

VOLUME SEVEN

issue 2

October 2013

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RIP RAP



Conserve. Protect. Restore.

A MOSTLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Annual Holiday Fund Raising Banquet Set for Thursday, December 5th.

Yep, it is hard to believe, but it is time to save the date on your calendar for the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet.

The banquet committee has again chosen the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center as the site for this year's festivities.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Here is how you can help!

- Set-up of the auction the day of the banquet
- Soliciting auction items from businesses, artists, etc.
- Donating personal items to the auction
- Helping with check-out
- Helping with tear-down

If you are willing and able to help, please contact Deb Alwin at: mtnwoman9@gmail.com

Save the date for our Holiday Banquet!

Can you believe that as this issue arrives in your mail, that the Wisconsin Inland Trout season will have come to an end? Where the heck did the summer go?

As we move forward into the Kiap-TU-Wish meeting season, please save the date for our upcoming annual holiday banquet, which is our chapter's premier fundraiser and get together. As always, it takes many volunteers to make the banquet a success, so if you've been sitting on your hands and letting others do the chapter work, please consider donating your time to help out. It's only a few hours, and quite frankly a small handful of folks are doing all the chapter work and could use a break.

At the last board meeting, the Kiap board passed a motion to look into the possibility of opening up some of the RipRap column space to small ads to help offset the cost of postage of the publication. If there is enough interest, we would charge a nominal fee and limit the number of ads to a small number on a first-come first-served basis. If you have interest, please let me know and we can work out the details.

There is not much more news to post on our recent chapter board meet-

ing and activities other than thoughts and musings from our chapter president, Tom Henderson, in his column entitled "The Drift," and project planning article from chapter Planning Committee Chair, Hans Jung

We also have a status update on the Trimbelle River in the "Notes From the Field" section. Please make sure to stop by our chapter meeting to ask specific questions or make your voice be heard.

In this issue, look for an excellent story called "Green Pumpkin Creek," by chapter member Perry Palin, as well as Brian Smolinski's Fly Tier's Corner, and a few fly tying tips by yours truly.

We are always looking for story and art submissions for future RipRap issues in addition to feedback on how we can improve our chapter, so don't be shy!

And to you... Thank you so much for being a Kiap-TU-Wish chapter member. Get involved!

Greg Meyer,
RipRap editor

Did You Know?

Through grant writing and corporate contributions, Kiap raised over \$130,000 to cover rock and other materials for the Trimbelle project. The total cost for the project, with volunteer labor included, is over \$200,000.



2013 Trimbelle River Project :: The first plunge pool created at Highway W

Greg Meyer photo

{ WORDS } Tom Henderson

The Drift: Words from our President.

Restoration work is nearly complete on the Trimbelle River at Co Rd W. John Sours and the DNR crew are doing the final rock placement and dirt spreading. The last bit of seeding and mulching should be completed soon. The total stream length of this project is nearly a half mile as the stream meanders.

During the very hot days in late August, the water temperature near the middle of the project held at 58 degrees F. This bodes well for re-introduction of brook trout. It also will improve the water temperature downstream for some distance.

To visit the project site, drive south of River Falls on Highway 65 for about 4 miles, then go east on county highway W for a half mile. The site is owned by the Wisconsin DOT and is accessible for fishing.

Future projects

During the 2014 project season we will continue working downstream from this year's project another 1800 feet. There are several cold springs in this reach also.

For 2015, the tentative plan is to work on the upper Kinni at the site of the former red cabin, at the bridge on North River Road a few

miles south of Roberts. The exact scope of work is yet to be determined, but will be designed to favor growing larger fish rather than more fish. The upper Kinni has sufficient numbers but we all wish they were bigger.

Banquet

Our annual banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, at the Lake Elmo Inn event center on Highway 5 in Lake Elmo. (Incorrectly listed as Dec 4 in an earlier RipRap). For many years it has been held on the first Thursday of December.

Expo

The 2014 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for Feb 21 – 24 at the Schwan Center in Blaine.

Special Meeting in Amery

On Sept 30 Kiap-TU-Wish will hold a special meeting in Amery. We have quite a few members who live in the northern portions of our three-county region (Polk, St Croix, and Pierce counties). Some have difficulty making it to the meetings in Hudson. Perhaps there are other people who would be interested in joining TU also.

The program will include a presentation by Aaron Cole, senior fisheries biologist with the Wisconsin DNR who works in Polk and Barron Counties—Marty Engel's counterpart.

The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Village Pizzeria in Amery, 325 Keller Ave. N. Dinner is on your own dime at 6:00. Or simply come to the meeting at 7:00. It is not going to be a business meeting, but just the usual conversation and camaraderie. And maybe a chance to learn about fishing opportunities. If there is enough interest, maybe we can repeat it from time-to-time.

Photographer

Anyone interested in putting together a slide show from photos of the restoration project? It would be great to have it available to use at the banquet, the Expo, and other events. If interested, contact me at tomhenderson136@comcast.net

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Trout live in beautiful places. Strive to keep them beautiful. And always improve your clinch knots.

Enough said. 🐟

~Tom Henderson

Planning for Future Restoration Projects.

During this past winter and spring the Project Planning Committee (Randy Arnold, Bob Diesch, Tom Henderson, Hans Jung, and Dan Wilcox) held several meetings, solicited input from Marty Engel and John Sours of the WI DNR, met with the West Wisconsin Land Trust, and walked several potential project sites.

From this fact finding activity the Committee developed assessments and recommendations for Kiap's Board to consider relative to stream restoration projects in 2015 and beyond. Because of the DNR requirement that project sites be publicly owned or have a minimum 25 year easement, and the recent decision by the WI State TU Council that permanent public access be a requirement before TU funds can be spent on a project; our potential list of project sites had to exclude many popular streams such as the Rush River where satisfactory easements are currently not in place. As new easements are established in the future the list of potential sites for restoration will undoubtedly change.

The Committee's recommendation to the Board was that the Chapter focuses its restoration efforts on the Upper Kinnickinnic River in the near-term future. While the Kinni has an overall excellent water temperature regime, large trout populations, and is very popular with our membership; the Upper Kinni is suffering from siltation and decreased fishability due to bank erosion, and tree and brush encroachment along its banks. In order to improve and preserve this valuable cold water resource, the Committee felt restoration on the Upper Kinni should be a Chapter priority.

A list of five potential restoration sites on the Upper Kinni was presented

by the Committee at the May Board meeting. The sites were:

- 1) North of I-94, east of the bridge on 140th St.
- 2) North of I-94, west of the bridge on 140th St.,
- 3) Parker Creek, between Pleasant St. and the confluence with the Kinni;
- 4) Upstream from Co. Rd J; and
- 5) The former red cabin site, at the new DNR parking lot west of North River Rd.

At the September Chapter meeting Tom Henderson provided a photo tour of all these sites, along with a few others. At the August meeting the Board decided that the former red cabin site was the first choice for a 2015 project. The Kinni forms a horseshoe bend at this location, providing about ¼ mile of river frontage, never more than couple hundred yards from the parking lot. This site was chosen in part because of the presence of the new parking area and the fact that a significant section downstream of this site has easements in place that would allow contiguous restoration projects in the future.

The Planning Committee has requested a detailed scope of work description and cost estimate from John Sours for this site. An on-site tour to discuss the project with Marty and John is anticipated to occur in October. The Board also requested that the Committee solicit scope of work assessments for the other four Upper Kinni sites in order to aid in the development of a longer term and more comprehensive restoration plan for the Upper Kinni. The Board anticipates making a final decision

Rumours

“Ours is the grandest sport. It is an intriguing battle of wits between an angler and a trout; and in addition to appreciating the tradition and grace of the game, we play it in the magnificent out-of-doors.”

~Ernest G. Schwiebert, Jr.

whether the red cabin site will be the 2015 project after receiving this additional input from the DNR.

Other than the DNR and WI TU requirements for public access, all other selection criteria for choosing among the many potential restoration projects are discretionary and open to discussion. The Board endeavors to select projects that address the TU mission to protect cold water resources and also reflect the concerns of the Chapter membership ↩

Member input is welcome and strongly encouraged. Please direct comments to **Hans Jung** at: 651-257-1532; hansjung@gmail.com



Green Pumpkin Creek (Words :: Images) Perry Palin

A dozen years ago we moved out of trout country, away from the northern edge of the Driftless and into an area populated by cool water and warm water fish. I never learned not to want to catch trout, especially wild stream trout, and finding any in the trickles and brooklets of my new neighborhood has been a challenge.

While driving the back country roads somewhere northeast of our current home, I crossed a fast water creek running through a woods on one side of the road, and through an open pasture on the other side of the road. The water was clear and it splashed over stones. By the slope of the land it appeared that the stream cut a deep but narrow valley below the road, a good place for spring water seeps, and maybe a place for trout. The stream ran through private property, and the land on both sides of the culvert was heavily posted against trespass.

I looked at an old fishing map. Someone had written on the map "Green Pumpkin Creek," so that is the map name for the creek, though only penciled on one map, and not probably on yours. The fact that someone would actually write a name on the map meant it might be worth looking into, or at least I thought so at the time.

Over a period of two weeks I worked out a plan of where to leave my car, hidden from view, and how to walk down to the narrow valley through the woods, unseen by the farmer or any passerby, and I worked out an innocent enough story to tell anyone who might find me on the banks of the little stream. I went through the woods and down to the stream in the last week of May.

After a walk of a quarter mile, I found a narrow valley about seventy feet deep, and the stream was at the bottom. Getting down there was a trial, but by hanging on to the trunks of small trees, and only uprooting a couple of them, I was able to lower myself to the banks of the stream. The water was just a little too wide to step across where it ran fast between the pools, and in the pools it was just a little wider. It looked like it could hold a few trout, but casting to them was impossible. The trees at the top of the valley, and those growing in the valley, had all grown toward their best light, which is to say they all leaned toward the creek. When they



In the Beaver Bog

eventually fell, all of them, large and small, had fallen toward the creek, and many had fallen into and across the creek. The wood in the water and over the water guarded those few places where a trout might rest and live, and I was reduced to hanging a wet fly from the tip of my rod and guiding it downstream under limbs and fallen timber.

The mosquitoes had almost driven me off the land when I caught a little brown trout, a spunky little fish of seven inches. I fished a little further. A few more fish followed, but they were small, and I was ready to turn back to the car, when a better fish hit my fly, and I dragged a sixteen inch brown, fat and thrashing, out from under a tangle of logs. I could hardly blame him for striking; I was using a Red Horse Fly to improve my chances, but I almost wish he hadn't hit my fly. If one decent fish lived here there might be more, and I would want to return. The climb back to the car was an adventure, but I made it somehow, muddy and sweating and bitten by mosquitoes and deer flies.

I drove up and down the country roads, and found a way to approach Green Pumpkin Creek from another direction, at a downstream stretch that may be easier to fish. On my second visit to the stream I left the road for a easy trail that led across an abandoned pasture and fell gently away towards the woods. I have no idea where the trail leads. Only three quarters of a mile down the trail, I turned off to the left into the hardwoods and walked over a couple of small hills, stepping over or around fallen trees, and trying to keep a straight line toward the stream. The hardwoods gave way to a thick band of prickly bushes, the kind that had ruined my waders on a trip to another stream, and I worked my way slow-

ly through these. Then there were the alders, with their trunks and branches crossed and tangled in their reach for the sun. When I had gotten through the alders, finally, and into the willow sticks, I knew the stream should be near. Finally I broke out into the open. I had found a broad meadow of maybe twenty acres, and the creek was running through it somewhere.

This wasn't a meadow really. More of a beaver meadow, and there were some beaver dams in there. Maybe it was more like a bog than a beaver meadow. I had to walk fairly fast across the land. When I made

out sinking into the ground. The new grass had been chewed back by the geese. The stream looked deep and slow, and when the sun came out from behind a cloud, I saw several nice trout in four feet of water, lying over the sand. I threw out a Red Horse Fly on the end of my leader, and one of the fish, a seventeen incher, came up in the water and grabbed the fly. He wasn't one of the bigger ones in the group, but he was a nice fish.

I've been back a few times to the beaver bog on Green Pumpkin Creek. Strange to say, I've never met anyone else fishing there, or

“The fact that someone would actually write a name on the map meant it might be worth looking into — or at least I thought so at the time.”

a step the ground would begin to sink and the water came up around my ankle, and if I waited too long, the water came up to my calf. Only once the water came up to both of my knees. So I walked fairly fast.

The day had been overcast, but now the clouds began to blow away to the east, and the sun came out at intervals. Last year's grass in the meadow was dead and brown, and the new grass was coming up lush and green. A hundred yards into the meadow I was set upon by two pairs of Canada geese, but I turned away from them and convinced them that I meant their nests no harm. I heard a loud "sqwonk" overhead, which I took for a goose with a throat problem, but I looked up and saw a sandhill crane flying overhead, followed by her sqwonking mate.

I found the bank of the stream at last. There were a few hummocks of grass that I could balance on with-

even seen another boot track near the water. I've seen a few deer there, and one day I saw three bears. The geese raised their broods and they all flew away in the fall.

We don't have much for trout fishing here. I take what I can get. I'll be going back to Green Pumpkin Creek in the new year. 🐦

{ ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

Perry Palin is a chapter member and contributor to RipRap. He also generously ties and donates flies that are given away at our monthly chapter meetings.



Something Overheard...

...tis not a proud desire of mine; I ask for nothing superfine; no heavy weight, no salmon great, to break the record or my line: Only an idle little stream whose amber waters softly gleam, where I may wade, through woodland shade, and cast the fly, and loaf and dream.

Only a trout or two, to dart from foaming pools, and try my art: no more I'm wishing, old-fashioned fishing, and just a day on nature's heart.

~Henry Van Dyke
"An Angler's Wish"

Fly Tier's Corner

BRIAN SMOLINSKI
LUND'S FLY SHOP
www.lundsflyshop.com

smo's "Ragg Wool" Cranefly Larva

Over the years I would get a few requests for a cranefly larva pattern, but it was never very many. Since demand seemed low, I never justified stocking one. Well this past year cranefly nymph enthusiasts were coming out of the woodwork from all over asking for this fly.

After looking at several entomology photos of these critters and walking past the windows of the yarn store next to my own shop, the idea of a yarn bodied larva sounded pretty good. Not only does this fly look great, but it is pretty easy and fairly quick to tie.

FLY RECIPE:

Hook : : Size 12 TMC 200R

Thread : : 72 Denier (Danville 6/0) – Coffee

Ribbing : : Medium UTC Ultra Wire – Brown

Head : : Mixture of Dark Hare's Ear Plus/ Chocolate Brown Hare's Ear Plus/ Dark Rainbow Scud Dub

Body : : Natural Mix Wool Yarn

Weight : : .025" lead wire

INSTRUCTIONS:

[1] Make a section of lead wraps around the shank of the hook approximately half of the overall length of the hook, and so approx. a quarter of the hook length is on either side of the lead wraps

[2] Wrap thread over the lead to secure it while tying the ribbing wire at the rear of the hook

[3] Lightly coat wire with an adhesive of your choice. I use a UV Resin which hardens instantly under an LED ultraviolet flashlight. This not only covers & secures the lead wire, but creates a perfectly shaped tapered base to wrap over with the yarn. (fig. 1)

[4] tie in yarn at the rear of the hook making sure that all three segments of the yarn tightly tied down.

[5] untwist the yarn and separate each segment by running a bodkin in between each "strand"

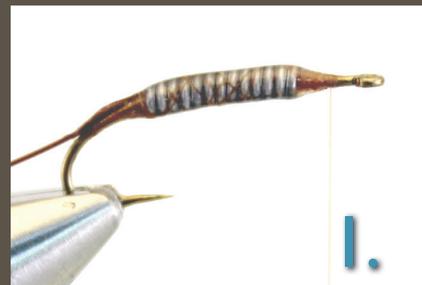
[6] pull all three strands of yarn so they are taught and lay flat. Begin winding the yarn forwards to the front of the hook, overlapping each wrap to create the desired bulk and taper

[7] tie off yarn and rib over body of the fly with the ultra wire

[8] trim excess wire and yarn, then use the dubbing mixture to dub head of fly

[9] finish and apply head cement

[10] when head cement is dry, brush both the yarn and the dubbing fibers with a stainless steel dubbing brush, pushing the head fibers forward (fig. 2)



Coating the base with a UV resin such as Clear Cure Goo helps create a perfectly tapered body



The last step is to brush the fly with a dubbing brush, and push the "head" fibers forward.

Brian Smolinski is the owner of Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls. If you have questions on this fly or materials, he can be reached by email at: lunds@sbcglobal.net.

Better yet, stop by his shop and talk to him in person.

FLY TYING TIPS {Words :: Images} Greg Meyer

In this column we will be offering up tips and ideas for making your fly tying more enjoyable. If you have a tip you'd like to share, please email to me at: kiaptuwish@hotmail.com



Clogged Hook Eyes?

Save the hackle stem from one of those dry fly necks that have the feathers that are too big for other uses (you know you have herds of these unusable feathers!). Just strip the feather and save the stem(s). The stiff, tapered stem is perfect to clean out the errant head cement that frequently happens after a scotch or two. I keep a bunch handy within reach.

Rusty Hooks?

Try saving the little silicone packets that you find in medication bottles (the best) and packaging. Simply insert the packet into the lid of your fly box or hook container and let the desiccant inside the packet do it's job. No more rusty hooks!

I glue mine in with rubber cement which makes it easy to replace after time. Of course if you drop the whole box in the drink, there ain't much this little trick can help with. Don't be that guy (or gal).

Notes From the Field-Trimbelle River

Restoration work is nearly complete for the first phase of restoration on the Trimbelle River at Co Rd W. We have had delays and setbacks due to uncooperative weather; which can be expected. The WI DNR trout crew has been working diligently to get the project back on track and completed by fall of 2013.

John Sours and the DNR crew are doing the final rock placement and dirt spreading, along with burying the remaining stock of downed box elder trees. The total stream length of this project is nearly a half mile as the stream meanders.

Randy Arnold is working with Jeff Himes and Lauren Evans of Fairmount Minerals to coordinate a crew to finish off the seeding mulching. Planning for a tree planting session at the site which would be done next spring after the ground has

Randy Arnold photos



thawed and the state nursery makes their seedling stock available.

We have been blessed to be able to secure the funding necessary to make this project a reality. And although we were not awarded everything we asked for; some unexpected donations of cash and equipment flowed in to help make this project happen.

Moving forward we have had interest in continuing restoration work immediately below the current project site, and are gearing up to secure additional funding and resources to make that happen.

The site area is located south of River Falls, on Hwy W. The project is expected to be completed by early fall, 2013 🐦

For more info visit www.kiaptuwish.org

Did You Know?

We have logged nearly 700 volunteer hours of brushing, cutting, removing invasive trees, and seeding/mulching needed for habitat restoration of this project. This is in addition to 120 hours of setting up our monitoring regime and protocol developed by the newly created Kiap-TU-Wish citizen monitoring and evaluation team.

Kiap-TU-Wish Board Members & Contact Info

Tom Henderson	Chapter President/Grants	tomhenderson136@comcast.net
Gary Horvath	Chapter Treasurer	magshorvath@comcast.net
Hans Jung	Chapter VP/Planning Committee Chair	hansjung@gmail.com
Allison Jacobs	Chapter Secretary	allisonmjacobs@hotmail.com
Randy Arnold	Board Member/Volunteer Coordinator	rarnold@augbiomed.com
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Tom Schnadt	Board Member	thschnad@hotmail.com
Bob Trevis	Board Member	troutchaser@comcast.net



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

Welcome new members:

Bert Chapman Ellijay, GA

Al Dirkes Rice Lake

Frank Hitzke Hudson

Tom Kieffer Saint Paul

Sherrill Neudahl River Falls

Patrick Wolf Hudson

Rachel Zitzow Hudson

Check us out on the web:
www.kiaptuwish.org

DON'T MISS THE OCTOBER MEETING!

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2013
Bob Smith's Sports Club
Downtown Hudson

Dinner begins at 6pm (your dime)
with the meeting to follow at 7pm.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter meetings are held at Bob Smith's Sports Club, the first Wednesday of the month—September through May.



Joe Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 54016



Rick is a native of central Wisconsin, and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. Rick has worked throughout the Midwest, Maine and Kentucky in land management, restoration and protection, before joining WWLT in 2002.



Cold Water Stream Initiatives Presentation.

For our upcoming meeting on October 2nd, Rick Remington from the West Wisconsin Land Trust will be giving a presentation on their “Cold Water Streams Initiative,” and how WWLT is striving to find ways to be a proactive partner in the protection of trout waters in our region.

WWLT was a major partner in the Kiap Pine Creek Restoration Project near Maiden Rock. Other partners included Trout Unlimited, WI DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, FishAmerica Foundation, Fairmount Minerals, and the McKnight Foundation.

Are you on our e-mail list?

If you are not on our email list, you may be missing out on important information that can't possibly be covered in RipRap in a timely manner. We often send out information on environmental call-to-action, volunteer work days, and meeting updates. Contact us at kiaptuwish@hotmail.com to be added. Please indicate if you'd like to be added to the general list, volunteer works days, or both.