

The Drift: Words from our President.

Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair: This is the second year that Kiap-TU-Wish has participated in the Kinnickinnic Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair. Thirty-six boys and eighteen girls participated in the event. It was held at Brian and Mary Hopp's farm in Beldenville. Dan Wilcox and I staffed Kiap's conservation display and stream restoration diorama; both served as good tools to share our story on stream restoration, education, stream monitoring and advocacy. We were very fortunate that Bill Hinton volunteered to provide expert fly casting instruction. Since the Hopp farm is close to the Trimble County Road W project, we decided to provide a limited number of "guided" fishing experiences. Hats off to our guides/mentors who gave the boys and girls a chance to experience fly fishing: Randy Arnold, John Kaplan, Dan and Joseph Duncan and Dale Donahue. Tim and Sandy Christensen, organizers of the event, reported that they received very positive feedback on Kiap's participation.



Joseph Duncan mentoring a new angler at the Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair.

University of Wisconsin River Falls: On Tuesday, September 12, I was invited to make a presentation to UWRF's Resource Management Club. One advantage of having our monthly meeting in River Falls is that we're developing a closer relationship with the University. At the meeting I reviewed TU's mission with the students: to protect, reconnect and restore the coldwater fishery in Polk, Pierce and St. Croix counties. As part of their curriculum students are required to log volunteer hours, so many were interested in the opportunity to work this winter on cutting and brushing activities on the Trimble/Gutting easement. It was gratifying to hear Kiap's UWRF student liaison share his enthusiasm for the chapter and our monthly

meetings. This fall two UWRF classes are planning on touring the recently completed Trimble/Holst project to learn about stream restoration.

Conservation Banquet: Plans are underway for this year's banquet. The venue is the well-regarded Lake Elmo Event Center and the date is Thursday, December 7. Please reserve the time and plan on attending. This year we have some urgency in

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 11 | Issue 2
October 2017

**Chapter Meeting
October 4, 2017**

**Junior's Bar & Restaurant
414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022**

Dan Sitz, a conservation engineering technician in Pierce County, will speak about "Conservation Practices and Agricultural Trends Affecting Streams."

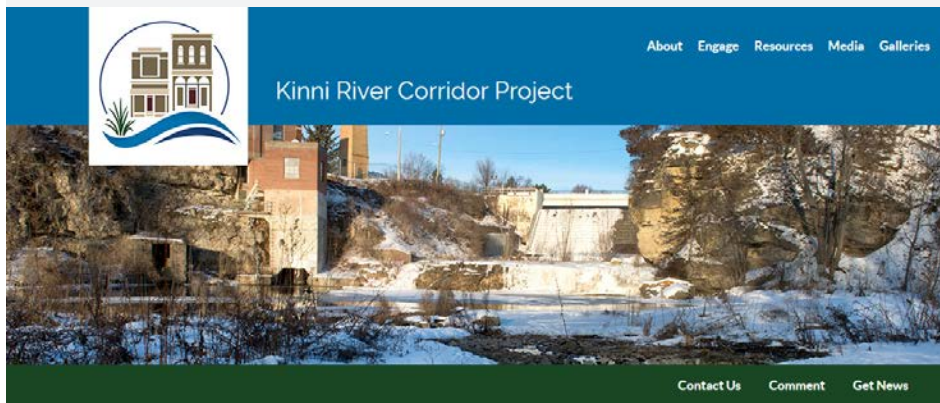


The photo above and on the top of this page were taken by Eddie Rivard during the electrofishing trout survey in August. There were trout of all sizes.

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, October 13th.
Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

Kinni Corridor Planning Open House



On September 7, the last of six Tech Talks was held as part of the City of River Falls' comprehensive, two-year Kinnickinnic River Corridor planning process. The tech talk focused on the importance of recreation, tourism, and economics to river corridor planning. The Tech Talks began last year and all can be viewed on the City's YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and search "Kinni Corridor." They are also available on the City's Kinni Corridor webpage at kinnicorridor.org.

The next big event in the planning process will be a four-day community input session, scheduled for October 25-28 at the River Falls Public Library. The October planning session, or "charrette," will pull together community ideas and input into tangible graphics, maps, and plans. When complete, the Kinni River Corridor Plan will establish a future vision for the area and strategies for implementation.

The charrette planning session kicks off with a community meeting (on

October 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the River Falls Public Library) to discuss corridor ideas and explain the process that will be used over the next few days. On October 26, the planning team work space is open to the public from 9:00–12:00 a.m. and again from 1:00–7:00 p.m. The planning team work space is again open from 9:00–12:00 a.m. on October 27. A community meeting later that day, from 4:00–6:00 p.m., will be held to discuss the initial conceptual scenarios. The planning process wraps up with an open house on Saturday, October 28 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. where the refined conceptual scenarios will be on display.

It is critically important that Kiap-TU-Wish chapter members show up to participate in this event. Ultimately the completed plan will be used by the City Council to design future amenities, natural areas, and most importantly determine the fate of the two dams on the Kinni.

– Gary Horvath



MULTI-DAY CORRIDOR PLANNING CHARRETTE

6/27/2017

	Set Up and Kick-off	Work Day One	Work Day Two	Work Day Three
Time	Kick-Off, Oct. 25, 2017	Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017	Friday, Oct. 27, 2017	Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017
8:00 AM				8:00 - 9:00 AM Kinni Corridor Committee Meeting
9:00 AM		Planning Team Develops Conceptual Scenarios	Planning Team Develops Conceptual Scenarios	Refine Conceptual Scenarios
10:00 AM			Technical Meeting 1	
11:00 AM				
12:00		12:00 - 1:00 PM Kinni Corridor Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting 2	Refine Conceptual Scenarios
1:00 PM				
2:00 PM	Set up planning studio work space at River Falls Library	Planning Team Develops Conceptual Scenarios	Planning Team Prepares for Community Meeting 2.	
3:00 PM				5:00-7:00 PM COMMUNITY MEETING 3. Open House & Presentation of Refined Conceptual Scenarios
4:00 PM				
5:00 PM			4:00 - 6:00 PM COMMUNITY MEETING 2. Presentation and Discussion of Initial Conceptual Scenarios	
6:00 PM	6:00 - 8:30 PM COMMUNITY MEETING 1. Introductions, Review Corridor Analyses, Discuss Corridor Ideas / Program Elements			
7:00 PM				
8:00 PM				
9-11 PM			Refine Conceptual Scenarios	

Key



Charrette Team Meetings

Studio Open to Public

Studio Closed to Public

COMMUNITY MEETINGS
Hands-on Activities, Provide Input, Review & Comment on Concepts

(The Drift . . . from page 1)

obtaining lightly used quality rods and reels. If you have items you'd like to donate, please contact anyone on the banquet committee or send me an e-mail.

WI TU Fall Council Meeting: The fall council meeting is scheduled for Saturday October 7. It will be held at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, WI. The meeting will be in room L5 and will start at 9:00 a.m. Kiap-TU-Wish members are invited to attend. Lunch is provided.

At The Convergence—Where Art, Writing and Conservation Meet: This event is happening Thursday, October 5 through Saturday, October 7, and features local artists Bob White and Mike Dvorak, and popular author John Gierach. This event overlaps the council meeting and is also at the Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. Their website is the best place to get up-to-date information on the schedule of presentations: www.attheconvergence.com. —Tom Schnadt



Raffle. Holiday spirit. Good food.



Maria Manion photo

Conservation Banquet Lowdown

The date for the annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet has been set (drum roll). This annual fun fest is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 7th. The Committee is already going to work to make sure this year's event is more fun than last year's, so mark your calendar because this will be the highlight of your holiday season.

Banquet Committee members are: Allison Jacobs, Tom Schnadt, Deb Alwin, Mike Alwin, Greg Dietl, Scott Wagner and "Occasional Bob" Diesch. We are currently looking for two additional members to help bring some new ideas into our fold. This is a very influential and exclusive committee and we're looking for bright, enthusiastic newbies to join in the fun. Your inquiry should be directed to Scott Wagner, either in person at the October meeting or via email at: Jswagner@bremer.com. —Mike Alwin



2016 KIAP-ON-TAP. We're doing it again in 2017.

Janelle Schnadt photo

KIAP-ON-TAP in November

Rush River Brewing in River Falls is reserved for KIAP-ON-TAP, which will take the place of our traditional November meeting. We've just started planning, so stay tuned for more details in next month's RipRap or on Facebook. Rumor has it that there will be space for fly tying, a food option or two, and darn good beer. —Scott Wagner

2017/2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

Here's an overview of activities thus far. We'll update the list each month with details — location, time, etc.

- **AMERY MEETING**
Monday, October 23, 2017
Village Pizzeria
325 Keller Ave N in Amery
6 PM: Meal & Social Hour
7 PM: program (Topic TBD)
- **KIAP-ON-TAP/Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, November 1, 2017
Rush River Brewing
990 Antler Ct, River Falls, WI 54022
6-9 PM
- **Holiday Conservation Banquet**
Thursday, December 7, 2017
Lake Elmo Event Center
- **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, January 3, 2017
- **Chapter Meetingw**
Wednesday, February 7, 2017
- **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, March 7, 2017
- **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, April 4, 2017
- **AMERY MEETING**
Monday, April 9, 2018
- **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, May 2, 2017

Give a little

Why wait until our conservation banquet or spring appeal to give a few pennies to Kiap-TU-Wish? AmazonSmile — the charitable arm of Amazon — allows users to give .5% of their spending to a non-profit of their choice. Kiap-TU-Wish is registered and happy to accept a small portion of your purchases. If you are inclined to shop on amazon.com, try smile.amazon.com instead. The site looks and acts just like the regular amazon.com, it just gives you the opportunity to send a few pennies to a charitable organization of your choice.

TIP: When selecting Trout Unlimited from the drop down list, be sure to look for the Hudson, WI chapter.

Hoppertunity

By Jonathan Jacobs

Jonathan Jacobs photos

A little tale from days of yore (so yore that it harks back to the days when Wisconsin had an independent DNR Secretary and an Office of the Public Intervenor. Ah, the good old days): We were working on a brushing project on the South Fork of the Willow River. At one session we were joined by the secretary-treasurer for life, or so it seemed, of a now-defunct sportsmen's club. This fellow wasn't known for his jocularity, but on that day he called the gigantic brush pile we'd built "rabbitat." In a similar vein, fly fishing legend Dave Whitlock coined the portmanteau "hoppertunity," to describe that time when fishing with grasshopper imitations is most likely to be effective. That's August and September hereabouts. By the time you receive this issue of RipRap, those months will have flown by. But, if there are no hard frosts between now and October 15, and if October's weather is mild, you may have a hoppertunity or two ahead of you yet. And if Kim Jong-un and that other guy can exercise a modicum of self-restraint, more Augusts and Septembers lie ahead of us.

There's a YouTube video in which host Kelly Galloup fishes the Beaverhead River from a drift boat in early September. Under the legendary Montana Big Sky he casts gigantic foam grasshopper flies tight to the bank, drawing brown trout of truly substantial proportions from their lairs. It's potent enough imagery to pique a person's interest in trying such a thing. Dry Fly Dick Frantes, a tribal elder and a fellow with considerable confidence in his



OCD Hopper



RR Hopper



Baby Hopper



Chernobyl Hopper



Chubby Chernobyl



Chernobyl Ant

doesn't mean it's not worth doing. First, I have had outings when hopper fishing was red hot all day long. Second, even if the action is erratic or glacially slow, the flies are just plain fun to tie, cast and fish. The fun factor can sometimes save an otherwise dull day on the river when nothing much seems to be happening

". . . I'd say that it [fishing hopper patterns] isn't so much ineffective as extraordinarily unpredictable. For several reasons, that doesn't mean it's not worth doing. "

opinions, felt that fishing with hopper patterns hereabouts was ineffective because we don't have the pestilential numbers of the creatures that menace vegetation in the semi-arid West and, therefore, Midwestern trout don't recognize them as a food source. Dick was an early mentor and it pains me to disagree with him, but I'd say that it isn't so much ineffective as extraordinarily unpredictable. For several reasons, that

and, if you've spent the first part of the day fussing with size 24 trico spinners and 8X tippet, flinging a size 8 hopper on a stout tippet can help re-balance your regard for the sport. Because the naturals become more active in elevated temperatures, the use of grasshopper patterns, along with terrestrial imitations in general, is a good tactic to employ if you find yourself astream at midday in high summer.

Pictured here are six flies chosen from a googol of available patterns. I'll offer a few comments about those patterns and some more general comments about tying and fishing with them.

I'm going to lump the "Chernobyl" series of flies together. These resemble the things that Galloup chucks to cover to spectacular effect in the aforementioned video. I stand with Dick and say that these behemoths scare the willies out of Midwestern trout, both because of their size and their outlandish appearance. Their foam construction and wiggly legs do offer us some hints about effective materials and designs. Because of their size, profile and impervious materials, they make effective indicator flies in the much ballyhooed "hopper-dropper" setup and I imagine that the occasional hyper-aggressive trout might grab one with, as John Kennedy used to say, great vigor.

I've tied and fished the "RR Hopper" for years and it's one of my favorites. It has been effective on one local trout

You can find a copy of *In the Kinnickinnic* by Clarke Garry at Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls.

stream in particular. (I'll leave it to you Mensa types to decode the fly's name.) One late afternoon while fishing that stream I rounded a corner to find a pod of trout sipping something tiny from the surface. I couldn't begin to figure out what they might be taking, so in a devil-may-care fashion I tossed the hopper already on my tippet up and to the right of the pod. One of the bigger fish, a robust brown in the mid-teens, sidled over and sucked in the hopper as if it were another spinner. It was a most pleasant surprise, considering that I'd expected the entire pod to bolt. Here's a condensed tying recipe: Hook: Tiemco 5212, size 8. Thread: 6/0 yellow. Tail: Red saddle hackle fibers. Abdomen: Propylene floating yarn, most often in yellow. Underwing: Lacquered turkey primary feather segment. Bullet head/overwing: Natural elk. Legs: Knotted round rubber legs.

The "Baby Hopper" is similar to the RR hopper, except that it's tied on a Daiichi nymph hook, a 1560 in size 10. The tail is elk hair rather than hackle fibers and the legs are knotted natural pheasant tail fibers. This is the fly that provided constant action late in September a few years back.

Lastly, we have the "OCD Hopper," which is a mashup of several patterns gleaned from the internet. This one has a two-tone foam "sandwich" body, some pearl Krystal Flash as an underwing and complex knotted round rubber leg "kickers." It's a recent experiment. I have fished it three times in the upper meadow stretches of a local spring creek and have had odd experiences with it. I have raised three fish in rapid succession and then drawn blanks for the next half hour. As yet I have no clue as to why this is.

Here are some random thoughts to close this out:

- Prominent legs are a positive attribute in a hopper pattern. Both rubber legs and knotted pheasant tail fibers work. Barred legs are likely better than solid color legs. Solid yellow works; solid orange does not.
- Foam and dubbing and hair all have their strengths and weaknesses as body materials. Foam lasts and floats forever without maintenance, but perhaps too



Brian Smolinski photo

Book Review | By Kent Johnson

In the Kinnickinnic: Stories of a River and Its Insect Life

If you love coldwater rivers and streams, then Clarke Garry's new book is a must-read. Published in July 2017, *In the Kinnickinnic: Stories of a River and Its Insect Life* is a series of 32 short essays about one of our beloved Kiap-TU-Wish home waters.

Now retired and living in northern Minnesota, Clarke was a biology professor at UW-River Falls for 30 years. During his tenure at UWRF, Clarke and his students conducted numerous surveys of the Kinni's insect life, providing outstanding scientific information on the presence of these river residents and river health. Kiap-TU-Wish contributed funding to support Clarke's comprehensive survey work in 1999 and 2001-2004, which resulted in the report: *A Survey of Benthic Macroinvertebrates of the Kinnickinnic River of Western Wisconsin* (2006). Clarke's survey experiences and observations of the Kinni provide rich and fascinating material for these essays, some of which have previously appeared in RipRap and Tom Helgeson's *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine.

Clarke's passion for the Kinni and its insect life emerges in every essay as he describes the uniqueness of this special resource, including geology, history, biology, ecology, river health, and present and future threats to the river. *In the Kinnickinnic* is available in paperback at www.amazon.com and at Lund's Fly Shop. I highly recommend this book, and I'm certain that you will thoroughly enjoy reading about the Kinni through Clarke's experiences. Clarke is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from book sales to Kiap-TU-Wish and the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, "in their efforts to conserve, restore, and protect the Kinnickinnic River".

buoyantly. It also allows for the use of substantial hooks. Dubbing and hair float lower, more like a natural hopper, but absorb water and need to be fussed with.

- Flies tied with elk hair bullet heads cast nicely and present a realistic profile on the water, but they're relatively fragile. Spun and clipped hair heads look great

but are also fragile and soak up water.

- Overall, smaller may be better than larger. I speculate that the "Baby Hopper" caught all those fish that day because the fly didn't intimidate the fish and may have been small enough to look like any number of other kinds of bugs.



Greg's daughter Bethany, making a connection.

Connections

By Greg Olson

On Labor Day, I was fishing a trico hatch on the Rush River. Cooler temps overnight meant a later spinner fall, which meant a higher sun angle on this blue-bird day. This coupled with low, clear water made tough fishing darn near impossible. I do enjoy a good challenge though and did manage a few fish, including one that went 17 inches, which may wind up being the highlight of my trout season.

I stood in one spot for hours during the spinner fall, but it seemed like only minutes. It was like one of those New Zealand fly fishing videos. In the full sun, I could see every fish, every rock, and every pebble below the surface. I was fascinated by the brown trout's feeding behavior, the economy of movement of that big fish tilting up from the bottom, sipping a fly from the film, and returning to its lie behind a rock. The smaller fish slowly swam just under the surface and would travel up to 6 inches right or left for a fly. Some 10 to 12-inch fish set up in the tail-out of the pool, with their backs out of the water. The aforementioned big trout drifted backwards with my artificial spinner pattern, seeming to scrutinize every aspect. I started to talk to him as the fly passed my position on the far bank and was about to drag, "C'mon, c'mon, eat it, eat it!" At the last possible second, the fish committed. Now downstream of me, I tried to stall my hook set. I got to "God save..." (of "God save the Queen"), before reflexes got the better of me. Luckily I still connected and, upon landing the fish, saw the hook was only in the skin of the

lip! I could have watched this pod of fish all day but as we all know, spinner falls don't last forever and this one was cut short by the increasing breeze, making that memorable fish the last of the day.

I headed upstream to the bridge and my vehicle. As I neared the bridge I saw another hatch was in progress. Midges were hatching, and a pod of

"The sun was at his back, his arms throwing moving shadows across the pool. The water may have been crystal clear, but instantly all fish vanished without a trace."

trout was finning just under the surface of the bridge pool. Out of curiosity (and perhaps some laziness) I cast the trico spinner to the first fish in the bridge pool tail-out. The fish swam a couple of inches to its left to intercept my fly, touched it with its nose and let it pass. I tried two more times with the same result. Obviously, to have any chance, I was going to have to downsize to a #24 Griffith's Gnat.

Rising fish still tend to give me the shakes and coupled with my tendency to crowd the hook eye when tying small flies, I was having some difficulty. A motorcyclist then pulled up to the bridge, stopped, and peered over the rail. He was as mesmerized by the sight of these rising trout as I was. After a few minutes, he wanted to make sure I was aware of what was going on; after all I was just standing there and, unbeknownst to him, trying in vain to tie on a fly. I saw him excitedly point below the bridge in my peripheral vision. I looked up,

nodded, and went back to my task. After thirty seconds, he pointed below again. Annoyed by the distraction and frustrated at my inability to tie on this fly, I again nodded and added, "Yes, yes I see them." I was probably not heard over the rumble of his motor, so he raised his arms over his head, frantically waving them back and forth and shouting "THERE ARE A WHOLE BUNCH OF FISH RIGHT BELOW ME!" The sun was at his back, his arms throwing moving shadows across the pool. The water may have been crystal clear, but instantly all fish vanished without a trace. Through clenched teeth, I forced a smile and shouted, "Really? Where?" He looked back down and said, "Huh, I don't know. They were here a second ago." He shrugged, I shrugged, and he rode off. I waited for ten minutes after finally getting the Griffith's Gnat on my tippet, but no fish returned.

In those ten minutes, I was able to get my blood pressure back down to normal and had time to reflect. It's a connection. A connection to a beautiful creature, living in an alien world from ours, separated by an air/water interface. I saw it in the face of the biker, in the Trout in the Classroom students, and in my

fishing buddy when he hooks a six-inch brook trout in the Rush. After catching hundreds and hundreds of Rush River trout and fly fishing across the country from Florida to Alaska, it never gets old. I kind of doubt that motorcyclist fished for trout. I suppose I am stereotyping him, but he looked like a "biker" out of Hollywood central casting: Harley Davidson, leather chaps and boots, sleeveless jean jacket with a large patch of some motorcycle gang I couldn't make out. As I try to carve out some free time for my passion of fly fishing, I imagined he did the same to get out in the countryside on his Harley. However, watching his eyes light up, and seeing and hearing the excitement in his face and voice upon seeing the feeding trout, I have to believe he would be in our corner when it came to any vote/referendum to protect the Rush or any other area trout stream. That is why making that connection is so important.



FLY TIER'S CORNER: Bob's All-Season Baetis

Fly & Recipe: Ryan Meyers | Photo: Brian Smolinski



Hook: Daiichi 1182 Size 18-20
Thread: Uni-Thread 8/0 Rusty Dun
Tail: Mayfly Tails Dark Dun
Body: Blended Natural Beaver Dubbing (one part each - tan, olive, and gray)
Wing: Para Post Wing Light Dun
Hackle: Medium Dun

- 1) Place the hook into the vice. Start the tying thread and wrap to just before the hook bend.
- 2) Tie in 6-8 Mayfly Tails filaments. The tips should extend about one hook length beyond the tie-in point. Clip the butts.
- 3) Wrap thread forward to the 1/3 point behind the hook eye. Tie in the wing.
- 4) Return the thread to the hook bend and dub the rear half of the body.
- 5) Tie in the hackle at the half point on the hook shank. The hackle barbs should be equal to 1.5 times the hook gap.
- 6) Dub the front half of the body ending with the thread just behind the eye of the hook.
- 7) Palmer the hackle forward, making 2-3 wraps behind the wing and 3 more wraps in front of the wing. Tie off the hackle.
- 8) Build a small thread head, whip finish and clip the thread.
- 9) Remove the fly from the vice. Trim the wing equal to the length of the body. Turn the fly upside down and trim a notch out of the bottom of the hackle forming a "V" shape.

Notes on this fly from Mike Alwin:

Sometime in the 1980's I attended an entomology class at Tom Helgeson's Bright Waters Fly Shop. The class was taught by Curt Dary, a PhD entomologist. During his lecture on Baetis, Curt suggested that it would be difficult to carry dry flies to cover all of the color variations in this genus. One possible solution he suggested was to blend three different colors together. In the samples I've collected a few were dark, quite a few were light, a few were olive and the majority were tan, which is why we call them "olives." By mixing tan, olive and grey in equal proportions we came up with a pattern that will work early in the season as well as later, requiring the angler to only have to change sizes when necessary.

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Greg Olson is a chapter board member, the chapter's youth education coordinator, and Trout Unlimited's TIC coordinator for Wisconsin.

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



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DON'T MISS the
OCOTBER 4th MEETING at

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022



Join us on **October 4th** to hear **Dan Sitz**, a conservation
engineering technician in Pierce County, speak about



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