



RipRap

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
MAY, 2013 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9

Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects

IS MAY JUST FOR MAYFLIES?

BY TOM HENDERSON

Or is a caddis a contender for fly of the month for May?

Caddisflies love rocky, gravelly riffles. Trout love caddisflies. In our area, the Mother's Day caddis hatch is well known. Pick up almost any rock in a local stream and you are likely to see the tube-like cases that are home to the American Grannom (*Brachycentrus*). In our area the first really large hatch on most streams is a caddis hatch.

The flight pattern of caddisflies is distinctive from mayflies: caddis tend to flutter like a moth, while mayflies typically fly in a straight line, headed slightly upward or slightly downward.

Good artificials to imitate the larval stage include the decades-old Dark Cased Caddis or the more recent Green Rock Worm; fish them on the bottom of the stream. For the swimming pupa, Gary LaFontaine developed the sparkle pupa and deep sparkle pupa. The Partridge and Orange soft hackle dates back to the 1500s and was re-introduced by Sylvester Nemes in the 1970s to imitate the pupa just below the surface. More recently, to imitate the adult on the surface, the Elk Hair Caddis is probably the most popular artificial.

There are two excellent books, almost encyclopedic in nature: *Caddisflies* by Gary LaFontaine (1981, Globe Pequot Press) and *Caddisflies* by Thomas Ames (2009, Stackpole Books). LaFontaine's book describes the results of extensive research underwater using scuba gear. Ames' book contains excellent color photos of nearly every known species of caddis along the east coast, which are mostly the same ones that hatch in the Midwest.

Note: Caddisflies are also known as sedges, especially in England.

**Kiap-TU-Wish
meetings are
held at Bob
Smith's Sports
Club, the first
Wednesday night
of the month.
The May meeting
is on the 1st.
Dinner begins at
6 PM, Meeting
to follow at
7 PM.**



Board of Directors Activity

Some board members have been actively working with the Wisconsin DNR to identify potential habitat projects for 2015 and beyond.....a long range plan. Dan Wilcox, Randy Arnold, and I recently spent two days trudging through the snow to look at a dozen stream stretches. In most cases the DNR either owns the land or has fishing easements. A few others are sorely in need of erosion control but cannot be done unless easements are acquired. The list will be pared down by the committee and a short list recommended to the board for the 2015 project year. The remainder will remain on the back burner. We might get involved in soliciting easements; that is yet to be decided.

RipRap

After several years, Scott Hanson is stepping away from editing & publishing RipRap. His growing family is absorbing increasing amounts of his time and energy. During his time as editor we were honored with TU National's Bollinger Award (2010) as the best TU newsletter in the nation. Thank you, Scott.

Greg Meyer is taking over as editor / publisher, with enthusiasm. Based on other work he has done I believe that he will do an excellent job. We can help him by writing stories and articles.

In this digital age other media are increasingly important, particularly to the younger generation that we encourage to become active in TU. Allison Jacobs has enthusiastically taken responsibility for our Facebook and Twitter communications.

Habitat Projects

Hans Jung, Randy Arnold, and I walked the length of the work sites on the Trimbelle below highway W with John Sours of the DNR. Many loads of rock have been staged on the east side of the river; the west side is too wet. When work commences in mid-summer the crew will create a few crossings to enable moving materials across; those crossings will become the base for riffles later. The stream has a gradient of 27 feet per mile in this reach so the design will incorporate cross-stream barriers and drops into plunge pools to prevent future down-cutting. Final width will be roughly ten feet on average. Many springs and seeps are visible and there must be many more below the surface. With proper placement of gravel the spawning habitat should become excellent. Stabilizing the stream bed and banks will enhance the habitat for insects. We are very optimistic about the future of this headwaters reach.

Fishing Prospects

As this is written on April 16, the streams are below bank-full condition and continuing to drop and to become clear. Don't forget to purchase your license(s) and park sticker(s). With the delayed snow melt the hatches may be delayed. Be ready.

Unfortunate

There have been reports of manure-related fish kills on a couple of area streams. The long winter and late spring have been difficult for area farmers because they have had to store an extra month's worth of this unwanted by-product.

Meeting News

Last month's meeting: 52 names on the sign-in sheet for the fly tying meeting. A record?

Next Month's meeting: Wed May 1. Speaking will be Marty Engel, biologist with the Wisconsin DNR.

Summer Break: No general meetings scheduled for June – July – August. Next is September 4. The board and various committees will continue to work as needed through the summer. Watch for volunteer work notices, and come help when you can.

Welcome New Members:

Jennifer Armstrong (Osceola), Gail Beher (Spring Valley), Bob Butterbrodt (St. Paul), Bob Christenson (River Falls) and Jerry Solum (River Falls).



SCOTT'S SCOOP - THE FINALE

BY SCOTT HANSON

Well, this is a little sad for me. It's my last Scott's Scoop to write, and this is my last issue of RipRap as the Editor. It's been a really fun 6 years for me, and I hope that you've enjoyed reading all of the trout-themed prose that has filled these pages over the years. OK, not everything that I have written has revolved around trout; I should admit to myself and the world that I have probably written more about my kids and family life than anyone has cared to read. My family is the main reason why I decided to relinquish my duties here at RipRap. We now have three kids aged 4 and under, and each month I seemed to find less and less time to devote to this newsletter. The plan is for Greg Meyer to take over the reins starting next fall. Make sure you treat Greg as well as you have treated me all these years.

There were several months that I found myself up against the deadline, without even enough time to write a short column for Scott's Scoop. Thankfully, I was very fortunate to receive plenty of submissions from awesome Chapter members, and even some outsiders, throughout the years, so I always had enough stuff to fill up at least 4 pages. My memory being what it is, I probably shouldn't even attempt to thank everyone who submitted articles, photos, or whatnot, but I'm going to give it a try. If I miss someone, I truly apologize. A heartfelt Thank You goes out to: Greg Dietl, Jon Jacobs, Dave Gilbraith, Mike Alwin, Deb Alwin, Maria Manion, Scott Thorpe, Greg Meyer, Greg Olson, Greg Gerard, Dale Fretland, Brian Smolinski, Rob Kolakowski, Kyle Amundson, Bob Torres, Andy Lamberson, Tom Henderson, Bob Diesch, Tom Schnadt, Hans Jung, Gary Horvath, Ron Kuehn, Skip James, John Koch, Sarah Sanford, Joe Tomelleri, Paige Olson, Nick Westcott, Perry Palin, Allison Jacobs, Randy Arnold, Gary Richardson, Josh Dumke, Marty Engel, Edward Moersfelder, Paul Wright, Carrie Jacobson, Chad Borenz, Vern Alberts, Bill Stieger, Bethany Olson, the late Hap Lutter, and the late Jim Humphrey, who furnished me with an entire CD filled with his thoughts on trout, right as I was starting in my role as Editor. His articles came in handy many times over the years. Special thanks go out to Bob Bradham, whose help and knowledge about printing has come into play often over these past 6 years. RipRap wouldn't have looked as good without Bob's help.

Well, I hope you have enjoyed reading all these issues of RipRap as much as I have enjoyed putting them together. If you are at all interested in seeing what else is going on in my life, I invite you to check out my blog at www.ChaoticKidsClutter.blogspot.com. I think it's a fun look at what life is like in our house with three crazy kids running around, and you never know what I might feel like writing about. Recently I even wrote a short article about my friend and boss, Mike Alwin, who is retiring from the fly shop business. I have included it here in my final RipRap – check it out on page 6. I think you'll like it. And, hey, what's a Scott's Scoop article without a little shameless self-promotion? Am I right?

Make sure you read through this entire issue of RipRap, have an awesome summer, get out and catch a lot of fish, and look for the September issue of RipRap in your mailbox in a few months. Thanks for everything!

Thank you!



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FLY SHOP

BY TOM HENDERSON

Not everyone who fishes for trout uses a fly rod. Those who do not are served well by many retail stores, some quite large. The community of fly fishers is a small fraction of the fishing world. Small local fly shops are a very important part of that community.

Typically the owner of a fly shop is either the only employee, or at least is nearly always present. They provide a real service to us, with advice ranging way beyond selection of a rod or a fly. They teach us how to use the items, whether it is a new rod, a tool, or a bit of fluff or feather.

Some local merchants:

The Gray Goat. Owned by the Gray Goat himself, Andy Roth. Or is it named after his source of gray mohair? Andy does not have a traditional retail store, but sells items on his website. He enjoys teaching fly tying, casting, and fishing...not just on the lawn, but in the stream: a teaching guide. <http://www.graygoatflyfishing.com>

Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. Owned by Mike Alwin, but that is changing. Located in old downtown Lake Elmo, across from the Lake Elmo Inn on Lake Elmo Avenue. Offers a selection of fly rods, reels, and other fishing equipment. Also carries fly tying tools and supplies. Regularly scheduled classes in casting, fly tying, and miscellaneous other topics. I have not met the new owner, but understand that he has extensive experience guiding in Montana and Alaska. <http://www.bobmitchellsflyshop.com>

Kinni Creek Outfitters. Owned by Paige Olson. The only fly shop located on the banks of a trout stream, and the only one with lodging available. And the only one that carries Tenkara rods, a unique Japanese tradition. Kayak rentals. Affiliated with several guides, some with drift boats. Located north of the River Falls business district. Look for a small sign at 545 North Main Street; the shop itself is not visible from the road. <http://www.kinnicreek.com>. Paige caters to a wide variety of outdoor non-urban activities, mostly related to moving water.

The Fly Angler. This fly shop is located in one corner of the Thorne Brothers tackle and bait shop in Blaine, on highway 65 near the National Sport Center, at 101st street. They carry fishing equipment, fly tying tools and supplies, and rod making supplies. <http://www.mnflyangler.com>

Lunds Fly Shop. Owned by Brian Smolinski. Located on the east side of the street, middle of downtown River Falls. (The old hardware store is gone. The fly shop has moved.) Fly fishing gear, tying tools and supplies. Large selection of flies. Also carries an inventory of spin fishing gear. <http://www.lundsflyshop.com>.

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EMAIL INFO NEEDED

BY GREG MEYER

As we move forward into the summer months, this is the last RipRap issue until fall. Over the summer we will still be sending out email updates with photos from the fly fishing clinic, volunteer opportunities, important environmental issues and call to action, and project status.

So if you'd like to be more informed and in-tune with chapter activity over the summer, please make sure that you are on our email list. You can do this by going to our website at www.kiaptuwish.org and clicking the Join Email List button at the bottom left of the page, or send me an email, and I'll make sure to get you on the list. Kiap-TU-Wish will never share your information.

Please note: if you are currently on the list with multiple emails, please "unsubscribe" to those emails no longer valid. You can do this by clicking on the bottom of any email, or by letting me know.

Please contact: Greg Meyer kiaptuwish@hotmail.com

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

BY GREG MEYER

We are currently looking for volunteers to contribute to upcoming issues of RipRap.

We are always looking for interesting stories, poems, drawings, photography or illustrations. Maybe you are a graphic designer and know Adobe InDesign? Maybe you have a point of view you'd like to share? It's even OK to send photos of you with that trophy fish (you don't even need to give up your "secret" spot.)

Some things that would make interesting submissions:

- book reviews
- poems
- stories
- fly tying tips
- scenic photos
- drawings
- fishing photos
- destinations
- the list goes on and on

We look forward to all contributions to help make our chapter fun and interesting. If you'd like to contribute, all submissions are due the second Friday of the month.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for improvements or things you'd like to see in RipRap.

Please contact:

Greg Meyer
kiaptuwish@hotmail.com



AN ODE TO MIKE ALWIN

BY SCOTT HANSON

Last time I wrote an ode to somebody, it was a posthumous celebration of the life of my wife's grandmother, Grandma Millie, on the day she died at the ripe old age of 98-and-half. I thought it was time to write another ode, but this time it's an ode to a very much alive man, Mr. Michael Alwin.

Mike Alwin has had a profound effect on my life over the past 16 years. He probably does not remember that we actually had met several years before that - I was but a small lad starting to learn the ins and outs of the sport of fly fishing, and he held some position in Kiap-TU-Wish. My dad took me to a few meetings, and I distinctly remember Mike being there, and talking to me once or twice. I would like to say that whatever he said to me made such an impact that it changed my life forever, but I really have no idea what he said back then. Come on, I was 12. I can't remember what people said to me last week. I do remember that we had some kind of interaction, and that's pretty good for me.

At about that same time my dad and I became regular patrons at the quaint fly fishing store in the quaint burg of Lake Elmo, MN. Lake Elmo is more famous for being the home of the Lake Elmo Inn, one of the best, and most expensive, restaurants in the area, but I was only interested in the fly shop, which happened to be named Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, owned by Bob and Jean Mitchell. I spent hours at Bob Mitchell's trying to absorb anything and everything I could about fly fishing. My dad had done some fly fishing as a youth back in the 1950s, but his knowledge was limited, so every Thursday night, the only night Bob Mitchell's was open past 5:30, I begged my dad to drive me out to Lake Elmo so I could finagle any pertinent info I could out of both Bob and Jean. I'm not sure exactly what they thought of the buck-toothed, gangly, bespectacled kid that came out and bothered them every week, but they always treated me warmly and always answered all my annoying questions.



As time passed, I got more heavily into other things and away from fly fishing, so I eventually stopped going out to Bob Mitchell's all together. That phase lasted for several years, but at the ripe old age of 23 I decided I needed to get my old Cortland fly rod out of storage and try my hand at catching some trout again. I went back to Bob Mitchell's, but by that time, Bob and Jean had retired to Montana. I found out that they had sold the shop to the guy from the Kiap-TU-Wish meetings, Mike Alwin. I went in to check it out, and ended up buying a new fly tying vise from him. That vise was just the first of approximately a billion purchases I made at Bob Mitchell's over the next few years.



During those next few years, I fished a lot, and I spent a lot of time hanging out at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. The Shop became a sort of second home, and Mike became a, well, probably not like a second father. And not really like an older brother either (he's slightly too old to be my brother). It's kind of hard to describe our relationship, so let's just say that I was like one of his best customers to him, and he was like a surly, cantankerous fly shop owner to me. We got along beautifully! We were just what each other needed.

After a few years of that, I think Mike realized that I spent way too much time on rivers trying to catch fish, and that I had already purchased almost everything in the Shop, so there was no reason for me to remain a customer. He also probably thought that I needed some more human interaction in my life. So, he hired me to be one of his part-time "henchmen", as he calls us. My job was, and still is, to help our customers find what they need to get out on the water and catch some fish, tie a bunch of flies to sell to those customers, and teach whatever classes Mike has needed me to teach. That all started about 11 and a half years ago now, and I can honestly say that working at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop has been one of the greatest parts of my life. I'm not going to go and say it's on the same level as the birth of my children or anything, but it has been a lot of fun. And Mike has been one of the best bosses I have ever known, despite his cantankerousness.

Mike recently made the announcement that he is selling the Shop and retiring on April 27th. Sounds like he has plans to actually get out and do some fishing, which is something he hasn't had a lot of time to do while he's been running the Shop for the past 19 years. I am both envious and sad. It's going to be a lot different without the old guy around. But now maybe we'll be able to do something we've never had a chance to do: go fishing together. Maybe we'll start hanging out together so much he'll finally become like the older brother I never had...Or maybe we should just start with fishing buddy and see what happens. Thanks for everything, Mike!

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FLY FISHING CLINIC INFO

Come out for a day of fun on the Kinni ! Pre-register at the Parks and Recreation Department of River Falls (715-425-0924). Trout Unlimited members will provide a loaner rod, reel, and line if requested. Bring along bug repellent, hat, jacket and raingear. Registration deadline is May 24th. This event is sponsored by Trout Unlimited and The River Falls Park and Recreation Department.

Registration form: http://www.rfcity.org/assets/pdfs/parks/Parks_ActivityGuide/2013ActivityGuide.pdf page 19.)

River Falls Parks and Recreation

222 Lewis St. Suite #221 - River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-0924 - www.rfcity.org

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Clinic details and agenda:

Date: Saturday, June 1

Time: 10:00 am till 4:00 pm

Limited to 25 participants

Age: 12 and up

Lunch: 12:00, Catered by Subway with pop and water all paid for by TU

Agenda:

10:00-10:15 Basic fly fishing introduction

10:15-11:00 What trout eat: a brief course in entomology:

11:00-12:00 Rods, Rigging, and Flies

12:00-1:00 Lunch and mentoring discussions

1:00-1:30 Introduction to fly casting

0-2:30 One-on-one fly casting instruction

2:30- 4:00 Fishing for trout on the Kinnickinnic with mentoring

There will be ten or more people from TU to train and assist. There will be approximately 20 rods and equipment available. Participants should bring their own equipment if they have it.





TROUT UNLIMITED

KIAP-TU-WISH

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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



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GARETH HORVATH
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DON'T MISS THE MAY MEETING!!!

May brings us our annual visit
from Marty Engel,
DNR Fisheries Manager.

Don't miss it!

Wednesday, May 1st

Dinner at 6PM

Meeting at 7PM

The deadline to make submissions for the
September issue is Friday, August 9th.

Thank you!

