



The Drift: Words from our President.

Bright, sunny and 22 degrees. Much warmer than the previous two days. Randy Arnold and his merry band of volunteers are clearing an impassible stretch of the upper Kinnickinnic in St. Croix county. Fifteen volunteers showed up this morning, ten of which show up almost every Saturday morning. Four or five other volunteers show up whenever they can, and then there are always one or two new faces. I know my math doesn't quite add up, but I can't help it. I'm a banker. The volunteers include both men and women, young and old (I mean "more mature," of course) and folks from all walks of life. Some drive less than five miles every Saturday to clear brush. Some drive more than 50 miles. Some are certified chainsaw operators. Some are certified in first aid. Some are certified in herbicide application. Pretty much all of them hate European buckthorn and the way this invasive species has turned our streambanks into impenetrable jungles. I'm pretty sure most of them aren't very fond of box elder trees either and the way this native tree grows up and out of both sides of stream banks and then falls across the water, causing coldwater streams to meander and warm, thereby becoming uninhabitable for trout.

As it turns out there are many, many miles of coldwater trout streams in Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties in Wisconsin, that have had habitat work done on them in the past and that hold trout, but that are just plain inaccessible because of these two aggressive plant species. Imagine that. We have some of the most productive spring creeks in the world right in our own backyard and we can't get to them to fish!

That's where Randy and his merry band of brush-clearing volunteers comes in. Nobody told them that it was an impossible task to clear the many miles of buckthorn and box elder jungles we have here. Or if they told them, they just didn't listen. Instead, they put on their gloves and pick up their loppers on Saturday mornings, show up at a designated spot and start clearing brush together. Some cut trees and brush. Some cut up downed trees. Some drag brush to the fires. Some start the fires and keep them going. At the end of the morning, all gather around one of the fires to roast hot dogs, eat cookies, and take a look at what they've accomplished together. A new, formerly unfishable section of trout stream is now fishable again. What an accomplishment! Regardless of whether the volunteers were able to clear 100 feet or 500 feet in a given morning, they know they've made a positive difference. They know they've worked together with a group of like-minded individuals to help the environment, to help each other and to help people they don't even know. One branch, one tree at a time,

{continued on page 2}

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



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Volume 13 | Issue 7
March 2020

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Chapter Meeting

Dick Frantes Open Fly-Tying Night

Dinner at 6pm (your dime)

Meeting starts at 7pm

Junior's Bar & Restaurant

414 South Main Street

River Falls, WI 54022

Cover photo: A January day on the upper Kinnickinnic River. Anglers reported slow fishing and lots of sun.

DON'T FORGET:

- Visit the K-TU website & Facebook page for news, announcements & updates.
- **The next RipRap deadline is Friday, March 13.**
- Send info to: manion.maria@gmail.com

RIPRAP: Restoration, Improvement & Preservation through Research And Projects

{The Drift. . . from page 1}

these volunteers have cleared miles and miles of coldwater stream banks over the years in our area. In their own quite way, they have made huge contributions to our coldwater ecology and trout fishing. And over the years, many of these volunteers have become lifelong friends.

No experience is necessary to join Randy Arnold's merry band of brush-clearing volunteers. Just a warm pair of work gloves and a pair of boots. Email Randy at randyca999@gmail.com if you would like to be added to his volunteer workday email list.

Happy Fishing! – Scott Wagner

Trout in the Classroom Update

As you recall, in order to streamline the process for the increasingly popular Wisconsin Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs, the WIDNR agreed to handle all the fish farm paperwork and ship eggs, for free, from a state hatchery this year. In principle, this made things much easier, but our eggs did not like the UPS shipping treatment and we think that contributed to a high rate of stillborn alevin death that was observed in all eight schools. We had never seen this before. In discussing the issue with the hatchery manager, he said that when the eggs are close to hatching, they are very susceptible to injury; our eggs hatched only two days after delivery.

With any new process there is a learning curve and we will make plans for direct pickup from the hatchery next year. Nonetheless, all classes had alive alevin and they have now released the resulting fry from the egg basket into the tank at large. The kids are all very excited to see the rapid changes from egg to alevin to fry, and now they get to feed the fish which is a daily highlight! The kids are doing well monitoring the temperature and nitrate levels in the tank, ensuring that the remaining fish stay healthy. – Greg Olson



Memberships: Stay with Kiap-TU-Wish

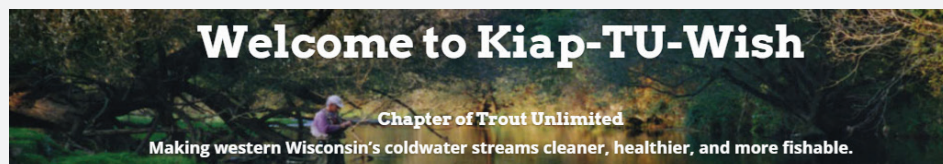
Technological snafu? Logistical snafu? User snafu? Whatever the reason, some of our members have had their chapter affiliation designated elsewhere. Most often this occurs when our Minnesota members renew. To remain in Kiap-TU-Wish—or to help others who might encounter this situation—please take a look at the following suggestions.

Designating Kiap-TU-Wish

- Call 800-834-2419: The operator will assist you. Make sure the operator knows you want this to be a permanent designation.
- If this is not successful, call TU's Membership Services Assistant, Jack Rodgers at (703) 284-9411. You can also email Jack via the TU website: <https://www.tu.org/staffer/jack-rodgers/>

Setting up a New Membership

- Go to tu.org/intro and select #168 Kiap-TU-Wish from the Wisconsin options in the drop down box.
- When you do this, you will remain in Kiap-TU-Wish every time you renew your membership (even if you move elsewhere, at which point you can call or e-mail TU to have them update your information).



2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **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 1, 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. **Donations to date total \$35.49.**



Upcoming Board Member Election

Kiap-TU-Wish will elect board members at our chapter business meeting in April. At this year's meeting there will be two, 3-year terms open: Perry Palin and Maria Manion have decided to step down from the board. Two chapter members have been nominated for election to the open positions: Dustin Wing and Scot Stewart. See their bios below if you aren't already familiar with Dustin and Scot.

You can vote for candidates at the April 1st chapter meeting, so we hope to see you then.

Background Information: Positions on the board are three-year terms elected by the general membership at the chapter business meeting and board members may be re-elected. Officer positions are one-year terms elected by the new board of directors at the first April board meeting. The only limit on officer re-election is a maximum of three years for the treasurer and president.

Kiap Board Member Candidates

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Dustin Wing	3 year
Scot Stewart	3 year
Write in nomination(s)	



Dustin Wing: Dustin grew up near the Redwood River in Minnesota. He saw the impact that human activities—such as the surrounding agricultural land—had on the river and it influenced his academic pursuits.

Following high school Dustin joined the U.S. Marine Corps and became an avionics technician on Harriers. While on deployment he enrolled at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He was active with undergraduate research and — while assisting a PhD candidate by trying to capture wild mysis to feed trout in the lab—had a near death experience while crossing an ice heave alone on Lake Superior.

After graduating from UMD, Dustin worked as a North Pacific Groundfish Observer in the Bering Sea before going back to school at Texas A&M in Corpus Christi to study aquaculture and shrimp nutrition.

While in Corpus Christi Dustin met his wife Abbey, moved to Austin, Texas, and had their son Galen. For many reasons Dustin and his family decided to move north via a three-month road trip out West, suffering through heat waves and dodging wild fires. That experience made Dustin even more grateful to be settling in Wisconsin.

Scot Stewart: Scot was born in Michigan and raised there and in Wisconsin. He attended the University of Minnesota for his Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Biology and Ohio State University for his Masters of Science in Fisheries Management. Scot began his career with the WIDNR in Baldwin and covered St. Croix and Pierce counties as a Fisheries Manager. Scot then moved to Madison where he served as an area fisheries supervisor, then a district supervisor until his retirement in 2016. Scot served on the statewide trout and muskie committees for most of his career, led the most recent trout regulation review, and conducted extensive habitat improvement on many coldwater streams.

Scot is married to Jo and has two sons and daughters-in-law and four grandsons. He loves to fish for trout and muskie, train retrievers and hunt ducks. In his retirement, he is running an animal control business and is doing some guiding for trout and muskie. He is an active member of TU, served as a State Council Representative, and taught fly tying for TU for twenty-five years. He is a member of Muskies Inc., Ducks Unlimited, Wisconsin Trappers, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Control Operators Association.

Scot resides in Somerset, Wisconsin, on the St. Croix River with his wife Jo and Labrador retriever, Rosie.



Editor's Note

Before you settle in with this month's RipRap, please note a few things that are coming up this spring.

The Hap Lutter Memorial Spring Appeal: The appeal committee is working to get the spring appeal letters ready for distribution. Watch your mailbox for the letter, and know that your contribution benefits many of the activities highlighted in RipRap throughout the year. Please consider a generous donation!

Bugs in the Classroom (BIC)/Trout in the Classroom (TIC): Kiap-TU-Wish has eight schools participating in this year's program, which means that we'll need more volunteers than ever when it comes time to teach the kids about what trout eat, and to help them release their trout. Watch this newsletter and your email for dates and calls for volunteers.

Wisconsin TU Youth Camp: Each year Kiap sponsors attendees to the TU Youth camp in Waupaca. Application information will follow in next month's RipRap.

River Falls Fly-Fishing Clinic: The clinic committee is working on plans for the now annual fly fishing clinic in River Falls. Details will follow next month. Volunteers are always needed, so reserve that first Saturday in June to help out.

Okay. Now sit back and enjoy the great articles inside — angler science, TIC troubles, a who-is-who, the angst of a beautiful fly rod, fishing friendships, the brushing crew and a fly recipe to tie at next month's chapter meeting. I've got my kit ready to go. Hope to see you there! — Maria Manion

WiseH2O mApp Monitoring Returns in 2020

With the successful completion of the 2019 pilot project, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers will again have the opportunity to monitor Pierce County trout streams and rivers in 2020, using the WiseH2O mApp (mApp). Thanks to those who participated in 2019, and our apologies to those iPhone users who signed up but were unable to use the

mApp. If you haven't had a chance to check out the 2019 project report, you can find it on the MobileH2O website: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/anglerscience>. This link also takes you to an interactive map that enables you to view the results of all 2019 mApp observations in Pierce County.

We are pleased to report that the iPhone

version of the mApp is available, and the 2-in-1 test strips can be used to measure nitrite/nitrate concentrations. The mApp also has an updated look that should be more user-friendly. With these additions and improvements, we can fully implement the Kiap-TU-Wish monitoring plan in 2020 (<https://www.mobileh2o.com/anglerscience>).

Whether you were one of the 38 anglers who signed up in 2019, or whether you are an interested newcomer, please let John or Kent know if you would like to participate in 2020. The Target Anglers who signed up for 10 designated monitoring sites in 2019 will have the first opportunity to monitor at these locations in 2020. We'll also continue with the category of General Anglers, who will have the flexibility to monitor throughout Pierce County.

Once John and Kent compile a list of 2020 project participants, we'll send more details by e-mail in March and April. For those who are interested, it may also be possible to organize mApp training sessions at our March, April, and May chapter meetings. All 2020 participants (both Android and iPhone users) will need to download the latest version of the mApp. Instructions for doing so can be found at: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/mh2oapp> (scroll to the bottom of the page). A short video about the mApp is also available at this web location.

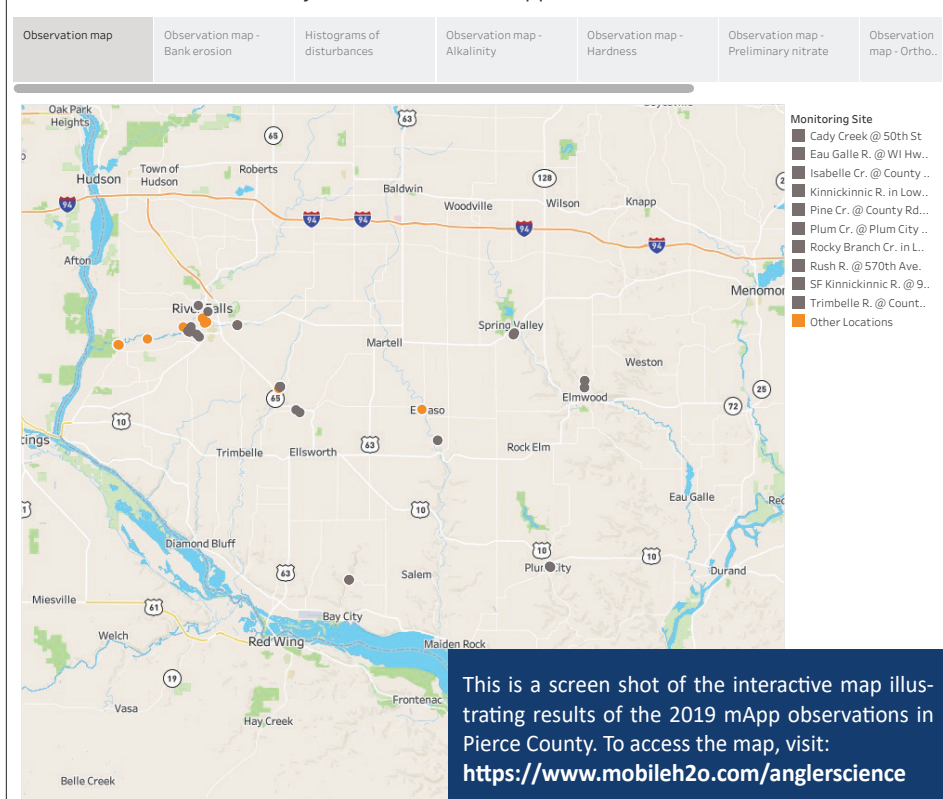
National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on Angler Science and the benefits it provides: "Anglers gathering scientific information about the fish and the places they love". Stream water quality monitoring is one of the key Angler Science initiatives. On behalf of innovation and science for coldwater conservation, we thank you for your interest and look forward to working with you in 2020. If you have any questions or thoughts, please float them our way. — John and Kent

John Kaplan
Kiap-TU-Wish Monitoring Coordinator
jmk8990@comcast.net
612-963-1699 (Cell)

Kent Johnson
d.kent.johnson@gmail.com
612-845-7258 (Cell)



Driftless Area Water Quality - WiseH2O Mobile App Data



This is a screen shot of the interactive map illustrating results of the 2019 mApp observations in Pierce County. To access the map, visit: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/anglerscience>

Meet Greg Olson *by Judy Mahle Lutter*

Periodically the newsletter likes to profile some of the board members who do such a great job to keep Kiap-TU-Wish vibrant and growing.

One of those board members is Greg Olson who has been on the board for about seven years and involved with the Chapter for 15 or more. Greg grew up in Hudson and fished as a boy using a spin rod, but it was not until about 20 years ago that his brother-in-law encouraged him to take up fly fishing. His introduction to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter was when he had the opportunity as a leader of a Cub Scout troop to help collect native prairie seed and then assist in replanting the Pine Creek riparian zone. There he met Greg Dietl, president of the Kiap-TU-Wish board at the time, who encouraged him to come to a meeting.

Greg was impressed with the people he met and also with the many trout fishing opportunities that those of us living in Minnesota and western Wisconsin have at our doorsteps. "One of the reasons I am a board member and have become very active in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program is because I feel it's important to give something back," says Greg.

As a member you are probably familiar with the TIC program through articles in this newsletter. It is one of the outreach activities that has the opportunity to introduce even more members to volunteering. It's a chance to encourage young people to become involved in protecting, understanding and loving nature.

Greg heard about the national program several years ago and decided it would be worth trying here. Some of the impetus behind the program is that statistics show that fewer people are fly fishing, fewer kids are outside and many have no idea of the opportunities that might be available.

Both of Greg's parents were elementary school teachers and he thinks that may be a partial factor in his becoming excited about this particular program. Currently the Chapter sponsors eight different sites. Programs are offered for elementary school to high school age kids. There is interest from additional schools but the board decided that eight was the number that they could serve well.



ABOVE: Greg Olson delivering eggs to students on the annual trout spawning run.

BELOW: Greg and a wagon of trout on release day.

Greg figures that he spends about 30 hours per year working on the program but opportunities exist for people to volunteer for shorter periods of time over the four months the classrooms are raising the fish. For example, Greg recently delivered the eggs to classrooms with help from other volunteers. Further opportunities are available to help the students until they release in the Willow River State Park in the spring. "I think there has been an increased interest since the program started in the broader environmental and climate aspects of what we are doing" says Greg. "We talk about the fact that trout are very sensitive to water temperature and how it is important to try to monitor that. I think we help kids begin to care about cold water as an important resource." Students also learn that some streams need to be restocked and that they play a role in keeping trout fishing alive for future generations. Statistically more males than females fly fish but Greg says he notices equal enthusiasm from all kids about this particular program. Often, says Greg "kids will name the fish and there are even some tears shed when they are released in the spring."



Bugs in the Classroom (BIC) is also part of the program and again is something where increased enthusiasm and participation may be related to the overall interest in climate and the environment. This is a topic which seems to be of increasing importance to young people who are also leading the discussion of what we as humans can do to save the planet.

Giving back and teaching young people is something Greg Olson is passionate about and does with skill. 🐟

For the Sake of Beauty *by David Johnson*

This story begins a long time ago when I first decided that I would be a better fly fisherman than a golfer. I believe the year was 1987 or 88.

A friend of mine was an avid trout fisherman and fly tier. I had some experience with both but wasn't very adept at either. We started to get a small group together in my workshop in the U.P. that we called the "Oil Tank Lounge." The name came from the fact that I heated the shop with an oil furnace that had a tendency to smoke a bit. This particular winter we would meet every Wednesday night and tie flies. Our skill gradually increased as that winter wore on to the point that some of those flies we tied may have caught a couple of sight-impaired brookies.

Anyway, the fall of 1988 I traveled to the Bighorn River over Thanksgiving and had a humbling experience. I hooked a few fish and landed fewer. Upon returning to the U.P. I consulted with my fly fishing guru and told him some details of how many fish

I lost either with a broken tippet or the fly pulled out. He asked me, "what rod were you using?"

I gave him the make and model and he told me I was fishing with a tomato stake! What? "Your rod is too stiff to protect small tippets and it will also pull flies out of a fish." I'd never heard of this before because this was my first trip out to big water and

"The rod was more than 50 years old and had never been fishing or even had a reel mounted on it . It was flawless."

big fish. I asked what rod I should buy. His reply, "get a Winston." That began my adventure with the R.L. Winston Rod Company.

Eventually I opened my own fly shop and became a dealer. The only Winston dealer in the U.P. The year was 1994. I closed

the shop in 2007 just before the financial crash. What started as a fascination with these rods became a near obsession. I won't confess how many I own but it's a bunch.

In March of 2019 I received an email from Scott Thorpe regarding some rods from the estate of Patrick Daly that Scott was helping the estate liquidate. I looked over the list and there were two old Winston fiberglass

rods on the list. I decided to not eat for a couple weeks, took the plunge and bought a pristine 8'6" 5-wt, 4-piece, 1960s vintage Winston. I was thrilled to get it

and once I picked it up and assembled the burgundy beauty I was more than stunned. The rod was more than 50 years old and had never been fishing or even had a reel mounted on it. It was flawless.

A month or so ago, Scott Wagner and I were discussing a trip out to the Bighorn in November and the more we talked the less we wanted to make the long drive for just three days of fishing. Scott suggested that instead of Montana we might want to head south to Iowa. I quickly agreed and plans were made and a date was chosen. Further discussions took place with most of the questions coming from me about water, lodging, meals, and equipment. I decided to take a Norling bamboo that I won a few years ago and two of my Winstons. The vintage burgundy Winston made the trip!

Scott and I checked into our cabin on Sunday night and quickly unpacked and had dinner. The discussion eventually got around to rod selection for the next morning. Scott had never seen the vintage rod so I took it out of the tube and removed it from the sleeve and assembled it. We took turns shaking the rod and assessing the slow deliberate action and then debated whether or not to put a reel on it. After looking at the reel seat that didn't have a mark on the insert, and weighing the possible benefits of whether or not I should put a reel on it, I decided that at that particular moment I wasn't ready to harm the pristine beauty of it. Perhaps at a later place and time. 🎣



My Man Mike

By Jonathan Jacobs



Jonathan Jacobs photo

Back in the late Nineties, a time when I thought I was hanging out at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop too little while the rest of the world likely thought I was there too much, I would run into a guy who appeared to be a nice enough fellow, but who mostly stood to the side and observed. For the sake of convenience here, we'll call the guy Mike. Eventually we talked a little. He spoke with just a hint of some sort of accent that indicated that he wasn't from Fargo or even Minnesota. When we talked more, we learned that we both enjoyed reading about

angling nearly as much as angling itself. Shop proprietor Michael Alwin took note of this and suggested that the two of us pair up to present a little Saturday morning confab on the topic of angling literature at the shop in November of 1999. We decided that we ought to create a kind of bibliography to support our presentation. While working on that project we got to know one another better and determined that we ought to try trout fishing together when the next season rolled around.

The first trip came in May of 2000. We

followed that with a few more exploratory trips together and had fun. In the months between that Saturday at the shop and trout season I had learned that my new friend was a Kentuckian by birth, upbringing and education. The vestigial drawl with which he spoke was mostly suppressed by his training in broadcast journalism, but as I was to learn on a mid-summer outing that year, it blossomed when he was excited or enjoying himself. We were driving home on U.S. Highway 10 in Pierce County when we drove by a little country bar. The parking lot



"Much to my surprise, my friend recited the speech in its entirety, along with several other choice bits from a truly obscure, fifteen-year-old movie. This, I thought, is a friendship worth nurturing."

was packed. Noting this, Mike, abandoning the usual measured pace of his speech, said in a full-on Bluegrass State accent, "Uh-oh, there's trouble on a Friday night. There's divorces and fights and car accidents. There's trouble." I told him he sounded like Cecil's father, a character in the movie *Rancho Deluxe*, which was written by the novelist Thomas McGuane, delivering his pickup truck speech. It begins, "Let me tell you another thing: I have seen more of this state's poor cowboys, miners, railroaders, and Indians go broke buying pickup trucks; the poor people of this state are dope fiends for pickup trucks." Much to my surprise, my friend recited the speech in its entirety, along with several other choice bits from a truly obscure, fifteen-year-old movie. This, I thought, is a friendship worth nurturing.

Nurture it we did, on frequent trips to local trout streams, on the Brule, on float trips on the Mississippi and St. Croix and on spring road trips to the Big Horn River in Montana. The Montana trips produced particularly vivid memories. There was the time a late-April blizzard forced us to

seek refuge in Dickinson, North Dakota. This was when the fracking boom was first underway, and lodging was in high demand. We felt lucky to have secured the last available room in a chain motel. Lucky, that is, until we entered the room. The carpet was caked with muddy boot tracks and the blizzard blew in through a permanently half-open window. We looked at the beds, looked at each other and silently trudged back out to the truck to retrieve our sleeping bags. After stuffing the gaping hole in the window frame full of towels, we slept atop the beds that night rather than risk sleeping in them. We lost a day of fishing to the blizzard, but the rest of the trip went well.

One year on the Big Horn, high water restricted us to fishing primarily from the boat. My little boat would sway at anchor in the swift currents, inducing the sort of feeling that I associate with being battered by high waves all day long while in a boat on a lake, a childhood experience that helped turn me into a stream angler. But we persisted. One day we came to a long, open flat where fish were rising to midges

in mid-river. Exposed as they were, the fish were spooky and difficult to approach. We anchored and Mike made a long, beautiful cast down and across stream to a riser. It was an extraordinary cast, really, but as I've reminded him repeatedly ever since, the effort expended in making it seemed to reduce his mental capacity to near zero. When a fish engulfed the fly, my friend reacted not at all. I waited as long as I could before shouting, "Mike!" He snapped to and raised his rod sharply – to say the least. Magically, the tippet held. After a protracted battle, I netted his fish, a silvery brown trout, and extended the net's hoop toward him so that he might unhook the trout. He looked at the fish and asked, "What is this, a cutthroat?" A moment later he proclaimed it to be a rainbow before finally and correctly, deciding it was a brown. Using his forceps, he removed an odd little midge pattern, one with a distinctive hot orange post, from the fish's jaw. I lowered the net to the water and released the fish. Mike's rod doubled over instantly. "What the hell," he asked in complete surprise, as if somehow a suicidal fish holding at boat side had instantly eaten his fly. I netted the fish again and in a repeat performance, my friend removed another fly, identical to the first except that this one was attached to his tippet, from the trout's jaw.

Late April weather in southern Montana is a highly variable proposition. Like most anglers, we're morons, but even we knew better than to attempt to float the river one cold, snowy day. That said, there wasn't much to do back in Cottonwood Camp, so we bundled up and drove down to the Three Mile access, hiked upstream on the bank, crossed in the shallows and set up a base of operations at the head of an island. Upstream was a knee-to-thigh deep riffle with some little slicks in it. We watched for a bit and thought we saw, through the falling snow, the occasional rises of trout. We fished by turns with one angler casting while the other huddled on the bank and observed. I caught a couple of fish and felt good about it. Mike, despite being an excellent angler, struggled and caught nothing.

We returned the next year, but in the months between, Mike experienced a stay in the hospital in treatment for one of the

kinds of health problems that will get a fellow thinking seriously. Part of what carried him through the experience, he told me, was the thought of getting back to that riffle and fishing it better. Now years have gone by and the continuing challenge of fishing better and the joys of maintaining a friendship continue. I've seen Mike land his first steelhead. I've seen him catch, on a cold and rainy day, what he described as likely the largest smallmouth bass of his life. I've also listened to him exclaim on the phone, "My wife and I are going to BAY-ley's!" Thinking he was talking about a new restaurant, I asked him where this Bailey's was. "You know," he said, his excitement growing, "BAY-ley's, the country in Central America." Using my Kentucky-to-Yankee translator I figured out that he was referring

to the place we commonly call Belize, pronounced "be-LEEZ." And so it goes.

Very recently, a providential job opportunity has taken Mike back to his old Kentucky home. It's impossible for me to be anything but overjoyed for his opportunity. We'll remain friends forever and we'll fish together again, I know, but what I'll miss, though, is immediate access to a real friend when I need one. Henry David Thoreau, the nineteenth century naturalist, wrote, "Some men fish all their lives without knowing it is not really the fish they are after." Taking the long view, I am beginning to understand what he meant. For me, what I've been after in angling is the enduring friendships it's been my privilege to have with Mike and with so many of you, too. 🐟

"Now years have gone by and the continuing challenge of fishing better and the joys of maintaining a friendship continue."



From the Field

The photo on the right, taken by chapter member David Gregg, features Randy Arnold, the Kiap-TU-Wish Volunteer Coordinator. Many of you know Randy and his superhuman efforts on our stream restoration projects. You also know Randy's unrelenting battle against invasive buckthorn. Well, here he is on the Kinnickinnic River this year, facing, as David put it, the mother of all buckthorn. We've seen a lot of photos of Randy and the Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer work crew over the years, but this photo has the touch of the epic—our own Beowulf, diving to the depths to battle Grendel's mother. Thank you to David for sending the photo, and thank you to the many volunteers who spend their Saturdays doing prep work for subsequent maintenance and restoration projects. Your commitment is the stuff of legends.



If you want to join the crew, send Randy your name and email address. He'll add you to his notification list for upcoming workdays on stream restoration projects.

randyca999@gmail.com

Below: A collective effort on the upper Kinni on February 15. Thank you volunteers! From left to right: Pete Kilibarda, Randy Arnold, Sydney Arnold, Keith Stein, Pat Sexton, Loren Carver, Phil Plumbo, Dave Kozlovsky, Ed Constantini and way in the background, John Skelton.



FLY TIER'S CORNER

The Hi-Vis Gulper Special: *by Mike Alwin*



Al Troth was an angler and guide who grew up in Pennsylvania fishing warm-water and cold-water species. He is credited with a number of fly patterns, the most popular of which is the Elk Hair Caddis. Troth tied the wing on the fly with bleached hair from the rump of an elk. His reason for bleaching the hair was to make it more visible to the angler while fishing broken water. He started selling the fly to Bud Lilly and it became an instant hit because of the increased visibility, but also because the palmered hackle floated the fly better than other caddis imitations of that time. It's entirely possible that the Elk Hair Caddis, along with the Adams, are the most popular dry flies of the last thirty years.

One of Troth's other contributions

was the Gulper Special, a little confection he designed to imitate Callibaetis on lakes in the West. It worked so well that it was almost immediately put to use on western spring creeks where it also proved its reliability. The concept was exceedingly simple; a white poly wing provided visibility for the angler while grizzly hackle was used for the tail and the parachute hackle. The idea was that the grizzly hackle scattered light around the fly, so the only thing an angler had to change was the size of the hook and the body color.

How is it possible to use the same pattern for multiple hatches? Early on in my search for fly tying materials, Bob Mitchell told me that "you could probably use grizzly for everything." True that. Grizzly is an excellent choice for darker mayflies and caddis, but it also works pretty darn well for lighter naturals, including sulphurs. So, it would be possible for an angler to carry an assortment of Gulper Specials in a variety of sizes and three or four colors (e.g., brown, olive, tan and yellow) and be able to have reasonable dry imitations for many situations.

The only exception I would make is in the choice of wing color. I don't know why Troth favored white. I have to agree with my friend Kevin; on a bright sunny day a black wing is easier to see than white. For most other applications I favor orange or pink. Introducing, the Hi-Vis Gulper Special.

Hook: standard length dry fly

Wing: poly yarn in orange, pink or black

Hackle: grizzly rooster sized to the hook, wound parachute style

Tail: grizzly rooster hackle

Body: dry fly dubbing, polypropylene or beaver

Kiap-TU-Wish

Board Members & Contact Info

Randy Arnold
randyca999@gmail.com

Suzanne Constantini / Treasurer
smcon26@gmail.com

Loren Haas
loraud2@gmail.com

Gary Horvath / Vice President
magshorvath@comcast.net

John Kaplan
jmk8990@comcast.net

Pete Kilibarda
pkilibarda@spa.edu

Maria Manion
manion.maria@gmail.com

Greg Olson
Greg.Olson@diasorin.com

Perry Palin
perrypalin05@gmail.com

Linda Radimecky
liradimecky@comcast.net

Tom Schnadt / Ex-Officio Board Member
thschnad@hotmail.com

Scott Wagner / President
jswagner@bremer.com

KiapTUWish.org

Website Administrator: Ken Hanson
Website Design: Meyer Creative

RipRap

Editor: Maria Manion
Printer: Bob Bradham
Proofreaders: Bob Trevis & Judy Lutter
Stamps/Seals/Mailing: Sandy & Dick Krumm

RipRap Contributors:

Jonathan Jacobs is a long-time chapter member and de facto, monthly columnist. He's also the guy who introduces everyone by name at chapter meetings. You can contact him at turiprap@hotmail.com.

Dave Johnson is a chapter member and auctioneer/MC at our annual conservation banquet. He's a former Norling rod raffle winner and the owner of a vintage Winston that may, or may not, have a reel seated on it someday.

Judy Mahle Lutter is a longtime chapter member whose late husband, Hap, started our Chapter's spring appeal. Judy proofreads and writes for RipRap.



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

www.kiaptuwish.org

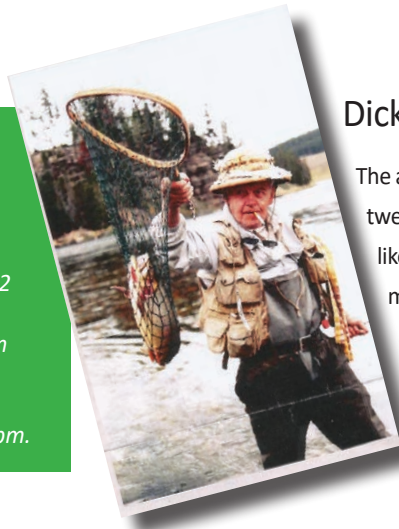


**March 4, 2020
Chapter Meeting**

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

—
*Dinner starts at 6pm
(your dime).*

—
Meeting starts at 7pm.



Dick Frantes Open Fly-Tying Night | March 4, 2020

The annual chapter fly-tying meeting is a tribute to Dry Fly Dick Frantes, who—for the first twenty years or so—coerced practitioners of the fly-tying art to display their skills. Dick liked to have themes for this annual meeting. Our theme this year? Tie one, tie all! All meeting attendees are encouraged to bring their vise and materials and tie. If you're a beginner, there will be lots of folks who can give tips and instruction. If you're an experienced tier, there's always something new to learn. If you don't want to tie, come anyway to join in the fun and frivolity. Tall tales are as much a part of tying flies as anything else, so you're sure to be entertained.