



Conserve. Protect. Restore.

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



Volume 9 | Issue 2
OCTOBER 2015

The October 7th 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Banquet Committee is already hard at work planning this season's Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. The date for this year's festivities is Thursday, December 3rd, so put that date on your calendar. We'll start make outrageous claims in future editions of Rip-Rap.

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The Drift: Words from our President

Trimbelle/Trudeau Project:

John Sours and his DNR crew (mostly Roger) are in the final phase of completing the Trudeau Project. Lunker structures built by Kiap members have been placed. More rock is going to be purchased to armor the last sections of the stream banks. Three seeding and mulching activities have taken place. The good news is the seeding work has benefited from recent rains and already green sprouts are evident along the stream corridor. Dan Wilcox has reported that several landowners living on the Trimbelle, downstream of the Trudeau site have toured the project and were impressed with the habitat work and may be amenable to easements in the future.

A hearty thank you to Dan Wilcox for all of his work on the project, besides monitoring the site condition and work, he has cut logs for stream habitat and he and Carol Wilcox have seeded sections of the stream bank.

Last minute update: On Thursday, 9/17 despite over 2" of rain, a hearty crew; John and Roger with the WDNR and Kiap members, Randy Arnold, Dennis Anderson and Dan Wilcox slogged through the day building three lunker structures and seeding and mulching the contoured stream banks. Great job guys!

River Falls Dam: Gary Horvath reports that Inter-Fluve, the contractor selected to do the sediment analysis is working to map the sediment and calculate its volume. Once the data is complete, Inter-Fluve will meet with the WDNR to work on a sampling plan.

Monitoring: With the drawdown of the Willow River dam Kiap decided it would be a good time to install three temperature loggers in the Willow River. Gary Horvath and John Kaplan installed the loggers at three sites that were originally established by long-time, Kiap-TU-Wish member, Chuck Goosen. The loggers will capture the current water temperature and the data can be compared to the data originally gathered by Chuck.

Amery Program: On Monday, 10/12 John Carlson has set up a Kiap-TU-Wish meeting at the Village Pizzeria, 323 Keller Ave N., Amery. Dinner is on your own at 6:00. The program starts at 7:00 and will feature Sarah Sanford talking about her experiences catching Bull Trout in British Columbia.

Upcoming Program: On November 4th, at our chapter meeting, Dave Johnson is going to talk about fishing Patagonia on the cheap. The title of his presentation is: A Dirt Bag Tour of Patagonia.

~Tom Schnadt 🐟

GOOD PROGRESS ON THE TRIMBELLE DESPITE TORRENTIAL RAINS

The upper Trimbelle River watershed normally receives about 18 inches of rainfall during May through August. This year was a wet year with over 2 feet of rain during that time. There were six rainfall events with over one inch in a day, four with over two inches. Despite the heavy rains the stream work done to date has held up well.

The start of work on the Trudeau reach of the upper Trimbelle River project was delayed until mid-July by rain, equipment problems and continuing work by the DNR stream crew on Bear and Gilbert Creeks in Dunn County.

Now over 500 feet of stream work has been completed on the Trudeau easement. On Thursday, August 27, a crew from Fairmount Santrol helped with mulching/seeding including Christian Jasmer, Jerod Andrews, Jamie Stockwell, Andrew Guyer, John Zeller, James Tullis, and John Phillipps. The late day shift for constructing 10 luncker structures were Dennis Anderson, Sarah Sanford, Trish Hannah, Tom Schnadt, Jim Andersen and volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold.

The native prairie seed planted on the 2014 reach of the upper Trimbelle proj-

ect germinated and is growing well. Many milkweed plants grew from seed donated by Monarch Watch that was planted along the stream to provide habitat for Monarch butterflies. A dense stand of sweet clover grew up in the 2013 reach, possibly from seed in the mulch that was used. The DNR mowed along the stream in August. DNR forester Gary Zielski said that most of the trees and shrubs that KIAP volunteers planted last year in April should survive despite the sweet clover.

John Sours and the DNR stream crew are incorporating large flat rocks left over from the Bear Creek project, luncker structures, boulders, boulder clusters, logs and root wads into the stream habitat. John expects to finish the Trudeau reach of the upper Trimbelle project in September and possibly construct a grassed waterway to reduce sand loading from a tributary dry run upstream of County Road W.

In addition to the Kiap Chapter and the Wisconsin DNR, partners for this project include Fairmount Minerals

and the Pierce County Land Conservation Department. The project will cost approximately \$100,000 not including volunteer labor.

Brook and brown trout have found their way into the improved habitat in the upper Trimbelle, which will provide over one continuous mile of fishing on public land in a beautiful woodland and prairie setting.



KIAP volunteers from left: Jim Andersen, Tom Schnadt, Trish Hannah, Sarah Sanford, and Randy Arnold. DNR stream crew members Ron Fredrick and John Sours at center with 10 newly constructed luncker structures.





2015 Summer Mowing Summary

| Stream | Location | Distance | Contractor |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| Pine Main Channel | Below CTH AA | 1.10 miles | Fairmont |
| East Tributary Pine | | .20 | Fairmont |
| West Tributary Pine | | .26 | Fairmont |
| Cady Creek | Upstream CTH P | 2.42 | DNR |
| S. Fork Kinni | Along STH 29 | 1.02 | DNR |
| Kinni Access | Kinni Townhall | .30 | DNR |
| Parker Creek | Below CTH J | .30 | DNR |
| Gilbert Creek Channel | Above STH 29 | .70 | DNR |
| N. Fork Gilbert | Below CTH Q | .60 | DNR |
| S. Fork Gilbert | Below CTH Q | .50 | DNR |
| TU Easement Thoruds | Below 120th Str. | .50 | DNR |

Data provided by Marty Engel, WIDNR

TUDARE Fall Stream Project Tour on Tuesday, October 13th.

The Trimbelle River Restoration Project site in Kiap-TU-Wish TU's will be a feature of the TUDARE Fall Stream Project Tour on Tuesday, October 13. The free, day-long bus tour brings together volunteers, designers, contractors, equipment operators and others to view recent work and discuss the projects. Other tour sites will be Minnesota TU's project on Hay Creek near Red Wing, MN, and the Gilbert Creek project west of Menomonie. This is your chance to compare restoration techniques and talk with those who carried out the projects.

The tour is expected to leave from Hudson, WI at 8:15 a.m., site to be determined, and return by 5:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The tour is sponsored by TUDARE, TU chapters and partners. There are a limited number of seats on the bus--and sandwiches

in the cooler--so advance sign-up is necessary. Full schedule and itinerary will be provided by October 8. Bring your camera and a refillable water bottle, and rain gear if you like to wear it in case of damp weather.

To sign up, please contact Duke Welter, TUDARE Outreach Coordinator (dwelter@tu.org) with your name and email address.

Duke

Note: We are just signing up people now and will send them complete information on or about October 8.



Here are some photos of Fairmount Santrol folks helping with seeding/mulching at the Trimbelle site

The Other Run-up Fish {Words} Jonathon Jacobs



Chapter member Greg Meyer with a Brule "Run-up" brown.

Once the hatches of June have faded away, some anglers let their fishing lie fallow through high summer and wait for October to come in to full bloom so that they might head north to the south coast of Lake Superior to fish for steelhead in the rivers tributary to that great freshwater sea.

Personally, while I by no means wish summer away and while I have cherished late October and even the grayest of November days spent in Douglas County, I've thought recently that I've been missing out by not heading north earlier and more often. There are several other species of anadromous fish making the run up out of Gitche Gumee every fall, all of which seem to stand in the shadows of the steelhead's reputation.

The one that intrigues me in this lesser known group is the lake run brown trout. This is a fish with an aura of mystery about it. I've never met anyone who fishes for these bruisers (The average fish, I've been told, weighs around four pounds) with the same ardor exhibited in the chase for steelhead. It as though they're generally regarded as bycatch, which, when I think it over, seems just plain weird. After all, they're brown trout, for goodness sake, the same fish we fuss over endlessly around here, and a small one is just short of two feet long! Further, in the fall of 2013 more than five hundred more brown trout than steelhead ascended a favorite tributary.

I've seen a picture of Rod Lundberg (the son of K-TU members Herb and Corrine Lundberg) holding a brown trout from that tributary of such dimensions that it looked more like an Atlantic salmon from a Canadian maritime province than it did any Driftless Area trout I've ever seen. That gets a fellow to thinking.

I have made one serious, if utterly ineffective run at these fish. Jeff Dahl, who was then associated with the Superior Fly Angler, some time ago did a mid-winter presentation at a local fly shop about fishing opportunities in northwest Wisconsin. He showed a video capture from the viewing window at a weir located on a famous south shore stream. Taped to the window for reference was a yardstick. Swimming past on the other side of the window was a brown trout that was very close to the length of the yardstick.

I was with my friend Craig, who had a cabin in that neck of the woods. We looked at one another, eyebrows raised in wonder. This led to the creation of a plan. We looked at the Wisconsin DNR's run data and learned from it that the fish begin to arrive in numbers in August.

This was a slack period for both of us, so I blocked out a week of vacation and we motored north in that month. We knew that brown trout favored low light conditions so we headed out to a bridge crossing early in the morning. Craig waded in, cast his weighted streamer in to a deep hole and caught – a walleye!

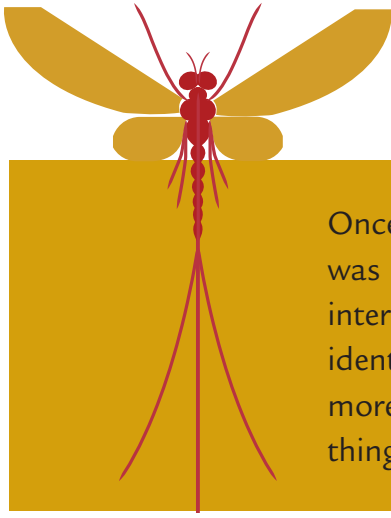
After that we thought to check the water temperature, which, after days into an epic heat wave, was 74 degrees. The heat was unrelenting and the rest of the week was something of a circus, of course.

We thought we might do better at the other end of the day, so one evening we ventured out in a canoe onto a wide, slow stretch of the river that by legend was a hangout for the fish. If the legend is true, it certainly adds further to the mystery surrounding these critters.

It's hard to fathom why a creature would leave the cold, dark comfort of Lake Superior, travel rapidly through several miles of briskly flowing water and take up residence in this shallow, warm pond. Despite the warmish water, when the sun dipped below the pine trees to the west, fish began to rise. By this time I was eager to hook up with anything piscine and had tied on a highly visible Humpy, thinking that one of the local brook trout might take interest.

It was in the fading light that a big fish began to work its way up the current alongside a long weed bed. It rose at regular intervals, so I did my best to calculate how to place my fly on course. Everything looked good and when the water began to well up under my fly, I held my breath in anticipation. A huge snout appeared. I expected that the snout would elevate, a huge mouth would open and that my fly would disappear like Jonah into Leviathan. No dice. I swear that monster pushed my Humpy disdainfully aside with its nose before continuing on its way.

Continues on page 6



KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part II

What to Call a Stream {Words} Mike Alwin

Once upon a time, the great Canadian writer and angler Roderick Haig-Brown, was quoted as saying that he wouldn't give a damn for an angler who wasn't interested in the flora and fauna near the stream he was fishing. Being able to identify a basswood tree, admire a clump of blue flag in spring, find a trove of morels, add a warbler to our list or catch a snooze under a walnut tree are the things that add to our joy while fishing.

The difference between a lake or pond and a stream is gradient. Turn your garden hose out on a flat surface and the water will pool up. Turn the garden hose out on your driveway and the water will run downhill, although not in a straight line. Try it, and you'll notice that the water moves from side to side. Rivers begin their journey by cutting down through the softer soils until they reach a hard material and then they begin to move sideways. These side cutting actions are called meanders. All streams meander, no matter how steep the gradient.

Each meander has a crossover point and a lobe. The crossover points are riffles and the lobes present themselves as pools. Each one of these meander/riffle complexes creates two erosional zones and two depositional zones, though they are sometimes difficult to identify. The most obvious erosional zone is the riffle, where all the fines have been washed away to reveal only courser materials like

gravel or larger rock. The other erosional zone is the apex of the meander where the force of the water has carved away at the bank. To find the first depositional zone, an angler has only to step to the inside of the riffle to be stuck in boot sucking silt. Of course, the other depositional zone is located at the edges of the pool, as anyone familiar with the Upper Kinni is aware.

As each meander/riffle complex plays a role in the stream's productivity, so does the watershed itself, and in this way; the upper reaches of a watershed are typically not as fertile as the lower reaches. Stream morphologists identify streams by "orders," and knowing the order of the stream you're fishing could tell you much about its productive capabilities. A First Order stream has no tributaries. A Second Order stream is formed when two First Order streams join. A Third Order stream is formed when two Second Order streams join. A Fourth Order

stream is formed when two Third Order streams join. Stream orders have absolutely nothing to do with the depth or volume of water. Below the first order, any one of these orders can have dozens of smaller tributaries and can double in size before a stream of the same order joins it and a new order is formed.

A measurement of stream productivity is called biomass and it's a measurement of all living organisms: plants, vertebrates and invertebrates. Fourth order streams are more nutrient rich and therefore more productive than first order streams. Once again, knowing where you are in the watershed can be a clue as to what to expect. The next step is identifying niches and the kinds of aquatic invertebrates that you might find in each.

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



AMERY PROGRAM OCTOBER 12TH:

John Carlson has set up a Kiap-TU-Wish meeting in Amery. The program will feature Sarah Sanford talking about her experiences catching Bull Trout in British Columbia.

Speaker: Sarah Sanford, Kiap-TU-Wish member

Subject: Bull Trout Fishing in British Columbia

Venue: The Village Pizzeria, 323 Keller Ave., Amery, WI

Time: Dinner on your own 6:00 PM.

Program at 7:00 PM

Since that fateful week I've seen many references to these fish that have deepened the mystery surrounding lake run browns. Craig had a copy of Outdoor Life from the mid-1960s that had a several page article (An aside: Is there a sporting magazine published in America today that ever does a several page article on anything?) about them. The local expert consulted said that he'd never seen one caught on a fly, or for that matter, on anything other than a spinning lure cranked across a pool at high speed.

The author wrote of fishing "The Meadows" with this chap. They accessed the river by walking north from U.S. 2 along a series of well-established trails on the west side of a little town. I sus-

pect that "The Meadows" were considerably more civilized and meadow-like fifty years ago than they are now, when this area looks more like an impenetrable jungle.

And the Wisconsin DNR has this to say about them:

"The lake run of brown trout begins in early July and extends through late October ... "The brown is not an easy fish to catch, but with persistence and by fishing the slower, deep holes during low-light periods, the odds of landing one should be in your favor."

All that sounds daunting, but I've seen cause for hope, too. Recently the Great Lakes Fly Company out of Duluth posted a fishing report to its web site that

had this to say:

...the Browns are pretty eager! ... swinging some big stuff like Fish Jewelry, Whore Der's, in Olives and Blacks. Purple might kick some ass. Hail to the Darkness and Sticky Sculpins. Big Buggers and Stones are great...

If nothing else, you've got to admire the names of the flies mentioned. I have to admit that all of this conjectural thought has my blood up a bit. I'm thinking that a fellow might make an early October run up that way, making the reasonable assumption that the weather could be mild and the river low enough and clear enough to make chucking some of the big stuff on the end of a sink tip line an exercise with possibilities. And I've always loved a good mystery.

Playing In The Pockets {Words} Margaret LaBien



If you are relatively new to fly fishing, here's a suggestion that might shorten your learning curve: fish the "pocket water." Instead of looking for calm runs that have a few individual rocks interspersed here and there, look for pocket water, the places with faster current where a jumble of rocks create tiny pools. Sure, a jumble of big rocks and tumbling currents can be more intimidating than fishing smoother, quieter friendly water; but, seriously, slow water isn't as productive as pocket water for catching...

When I first started fly fishing, I avoided pocket water because I broke off on the rocks, the currents swirled every which way and everything moved too fast for me to follow my fly. But you will always be a "beginner" if you walk past the pockets. These are the places where you can really hone your fly fishing and casting techniques and move up to the next level.

Why? Because pocket water has a kaleidoscope of riffles, runs, pools, and tailouts in a small scale. Because oxygen levels are high and rocks are abundant, pockets hold more and different kinds of bugs, especially caddisflies. Currents move through pockets faster, giving trout less time to interview what's moving downstream, so they can't be too picky. You can get away with not having the precise fly if you have some buggy looking flies of the right size in your box that are weighted to sink fast.

The multiple current seams and eddies in pocket water provide habitat hotels for trout to feed. The turbulence gives a feeling of safety to trout, like having mini life insurance umbrellas over their heads. Thus, you can move in closer without having to be super stealthy and can get away with making shorter casts. Always a plus.

The drawback is that the drag-free drifts are considerably shorter on pocket water so you only have a few feet of lead-time to get your fly down to the feeding zone. The positive about fishing pocket water is that you will quickly discover why you need to keep your line completely off the water to eliminate drag. You'll be amazed at how fast you learn how to mend and highstick your line—these are the most fundamental nymphing techniques. More on nymphing in upcoming months...

So, don't shy away, whenever you can, concentrate your early fly fishing efforts in pocket water, and you will see the "big picture" much sooner. Oh, just one more thing --you might want to bring along your wading stick. **Good luck!**

FLY TIER'S CORNER: Great Lakes Ice Scud – Pink

{Words & Image} Brian Smolinski



FLY RECIPE

Hook :: Daiichi 1120 Heavy Wire Scud

Hook – Size 14

Head:: 1/8" Tungsten Bead – Black Nickel

Thread :: UTC 140 – Black

Body :: UV Ice Dub – Fl. Hot Pink (mixed with a little hot pink rabbit fur)

Tail :: Hot Pink Saddle Hackle Fibers

Rib :: Red Ultra Wire – Size Brassie

Thorax :: UV Ice Dub – Black

Back :: Scud Back – Clear

Instructions

- [1] Lay down a base of thread from behind the bead all the way to just before the bend of the hook.
- [2] Secure a clump of the pink saddle hackle fibers with a few loose wraps and pull the fibers through the thread wraps to create the desired length tail (about the same length as the body of the fly).
- [3] Tighten thread wraps securing tail fibers and tie in the scud back and the wire rib.
- [4] Dub the body with the pink dubbing mix up towards the bead creating a tapered body as you go.
- [5] Wrap the ribbing wire up towards the bead and tie off with several wraps in front of and behind the wire.
- [6] Dub over the spot where the scud back and wire are tied off with the black dubbing creating the thorax of the fly.
- [7] Tie off thread and finish.

This pattern was developed by a tyer by the name of Bruce Concors as a Great Lakes run Steelhead fly. Although this fly is new to the shop, I think because of its black & hot pink color combo it should be a great trout fly. The Lund's Hot Pink Squirrel tied by Brian Stewart continues to be one of our best selling of most fish producing patterns we sell. This thing should be a killer this early season!

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: brian@lundsflyshop.com.

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Next RipRap deadline: Friday, October 16

Seriously, we love receiving submissions to RipRap! We really, really do. Please send your story ideas, articles, photos, poetry or what not to:

manion.maria@gmail.com.



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
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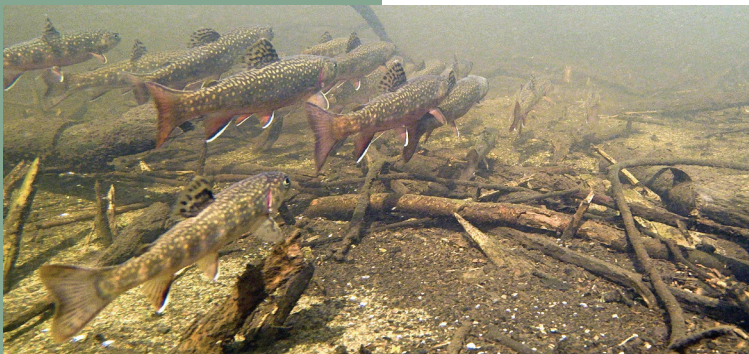
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us!**

DON'T MISS the
October 7th MEETING at

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

You can find parking:

- In the basement garage (50 spaces)
- In the surface lot behind the hotel
- In the surface lot across Main St.



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

Jane Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 5401

Dennis Pratt, Vice President of the Brule River Sportsmen's Club, will present at the October 7th meeting of the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited.

His presentation will describe trout habitat improvement work on Wisconsin's Bois Brule River using the combined efforts of the DNR and Brule River Sportsmen's Club spanning the last twenty-two years. Although, trout habitat work was accomplished for all trout and salmon species, a more detailed emphasis of the talk will focus on strategies used to rehabilitate the Brule's brook trout population.

BRULE RIVER HABITAT & Brook Trout

Dennis, a retired DNR fisheries biologist of thirty-seven years, is still actively engaged in fisheries improvement work and leads a volunteer trout habitat effort each summer on the Brule. Dennis grew up at the mouth of a small trout stream on Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay and spent his entire career in the Lake Superior Basin at field stations in Bayfield, Brule and Superior.