



The Drift: Words from our President.

Clean, cold, free-flowing freshwater. I haven't seen a lot of it these past few days. We're in Los Angeles visiting our oldest son and while it's been a pleasure to visit him—the sunny weather has been a welcome reprieve from home—each day I've become more aware of how little surface water there is here, and there certainly isn't anything that would qualify as clean, or cold, or fresh. Compared with the freshwater resources available to LA's metropolitan area of nearly 20 million people, most of us in Wisconsin and Minnesota don't know how good we've got it.

It's not really our fault. Just like one can't truly appreciate the value of a glass of cold water unless one has been parched with thirst, we've all grown up surrounded by an abundance of clean fresh water. We grew up playing in the rain until we got chased inside by thunder and lightning. We went to the lake on weekends, boated, fished and waterskied. We went to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and canoed for days over seemingly endless lakes and rivers. And at some point we drove to the shore of Lake Superior (now that's clean, fresh and COLD!) where we strained, and failed, to see the opposite shore. How much freshwater does that vast, deep lake hold? It's mind boggling. It's incomprehensible.

Well, there is a mind boggling amount of freshwater in Lake Superior and in the many thousands of freshwater lakes and streams in Wisconsin and Minnesota, but there isn't in Southern California. There really isn't. I'm not smart enough to start a discussion on the effects of climate change, or on the ethics of one geographic area using the natural resources (in this case, freshwater) from another, but I am smart enough to know that our area's most abundant natural resource, and one that we probably take for granted, is an extremely valuable natural resource indeed.

Just like the air we breathe, freshwater is necessary for survival. Unlike the air we breathe, freshwater is not spread evenly across our country or our world. For some unknown reason, we in the Upper Midwest have been given a disproportionately large share of the world's fresh water. I don't know what this means for our area in the future, but I do know that we need to treat this resource with the respect that it deserves, and that we need to become better and better stewards of it.

That's about it for this month. I just can't wait for spring when I'll be wading through some of our clean, cold, free-flowing freshwater searching for wily trout—and doing so with more respect for the freshwater resource that makes trout fishing possible. Happy fishing and Cnservering. — Scott Wagner

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 12 | Issue 7
March 2019

WHAT

Don't miss the Kiap-TU-Wish annual business meeting, board member election and comments from Nate Anderson, our WDNR trout habitat crew leader, and Kasey Yallaly, our WDNR fisheries biologist.

WHEN

March 6, 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

Cover photo: Newly hatched trout or alevins. See page 7 for the latest Trout in the Classroom news.

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, March 8.
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

Kiap-TU-Wish Leaders Recognized at State Banquet

This year's State Council Award Banquet was held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 2nd. Three Kiap-TU-Wish members were recognized by the Award Committee: Tom Schnadt, Gary Horvath, and Randy Arnold. The chapter is proud of and humbled by their accomplishments and continued involvement. There isn't enough space in this newsletter to fully describe their contributions, so here are some highlights.



Janelle Schnadt photo

Tom Schnadt/Certificate of Appreciation: During the past seven years as chapter leader, Tom has used his skills to invigorate and expand the chapter's role in the protection and betterment of trout streams in western Wisconsin. He recognized and supported volunteers to grow the Trout in the Classroom program, and he renewed the chapter's outreach to University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Gary Horvath/State Council Gold Trout Award: Gary became involved with Kiap-TU-Wish in the 1980's and has served as board member or officer ever since. At the state level, Gary has served as Western Region Vice Chair and as chair of the council's Water Quality Committee. In River Falls, Gary contributed to development of a stormwater management plan and Comprehensive Plan, and served as chair of the city's Environmental Task Force. Recently, Gary led the chapter's efforts to return the Kinnickinnic to a free-flowing river.

Board Member Election on March 6th

Kiap Board Member Candidates

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Randy Arnold	3 year
Gary Horvath	3 year
John Kaplan	3 year
Greg Olson	3 year
Linda Radimecky	2 year
Scott Wagner	3 year
Write in nomination(s)	

Randy Arnold/Joan & Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership:

As the chapter's volunteer coordinator, Randy has recruited, trained and supervised volunteers that—last year alone—logged 2,300 hours on streamside projects including brushing, mulching, and sign building. He has coordinated professional trainers for chainsaw safety and was trained, himself, in the use of herbicides. He's been on the chapter board for the past 10 years.

2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Kiap's Annual Business Meeting**
March 6, 2019 / 7pm
& WDNR Projects & Fish Survey Results
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **River Falls Fly Fishing Festival**
March 8, 2019 / 5pm
Riverview Ballroom, University Center
UWRF Campus, River Falls, WI
- **TU Meeting**
March 11, 2019 / 6-8:30pm
Tippy Canoes Restaurant
Osceola, WI
- **K-TU Tie-A-Thon**
March 23, 2019 / 10am
Dry flies & dry 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 25, 2019 / 6:30-8pm
Winzer Stube Restaurant, Hudson, WI
- **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

TU Meeting in Osceola

Join us on Monday, March 11th, 6:00pm to 8:30pm at Tippy Canoes Restaurant —1020 Cascade Street in Osceola, Wisconsin—for conversation with other trout anglers and to hear WDNR Sr. Fisheries Biologist Aaron Cole speak about trout fishing opportunities in Polk and Barron Counties. Dinner is on your dime and can be ordered off the menu beginning at 6:00pm; the main program begins at 7:00pm. This meeting is sponsored by Kiap-TU-Wish and trout anglers of all ages are welcome.

First Tie-a-Thon A Success: On To The Second!

On February 23rd, eight talented fly tiers made the Fly Wrangler's day. Collectively they tied dozens of flies to help replenish the chapter's fly library. These flies will be used as gifts for the annual Hap Lutter Spring Appeal and to supply our students during the annual Fly Fishing Clinic in River Falls.

The assembled tiers told jokes, drank coffee, ate a hearty lunch and tied flies into the early afternoon. An adult beverage or two were consumed, but not enough to impair the tying of some very beautiful flies: nymphs, wet flies and damp emergers. Many thanks to Chad Borenz, Scott Thorpe, Jonathan Jacobs, Ryan Myers, Bob Torres and Jeff Rivard. Bob Trevis (the Fly Wrangler) and this

poor scribe rounded out the tiers for this initial event. Perry Palin and Ron Kuehn couldn't make the event but donated dozens of flies in lieu of attendance.

But wait, there's more! The second session of this year's Tie-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, from 10:00am until sometime in the mid afternoon. Once again, the venue is Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls, Wisconsin. Coffee and lunch will be provided. You'll have to bring your own adult beverages. The emphasis this time will be on dry flies and dry emergers in sizes 12, 14 and 16. Tiers can work on whatever they wish...caddis, mayfly, terrestrials...even that killer dry that you're sure will work.

Help the chapter fill up its fly boxes. Join others to tie dries and dry emergers.

WHEN:

Saturday, March 23, 2019 @10am

WHERE:

Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls

REGISTER AT:

troutchaser@msn.com

To register, contact: troutchaser@msn.com. If you really want to tie a #18 BWO, tell Bob when you contact him. Then bring your tools, hooks and materials and get into the fun.

—Mike Alwin

Maria Manion photo



River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic

This year's Fly Fishing Clinic, sponsored jointly by Kiap-TU-Wish and River Falls Parks and Recreation, is set for Saturday, June 1st, from 1:00-9:00pm in Glen Park, River Falls. We've been conducting this clinic for years and we know that it's always popular; we expect about twenty students.

The clinic will cover casting, knot tying, entomology, fishing strategies and wading safety. The chapter will provide supper during a break at 5:00pm, and guided fishing in the evening.

Our chapter members are invited to join us as instructors, mentors, guides and supper servers. Mark your calendars for June 1st and volunteer by contacting Mike Alwin at mikealwin@gmail.com or Brian Smolinski at brian@lundsflyshop.com. I guarantee you'll have fun. —Mike Alwin

Belle Rivière Book Club:

The next book club gathering will be held on **Monday, March 25th, 6:30pm** at **WINZER STUBE RESTAURANT** in Hudson, Wisconsin. The group will be discussing *Little Rivers* by Margot Page. The book was first published in 1995 but a 20th anniversary edition was published in 2015. You can find it online with retailers like Barnes & Noble or Amazon. (If you shop via Amazon Smile, the chapter gets a small donation from the purchase.)

You don't have to be an angler, fly tyer, casting phenom or trout nerd to join the gathering. 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 attending, please contact Jennifer Medley at

jennifer@turningleafstudio.com.



You can support Kiap-TU-Wish when you shop online. Go to smile.amazon.com, choose Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited and for every online purchase, Amazon will donate to the chapter. **Donations, to date, total \$41.29.** Donations post quarterly, so stay tuned for future updates.

2019 Youth Camp Application Available Now

Young people who enjoy the outdoors can now apply for a \$250 scholarship to attend the Wisconsin TU Youth Camp. The dates are August 15-18. All lodging, meals and materials are included; the only cost to parents is transportation to and from Pine Lake Camp. The camp is located nine miles south of Waupaca, Wisconsin.

This annual camp helps kids develop the necessary skills for freshwater trout fishing and other species using conventional tackle and/or fly rods and reels. In addition to learning fishing skills there is also an emphasis 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.

Applications and a 300-word essay are due on April 1st. Applications can be found on our website, kiaptuwish.org, and mailed to **Kiap-TU-Wish, P.O. Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016** or e-mailed to Kiaptuwish@hotmail.com. All applicants will receive a dozen flies for their submissions.

TUDARE WiseH2O Mobile Application (WiseH2O mApp)

Project Update

The TUDARE WiseH2O mApp Project is off to a great start! Once again, Kiap-TU-Wish members are stepping up on behalf of innovation and science for coldwater conservation. Since the project was announced in the February edition of RipRap, 13 anglers have signed up to participate (as of February 15). For project details, please see the Kiap-TU-Wish website if you no longer have the February RipRap at your fingertips.

Target Anglers

We're pleased to report that all 10 target angler monitoring sites have been covered. Many thanks to our target anglers: Rainbow Barry, Tim Christensen, Ed Constantini, Matt Janquart, Chris Olson, Greg Olson, Nate Scheibe, Mike Stary, Scott Wagner and Warren Wolfe.

General Anglers

We're also happy to report that 6 general anglers have signed on to date, including David Feifarek, Eric Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Tyler Linton, Maria Manion, and Bob Peterfeso. Our thanks to this group as well! Note that we have much more capacity for general angler participation, so please contact John or Kent if you are interested. The general angler commitment is pretty minimal (2-3 observations during the course of the project); and these anglers will have the flexibility to monitor stream sites of their choice throughout Pierce County.

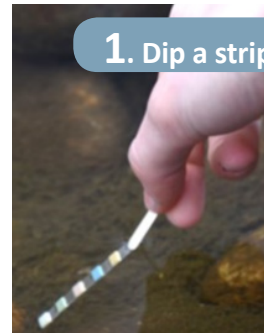
The combination of target and general anglers will provide a diverse representation of anglers and streams, and will serve as a robust test of the WiseH2O mApp.

March 16 Training Session

Although the WiseH2O mApp will have a built-in training module and the app has been designed for easy use, hands-on training is always valuable. If you are a WiseH2O mApp project participant or are interested in learning more about the app, set March 16 aside as the training date. Stay tuned for a location (likely in River Falls), time, and agenda. We'll probably have a morning classroom session (10 AM-Noon), with an opportunity to field-test the app in the early afternoon. Dan Dauwalter (TU's National Science Team) and Carter Borden (MobileH2O, LLC and WiseH2O mApp developer) will be here from Boise, ID to lead the training session.

Want to participate?

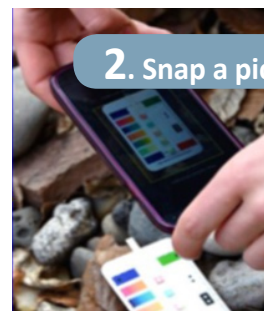
Contact John or Kent:



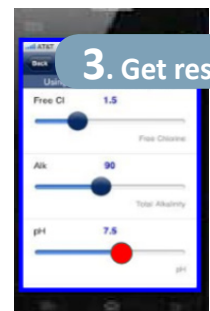
1. Dip a strip

John Kaplan
K-TU Monitoring Coordinator
jmk8990@comcast.net
612-963-1699

Kent Johnson
d.kent.johnson@gmail.com
612-845-7258



2. Snap a pic



3. Get results

Membership Survey

We'd like a broad cross-section of our membership to complete a short survey on the WiseH2O mApp, as a means to gauge interest in use of the app and assess the support needed for users. By the time you read this article, we'll have sent a survey link via our Mailchimp contact list. If you have not yet had an opportunity to complete the survey, could you please take a few minutes to do so? The survey link will also be posted on the Kiap-TU-Wish website and Facebook page. Project participant or not, we value your input on use of this app for angler science and crowdsourcing data that can be used to improve coldwater resource management.

National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on Angler Science and the benefits it provides: "Anglers gathering scientific information about the fish and the places they love." Stream water quality monitoring is one of the key Angler Science initiatives. Kiap-TU-Wish participation in the TUDARE WiseH2O mApp pilot project provides us with an outstanding opportunity to showcase the use of mobile Angler Science technology, with the potential for expansion to regional and national stages. Thanks to all who have signed on to date as project participants, and we have plenty of capacity for more anglers to join us. We are looking forward to working with you on this project!

The Next Generation *By Joseph Duncan*



Left: Joseph and his brother, Michael, in 2008 near Grand Rapids, MN.

Center & Right: Joseph guiding during a recent Pheasants Forever youth event on the Trimble.

Being one of the few younger Trout Unlimited members in our area, I am regularly asked what we need to do in order to recruit more young people into fishing, the outdoors, and conservation. I often say that advertising TU on social media like Instagram is a good start. Obviously,

"In order to engage more youth, everyone should give a little of their time to try and fish with a kid."

kids love social media so it makes sense to have a presence. This helps bring awareness to Trout Unlimited and our chapter specifically, but I think we can do even more. The younger generations are the future of fishing and conservation so we need to work even harder. They will be the ones to manage our precious coldwater fisheries years down the road, but we need them to embrace conservation and the outdoors like we all do now.

This process of getting younger people active in groups like Trout Unlimited goes farther than just chapter-coordinated events or advertisements; it comes down to every individual involved within the chapter. In order to engage more youth, everyone should give a little of their time to try and fish with a kid. It's really pretty easy!

Start at home with your kids or grandkids and their friends. Volunteer

to take them fishing and let them see what they think about it. Give them an opportunity to broaden their horizons and experience one of your favorite hobbies. In this case it is totally acceptable, even encouraged, to bring your spinning rods and some night crawlers and wax worms. That is the way I learned to fish when I was young, catching bass and sunfish in local lakes, and it's likely the way you learned too. It's exciting for kids to catch a bunch of sunfish and it's even more fun as a mentor watching them do it.

I think it's important to let young people explore the fishing world with its multitude of species and techniques. Don't try to force them into fly fishing right off the bat because it may turn them away. When they get old enough,

"I think it's important to let young people explore the fishing world with its multitude of species and techniques."

let them try out the fly rod the same way they learned to fish with spinning rods: catching bass and panfish. I used to spend hours on end flailing my fly rod on the banks of local ponds and lakes, throwing poppers or gurglers to anything that would eat, and it was more fun than I could have imagined. As a matter of fact, I still think it's super fun and try to do it once a week at a minimum during the summer. Fishing

for panfish allows the person learning to figure out how to cast, set the hook, and play the fish. It's great practice since there's usually steady action and it's great fun watching panfish crush topwater bugs. As a mentor, there's no doubt you'll have fun too.

After a while, as long as they still show an interest, take them to a trout stream. Find a wide open spot and just let them do what they think would work while you offer small pieces of advice. It's important not to overwhelm them with technical details you have learned over years of fly fishing. Instead focus on basic information like where trout may like to hold. Remember, fly fishing

is supposed to be fun so don't take it so seriously that everyone involved gets frustrated. Let them explore the world

of fly fishing! If they enjoy it, then feed their passion and get them more involved with Trout Unlimited. If not, try again later.

We might not get every kid we fish with into trout fishing but if enough of us try, there's no doubt we can get a few more. So give it a shot! There's nothing to lose, and you might just find yourself a new fishing partner. 🐟

Trout in the Classroom (TIC): Update

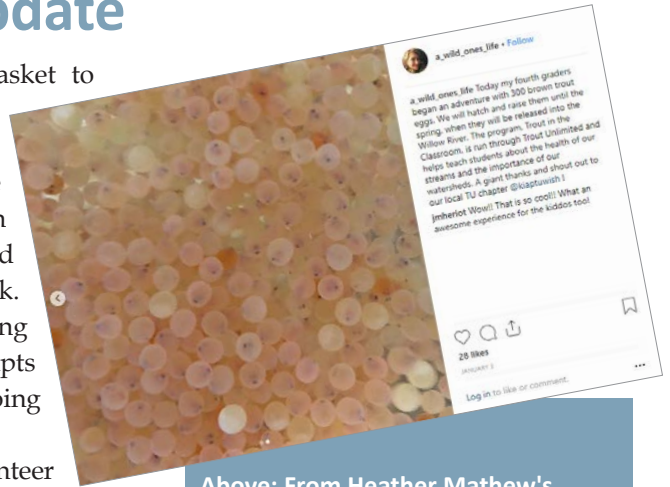
All eight TIC programs are doing well! The egg delivery was on January 3rd and in order to get all the eggs dropped off during the school day, my usual navigator, John Kaplan, and I had to split up. John took the east: Amery, Roberts, and River Falls. I took the west: North Hudson, Hudson, and Prescott. The kids were all very excited and asked excellent questions. (Before I forget, I'm going to stop now and look up the record brown trout for Wisconsin. .41 lbs, 8 oz from Lake Michigan. I always get asked that!)

Since that time, the eggs have hatched, the larvae have used up their egg sac, and the fry have left the friendly

confines of the rearing basket to enter the big world of the aquarium. Feeding time is always a hit and the kids are doing a great job keeping an eye on the temperature and ammonia levels of the tank. All classrooms are reporting low mortality rates. Attempts to name all the fry are not going so well. . .

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities for Bugs in the Classroom and the trout releases in May. With eight programs we are going to need all the help we can get!

—Greg Olson



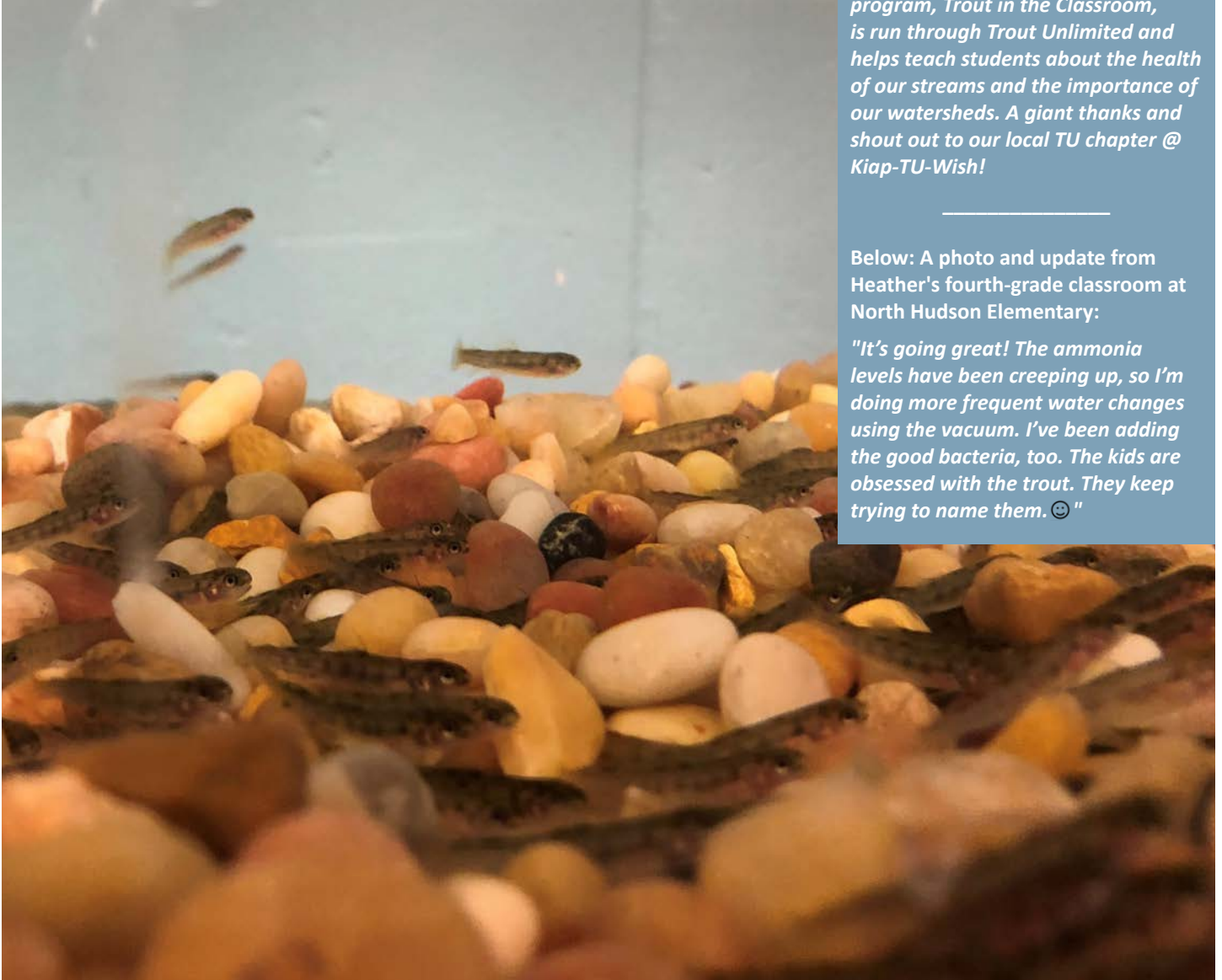
Above: From Heather Mathew's Instagram feed on January 3:

"Today my fourth graders began an adventure with 300 brown trout eggs. We will hatch and raise them until the spring, when they will be released into the Willow River. The program, Trout in the Classroom, is run through Trout Unlimited and helps teach students about the health of our streams and the importance of our watersheds. A giant thanks and shout out to our local TU chapter @ Kiap-TU-Wish!"

Below: A photo and update from Heather's fourth-grade classroom at North Hudson Elementary:

"It's going great! The ammonia levels have been creeping up, so I'm doing more frequent water changes using the vacuum. I've been adding the good bacteria, too. The kids are obsessed with the trout. They keep trying to name them. 😊"

Heather Matthews photo



Take Me Fishing

By David Linsmeyer

One day I took a 10-year-old boy fishing for his first time. As an elementary school counselor, well I suppose as an adult, I'm privileged to be trusted by the generation that will one day take care of mine. For some people, this sentiment is overlooked, and under-appreciated. But then one day, an experience, most likely a person, will come along to remind you.

The idea of fishing wasn't mine, it was my principal's. Common ground is a beautiful thing and the best ingredient to connection, so my principal cast her luck at connection by mentioning my love of fishing to our new friend. His eyes seemed to smile before admitting, "I have never gone fishing before."

I looked at our principal and thought that this should be an easy fix! A hook here, a worm there, and heck, a stick will do if you're without a fishing pole. But apparently, such acquisitions and opportunities are not easily accessible to everyone.

With the help of his new parents we coordinated a day to catch fish. When the bell rang, he met me in my office, we hopped in the car, and we made our way to the lake. As a first-time angler, his questions came from all directions, and deservedly so. Have you ever met a person who wants to be bad at what they are doing? Yeah, me neither.

At the lake, ominous weather drew closer and the glass-like surface of water under looming fog made for a memorable trip without even wetting a line. I explained the process, the parts, and the hope. Most importantly, I explained the ultimate truth to an exciting yet heartbreaking hobby: you never know what will happen.

As someone who goes fishing roughly three times a week, I have been desperate for a good-luck charm. I apparently found one when my fourth-grade friend caught his first fish on his first cast. That's right, first cast, first fish. We both laughed in excitement

and disbelief. But the jealous angler in me pointed to his immediate catch as beginner's luck, as if such success was never deserved. I became ashamed for this feeling as he then told me painful stories from a past he was trying to mend. With each cast he told me another story from his previous life. On the dock beside him I pretended to organize tackle while my head spun, distraught from what I just heard. Such

fault of his new parents, who are doing more than their best with a non-ideal situation, I drove home wondering why receiving this simple opportunity to go fishing took so long? What else has this person missed out on that is so reasonable to give?

I was supposed to take him fishing. I was supposed to create a memory using the timeless formula of a rod, hook, and worm. I was supposed to help him

"I looked at our principal and thought that this should be an easy fix! A hook here, a worm there, and heck, a stick will do if you're without a fishing pole."

David Linsmeyer photo



heavy recollections shouldn't be told with such ease.

Our fishing continued but catching fish became rare. On any other day I'd consider that bad, but not today as he laughed when a stray dog hopped in the water to splash and play, or as he chased minnows in the shallows. I sat back smiling.

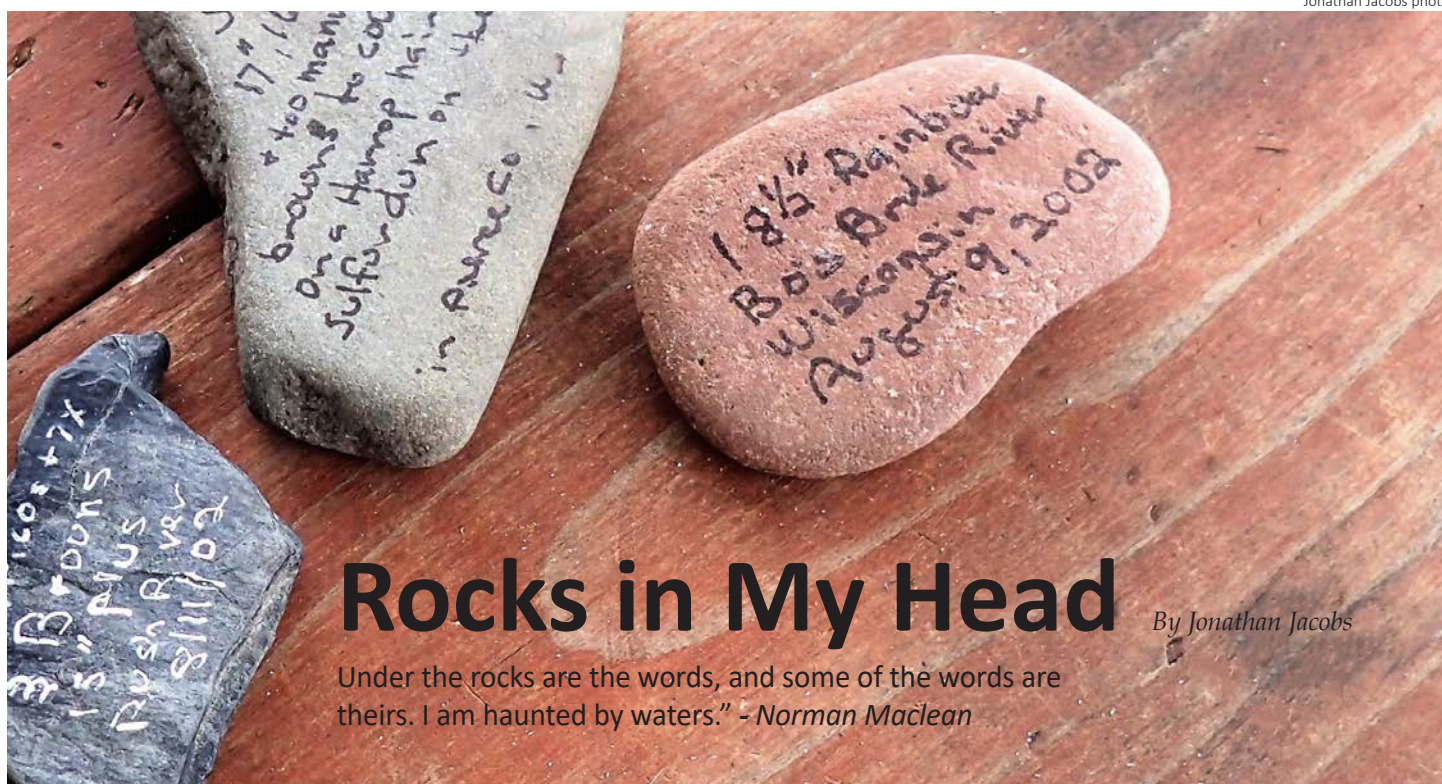
In the days following, coworkers told me what a special experience that was for our new student. Through no

catch fish.

Then I saw him play. I saw him smile. I saw him trust. And I left wondering, what keeps such simple pleasures from happening all the time for anyone.

On our way home that day, my friend couldn't help but repeatedly ask about next time. And out of the 1,000 words he used, he kept coming back to three very important, and now meaningful words.

"Take me fishing." 🐟



Rocks in My Head

By Jonathan Jacobs

Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters." - Norman Maclean

As I sit at the computer on which I spin out the twaddle I inflict on you month after month, I am surrounded by various kinds of angling memorabilia. Affixed to the corkboard wall behind the monitor are, among other things, a bumper sticker from Hayward Fly Fishing announcing that "SLACK IS EVIL," a top-secret map drawn for me by a fly shop owner, a raggedy fly patch crammed with flies best described as "nuclear junk" that I found on a trail along the Bois Brule, a 2018 Yellowstone National Park fishing license, a non-winning raffle ticket for the drift boat I now own, three plaques that I was thrilled to receive and a framed copy of an essay that my daughter wrote for RipRap when she was still in middle school. To my left on the desk is a black and white photo of me at the oars of my drift boat, The Flambeauzeau. It's one of my favorite pictures. My friend Mike, seated in the bow, took it with his Holga camera, a Chinese-made 120-film format camera with a fixed focal length and enough light leaks and lens distortion to ensure an old-time look. The Big Horn River and Montana's famous big sky fill the

bulk of the frame. I'm in the lower right corner, bundled up against a spring chill. We're approaching the head of the Big Horn Rapids, a rare stretch of fully Class II whitewater in that section of the river, and I look like I'm concentrating on my work. Amazingly, and perhaps only to me, I look competent and confident, as if I know what I'm doing.

Those things taken together are a pleasant daily reminder of how I came to be the person I am today, but only in a general, broad context. A few days ago, however, I came across a forgotten treasure trove of mementos stashed away in a plastic container near my fly-tying area. Stored amid some detritus were three small river rocks. On the stones, which I had pocketed from along the banks of streams where some memorable action had occurred, were short inscriptions.

While I'd very nearly forgotten altogether the existence of those rocks, the inscriptions instantly elicited vivid memories.

I'd written on one stone, "18 1/2" rainbow, Bois Brule River, Wisconsin, August 9, 2002." Those few words took me back to a crisp and bright Friday

morning almost seventeen years ago. Nearly all rainbows in the Brule smolt and run to Lake Superior at a length of perhaps twelve inches and don't return until they've stretched beyond the twenty-inch mark a couple of years later, which is why catching a resident fish of that size was so remarkable. That Friday marked the end of what had been an extremely hot week of weather in which my friend Craig and I had fruitlessly attempted to chase down one of the lake-run brown trout that migrate up the river beginning in August. While Craig and I loved the Brule, the hot weather had warmed the lower river to unacceptable levels and had made trying to sleep in a primitive cabin a tough proposition, so neither of us were unhappy to see the week end. In fact, we arose that day with no clear plan to go fishing, but with the weather suddenly drier and cooler, we thought we'd make one ceremonial effort nearby on the upper river. We drove on a dead-end road that terminated at the river. We fished a pool within sight of the car. Craig, ever the gracious host, gave me the better water, a current tongue that ran under the alders on the far side of

the river. I'd abandoned the idea of fishing for migratory browns and was fishing a size 14 bead-head pheasant tail nymph under an indicator in the hope of catching a smolt or perhaps, if I were very lucky, a resident brook or brown trout. When the indicator hesitated and I lifted the rod to set the hook, I felt some resistance on the other end and thought that I might have hooked a resident brown in the foot-long class, but as the seconds ticked by the fish seemed to pull harder and harder, causing me to speculate to Craig that we might finally have connected with one of the ultra-mysterious brown trout from Lake Superior. Even as I said that, the fish, bearing a carmine stripe diagnostic of a river rainbow, shot into the air, causing Craig and I to shout in shocked unison, "It's a rainbow!" It certainly was—and to this day it remains—the largest inland rainbow I've ever caught in Wisconsin.

I look at the dark stone in my hand, read "Tricos & 7X. 3 Browns 15" plus, Rush River, 8/11/02" and summon up memories of a Sunday morning in late summer. The weather was clear and windless (always a blessing when long leaders terminating in 7X are involved). It was warm, but the heat and humidity of high summer were absent. I was in a spot that struck me as ideal for my purposes. The river came in through a riffle from the north, then pooled up against a low limestone wall surmounted by a steep ridge as the river turned southwest before tailing out into another riffle. The orientation of the river allowed me to put my backcast over open water rather than over the high, fly-grabbing grasses on the bank and afforded me, a left-handed caster, the luxury of having my rod on the upstream side of the drift—excellent circumstances for a down and across presentation. The ridge across the river kept direct sun off the water, emboldening the light-shy browns. They held high in the crystal-clear water and ate Trico spinners as the insects washed down from the riffle above.

Though I fished this famous early morning spinner fall frequently back then, I wasn't necessarily adept at it, so having so many factors stacked in my favor was a godsend. What I remember best about those three fish, in addition to their considerable bulk (I swear that one of the fish went well beyond the fifteen inch mark) was how confidently they took my fly and how wildly they fought when they realized they had

downstream, I'd come to a spot where the river split around a sand island. The main current went left through a riffle while a lesser volume of water pooled up in an eddying pool before exiting through a narrow channel. Just where the pool necked down a large tree branch had fallen into the river at ninety degrees to the flow. Most of the branch was under water, but a crook in the branch projected a foot or so

"Stored amid some detritus were three small river rocks. On the stones, which I had pocketed from along the banks of streams where some memorable action had occurred, were short inscriptions.

While I'd very nearly forgotten altogether the existence of those rocks, the inscriptions instantly elicited vivid memories."

been defrauded. The last fish of the morning stands out because it took in improbably thin water at the tail of the pool. Had it not been rising I would not have believed a fish could hold there. There is a bittersweet element to this. Land on the river's banks changed hands and the new owners were markedly inhospitable to anglers and I haven't been back in years.

"Friday, June 17, 2005: 17" 16", 2@15" & too many 12-14" browns to count, all on a Harrop hairwing sulfur dun... In Pierce Co., WI," it says on the third rock. Note the ellipsis, which indicates that some information is missing. That's because I hope to be back this June on the stretch of river that produced that fishing, which in my book was spectacular, and I hope not to see you there. The setting is striking. The river valley is wide, but steep ridges define its edges to the east and west. The river here can be fickle. While the habitat looks good, the fishing is never a sure thing, but on that evening sulfur mayflies were coming off the water in clouds and the fishing was smoking hot. Near the end of the evening, after wandering well

above it. Under that crook a trout rose regularly. I timed my cast as best I could and watched the fly, which was nothing but a dark dot, float downstream on the shimmering water. The fly disappeared in a rise under the arch of the branch and I set the hook into the jaw of the seventeen-inch fish. I couldn't imagine a better ending to what was already an outstanding evening, so I put the fly on my rod's hook keeper and turned upstream for the walk back to my car. A thin band of lingering light ran across the top of the ridge to the west. As I made my way back in the near-darkness I came to a spot where the river broke sharply into a riffle. The pool above was a black ribbon. A trout rose near the tail of the pool. From my vantage point below the spreading rings from its rise, illuminated faintly by the last scintilla of available light, looked as though they were suspended in mid-air. Minutes passed before I could take another step. I looked at the ridge. I looked down at the riffle. I looked upstream for another set of suspended rings. And I bent down, picked up a rock and put it in my vest. 🐟

KNOW YOUR BUGS: The Rest of the Story by Mike Alwin

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

Most stoneflies have a one-year life cycle like caddis and most mayflies. But, just like English grammar, there are exceptions. A few stoneflies take two to four years to fully develop before emergence. Out west these species may be abundant; in the midwest or east there are typically fewer of them. But, because of the multigenerational aspect, they are always on the substrate and therefore always available to the trout.

So, the angler has a choice: fish smaller imitations prior to emergence, targeting one or more specific genera, or pitch a large imitation of one of the multi-year stoneflies. The choice is to fish something recognizable because of its abundance or to fish something big that triggers the trout's greedy feeding instincts. How big you ask? One of these is *Paragnetina*, which ranges between 20-30 mm, depending on species and instar. Around these parts you might also find a species related to the big boys out west, *Pteronarcys*, which comes in between 40-60 mm. (!)

Paragnetina are sometimes called Golden Stones by anglers. The larva are brown with light mottling on the

dorsal side of the head, thorax and wing pads. They are primarily nocturnal and predaceous, chasing down the larva of other aquatic insects. In contrast, the larva of *Pteronarcys* are large, dark and colored to blend in with their surroundings. They are not predaceous, but are shredders, making their living chewing up COPM like leaves, and also diatoms. They inhabit rocky areas with sufficient detritus. The local species are cousins of the giant *P. californica*. They are widely distributed and have a two year life cycle.

Lastly we have small yellow stoneflies of two genera, *Isoperla* and *Perlesta*. *Isoperla* is the smaller of the two, ranging from 10-15 mm. These are called Yellow Sally by most anglers. The larva are heavily figured and seem to prefer a gravel substrate. *Perlesta* are a little larger, ranging from 12-20 mm. The angler's name is simply Yellow Stone. Yellowish, the larva are heavily figured. Both genera have a one year life cycle and emerge in late spring and early summer, although you may find some in July and August.



I've used the same references as for mayflies and caddis but have added a new one, Clarke Garry's splendid rumination on the Kinni. I urge all of you to buy and read this work; it's wonderful.

Borger, Gary. 1980. *NATURALS: FOOD ITEMS OF THE TROUT*. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books

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McCafferty, W. Patrick. 1981. *AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY: THE FISHERMAN'S AND ECOLOGIST'S ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO INSECTS AND THEIR RELATIVES*. Boston, MA. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc.

Miller, Ann. 2011. *HATCH GUIDE FOR UPPER MIDWEST STREAMS*. Portland, OR. Frank Amato Publications

In addition to this series about stoneflies, Mike previously wrote Know Your Bug series about mayflies (2015-2016 RipRaps) and caddis flies (2016-2017 RipRaps). If you'd like copies of those articles for your angling reference, email mikealwin@gmail.com or manion.maria@gmail.com.

Randy Arnold photo



From the Field

Volunteers brushing at Plum Creek.

If you want to be included on Randy's workday announcements, email him at randyca999@gmail.com

FLY TIER'S CORNER: Midge Emerger

Fly, Recipe & Photo by Brent Crooks



Hook: Daiichi 1140-18-22

Overwing: Silver Grey Swiss Straw

Thread: Semperfli 18/0 Nano Silk/White

Dubbing: Black Superfine

Shuck: Midge Diamond Braid/Cream

Hackle: Grizzly Saddle Hackle

Wing: White CDC Puff

Body: Krystal Flash/Black

Instructions

1. Tie in the thread behind the eye. Start tying in the Diamond Braid after the thread is locked in. Be sure to melt the Diamond Braid first with a lighter so it doesn't unravel.
2. Tie in the Krystal Flash just above the hook barb. Wrap the Krystal Flash up the body to the 2/3-rds point.
3. Tie in the CDC puff with a length extending just past the hook bend.
4. Cut a section of Swiss straw at least the length of the hook and about a hook gap wide. Tie in just in front of the CDC to create a veil over the CDC. Cut to length at an angle to get the V shape and appearance of two wings.
5. Prep the hackle by removing one side. If you have a less dense hackle, this isn't necessary. Tie in with the shiny side facing forward.
6. Put in a base of the dubbing and wrap in the hackle with enough room at the eye to whip finish the fly.
7. Whip finish and color the thread with a black Sharpie. Trim the hackle flush with the bottom of the hook.

Brent Crooks is a skilled local fly tier who spends his Sundays at a vise at Mend Provisions. If you've got a question about this fly recipe, email manion.maria@gmail.com and she'll get the message to Brent.

Kiap-TU-Wish

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March 6, 2019
Chapter Meeting

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Kiap-TU-Wish Business Meeting, Board Member Election, & Comments from **Kasey Yallaly**, our WDNR fisheries biologist, & **Nate Anderson**, our trout habitat crew leader, about WDNR projects & fish survey results at our next chapter meeting on **March 6th**.

Hope to see you there!

Dinner starts at 6pm (your dime).
The meeting starts at 7pm.