDNR trout crew.

Jonathan Jacobs is a chapter member and de facto, monthly columnist.

Brian Smolinski is a chapter member and the proprietor of Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls.



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news . . .

www.kiaptuwish.org
&
Facebook



Like us!

DON'T MISS the
MARCH 1st MEETING at

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022



Some of the crowd at last month's Kiap-On-Tap, hanging out and talking trout. Thanks for coming!

Dinner begins at 6PM (your dime).
The meeting begins at 7PM.

Kiap-TU-Wish Business Meeting, Board Member Election, & Comments from Nate Anderson



Nate with his son, Easton.

Nate Anderson, head of our region's trout habitat crew, will be at our March chapter meeting to provide an update on this year's habitat work.

Nate is no stranger to this area. He grew up in Menomonie, attended Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN and then UW-River Falls where he graduated with a B.S. in Resource Management and a minor in Biology. In 2000 Nate started working for the WDNR doing summer fishing surveys; Nate now heads the WDNR field crew that works on our stream habitat restoration work.

Join us on March 1st. Meet Nate and learn about upcoming restoration work.