



## The Drift: Words from our President.

Wow. Summer blew through in a hurry. It seems like just yesterday that we were enjoying Blue Wing Olives on the Rush and wondering when the Sulfurs would appear. Then we were all hit with a blur of graduation open houses, weddings, family gatherings, lawn mowings, a vacation if we're fortunate and now all the stores are advertising their Back to School sales! The Sulfurs have come and gone, along with the Hendricksons and the Crane Flies. I recently heard a despondent friend singing "Where



*A happy angler from the YMCA BOLD/GOLD event in July.*

Bruce Maher photo

have all the Caddis gone?" to the tune of an old 60's song. There is something depressing about looking forward to something for so long and then having it be over before you know it, like your birthday when you were a kid. In the Upper Midwest, we look forward to summer for so long, and try to pack so much into it when it finally gets here, that sometimes it seems like it's over just when we thought it was beginning. Like my friend ad-libbing the 60's song, a busy summer is a reminder to us all that we do need to take time to smell the roses and fish the mid-summer Sulfur hatches.

The good news is that some of the "busyness" of the summer did include fishing and conservation activities. The beginning of the summer saw our four Trout-in-the-

Classroom programs with area schools culminate with students releasing the trout fry they had raised into area trout streams. Several classrooms of lucky students were also treated to Dean Hansen's Bugs-in-the-Classroom presentations with live bugs from local rivers. Imagine a grade school student holding a four-inch hellgrammite in her hands with a huge smile on her face and I think you'll get the picture. June 2nd saw Mike Alwin and his Merry Band of Instructors put on another successful Fly Fishing Clinic along the banks of the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls. This year's clinic had nearly 20 students of all ages, many of whom had caught their first trout on a fly by the end of the day. July saw Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers teaming up with Kinnickinnic River Land Trust volunteers to mentor teenage girls from Northwest Passage in fly fishing at various

*{continued on page 2}*

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



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September 2018

Please join us on September 5th for a combination **Open House and Kiap-on-Tap at 6:00pm at Rush River Brewing in River Falls**. The event, our first meeting of the year, will feature fly casting demos, fly casting games, Tenkara and fiberglass rod casting, fly tying, the chance to learn more about women's fly fishing opportunities, and a chance to learn about volunteer opportunities within our chapter.

Rush River Brewing Company  
990 Antler Ct, River Falls, WI 54022  
(715) 426-2054

### DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- The next RipRap deadline is Friday, September 14.
- 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}

sites along the Kinni. A couple of the girls ended up being fly casting naturals, evoking “fly casting envy” from the mentors, if there is such a thing. Kiap volunteers organized by Bruce Maher also mentored youth from the YMCA in fly casting this summer, also along the Kinni.

The hard work cutting and clearing trees over the winter months by Randy Arnold and members of Kiap-TU-Wish, Clearwaters, and Twin City Trout Unlimited chapters enabled the WDNR to restore two stretches of trout stream in western Dunn County, as well as the significant stretch on our own Trimbelle River in Pierce County. Behind the scenes, Loren Haas and his Long-Range Planning Committee worked with the WDNR to put together site maintenance plans for stream sections that have already been restored, in addition to planning future restoration projects. So, it’s been a good summer, with many youth and adults introduced to the beauty of our coldwater resources, with significant habitat projects completed and plans being formed for future projects and site maintenance.

But that’s not all the good news that’s out there. There have been good Trico spinner falls on the Rush on warm mornings, hoppers are falling into the South Fork of the Kinni and Caddy Creek looking for hungry trout, late-summer Blue Wing Olives are beginning to hatch, and despite what my despondent friend thinks, all of the Caddis haven’t gone, they just took a couple of days off to get out of the heat.

Our fall season kicks off on Wednesday, September 5th with a combination Open House and Kiap-on-Tap at 6:00 pm at Rush River Brewing in River Falls. This will be our first chapter meeting of the year and will feature fly casting demos, fly casting games, Tenkara and Fiberglass rod casting, fly tying, the chance to learn more about women’s fly fishing opportunities, and a chance to learn about volunteer opportunities within our chapter. There won’t be a formal meeting, but there will be plenty of time to socialize with like-minded friends, to swap fishing stories from the summer, and to meet new folks to fish with in the future. Sound like fun? We think so. This will be a family-friendly event, with some non-alcoholic beverages provided by the chapter. So, bring the family, or invite a friend (they don’t need to know anything about trout), and plan to enjoy an evening of reminiscing about the summer and looking forward to fall. SPOILER ALERT: One of the things many of us look forward to in the fall is steelheading! Our October 3rd chapter meeting will feature long-time steelhead guide and life-long steelhead angler Scott Thorpe, who will be speaking about steelheading on the North and South Shores of Lake Superior.

See you at the Open House on September 5th and Happy Fishing. — *Scott Wagner*



## Kent Johnson Recognized

Last October, Kent Johnson — long time Kiap-TU-Wish member and volunteer — received the Dave Ford Award, Minnesota's most distinguished award for protecting clean water. The award is bestowed by the Minnesota Water Resources planning committee to recognize individuals whose lifetime accomplishments have contributed to improving Minnesota's water quality.

Kent is a modest person, so it's likely some were unaware of this honor. The chapter congratulates Kent and thanks him for his years of commitment to improving water quality in this region.

## IN MEMORY OF

### Doug Kienholz

Doug Kienholz, a member of Kiap-TU-Wish, passed away on April 7, 2018.

Kathy, his wife, sent a letter along with memorials directed to Trout Unlimited. She wrote "Doug was a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter but due to failing health was not able to attend meetings. He was so proud of the work you do and looked at his membership dues as a donation to a worthy cause. Please use this money where it is needed most."

Kiap-TU-Wish expresses our sincere sympathy to Kathy and her family for their loss and thanks her and others for their generous donation to the chapter.

### Mike Holst

Mike Holst, a member of Kiap-TU-Wish, passed away on April 23, 2018 following a battle with leukemia. Owner of the Holst Excavating and Quarry, Mike supplied the rock used for many Kiap-TU-Wish stream improvement projects. Last year's project on the Trimbelle, the Holst Easement was on the stretch of the Trimbelle bordering Mike's quarry and the home he shared with his wife Susie. Spring Creek, which joins the Trimbelle on the Holst easement, was the beneficiary of Mike's own efforts at stream improvement. Mike and Susie also graciously offered Kiap-TU-Wish the use of their maintenance garage in order to conduct chainsaw safety training. At the January 2018 meeting Mike and Susie were recognized for their contributions to the chapter and were presented with a watercolor painting of trout done by Judy Lutter. Mike took great pride in being a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited and strongly supported protecting the coldwater resources in Western Wisconsin. The chapter expresses our sincere sympathy to Susie and her family for their loss and thanks them and others for their generous contributions to the chapter for future conservation projects.



## Women at the Movies



Calling all women anglers, fly tiers or those who enjoy beautiful rivers and riparian landscapes: On October 18th at Lund's Fly Shop we'll be showing *Kiss the Water*, an artistic and contemplative film about the life of Megan Boyd, a famous Atlantic Salmon fly tier who lived in a small cottage on the northern coast of Scotland.

Aside from the film, it's a night to mingle and get to know one another. You might find a fishing partner, be inspired to tie flies, or take up oils to paint our river landscapes.

The mix and mingle starts at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7:00pm. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Sarah Sanford at [sarahsanford@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahsanford@yahoo.com).

## Belle Rivière Book Club

Kiap-TU-Wish members like books, as evidenced by the piles of books at the Holiday Conservation Banquet, chit chat at chapter meetings and book reviews that periodically appear in *RipRap*. Well, last year Suzanne Constantini reviewed *A Different Angle: Fly Fishing Stories by Women* and it has sparked an interest. A fledgling group of women has now started Belle Rivière Book Club which aims to provide an opportunity for women anglers or non-anglers to read some good books, meet socially to discuss those books, and get to meet and know each other better.

The group will meet four times this year and book titles for upcoming book club meetings will be available at the Kiap-TU-Wish Open House on September 5th and listed in the next *RipRap*. Stay tuned for details.

And the name? Belle Rivière? It stems from one of our own beautiful rivers, the Trimble.

## 2018-2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Kiap-TU-Wish Open House**  
 September 5, 2018  
 Rush River Brewing, River Falls, WI  
 6:00-9:00pm
- Chapter Meeting**  
 October 3, 2018  
 Steelhead Fishing with Scott Thorpe  
 Junior's Bar & Restaurant  
 River Falls, WI
- Women's Movie Night**  
 October 18, 2018  
 6:30pm  
 Lund's Fly Shop  
 102 N Main St.  
 River Falls, WI 54022
- Belle Rivière Book Club**  
 November 14, 2018  
 Details TBA
- Chapter Meeting**  
 November 7, 2018  
 Fly Fishing Opportunities for Women and Young Adults  
 Junior's Bar & Restaurant  
 River Falls, WI
- Holiday Conservation Banquet**  
 December 6, 2018  
 Lake Elmo Event Center  
 Lake Elmo, MN
- Chapter Meeting**  
 January 2, 2019  
 Local Fly Fishing Guide: Details TBA  
 Junior's Bar & Restaurant  
 River Falls, WI
- Belle Rivière Book Club**  
 January 2019  
 Details TBA
- Chapter Meeting**  
 February 6, 2019  
 TU Youth Camp Presentations  
 Junior's Bar & Restaurant  
 River Falls, WI
- Chapter Meeting**  
 March 6, 2019  
 WDNR Project Review & Fish Survey Results  
 Junior's Bar & Restaurant  
 River Falls, WI
- Belle Rivière Book Club**  
 March 2019  
 Details TBA
- Chapter Meeting**  
 April 3, 2019  
 Annual Fly Tying Night  
 Junior's Bar & Restaurant  
 River Falls, WI
- Chapter Meeting**  
 May 1, 2019  
 Chapter Social & Summer Trip Planning Night  
 Details TBA
- Belle Rivière Book Club**  
 May 2019  
 Details TBA

Board Meetings are the third Monday of each month. All are welcome to attend. Locations vary so please contact a board member for details



Joseph Duncan, a new addition to *RipRap*

## From the Editor(s)

Yep, that's right. Editors. Plural. This new year of *RipRap* brings with it an addition to the editorial staff. Joseph Duncan will be joining the team and sharing ideas for what anglers, young and old, might like to know. We're still working on a proper title. I had thought "Youth Editor" but then that makes me, well, "Old Editor." Editor the Younger and Editor the Elder? Better. In any event, you'll learn more about him in next month's *RipRap*.

As for other things to expect this year, we have familiar voices such as Jonathan Jacobs, and new voices, such as Expert Novice Jennifer Medley. We'll have news about our Trout in the Classroom programs, habitat work and many other chapter activities.

Welcome back. —Maria Manion





## Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic A Roaring Success

The chapter's mostly-annual *Fly Fishing for Trout* clinic was held on Saturday, June 2nd. Fifteen of the twenty-two students who registered braved the on-again-off-again rain showers and got a thorough grounding in the sport of fly fishing for trout. Our students learned casting skills, a couple of knots, ecology, trout food and their imitations, fishing strategies, wading safety and courtesy. After supper we went down to the Lower Kinni and went fishing. Due to the unparalleled volunteerism in our chapter, the guide to student ratio was 1-1. Several students caught trout and everyone agreed that they had a great time.

I am always amazed and delighted by the wonderful people in our chapter who volunteer for the many projects our we sponsor. On this clinic, I am indebted to and wish to thank Scott Thorpe, Maria Manion, Mark Peerenboom, Mitch Abbett, Jim Kojis, Joe Schreifels, Bill Hinton, Ed Constantini, Sarah Sanford, Ron Kuehn, Scott Holway, Tim Christensen, Charles Condon and Ryan Myers. Special thanks to Brian Smolinski for taking care of the food, Gary Horvath for delivering an ecology address, and Prof. Joe Gathman for his presentation on stream invertebrates.

— Michael Alwin

## Kiap-TU-Wish Partners with NRF for Stream Habitat Improvement Field Trip

The Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) of Wisconsin, a 25-year-old not-for-profit conservation organization, offers over 200 field trips to its members every year. The field trips include hikes and paddles, searches for wildlife such as butterflies, birds, and native mussels, trips to view wild plants and flowers, and adventures to find elk calves, night hikes to hear howling wolves, and to lift sturgeon nets with the DNR in Lake Superior. They offer a wide range of experiences, but few of the field trips have occurred on the western side of the state.

In late 2017 the NRF contacted then chapter President Tom Schnadt to propose a NRF field trip led by Kiap-TU-Wish members to highlight our stream habitat improvement work. I wrote the trip offering and planned a trip experience.

I chose Saturday, July 14, hoping for clear water and easy viewing of stream structures. We had rain two days before, but by the morning of the 14th the Trimbelle was clearing. It was a hot and humid day. We had about a dozen participants on the trip. We began in Glen Park with introductions and orientation to the day, and a presentation by Gary Horvath about the dam removal effort in the Free the Kinni initiative. We then traveled to five sites on the Trimbelle, starting at County Road W and ending at the Holst site below Highway 10. Randy Arnold and I talked about the why and the how of stream habitat work, and we viewed areas that were unimproved and could use some work, and sites where

stream work had been completed. The Gutting site was an active WDNR work site in July, and Nate Anderson of the WDNR was there to speak about the work that the WDNR, Kiap-TU-Wish, and other partners were doing to protect the stream banks and increase trout numbers.

None of the participants were trout fishers, though a couple were interested in learning to be. This changed our presentation, and we focused too on changes to the riparian landscape to benefit wildflowers, pollinators, birds, and animals.

At the end of the trip Randy and I received many thanks from participants for an interesting and educational experience.

NRF staff member Lauren Koshere attended the field trip. She thanked us for leading a great trip, and asked that we lead other experiences in the future, perhaps on related topics.

The trip was a fund raiser for Kiap-TU-Wish, and the chapter will receive a modest amount from the NRF for each participant, money we can use to support Kiap-TU-Wish programs.

It was good to have a chance to show and explain our habitat work to a conservation-minded audience that doesn't normally see what happens on a trout stream. It was a good day. — Perry Palin

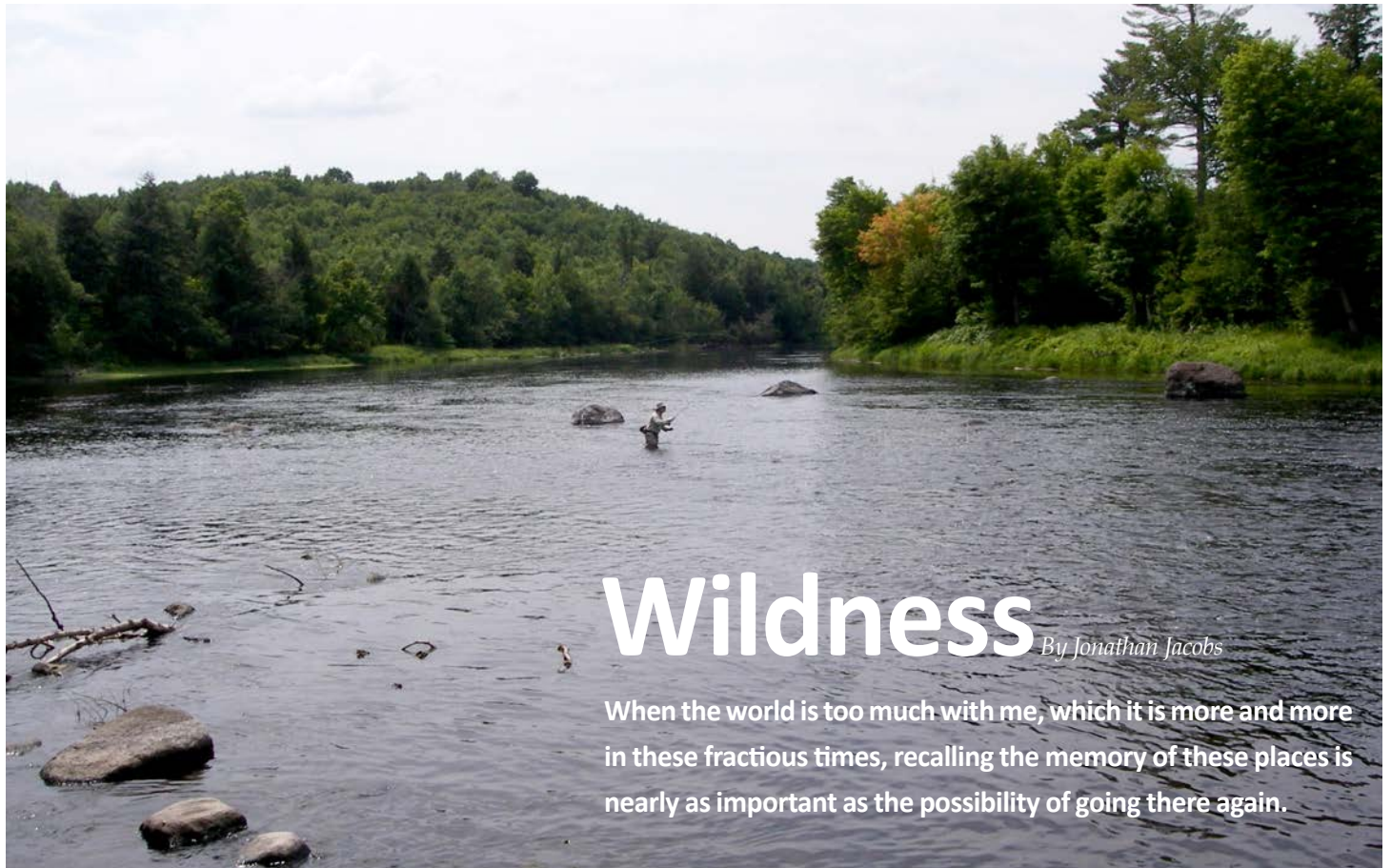
photos courtesy of Lauren Koshere at the NRF



After an orientation in River Falls, participants toured five sites to learn about the many aspects of stream restoration projects.







# Wildness

By Jonathan Jacobs

When the world is too much with me, which it is more and more in these fractious times, recalling the memory of these places is nearly as important as the possibility of going there again.

Dry Fly Dick Frantes, for whom our annual celebration of fly tying is eponymously named, operated a sort of underground fly shop, Frantes Fine Flies and Folderol, out of the plumbing shop he shared with his brother. It was mostly an exercise in whimsy, but one of the trappings of the business was official stationery. It was mostly ordinary, name and address at the top, et cetera, but across the bottom was printed the Henry David Thoreau quote, "In wildness is the preservation of the world." Truer words were never written.

I thought about those words the other day when I walked past a print of a painting by sporting artist Bob White that hangs in a hallway in our home. The painting depicts a drift boat with anglers and oarsman aboard floating down a good-sized river on what appears to be a bright, early fall day. The banks are lined with hardwoods and hills rise in the background. As is true of all of Mr. White's work, it evokes a strong sense of being out there. The title of the work is "Below Nine Mile." As I soaked in

its details, I smiled and thought, "I've been there." Further, on that same river I have had the good fortune of having been below Barnaby Rapids, Deadman Creek, Mason Creek, Babb's Island, George's Island, Deer Creek, Connors Creek, the three Porcupine Rapids, the three Wannigan Rapids and The Forks. All of these landmarks lie within a sparsely inhabited state forest and long stretches of the river are utterly devoid of human habitation. Fishing can be, but isn't always, good on this river. What is invariably there, however, is the sense of wildness that Thoreau deemed essential. When the world is too much with me, which it is more and more in these fractious times, recalling the memory of these places is nearly as important as the possibility of going there again.

The river isn't particularly remote; it's less than one hundred-fifty miles from my home. That distance, though, does create some challenges of time and logistics. Fortunately, I live at the edge of a mostly rural area laden with opportunities for me to satisfy my need for wildness. There is a stream nearby

that flows through a limestone-walled canyon. When I put my hand on the limestone it always seems oddly warm to the touch, as though the creatures that contributed to the carbonates millions of years ago have to this day a sort of life force. The river has in places incised itself, over the millennia, more than a hundred feet down through an ancient seabed. The river isn't much meandered, so there are stretches where one can see, for a great enough distance, the declivity of it in the bouncing riffles upstream. Flora from a remote, colder climate still grow there. Eagles soar overhead. Best of all, trout, one of the best examples of living wildness anywhere, are abundant.

I think there are two lessons I can draw from this. First, the canyon stream lies less than thirty miles from a metroplex of two million people, so wildness is where you go looking for it. Second, wildness, especially publicly accessible wildness, is always at peril, particularly in today's political climate. My advice: Find the place that satisfies your need for wildness and be vigilant about protecting it. 🐾

# Tales from an Expert Novice: TIPPET INSECURITY

by Jennifer Medley

I have been fly fishing since I was six. For people who don't know my age, that means I've had four decades of fly fishing experience. To me, that sounds like a long time, and implies that I have been fishing frequently throughout those 40 years. But what it really means is that when I was six, my dad started teaching me how to cast and fly fish. I specifically remember the start of our lessons while we were staying in Woodstock, New York, one summer for my dad's job. Since those first lessons, we had lots of opportunities to fly fish as virtually every family trip we took revolved around what trout streams my dad wanted to fish. Which was fine by my mom, brother and me as we all have fun memories of us kids hopping around on boulders along a wide river's edge in New York, playing with pebbles alongside little creeks in Wisconsin, or climbing through sagebrush in Yellowstone while he fished for cutthroat.

At one point the playing was replaced by a stronger desire to fly fish. Around age twelve I received my first fly rod as a Christmas present, which is the same one I still use today. But to say I've actually been fly fishing all those years would imply, to me, a certain degree of skill and

knowledge that I do not feel I actually have, which is why I consider myself an "expert novice" in the field of fly fishing.

One example is that I am "tippet insecure." Despite the fact that I can tie on my own fly, I have not picked up the skill to tie fishing lines together. Honestly, I haven't even tried. Most all of

took my reel and spare line to Lund's Fly Shop, plopped them on the counter, took a deep breath and admitted to Brian that I needed help. He pointed out that my spare spools of line were outdated by quite a few years while I pretended to know that, and then he fixed me up with some new stuff. I showed interest in

**"In recent years, if I felt my tippet was not quite long enough, or even there at all, I simply tied on a big fly and told myself that if a trout was hungry enough, he'd eat what I offered."**

my fly fishing time has occurred with my dad, who would just simply inspect my line, deem it ok, or magically attach the proper amount of the appropriate tippet material on there for me and I was good to go. In recent years, if I felt my tippet was not quite long enough, or even there at all, I simply tied on a big fly and told myself that if a trout was hungry enough, he'd eat what I offered. (A thought process likely developed from feeding toddlers and young children over the past ten years.)

When it was painfully obvious last year that I really did need new tippet, I spent a few days mentally working up the courage to ask for help. Then I

learned how to actually tie line together by pulling out a scrap piece of paper and a pen and making notes of the type of knot I would need to use to do this myself in the future — all the while having a gut feeling, deep down, that I would never actually refer to those notes, which made me feel a tinge bit guilty. I even own a tiny pocket sized book on knots, which I could easily refer to, but don't.

I got set up with nice new leader and tippet that day which lasted me a while. With renewed enthusiasm, I took our four kids on a hike from Glen Park to a spot where a little sandy-bottomed stream feeds into the Kinni. I had always loved that spot when I was young, and I wanted the kids to experience it. They got a casting lesson, and then went to play in the little stream while I fished, which was dreamy because I got to fish alone without having to pay a babysitter. I even got the thrill of being able to cast to a rising trout and landing it, using a fly I tied 15 years ago during one of Mike Alwin's fly tying classes at Bob's Mitchell's Fly Shop.

This "expert novice" loves to fly fish, and spin fish for that matter, but I've learned that if I want to go, I don't have to do everything perfectly or know everything in order to just get out there and DO it. And I'm very appreciative to my dad and other "expert experts" for their help when I need it.

Tight lines to you! 🪁



*The Expert Novice enjoying a day on the water and tackling her tippet insecurities.*

photo courtesy of Jennifer Medley



# FLY TIER'S CORNER: B Smo's Fluorescent Czech Warrior

*Fly, Photo and Recipe by Brian Smolinski*



- Hook:** Hazard HH11 #16 Wide Gap Jig Hook  
**Bead:** Hazard Slotted Tungsten 3.0mm Nickel  
**Thread:** Danville Flymaster Plus 140 Denier – Fluorescent Red (Hot Pink)  
**Body:** Iridescent Veevus Thread - Pearl  
**Thorax:** Hareline Rainbow Scud Dub – Light

## Tying instructions:

- 1) Lay down an even base of hot pink thread from behind the bead to about 1/3 down the bend of the hook and back again to where you started. Put in a half-hitch and cut the thread.
- 2) Start the iridescent thread on top of the hot pink thread behind the bead and make tight even wraps toward the bend of the hook, stopping about 2 turns short to leave a small hot spot of the pink at the bend of the hook.
- 3) Wrap back up toward the bead with wide open turns and stop the thread with about a hook gap behind the bead.
- 4) Wrap back again with a tight even layer, but only 2/3rds of the way down the previous pass. Wrap back up with wide open turns and repeat to create a tapered body. Keep the gap between the body and the bead.
- 5) In the gap behind the bead, tie off the iridescent thread with a half hitch and cut the thread. Remove hook from the vise.
- 6) Holding the fly by the bead, coat the tapered thread body of the fly with UV resin, leaving the small gap behind the bead uncoated. Cure the resin and return hook to the vise.
- 7) Tie in the hot pink thread in the gap between the body and the bead and dub a thorax slightly larger than the body of the fly and the bead. Whip finish and cement.

Notes: The iridescent thread is coarse and can lay down rough, but if you put a little extra tension on it, it stretches and lays fairly smooth. The UV resin used on this fly is Misfit UV-Bond, but any medium viscosity UV resin that cures tack-free should work fine.

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*Jennifer Medley is a chapter member and new contributor to Riprap. This summer she was one of the Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers that helped mentor teenage girls from the Northwest Passage program.*



You can support Kiap-TU-Wish when you shop online. Go to **smile.amazon.com**, choose Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited and for every online purchase, Amazon will donate to the chapter.

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



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FOR ALL THE LATEST  
NEWS

[www.kiaptuwish.org](http://www.kiaptuwish.org)  
&



## SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 Open House & Kiap-on-Tap

Please join us on September 5th for a combination **Open House and Kiap-on-Tap at 6:00pm at Rush River Brewing in River Falls**. The event, our first meeting of the year, will feature fly casting demos and games, Tenkara and fiberglass rod casting, fly tying, the chance to learn about the many volunteer opportunities in our chapter and more.

We hope to see you there.

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