



## The Drift: Words from our President.

I've only been out fishing twice since I wrote last month. Other things, like work projects at home, work at work, and snowstorms in April, keep getting in the way of spending time on the stream. The only available chances to fish were both cold and rainy, which would be ideal in the middle of the summer, but kept the water temperature cold and the fish comatose in the early season. The first time out I saw only one fish (comatose, of course) and didn't catch any. The water temperature stayed stuck at 42 degrees all day. The second time out, on a different river, the water temperature was a whopping 44 degrees and we were grateful to see (and catch) three nice brookies—which still wasn't many though, especially compared to the thousands of fish that had showed up in the WDNR's fish surveys for this particular stream. At least we weren't skunked like the first day.

What we DID SEE on both days, however, was that the fine restoration work done on these streams over ten years ago by the local WDNR trout crew and Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers had held up through another season of spring flooding. An un-restored section on one of the rivers, downstream of our stream bank stabilization work, was washed out; 100 feet of 10- to 15-foot-high stream banks had eroded and were clogging the river below with sand and silt. I guess our work really does do some good. We also saw well-maintained banks, on both rivers, where the WDNR trout crew and Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers had cleared encroaching box elder and invasive buckthorn (while leaving most native species). This ongoing maintenance work helps stop the spread of invasive species and helps keep the streams challenging, yet fishable, for Kiap-TU-Wish members and non-members alike. Another good thing we've accomplished.

Unfortunately, this second good thing, ongoing maintenance work, is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. While new project work along trout streams will continue to receive some state funding through the WDNR, funding for maintenance along trout streams was severely cut and the responsibility for trout stream maintenance was transferred to another state department a couple of years ago when the WDNR was re-organized. Since that time, there has been very little trout stream maintenance done in our area of the state, unless it was initiated by Trout Unlimited chapters or other conservation groups. This means that all of the hard work we've done over the past 20 years to cut down shallow-rooted trees and brush, stabilize stream banks and provide coldwater trout habitat could be in

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



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**

Volume 12 | Issue 9  
May 2019

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**  
**Kiap-on-Tap Chapter Social**  
**6:00-8:30 PM**

Rush River Brewing Company  
990 Antler Ct, River Falls, WI 54022  
(715) 426-2054

Cover photo: Participants from last year's fly fishing clinic getting ready to test their new skills—with help from chapter volunteers. It's a darn good feeling when someone catches their first trout and falls in love with the river where those trout live. See page 3 for details about how to volunteer and mentor new fly fishers.

### DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is **Friday, August 16.**
- Send info to: [manion.maria@gmail.com](mailto:manion.maria@gmail.com)

*RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects*

vain and those areas could become overgrown and unfishable once again. Our local WDNR fisheries biologist and trout crew don't want that to happen, and we don't want that to happen either.

In order to accomplish our conservation goals in this age of increasing budget cuts and shrinking government services, citizens like us are going to have to work smarter, cooperate more with agencies and other like-minded groups, and take more responsibility for doing some things that were previously done for us by others. The Wisconsin DNR and Kiap-TU-Wish have been strong partners in the past and are committed to working even more closely together in the future. Kiap-TU-Wish members and our local fisheries and trout crew have met several times over the past year as this situation has unfolded. The solution to our maintenance issue, which we are developing, involves the WDNR and Kiap-TU-Wish putting together maintenance plans for all of our recent stream restoration sites. These plans could include periodic brushing, prairie plantings, mowing, burning and other activities that will enhance the coldwater fisheries and the riparian habitats along side them. Once these plans are assembled, we will look to the WDNR, other government agencies, other conservation groups, land trusts and, of course, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers to cooperate together in fulfilling these plans. Will this take more planning, time and effort on our part? You bet. Will we end up with more ecologically diverse, vibrant, resilient streams and riparian habitats into the future? You bet. Are the members of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited up to this new challenge? You all already know the answer to this one . . . YOU BET!

In closing, thank you for all of your donations in terms of volunteer hours spent brushing, working with the kids from our eight Trout in the Classroom sites, and advocating for conservation causes in the past year, as well as for your generosity to the Hap Lutter Memorial Spring Appeal. Please join us for our final chapter meeting of the season at a Kiap-on-Tap on May 1 from 6:00-8:30 PM at Rush River Brewing in River Falls. And one more challenge for all of us: try to take one kid, one young person, or one young adult fishing this summer. They are our future and you just might change a life. Until fall, happy fishing! — Scott Wagner

## Editor's Note (and editor needed in 2020)

Wow. Another year of chapter meetings has ended, along with another year of newsletters to highlight the great stuff Kiap-TU-Wish is doing. It's impressive; volunteer hours spent on habitat projects continues to grow, as does time spent on advocacy, monitoring, and teaching others about trout and where they live. It's also impressive that so many people have committed time to this newsletter. Thank you writers and production staff (which sounds so formal) for making our Chapter an even stronger and friendlier one. It's time for your spring/summer break and good fishing.

Which brings me to this. . .

RipRap has had many editors over the course of its life, and it's time for the next one. I've sincerely enjoyed my stint as editor, but as we're a group of

volunteers (and growing each year) it's not good for one volunteer to hog this position for too long. We've got talented and committed folks in Kiap-TU-Wish and a new editor with fresh ideas and energy would help ensure that the newsletter continues to reflect our people and all the work they do. So, if you (or someone you know) might be interested in editing our Chapter's newsletter, please contact myself (**612-325-1005; manion.maria@gmail.com**) or another board member. Or, if you're interested but unsure of what the job entails, give me a call. I'd be happy to talk. My last issue as editor will be May 2020, so we've got one more season of newsletters to sort it out.

That's a long lead time, I know, but I've intended to do a graphic refresh for the past couple of years,

## 2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Chapter Meeting/Kiap-on-Tap**  
**May 1, 2019 / 6:00-8:30PM**  
*Rush River Brewing Company*  
990 Antler Ct, River Falls, WI 54022
- **Bugs in the Classroom (BIC)**  
**See Page 7 for details**
- **TIC Trout Release Days**  
**See Page 7 for details**
- **Eco Day**  
**See Page 7 for details**
- **Rush River Cleanup**  
**May 11, 2019 / 8:30AM**  
*Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club*  
W3930 Highway 72
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**  
**Thursday, May 23/5:30 PM**  
**See page 3 for details**
- **River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic**  
**June 1, 2019 / 1-9 PM**  
**See page 3 for details**

It's not too late!  
Please donate  
to our Hap Lutter  
Memorial Spring

Appeal. Send your contribution to:  
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016-0483



and I really want to be the first to read Joseph Duncan's dispatches from the west, Jennifer Medley's Novice Angler stories, updates about our water monitoring pilot project, Jonathan Jacob's peregrinations, habitat project updates, fly recipes and countless other stuff that comes to my inbox each month. Heck, I'm even going to write an article or two myself.

One last item: Thank you for your donations to the Hap Lutter Memorial Spring Appeal. As of this newsletter, our total is between \$7,000 and \$8,000. We hope to match or exceed last year's total of just over \$12,000. If you have yet to contribute, like me, it's not too late. Send in your contribution today!

Onward Kiap-TU-Wish friends!  
Have a wonderful spring and summer.

— Maria Manion



## River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic

A couple of decades ago the Chapter was facing an uncomfortable challenge; with the completion of the WI 35 bypass around River Falls, the new four-lane highway promised Wisconsin commuters easier access to jobs in the Twin Cities. Almost immediately developers started lining up to purchase development rights on hundreds of acres surrounding River Falls and the city was expected to almost double in size.

Recognizing what might happen to the Kinnickinnic, a number of initiatives were started to combat the threat. When the farm at the Swinging Gate came on the market, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) organized enough donors to be able to outbid a prominent developer at the public auction. Kiap-TU-Wish initiated a temperature study on the Kinni to demonstrate the effect that River Falls had on the lower river. The Chapter also funded and produced a beautiful instructional video to illustrate what development would do to the river. And our Education Committee, recognizing that the Chapter had few natural allies in River Falls, decided to acquire some and the first Fly Fishing for Trout clinic was born.

It's inarguable that progress has been made over the ensuing decades. The Swinging Gate is safely in the hands of the WDNR, the KRLT continues to acquire and protect parcels throughout the watershed, the city of River Falls has decided to remove the dams on the lower Kinni...and the Fly Fishing for Trout clinic is still rolling along, making friends and allies for the Kinnickinnic River.

This year's clinic will be held on June 1 (free fishing weekend) in Glen Park. The clinic will run from 1:00 to 9:00 PM and will include instruction in casting, entomology, fishing strategies and wading safety. Plus, the Chapter provides supper and guided fishing in the evening. The cost is a mere \$20 and registration is as easy as contacting River Falls Parks and Recreation.

We have eight or nine volunteers so far. These folks will walk around and help people with casting, show them the contents of their fly boxes, help them tie a knot and mentor them during the evening's fishing. It's a good time, and if you'd like to join us, contact: [mikealwin@gmail.com](mailto:mikealwin@gmail.com) or [brian@lundsflyshop.com](mailto:brian@lundsflyshop.com).



Scenes from last year's fly fishing clinic.

**June 1** (free fishing weekend)

**Glen Park, River Falls, WI**

**1 PM -9 PM**

Supper provided

Guided fishing in the evening

\$20/Register with River Falls  
Parks and Recreation

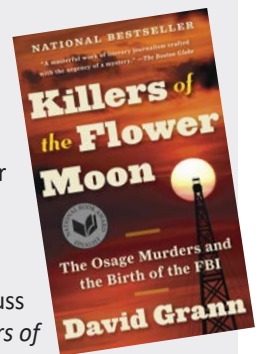
To volunteer:

[mikealwin@gmail.com](mailto:mikealwin@gmail.com) or

[brian@lundsflyshop.com](mailto:brian@lundsflyshop.com)

## Belle Rivière Book Club:

Join us streamside for our next book club meeting on May 23. We will be meeting at a residence near River Falls and carpooling to a location on the Trimbelle River to meet, eat, and discuss our next book, *Killers of the Flower Moon*.



*Here are the details:*

*Date: Thursday evening, May 23*

*Time: 5:30 PM*

*Where: Mogen Residence –  
N7243 810th Street, River Falls  
Mogen Phone Number: 651-491-5491*

*What: Meet in driveway, BYOF&B (bring your own food & blanket)*

Please come even if you have not read the book entirely or at all! There is ample opportunity to discuss things pertaining to the book, even if you have not read it.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Medley at 715.688.4010 or use the contact form on the book club blog site. Yes! There is a blog to help us stay connected. If you have questions regarding directions to our meeting location, please contact Kim Mogen at the number above.

We look forward to seeing you!

[bellerivierebookclub.wordpress.com](http://bellerivierebookclub.wordpress.com)



# A Gift from Kevin

## Our Day on a Trout Stream

by Kent Johnson



*Top: South Branch of the Root River at Forestville State Park.  
Bottom: Kevin Titusdahl and a Root River brook trout*

In the late summer of 2017, I had the privilege of spending a day on a trout stream with Kevin Titusdahl, an aspiring young fly fisher. We picked a location that I've come to cherish dearly: that being the South Branch of the Root River at Forestville State Park, in southeast Minnesota.

Although autumn was imminent, the day was sunny, warm, breezy, and humid. The clear, cold stream waters

were a welcome relief as we stepped in. Although Kevin was fly-fishing for the first time, he was already an accomplished trout angler, fishing regularly in local streams near his home town of Cannon Falls. Kevin was a natural and quickly picked up the art; however, the trout gods conspired against us throughout the day. But we waded through spring-sourced waters, looked for bugs under rocks in

the stream, and experienced sheer rock cliffs, towering white pine trees, and the Big Woods of southeast Minnesota.

Unfortunately, trout were not the story of the day, as we had both hoped. Nonetheless, this was a day that will live eternally in my memory (as well as in my fishing journal). Of course we talked about the technical details of fly-fishing: fly rods, reels, tippets, flies, insects, drag-free floats, and trout. . .but also so much more. Here was a young man who was passionate about the outdoors and the natural world that sustains us all. Kevin's optimism and exuberance provided me with renewed hope that my 40-year gift of trout and their splendid environs will be protected and enjoyed by generations to come. That's what a day of trout fishing with Kevin did for me; hopefully I gave as much to him. From my fishing journal entry: "Kevin was happy to have an opportunity to fly fish for trout and pick up some pointers. Hopefully we'll do it again under better fishing conditions." And we will. I've got a small, silver trout pinned to my fishing vest in Kevin's memory. As I fish my way along the familiar waters of September 15, 2017, Kevin's memory and spirit will accompany me.

On February 25, 2019, Kevin Titusdahl lost his battle with the disease of drug addiction, at the age of 30. Growing up in Cannon Falls, Kevin loved playing in the area's woods, fields, streams, and lakes, thereby developing a fond appreciation of the outdoors, especially trout fishing and canoeing in the BWCAW. Kevin's parents, Gary and Diane Titusdahl of Minneapolis, Minnesota, suggested that memorials to Kevin be directed to Trout Unlimited. To date, Kiap-TU-Wish has received \$620 in Kevin's name, to support our stream restoration work. Additional donations have been received by national Trout Unlimited. That seems like a fitting tribute to Kevin's love for trout. 🐟



# From the Field: winter brushing wrap-up

## Get on the list!

To be included on Randy's workday announcements, email him at [randyca999@gmail.com](mailto:randyca999@gmail.com). You'll get notices about upcoming workdays for brushing, seeding, mulching and the ever-popular electro-fishing days with the WDNR.

Another busy winter brushing season is coming to a close. While not quite as monumental as the prior season when volunteers turned out to clear trees and brush from sites on Wilson and Hay creeks in Dunn County before working the Gutting easement on the Trimbelle, we still managed to log close to 1,800 hours of volunteer time with our work at the Boyceville school campus on Tiffany Creek, on a good portion of the Von Holtum easement on Plum Creek, and with some maintenance work on the South Fork of the Kinni, the Red Cabin site, and more recently on Parker Creek. With the weather turning nice and the leaves getting ready to break out on the trees, I am just about ready to put away my chainsaws and break out my fly rod and say "enough."

Volunteer opportunities will present themselves over the remainder of the spring and summer months, and I hope that you will watch for notices and help out when the chance arrives. A few things on the docket include a re-seeding of some prairie flower plugs at the Holst Trimbelle easement; seeding/mulching opportunities at Boyceville, Wilson Creek, and Plum Creek; and possibly some re-seeding at the Gutting Trimbelle easement. There will be the always-popular opportunity to assist the WDNR with their annual stream shocking surveys which usually take place in late July or August. The possibility might also present itself for volunteers to assist with an NRCS-funded restoration on the Afdahl easement on Parker Creek — upstream from where we have done the

maintenance brushing work these past couple of weekends. The Rush River Cleanup is scheduled for May 11 this year. Volunteers are always needed for this event.

Thank you for the support which you have shown to me and to the Chapter by answering the call to lend a hand anytime that there was work to be done to improve conditions on our coldwater streams. It is a daunting task ahead of us and our work will never be complete, but I hope that you all get the same pleasure and sense of accomplishment which I feel every time I climb back in my car for the long ride home after a successful and tiring workday. Get out there now to fish and enjoy the fruits of your labors. — *Randy Arnold*



Volunteers Rowan Janquart, Amelia Janquart, Matt Janquart, and Joe Unger.

Sydney Arnold photo





Above: Joseph in Wyoming last year.  
Middle: His first trout fishing trip (spin fishing). Below: Joseph tying a fly for the first time.

## You've made a difference

*by Joseph Duncan*



As the season of monthly meetings and RipRap newsletters comes to a close, I find myself reminiscing on my last few years of involvement with Kiap-TU-Wish. Unfortunately, next year I will only be able to write periodically for RipRap rather than my current monthly schedule, but luckily it is because I will be at college in Wyoming. As I think about my time as a member of Kiap-TU-Wish, it feels like forever but it has only been five short years. It's been an incredible time as a young fly fisher being surrounded by the knowledge and experience of the anglers of our Chapter.

It all started with meeting Bob Trevis when he was tying flies at the Sportsman's Show. I had recently started tying panfish jigs and flies on my dad's Thompson Model A vise that he had from 40 plus years ago so I was very new to the fly tying scene and looking to learn whatever I could. I watched Bob tie for a long while and we talked about spots where I could try to catch my first trout and about fly fishing in general. When we were done, he gave me his business card with a note stapled to the back of it that said "Kiap-TU-wish meetings, Junior's in River

Falls" on one side, and "Pine Creek near Maiden Rock, brook trout" on the other. I still have that card pinned to my bulletin board at home today. From there I was tossed into the world of Trout Unlimited and fly fishing. I still remember my first meeting, the annual fly tying meeting, when Maria Manion was tying soft hackles and graciously let me sit and tie a "red-ass" soft hackle on her vise.

At every single meeting I went to, I was met with smiling faces and loads of information from seasoned anglers like Scott Thorpe, Bob Trevis, Scott Wagner



# Trout & Bugs in the Classroom & More

It's been a very successful year of Trout in the Classroom (TIC). We have shepherded eight classrooms (up from four last year) to the final stretch. Everyone has plenty of healthy fry and the kids are looking forward to Bugs in the Classroom (BIC) and the trout release.

## Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers for Bugs in the Classroom and the trout releases—no experience necessary and you will have fun. For BIC, you just need to assist Dean Hansen in maintaining order at the bug stations. For the trout releases, we assist the kids in collecting and identifying stream insects and we provide casting instruction. (We provide the rods, you do not have to use your own.) Of course, we release the trout at this event. The dates, times, and locations are as follows:



## Bugs in the Classroom:

- Thursday, April 25th, North Hudson Elementary 10:15 AM - 11:20 AM
- Thursday, April 25th Greenwood Elementary (River Falls) 1:00 PM - 2:10 PM
- Friday, April 26 Rocky Branch Elementary (River Falls) 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Thursday, May 2nd River Crest Elementary (Hudson): 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:25 PM - 2:25 PM, 2:25 PM - 3:45 PM.

## Trout Release

(all at Willow River State Park, except Amery is on the Clam River)  
All times from 10 AM to noon

- Friday, May 10th Rocky Branch Elementary (River Falls)
- Tuesday, May 21st River Crest Elementary (Hudson)
- Wednesday, May 29th Greenwood Elementary (River Falls)
- Thursday, May 30th Malone Elementary (Prescott)
- Friday, May 31st Amery Intermediate
- Tuesday, June 4th North Hudson Elementary

## Eco Day

- Friday, April 26th Rocky Branch Elementary (River Falls) S. Fork of the Kinni. Stream side invertebrate investigation 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Please contact Greg Olson ([driftless23@gmail.com](mailto:driftless23@gmail.com)) and/or Tom Schnadt ([thschnad@hotmail.com](mailto:thschnad@hotmail.com)) if interested and we can answer any questions, provide directions, etc.

and plenty more that were always willing to try and help a young angler be successful. I am sure I didn't absorb even half the information because I could not catch a trout to save my life!

Fortunately, I had a saving grace: Youth Camp. As many of you know, our Chapter paid for me to attend the Wisconsin TU Youth Camp (special thanks to Tom Schnadt and Scott Wagner for organizing that) where I was finally able to catch my first trout after more than a year of trying. The following year, after diving head first into fly fishing, honing my skills, and catching an absurd amount of trout, I returned the next year to guide and mentor other kids at the same camp.

At this point, I was a die-hard fly fisher and it was all because of this Chapter. Every Kiap-TU-Wish meeting I have attended, I have picked up another technique or learned of another spot. The thousands of trout

that I have caught are all thanks to the open and helpful nature of our Chapter's members. This Chapter has fueled my passion since day one and is completely responsible for the fly fisher I am today. Every month I look forward to the first Wednesday because I know that I will once again get to be with people that share the same passion as I do. Getting to learn something new or just hearing a good fishing story is what I love so much about our meetings. I am so grateful for everything that this Chapter has done in influencing my life and will miss seeing you all every month next year. To everyone that welcomed me to the Chapter when I first came, turned me on to techniques or spots, or just shared a friendly conversation with me, thank you. I hope that this shows that all of you have made a difference and I hope you all continue to help new anglers get into this incredible sport. 🐟

# ANTICS

By Jonathan Jacobs

## Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Proverbs 6:6

**O**n a Saturday in late March of this year, a half dozen truly talented fly tiers and your ten-thumbed correspondent gathered at Lund's Fly Shop for the purpose of tying dry flies to replenish the Chapter's fly repository. (It draws on this supply to furnish flies to students at the annual clinic conducted in River Falls' Glen Park, for example.) While other tiers were churning out intricate works of art such as Klinkhanson parachutes or elegant caddis patterns, I was lashing sections of foam drawer liner, straight Zelon and a couple of turns of hackle to very ordinary size 16 dry fly hooks with coarse 6/0 black thread and adding a drop of Loctite cyanoacrylate glue to secure the whole mess. In a minor variation from the original pattern, I finished by trimming the hackle flat across the bottom. Naturally, this drew the attention of my fellow tiers, but in a surprisingly — to me, anyway — positive fashion. They recognized that the pattern was quick to tie, durable, would float well and was amazingly realistic. It was developed by a fellow named Ken Walrath and is called Ken's Crazy Ant. I found out about it through Tim Flagler's video on Midcurrent.com. Mr. Flagler's videos and Midcurrent are terrific resources, by the way, and I suggest you look them up. To get you started here's a link to Mr. Flagler's instructional video on tying the ant pattern: [https://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-tie-kens-crazy-ant/?fbclid=IwAR2aJGfLv bzegZPrs6zgQapMNqTf5hdzaG2t0N-rxWCwYKxd9Yo\\_GfNcCeSY](https://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-tie-kens-crazy-ant/?fbclid=IwAR2aJGfLv bzegZPrs6zgQapMNqTf5hdzaG2t0N-rxWCwYKxd9Yo_GfNcCeSY)

(If you're overwhelmed by the prospect of accurately typing all those characters into a browser window, searching Google for "Ken's Crazy Ant" will get you there as well.)

Almost everything one reads about

fishing for trout in high summer makes mention of using fly patterns that imitate terrestrial insects. Grasshopper patterns seem to lead the list, followed by various beetle imitations with ant patterns trailing behind. I enjoy fishing all of them, particularly grasshoppers, but I sometimes wonder if I'm missing out by not moving ants to the top of the list. I'm not the first person to point out that if you go anywhere outside in the summer months and look around, you'll most likely spot an ant, or several of them, in seconds. The words

**"[Ants] are from the family Formicidae and I've read that trout particularly relish them because the fish like the taste of the formic acid present in the critters. I don't know how the authors making that claim checked in with trout to determine that, but I guess if mammals from shrews to grizzly bears consume ants greedily when given the opportunity, I'll accept that assertion about fish."**

"ubiquitous" and "omnipresent" come quickly to mind. Ants tumble into the water off streamside grasses, trees and shrubbery constantly. They are from the family Formicidae and I've read that trout particularly relish them because the fish like the taste of the formic acid present in the critters. I don't know how the authors making that claim checked in with trout to determine that, but I guess if mammals from shrews to grizzly bears consume ants greedily when given the opportunity, I'll accept that assertion about fish.

Here's a little more scientific trivia: Ants, sawflies, bees and wasps are from the order Hymenoptera, which very roughly means "membrane winged." These creatures are all anatomically

arranged with a bulbous abdomen and prominent thorax separated by a thin waist. I mention this because the profile of any effective imitation should mimic or even exaggerate that shape. This is something that Ken's Crazy Ant does very well. Also, one may want to keep in mind that "membrane wing." The Zelon wing on this pattern is stubby and serves mostly as means to locate the fly on the water, but ants sometimes make impressive mating and dispersion flights and those creatures have prominent, swept back,

glossy wings, making the Crazy Ant a somewhat universal pattern.

The excellent flotation of the pattern, along with its highly visible profile, make it a good candidate for use as the upper fly or indicator in a "dry/dropper" application. You might, for example try trailing a small, unweighted pheasant tail nymph behind the ant when blue-winged olives are emerging, or you might tie one of Ed Engle's brilliantly-designed Drowned Trico Spinners to eighteen inches of 6X fluorocarbon and trail that behind the ant during a Trico spinner fall.

I wrote of the importance of profile and of glossy wings. Here's something to think about: Anglers have been speculating on the appeal of the Royal





Ken's Crazy Ant . . .



. . . and its raw materials.



A Royal Coachman (left) and Coachman Trude (right): Bodies comprised of two prominent bumps separated by a narrow section and glossy white wing material.

Coachman dry fly and its derivatives like the Royal Trude for about a century and a half now. Take a good look at the body and wings of that fly. Sure enough, the body is comprised of two prominent bumps separated by a narrow section while the winging material is a glossy white. I once stumbled on to trout rising vigorously to bugs on the water. At thirty or forty feet the bugs looked to me like caddis flies, but the trout were utterly

uninterested in any caddis pattern I tried. I'm a slow learner, but it did occur to me to take a closer look. The bugs were winged ants. This was long before I thought about carrying ant patterns, but in rummaging through my fly boxes I found a tattered Royal Coachman that I'd likely purchased on a whim in the Black Hills. I tried it in desperation, and it caught several trout before disintegrating.

I suggest you try Ken's Crazy

Ant and some variation of the Royal Coachman this summer, perhaps after the major caddis and mayfly emergences have come and gone. It's a viable alternative to the tiresome (even to me, an unrepentant slinger of lead) business of prospecting with a weighted nymph under an indicator, a business that can be particularly frustrating in flat water – where an ant might be particularly effective. 🐛



# From the Field:

## snapshots from one day at Parker Creek

For nearly every event, there are Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers who show up to take a few photos. While the Chapter uses the photos in RipRap and social media sites, we also use them in grant applications and other materials that highlight the hours (and commitment) that volunteers spend on protecting, restoring and preserving our coldwater resources. The photos below were taken by Gary Richardson on one of the recent workdays at Parker Creek. Thank you Gary—and all Kiap photographers!



Scott Wager and Will Mahler



Randy Arnold, Ted Higman and Joe Unger



Ted Higman and Joe Unger



Sydney Arnold - keeping up with her father, Randy.



Matt and Rowan Janquart - hauling brush



Ted Higman and Joe Unger - taking a break



Jim Tatzel



Bird nest



## FLY TIER'S CORNER: Missing Link Caddis

Recipe & Photo by Brian Smolinski; Fly Tied by Ron Kuehn



**Hook:** Daiichi 1100 – Size 16

**Thread:** Uni 8/0 72D – Rusty Dun

**Rib:** 1 Strand of Pearl Krystal Flash

**Thorax:** SLF Prism Dub – Peacock

**Spent Wing:** Poly Yarn – Light Gray

**Hackle:** Dry fly hackle – Dun Gray

**Wing:** Natural Deer Hair

### Instructions

1. Start thread on the hook and wrap back just enough to secure the thread and tie in the single piece of Krystal Flash.
2. Wrap rearward to slightly down the bend of the hook, then bring the thread forward again making a even thread body.
3. Spiral wrap the flash forward forming the rib and tie it off at about a quarter of the way down the hook shank from the eye.
4. Cover the thread body with an extremely light coat of head cement.
5. Form a thorax with a small tightly dubbed sphere with the Prism Dub.
6. Take about a two-inch piece of poly yarn and separate into four clumps, using only one quarter of the thickness for one fly.
7. Tie in the yarn in front of the thorax with half of it facing rearward (to one side of the dubbing ball), and the other half facing towards the hook eye.
8. Secure the yarn tightly in front of the dubbing ball and pull the forward-facing yarn back along the other side of the thorax and secure into place.
9. Tie in the hackle on the side of the hook in front of the thorax.
10. Then tie in a clump of deer hair about a quarter of the thickness of a pencil on top of the hook shank with the butt end facing toward the hook eye.
11. Bring the thread in front of the deer hair butt ends and make a few wraps in front of the clump. Pull both ends of the deer hair up and wrap the hackle around them.
12. Make 2-3 turns with the hackle and pull up on all of the wing fibers to expose the hook eye and to make room to whip finish. Tie off and trim deer hair butt ends.

## Kiap-TU-Wish

### Board Members & Contact Info

**Randy Arnold**  
randyca999@gmail.com

**Suzanne Constantini** / Treasurer  
smcon26@gmail.com

**Loren Haas**  
loraud2@gmail.com

**Gary Horvath** / Vice President  
magshorvath@comcast.net

**John Kaplan**  
jmk8990@comcast.net

**Pete Kilibarda**  
pkilibarda@spa.edu

**Maria Manion**  
manion.maria@gmail.com

**Greg Olson**  
Greg.Olson@diasorin.com

**Perry Palin**  
perrypalin@hotmail.com

**Linda Radimecky**  
liradimecky@comcast.net

**Tom Schnadt** / Ex-Officio Board Member  
thschnad@hotmail.com

**Scott Wagner** / President  
jswagner@bremer.com

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**Diversity Liason:** Sarah Sanford  
sarahsanford@yahoo.com

**KiapTUWish.org**  
Website Administrator: Ken Hanson  
Website Design: Meyer Creative

**RipRap**  
Editors: Maria Manion & Joseph Duncan  
Printer: Bob Bradham  
Proofreaders: Bob Trevis & Judy Lutter  
Stamps/Seals/Mailing: Deb & Mike Alwin

**RipRap Contributors:**  
*Mike Alwin* is a long, long, longtime chapter member and former proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

*Joseph Duncan* was a contributing editor to RipRap this year and will be attending his first year of college in Wyoming next fall. Stay tuned next year for his dispatches from the West.

*Jonathan Jacobs* is a longtime chapter member and de facto, monthly columnist. He's also the guy who introduces everyone by name at chapter meetings. You can contact him at turiprap@hotmail.com.

*Kent Johnson* is a longtime chapter member and a water resources professional who was instrumental in establishing numerous water quality monitoring programs in Western Wisconsin.

Questions? Stop in at Lund's Fly Shop or send an email: [brian@lundsflyshop.com](mailto:brian@lundsflyshop.com)



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168  
P.O. Box 483  
Hudson, WI 54016

[www.kiaptuwish.org](http://www.kiaptuwish.org)



## Kiap-on-Tap Chapter Social | May 1, 2019

Rush River Brewing Company  
990 Antler Ct  
River Falls, WI 54022  
(715) 426-2054

Please join us on May 1 for a **Kiap-on-Tap chapter social at 6:00-8:30 PM at Rush River Brewing in River Falls**. Volunteers have been planning away and it's bound to be a great night to gather, catch-up with old friends, make new friends and enjoy the final chapter meeting of 2018-2019. Then it's time for spring and summer and making new memories to share at the next chapter meeting in September. Please join us!