



The Drift: Words from our President

Trimbelle Trudeau Project: Kudos to the great team effort to complete the Trimbelle Trudeau project. John Sours and Roger Frederick worked around heavy rains to finish the project this fall. Randy Arnold and Dan Wilcox, along with Fairmont Santrol employees and Kiap members, supported the project by seeding, mulching, building lunger structures, and installing bluebird houses. Randy plans to add a couple of bat houses in the near future. Everyone that has toured the site is impressed with the enhanced habitat including the trout that can be easily seen investigating their more trout-friendly habitat.

TU DARE Driftless Bus Tour: Duke Welter and Jeff Hastings organized a tour of habitat restoration projects in the northern section of the Driftless Region. Approximately fifty folks—Wisconsin DNR, Minnesota DNR, other public natural resource professionals along with ten TU members—participated in the October 13th tour. The tour stopped at Hay Creek, Kiap's Trimbelle project (2013-2015) and Gilbert Creek. It was a great to see the different techniques that were used to enhance stream and riparian habitat and to be able to ask professionals about the reasons and benefits associated with those techniques.



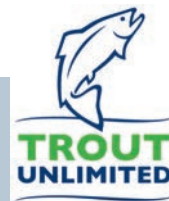
A stop at the Trimbelle on the TU DARE Driftless Bus Tour, photo courtesy of Scott Thorpe

UW River Falls Class Tour: Earlier this year Jarod Blades, professor at UWRF, asked if his introductory *Foundations of Ecological Restoration* class could tour the Trimbelle restoration site. The Trimbelle is an ideal classroom setting since it features current work plus work done in 2014 and 2013. The tour was a great success (see Rip-Rap article). I think that going forward the Trimbelle project off of Highway 65 is going to be an excellent venue for better connecting Kiap-TU-Wish with the local community, whether through educational opportunities or showcasing habitat work to local land owners.

Parker Creek: On October 12th, John Carlson and I met with John Geddes, an environmental engineer for Polk County who explained the parameters needed to do the engineering plan, preliminary cost estimate and the permitting for replacement of the Parker creek culvert with a fish-friendly structure. John Carlson and I will share our findings with the Kiap board and a decision will be made whether or not to go forward with this potential project.

{continued on page 2}

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



Volume 9 | Issue 3
NOVEMBER 2015

The November 4th meeting will be held at Junior's Bar & Restaurant in River Falls. Junior's is located inside the Best Western Hotel on the corner of Main Street and Cascade Avenue.

Join us for Dave Johnson's
Dirt Bag Tour of Patagonia!

SAVE the DATE: 
December 3
Holiday Conservation Banquet
See inside for details! 

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Amery Kiap Meeting: Thanks to John Carlson for organizing this event on October 12th, and a special thanks to Sarah Sanford for her excellent presentation on fishing for Cutthroat and Bull Trout in Alberta and British Columbia. Those are some BIG fish!

River Falls Dam Update: The City of River Falls convened a stakeholder meeting on October 7th to review the report on the sediment study conducted by their vendor Interfluve. Chapter member Dan Wilcox attended on behalf of the Chapter and reported back to the Dam Committee. A draft response is being finalized and will be submitted to the City by the October 21st deadline. In summary, the committee was comfortable with the proposed sampling plan described in the study. The next step will be a meeting between Interfluve and the WIDNR to get their input.

~Tom Schnadt



Wisconsin TU Plates! Get Yours!

License plates feature a native Wisconsin brook trout, and were designed by nationally renowned illustrator Neal Aspinall. Each plate sold provides funds back to Wisconsin TU (each year!). Order by visiting the Wisconsin DOT website: <http://wisconsindot.gov>

A Word from the editor...

Kiap's Holiday Conservation Banquet is fast approaching. Even though the actual event falls closer to Thanksgiving than Christmas, its December date propels the banquet past November's turkey and pumpkin pie right into December's cookies and mistletoe. Happily the spirit of Thanksgiving remains present at the banquet where we have a chance to recognize those who've committed so much time and energy to Kiap efforts. In fact, in the spirit of the conservation banquet, I'll kick off this season of thanks: I'm thankful for the multitude of good fishing opportunities we have, and for the volunteers who work to preserve and enhance those opportunities.

Last month I took a family vacation to Scotland. Between the days touring and hiking and looking at tartan, I managed to get in a few days of fishing. And although the experience was great, I left feeling quite fortunate for what we have here. Don't get me wrong, the fishing in Scotland was memorable—beautiful fish in beautiful places—but also challenging in that access to quality water (at an affordable price) was hard to find. I shouldn't judge an entire country's angling conditions based on my limited experience, but it did seem to me that for the average person, casting a line in that charming and sometimes wild place is tough business.

Thus my thanks. I'm thankful to be blessed with so many opportunities for good fishing. I'm thankful for organizations like Kiap-TU-Wish who work to protect and restore those opportunities, and I'm thankful for the volunteers who make it happen—whether by burning brush or presenting at meetings or tying flies or writing articles or stuffing envelopes or a multitude of other things. I'm thankful that our chapter has an annual banquet to raise funds for continued efforts and to gather in the spirit of conviviality.

Please join me and other Kiap-TU-Wish members on December 3rd at our Holiday Conservation to give thanks and have fun.

SPECIAL THANKS: Greg Meyer stepped in as RipRap editor last month. Thank you, Greg!

KIAP EMAIL LIST: Some of Kiap's email announcements are bouncing back due to incorrect/outdated email addresses. If you're no longer receiving our email notices—or never have and would like to—please send your correct email address to Randy Arnold at rarnold@augbiomed.com

UW River Falls Class Tour

On October 6th, professor Jarod Blades and fifteen students from his *Foundations of Ecological Restoration* class toured the Trimble restoration project. The mile-long project area is ideal for a class tour since three years of restoration work are adjacent to each other. Kiap's Randy Arnold rode on the bus with the students and gave them an overview of the completed work.

John Sours, habitat coordinator and fisheries biologist with the WIDNR, met the group on site explained what techniques were used to improve the stream habitat, why exploring the past history of the site was important and how the restoration work had improved the overall stream health. As the group walked toward previous years' work, they were able to see how the riparian vegetation changed as well as evidence of the prairie grasses and forbs that Kiap's Dan Wilcox and others had seeded. Kiap members Tom Henderson and Tom Schnadt accompanied the tour and helped answer the students' questions.

Jarod Blades was very pleased with the tour. "I think the Trimble tour was fantastic. The tour provided our students with a first-hand look at how a multi-year, multi-phase, successful stream and riparian restoration can be implemented by collaborative efforts, such as partnerships between TU, WIDNR, the private landowner and the sand mining company. These types of partnerships and restoration projects bring to life what we teach in the college classrooms."

As a follow up to the tour, Tom Henderson attended a post-tour lecture and provided more instruction on the scope, funding and techniques used on the project.

~Tom Schnadt

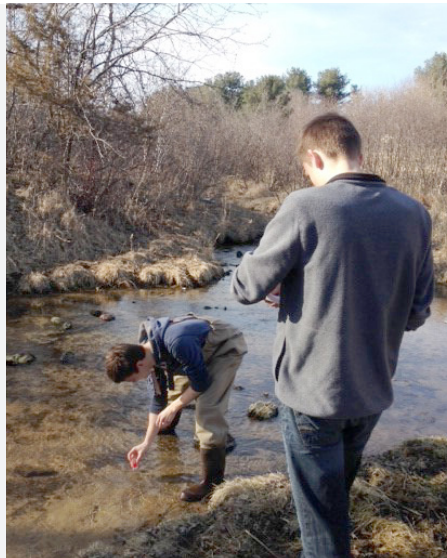
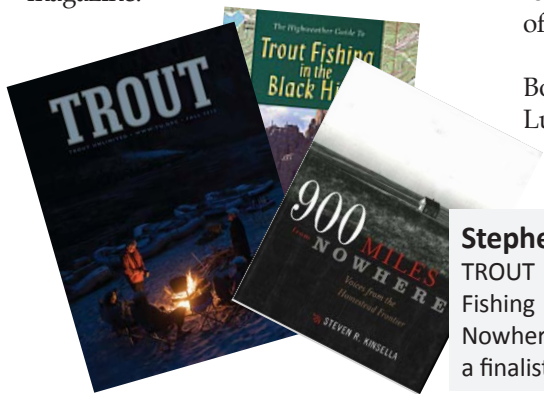


photo courtesy of Jarod Blades, UWRF

KIAP-TU-WISH BANQUET NEWS

The annual *KIAP-TU-WISH HOLIDAY CONSERVATION BANQUET* has been set for Thursday evening, December 3rd. The Banquet Committee is hard at work to provide you with an entertaining and enlightening evening of food and fun. We want you to have a great time and we're hoping you will help us in this major fundraising effort. We will have a multitude of items in our silent auction and some absolutely great items in our two-tiered bucket raffles. PLUS, starting this month we're offering a beautiful handmade cane rod built by Dave Norling in a limited raffle; only 100 tickets will be available at a paltry \$20 each. Our program for the evening will include a number of chapter awards and our presenter for the evening is Steve Kinsella, former editor of TROUT magazine.



The registration deadline is 5:00 PM on Monday, November 30. No matter which way you register, be sure to indicate your choice of entree! Register now; we'll collect your cash or check at the door. There is an ATM on the premises for your convenience.

Besides the Dave Norling rod, we still have some wonderful tackle saved from the estate of Pat Farley. In addition, we have procured a Yeti cooler courtesy of Dave Johnson, trout fly selections from Paul Johnson and Bob Torres, a gorgeous Lloyd Hautajarvi net and a guided fishing trip from Hayward Fly Fishing. But, we are eagerly anticipating your donations to the silent auction. Your gently used tackle, revered book, contemplative art work, grandfather clock or other treasure can be repurposed for the good of the Chapter, for the good of the Trout.

These items can be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo or Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls.

~Mike Alwin

Stephen Kinsella is former editor of TU's TROUT magazine. He's also author of *Trout Fishing in the Black Hills* and *900 Miles from Nowhere: Voices from the Homestead Frontier*, a finalist for the Great Plains Book Award.

Dave Norling Fine Cane Rods

Dave has been making cane rods out of his Northeast Minneapolis home for more than 15 years. They are beautiful. They are meticulously constructed. They are loved. Says Dave:

"Bamboo is slow and it asks something of its builder or fisher. Making a rod well takes time and effort. Casting bamboo is slower than other materials—one must learn to give up control to the rod before it becomes effortless. A good cane rod responds without you having to think about it—to try and over-control it. You intuitively, by casting a few times, learn what the rod wants and you give it to the rod. When you are casting a fly rod and you strip off a few more feet of line your response to the action of the rod must change. Timing is different and I like to say you have a different rod every time you lengthen or shorten your line. Picking up that special rod and casting with it, and you know right away that something unique is happening."



photo courtesy of Dave Norling

WHEN

December 3, 2015



WHERE

Lake Elmo Inn Event Center
3712 Layton Avenue, Lake Elmo

TIME

5:30 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner and Program
8:15-8:40 Steve Kinsella
9:15 Final Bidding and Close



MENU

- Fall Festival Salad: mesclun greens, apple, bacon, celery, bleu cheese, sugared walnuts, maple vinaigrette
- Entree choices: top sirloin with sautéed mushrooms; salmon ravigote topped with fresh herbs and shallots; or butternut squash ravioli sauced with brown butter, sage and Parmesan
- Accompaniments: fresh vegetable medley, roasted fingerling potatoes, dinner rolls

PRICE

\$49 per person

REGISTER by NOVEMBER 30

Call Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop at
651.770.5854

or

Register on-line at
<https://2015kiaptuwish.splashthat.com/>

NORLING ROD RAFFLE TICKETS

Available now! Tickets (cash or check only) can be purchased via:

- Lunds Fly Shop in River Falls
- Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo
- Tom Schnadt:
thschnad@hotmail.com
- Allison Jacobs:
allisonmjacobs@hotmail.com
- Mike Alwin:
mikealwin@gmail.com

Tickets will also be available at Kiap's November 4th chapter meeting.



Out West

With apologies in advance to the memory of Bobby Troup:

**If you ever plan to motor west,
Travel my way, take the highway that is best.
Find trout streams by the score west of route ninety four.**

When I was a lad reading my Uncle Leonard's collection of outdoor magazines, I developed the impression that real trout fishing in the United States was done in the Rocky Mountain West. Fortunately, I discovered many years later that the Midwest provides truly excellent trout fishing, too. Yet, there remains a romance about the idea of fishing "out west" that's difficult to deny. Brilliant blue skies, towering mountain peaks, icy cold and pellucid waters, brawling rivers plunging down mountainsides and the possibility of large and exotic trout all combine to create the feeling that one ought to get out there. If you feel that way, too, but have not yet acted on the impulse to motor west, here's my advice: Yield to it and the sooner the better!

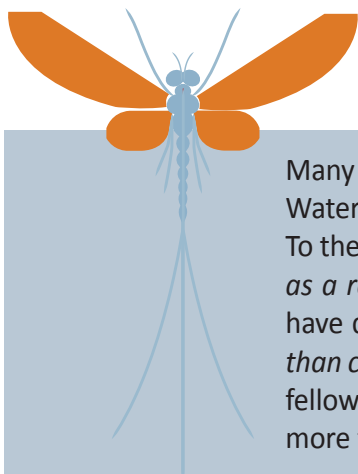
I am prompted to say this now because of the reports I received from my friend John, who recently returned from his second trip of the year to, in author Thomas McGuane's phrase, "the great trout theme park in the headwaters of the Missouri." John was effusive in his praise of the trips, having had great experiences

and great fishing on both. The interesting thing here is that while John has amassed a fair amount of experience locally and is a guy who really knows his way around in the outdoors, his trips this summer and fall were the first times he had ever fly fished outside the Midwest. Further, by consulting friends, web sites, fly shops and a little annual guidebook published by Outside Bozeman, John did this without the benefit of professional guiding services [Not that there's anything wrong with being guided. The best guides are absolute experts at what they do and are typically fine teachers, too. In fact, even if you're an avid do-it-yourself type, I'd suggest at least a day with a guide as a wonderful part of the western experience.]

By way of full disclosure, my own experience in Montana is neither as broad nor as deep as I would like. I can tell you that in 1983 while on a trip to Yellowstone National Park with non-angling friends, I did slip off one afternoon to fish the Firehole River. To this day I can recall vividly how a little rainbow rose through a good four feet of crystal-clear water

to take my parachute Adams. With that burned in my memory, I knew I would return. It took too long, but for four years running, ending in 2013, I did manage to spend a full week every spring fishing the Big Horn River, an incredibly productive tailwater fishery southeast of Billings. That stretch of the river flows through high, rolling plains and while the scenery has a distinct beauty; it is not a mountain stream. However, one of those trips included a secondary trip to the Madison River where I had the pleasure of rowing my drift boat and catching brown trout while floating in view of the Madison Range. In 2012 my friend Paul quite literally made me an offer I couldn't refuse, stuffed me into his Jeep and carted me along on a trip around Labor Day of that year. On that peripatetic journey we fished the Gallatin, the Taylor Fork and the Missouri downstream of the Holter dam. Best of all, I had the opportunity on the Yellowstone, perhaps the most mythical of all the western rivers, to row Paul's elegant, Cajune Boatbuilding drift boat, which had been handcrafted mere miles away.

{continued on page 6}



KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part III

Exploring Niches

{Words} Mike Alwin

Many years ago an overly enthusiastic angler was extolling the virtues of the Kinni to Tom Waters, a professor of entomology in the Fisheries Department at the University of Minnesota. To the hyperbole regarding this river, Dr. Waters said, *"Hmmm. I've always thought of the Kinni as a relatively sterile stream."* The jaw of the coarse fellow blathering about the Kinni must have dropped, because Dr. Waters, ever the gentleman, said, *"You know Mike, it takes more than cold water to make a trout stream."* It can now be revealed, Dear Readers, that the coarse fellow awash in hyperbole, that fellow was me. And of course, Prof. Waters was correct, it takes more than cold water to make a trout stream.

Besides cold water and sunlight, a good trout stream must have a few other additions which flow to the water from the land. Of course, the water must be relatively unpolluted and relatively high in oxygen. But beyond that, there must be a mineral component and an organic component. In most cases the mineral content comes from limestone, a porous bedrock through which surface water can flow, cool, and leach calcium carbonate into the water. These dissolved minerals make the water harder and less acidic, producing a better medium for aquatic vegetation to root and grow. The organic component comes from the fall leaves, dead grasses, branches and trees, plus the occasional cow pie, that collect in the stream and are contributed by the watershed. These materials provide places for aquatic invertebrates to colonize and graze upon. Materials in

this category are called coarse organic particulate matter and when grazed by invertebrates become a mixture of smaller pieces of organic matter and invertebrate excrement called fine organic particulate matter. And you didn't think this would be fun?

In the previous articles we've explored your powers of observation and the stream morphology and riparian habitat. And why should you care? Because all aquatic invertebrates are niche occupiers and your observations about the stream, the stream bank and the watershed are your very first clues as to what you could expect. Aquatic entomologists generally lump mayflies, as just one example and the only insects we'll be examining, into four groups: swimmers, burrowers, clingers and crawlers.

Your first step into the stream should

tell you a few things. A sand bottom, or substrate, is a sterile medium. You might find a few invertebrates along the edges, but in a sand bottom there's no place for a clinger to cling, no place for a burrower to burrow, no place for a crawler to hide and no reason for a swimmer to hang around. Most trout food is produced in the riffles. Here in these erosional zones you will find clingers underneath cobble sized rocks, crawlers sprawled on the edges of these same rocks and swimmers darting around in the crevices and on the edges of aquatic vegetation. You will not find burrowers in the riffles. You'll have to look for them in the silty edges of the depositional zones.

Mike Alwin is the former proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. He knows a thing or two.

From the Field: an update from Kiap's habitat volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold

TRIMBELLE: This year's work on the Trimbelle is complete. Approximately 150 feet of stream at the lower end of the project did not get restored due to time constraints. John Sours (WIDNR) had also hoped to deal with the dry run above County Road W, the source of a lot of sand which washes into the river just above the project site whenever there is a heavy rain event. John is hoping that the county soil and water conservation folks will undertake that project.

Dan Wilcox and I put out bluebird houses on the new Trimbelle site. I also built three bat houses to erect along the restored reach, and Fairmount graciously provided us with some poles to mount them on. The houses will be installed either this fall or next spring, time and conditions permitting.

NEXT PROJECT: Kiap's long range planning committee and board are evaluating future project sites. Hopefully a site(s) can be chosen in the coming month where we would be able to do brushing and tree removal work this winter and next spring.

YEAR END: As a part of our year end audit and report to TU national, I set about tallying up the hours which volunteers spent on habitat work this past year. 1350 hours! (most of it spent at the Red Cabin site).



CASTING TIPS: SINGLE HAUL / WATER LOAD CAST

{Words} Margaret LeBien

A water-loaded single haul is a key cast for fly fishing narrow trout streams without room for a back cast.

Essentially, it's a flip of the rod tip from downstream to upstream but with a linehand tug, at a sidearm angle. I use this cast all the time. It's perfect for nymphers who are slinging weighted flies and/or split shot, for beginners who aren't comfortable casting in tight quarters and for inveterate false casters who in their to-and-fro joy forget that less false casting equals fewer tangles and more fishing. (Duh—forehead head slap).

Because the first cast is usually the money cast, a water-loaded single haul allows you to present your fly to spooky fish with one cast using the "stick" of water surface tension on the line to load the rod. The most important thing to remember about this cast, like most

casts, is not to rush it. Take your time and set it up by roll casting or swinging your fly line directly downstream of you so it's hanging straight with no slack. Feed out more line or strip in some line to measure the correct amount of line to reach your intended target upstream. (Please, please, don't make this cast with more than the head length of the line out. If your target is finning more than 30 feet above you, change your position.) Once the line is straight and hanging directly below you, drop your rod tip right down to the water.

Timing is everything. Lift the rod smoothly at a side arm angle, and just as the line-leader junction leaves the water, simultaneously tug

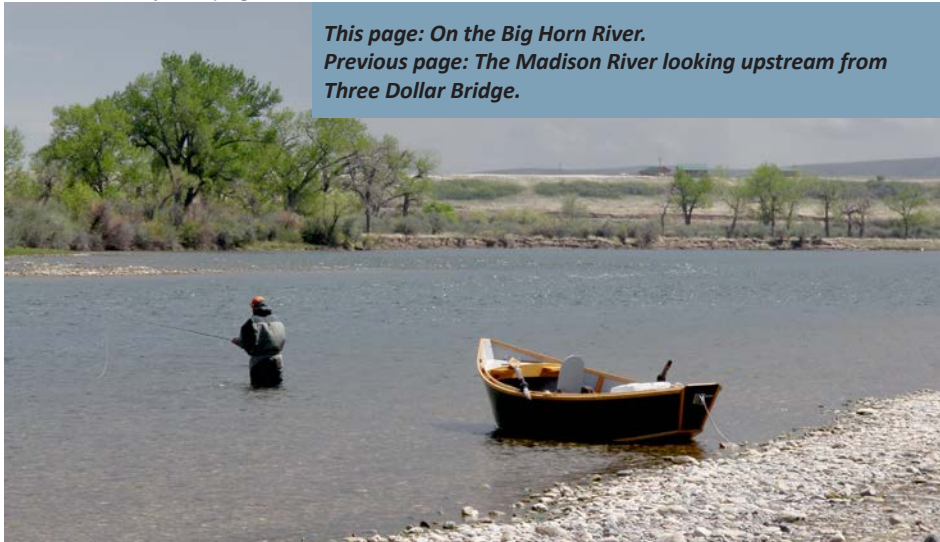
about six inches of line along the length of the rod with your line hand. (This is the single haul part of the cast.) Accelerate through the rest of the casting stroke, point the rod tip directly at where you want the fly to land and quickly stop. Fish it out and repeat.

The other thing to pay attention to is the path of your rod tip. Particularly when you're trying to present your fly under tree limbs with a single haul/water load, you absolutely have to keep the rod trip traveling low and sideways, not traveling up at an "up" angle—unless you don't mind ending up in the trees and bushes.

Lift, tug, stop. That's it.

Good luck!

{Out West. . . from page 4}



This page: On the Big Horn River.
Previous page: The Madison River looking upstream from Three Dollar Bridge.

Dan Bailey once said, regarding southwest Montana trout fishing opportunities, "If it had water in it last year and it has water in it this year, it has trout in it." That's a simplification, of course, but it makes the point that accessible trout water is so common that even an extensive list is going to have enormous holes in it. Following are brief comments about just a few of the "must see" ones.

Big Horn River: As I said earlier, it's incredibly productive. If you can catch trout on the Kinnickinnic or Rush, you can catch them here, even though it has a reputation as a "technical" fishery. At average flows wade fishing is practical,

although a boat will extend your range enormously. There is an extensive trout fishing infrastructure there and, wonderfully, it can be reached easily in one longish day of driving.

Missouri River: Located north of Helena, this is a tailwater fishery like the Big Horn. It's in a mountain setting and is more scenic. On the downside, it would take a Herculean effort to get there in a single day's driving.

Yellowstone River: It's a huge freestone river, the longest undammed river in the United States. It's a famous cutthroat stream in Yellowstone Park and has a mixture of trout species further downstream. It's known for producing

some big, big brown trout in the lower portions of its coldwater stretch.

Madison River: A river with many different faces. It's a meadow stream in Yellowstone Park, but also has a stretch sometimes referred to as "the fifty mile long riffle." There's not a river that looks more stereotypically western than this one.

Gallatin River: Another river that headwaters in Yellowstone National Park as a meadow stream, it flows northward through a beautiful canyon before spilling out on to the plains, where it eventually joins the Jefferson and the Madison at Three Forks to form the Missouri River.

Firehole River: Ernest Schwiebert christened this Yellowstone National Park river "the strangest trout stream on earth" in part because of the enormous amount of geothermal activity to be found along its banks. If you can distract yourself from your fishing, you can look to see bison standing in the mist generated by erupting geysers.

That's a mere half dozen to get you started. You also have Rock Creek, the Boulder River, the Musselshell, the Dearborn, the Gardner, the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone and countless other rivers to research. And then you can get started on all the little mountain creeks in the National Forests. Better get cracking!



FLY TIER'S CORNER: Frenchie



Fly Recipe

Hook :: Daiichi 1560 #14 Nymph Hook
Thread :: UTC 70 Denier – Fluorescent Hot Pink
Head :: 7/64" Brass Bead – Gold
Weight :: Lead Wire .025"
Thorax :: UV Ice Dub - Pink
Body :: Pheasant Tail Fibers
Rib :: Brassie Ultra Wire – Red
Tail :: Grizzly Saddle Hackle Fibers

Instructions

- [1] Start with four turns of the lead wire on the shank of the hook and push them up, into the back cavity of the bead.
- [2] Cover the hook shank and lead with thread wraps and tie in a clump of grizzly hackle fibers.
- [3] With the fibers loose, pull butt ends to adjust length of tail to about the same length as the body of the fly.
- [4] Tighten down thread and trim excess hackle fibers. Then tie in the rib wire and five or six pheasant tail fibers.
- [5] Make a couple twists in the pheasant tail fibers and begin wrapping forward, adding a twist after each wrap.
- [6] Wrap wire rib over the pheasant tail body and also secure wire behind the bead.
- [7] Dub the thorax with the Ice Dub (I always mix in a little natural rabbit hair to help it dub better).
- [8] Finish fly by whip finishing a hot spot collar between the bead and the thorax. Keep adding turns of your whip finish to build up enough of a thread hot spot.

Notes

This fly was created by Lance Egan and is a well known heavy nymph, especially in the Euro nymphing crowds. We've have been meaning to add it to the shop for some time, but just never got around to it until now. Our Lund's Pink Squirrel is a fair substitute, but this pattern specifically possesses the magic fish-catching abilities of both the pink squirrel and the pheasant tail nymph. A deadly combo!

Fly Tied By: Ron Kuehn

Questions? Stop in at Lund's and ask Brian in person, or send him an email at brian@lundsflyshop.com

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Next RipRap deadline: Friday, November 13

If you have a good story to tell, or an idea for an article you'd like to see in RipRap, please shoot me an email:

manion.maria@gmail.com

Thanks much!



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

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news . . .

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&
Facebook



Like us!

DON'T MISS the
November 4th MEETING at

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

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



Jane Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 5401

Dirt Bag Tour of Patagonia with Dave Johnson

November 4th. Don't miss it.

Dave is from Michigan's Upper Peninsula and began fly fishing at 11 years old after watching a fly tying demonstration at his Boy Scout troop meeting.

“ I have had the wonderful opportunity to fish all over the Midwest and the American west and have owned a drift boat stored on the Bighorn River for more than 15 years. I have also been able to fish New Zealand briefly and made a number of trips to Argentine Patagonia as well. Current plans are for a return trip in March 2016. I live in River Falls with the love of my life, Laurie Valento, and her son Sammy. ”