



September Already?

RipRap is back in your mailbox (or inbox) after what was, by all accounts, a cooler summer. It also seemed a strategically wet summer — at least to the extent that the patterns of rainfall and fluctuating water levels provided narrow windows of fishing opportunity.

At least that's what I heard and I was selfishly glad for it. For me, June and July were spent in a classroom with artificial lighting and a noisy mechanical system. Another day of rain or high water meant less disappointment about being trapped inside. My apologies for welcoming such conditions, but so it goes.

Despite the weather and the subsequent challenges for recreation, Kiap-TU-Wish members were busy with events, projects and planning. Inside, you'll find summaries of what happened since the last issue of RipRap.

By the way, I'm Maria Manion, the new editor who has taken over the computer mouse from Greg Meyer, a dang hard act to follow. The graphics are a little different, but our goal remains unchanged: to keep you informed of chapter news and events. Tom Henderson will continue giving us his thoughts and musings in *The Drift*. Information about chapter projects can be found in *Notes From the Field* and Brian Smolinski will continue to share recipes in the *Fly Tier's Corner*. And, as so many past issues of RipRap illustrate, we've got some great storytellers who are going to make our off-season months a bit brighter. Look for regular contributions from Jon Jacobs (the guy who seems to know every chapter member by name as evidenced in his chapter meeting introductions) and future casting tips from Margaret LeBien, an International Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor. This month, in her *Summer Emergers* piece, Margaret fills us in on the various women's retreats held this past May and June.

When I first started fly fishing — meeting people at the fly shop and through TU — I thought "These fly-fishing, trout types are the nicest group of people I've ever met." Sadly, we've lost some of those people this past summer. Jon Jacobs and Mike Alwin have written lovely tributes to their lives and passions. Admittedly, I choked up reading these pieces, pondering shared interests and the friendships that are born of fishing. Thank you to those folks for making this organization richer, and thanks to all you folks for continuing in their footsteps.

~ Maria

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



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TROUT
UNLIMITED

The September 3rd meeting
is at the Valley House, 6 miles
north of Hudson on WI State
Hwy 35.

Pretty good with a camera? Do you have photos of scenery, fish or bugs on your hard drive that you'd be willing to share?

Please send them our way. If of suitable size and fit, we'll feature them above to remind us of the great places we fish and the resources we're working to conserve, protect and restore.

This month's photo is courtesy of Mike Dvorak, a Twin Cities based photographer and angler.

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The Drift: Words from our President.

Projects

The Trimbelle: At the time this is being written, work has been under way for a couple of weeks on the Trimbelle. The monitoring team made stream measurements some time ago, and then set temperature data loggers in the stream, removed them to avoid damage, and re-set some. Rock was delivered last winter over frozen ground. Trees were cut by volunteers, and debris burned on site. The wet spring and early summer delayed the start of work by the DNR. Volunteers built a few lunkers and spread seed and mulch on a portion of the corridor in early August. More seeding, mulching, and watering was completed on August 12th and 13th by Dan Wilcox, Bob Lorenzen, Dennis Anderson, and several volunteers from Fairmount Minerals. **Next work day:** probably August 20th, after this goes to press.

The Kinni: Maria Manion has been writing grant requests for the 2015 project on the upper Kinnickinnic River.

Web Site

We need a Kiap member to take over maintenance of our web site. Greg Meyer created the topnotch site and has been maintaining it for a few years, but family and career responsibilities have required him to take a few steps back. If you have the skill, interest, and time to take over, please let Maria Manion or myself know.

Equipment and volunteers needed!

More opportunities keep cropping up to involve youth. We could use waders, rods, reels with line etc., as well as volunteers. Kiap member Garret Wenzel plans to teach a fly fishing class at his school. Equipment may be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo.

We'd love your help.

The chapter is looking for contributors to RipRap. If you have a story, a poem, a photo etc., please send it our way! We can always use help from graphic designers, photographers, artists, writers, and stamp-lickers.

Send me whatever you'd like to share, or comments and suggestions, by the second Friday of the month for submission. manion.maria@gmail.com

~ Thanks much, Maria

Outreach

Kiap again helped host a field trip at Pine Creek for middle school students last May....some classroom stuff in the American Legion building plus some time in the creek looking at invertebrates. Another group of students from Meyer Middle School helped measure stream width at the site of the work planned for 2015 on the upper Kinnickinnic.

The annual fly fishing clinic at Glenn Park in River Falls was held on June 7.

Amery area: John Carlson has been meeting with the Alden town board to discuss the culvert replacement project on the Parker Creek that is SW of Amery. This is a brook trout stream that flows entirely through DNR land into the Apple River.

Next meeting

The September 3rd meeting will be held at the Valley House, located six miles north of Hudson on WI Highway 35. This will be a social meeting, so please bring your photos and stories from fishing this summer. We also plan to discuss the best ways to handle a wet muddy spring season, and which of the streams seem to clear up first.

Programs

Ideas are wanted for next year's programs. Let me know what topic(s) you would like to have included and I will try to find someone to present it. Better yet, do you know of a particularly good speaker?

Enough said.

~ Tom Henderson

Tom addressing Meyer Middle School students during their service day



Tom Schnadt photo

{Words} Michael Alwin

Pat Farley

A number of years ago I began getting visits by a gentleman with a pony tail. Pat Farley was a couple of years older than I and was cut from the same generational cloth. He had owned a tackle shop/sporting goods shop in Des Moines for years and had recently moved to St. Paul so his wife could be closer to her doctors at the U of M Hospitals.

Pat frequently showed up at the shop in the morning with maple pecan rolls from Swede Hollow Cafe and we would thrash through politics and business topics over coffee and rolls. After his wife died Pat was understandably bereft and in his grief he became more and more attached to the Rush and the Kinni. He came to admire our chapter and frequently contributed personal items to our banquet.

Pat Farley died on May 6 and his family has donated his entire collection of fly fishing tackle to Kiap-TU-Wish. This was an extremely generous act on their part as the value is slightly north of \$20,000. Much of Pat's legacy will be seen in the silent auction at the Holiday Conservation Banquet.

{Words} Margaret LeBien

Summer Emergers: A Confluence on the Kinni.

Greek philosopher Heraclitus said "Ever newer waters flow on those who step into the same rivers" — a cryptic way of saying that a river is a different place every day. The women who came together on the Kinni in May for Confluence's Casting For Recovery Reunion and those who attended the Confluence Trout School on the Kinni a month later stepped into very different rivers. For a fleeting time in May before the rains came, the Kinni was a congenial Camelot stream. But by June's end, the river had shape-shifted into a pushy brown torrent with heavy shoulders.

The women who attended the CFR reunion in May came with an earnest need to get on with life after a cancer diagnosis and a desire to learn to fly fish alongside an experienced mentor. With the support of Kiap volunteers Randy Arnold, Margaret LeBien and Bob Diesch, they were able to gain confidence in their skills on the Kinni river. All weekend, Trish Hannah presented an eye-popping festival of hors d'oeuvres,

{continued on page 6}

{Words} Jonathon Jacobs

Craig S. Mason

Craig Mason, a long-time Kiap-TU-Wish member from River Falls, died suddenly and unexpectedly on July 12th of this year at the age of sixty one. A hidden heart defect was the cause of death. Craig once served on the chapter's Board of Directors and at one time co-edited RipRap with Andy Lamberson. He was active in stream improvement and winter brushing projects in the 1980s and 1990s. His widow, Faye, three sons, two daughters-in-law, grandchildren and several brothers and sisters survive him.

Craig held a degree in land management from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and was an ardent conservationist. Angling was his chief, but not his sole, outdoor passion. He loved canoes and was an expert canoeist. He was an enthusiastic hiker and an avid camper (he once camped out along the Kinnickinnic in the winter the night before a stream improvement project, which was a lark compared to the winter solo camping trips he took to the Boundary Waters). He read the literature of angling, conservation and outdoor adventure fervently. He was a fine fly tier and in the past few years had become a skilled bamboo rod builder.

Those are some of the facts about Craig. He was also one of my very closest friends and I will tell you now that this is not an easy thing to write. We met at a chapter summer picnic at Willow River State Park not long after my family moved to Hudson. A few weeks later we ran across one another in Glen Park and chatted for a bit. Shortly after that he called and asked me if I would like to go fishing. We did go fishing — as frequently and as intensely as we could for the next twenty five years. We chased trout, bass, muskies and, most significantly, steelhead. Steelhead were Craig's dream fish. The aura of unadulterated wildness about them and the wild places they lived fascinated him. I was lucky to have Craig to introduce me to these wonderful fish and to have him teach me how to fish for them.

Craig was one of the most careful, thorough and serious thinkers I have ever met. He had a remarkably even temperament and seemingly unlimited patience. These traits served him well in every area of his life, I imagine, but they were a real asset

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Outreach



Tom Schnadt & Tom Henderson photos



Students looking for insects on the Trimbelle & taking stream width measurements on the Kinni

Meyer Middle School Service Day

As part of Meyer Middle School's spring curriculum, the school sponsored a service day for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Students were given the choice of working with over a dozen organizations. Thirty students expressed an interest in cold water conservation and elected to work with Kiap-TU-Wish on a stream project.

On April 17th, Hans Jung provided an overview of the history of cold water conservation, key components of stream habitat and a description of local TU/DNR projects. Prior to the service day, students did their own research on trout and trout habitat.

On May 30th students traveled by bus to the Trimbelle where they could see a recently completed stream project. Students rotated through three stations: stream temperature, insect activity, and bank height and slope. At each station students reviewed and discussed why these components were important for stream health.

After lunch the class met at the Red Cabin site on the upper Kinnickinnic. Tom Henderson provided an overview of the habitat work proposed at this location. The students were then divided into three groups, each of which made four stream width measurements on

segments of the Kinni slated for restoration. These measurement were submitted to the DNR and will be used to calculate mean stream width which will determine the number of biological survey sites that are required prior to starting the project.

Thanks to all of the Kiap-TU-Wish members that participated in the River Falls Meyer Middle School service day: Hans Jung, John Kaplan, Tom Henderson, Tom Schnadt and Ron Kuehn.

~ Tom Schnadt

Carp Anglers Helping Trout

On June 21st, two-dozen fly anglers set out on Minneapolis lakes and the Mississippi River in quest of *Cyprinus carpio*, the much-maligned common carp. (Rumor has it that flood waters made Cedar Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway prime carp-fishing spots.) The "First Annual" Carpicide Tournament was put together by some Kiap-TU-Wish members with the assistance of CarpPro Dan Frasier and support from Isthmus Fly Fishing and Mend Provisions.

Jared Hinkley of Isthmus worked to have the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter benefit from the fun and festivities. A donation of over \$500 was sent to our chapter for trout stream improvement, as well as a not-so-subtle challenge to Kiap anglers to join in next year's tournament.

~ Bob Trevis



Notes From the Field: the Trimbelle

It was a mad rush this past spring to finish cutting and burning the box elders and other invasive trees along the downstream section of the Trimbelle River, below the County Road W bridge. Volunteer turnout was good and the prolonged snow cover and late arrival of spring allowed us to burn most of the wood which had frequently just been buried on past restoration projects. We had high hopes that the site would dry out quickly after the spring thaw and enable John Sours to begin excavating to transform the eroded stream banks on the project reach. Such was not the case. The projected mid-May start date became "hopefully in June," and really tried our patience. The rains finally relented in mid July when the ground was able to dry out enough for heavy equipment to move around the site and begin the transformation process.

July 30th: Eleven volunteers constructed six lunger structures with wood left over from last year's project work. The volunteers who were not busy with the lungers were working to seed and mulch the upper section of the project where the bankscaping work had been completed. Several other volunteers got out the gas driven pumps and worked to irrigate the newly seeded and mulched area.

At the end of the work, we broke out a portable grill, some hot dogs/buns, cookies, and bottled water and made plans to catch the evening hatch at our respective favorite fishing spots. Thank you to George Ruth, Bob Lorenzen, Chase Lanz, Mark Held, Ed Melstrom, Dennis Anderson, Kyle Amundson, John Carlson, Pat Sexton, Dan Wilcox and Mark Peerenboom for helping out.

August 12th: Kiap volunteers dragged, seeded and re-dragged the newly completed area, and hauled hay with John Sours from the WI DNR. Seven volunteers from Fairmont Minerals ran the mulching machine and watered the planted area. We continued the lunch tradition and cooked hot dogs at the end of the work day. The following day Dan Wilcox ran a water pump and watered most of the area that had been planted with grass seed. Thank you to Bob Lorenzen, Dennis Anderson, Scott Pass, Dave Townsend, Mike Schletz, Toby Chapek, Jeremy Gunderson, Brian Nordby, and Josh Plunkett.

As the newsletter goes to press, another area should be ready for seeding and mulching.

~ Randy Arnold & Dan Wilcox



*Irrigating, mulching & building lunger structures:
The transformed Trimbelle landscape*

Trees were planted on the Trimbelle in late April. Gary Zielske, DNR forester, arrived at the County W bridge before 7am with approximately 1,100 trees and shrubs including swamp white oak, bur oak and black walnut trees, wild crabapple, ninebark, juneberry, grey dogwood and red osier dogwood. Despite a 35F temperature, rain, snow and a 15 mph east wind, all the trees and shrubs were planted by 10:15am!

Great work by the tree planting crew!



Dan Wilcox photo

{Summer Emergers from page 3}

clever picnic box lunches and artful cuisine. By their own accounts, each woman left with gratitude to their generous guides, a reference handbook, renewed friendships, and the memory of sharing beautiful food and of fly fishing a special river. The next reunion is planned for the end of September.

Fast forward to the Women's Trout School at the end of June. The week before, Mother Nature opened her spigots and flooded the St Croix River watershed. The diamond-studded Kinni of May was a deep overflowing soup by June.

Undaunted by conditions, by 8:00 am Saturday the six women Trout School students had already enjoyed a full blueberry cornmeal pancake breakfast, assembled their gear, and gathered for coffee on the deck to greet their river mentors Randy Arnold, Bob Diesch,

Andy Roth, Baird Helgeson and Bruce Nelson. The only problem was the river. It was too high to fish. As Stella said to Paden in Silverado: "The world is what you make of it, friend. If it doesn't fit, you make alterations." So we put aside the schedule and convened class on the deck.

We talked about currents and flow. We traded stories. The "how" of fly fishing merged into the topic of the "why" of fly-fishing...we eyed the river, restless, yearning to fish. We were decamped troops waiting for the signal to advance.

At last the flag was run up and we gathered among the tall grasses on the riverbank to watch the fearless Andy Roth probe the depths and demonstrate how to bottom-bounce a nymph to frightened fish along a bottomless river. In actuality, you could have attached a lead anchor to a stick of TNT

and still brought up nothing.

Guide and student pairs scattered up and down the boiling river to practice casting and mending. We reconvened to the shaded porch to celebrate over another amazing lunch and a few frosty beverages.

During the steamy afternoon, conditions began to improve and before dinner, the river had lowered enough to make a crossing possible. Determined to fish (get in the water) with Andy Roth in the lead, a group formed in the lower canyon and marched upriver. Reportedly, the shortest member of the expedition didn't so much wade as float above the turbulence, her feet feeling for the tops of familiar rocks, touching nothing. She pedaled back and forth like a grinning Daffy Duck, while Andy Roth held her high up off the bottom by her wading belt. Everyone fished in high spirits. One woman

FLY TIER'S CORNER



{Words :: Images} Brian Smolinski

b smo's Big Brown Mayfly Nymph

This easy to tie, simple, and realistic nymph is really just a Hare's Ear variation created with a few more modern synthetic materials. The stretch tubing gives it a sort of transparent gummy quality and is pretty fun to tie with. The UV resin is key for this fly. It can be tied with epoxy, but you have to wait for the epoxy to fully cure before completing the last step.

If you have questions on this fly or materials, stop in at Lund's and ask him in person, or send him an email at brian@lundsflyshop.com

Hook :: Size 14 Tiemco 200R

Head :: 1/8" Brown Bead

Thread :: UTC 70 Denier - Tan

Tail :: Dyed Mallard Flank Fibers - Wood Duck

Body :: Wapsi Stretch Tubing - Small/Tan

Thorax :: Hare's Ear Dubbing

Wing Case :: Tan Scud Back

- [1] start the thread behind the bead & wrap down the shank until the thread is about even with the hook barb
- [2] tie in one mallard flank fiber on each side of the hook so they curve away from each other
- [3] cut off excess & wrap back over, bringing the thread back to the tie in point
- [4] tie in the end of the stretch tubing & wrap thread forward, back up to the bead
- [5] tightly wrap the stretch tubing up the shank of the hook, overlapping more as you go forward to create a tapered body
- [6] wrap tubing forward & tie off right behind the bead, then cover the thorax area with thread, forming a hard level surface to dub over
- [7] tie in the scud back material on the back of the fly at the rear of the thorax
- [8] dub over the thorax and pull the scud back material over the dubbing to create the wing case
- [9] trim off the remaining scud back & tie off thread behind the bead
- [10] put a drop of UV resin onto the wing case, large enough to cover the scud back material and cover the top of the thorax
- [11] cure resin and pick out the longer hair fibers on each side of the thorax with a bodkin to create the legs of the fly

managed to snag a fish to shouts of "so THAT'S how you do it!" All was right with the world.

The Trout School weekend could have gone according to the ordinary way of things, but, serendipitously, it didn't. Everyone learned so much more.

{ About the Author }

Margaret LeBien is a Kiap-TU-Wish member and International Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor. She formed Confluence Fly Fishing Midwest, along with her partner Trish Hannah, to bring together women who share a love of fly fishing and artfully prepared local food. Their mission is to raise an awareness of the reclaimed beauty of the Driftless Area rivers and the need to preserve them. As an incentive to discover and support TU, women who are current members of Trout Unlimited are offered a discount to attend Confluence trips and schools.

{Craig Mason from page 3}

for someone who chose to fish for a species that had little interest or no interest in feeding. More often than I care to admit, he caught fish in water that I had fished and judged barren only moments before.

We had a great deal in common, which was surprising because in many ways we were very different. Craig

was highly organized and tidy while I most decidedly was not. For example, Craig introduced me to the importance of keeping one's fly line clean, a totally foreign concept to me. He built little fixtures that had a reel seat at one end and a plastic line spool at the other to make the task of fly line maintenance easier and more orderly. These fixtures were like little pieces of fine furniture, made of oak and gleaming with high gloss varnish. I attempted to replicate his device; mine was made of unfinished pine, had not a square or plumb line in it and was generally ungainly. I mention this because Craig built a cabin in the woods near Brule, Wisconsin. It's a storybook structure that exudes both warmth and meticulous craftsmanship. He built it almost exclusively without the use of power tools and mostly by himself, a huge undertaking. I offered to help several times, but Craig always demurred with a sort of "It's ok - I've got it" kind of response. Looking back, I think he knew my work could never meet his standards and did not wish to strain our friendship by subjecting me to his certain criticism of my "help."

Craig was one of six of us who gathered once a year for several years for a long weekend of fishing and canoeing on the North Fork of the Flambeau River. It has always been a gathering for boys who have attained a certain age

while remaining boys. At his memorial gathering there was a little table with pictures and memorabilia on it. Prominent in the center was the tube in which a bottle of Glenmorangie single malt whiskey is packaged; it contained his ashes. One member of our group had heard that Glenmorangie was Craig's favorite whiskey. "He never brought that to the Flambeau," our mutual friend said. I replied, "It was only in recent years that Craig held himself out to me as a Scotsman, which explained a great deal." I was trying to suppress my grief with a small attempt at humor based on the stereotype of the painfully thrifty Scot. I said what I said because I was born in a time when one could make a reference to national heritage without being hauled off to mandatory sensitivity training. Nonetheless, I still think there is usually some element of truth in a stereotype. Craig the Scotsman also carried in his genetic makeup the innate sense of fidelity to kith, kin and cause that made him such a true and faithful friend. I will miss him always.

{ About the Author }

Jonathon Jacobs has been a long-time Kiap-TU-Wish member. He's been involved in nearly all, if not every, aspect of the chapter and has graciously agreed to be a regular contributor. In the past he's suggested his musings be titled "Sagas of the Superannuated" or "Creaker's Corner." I'll let him make the final decision on that.

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
Bob Diesch	Board Member /Fly Fishing Clinic	bob@etestinc.com
John Kaplan	Board Member/Monitoring Coordinator	jmk8990@comcast.net
Maria Manion	Board Member/Grants & Newsletter	manion.maria@gmail.com
Greg Olson	Board Member	Greg.Olson@diasorin.com
Tom Schnadt	Board Member	thschnad@hotmail.com
Bob Trevis	Board Member /Spring Appeal	troutchaser@comcast.net



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

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

DON'T MISS the SEPTEMBER 3rd MEETING!

at

The Valley House
1237 Hwy. 35
Hudson, WI 54016
715-549-6255

The Valley House is located 6 miles
north of downtown Hudson on WI
State Hwy 35.

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

Jane Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 5401

Eat, Drink, and Go Fishing. For Tomorrow We Lie.

Bring your fishing photos and stories to this end-of-summer show-and-tell at the Valley House on September 3rd. We won't have a formal speaker, but there's bound to be good stories and photos all around. We'll also talk about the best way to handle a wet muddy spring and which streams seem to clear up first.

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 calls-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.