



## The Drift: Words from our President.

It's not quite time for the Thanksgiving Holiday, but as members of Kiap-TU-Wish we have a lot to be grateful for this year. Our chapter members have been involved in a wide variety of activities over this past summer and are having a positive impact on our area youth, on area trout angling and on our local coldwater streams.

**Project Workdays:** Chapter Habitat Coordinator Randy Arnold organized workdays utilizing members of both Kiap-TU-Wish and Clear Waters two winters ago to remove some 3,000 trees from the Klingman easement on Wilson Creek. Nate Anderson and his WIDNR crew wrapped up the in-stream and bank restoration there, and two workdays were held in June to seed and mulch the restored areas. Members of both chapters showed up to seed the area and spread some 400 bales of straw. Randy personally installed eight bluebird nest boxes on the Gene Ruenger easement on Hay Creek and also put up another ten nest boxes at the Gutting easement on the Trimbelle. On a rain-soaked Saturday in early July, Loren Haas and Randy met up with members of the Olivet Otters 4-H club, to plant 250 prairie plugs at the Holst easement on the Trimbelle River where last spring a commemorative plaque had been installed honoring Mike Holst. Mike, who passed away the previous year, was a quarry owner and TU champion who supplied rock for many of our stream improvement projects over the years. Caitlin Nagorka of the USFWS provided the prairie plugs to the chapter. Another summer project was also a joint venture with the Clear Waters Chapter when we showed up to seed and mulch the newly restored stretch of Tiffany Creek running through the campus of the Boyceville Middle/High School. Randy organized the workdays there this past winter where members of both chapters and some staff and students from the school helped remove the unwanted trees from the site to ready it for Nate and his WIDNR crew. In addition to planting and seeding, 15 Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers turned out in early August to assist Area Fisheries Manager Kasey Yallaly and her WIDNR shocking crew to complete their annual fish surveys on the Kinni, Rush, and Willow Rivers.

**Maintenance Committee:** A healthy prairie riparian corridor is a major contributor to a healthy trout stream. Creating healthy prairies within the corridor can be accomplished by several means including grazing, fire, or mowing and preferably all three. In a quest to promote prairie health, a project site Maintenance Committee was formed. This committee is being headed by Loren Haas and has outlined three basic mowing strategies: total site mowing every three or four years, invasive brush control mowing and treatment as needed, and planting native prairies in sites that are well suited to prairie plants. This year, an abundance

*{continued on page 2}*

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



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**

**Volume 13 | Issue 2**  
**October 2019**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

### Chapter Meeting

*Kasey Yallaly, our WIDNR biologist, will be speaking about the Brook Trout Reserve Program.*

Dinner at 6pm (your dime)

Meeting starts at 7pm

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

414 South Main Street

River Falls, WI 54022

**Cover photo:** A previously restored section of Wilson Creek, just upstream of a recent Kiap-TU-Wish project. RipRap's editor spent time here, assessing the relative abundance of brook trout with her fly rod and hopper patterns. They were abundant.

### DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is **Friday, October 18.**
- Send info to: [manion.maria@gmail.com](mailto:manion.maria@gmail.com)

*RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects*



*{The Drift. . . from page 1}*

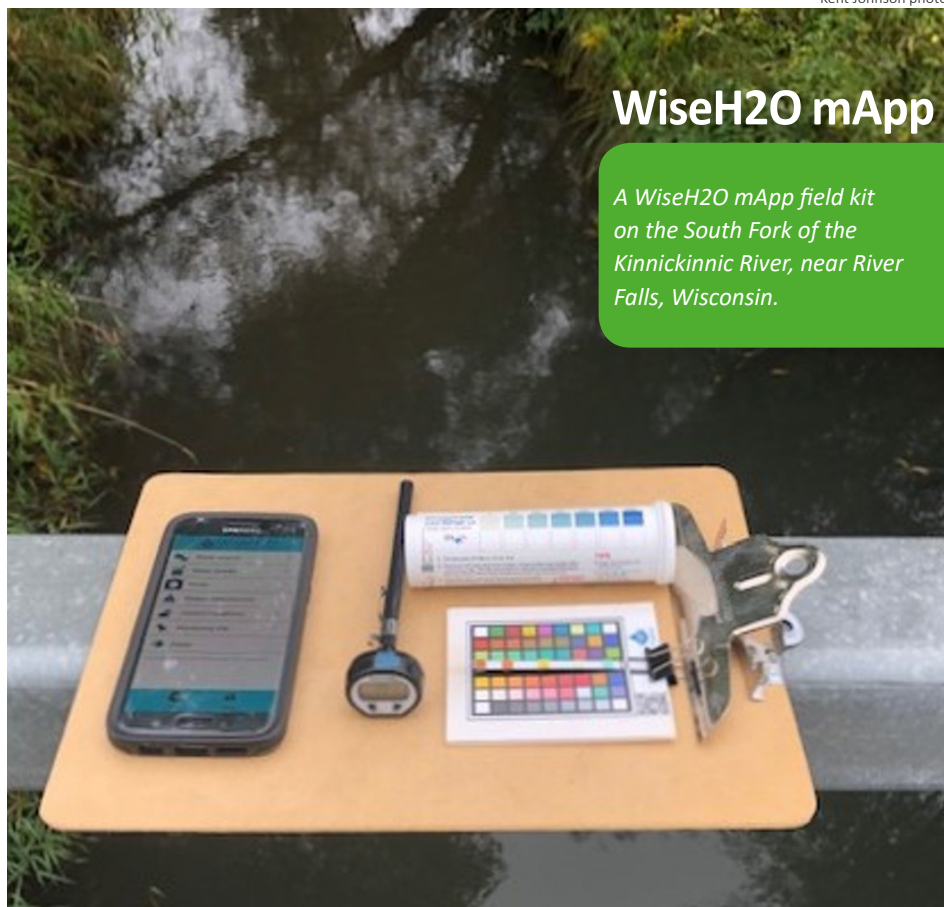
of summer rain created extremely healthy riparian growth. Many area stream banks were covered by a grass height of six feet or more, making them unfishable. As a result, Kiap-TU-Wish hired a contractor and paid to mow five stream easements in August. The five streams mowed are South Fork of the Kinnickinnic on HWY 29, Kinnickinnic River Christiansen access near Co Rd J, Trimble River DOT county Rd W, Parker Creek, and Cady Creek.

**Monitoring Team:** John Kaplan and our monitoring team were busy working with chapter members on deploying 29 temperature loggers in five local rivers. These loggers will help to evaluate the impacts of stormwater runoff, hydropower facilities, and climate change. This data will be used to assess the ability of our stream restoration projects to improve temperature regimes. To complement stream temperature and water chemistry data, two weather stations were operated, providing data on air temperature, relative humidity, dew point and rainfall amounts. Kiap-TU-Wish also continued to provide financial assistance and volunteer monitoring support for the operation and maintenance of the USGS flow gaging station on the Kinnickinnic.

**WiseH2O mApp:** Trout Unlimited's national science team is collaborating with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O mApp), which can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams. Throughout the spring and summer, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers tested the mApp on ten local streams and rivers, making 80 observations (as of August 31) and providing feedback to the developers on mApp improvements. Kiap-TU-Wish is the sole Trout Unlimited chapter proto-typing the WiseH2O mApp. Once the bugs are worked out of the WiseH2O mApp, its developers plan to roll the app out to Trout Unlimited chapters all across the country. This will be a great opportunity for anglers to evaluate and assist in the conservation of our precious coldwater resources. Anglers and other chapters in the Driftless area interested in working with the application are encouraged to contact Kent Johnson at: [d.kent.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:d.kent.johnson@gmail.com).

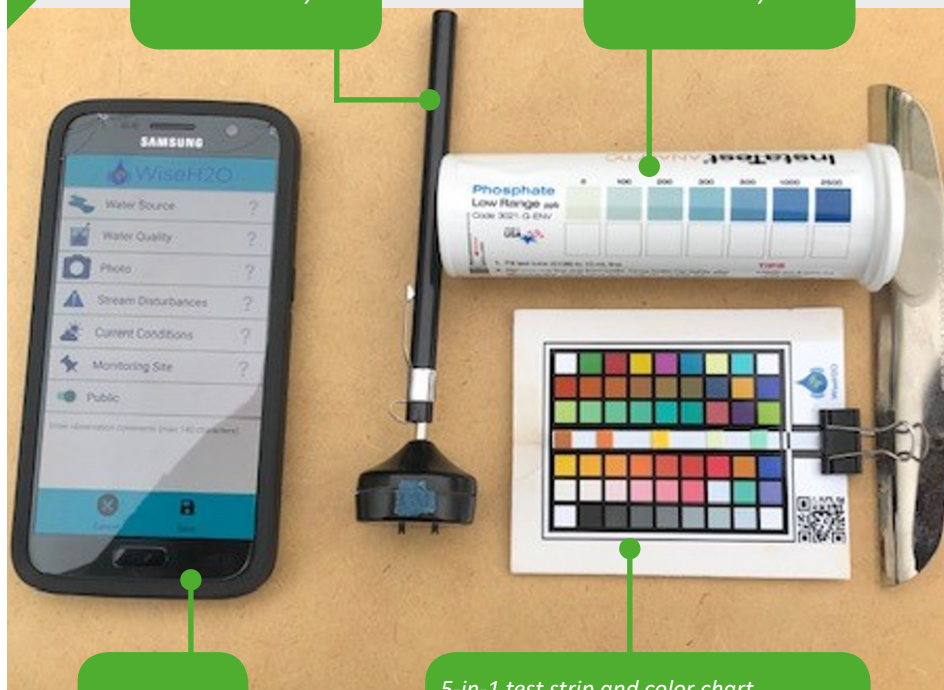
## WiseH2O mApp

*A WiseH2O mApp field kit on the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River, near River Falls, Wisconsin.*



Digital thermometer (F/C) for an mApp water temperature measurement by user

Test strips and a color chart for an mApp orthophosphate measurement by user



WiseH2O mApp on a mobile phone

5-in-1 test strip and color chart, photographed by phone camera for measurement of pH, alkalinity, hardness, nitrite-nitrogen, and nitrate nitrogen



**Habitat Field Trip:** This is the second year our chapter's habitat work was showcased by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation. On July 13, Kiap-TU-Wish members, led by Perry Palin, hosted a Wisconsin NRF field trip on Trout Stream Habitat Improvement projects in the Northern Driftless area, touring stream sites needing habitat improvement work and sites that have already been improved with the planning, financial, and field work contributions by Kiap-TU-Wish, the WIDNR, and many other partners. Many field trip participants were not trout anglers, so this was outreach to a new audience. Participants enjoyed the tour, learning what they could do to improve trout streams, while supporting pollinators, birds and other wildlife through native prairie restorations.

**Fly Fishing Clinic:** On the educational front, the chapter completed another River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic in June with 28 folks participating, making it by far our largest group in the twenty plus years we've been offering the clinic. We had 12 volunteers acting as guides and mentors. Activities provided for the students included a couple hours of casting instruction interspersed with lessons in equipment, entomology, fly selection, fishing strategies, safety and ecology before finally going fishing. We hope that the students came away with knowledge of fly-fishing that will allow them to enjoy the fantastic resource they have in their own backyard. Thank you to event organizers, students, instructors and mentors. Special thanks go to Brian Smolinski from Lund's Fly Shop who helped organize the food, Dean Hansen who supplied insects for the entomology lesson and Jim Kojis who assisted him.

**Trout in the Classroom:** This year all our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs will be back except for North Hudson Elementary, due to the teacher moving out of the school district. However, we've already picked up a new classroom in Ellsworth. Returning classrooms include: Hudson, River Falls (2), Amery (2), Hammond, and Prescott. Dean Hansen will also be back on-board presenting Bugs in the Classroom (BIC) to these classes, as well as collecting bugs for the TIC releases and ECO Day at Rocky Branch Elementary in River Falls. Special thanks to all the Kiap-TU-



Kiap-TU-Wish members volunteered at the Kinnickinnic Pheasants Forever Game Fair on September 7.



Wish members who volunteer for TIC/BIC dates. These special programs with students simply wouldn't be possible without you.

**Youth Game Fair:** On September 7, Kiap TU Wish members participated in the Kinnickinnic Pheasants Forever Game Fair. 37 boys and 17 girls took part in this event designed to exhibit a wide range of outdoor activities. Nancy Willette, a certified casting instructor, provided enthusiastic hands-on fly-casting lessons. Thirteen boys and girls opted to try fly fishing with a mentor on the Willow River or adjacent Dry Dam Lake. Chapter member Ed Constantini helped over 20 youth tie a woolly bugger and had the same level of interest and patience tying fly 20 as he did with fly number one. Our instructors/mentors, Randy Arnold, John Kaplan, Dan Donahue, Bruce Maher, Linda Radimecky, and Mark Pereenboom tailored fishing instructions to the level of interest and enthusiasm of their students. Bob Trevis's 12-pack of flies was a big hit for the kids that participated in fly-fishing.

Thanks to Lund's Fly-Fishing for donating a beginner's rod and reel for the raffle and to St. Croix Environmental Education for loaning five pairs of waders for student use.

**Advocacy:** Our chapter continued its advocacy efforts on several fronts, including Gary Horvath working with the newly formed non-profit, Kinni Corridor Collaborative, to help implement the City of River Falls' plan to eventually remove the two power dams along the Kinni. We were very pleased to see Wisconsin TU legend Duke Welter seated on their board. We look forward to working with this group to help raise funds for dam removals and the other aspects of the Kinni Corridor Plan.

And this isn't even all that chapter members have volunteered towards and accomplished over this past summer. So, now you see. Even though Thanksgiving is months away, we truly have a lot to be grateful for this year!

Happy Fishing. – Scott Wagner



## HOLIDAY CONSERVATION BANQUET on December 5

The Banquet Committee has arranged a date for this year's edition of the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. It's Thursday, December 5, 2019. Mark the date in your calendar or your personal digital assistant if that's the way you swing. We'll have games and prizes and lots of swag, and the Lake Elmo Event Center is always eager to help us make the banquet a success. You can help us out by sifting through your books, gently used tackle and geegaw with an eye towards donating it to this year's fundraiser. – *The Banquet Committee*

## RipRap Editor Needed

We're looking for a new RipRap editor. Please give me a call or email if you might be interested or want to learn more. There's no obligation and I'd be happy to talk. **manion.** [maria@gmail.com](mailto:maria@gmail.com) / 612-325-1005. Enjoy the last of the trout season! – *Maria Manion*



## From the Field: Habitat Update

**Plum Creek:** Heading into fall, Nate Anderson is completing bank work on the section of Plum Creek where volunteers removed trees last winter. Chapter member Loren Haas has designed some ERO (Elevated Riparian Optimization) structures and is working with Nate to incorporate them into Plum Creek with the hope of developing habitat which is favorable to brook trout. You can expect to see notices for two seeding/mulching workdays in the coming weeks as Nate will wrap up this section of stream by the close of fishing on October 15.

**Bluebird House Cleaning:** While you are fishing this fall, I would appreciate your help cleaning bluebird houses. Take a few minutes to open up and clean out the bluebird nest boxes which you encounter on any of our restoration projects. There are boxes at the Red Cabin site on the Kinni, and at the Cty Rd. W, Trudeau, Gutting, Holst, and Buckner easements on the Trimbelle. After opening and cleaning out the nesting materials, leave the boxes open for the winter so that sparrows and mice do not take up residence. The boxes can be closed up in the spring.

**Upcoming Workdays:** We will be removing trees at Plum Creek again, continuing downstream on the remaining three-fourths of the Von Holtum easement. Watch for workday notices starting in late October or November.

**Stream Restoration Tour:** The Driftless Tour is happening in our area on October 16. The bus will leave from the park-and-ride lot at Carmichael Road with stops scheduled at the Klingman easement on Wilson Creek where we have worked the past two years clearing trees and seeding/mulching in support of Nate and his crew. From there the bus will head to the stretch of Gilbert Creek downstream of Hwy 29 where work was completed several summers ago. The final stop of the tour will be the new work on Plum Creek.

The bus will leave at 10am and arrive back around 5pm. There will be a lunch stop in Plum City at the spring-fed pond; box lunches will be provided to those attending the tour. You can reserve your spot on the bus by contacting Duke Welter at **Duke.Welter@tu.org**. – *Randy Arnold*

To be included on Randy's workday announcements, email him at [randyca999@gmail.com](mailto:randyca999@gmail.com).

## 2019-2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Chapter Meeting**  
**October 2, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Kasey Yallaly: Brook Trout Reserve Program*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**November 6, 2019 / 7pm**  
*Trout Movie Night hosted by Randy Arnold*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Holiday Conservation Banquet**  
**December 5, 2019**  
*Lake Elmo Inn Event Center, Lake Elmo, MN*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**January 8, 2020 / 7pm**  
*Topic: TBD*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**February 5, 2020 / 7pm**  
*WIDNR Presentation on Trout Management Plan*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**March 4, 2020 / 7pm**  
*Dick Frantes Open Fly Tying Night for Chapter Members*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo**  
**March 20-22, 2020**  
*Hamline University, St. Paul, MN*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**April 8, 2020 / 7pm**  
*Kiap-TU-Wish Business Meeting & Trout Camp Presentations by Camp Attendees*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**May 6, 2020 / 7pm**  
*WIDNR presentation on project work & fish surveys*  
Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI

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







# Get Out and Stay Out!

By Jonathan Jacobs

Not so long ago, the trout season in western Wisconsin opened on the first Saturday in May and ended on September 30. A subsequent regulation allowed for an early catch and release season that essentially added a “spring season” to the menu, but the season still closed hard at the end of September. Following that, opening day for catch and release angling was moved to the first Saturday in January and the closing date moved back to October 15. The original regulation, which allowed for a season “only” five months long seems cruelly short now and, believe me, it seemed cruelly short back then, too. It did, however, have the effect of intensifying one’s desire to get to the stream and to return there as often as possible. The season now is something of a muddle with, depending on air temperatures and snow accumulation, an opening day that’s effectively highly variable from year to year. The end date, though moved only two weeks back, seems to have taken the edge off the idea of getting in our last licks because by October, many of us are thinking more about hunting, or the press of fall chores, or falls sports, which hereabouts is a euphemism for watching Packer games.

Failing to take maximum advantage of those two additional weeks may be an error of some magnitude. October represents a real change in the altogether too short fall we experience at our latitude. Many times,

September looks and feels nearly summer-like, but by mid October, fall foliage is at its peak color, there’s a hard nip in the air on frosty mornings and you sense that the sun is retreating hastily southward and won’t be returning for a very long time – if ever! So, let a sense of urgency driven by more primal forces than a date on the calendar be your lodestar for the next few weeks.


**"Failing to take maximum advantage of those two additional weeks may be an error of some magnitude."**

You’ll find that the trout are behaving with a sense of urgency unnoticed in late summer. Cooling water temperatures, the angle of the sun and photoperiod combine to tell the trout that something’s on the horizon. That something may be winter, but it’s more likely that the impending spawning season is really what’s changing their behavior. They’re itchy, even aggressive. The trout may still respond to a hatch of blue-winged olives or may rise to gobble a terrestrial imitation on warmer days, but the serious angling action likely will involve chucking streamers. Fishing streamers seems to flummox some otherwise savvy and experienced anglers. The basic equipment consists of a stout rod in the six-weight range, a line with a heavy head (a floating line will be easier to handle, but a short sink

tip may have a role to play), a stout leader with something like a 2X tippet knotted to a streamer. There has been a proliferation of streamer patterns designed to target aggressive trout in the past several years, but Russ Blessing’s iconic woolly bugger remains a good place to start. Black or olive are the classic colors, but variations on the bugger theme work well, too. Flies like the

Bighorn Bugger or Autumn Splendor are tied in colors like those found on brown trout. If those flies

aren’t outlandish enough for you, you might want to give the articulated behemoths developed in recent years a shot. The presentation is simple. It’s either upstream against the bank with the fly stripped back toward the angler or down and across on the swing. It’s a great time to experiment with both flies and presentations. It’s critical to maintain ethical standards when fishing at this time. In other words, don’t cast to actively spawning fish.

If this fishing lights a fire in you and you’re not ready to be done, this kind of fall angling is a great conditioning exercise for fishing Great Lakes tributaries from mid-October into November. That will put you up against the hard edge of winter and if nothing else, you can put the season to rest knowing you left nothing on the table. 

## FLY TIER'S CORNER 2-FOR-1 again!!

Pink Squirrel Parachute (PSP): Notes by Scott Hanson & Photo by Brian Smolinski

Hot spots are everywhere on flies these days. I can't go 30 seconds without seeing the latest and greatest hot spot fly on Facebook, Instagram, MySpace, or any other of my favorite social media apps. Scuds with bright pink hot spots, mayflies with chartreuse hot spots, caddis flies with neon orange hot spots. I've even seen a Woolly Bugger with a hot spot!

Well, I've never been one to stand up to societal pressure, so I figured I might as well join in on the hot spot parade. Enter my Pink Squirrel Parachute, or PSP for short. Just like its namesake, the ubiquitous Pink Squirrel nymph, it's got a bright pink hot spot right up there in the front. Not really sure what the trout think is going on with a bright pink spot on the front of the fly, but something in their pea-sized brain must like it.

My PSP is like the Pink Squirrel, only there is a post and parachute hackle instead of a brass bead and lead wire. Everything else is the same: Krystal Flash for the tail, copper wire for the rib, squirrel fur for the abdomen, and pink fur for the thorax. I like to tie it on a curved hook, so that the back end of the fly hangs down below the water's surface, like a vulnerable mayfly or caddis fly. The fly in the photo was tied on an Umpqua U202, but a Tiemco 2487 or 2457 would be a good option, or a Firehole 317 or 320. Pretty much every hook manufacturer makes a suitable hook.

I like to use pink Para Post for the post material. I looked for just the right hackle color for a long time, and I finally came up with a combination of two colors that goes great with the squirrel fur. I use a medium dun and a grizzly that's been dyed medium ginger.



Hook: Tiemco 2487 or equivalent, Size 16  
Thread: 8/0 Tan  
Post: Pink Para Post  
Hackle: Medium Dun and Grizzly Dyed Medium Ginger  
Tail: Krystal Flash, UV Pearl  
Rib: Copper Wire, size Brassie  
Abdomen: Fox Squirrel fur  
Thorax: Sow-Scud dubbing, Bighorn Pink

Tie up a few and see what you think. Or, if you don't tie, they should soon be available at your favorite western Wisconsin-based fly shop, tied by yours truly. Let me know if you catch any fish with them!

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

March Brown Spinner: Notes & Photo by Mike Alwin

On streams where the mayflies *Stenacron* and *Stenonema* proliferate, anglers are apt to see these relatively large mayflies emerge sporadically all day. Occasionally a fish will rise to the subimago but the real action starts at dusk when the spinner fall is underway. At that time you will likely see many trout getting their late evening hunger satisfied. Anglers lump these species together and refer to them as March Browns, even though around here they emerge in May and June. The problem with fishing to the spinner should be obvious; it's dark. Plus, the spinner imitation has a low profile and if there's not enough flotation built into it, it disappears into the film. Gates Ausable Lodge produces a deadly Hex imitation which, in a smaller size, should fit the bill for a March Brown Spinner that floats and is a tiny bit easier to see.

1. After starting the thread on the hook, run it to the tie-off point and prepare a bunch of deer hair by removing the underbody fur and evening the tips in your hair eveners.
2. Pull out the short fibers and measure the bunch against the hook shank. It should be about twice the length of the shank.
3. Trim the bunch to the correct length and tie the bunch in just behind the hook eye.
4. **Without letting go of the deer hair**, lash the deer hair to the hook shank in rather widely spaced thread turns. When you get to the bend, do not let go of the deer hair, but continue wrapping the thread around the hair a couple more turns.
5. Reverse course and wrap the thread to the mid point of the hook shank. Lacquer the body, tie in your prepared hackle and run the thread to the tie-off point.



Hook: Dry fly, start with a size #14  
Body: deer hair  
Thread: 8/0 Uni in tan, creme or camel  
Hackle: Creme, light dun, grizzly...take your pick

6. Wrap the hackle forward two or three turns to the tie-off point. Then wrap the hackle back to the midpoint in two turns. Wrap the hackle forward two turns and tie it off.
7. Put a drop of cement on your knot, trim the hackle from the bottom of the fly and cut the bulk of the deer hair tips off to form split tails.

*Editor's Note: Mike Alwin wrote a series of entomology articles for RipRap—Know Your Bugs. This fly pattern corresponds to insects described in those articles. If you would like a copy of those articles, email me at [manion.maria@gmail.com](mailto:manion.maria@gmail.com). If you have questions about this fly pattern, email Mike at [mikealwin@gmail.com](mailto:mikealwin@gmail.com).*



# TALES FROM AN EXPERT NOVICE

## The Fishermom *by Jennifer Medley*

Not long ago, I went trout fishing with my husband and our four young children. Despite my desire to fly fish in solitude, being a mom, I logically wind up fishing as a family more often than I do by myself. Which is fine because I imagine taking my kids down to the river and giving them casting lessons, teaching them about how the trout feed, what they eat and how to walk quietly along the banks of a stream.

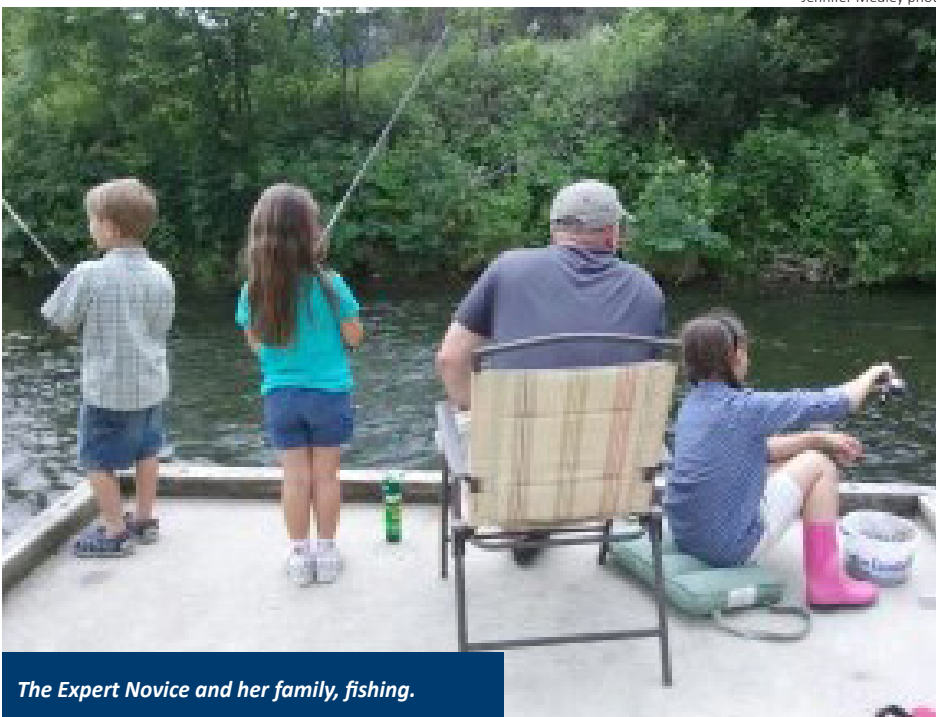
The reality of it is that our kids are really more interested in digging up worms and fishing with bobbers. So instead of my idyllic vision of “fly fishing with my family,” we spent our evening casting worms and bobbers into the stream. My husband has the patience of a saint and was happy to help cast and untangle. My fly rod case and vest sat to the side where I would glance at them longingly, feeling the inner conflict and a smidgen of guilt as I knew as “mom” I should be over there helping to bait hooks and untangle children, but what I really wanted to do was to go fish by myself. When they all decided to stop fishing to snack on potato chips, I took that as a sign.

I moved downstream and tied on some sort of tiny blue wing olive-ish type fly. After watching two trout rise to the fly but turn away, I decided I was going to tie on

my usual caddis. So I nipped off the little fly and pulled out my caddis, and encountered another challenge: seeing the eye of the hook in the low light of the evening. Rather than walking back to the minivan to get the glasses that I’m in denial I need, I decided to keep trying while holding the fly out at arms’ length. While that did help me see better, I also realized that it was likely to be a caddis I had tied myself and the little hairs were not trimmed back well enough from the eye, making it yet even more challenging to thread the line.

After about five minutes of growing irritation at having succumbed to certain physical limitations of being in my mid (umm... late...) forties, I heard a clamoring from just up stream. Kayakers. Sigh. Two people clunking around in an attempt to get out of the stream right at the spot where my family was gleefully snacking. It was another sign. It was pretty obvious at this point that even if I had tied on the perfect fly (and could see it), the fish would have been spooked long enough for my kids to have gotten bitten up by mosquitoes before I could have even tried to fish again. I put my fly back in its box, reeled in my line and finished off their bag of potato chips. 🐛

Jennifer Medley photo



*The Expert Novice and her family, fishing.*

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*Jennifer Medley is a chapter member and new-ish contributor to Riprap. This is her second year sharing Tales From the Expert Novice.*



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## October 2, 2019 Chapter Meeting

Dinner starts at 6pm (your dime).  
The meeting starts at 7pm.

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

Please join us for the next chapter meeting when **Kasey Yallaly**, our WIDNR biologist, will be speaking about the **Brook Trout Reserve Program**. See you there!

