



The Drift: Words from our President.

Parker Creek Culvert: The Parker Creek culvert project has been in the works for over four years. John Carlson, Tom Henderson, Bob Diesch and Gary Horvath were early promoters. On August 16th, the culvert was installed. In October John Carlson will have a RipRap article on the culvert installation. My thanks to John for keeping a watchful eye on the installation. I spent some time on site and want to acknowledge the excellent technical support from Polk county. At various times Tim Ritten, Scott Geddes, Eric Wojchik and intern Colton Sorenson all provided assistance. Eric shot all of the level measurements critical to getting the depth and pitch of the culvert correct. As an interesting aside, Colton is a UWRF student and last year toured the Trimble Trudeau site as part of UWRF's Aquatic Restoration class. My other take-away from the project was the skill and touch of the backhoe operator, Darren Ankhrum. His poise and skill were particularly evident when the bank under one track became unstable and with calm and precision he repositioned the backhoe.



Tim Christensen photo

Trout Survey Work: From my experience and also from following the Kiap Facebook posts, it's obvious that Kiap members look forward to and enjoy the opportunity to help with the DNR's annual trout survey. My compliments to Randy Arnold for posting and keeping track of the volunteers. Barb Scott did a great job setting up the survey routes and times. The trout crew of Kyle Kuss, Dan Gilbertson, Haley Ludwig and Josh Morrissey were always professional and fun to be around.

Pheasants Forever Youth Hunt: Again this year Kiap is going to have a booth at Pheasant Forever's Youth Hunt. The event is September 9th from 8:00AM-3:00PM. New this year, Kiap is going to take five youth fishing on the Trimble. We need volunteers to staff the conservation display, tie flies at the booth, demonstrate casting and help mentor. To volunteer please contact Tom Schnadt via e-mail: thschnadt@hotmail.com or cell phone: 651-245-5163.

Wisconsin TU Youth Camp: This is the third year that Kiap has sponsored a youth at the Wisconsin TU youth camp. This year's camper, Anna Kuehn, summarizes her camp experience in this newsletter, and will provide further details at the Chapter's September meeting. – Tom Schnadt

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 11 | Issue 1
September 2017

**Chapter Meeting
September 6, 2017**

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

Anna Kuehn will talk about her experience at the Wisconsin TU Youth Camp, and Greg Olson will tell us more about Trout in the Classroom (TIC)



Photos on this page were taken by Tim Christensen during the very popular trout electrofishing survey work in August.

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, September 15th.
Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

John Kaplan photo



Kiap-TU-Wish Spring/Summer Happenings



STREAM MONITORING: Post-restoration habitat assessment on the Trim-belle at County Road W was finished up in August. Thanks go out to Kent Johnson, Dan Wilcox, Scott Wagner, Dan Duncan and Joseph Duncan.

John Carlson photo



CULVERT AT PARKER CREEK: A fish-friendly culvert was installed at Parker Creek in August. More to follow in the October RipRap.

Dan Wilcox photo



WILDFLOWER PLANTING: In mid-July volunteers planted and watered more than 700 native prairie plant plugs along 300 yards of the Trim-belle/Holst easement. More about this pollina-tor-friendly habitat in a future RipRap.

Tom Schnadt photos



TROUT & BUGS IN THE CLASSROOM:

All five Kiap-TU-Wish sponsored TIC programs from Hudson, River Falls, and Amery, successfully raised and released their brown trout into the Willow River in May. The release parties were festive affairs (although some tears were shed by one 5th grader who was really going to miss the trout), including aquatic bug collection/iden-tification and fly rod casting instruction — both with help of chapter members. The bug identification was aided by the kids attending Dean Hansen's *Bugs in the Classroom* program, again with help from chapter members. Dean does an awesome job and the kids and teachers really appreciated his hands-on-learning, starring real bugs that the kids got to handle. With all Kiap-TU-Wish educational programs last year, we estimate that we directly impacted over 400 children. All five teachers wish to continue this year and we are on the lookout to add more.

— Greg Olson

John Carlson photo

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION: Kiap-TU-Wish was in Clear Lake on April 22nd, 2017 to celebrate Earth Day. The event was held in the former Clear Lake High School where Gaylord Nelson attended. Nelson was the founder of Earth Day and worked together with President Kennedy to get the Apostle Islands designated a National Lake-shore. Kiap had a booth at the event and gave instruction to kids of all ages.



Nate Anderson photo



2017 WDNR MOWING WRAP-UP

Stream	Location	Distance
Cady Cr.	CTH P	2.40 miles
S. Fork Kinni	STH 29	1.50 miles
Parker Cr.	CTH J	0.30 miles
Trim-belle	Below CTH W	1.25 miles
Gilbert Cr.	S of 120th	0.50 miles
S.Fork Gilbert Cr.	Below CTH Q	0.50 miles
N.Fork Gilbert Cr.	Below CTH Q	0.60 miles
Gilbert Cr.	STH 29	1.30 miles
Pine Cr.*	CTH AA	1.50 miles

*Mowed by Fairmount Santrol

Left: The WDNR's Ron Frederick in his new favorite machine, the boom mower.

ANGLER COURTESY: Randy Arnold posted signage alerting anglers to the spread of garlic mustard on an adjacent property. Anglers are asked to enter the river at the bridge and wade from there.



Tom Schnadt photo

Editor's Note – Maria Manion

Dear RipRap readers, phew! There's been a lot of info arriving at my inbox in preparation for this newsletter. What a busy spring and summer. Thank you to the many volunteers who have given of their time to work on projects, mentor kids, take photos and jump in for countless other tasks. Without your help, Kiap-TU-Wish would not be such a vibrant and committed chapter. Thank you.

As is the case each fall, the first issue of RipRap is full of chapter activities and happenings since last May. If you're a Facebook-er, you may have seen some of it already. For those of you (er, us) who stay away from social media, this issue should fill you in. Again, thank you volunteers. We appreciate your commitment and hope you had fun.

In regard to RipRap, it promises to be a good year. Jon Jacobs will continue as our defacto columnist. He'll be joined by almost-monthly writers including Skip James, a former RipRap editor and writer, and father/daughter duo Ron and Anna Kuehn. We'll continue to have fly recipes from Brian Smolinski and his crew at Lund's Fly Shop, updates from the field, and book reviews from chapter members whom I have yet to ask permission for naming them in this column. Their upcoming reviews will be delightful surprises.

Welcome back. Nice to see you all.

Gary Richardson photos



FLY FISHING CLINIC: The Chapter's newly reconfigured *Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic* was held in Glen Park on June 3rd. Kudos are still pouring in, assuring us that the clinic was a roaring success. Students were given casting lessons for over two hours, accompanied by lessons in stream strategies, wading safety and knot tying. Prof. Joe Gathman, UW-RF, gave a lesson in aquatic entomology using live samples from the Lower Kinnickinnic River. After the Chapter fed everyone a hearty supper, students repaired to the river for fishing, finally tearing themselves from the stream at 9:00 PM. Many thanks to Mitch Abbott, Mike Colling, Herb Lundberg, Maria Manion, Mark Peerenboom and Joe Schreifels. Special thanks to Sarah Sanford, Kyle Amundsen and Scott Holway for opening their fly boxes for students to compare imitations to live samples; to Scott Thorpe for leading a casting lesson, Ron Kuehn for leading the equipment and rigging section, Jim Kojis for covering stream strategies, and Gary Richardson for spending all day taking photos. – Michael Alwin

2017/2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

• **Pheasants Forever Youth Hunt**
Saturday, September 9, 2017
Contact Tom Schnadt:
thschnad@hotmail.com
651-245-5163

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, October 4, 2017

• **Amery Meeting**
Monday, October 23, 2017

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, November 1, 2017

• **Holiday Conservation Banquet**
Thursday, December 7, 2017

• **Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, January 3, 2017

• **Chapter Meeting**
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

Completion of Trimbelle River Project *by Dan Wilcox*

Dan Wilcox photos

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited is delighted to announce the completion of a conservation project on the Trimbelle River west of Ellsworth, WI. This project is another example of the vision of Kiap-TU-Wish in the 21st century - to conserve, protect and restore our cold water streams.

The project area is on the Mike and Suzanne Holst property along County Highway O about one mile south of U.S. Highway 10. There is a WDNR easement on the property and it is open to public fishing.

Dennis Fritz of the Pierce County Conservation Department (now retired) and Mike Holst started planning the project in 2013. Jeff Kitelinger of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ellsworth and Nate Anderson, DNR Trout Stream Projects Leader, designed the project.

The project included stabilizing the banks and providing in-stream structure for trout on the Trimbelle River and the tributary Spring Creek. Starting during the winter of 2017 Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteers spent 527 hours cutting and burning box elder trees and brush along the river. The DNR purchased rock riprap that was delivered during the winter. Mike Holst donated and hauled in large limestone boulders.

Starting on May 4th this year, the DNR stream crew removed stumps, graded the banks back to a gentle slope and placed rock to stabilize the stream banks and create in-stream trout habitat. Mike Holst hauled out stumps and excess soil. In-stream habitat features include two plunge pools (one on the Trimbelle River and one on Spring Creek), twelve root wads with logs and large boulders. Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter and Fairmount Santrol volunteers built six wood 'lunker' structures that provide overhead shelter for trout. Five lunker structures were installed in the Trimbelle River and one on Spring Creek. Work was completed on June 21 with final grading, seeding and mulching, and construction of a small parking area.

On the last work day on June 21, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers seeded grass mix, winter rye and red cover. Dennis Fritz donated some native wildflower and grass seed that was planted along Spring Creek. We used 250 straw bales to mulch everything, a record for us to



Above: Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteers and DNR stream crew during the seeding and mulching work at the Holst project on June 21.

Below: Newly completed Trimbelle River project on the Holst property looking upstream from one of the plunge pools.



place in one day.

There was a total of 889 feet of one bank and 345 feet of both banks completed on Trimbelle River and 356 feet of both banks on Spring Creek for a total of 2,291 feet of rip rap and trout habitat. Randy Arnold, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteer coordinator, constructed and installed a sign for the project. He also built and set out 16 bluebird boxes along the Trimbelle River.

\$34,147 of stream bank stabilization was funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Total cost of the project (not including labor) was \$48,268. The project cost funded from the DNR Trout Stamp Program was \$14,121.20. Cost per foot for 2,291 feet of stone rip rap bank protection was \$21. The DNR constructed a 2-car parking

area and installed a culvert. That work was funded through the DNR Fisheries Lands budget.

Land owners Mike and Sue Holst said that they are pleased with how well the project turned out and that they are happy to have been a part of it. They extend their thanks to all for their hard work on the project. Jeff Kitelinger of the NRCS in Ellsworth said that with completion of the Holst project, there are now about two miles of Trimbelle River downstream of Highway 10, nearly all of which has been restored and that provides excellent opportunity for public fishing.



This article was a press release distributed to local news organizations to inform people of the conservation efforts of Kiap-TU-Wish in partnership with local landowners and other organizations.

2017 Trout Fishing Camp by Anna Kuehn



Above: Anna in action

Below: Anna with her mentor, Jen Folz

Over the weekend of July 21st, I was lucky enough to be selected to be sent to the 2017 Youth Trout Fishing camp near Waupaca, Wisconsin. It was a fantastic experience that taught me a lot about trout fishing, stream issues, fly tying, and Trout Unlimited. Our four days there were jam-packed with tons of presentations, demonstrations, fishing, and were still, of course, fun. Part of the day, we sat in a large room and listened to presentations — some about invasive species and poisonous plants, some about different ways to fish and how to fish those ways, and some about dressing yourself for out on the stream.

On our first full first day at camp, we were assigned mentors, which were like our personal camp counselor. They were our one-on-one teacher who answered any questions we had and helped us on the stream. My mentor was such a great, gorgeous person and I am so happy that I had the opportunity to meet her and have her as my mentor. She helped me get my cast down and taught me to be patient. Even though my dad has taught me a lot about fly fishing and fly tying, it was nice to have a few instructors to show me a new perspective.

Everyone stayed in a gorgeous retreat center at Pine Lake Bible Camp and we ate our delicious meals in the dining hall. The rooms were very nice and each room could sleep around 2-6 people depending on the room.

I will be at the September meeting with my dad to speak more about my time and experiences there. I hope you get the chance to come see the presentation. .





Kinnickinnic Pheasants Forever
YOUTH GAME FAIR
 September 9, 2017 - 8 am to 3 pm



LOCATION:
 Brian & Mary
 Hosp Farm
 N7046 710th St.
 Beldenville, WI.
 54003

DIRECTIONS:
 FROM RF:
 Take Hwy 65 South
 to Co. Rd. W, turn
 left.
 Follow Co. Rd. W to
 the first road sign

Volunteers Needed for Youth Game Fair

Kiap-TU-Wish had a booth at last year's Pheasants Forever Game Fair, and it was such a success that we decided to do it again. This year, however, we've expanded our presence by giving casting lessons and taking kids fishing for the afternoon — less talking, more fishing.

We could use your help. If you were inspired by Anna's time at trout camp and would like to mentor a beginning angler, this is a great opportunity. **To volunteer, contact Tom Schnadt via e-mail: thschnad@hotmail.com or cell phone: 651-245-5163.**

Skip's Loose Threads by Skip James

A Mystery Unravelling, Literally!

Has this ever happened to you? You find yourself fishing at dusk to a hatch of mayflies. You've carefully researched the particular insect that's attracting the attention of the trout, tied what looks, at least to you, a perfect imitation, and are standing there, knee-deep, casting to rising fish. As the shadows deepen, you finally hook a fish and land it. You know you should dry off your fly, or at least drop it in some Frog's Fanny crystals, but you just chuck it out there again. Very quickly, you've hooked another trout. After netting that one, you check your fly to discover that the wings are missing and that the tying thread is coming loose. But you cast again, and yet another fish nails your imitation. It's getting dark now, but the hatch is more intense than ever. After each successive trout, you don't even look at your fly, because you can't see it anymore, but you keep catching fish anyway. Finally, at the end of a perfect evening, you reel up and head back to the car. As you take your waders off in the light of the open hatch, you notice that the fly that has accounted for all those fish now bears no resemblance to the fly you originally tied on. I remember reading similar stories of flies that took fish, and though badly chewed, probably missing parts, with thread dangling off the tail, continued to fool them. How could that be?

Trout are excellent predators. A biologist once suggested to me that about 28% of insects that emerge from the streambed and rise through the water column to the underside of the meniscus never actually hatch, but get caught in the surface tension. Others can't unfold their wings because the wing case doesn't split properly, or are unable to shed their nymphal exoskeleton completely. And, in addition to all those natural aberrations, there are hungry fish and birds taking a terrible toll. The excellent predators notice the differences between the insects that will fly away, and the ones that will not. So they key on the ones that aren't perfect specimens.

Now, of course, this flies (pardon the pun) in the face of the goal of trying to tie perfect imitations of insects. Like you, I've caught many specimens of insects in my hands when they're flying around my face, and I've taken them home in



Maria Manion photo

"As you take your waders off in the light of the open hatch, you notice that *the fly that has accounted for all those fish now bears no resemblance to the fly you originally tied on.*"

little plastic vials, looked at them under a binocular microscope, keyed them out, and pickled a few. The awful truth is, though, that the specimens I collected were successful...everything worked as intended, and they weren't eaten by fish. Why should I tie flies to imitate insects that the trout DON'T eat? Now there's a humbling thought!

There have been many excellent books written about fishing 'cripples,' 'emergers,' 'wet-dry' flies, 'flymphs,' etc. Some writers advocate tying imitations with one wing tied down, or with a shuck attached at the tail, or some other device to simulate a particular developmental fault. But that creates a new problem. All perfect insects that fly away are exactly the same, but every insect with a deformity is unique. That's why the chewed up fly, which changed every time you caught a fish with it,

didn't lose its effectiveness. It still had enough features in common with the live insects to fool the trout. So how do you prepare an artificial fly that you can fish with confidence?

Size usually doesn't vary much between individuals. If the bug is a #16, then stick with that size. Pick materials that are extremely soft and flexible and will show some semblance of life or movement in the water. The colors of an insect also betray very little variation. If you've found the perfect chartreuse dubbing for the Kinni Sulphur, and that light gray with a hint of gold that the wings show, you've got the right stuff. Don't worry too much about flotation. Trout eat drowned adults, too. Finally, don't worry about your abilities at the vise. Remember that chewed up fly that worked wonders? Who would ever take credit for tying it!



Share and Share Alike? by Mike Alwin

Back in the '70's I was lucky enough to attend two programs on trout at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus. Called the *Upper Midwest Trout Symposiums I & II*, they were held in 1976 and 1978 and brought together a spectacular variety of scientists, writers and enthusiasts. Just a few of the presenters were Gary Borger, Dave Whitlock, Bob Hunt and Charlie Fox. All of the presentations were interesting, but one of the most fascinating was presented by a sociologist from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Thomas Heberlein, Ph.D.

Professor Heberlein discoursed on a study conducted on the Brule River in 1975. The topic was the use of the river by tubers, canoeists and anglers and the conflict that arose between them. The seven-year study was completed in 1976 and indicated that all three user groups rated their experience on the Brule very highly, citing the natural beauty and the near-wilderness experience. However, of all the groups, anglers were most likely to rate contact with others negatively. That doesn't mean that anglers are anti-social. What it does mean is that a large part of the angling experience is the quest for solitude. Even when we fish with a partner we spend a lot of time fishing alone. The study indicated clearly that contact with others makes us feel less satisfied with our experience on the river.

"... a large part of the angling experience is the quest for solitude."

And that brings us right to the Kinnickinnic. Since the founding of River Falls, the Lower Kinni has been an important recreational feature as well as a geologic and commercial feature.

Countless generations of River Falls children have swam, tubed, rafted, fished and canoed the Lower Kinni. There is a city park encompassing the lower river. There's a university located next to it. There are trails along it used by anglers, families and students. And for the last several years there are kayaks, lots of kayaks. I'm not suggesting that kayaks be banned, but there are hundreds of them. Without the kayaks, with only an occasional canoe, the foot traffic is bearable. The kayaks make it

decidedly unbearable.

By contrast, the Upper Kinni is a much smaller river. It's a little narrower, a little slower and, up until a few years ago, it was an intimate little river where an angler could be lost in thought and enveloped by solitude, rarely seeing another human. But now there are dozens of kayaks invading the Upper Kinni as well. Even in the evenings, there are flotillas of colorful, plastic tubs drifting downriver on a stream that is way too small to accommodate both recreational pursuits.

Here, in a nutshell, is the inescapable problem; my angling doesn't disturb your kayaking, but your kayaking definitely disturbs my angling. It's not because your presence puts the fish down, it's because of your presence. It's not about the fish, it's about the fishing. It's about the loss of solitude, the aloneness that is a huge part of fishing.

The kayakers I've encountered have been nice. Most of them have tried to be considerate of my fishing. And each kayak invades the angler's space for only a minute or two. That doesn't sound like much but you begin to hear the kayak while it's still upstream, around the bend. It might take them three or four minutes to reach your position and during that time you're calculating how many casts you can get off, how much water you can cover and where you have to move to avoid a collision. In other words, for five or six minutes you're not thinking about fishing. And it's usually not one kayak but several, obviously compounding the problem.

In Minnesota, winter recreational trails are separated; snowmobilers and cross country skiers never share the same trails. And just as snowmobiling and cross country skiing are incompatible, so are trout fishing and kayaking on small rivers like the Kinnickinnic. And that brings us back to that study on the Brule River conducted from 1970 to 1976. Since angling for trout on the Brule had a long history, and since much trout angling was conducted from canoes on the headwater lakes, authorities determined that angling and canoeing had historical purchase and were allowed to continue. Inflatables of any kind are banned on the Brule River in northern Wisconsin.



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Skip James is a long-time chapter member and former editor of RipRap. Retired from his position as keyboardist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, he is currently the music director at Bethel Lutheran Church in Hudson, WI.

Anna Kuehn was last year's WI TU Youth Camp attendee, and part of RipRap's upcoming, nearly-monthly, father/daughter fishing duo column.

Dan Wilcox is a chapter member, the chapter's project manager for the Trimbelle restoration work, and outdoor columnist for the River Falls Journal.



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DON'T MISS the
September 6th MEETING at

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

414 South Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022



Anna went to TU Youth Camp!

Anna Keuhn was last year's Kiap-sponsored youth camp participant. Join us on September 6th to hear all about her time at the Wisconsin trout fishing and conservation camp.

&

Greg Olson, Kiap-TU-Wish board member and TIC Coordinator, will also be there to fill us in on all things Trout-in-the-Classroom related.

Wednesday, September 6th. See you there!

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