



## The Drift: Words from our President.

"We don't have funding for that anymore. We used to do more of that when we had more resources. We would really like to do that someday, but we'll have to wait until we have more funding."

This isn't going to be a sermon about money. It's going to be more of a reality check followed by a pleasant observation. Kiap-TU-Wish has been blessed with generous donors who spend money at our annual banquet and give freely to our spring appeal each year. Due to their/your generosity, we have funding to pay for eight Trout-in-the-Classroom programs in area schools, to send several youth to Trout Camp each summer, and to help the WIDNR with summer mowing costs along our streams and rivers. We also have funding to monitor the water quality and temperatures of our streams and to buy more rock to strengthen the habitat restoration projects that the WIDNR trout crew works on in our area. We have this funding because of your generosity. Thank you.

The statements at the beginning of this month's Drift aren't statements we hear from our chapter members. However, they are the kind of statements we are likely to hear more often from natural resource managers as time goes on. Let's face it. We live in a fiscally conservative state with (according to the demographers) a stable, but aging population. Aging populations tend to pay less income taxes as more workers retire than enter the workforce. Unless our population suddenly increases, lower income tax collections mean that all of our state-funded agencies, like our WIDNR, are going to receive less funding and are going to be more stretched in the years ahead. They're going to have to do more with less. Sometimes, they're just going to have to do less. Our top-notch fisheries biologists and trout crew want to do the right thing in managing our natural resources. However, over time, they might be prevented from managing our resources in the way they want to, due to lack of resources.

So, what's the answer?

I believe that we're the answer! Or at least, that we're moving in the direction of being the answer!

I believe that many of our Kiap-TU-Wish members are already helping plug gaps left by reorganizations and funding cuts. Think of the partnerships our members have built with area schools in the Trout-in-the-Classroom programs we sponsor, not to mention all the Kiap volunteers who staff the Bugs-in-the-Classroom sessions and Trout Release Days. Think of

{continued on page 2}

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



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**

**Volume 13 | Issue 5**  
**January 2020**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**

### **Chapter Meeting**

*Erik Helm, Guide & Owner of Classical Angler Fly Fishing*

Dinner at 6pm (your dime)  
Meeting starts at 7pm

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

**Cover photo:** Greenwood Elementary School fourth-graders on their service learning day along the Kinnickinnic River on December 19th. See Randy's summary of the event on page 4. Photo by Gary Richardson.

### **DON'T FORGET:**

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- **The next RipRap deadline is Friday, January 17.**
- 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}

the water quality and temperature data that Kiap members faithfully collect throughout the year and share with the WIDNR. Think of hours spent with WIDNR staff planning future habitat restoration project sites and putting ongoing maintenance plans together for already restored sites. Then, think of the thousands of hours Kiap members spend each winter clearing those new project sites and maintaining existing sites. And, if that isn't enough, Kiap members spend hundreds of hours behind the scenes each year advocating for stormwater retention ponds, sound agricultural practices and dam removals that benefit and protect our coldwater resources.

We are the answer because citizen volunteers like you and me are the people who are in the best position to plug funding gaps, simply by volunteering in places where we can make a difference. In particular, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers are already making a substantial difference in the health of our local coldwater streams and riparian corridors. And we'll have the opportunity to make more of a difference as time goes on. In fact, something tells me that Randy, Loren, Pete and their merry winter brushing crew will offer us plenty of opportunities to get outside, get some fresh air and have fun making a difference over this winter. Come out and join the fun for a time or two, or volunteer with the Trout-in-the-Classroom programs, or with the chapter's new Veteran Services Partnership. Wherever you fit in, volunteer and make a difference!

Happy Fishing! Scott



## Calling All Fly Tyers!!!

Wisconsin TU has requested that our chapter provide a fly box of flies for hatches specific to our area (yes, the pink squirrel counts as a hatch). This fly box will be auctioned off at the state banquet on February 1st. We would ask that you provide 6-12 flies of your favorite pattern(s) by January 25th. Please contact Greg Olson—this event's fly wrangler—via email: [driftless23@gmail.com](mailto:driftless23@gmail.com), if interested. Your help and flies are much appreciated!

## Editor's Note

My husband was reading a magazine and commented "I'm going to write and volunteer proofreading services. They've got an error in almost every article, even the editor's column." I swallowed and kept my mouth shut, because it's happened to me, even in my own darn editor's note. Thankfully, it happened a lot less once I enlisted a couple of proofreaders — Bob "Fly Wrangler" Trevis and Judy Mahle Lutter.

Sometimes, though, schedules are such that there isn't time for their eagle-eye proofreading and things get missed, like last month when I accredited the Tres Huevos fly recipe to Mike Alwin who called me after the newsletter was out.

"Maria. The Tres Huevos fly recipe."

"Yes, Mike."

"I've never heard of that fly."

"No, I expect not as it's a new pattern from an anonymous tyer who. . . ." and I continued to explain the fly, assuming Mike had called out of a desire to know more.

"Well," he said patiently, "perhaps you should credit the fly to anonymous instead of me." Oops.

So I'd like to thank Bob, Judy and others who have worked quietly behind the scenes to prevent errors, like that one and others, from showing up in the pages of this newsletter. Your ahwsume!

— Maria Manion

(The holiday schedule was tight this month so I had to make due without them. Fingers crossed.)

## 2019-2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Chapter Meeting**  
**January 8, 2020 / 7pm**  
*Erik Helm, Classical Driftless Fly Angler*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Wisconsin TU Banquet**  
**February 1, 2020**  
**4:30pm Doors Open**  
**6:30pm Dinner**  
**7:30pm Award**  
*Oshkosh, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**February 5, 2020 / 7pm**  
*WIDNR Presentation on Trout*  
*Management Plan*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**March 4, 2020 / 7pm**  
*Dick Frantes Open Fly Tying Night for*  
*Chapter Members*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo**  
**March 20-22, 2020**  
*Hamline University, St. Paul, MN*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**April 8, 2020 / 7pm**  
*Kiap-TU-Wish Business Meeting &*  
*Trout Camp Presentations by*  
*Camp Attendees*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Chapter Meeting**  
**May 6, 2020 / 7pm**  
*WIDNR presentation on project work*  
*& fish surveys*  
*Junior's Restaurant, River Falls, WI*
- **Bugs-in-the-Classroom Sessions**  
**April, 2020**  
**Call for volunteers TBA**
- **Trout-in-the-Classroom**  
**Release Days**  
**May, 2020**  
**Call for volunteers TBA**

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 0.5% of the eligible purchase price to the chapter. Every penny helps.





## Donors and Volunteers = Banquet Success

We had a really nice and very successful Holiday Conservation Banquet on December 5th. If you missed it let me just tell you that the food was first rate, the bar was busy and the various raffles helped fill our coffers for the very important work that our chapter does. Next year's banquet will be held on December 3rd, so mark your calendars.

The banquet could not be successful without our many volunteers who helped with sorting merchandise, setting up and tearing down, checking in, selling tickets and checking out at the end. These volunteers included: Tom Schnadt, Bob Diesch, Greg Dietl, Scott Hanson, Scott Wagner, Jonathan Jacobs, Jim Kojis, Trish Hannah, Ken Hanson, Dave Olson, Mark Peerenboom, Suzanne Constantini, Gary Horvath, Scott Thorpe, Maria Manion and Janelle Schnadt.

Wow, did we ever have a bunch of donors! We got merchandise from: Cabela's Woodbury, Joe's Sporting Goods, Sokol Associates, Dry Fly Associates, the Patrick Daly estate, William Hendrix, Bob Torres, Jim Sackrisson, Kip Vieth, Dave Norling Sr. and Dave Norling Jr., Joshua Cunningham, Paul Johnson, Bob Trevis, Randy Arnold, Norm Michael, Gene Van Asten, Dave Johnson (Ruffed Grouse Society), Carl and Cindy Nelson, Jan Johnson, Ron Zaudke, Tim Hennessy, Sarah Sanford and Mike Colling, John Kaplan, Ron Seipp, and Cardinal Corner Bird Store. Trips and various experiences were donated by: Mike and Deb Alwin, Judy Lutter, Nancy Willette, Duke Welter, Scott Wagner, Gabe Schubert, Bob Nasby, Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop and Hayward Fly Fishing Company. Lund's, Bob Mitchell's and Mend Provisions provided drop-off locations for our many donors.

The Banquet Committee (Tom Schnadt, Scott Wagner, Trish Hannah, Allison Jacobs, Bob Diesch, Greg Dietl, Deb and Mike Alwin) wants to thank all those volunteers and donors and to sincerely apologize if we missed someone. Finally, we wish to thank the membership and attendees for supporting this year's edition on the Holiday Conservation Banquet. It is our goal to make the evening fun and memorable while putting on a first rate fundraiser.

— Michael Alwin

Gary Richardson photos

The banquet was also an important opportunity to recognize the Chapter's many volunteers. Honorees included:

Gold Trout Award  
— Bob Trevis

Silver Trout Award  
— Debra Alwin  
— Ken Hanson

Certificates of Appreciation  
— Trish Hanna  
— Dave Kozlovsky  
— Jim Tatzel  
— Mark Peerenboom  
— Gary Horvath  
— Kent Johnson  
— Dan Wilcox  
— Laura Evans



Scott Thorpe photo

## 2020 K-TU Tie-A-Thon

Every year our Chapter gives away dozens of flies for various events. We include flies at our Fly Fishing for Trout clinic in the spring. We offer flies at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo. We give away flies at almost every membership meeting. Last year Bob (the Fly Wrangler) Trevis told us we were tapped out on flies so we organized the first TIE-A-THON with the goal of replenishing the Chapter's fly library. We were successful beyond our wildest expectations as the assembled tiers churned out hundreds of wet flies, nymphs and dries. Plus, we ate well and had a load of fun.

How much fun you ask? Last year we had nine or ten tiers and seven of them have already signed up for this year's events. And the dates for this year's TIE-A-THON are Saturday, February 22 and Saturday, March 28. The meeting place is Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls and the meeting time will be from 10:00am until sometime in the mid afternoon. Lunch and coffee will be provided. The emphasis in this first session is on nymphs, wet flies and damp emergers. Tiers should bring their tools, hooks and materials; you're donating your results to the chapter. If by chance you're short on something (a hook, beads, a tool) rest assured Brian probably has it. . . it is a fly shop, after all.

Interested? To register for the seats still available contact: troutchaser@msn.com — Mike Alwin



Participants at last year's 2019 Tie-A-Thon.



# From the Field:

Greenwood Elementary Service Day *by Randy Arnold*



*Randy leads a long line of fourth-graders to the worksite.*



December 19th was a milestone date for Kiap-TU-Wish as we facilitated a service learning day for the Greenwood Elementary School fourth-grade class. They helped clear box elders and buckthorn from the Gibson easement on the upper Kinni.

I was contacted this past fall by their teacher, Steve Papp, who asked about the possibility of staging such an event. At first I was a little apprehensive about involving kids that young in one of our chapter brushing days which are typically strenuous and not without risk of some physical injury. However, after giving it some thought and talking it through with Steve, I decided that we could remove most of the dangers by cutting all the buckthorn and box elder in advance, as well as treating the stumps with herbicide. We could then stage a later workday where the kids would drag the cut brush and throw it on a bonfire which we would build.

Working around the Wisconsin deer season, two preparatory workdays were held in early November. Twelve volunteers turned out with chainsaws and loppers, to spend about 80 hours cutting invasives and

treating the stumps. As we got closer to the service day event, a clear itinerary for the actual day was decided on: 66 fourth graders would be split into two groups. Half of them would participate in a nature walk led by WIDNR fisheries biologist Kasey Yallaly, while the rest of the group would tackle the buckthorn. (At that point I also realized that we probably had too much cut wood on the ground, so two subsequent workdays were held in early December where volunteers spent another 80 hours burning over half of the material which had been previously cut.)

The bus arrived on site at noon and the event started with a short talk about worksite safety and expectations for the day. Some 20 parent chaperones also took part in the event to help with some of the

work and make sure that all the kids were safe. Seven TU volunteers helped out too and logged another 40 hours of volunteer time. The day was an astounding success as seen in the photos. Around 2:30pm the kids were treated to cup of hot chocolate and a cookie.

The weather for the day could not have been more cooperative. My earlier fears of temperatures hovering near zero and kids getting cold did not come to pass as the day's temperature got close to 30 and the heat from the bonfire had many of the kids working in just a short sleeve shirt. I am hopeful that this can become a recurring event. There is certainly enough buckthorn and box elder to keep a whole army of young workers like this busy for a lifetime.

"I really appreciate the KIAP-TU-WISH Chapter and DNR for supporting the learning of our students. I feel blessed that we have the Trout-in-the-Classroom and Bugs-in-the-Classroom coming up as well. When we release our trout this spring and get into the Willow, I feel students will take that experience with them as they visit the site we cleared yesterday to see just how healthy an ecosystem and resource we have with this Kinnickinnic River. These experiences in conservation have the potential of exponential growth as students share their knowledge with parents, family, and others. We look forward to continuing this partnership and work in the years to come."

—Steve Papp, Greenwood Elementary School





Mark Peerenboom photo



Mark Peerenboom photo



Gary Richardson photo

# From the Field:

**Kiap-TU-Wish Monitoring Update** *by Kent Johnson & John Kaplan*

Although summer is the peak of the Kiap-TU-Wish monitoring year, monitoring will continue during the winter months at a number of streams and rivers, including three restoration project locations (Pine Creek, Plum Creek, and the Trimbelle River) and the Willow River, where the Little Falls Dam is being replaced in Willow River State Park. Deployment of 21 temperature loggers will continue through the winter to evaluate the year-round impacts of climate change, to provide background data for assessing the future impacts of the new Willow River dam, and to evaluate the ability of our stream restoration projects to improve temperature regimes. In January, water samples will be collected and analyzed at the Pine Creek and the Trimbelle River project locations to better understand water quality during winter baseflow conditions, when watershed contributions of pollutants are minimal. To complement stream temperature and water chemistry data, two weather stations are operated year-round, providing data on air temperature, relative humidity, and dew point. Kiap-TU-Wish also provides financial and volunteer monitoring support to the USGS, for their year-round operation and maintenance of the Kinnickinnic River flow gaging station.

## WiseH2O mApp Project:

National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on Angler Science and the benefits it provides for angler education and coldwater resource management. Trout Unlimited's national science team is currently partnering with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O mApp) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers tested the mApp on 10 local streams and rivers, making 83 observations and providing feedback to the developers on mApp improvements. With the monitoring year complete at the end of the angling season, MobileH2O has prepared a project report, including monitoring results, recommendations, and next steps. The project report is available at the following weblink: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/reports>.

In the mApp Development News Department, the iPhone version of the mApp is in limited circulation! Kent Johnson and John Kaplan have been field testing it and providing feedback to MobileH2O (Carter and Sarah Borden). So far, so good; the iPhone mApp should be available to all Kiap-TU-Wish members for the 2020 angling season! In addition, the 2-in-1 test strip, for measuring concentrations of nitrite- and nitrate-nitrogen, will be available for angler use in 2020.

The WiseH2O mApp Project Team, including MobileH2O (Carter and Sarah Borden), Dan Dauwalter (TU National Science Team) and Kent Johnson (Kiap-TU-Wish Project Leader), is discussing next steps for a broader rollout of the mApp across the Driftless Area, hopefully in 2020. Stay tuned, as this will be a great opportunity for anglers to evaluate the well-being of our precious coldwater resources.

Many people contributed to important aspects of this project. Jacob Lemon and Matt Barney (TU National Science Team), Jeff Hastings (TUDARE Project Manager), and Michael Miller (Wisconsin DNR) provided valuable feedback as Advisory Team members, as did participants during a workshop at the 2019 Driftless Area Symposium in La Crosse, Wisconsin (February 2019). The project team would especially like to thank the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter members who expressed their interest in the project, attended project workshops in River Falls, Wisconsin (March and April 2019), participated in on-site training sessions (April and May), took time to fill out a project survey, and collected data using the WiseH2O mApp. John Kaplan (Kiap-TU-Wish Stream Monitoring Coordinator) deserves a special thank you for his project support and training. This project was funded by Trout Unlimited's Coldwater Conservation Fund and the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



# The Book, The Kid And A Life In Fishing

By Jonathan Jacobs

I receive emails from *The American Scholar*, the magazine of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Rest assured that this is not because I am a member of the society. The briefest perusal of my college transcripts would render the very idea of that risible. However, I always find the articles linked in the emails interesting, if a bit too complex for my wizened mind. One article did appear recently that was squarely in my wheelhouse. It was a remarkable essay by Melissa McCarthy about meeting and befriending Norman Maclean, the author of *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*, at his cabin on Seeley Lake in Montana when she was a teenager and he was recently retired from teaching at the University of Chicago. It's a personal story filled with rich detail and its author's reflections on how that friendship shaped her life as a writer. You can find it easily online and you should.

I assume that everyone who reads RipRap is familiar with both the title story from the book and with Robert Redford's film adaptation of it. The movie is excellent, but as is so often true, it cannot compare to the book. And when you get down to it, there aren't many other books that can compare to Maclean's work, either. The title novella is a heartbreaking story of a family's attempt to "love completely without complete understanding." The two other stories in the book are more lighthearted, but both are expertly told.

I was awestruck by the book when I read it in the 1980s and our family came to regard it with reverence. My daughter, Allison, who was then a little girl, was a voracious reader. She understood what the book meant to me and desperately wanted to read it. My parental judgment was that the book was too intense for someone so young and I told her she had to wait until she was twelve to read it. I suspect she may have sneaked several very long peeks at it in advance of her twelfth birthday, but reading it immediately after turning twelve was a rite of passage for her. It was also something that helped forge an enduring bond between us.

As in Maclean's family, in ours there has been "no clear line between religion and fly

fishing," in part because of the influence of his book. I feel blessed beyond measure that Allison developed an interest in fly fishing early on and the skills to make her an effective angler. (As a matter of clarification, I'll claim credit for sparking the interest, but her considerable casting skills are mostly a product of tutoring she received from true casting masters out in the backyard of the old Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo.)

Now, like so many people her age, she's working sixty-hour weeks to sustain a career and she has difficulty finding time to fish, but from her middle school years through her immediate post-college years, she was one of my most dependable and frequent angling companions. She had a particular love for brook trout and the little creeks where they are found, and I have many precious memories of driving along rural roads on our way to delightful fishing

for some of the prettiest fish in some of the prettiest places imaginable. And, as an example of how Norman Maclean influenced all of this, I have one small story to tell: Once, in her fourteenth year, at the end of a glorious June evening's fishing, Allison and I were walking back to the truck. The sun was still shining strong, but its angle, coupled with low humidity, rendered every color in the landscape's palette with stunning intensity and clarity. We were quiet, but Allison suddenly said, "I think Norman Maclean was right. Being outside makes you feel better." I asked her to expand on that, as I didn't recall the reference. She replied, "You know, in *The Ranger*, *The Cook and a Hole in the Sky*, he wrote that when he was a baby he was sick and his mother put him outside in a little basket facing the mountains until the mountains made him better." She was right of course. 🐾



Jonathan Jacobs photos

# FLY TIER'S CORNER

## My Favorite Caddis Dries: *by Mike Alwin*

The popularity of Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is undeniable, and for good reason. Featuring a light-colored elk hair wing it's almost as visible as calf tail, and with rooster hackle palmered over the entire body it's almost guaranteed to float high on the water. Plus, they do catch fish and if tied in Troth's original version they are very durable. But I seldom fish them, preferring two patterns with local connections that are just as durable and (possibly) more effective. Both have been featured previously in Rip Rap.

TP's Little Caddis Thing



As near as I can figure, Tracy Peterson originated TP's Little Caddis Thing. It's made almost entirely of natural color CDC feathers. It sits low in the water and because of the many little CDC fibers, it shows movement even on a dead drift. Skip James wrote about a similar fly in Rip Rap back in the eighties and credited Dorothy Schram with

showing it to him. Regardless, the abdomen of this fly is one CDC feather tied in at the bend, twisted and wrapped forward. Four CDC feathers are tied in on top, two on each side of the body. The butt ends are bent backward, tied down in that position and then trimmed at the rear to be as long as the wing. The thorax is Hare's Ear and the antennae are pheasant tail fibers.

**Hook:** #16 or #18 standard length dry fly hook

**Abdomen:** One CDC feather, tied in by the tip at the bend, twisted and wrapped forward to the midpoint

**Wing:** Four CDC feathers, tied in at the midpoint, bent back and tied down with two on each side

**Thorax:** Hare's Mask fur

**Antennae:** Two fibers from a primary pheasant rooster tail feather

Rob Kolakowski's Bread and Butter Caddis



The other pattern, and my personal favorite, is Rob Kolakowski's Bread and Butter Caddis. Formerly a commercial tier, Rob was searching for a way to tie an effective caddis pattern faster. I think he nailed it. The body is a Hare's Ear blend with a little Antron

mixed in. The under wing is white or light tan poly floating yarn and the over wing is deer hair. Once the fly is tied off and before the head is lacquered, you use your thumbnail to push the deer hair down behind the tie-off point. This action spreads the wing out a little, putting some of the tips in contact with the water surface. The term, "deadly," when used to describe a fly pattern is overused and, in my opinion, trite. But this fly. . .

**Hook:** #16 or #18 standard length dry fly hook, Rob's preference is a curved hook.

**Body:** Hare's Ear blend with Antron, or dark Hare's Ear blend

**Underwing:** Poly floating yarn, white or tan

**Overwing:** Deer hair

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*Editor's Note: Mike Alwin wrote a series of entomology articles for RipRap—Know Your Bugs. If you would like a copy of those articles, email me at manion.maria@gmail.com. If you have questions about these fly patterns, email Mike at mikelwin@gmail.com.*





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**January 8, 2020  
Chapter Meeting**

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

—  
*Dinner starts at 6pm  
(your dime).*

—  
*Meeting starts at 7pm.*



## Chapter Meeting | January 8, 2020 | Erik Helm

Erik Helm, a fly fishing guide based in Soldier's Grove, Wisconsin, will be speaking at our next chapter meeting. Erik is a guide, writer and teacher who has spent countless hours fishing for trout in the Driftless, as well as pursuing steelhead on the west coast and the Great Lakes tributaries with traditional spey casting. Erik owns Classical Angler Fly Fishing and produces the fly fishing blog "The Classical Angler."

Hope to see you there!