



The Drift: Words from our President.

Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp: We're pleased to announce that Grady McAbee was selected to be Kiap's representative at this year's TU Youth Fishing Camp. As part of Kiap's application and selection process, Grady submitted an excellent essay that highlighted his many outdoor interests. Grady is 13 years old and lives in Woodville, Wisconsin. He will be joined at camp by Joseph Duncan. Joseph was last year's Kiap camper and is participating this year as a youth mentor. Congratulations to both boys. We can't wait to hear their fishing stories.

Red Cabin Project: Randy Arnold reports that the Red Cabin is the first scheduled project of the year for the WDNR. If the dry weather holds out work could start as early as the first week in May. Keep alert for volunteer announcements to mulch and seed.

Great Waters Expo: Seems like a long time ago, but thanks to the volunteers that staffed the Kiap-TU-Wish booth. They include Jack Ellingboe, Trish Hannah, Loren Haas, Jeff Himes, Mike Alwin, Greg Dietl, Ken Hanson, Randy Arnold, Jim Kojis and Mike McBain. Attendance was very good at the show. Paul Johnson's flies were a big hit and added \$300 to the chapter's coffers.



Kiap-TU-Wish members Mike Alwin, Greg Dietl, Ken Hanson and Jeff Himes at the Great Water Fly Expo.

will be an enriching and fun activity. No experience is necessary, just an interest in kids and education. Contact Greg at driftless23@gmail.com.

Fairmount Santrol: We were saddened to learn about the April 14th layoff of 55 workers at Fairmount's Wisconsin operations in Hager City, Maiden Rock, and Menomonie. Fairmount is going to do everything necessary to maintain these

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

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Please join us at our May 4th chapter meeting in River Falls. Marty Engel will be speaking about long-term trends in our local trout populations. Don't miss the scoop from Marty.

Junior's Bar & Restaurant
414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-6630
www.juniorsrf.com

The photo above was taken at the Red Cabin project site on the upper Kinnickinnic River. Rock is piled on site and ready for the WDNR habitat crew. Work is scheduled to begin in May.

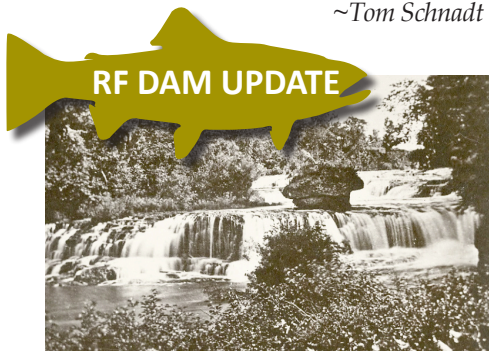
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sites so they meet the requirements of their permits, and will ensure the company's continued commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility. In the past two years alone, Fairmont employees have provided approximately 600 volunteer hours to TU projects. Fairmont has also been a steady financial contributor to Kiap's habitat efforts. Since 2009, they've contributed more than \$85,000 towards Kiap-TU-Wish stream restoration projects and despite their current challenges, continue to provide that support. Kiap-TU-Wish just received a \$10,000 commitment from Fairmont for future stream restoration work.

~Tom Schnadt



The City of River Falls is currently in the midst of a relicensing process for two hydroelectric dams on the Kinnickinnic River within the City's central area. The City Council has determined that now is the appropriate time to begin a carefully thought-out multi-phased process that leads to a comprehensive long-term plan for the broader Kinnickinnic River Corridor. The City of River Falls has revised the DRAFT RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan and sent it out to stakeholders for comment. The revised draft reflects the recent license extension, which now allows the City to run hydro relicensing and corridor planning in the same process. There was a check-in meeting for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor planning process on Tuesday, April 19. The goals for the meeting were to review the final Consultant RFP following various stages of input and to review new developments.

~Gary Horvath

The April 19th meeting had not yet occurred at the time RipRap was assembled. Check the Kiap-TU-Wish website for further updates.

Judy Lutter photo



If you would like to learn more about Hap Lutter and the Spring Appeal, please visit our web site: www.kiaptuwish.org. Click on any of the pages - OUR CHAPTER, NEWS, CONSERVE & PROTECT, OUR RIVERS, RESOURCES - to find this link.



Hap Lutter Memorial Spring Appeal: It's not too late to donate.

Hap Lutter was a Kiap-TU-Wish member who passed away in 2009. The Kiap-TU-Wish Spring Appeal is part of his legacy.

Hap recognized the need for a funding source beyond our annual Holiday Conservation Banquet to supply the dollars needed to reach beyond sometimes limited grant funds. Hap launched the initial Spring Appeal because annual dues go to TU National, but little of that money ever comes back to the chapter to benefit the waters we love to fish.

If you fish the trout streams of western Wisconsin or have another interest in keeping these waters healthy and productive for generations to come, we hope that you will consider making a generous donation to this year's Spring Appeal. Money raised will go directly toward funding current and future habitat work on the Trimble and

Kinnickinnic rivers, as well as restorations still in the planning stages. Monies will also help support Kiap's stream monitoring efforts, education efforts and operating costs. Last year the Spring Appeal raised over \$11,000 from generous donors.

2016 plans to be an even more active year for the chapter. We need your financial support in order to continue our habitat and education work and to ensure the longtime health and care of our coldwater streams.

Please support your passion, and Hap's legacy, with a contribution. Whether a check, an employee match, or a stock gift, your support will be greatly appreciated. And don't forget, your contribution is tax deductible!

Thank you for sharing Hap's vision by supporting Western Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries!

To make a donation more tempting, we are offering first-time donors a half-dozen nymphs, tested and proven to work on the Rush and Kinni. If you contribute \$125 or more, a half-dozen specially-tied dry flies will come your way.

~Bob Trevis

FLY FISHING CLINIC

The Kiap-TU-Wish fly-fishing-for-trout clinic will be held in River Falls on Saturday, June 4th. An all-day affair, the clinic will teach casting, knots, entomology, fishing strategy and safe wading practices. The clinic will also include supper and guided fishing in the evening and the students will receive leaders and a bunch of flies. The clinic will start at 1:00 PM with instruction all afternoon, a supper break at 5:00 PM and guided fishing from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

Right now we're looking for volunteers to act as guides/mentors/teachers. THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER. There are no requirements for these positions except for a desire to help folks get a good introduction to this wonderful sport and to see the value in this very fragile resource. If you can be with us for the whole day that's great, but if your schedule is full please consider an afternoon or evening shift — or consider tying some flies for the clinic.

Contact Brian Smolinski (715.425.2415, brian@lundsflyshop.com) or Michael Alwin (651.739.3150, mikealwin@gmail.com).

~Mike Alwin

Editor's Note

In the interest of fine weather, abnormally fine, I spent Sunday morning (April 18th) at the Red Cabin project site on the Kinni. I wanted to get away from the city, walk along the river and fish this stretch of water before the upcoming restoration work.

Rock for riprap was piled on site, a bright, pale peach ridge running from side to side. Some smaller pieces had been stacked in a semi-circle by, I imagine, industrious or bored kids. Minute azure blossoms of *Scilla siberica* studded the whole of the land inside the oxbow and surrounded tree stumps left from Kiap's 2014 brushing effort. Woodpeckers whacked away at dead, hollow trees the volunteers left standing on site for just such a reason.

I wandered around a bit, from one side of the oxbow to the other, getting the lay of the land, when I heard it, the familiar ploop that fills an angler with joy. Fish were rising.

I caught a handful of brown trout—two, three, four inches long—and a lunker, almost six. I had a great time catching those little trout and as I let them go, I wondered what they would grow to become with better habitat to support them. If you have a chance, stop by the Red Cabin site, or the Trimble, this spring or summer to see the happenings at our chapter's trout stream restorations. Until RipRap returns next fall, enjoy the summer fishing season! ~Maria Manion

As this is the last issue of *RipRap* for awhile, I'd like to thank all those who commit so much time and energy to its production. Thanks to Bob Trevis, Judy Lutter and Scott Thorpe for proofreading; to Bob Bradham for generously printing *RipRap* each month; to the Horvaths who spend a weekend evening applying stamps and stickers before mailing, and to all those who contribute stories, or tips, or opinions or photos or whatnot. In no particular order those folks include Jonathan Jacobs, Margaret LeBien, Brian Smolinski, Mike Alwin, Tom Schnadt, Scott Wagner, Dan Wilcox, Greg Olson, Gary Horvath, Bob Trevis, Tom Henderson, Joseph Duncan, Randy Arnold, Mark Peerenboom, Nate Anderson, Ed Constantini and Ron Kuehn. Thank you!

Don't forget:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates
- The next *RipRap* deadline is Friday, August 19th
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

{Words} Dan Wilcox

Beauty in the Slime

Live diatoms from a stream and the glass shells of diatoms.
Photomicrographs by Liz Bergey, University of Oklahoma.



"Few objects are more beautiful than the minute siliceous cases of the diatomaceae: were these created that they may be examined under the higher powers of the microscope?" ~Charles Darwin 1872

Algae are single and multi-celled plants that occur all over the world wherever there is at least occasionally some liquid water and light. Algae grow in the oceans, lakes, streams, rivers, on shady rooftops, tree bark, rocks, and on the surface of the soil. There are thousands of species. Algae are responsible for maintaining most of the oxygen in the atmosphere that we need to breathe. Algae are the basis of the food chain in oceans and large lakes.

In smaller lakes, rivers and streams, algae are important primary producers along with aquatic macrophytes (larger plants). In rivers and streams, organic matter (like tree leaves and terrestrial insects) washed in from the land is called allochthonous material. Organic matter grown in the river, with primary production from algae and aquatic macrophytes is called autochthonous material. The proportion of 'washed in' organic matter vs. 'home-grown' organic matter changes seasonally and with size of the stream.

Most trout anglers have encountered slippery rocks in a stream. Many of us have splashed as our boots went out from under us. The slippery brown furry stuff on the rocks and logs in streams is called periphyton. Periphyton is a teeming community of algae, bacteria, fungi, and protozoans (one-celled critters) that provides much of the food for everything else living in the river.

In addition to filamentous green algae and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) most algae in rivers and streams are diatoms. Diatoms are single-celled algae ranging in size from a few to 500 microns (half a millimeter) in diameter. Diatoms have two-piece hydrated silicon glass shells that fit together like a Petri dish. Most diatoms in streams are attached to hard substrates with mucilaginous tubes or filaments. Other diatom species are glued with mucilage directly to hard substrates, and many species grow on the surface of aquatic macrophytes.

Each diatom species has a distinct pattern of tiny holes in the silicon cell wall through which they absorb nutrients and get rid of waste. Viewed under microscopes, diatoms are beautiful with ornate and interesting patterns. The shapes and structure of the silicon shells are used to identify and classify them. Because diatom species are adapted to certain ranges of water chemistry, temperature, current velocity, suspended sediment and substrate types, diatoms are used extensively in environmental assessment and monitoring. Because they are rich in proteins and lipids and are 'bite size,' diatoms are favored food for many species of insect larvae, snails, crayfish and macroinvertebrates.

Next time you slip and slide on rocks in a stream, remember that the beautiful diatoms underfoot are feeding the macroinvertebrates that feed the trout. 🐞

REELING IN WISCONSIN

{Words::Images} Jonathan Jacobs

In previous issues of RipRap this year we've tackled [See the subtle pun there?] discussions of fly rods and fly lines, so I thought we might close out this year's publication cycle with a few words on the third component of any fly fishing outfit, the fly reel.

Two facile truisms that crop up time and again in articles about fly fishing gear are that "a reel for trout fishing is nothing more than a place to store line" and that "a fly reel is nothing more than a simple winch." The first assertion is barely true and the second, while sometimes true, is inane. Offered up as an example of where that kind of thinking leads is the Horrocks Ibbotson fly reel purchased for a pittance in an antique store. The frame and spool are molded from the ubiquitous sort of post-World War II plastic that was used in the 1950s as a substitute for many kinds of, for lack of a better term, genuine materials. The reel foot is light gauge stamped aluminum. It readily converts from left hand to right hand wind because it's a "fixed click" reel, i.e. tension on the line is the same inbound and outbound. It's an awful thing in every way, the kind of merchandise that would have been found in the Grot Shop, the store dedicated to selling useless junk — its catchphrase was "the place for rubbish" — in the BBC sitcom *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. The point is that if line storage and a simple winch were all we needed, H-I reels would have dominated the flyfishing market rather than having been consigned to dusty shelves in antique stores in places like Osceola, Wisconsin.

That said, trout anglers often go too far in the other direction and obsess over reels of exotic forged aluminum machined on the same equipment used to manufacture aerospace components or medical devices. These reels are often outfitted with braking systems capable of bringing a fully laden Freightliner traveling at freeway speeds to a sudden

stop. The counter to that is that it's only money, which is true. There's never anything wrong with buying the best you can afford, but I would argue that, while a functioning drag system has genuine advantages in trout fishing, consistent start up at a low tension and a smooth, incremental range of adjustment are much more important than ultimate stopping power. That same smoothness is critical in a reel's function as a "simple winch," too. Further, while there is no gainsaying that forged aluminum reels equipped with disc drags dominate the

The makers of these reels often rightly tout the light weight of these reels. However, if you find a reel that suits you in every way, but is an ounce or so heavier than the ethereal models, do not fret too much about that weight. An ounce or so close to your wrist is not nearly as noticeable in a day-long angling outing as half that much weight out in the tip section of your rod.

In his charming book from the 1970s, *Fly Tackle*, Harmon Henkin writes about meeting the artist and writer Russell Chatham, who at that time held the

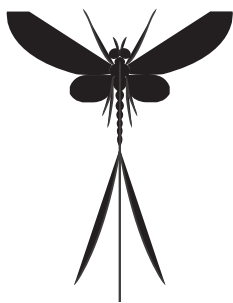
"Two facile truisms that crop up time and again in articles about fly fishing gear are that 'a reel for trout fishing is nothing more than a place to store line' and that 'a fly reel is nothing more than a simple winch.' The first assertion is barely true and the second, while sometimes true, is inane."



market, especially at the heavy duty end of the spectrum starting with steelhead and Atlantic salmon and extending from there beyond tarpon fishing, there are many awfully nice reels that are made from castings and have simple click and pawl drags. Another element in the forged vs. cast debate is finished weight of the reels made from either method. With modern CNC machining equipment, an aluminum billet can be whittled down to near nothingness while retaining sufficient structural integrity. If nothing else, this has led to the design and manufacture of some reels that are truly striking in appearance, with spools that look like miniature versions of what one might expect to see in the wheel housings of a Porsche or Lamborghini.

world record for striped bass on the fly, an impressive bona fide. Henkin wrote, "We were sitting in his yard, swapping introductory fish tales and I showed him the battery of fancy rods I was lugging around. He seemed politely impressed but questioned me carefully on my reels. What the hell. How could they compare to my beloved rods? I had two Hardy Lightweights and a Scientific Anglers System 8. Wasn't that good enough to store line?" Once Henkin recovered from the shock of this, he thought to ask Chatham about his reels. "Ah, now" Henkin continued, "there was a subject that brought a gleam to Russ's eyes." Chatham went on to show Henkin his substantial collection of classic reels.

While the reels I own are common
{continued on page 6}



KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part IX

{Words} Mike Alwin

References and knowing what to look for

Most of us are familiar with what we will call the classic scientific method. We got our introduction to it in high school biology or maybe chemistry. This method works something like this; you state a hypothesis, you test the hypothesis, and then you publish the results in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Unstated is that once published, you spend the next ten years or so defending yourself against every crackpot with an axe to grind.

Related to this classic method is the phenomenological method. In this method you are an observer of a chunk of ground or a body of water and you observe a behavior or a phenomenon. If you're lucky, perhaps the phenomenon will repeat. In either case, you publish your observation in a peer-reviewed journal. Of course, you'll still have to spend the requisite time defending yourself (there's no shortage of crackpots) but doing your work outside has to be a whole lot more fun than sitting in a lab.

Many years ago I learned a valuable lesson from a retired wildlife biologist. Howard told me that the answer to any question regarding fish and wildlife always starts with, "Well, that depends..." The implication here is that observation is subjective; you and I might see the same thing but see it differently. Here's where taxonomy pays for itself. Taxonomists count the number of joints in the insect's feet, describe the spot on the femur and determine the number of gills on the abdominal segments. A taxonomist can study a larva and tell you whether it's excrucians or dorothea. The taxonomic keys, coupled with your observations, can tell you whether that light colored mayfly is going to emerge during the day or in the evening. The joke is that taxonomists are biologists who don't have enough to do. The reality is that they perform a valuable function and if you want to know something, that's where you have to start.

Here are the references used in these articles. Some of them are dated and you can probably find updated keys on the internet, but these are still good places to start. There are others.

- **Borger, Gary. 1980. NATURALIS: FOOD ITEMS OF THE TROUT.** Harrisburg PA: Stackpole Books
- **McCafferty, W. Patrick. 1981. AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY: THE FISHERMAN'S AND ECOLOGISTS' ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO INSECTS AND THEIR RELATIVES.** Boston MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc.
- **Miller, Ann R. 2011. HATCH GUIDE FOR UPPER MIDWEST STREAMS.** Portland OR: Frank Amato Publications, Inc.
- **Jacobus, Luke M. and McCafferty, W.P. 2003. REVISIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORTH AMERICAN EPHEMERELLA AND SERRATELLA.** Journal of New York Entomology Society: 111(4):174-193

This last citation is illustrative of how taxonomy reflects continuing insight. Jacobus and McCafferty collected samples of ephemerella species from all over the country and parts of Canada. After examining the larvae and rearing them to adults they discovered that samples of *E. dorothea*, *E. infrequens* and *E. mollitia* were indistinguishable. In this citation their proposal is that two subspecies

be recognized: *E. d. dorothea* and *E. d. infrequens*. They consider *E. dorothea* to be restricted to higher gradient streams with *E. d. dorothea* in the east and *E. d. infrequens* in the west. Isn't this fun?

In closing, let's point out one blatantly obvious consideration. Unless you're a practiced entomologist, it's almost impossible to ID a mayfly on the wing. Witness how many people mistake a crane fly for a mayfly. In order to ID the insect down to the genus level you have to have the specimen in hand, preferably caught in your net. You have to examine it with a 10X hand lens at the very least, and you have to spend some time getting comfortable with the keys. If you do this you will be rewarded, not only because of the predictive nature of the insect but because you've expanded your fishing to all the things that surround it. Finally, beware of that person you encounter on the stream who points to a mayfly fifteen feet away flying over that stream and identifies it using its Latin name down to the species. That person, children, that person is a lying bastard.

From the Field: The Summer Season

This summer's project work will include starting—and finishing—bank restoration at the Red Cabin site. (Brush cutting and tree clearing was done the winter before last.) John Sours is coming back from retirement long enough to finish this project, as well as the remaining stretch of the Trimble to the bridge on Hwy 65. Nate Anderson, who took over the leadership role from John, will be working on projects in the Clearwater Chapter territory including one on Sand Creek and another on Gilbert Creek where we cleared trees from the banks this spring. Once the ground dries out and these projects get underway, those of you on the habitat volunteer list can expect to get emails announcing work day opportunities such as building lunkers and seeding and mulching of the riparian corridors. Summer workdays typically occur during morning or afternoon hours in the middle of the week when the WDNR project lead can be on hand to direct our efforts.

We are still in the process of switching from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp as our messaging provider. I hope to update the volunteer lists before we begin another winter brushing season and create a separate list of those people interested in this winter-time work. This past year, announcements were going out to 150 individuals; less than 50 of those people took part in the workdays. Moving forward, I would like to have a list which better reflects those individuals who will turn out for at least one brushing day.

So until the next workday, remember to always pick up trash when you're fishing your favorite stretch of water.

~Randy Arnold

photo courtesy of Tom Schnadt

Editor's note: Randy was recently recognized at the Clearwater Chapter banquet for his volunteering efforts. Note the customized t-shirt with which he was awarded; I HATE BOX ELDER. With Kiap's Mr. Arnold are TU's Duke Welter (left) and Al Noll, Clearwater Chapter President (right).



{Reeling. . . from page 6}

working-class tools, I freely admit that I am, at heart, at least as big a reel junkie as Chatham. For one thing, I find it interesting that the idea of a “simple winch” can be expressed in so many ways and in so many materials. In addition to forgings and casting, there are reels made from metal stampings, various injection molded materials and any combination of materials you can dream up. It sounds vaguely automotive, but there’s the choice of manual or automatic. Further, there is the choice of direct drive or anti-reverse retrieve and one can opt for various kinds of mechanical gear multiplication to speed the rate of line retrieval. Then there are the categories of standard arbor and large arbor. The large arbor design reduces line curl and memory at the expense of backing capacity. Here are some examples, by brand name and type, of reels that interest me:

ABU Garcia Delta: Out of production, this was a direct drive reel made of stainless steel and aluminum. This reel is remarkable primarily because of its exceedingly strange triangular shape. The strangeness extends to the odd drag lever that looks like it could be at home on an agricultural implement.

Ari t’Hart: t’Hart is a Dutchman whose reels are expressions of his training as an industrial designer. They are futuristic-looking, well-made and somewhat schizophrenic in their design. Most of them appear to be delicate and minimalist, but are somehow remarkably hefty.

Bogdan: These are reels that you hear about but virtually never see. Their satin-finished black and aluminum components, solid back plate, ventilated spools and elegant “landau iron” reel handles hark back to the classic Vom Hofe reels of a century ago. They are still made in small numbers by the second generation of the Bogdan family. Stan Bogdan, the company’s founder, was one of those compelling characters driven to express both his mechanical skills and his artistic vision through an obsession with detail. He designed and manufactured in his shop every component of his reels, right down to the tiny screws that hold them together. The word is that the waiting list for one of these reels is years long and the reels fetch a king’s ransom on the used market. Similar handsome, high-quality reels with less stratospheric

pricing are available from brands like Peerless and Saracione.

Martin multiplier: Several manufacturers have produced and do produce “multiplying” fly reels. These reels have gearing systems that rotate the spool more than one turn for every turn of the reel’s handle. The weight, mechanical complexity and reliability of this arrangement are knocks on the idea, but numerous folks have pointed out that if you’re fishing from a boat or in other circumstances where a pile of excess line

The complaints made about multiplying reels apply here, too. Again, if stray line management is an issue, and particularly if you are fishing for creatures that don’t test a drag system, these reels can be entertaining and pleasantly nostalgic to see in use.

Nautilus: I mention this brand because its reels are an example non pareil of how much material can be removed in complex patterns from a good old winch. They’re dazzling, actually, and the company’s advertising catchphrase,

“While the reels I own are common working-class tools, I freely admit that I am at heart at least as big a reel junkie as Chatham. For one thing, I find it interesting that the idea of a “simple winch” can be expressed in so many ways and in so many materials.”



Top from left to right: French-made Mitchell automatic; Ari t’Hart with offset arm; Pflueger Medalist from the 1980s; another Ari t’Hart. **Bottom from left to right:** the Horrocks-Ibbotson; Shakespeare Russell from the late 1940s; Bronson Royal from the 1950’s; a Heddon, an Olympic-built copy of the Hardy Lightweight design

can spell trouble, these reels certainly offer convenient line management. I mention the Martin brand name specifically because I own a reel from this manufacturer. Mine seems heavy enough to serve as an emergency boat anchor. The upside to its weight is that I discovered it will help keep a rod left inadvertently atop a truck from flying off at highway speeds, but that’s a story for another time.

Mitchell Garcia automatic: At one time automatic fly reels were common. Along with Mitchell, South Bend, Perrine, Shakespeare and several other manufacturers offered them. The “automatic” refers to the line retrieval mechanism. A wound spring under a flat cover provided the power to wind line onto the reel at the touch of a lever.

“Tested on animals!” is a sure-fire winner.

Olympic: I’m not exactly sure what Olympic was. It appeared to be a Japanese entity that cranked out copies (more like straight rip-offs, really) of the classic Hardy Lightweight series for any number of brand names, including their own. I’ve seen reels, identical except for paint job and logos, with names like Alford and Daisy Heddon. They are actually pretty nice trout reels and if, like me, you get a kick out of tweaking the Anglophilia that occasionally infects American angling, it can be fun to hang one on the reel seat of a cane rod.

Pflueger Medalist: At the other end of the economic spectrum from Bogdan we have the classic Medalist. Author Henkin described it as “as American as

a Chevrolet, but better made." Despite its modest price, it was, and perhaps is, a great reel. Dating back to the 1930s, the reels, made of simple stampings, were brick-simple and anvil-rugged. They worked well, too. A Medalist is smooth, has about as pleasant an outgoing click sound as one could hope to hear and has quite a nice brake system. The originals were handsome, too, with a nice black finish accentuated by chrome pillars and ivory handles and center cap. The latest version has a rather awkward looking "rim control" spool and a grossly overstated center cap.

Precisionbilt: A Precisionbilt "Silver Moth" sat next to that H-I reel on the shelf of the antique store years ago. Only its inflated price kept me from bringing it home. These reels reflected the 1950s obsession with plastic, but in an attractive way. The reel was manufactured from aluminum, but the side plate on the handle side was clear plastic, which revealed the drag and click and pawl systems under it. It apparently did not take much to entertain us back in Eisenhower years.

Valentine: The Valentine Classic is both a multiplier and an anti-reverse reel. There are other such reels, but this is the only one I know of that accomplishes the tasks by means of a planetary gear set. In Valentine's arrangement, when a running fish takes line off the reel, the sideplate remains stationary while only the reel's handle spins. Now there's an interesting application of engineering principles!

Having again tested your patience

to extremes with my ongoing case of logorrhea, I'll conclude by quoting Forrest Gump: "And that's all I have to say about that!" Have a good summer. 🐸

By the way, for the none or one of you who may be curious about the absence of a wild-eyed rant from me in this volume of RR, the title of this essay was originally meant to appear over a column about the mental state of those of us who care about the condition of natural resources management in the Badger State six years in to the reign of terror of, in the brilliant description offered by Charles P. Pierce, "the goggle-eyed homunculus hired by Koch Industries to manage their subsidiary formerly known as the State of Wisconsin." Said homunculus hasn't had to go it alone, of course. Aided and abetted by beady-eyed lobbyists, greasy influence buyers from extraction industries and a phalanx of sycophants, fellow travelers, gerrymandering knaves, crypto-fascists, cheesehead Rasputins and jackpine Machiavellis in the state legislature, while ineffectually opposed by a timorous legislative minority, this know-nothing has wreaked havoc on the state's Department of Natural Resources, an organization that once served the nation as a model for sensible resource management. Not content to simply gut the DNR via budget cuts and yet another "reorganization," which is political-speak for eliminating staff, the legislature sent on to the governor's office reams of bad legislation on matters ranging from riparian dredging to denying local control of land use to groundwater extraction. I didn't write that column, though, out of concerns that it might offend someone.

Kiap-TU-Wish

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TIC Trout Alert: class Bully Dealt With!



The Hudson 5th graders have had to deal with a class bully. No, this bully wasn't stealing lunch money; rather, it was stealing trout for lunch. One of their trout has grown quite large in relation to his or her siblings and, as we have all witnessed on the trout stream, the "big dog" in the river usually wants nothing to do

with our #16 Parachute Adams during the day, and can only be tempted under the cover of darkness with a #4 Slump Buster. When the class arrives in the morning, this "large fish" often has the tail of one of its siblings sticking out of its mouth. For now, it has been sequestered in the egg basket, having to "sit in the corner" if you will. Hopefully stricter measures will not be called for. We would prefer to release the remaining 60 fry, rather than one large fingerling.

Both Amery programs have battled filter issues and high ammonia issues, but are holding steady with around 50-60 fry.

The Hudson release is scheduled for May 24th, with possible rain-out dates

of the 25th and 26th. The week of May 9th, they hope to have Dean Hansen and his Bugs in the Classroom visit. For the release, we would like to have some volunteers give casting lessons and possible fly tying demos at Willow River State Park. We will also need some volunteers to assist Dean. Please stay tuned for updates on the website, as we firm up dates and get more specifics on the total number of students participating. If interested in volunteering, you can email me at driftless23@gmail.com.

There may be similar volunteer opportunities in Amery; again stay tuned to the website for updates and information.

~Greg Olson



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May 4th Chapter Meeting

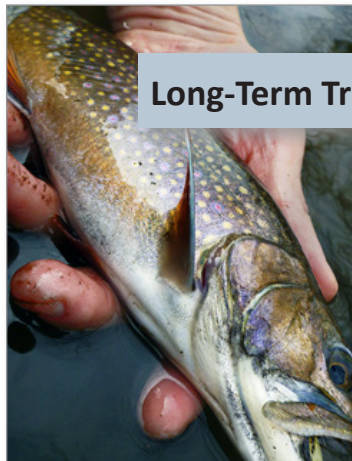
Junior's Bar & Restaurant
414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-6630
www.juniorsrf.com

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

Next RipRap deadline:

Friday, August 19

Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com



Marty Engel on May 4th

Long-Term Trends in Local Trout Populations

Marty Engel, WDNR Fisheries Biologist for Dunn, Pierce, Polk and Saint Croix counties, will be joining us on May 4th. We're fortunate to have Marty speak with us each spring; this year he'll be talking about long-term trends in our local trout populations. **Please join us!**