



The Drift: Words from our President.

The light rain continued but the temperature rose from 34 to 35 degrees on the long drive out to Snowy Creek. "A definite warming trend!" I tried to tell myself. It was the last day of the inland trout season and I had wanted to go to Snowy Creek all year. This was my last chance. As I pulled up to the empty DNR access, I noticed everything was wet. The corn was wet. The woods were wet. The dead, seeded-out goldenrod I was going to walk through was really wet. But this was the last time I could try to catch one of the monsters that were supposed to lurk there, so I took one last sip of coffee, put on a raincoat and waders and walked down to the stream.

The fallen leaves were silent under my boots. The woods were quiet. The only sound was the wet goldenrod brushing against my raincoat. When I got to the stream though, another sound joined in—the sound of ice flakes hitting my raincoat. "I should go back to the car. I'm going to get wet and freeze." "But this is your last chance and you're already suited up!" "OK, I'll give it 30 minutes, or one misstep on a slippery rock."

As I waded into Snowy Creek, I started to hear other noises. A blue jay called in the distance. A cow made a cow noise from a nearby farm. A woodpecker pecked

on a nearby tree. I heard little, barely audible call notes from a flock of small birds upstream. As I got closer, I realized they were yellow-rumped warblers, absent their spring breeding colors, flitting back and forth across the water. Were they eating something?



They were. They were eating bugs. There was a hatch going on in the middle of a snowstorm! There were even trout rising a bit farther upstream, and some of them were good-sized trout! But what were they eating? I got closer and closer to the

{continued on page 2}

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



Volume 12 | Issue 3
November 2018

Please join us at our chapter meeting on November 7th. The theme of the meeting is women and youth in fly fishing. We'll have representatives from various groups on hand to talk about their organizations. Stop by and see what's happening.

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

The photo above was taken on a late afternoon in August. Can you find the angler in there?

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, November 16.
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

{The Drift... from page 1}

bubble line trying to figure out what was causing this feathery and fishy feast. After watching bug-less water for over ten minutes, I finally spotted them. They were tiny, almost microscopic blue-winged olives, certainly smaller than anything in my fly box. I didn't know they even made them that small!

I tried fishing the smallest BWO in my fly box and got three refusals and no takers before all the trout in the pool went on strike. Undaunted, I went to the next pool where I caught the streamside grasses twice and a branch once. Again, I got three refusals and no takers before this second group of trout went on strike. In the third pool, I only had two refusals because on my third back cast, my fly got caught overhead in a tree. After breaking my line and rebuilding my leader, all I could do was sit back and take in the beauty of the scene that surrounded me. The snow continued falling on the

dark stream and surrounding woods. The little flock of warblers continued to flit across the stream, making their call notes and eating bugs. The group of trout in front of me voted against going on strike and kept on feeding. It was then I realized the truth of what Jon Jacobs had written in this newsletter a couple of months ago: wilderness is where you find it.

Finding and preserving coldwater wilderness is what Trout Unlimited is all about. This wilderness can be found in the middle of a busy city where a coldwater stream is shielded by only a row of trees and scraggly bushes, or it can be found out at Snowy Creek where it is surrounded by the lonely farms preparing for the winter. As members of Trout Unlimited, we should feel encouraged by the successes we've had in finding, preserving and protecting these coldwater jewels in our fast-paced, ever-changing world. I believe we should also work toward introduc-

ing more people of all ages—in particular young people—and walks of life to these wild places.

Your fellow Kiap-TU-Wish chapter members have donated thousands of volunteer hours and tens of thousands of dollars to working on habitat improvement projects and mentoring Trout-in-the-Classroom students in the past year. You should be proud of that. We need your continued volunteer and funding generosity to keep preserving our wild places and introducing them to others. If you haven't volunteered or donated in the past, please consider (1) coming to our annual banquet this year on December 6th, or (2) participating in a habitat workday over the winter, or (3) volunteering to help with our seven Trout-in-the-Classroom projects at area schools. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help. Thank you for all you've done in the past year. Truly, we have a lot to celebrate.

— Scott Wagner

Below, Bill Hinton uses one of these rods to teach a young adult how to fly cast.



Thank you L.L. Bean

For more than 20 years, L.L. Bean has been donating fly rods and reels to Trout Unlimited Chapters; Kiap-TU-Wish has been the recipient of fifteen rods. The chapter uses these rods for our youth outreach programs (such as the Pheasants Forever Youth Day), for the River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic, and for other events where other groups are being introduced to fly fishing.

Based in Maine, L.L. Bean is a strong global supporter of conservation and has contributed over \$10 million to help promote environmental stewardship and access to outdoor recreational opportunities.

TIC UPDATE: Kiap-TU-Wish was awarded \$1000 from the C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund. The money will support one of our new TIC programs this year. Thanks to Perry Palin for writing the grant proposal!

Belle Rivière Book Club

The first of four gatherings of the Belle Rivière Book Club will be held on November 14th, 7pm, at Urban & Olive in Hudson. The group will be discussing *Uncommon Waters: Women Write About Fishing*, Holly Morris (ed.). If you have questions, contact Jennifer Medley at jennifer@turningleafstudio.com.



FROM THE FIELD: Habitat update from Randy Arnold

Following last winter's intense brushing, bank work was completed at the Trimbelle's Gutting easement and Hay Creek just outside of Knapp. I encourage you to visit the sites and see the transformation from box elder jungles to inviting trout habitat. As I write, Nate Anderson with the WDNR is wrapping up work at Wilson Creek where we also removed trees last winter.

In preparation for future work, a Kiap-TU-Wish habitat planning team has been established. The team will tour potential habitat restoration and maintenance sites. One of the potential sites is the Von Holtum easement on Plum Creek, about three miles downstream from Plum City. This easement has excellent water quality and thermal regime but very poor habitat conditions. The landowner has provided straw to the WDNR to mulch most of our past project sites and is anxious to have work done on the stream corridor which he owns. The biggest challenge is to find and secure funding for the work.

The habitat planing team will also tour sites which are in need of maintenance, easements on the Kinni where habitat work has not been done in the past, and sites overgrown and unfishable. If you know of a particular site that needs maintenance, please contact me or another Kiap-TU-Wish board member.

Next summer, the WDNR will be doing restoration work on Tiffany Creek that flows through the Boyceville school grounds. While this is outside of our chapter area, we have been asked by the WDNR to help remove trees this winter to ready the site for restoration.

I fully expect to be scheduling weekend workdays by the time the snow starts to fall. There were over 170 different individuals who showed up for at least one workday last winter. I hope that we can surpass that this year. What is keeping you glued to your sofa?

Editor's Note

Though Wisconsin trout fishing season has recently come to a close, there is still something for you to do to avoid that dreaded cabin fever: scouting.

For most of us, the next two months will not bring any trout to hand and we will be left tying flies inside, thinking back to the great times we've had on the stream. While tying flies is quite enjoyable, it still contributes to cabin fever because all you can do is dream and not actually experience the outdoors. To break the monotony of the winter tying season, try taking a day to drive around and find some new streams.

Before you actually head out to the stream to scout though, it's important to plan out the day and do some research. First, I like to use a gazetteer to mark bridges and places the river or creek runs close to the road. Then I break out the technology. I typically use my phone for apps like Google Maps to utilize satellite and identify runs, riffles, and pools and determine if smaller streams are overgrown or not. If I determine they look "fishy," I put them on the list and

check them out. Also, if I decide the best water is not near a bridge or easement, I use landowner maps on my phone to figure out who to talk to in order to gain access.

One major benefit of scouting during the "offseason" when you can't fish is that you expand your options for the coming season. If someone is in your primary spot, you have multiple options to fall back on. Also, if you scout now, you don't have to take the time to drive around during the time you can fish. It's never fun to plan a day around fishing some new water but when you get there it's overgrown or full of sand, so it's better to identify good and bad water during the next few months. Also, consider bringing a fishing buddy along to keep you company and talk about plans for the upcoming season so the scouting can be fun and beneficial. Lastly, while driving around in the middle of nowhere, you might even stumble upon a great small town cafe.

Good luck scouting!

— Joseph Duncan

2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Chapter Meeting**
November 7, 2018 / 7pm
Fly Fishing Opportunities for Women & Young Adults
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**
November 14, 2018 / 7pm
Urban & Olive
520 2nd St #1512, Hudson, WI
- **Holiday Conservation Banquet**
December 6, 2018
Lake Elmo Event Center, Lake Elmo, MN
- **Chapter Meeting**
January 9, 2019 / 7pm
Local Fly Fishing Guide: Details TBA
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**
January 2019 / Details TBA
- **Chapter Meeting**
February 6, 2019 / 7pm
TU Youth Camp Presentations
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
March 6, 2019 / 7pm
WDNR Projects & Fish Survey Results
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**
March 2019 / Details TBA
- **Chapter Meeting**
April 3, 2019 / 7pm
Annual Fly Tying Night
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**
May 1, 2019 / 7pm
Chapter Social & Trip Planning Night
Details TBA
- **Belle Rivière Book Club**
May 2019 / Details TBA

NEED TECH SUPPORT?

Want to see those big fish photos on Instagram or Facebook but can't sort it out? Want to learn how you can use apps to help scout fishing spots? Bring your phone or tablet to the chapter meeting and tech savvy folks will help. Be sure to know your passwords—such as the Apple ID passwords for iPhone users.

Bob, bob, bobbin' along By Jonathan Jacobs

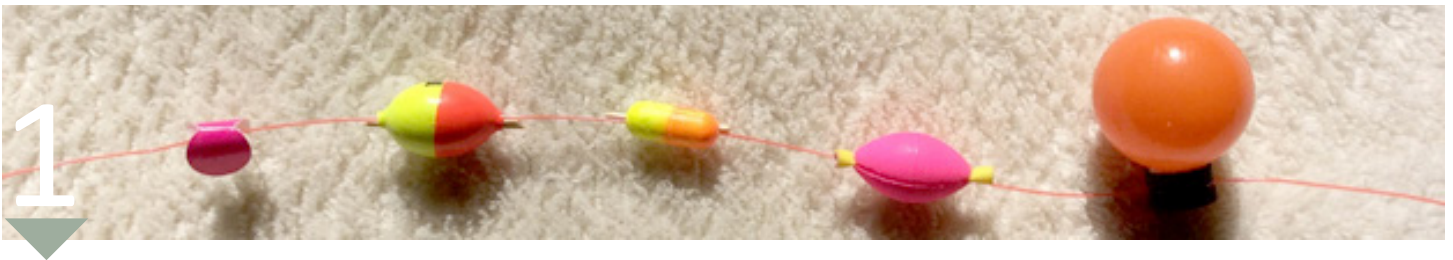
1982: Gary Borger and George Anderson publish the article “Strike Indicators,” in the April 1982 issue of *Fly Fisherman*. Howls rise from traditionalists about what is, and is not, “proper fly fishing.” The rest of us suddenly begin catching a lot more trout. — from an article by Ted Leeson in a recent *Fly Fisherman* magazine on significant developments in fly fishing in the last fifty years.

Count your faithful correspondent among “the rest of us.” I took up fly fishing for trout one year before the referenced article and, like most beginners, I struggled. I didn’t learn about indicators [And let me stake out some territory right now: I have no use for the argument that we say “indicator” to avoid the use of “bobber” and that word’s baitfishing connotations. A true bobber controls depth of float while most indicators are set up in a way that has little effect on the depth at which the fly runs. Also, I spent my formative years marveling at the mystery of some unseen animal source connecting to me via a bobber.] until I began hanging out with my friends Andy Lamberson and Craig Mason, who were, in the modern parlance, early adopters of indicator technology. Lucky me, both for the friendship of these boon companions and for what they taught me. One evening Andy took me out to the Race

Branch of the Willow. He attached a piece of fluorescent-coated foam tape from a company named Palsa to the upper section of my leader, which had a weighted nymph on the tippet, and had me toss the setup up into the current. As the rig proceeded downstream, Andy would say, “I’d hit that” whenever there was any hesitation in the descent of the indicator toward us. I was gobsmacked, as these hesitations were mostly imperceptible to me. Eventually, I picked up on it, though, and was gobsmacked again when I had a trout on the end of the line. Craig, one of the most analytical anglers I’ve ever known, used as an indicator a “corky,” a small brightly colored sphere with a hole in its center that was originally developed to suspend bait off the bottom when used in some fishing method that I don’t understand. He threaded it onto the leader and fixed them in position with a small segment

of a toothpick. Craig pointed out that a sphere had the least surface area for any given volume, which translated into good flotation and ease of casting.

Both the corkys and the Palsa indicators are still on the market, but a plethora of other options have become available over the years. There are two basic types. In one instance the leader passes through the indicator and in the other the leader loops onto the indicator. Advantages and disadvantages accrue to both types. The loop-on style indicators are easy and quick to install and adjust easily, but often put a nasty kink in the leader. They may cast awkwardly, too, due to poor aerodynamics and a hinging effect on the leader. The “pass-through” styles don’t kink the leader, but may be awkward to install or remove, particularly if you use knotted leaders. Pictured are several styles of each with brief comments about them.



Above, from left: A Palsa foam indicator. Palsas are easy to use but may lose their grip on the leader. They are strictly a one-use item and appear to have about the same half-life as Carbon 14 when discarded at streamside. Next is a Thill Ice n’ Fly. It’s durable, casts decently, offers good flotation and the contrasting paint scheme is easy to track on the water. There is no slot in it, so installing it or removing it can entail some effort. In the center is my personal favorite, adapted from a Lindy Rig component. I buy a pack of these for next to nothing at the local “Man’s Mall,” saw a slot down the length with an X-Acto saw and pin it to the leader with piece of flat toothpick. They’re easy to install, adjust or remove, hit the water quietly and cast well. Durability is so-so, but, again, they’re cheap. The fluorescent raspberry “football” next to it has a length of stretch tubing through its center. The tubing grips the leader and holds the indicator in place via a friction fit – theoretically. I’ve seen several of them fly off in vigorous casting. On the far right is an Air-Lock strike indicator. This is an offshoot of the nearly ubiquitous Thingamabobber. It has a slot in a threaded extension through which the leader passes. A small plastic nut threads down atop the assembly to hold the indicator in position. This indicator offers tremendous flotation and doesn’t kink the leader, but the slot is narrow and it’s easy to drop and lose the plastic nut in the heat of battle.

2



To the left are “loop-on” style indicators. At the far left is a New Zealand Strike Indicator. A small piece of wool is affixed to the leader in a loop retained by a short section of vinyl tubing. I’ve just begun to use these and am much impressed by them, primarily because they cast superbly and land more quietly than any other indicator I’ve tried. They also kink the leader less than one might imagine. An explanatory video that’s also fun to watch is available at this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuMkTyGfyHU>.

Moving right, the next two indicators are variations on a theme. The big yellow fuzzball is synthetic yarn while the miniature whiskbroom is comprised of foam strips. In practice the yarn is treated with floatant, while the foam floats unaided. They land quietly but present considerable air resistance while casting. Next, we have the classic Thingamabobber. They are available in several diameters and colors, have incredible buoyancy, are easily adjustable but stay put decently and are durable. They are an excellent choice when flinging heavy nymphs and split shot, but don’t hit the water with any particular grace. On the far right is a Bentley’s Ball. It’s a hard foam indicator that offers typically good flotation. It attaches to the leader via a double length of rubber band that drawn up into the indicator. I believe these are available from chapter friend Andy Roth at Gray Goat Fly Fishing.



We come now to two highly specialized indicators. On the left is a length of Kahuna LT indicator material from Rio Products. It’s a specialized kind of level floating flyline with extra flotation built in. It’s sold in lengths of approximately two feet. To use it, one applies one’s thumbnail and forefinger vigorously to the material to pull a length of it off its core. It’s then a matter of sliding it on to the tippet. On the right is a ball formed from strike putty. (The material pictured is from Orvis and is no longer available, but Loon Outdoors markets a functionally identical product under the trade name Biostrike.) The salient feature of both materials is the delicacy with which they land on the water. This can be critical in specific situations. My friend Craig was masterful at recognizing when fish rising in thin, flat water weren’t taking naturals on the surface as it appeared, but instead taking, say, emergent blue-winged olive nymphs from just under it. He’d rig a small unweighted soft hackle nymph on a light tippet and put just the smallest dab of strike putty about eighteen to twenty-four inches above the nymph. It was amazing to see how well this worked.

You may have noticed that the monofilament in the photos is fluorescent red. It’s Sunset Amnesia and it’s also available in fluorescent yellow. My friend Larry builds his nymphing leaders out of these materials, using the contrasting colors in the first two sections. The blood knot joining the two sections serves as his strike indicator.

Because there are endless variations on the theme, not pictured here are dry/dropper combinations. These most often involve some sort of highly buoyant dry fly, such as a Humpy, foam beetle or grasshopper with a length of tippet tied off the bend to which is attached a nymph. This setup is wildly popular in the mountain West and can be adapted to use on our local

waters, but it’s not for deep nymphing.

I mounted a defense of strike indicators in my opening paragraph, but while researching for this article I found an indecency that’s beyond the pale for even an angling reprobate like me. That abomination would be a fly called Griffin’s Stimicator, which is an ordinary stonefly imitation with an orange foam ball mounted at the

head of the hook, making it sort of a Rudolph the Rednosed Stimulator. It’s not for the genteel angler, to be certain.



Author’s note: I thank my main man Paul Wiemerslage, a world-class angling appurtenance junkie, for the loan of several of the artifacts pictured here.

Holiday Conservation Banquet Surprises!

SURPRISE #1: Due to an exhaustive scientific marketing study we arrived at the first of our surprises. The membership told us they loved the party atmosphere, so we ditched the sit-down plated dinner in favor of a fabulous appetizer format. Think of it! No more sitting on your butt for an hour! You can graze, eating as much as you want from as many of the offerings as you choose! And choices?! There are seven buffet stations!

1. *Rounds of Beef* served with a creamy horseradish and spicy Dijon mustard with an assortment of rolls and butter and attended by a chef.
2. *Fresh Garden Display*, a colorful, multi-level display featuring julienned fresh seasonal vegetables, fresh fruit, mini caprese kabobs, fresh vegetables and fruits on a bed of wheat grass.
3. *Famous Lake Elmo Inn Smoked Salmon* served with piped cream cheese, capers, onions, chopped eggs and bagels.
4. *International Cheese Display* of premium cheeses including herbed, smoked and aged, soft and hard varieties with toasted baguettes, breads and wafers.
5. *Crab Cakes and Slaw* consisting of Lake Elmo Inn crab cakes served with cucumber slaw and Thai chili sauce.
6. *Potstickers*, a seasoned pork and vegetable dumpling pan fried and served with Teriyaki sauce.
7. *Sweet Potato Tart*, a delicious sweet potato purée in a flaky tart and topped with walnut chutney.

Plus...a beverage station with decaf coffee and ice water.

Plus...we'll still have a fabulous array of cookies—made by Kiap-TU-Wish expert bakers—for a nominal sum and all for the good of our conservation efforts.

SURPRISE #2&3: Here's a second surprise for you; the ticket price for this year's banquet is a little lower, a mere \$45! Registration will start November 1st, and there are still two ways to register: 1) by phone by calling Lund's Fly Shop (715/425-2415) or the Alwin residence (651/739-3150), or 2) you can register online and pay online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-kiap-tu-wish-holiday-conservation-banquet-tickets-51477140513>. Whoa! That was your third surprise. Make sure you're registered; the price for unregistered walk ups is \$50.

SURPRISE #4: Your fourth surprise is that this year, for the first time ever, the only program will consist of some announcements and the presentation of awards. Think of it! No longer will you be shackled to your chair; you can get up, walk around, continue bidding on auction items or buying raffle tickets, have another glass of wine or make another run past your favorite food station. Live it up, it's a party!

WHY A BANQUET? Why does Kiap-TU-Wish do this? The function of the Holiday Conservation Banquet is to raise money for our many conservation projects. Projects on the Kinni, Pine and Trimbelle have added thousands of feet of rehabilitated trout streams in the last few years. YOUR participation in this banquet, silent

auction and raffles contribute greatly to those efforts.

RAFFLES: Speaking of raffles, we are once again privileged to offer a Dave Norling fine cane rod, tickets for which are \$20 and only 100 are available. We also have a Cabela's super premium cooler available for which tickets are \$10 with only 100 available. Plus, this year we are pleased to offer a St. Croix High Stick Drifter, an excellent nymph rod at 10' for a 5 wt. line.

SILENT AUCTION: And we love the silent auction! We anticipate your donations of books, art work, crafts, bling, gently used tackle, fly tying materials and tools. You may drop your donations at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in St. Paul, Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls, or Mend Provisions in Minneapolis. We have already procured a number of trips, fine tackle, and gift items that should excite you.

So, mark your calendar, register starting November 1st, and plan on having loads of fun at this year's Holiday Conservation Banquet on December 6th.

COME TO THE BANQUET!!

Thursday, December 6th
Lake Elmo Inn Event Center
3712 Layton Ave No.
Lake Elmo, MN 55042



◀ A Cabela's super premium cooler—just one of this year's raffle items. Tickets for the cooler or Dave Norling fine cane rod are available now. Contact a board member or buy yours at the next chapter meeting.

FLY TIER'S CORNER: March Brown Soft Hackle



Hook: Daiichi 1560 Size 10
Thread: Uni 6/0 136 Denier – Brown
Weight: .025" Lead Wire
Body: Brown Floss
Rib: Small Oval Tinsel – Gold
Thorax: SLF Kaufman Stonefly Dubbing – Brown
Wing: Whiting Brahma Hen Saddle – March Brown

Tying instructions:

- 1) Wrap 5 turns of the lead wire on the hook shank with at least a hook-eye gap between the lead wire and the eye of the hook.
- 2) Secure the lead wraps down with a base of thread, making sure to wrap tight in front of and behind the lead wraps.
- 3) Lash down the tinsel and the floss. Wrap back down the hook shank until your thread is about even with a spot between the barb and hook point.
- 4) Bring your thread forward in front of the lead wire. Wrap the floss forward covering the hook shank and the lead wraps and tie off just in front of the lead wire.
- 5) Rib the body with the tinsel, wrapping the material forward to just in front of the lead wire.
- 6) Tie off and trim rib and floss materials. Dub a thorax on the front edge of floss covered lead wire wraps making sure to leave enough gap to tie in the hackle.
- 7) Tie in and make 2-3 turns with the hen hackle, pulling back the barbs with each turn.
- 8) Tie off, trim excess hackle, and whip finish to form a small thread head.

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

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

Scott Wagner / President
jswagner@bremer.com

Diversity Liason: Sarah Sanford
sarahsanford@yahoo.com

KiapTUWish.org
Ken Hanson / Website Administrator
Meyer Creative / Website Design

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

RipRap Contributors:
Jonathan Jacobs is a long-time 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.



You can support Kiap-TU-Wish when you shop online. Go to smile.amazon.com, choose Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited and for every online purchase, Amazon will donate to the chapter.

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



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

www.kiaptuwish.org



NOVEMBER 7, 2018 Chapter Meeting

Junior's 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.

Fly Fishing: Women & Youth

November 7, 2018

The theme of November's chapter meeting is Women and youth in fly fishing. We'll have representatives on hand from Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota and the University of River Falls Fly Fishing Club. We'll also have information about opportunities in Kiap-TU-Wish, like the newly formed Belle Rivière book club. And most importantly, we'll have plenty of time to socialize about the end of the fishing season and plans for the winter ahead.

Please join us!