

The Drift: Words from our President



photo courtesy of Maria Manion



K-TU volunteers Randy Arnold, Dan Wilcox, Jeff Meachen, David Krier and Mike Spittler, photo courtesy of Tom Schnadt

Old Martell Schoolhouse Shindig/ Clinic: Kiap-TU-Wish teamed up with Friends of the Old Martell Schoolhouse for a daylong event featuring fly fishing demonstrations and instruction combined with poetry readings and performances by local musicians. Thirty-two participants completed the four fly fishing segments and earned a set of flies. A hearty thanks to Loren Haas for organizing the clinic and to the Kiap volunteers that introduced a new audience to cold water conservation and to fly fishing. Friends of the Old Martell Schoolhouse reported that they raised \$600 from the event that will go to the restoration of the schoolhouse.

Trimbelle Tire Pickup: Mike Spittler shared with Kiap that recent rains had deposited more tires in the Trimbelle River above the 570th

Avenue bridge. On Saturday, July 11th, Randy Arnold organized a crew to pick up the tires. Two canoes and three hours of work yielded 42 tires (1,200 lbs). Dan Wilcox donated his truck and trailer to haul the tires to Pierce County Recycling Center. Thanks to volunteers Randy Arnold, Dan Wilcox, Jeff Meachen, David Krier, and Mike Spittler for their fine effort.

Trimbelle/Trudeau Restoration Project: Work has started on the 1,800-foot Trimbelle/Trudeau project. The wet spring, mechanical issues and a backlog of projects has challenged John Sour's WDNR work crew. The stream banks are being sculpted and rock is being placed. Soon volunteers will be needed to build lunger structures and for mulching. Keep an eye out for Randy's volunteer announcements.

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

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The September 2nd 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.

The photo above was taken on the Kinnickinnic River in mid August. The afternoon was hot, stagnant and sticky. Heat shimmered off the pavement. Along this stretch of water, though, all discomfort was forgotten. Grasses drooped into the water and a lone fish was heard rising somewhere along the bend. The steady, raspy buzz of grasshoppers was punctuated by the low pitched drone of bees, and all manner of plants were in bloom. Not a bad day on the river.

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Rock at the Trimbelle project, photo courtesy of Dan Wilcox



Streamside instruction at the 2015 TU Youth Camp, photo courtesy of Fox Valley Chapter of TU

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Youth Fishing Camp: This is the first year Kiap has sponsored a youth to attend the Wisconsin Trout Council Youth Camp. Fourteen-year-old Joe Duncan attended the July 16-19 camp in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Joe was very positive and enthusiastic about his camp experience and was asked to attend next year as a youth instructor. See Joe's article about his camp experience.

River Falls Dam: Dan Wilcox is serving as Kiap's representative on the City of River Falls sediment analysis technical committee. The committee reviewed five proposals. Dan worked closely with Gary Horvath and Kent Johnson on the technical merit of the proposals. Based on the committee's input the city selected Interfluve to

do the study. Interfluve is a nation-wide company with a large portfolio of dam removal and restoration projects including a number in Wisconsin.

Monitoring: The Board approved an expenditure of \$400 for temperature loggers. The loggers will be installed the week of August 17th in the Willow River at sites originally established by Chuck Goossen. The Board also approved the expenditure of \$750 for a Pine Creek water quality study. Jeff Hastings and TUDARE also contributed \$500 for the study. Kent Johnson will conduct the study that will focus on base phosphorus levels in upper and lower Pine Creek and the springs that feed Pine Creek.

~Tom Schnadt

Weather Results: Good News, Bad News

Admit it or not, a good day of catching fish includes mostly smaller fish (6 to 12 inches) and a small number around 12 or 14 inches. One fish 16 inches or larger can make the season memorable. With the droughts of the last few years, the trout densities have been much lower than normal.

Last year's rainfall has led to significant recruitment this year. There are large numbers of young-of-the-year fish. There are fewer predator fish, so those young are surviving: good news for future years. Also due to the lack of predatory competition, the year classes that were 12 to 14 inches long last year have grown to 16 inches plus. This is the year to go after larger fish in the deeper pools.

According to fish biologist Marty Engel, many of our local streams with a pool at virtually every corner have at least one fish, 15 to 20 inches, in each pool. This includes pools further upstream than we normally expect. Get out there and enjoy it while it lasts!

~Tom Henderson

photos courtesy of Maria Manion

The Old Martell Schoolhouse Shindig

The Old Martell Schoolhouse is a landmark along the Rush River. So when the Friends of the Schoolhouse approached Kiap-TU-Wish to join them in their daylong celebration of this building and its adjacent natural resource, TU joyfully accepted. On August 1st, Kiap members were on hand at the first ever Schoolhouse Shindig to give fly tying demonstrations, casting instruction, equipment advice and to answer questions about cold water conservation. And, before this fly tyer could unpack her vise, participants arrived to learn more.

Attendees to the Shindig circulated outside amongst the TU booths or went inside the schoolhouse to get a locally produced pork sandwich, to listen to music or poetry, or to reminisce about their school days in Martell. The shindig was also a time to express

mutual admiration for the Rush's beauty. I got the chance to meet and talk to folks who live along the river I love to fish. In fact, some of those new acquaintances may join us at our chapter meetings, so be sure to say hello.

Catherine Olson, one of the Shindig organizers, remarked "We definitely put ourselves on the map as a place for community to gather. . .I've not seen so many smiles and happiness in one day all day long!"

~Maria Manion

Thanks to the many Kiap members who volunteered to help out at the shindig: John Carlson, Sarah Sanford, Margaret LeBien, Trish Hannah, Jon Jacobs, Loren Haas, Emily Haas, Bob Diesch, Bob Trevis, and Randy Arnold.



Above: Sarah Sanford demonstrating how to tie a grasshopper pattern

Below: Margaret LeBien giving instruction to the Shindig's very first attendee



STATUS REPORT

Little Falls Dam in Willow River State Park

The lake, or lack of it, at Willow River State Park dam.

photo courtesy of Tom Henderson

The state of Wisconsin has decided to completely remove the dam, and build a new dam in the same spot. As of August 17, the lake has been drawn down approximately 12 feet. The exposed portion of the lake bed is drying and stabilizing, with vegetation growing.

The remaining lake level bounces up and down with each rain event. To drain the remainder, a section of the dam will be removed. This might be done by the time this issue of RipRap is mailed.

The legislature has appropriated \$8.1 million for this project. The new dam is expected to include provision to release cold sub-surface water to maintain the trout habitat downstream.

From a press release dated in May 2015:

"The Little Falls Dam has structural problems and insufficient flood flow capacity. The dam is high hazard because residential land use downstream could be

flooded in a dam failure and potentially cause loss of life."

The current issues with the Little Falls Dam include:

- Inadequate spillway capacity
- Three of four gates are in poor condition; two of four gates are completely inoperable
- Seepage along multiple arch buttress sections indicating poor dam foundation
- Seepage at powerhouse and gate two indicating structural movement and poor dam foundation
- Ogee spillway is the oldest section of the dam; cannot be adequately inspected at full pool; built on a questionable timber crib and experiencing uncontrolled seepage at the contact point between the right abutment and the bedrock indicating a possible foundation problem and a continually deteriorating probable failure point.

~Tom Henderson

Banquet Committee Fires Up!

The organizational meeting for the 2015 Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet will be held on Saturday, September 19 at noon. The Committee will convene at the Alwin residence over bratwurst and beer, or something.

It must be pointed out that the BanComm is K-TU's longest standing committee and the most fun to work on! If you are interested in serving on this model of committee efficiency please voice your interest to Tom Schnadt: **651.245.5163** or **thschnad@hotmail.com**

Grant Writing: We need you!

While the generous donations of Kiap members and friends help support our habitat projects, a large portion of our funding is the result of grant writing efforts. The Red Cabin Habitat Restoration Project on the Kinnickinnic River, for example, has received support from organizations including Patagonia, the Trout & Salmon Foundation, TU's Embrace-A-Stream and more.

Kiap-TU-Wish is looking for volunteers to write grant applications for the chapter's future restoration projects. Grant writing volunteers would work in conjunction with Kiap-TU-Wish board members and WDNR staff to prepare applications that would address the projected project budget, schedule and scope of work. Grant writing volunteers don't need to know the nitty-gritty of trout stream restorations — you'll learn all about it along the way.

If you enjoy writing and have some time to commit to our project efforts, please contact Kiap board members Tom Henderson, Maria Manion or Tom Schnadt. (See page 7 for contact info.) We would appreciate your help!

~Maria Manion

From the Field: the Red Cabin project site in August, ready for the WDNR habitat crew.



This summer I was lucky enough to be sponsored by the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter to attend the 2nd annual Trout Unlimited Youth Camp at the Pine Lake Bible Camp just south of Waupaca, Wisconsin. It was a 4-day/3-night camp for kids ages 12-16 to go and learn about all types of fishing. The event is staffed by mostly retired people who enjoy the outdoors and teaching kids.



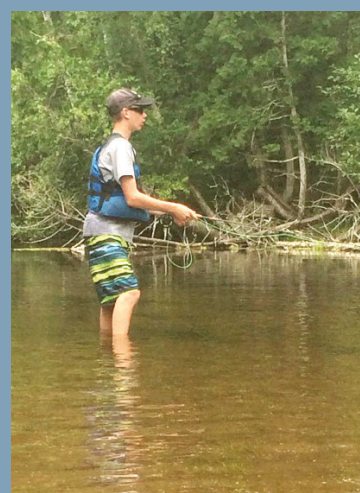
Kiap-TU-Wish at Camp

{Words} Joseph Duncan

The first night at camp we joked about getting up at 4 a.m. to get the best spot on the lake. Mike Stary (from our chapter) said, "If you want to get up at 4 a.m., I will take you fishing," and he did! We ended up catching a lot of panfish and bass. Over the next couple of days we had a blast doing more fishing, tying flies, making spinners and having fun competitions. I ended up winning a Cablelas fly vest by finishing first in the fly casting contest! We also got a chance to watch the Wisconsin Game and Fish Department electroshock a stream. Just watching the people pull fish out of the stream was interesting because it showed me all of the places trout can hide.

On the third day of the camp we moved from fishing the lake to Pine Creek. Two campers and two guides were assigned to each easement on the creek. I ended up with a terrific guide who helped me land my first trout on the fly! It was a small brown trout. The fourth day we got on the stream early in the morning. We ended up getting skunked, but we still had a great time and learned a lot from our guide about how to "read the water" and the importance of conservation.

Going to the TU Youth Camp widely expanded my knowledge and definitely helped me become a better fisherman. Mr. Beck, who ran the event, even offered for Trout Unlimited to pay my tuition next year if I would be willing to come back and help the younger kids in the program. I



Above: Joseph kayaking his way to fish
Below: Fishing success on the Brule

Photos courtesy of Dan Duncan

am definitely going to do it!

The day after I came back from camp, I was able to immediately practice many of the things I learned. My dad and I fly fished Lake Owen near Hayward, Wisconsin, for bass and panfish. The next day we kayaked 10 miles on the Namekagon River for smallmouth bass. The day after that we

kayaked 12 miles of the Brule River for trout, which was my personal favorite. We caught brookies, browns and one very nice rainbow trout!

I hope everyone had a good summer of fishing. Thanks again to the chapter for sponsoring me to go to camp. 🐟



{Words} Mike Alwin

KNOWING YOUR BUGS: Part I

The Power of Observation

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.

Observing and identifying insects is one of those adjuncts to our sport of trout fishing. Here are three reasons to study aquatic entomology. First, aquatic entomology is intrinsically interesting. You might ask yourself why there are so many species of mayflies, and you've just opened yourself up to a lifelong rumination on adaptation. Second, studying these fascinating little critters begins to answer the questions why, how and where. Being able to ID a mayfly as a *Baetis* opens up the literature for you so you can find pertinent behavioral information about that genus. Third, knowing more about the stream and the insects leads to more informed angling. Insect emergences are predictable after all, so why not take advantage of the information so you can better prepare?

We might define observation as the difference between seeing and looking. It's akin to seeing the clock vs. reading the time. A wise angler reads

the riparian habitat as well as he or she reads the stream itself. When we look around we ask questions and in the process we begin to see. Are there birds about? What are they doing? Are they flitting around in the underbrush or are they flying around above the stream? If they're feeding, are they finding terrestrials to gobble up or are they feeding in the air? What's the bank like? Is it hard or soft? Is it rocky, sandy, loamy or devoid of soil? How is the bank vegetated, with grass, brush or trees? If trees, are the dominate species coniferous or deciduous? All of these are clues to what you might expect to find once you enter the water.

How well do you know your birds? Which species are insect eaters? Warblers and wrens are usually found flitting around in the brush where they consume mostly terrestrial insects and some winged insects at rest. Swallows and waxwings can be found over the stream when winged insects are in

flight. Bats will join them after dark. So there's an obvious clue; the presence of bats, swallows and waxwings, to name a few, usually indicate an emergence or mating swarm.

Now how about the bank? A spongy bank will tell a different story than a hard bank. A bank swept clean of vegetation tells a different story than a bank filled with grasses, forbs or moss. The presence of sedimentary rock rather than glacial rock usually indicates a more fertile stream, even near the headwaters. Finally, a stream bank clogged with stinging nettles frequently indicates that the bank has been disturbed by fire, human activity or flooding.

These are all things that you can study before you get into the water. Next issue we'll get into the water and take a look at the stream itself.

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

TIC Trout Alert: Not long after our May chapter meeting, Brian Burbach's 5th grade class released their classroom-raised brown trout into the Willow River. Said Kiap member Greg Olson "It went awesome! The hardest part was capturing all the fish from the tank and convincing the kids to release all the fish (they wanted to keep a few). We did not lose a single fish on the way to the river . . . We picked a great spot, I pointed out to the kids the riffles above and below the release site which would act as the "aerator" from their tank. I picked up a rock from the stream and showed it to the kids. It was crawling with caddis larvae and a few mayfly nymphs."

See Kiap's Facebook page for more photos and a link to the article about the release posted in the Hudson Star-Observer newspaper.



photo courtesy of Greg Olson

September and Itty-bitty Bugs

I assume that most people are familiar with Trico hatches and think of them as something that happens in the very first hours of daylight in high summer. That's true, but I wonder how many people realize that this hatch persists until at least the end of September. There are a few key differences between the hatches on muggy mornings in mid-July and the crisp days of late September. First, and most importantly, the hatch moves toward mid-day in fall. I've seen clouds of spinners after noon in the last week of the season. Second, the fall bugs seem to be a size or so smaller than the already tiny ones that hatch in high summer. Coupling the smaller size with the fact that trout have seen a plethora of the insects by then and know exactly what a trico looks like can produce some angling that's challenging indeed.

There are several species in the genus *Tricorythodes*, most of which are similar in appearance. We tend to call them, phonetically, try-kos, or if we're in an expansive mood, try-kor-O-tho-deez. A friend of mine who had a fair working knowledge of the rules of classical Latin insisted that the proper pronunciation is tree-ko-RITH-o-deez. I don't know about any of that, but all this talk of Latin brings to mind the possibly apocryphal story about then-Vice President Dan Quayle traveling on a fact-finding mission and finding himself surprised that no one in Latin America spoke Latin. But I digress.

As for techniques for late season trico fishing, I'd say this: The use of 7X tippet material, while always advisable for this hatch, is essentially mandatory. Find a monofilament that has at least some abrasion resistance and that knots well for you without creating a pigtail at the tippet to fly knot. Try to get above the target fish and cast quartering down to it. Drag is possibly less apparent with this approach and it's certain that the fish will see the fly before the tippet. If any of this works, be sure that the fish has closed its mouth on the fly before gently lifting the rod or sweeping it to the side to set the hook.

There are numerous effective

commercial fly patterns for this hatch. Most common is the classic poly-winged spinner tied with long, well divided tails, a thread abdomen and a thorax of black dubbing figure-eighted


“As for techniques for late season trico fishing, I'd say this: The use of 7X tippet material, while always advisable for this hatch, is essentially mandatory.”

over the white poly wing. I personally like a wing of cream rooster hackle wound through the thorax and then trimmed flat on the bottom. The hackle forms a semi-circle over the top half of the fly, but the fish don't seem to care and it's more visible to the angler than a fly with a wing that lies flush in the film. Speaking of visible, a parachute Adams in the correct size can be surprisingly efficient. Again, you may want to go down a fly size from the one you were using back in July. If you tie your own, you may wish to consider putting them up on Orvis Big Eye hooks. Tiny-fly guru Ed Engle has an innovative sunken spinner pattern with an abdomen of wound black wire that looks awfully interesting. A tying video is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EV9k_paC-DA and a lovely short video of Mr. Engle

fishing the pattern can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zB_qX_ykRh4

A second tiny mayfly with a significant presence in September is a form of blue-winged olive with the Linnaean name *Plauditus punctiventris*. This miniscule critter was until several years ago called *Pseudocloeon anoka*. One imagines truculent gangs of obstreperous taxonomists engaged in a showdown throwdown over this one. The fly is, in crude angler's sizing, about a 24 or 26. A Comparadun-style fly with well divided tails, a sparse light olive abdomen, a darker olive thorax and a wing of high quality dun-colored CDC is a good place to start when selecting an imitation. It strikes me that the wings on all very small mayflies are somewhat oversize in comparison to

the wings on, say, a Sulfur. My theory is that it takes so much wing area to get anything airborne, regardless of reduced payload. The CDC wing, while high-maintenance, also helps imitate the natural's behavior of wiggling its wings as it dries them out to make them sufficiently rigid to provide lift.

The hatch is usually a mid-afternoon affair. My advice is to get your licks in early on this one. When the fish first begin to concentrate on the hatch they are careful but catchable. The hatch can be absolutely profuse and the fish learn very quickly to detect and spurn a fraud. The fish do gobble these little fellows, though, and the fishing, while very challenging, can also be exciting and can provide some great memories to help a snowbound angler carry on a couple of months from now. 

FLY TIER'S CORNER: yarn wing dun (Plauditus)



Fly Recipe

Hook :: #22 dry fly hook (It should measure 4mm from behind the eye to the start of the bend)



Thread :: 8/0 Uni in pale yellow or light tan

Tails :: Three rooster fibers or synthetic fibers in white or pale yellow

Hackle :: Light dun rooster

Dubbing :: Pale yellow or light tan dry fly dubbing

Wing :: Light dun poly yarn

Instructions

- [1] Put the thread on the hook, run the thread almost to the bend and tie in the fibers. They should be the length of the shank for the dun and a little longer for a spinner.
- [2] Run the thread to the mid-point and tie in a high quality dun rooster hackle.
- [3] Run the thread forward to half way between the mid-point and the eye.
- [4] Tie in a VERY small clump of poly yarn, probably a sixth of the original yarn width, with TWO turns of thread in EXACTLY the same place.
- [5] Gather the yarn, stand it upright and wrap a few turns of thread around the base to gather the material together.
- [6] Dub the smallest amount of dubbing on the thread that you can see, then dub the thorax area.
- [7] Wrap the hackle forward in four or five turns and tie off.

Note: For a spinner, skip the yarn wing and wrap six turns of hackle. Trim the bottom.

What used to be called Pseudocloeon got changed by the taxonomists several years ago, but it's still a Tiny Blue Wing Olive and it's still a frustrating hatch to fish over. Our friend Jay Johnson wrote a great piece about it in Midwest Flyfishing when that magazine was still publishing, and there's really nothing to add to it. To recap, this insect is considered a small minnow mayfly and as such is a good swimmer. My faulty memory seems to recall that it has more than one brood per year. They start emerging in July and can be found on the water as late as the end of September. This insect ranges between 3-5 millimeters, translating to approximately size 24. While it's possible to catch a fish on a small nymph or emerger, most of the action seems to be to duns and spinners.

Kiap-TU-Wish

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Next RipRap deadline: Friday, September 18

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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news . . .

www.kiaptuwish.org
&



Like us!

DON'T MISS the
SEPTEMBER 2nd 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 Street

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

Jane Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 5401

Chapter meetings! We're back! Join us at our September chapter meeting when we'll hear about the summer happenings of Kiap members Loren Haas, Jeff Himes, and Dan and Joseph Duncan. It's a great time to make new acquaintances, catch up with Kiap friends, tell a few stories, listen to a few stories, and get back into the swing of our monthly chapter meetings.

Get us on your calendar: the first Wednesday of every month, September through May, 7pm. (Please note that in December we meet the first Thursday at our Holiday Conservation Banquet.)

And RipRap is back too! The Kiap-TU-Wish newsletter is back with information on chapter news and events. We've still got the Drift — highlights from our chapter president. We've still got updates from the field. We've still got great storytellers. We've still got fly recipes. We've still got informative and insightful writers and, most importantly, we've still got a chapter full of committed and enthusiastic stewards of our area's cold water resources. All of you!

Welcome back.