



# RipRap

Newsletter of the  
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter  
Volume 14 • Issue 5  
May 2021



## CHAPTER MEETING

### RIPRAP

Restoration, Improvement &  
Preservation through Research  
& Projects.

Photo by:  
Tim Foster

Conserve

Protect

Restore

## The Drift: Greetings to all

**H**i, I'm Greg Olson, the new president of our chapter. With the exception of 4.5 years of grad school, I have lived all my life within the St. Croix Valley and have worked for almost 25 years at DiaSorin, in Stillwater as a chemist. We make diagnostic test kits for hospitals and clinical labs. I have been married for almost 25 years to my wife Kathy and we have two children, Brian and Bethany, who are now in college.

When I joined the Kiap-Tu-Wish board, Tom Henderson was president; he was followed by Tom Schnadt, and Scott Wagner. Taking on the responsibility of president is like having to follow Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln, or Roosevelt. I hope you realize that every once in a while a Herbert Hoover gets elected, right? Ol' Herbert was a horrible president but by all accounts a fair fly fisher. I don't think, however, you need to be concerned about that big of a fall-off. I'm thinking more like a Calvin Coolidge, a fair president and horrible with the fly rod.

The good news is I can't fail with the board we currently have in place, each a rock star, passionate and knowledgeable about preserving our cold water habitat. The board will greatly miss Tom Schnadt and Loran Haas, but welcome Rainbow Barry and Missie Hanson. Thankfully Scott Wagner will stay on the board to help my transition.

Our chapter has raised thousands of dollars, restored hundreds of feet of stream bank, resulting in thousands of trout per mile. I ask you, however, to consider the number "one" this season. Last summer with the pandemic in full swing, more people than ever started recreating outside causing a shortage of boats, camping gear, and fishing equipment. After decades of slow decline, Wisconsin and Minnesota, sold 100,000 more fishing licenses compared to the previous year. Minnesota was up over 11% compared to 2019. This increase in trout fishers gives us an opportunity to grow our ranks. We need new membership as we carry on our mission into the future. Some of these new trout anglers may give up in frustration without proper instruction. Unfortunately, such activities as the River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic have again been canceled. I ask every member to invite a beginner out to fish and/or to a chapter meeting. Maybe it is your neighbor, friend, co-worker, or someone you happen upon stream side. I have helped out four such people this year and I have to say that helping someone else to catch their first fish is much more rewarding than catching one yourself.

If I had not been invited by my brother in law to join him fly fishing, 15 years ago, and by Greg Dietl a few years later I would not be president today.

If you would like to mentor a fly fisher, please email me or if you are looking for some help with fly tying, or on-stream instruction please contact me. I will try to match people up.

This is your chapter and I want to hear from you. I would love to meet and talk to all of you in person, but we are going to have to wait a bit longer for that. I want to hear your suggestions for chapter meeting subjects, ideas for new programs, or requests to volunteer. Maybe you just want to tell me the whereabouts of your secret fishing hole. Please email me at [driftless23@gmail.com](mailto:driftless23@gmail.com). I hope to hear from you soon!

# From the Editor



Well, here we are. Happy May! Quite a long winter, yes? I am writing this now with a sense of optimism in my fingers. They seem to have a lighter touch as I move them across my keyboard in search of just the right letters to make just the right words that will convey my message of enthusiasm for the up-coming season.

Do you remember the Carly Simon song “Anticipation”? It starts out with “We can never know about the days to come but we think about them anyway.” That’s what I’ve been doing lately, thinking about those days to come and hoping the memories of last season (even though some were good) will fade away as though I was looking at them in my rearview mirror. I’m pretty sure that many of us fishers have had to make some sacrifices to our regular routines due to Covid and social distancing. Undoubtably, some of those sacrifices probably have affected how you travel to and from the stream.

One of the best parts of my trips was making them with a fishing buddy. Since Covid, my trips, just as my tying sessions, have been done solo and involved meeting my partner(s) at a predetermined destination. It hasn’t mattered where I was heading, I just know that, for the most part, driving alone is extremely boring. I suppose I could have tried to find an interesting music or news station on the radio, but neither choice worked for me. Unless you have satellite-radio there is no longer a local station, that I’m aware of, that plays good 60s music, and most of the news is not very uplifting, in fact it’s down-right depressing.

So, I ask you, what’s the answer? For me, the answer is getting back to windshield time. This is a phrase I was not familiar with until a few years ago. Windshield time, as I now know it, is the time spent driving to and from the stream with your fishing buddies, and the conversations that ensue. Most trips usually start out with the common courtesy questions like “how have you been, how’s your wife, how are the kids and grandkids?” Small talk, I guess you’d call it. After a while, we get into the meat and potatoes of the conversation(s) of the day. Opinions are offered, discussion follows, and sometimes things get resolved. I am fortunate that one of my fishing buddies is a former teacher, and from what I can determine a darn good one at that. I can’t begin to tell you how much I’ve learned about economics, though thankfully the majority of our conversations are much more light-hearted.

I’m sure many of you remember the TV show Happy Days, and one of the lead characters, the Fonz, who was extremely fond of his motorcycle. I remember a snippet from one episode where he was adjusting the mirrors on his cycle and asked Richie if the mirrors looked better up, down, or straight. Richie thought that down provided better vision. Fonzie’s response was “I don’t wanna see where I’ve been, I wanna see how cool I look getting there.”

So as we enter this season, my hopes are that all of you can get back to some type of normalcy and that the back and forths are again filled with anticipation, good conversation, and satisfaction. Start looking ahead, and only use that rearview mirror to make sure your rod hasn’t fallen off the top of your car as you leave the parking lot.

Our new president Greg Olsen starts us off with some thoughts about his taking on the responsibility of chapter president and the importance of mentoring those new to fly fishing. David Linsmeyer treats us to some thoughtful prose about how a day of fly fishing is not all about catching, but encompasses much more, not to mention trying to figure out why he was able to get from pool to pool so easily. From behind his vice, Paul Johnson asks that we forego the use of lead in our fishing endeavors and search for alternative weighting solutions. From the field, John and Kent update us on the WiseH2O monitoring project and Loren Haas gives a brief, but hopeful account, of trout populations on the South Fork of the Kinni following the installation of ERO structures this past Fall. Bob Trevis winds up his Beginning Fly Fishing series (Thank you Bob) and provides us with some wise tips on how to maximize your odds for bringing more trout to hand. Scott Hanson provides a brief treatise on Blue Wing Olives (BWO’s) and offers tying instructions for his Spotlight Emerger pattern. We also include an article that appeared in Plein Air Magazine that featured Josh Cunningham and his award winning painting “Abandoned to Sunset.” Judy Lutter shares some heartfelt thoughts of her late husband Hap and the meaningfulness of the Spring Appeal. And last, but certainly not least, Jonathan Jacobs shares his “dashed hopes of originality” in the pursuit of tying a never before seen hopper pattern but in the end winds-up with his Generic Hopper, which appears to me to be a darn good addition to the terrestrial library of flies, I’m sure you’ll agree. See you in September !



# God Mowed the Pasture

DAVID LINSMEYER

God mowed the pasture, or at least, someone did. This thought repeats in my head every spring as the snow melts and the green grass pops. And when it comes to fishing, nothing is more inviting than a bank that is easy to walk with its short grass. I can easily scout the water as the cows graze in the distance.

While the dead of winter is a time for rest and preparation, a blooming spring is a call to the water where fish are waking and bugs are hatching. During a full day of fishing in the spring sun, I can feel the skin on my hands crack as the mud on my boots dries to dirt. Winter is officially gone, and spring is here, temporarily. God mowed the pasture.

I, like many people, can smell a fresh start in the air. Maybe this year will be different. Intentions are wonderful, but old habits die hard, so I am easily back to my previous techniques and trustee flies. After countless tries of expecting the wrong strategy to work, it's time to take a break.

I sit on the bank with my feet in the water, wondering why my strategy didn't work. Then I consider why I continued to try something that didn't work, or why I expected different results when doing the same thing. I hear the first fish snap on the surface and look up. "Hmmm..."

I see a bug that I only see during this time of year sputtering in the air. After all, spring is temporary, so I better consider this strategy while I still can. There's a version of that bug in my box. It's not exact, but it's worth a try.

I tie on. Cast, cast, cast. Nothing. Alright, new fly. Cast, cast, cast. Nothing. Okay.... New fly. NOTHING. I climb onto the bank and enjoy an effortless walk to the next riffle, only to repeat the same process.

Dozens of bends, handfuls of flies, zero fish. My time is done, and it's time to walk the pasture back to the truck, but today I don't have the inconvenience of tall weeds to mow over. Without such distractions, my mind wanders to tomorrow's possibilities and another fresh start. Maybe conditions will be better. Maybe there will be a slightly different hatch. Maybe I'll find that magical water I've been looking for. Even if I did catch fish, the walk back may have been the best part of this outing. God mowed the pasture, or at least, someone did.



# Views from this Side of My Vise

PAUL JOHNSON

How many of you remember when it was common practice to rake the leaves off your yard to the curb on the street and burn them? How many of you remember having a barrel in your backyard to burn your trash? How about using lead-based paint? With what we know now, we would never think about doing things like that.

In recent years, Trout Unlimited has been behind the effort to make sure farmers are properly utilizing buffer strips along waterways. We did that because we knew it was the right thing to do for our water quality.

Now it is our time as fishermen and sportsmen to step up and stop using any type of lead. This has been brought up in the past in the Minnesota State Legislature, without any resolution. However, we do not need the State to act. We can do it on our own.

I don't use a lot of lead in my fly tying, but I have used it, mostly in the form of dumbbell eyes for my Clouser Minnows or extra wraps of lead wire in some of my winter nymph patterns. Both of those have excellent alternatives that perform as well as lead.

With that, I am asking that you join me and the other members of the TCTU Board of Directors in starting a grassroots effort to eliminate all uses of lead in our fishing. No more lead dumbbell eyes. No more lead wraps in nymph patterns. No more lead split shot, no more lead-head jigs. Please join us in doing the right thing



Photo by Tom Schnadt

**Be aware of where you park when accessing your favorite stream.**

# Trout Streams with the WiseH2O App

JOHN KAPLAN & KENT JOHNSON

National Trout Unlimited (TU) is placing a high priority on Community Science and the benefits it provides for angler education and coldwater resource management. Trout Unlimited's national science team partnered with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O App) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams.

In 2019, anglers from the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of TU participated in a successful WiseH2O App pilot project, testing the App on 10 local streams and rivers, making 83 observations, and providing feedback to the developers on App improvements. The Kiap-TU-Wish monitoring plan, the 2019 pilot project report, and an interactive map that enables viewing of all 2019 Kiap-TU-Wish WiseH2O App observations can be found on the MobileH2O website: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/anglerscience>.

Given the success of the 2019 Kiap-TU-Wish pilot project, and with further App improvements in 2020, WiseH2O App monitoring expanded to the entire Driftless Area (southwestern WI, southeastern MN, northeastern IA, and northwestern IL) in August 2020. Besides Kiap-TU-Wish, 14 additional Trout Unlimited chapters now have an opportunity to monitor our regional coldwater resources. Although COVID-19 and development of the iPhone version of the WiseH2O App have delayed the Driftless Area roll-out, we are pleased to report that the iPhone version of the App is available, and the 2-in-1 test strips can be used to measure nitrite/nitrate concentrations. The App also has an updated look and educational messaging that is more user-friendly.

Kiap-TU-Wish currently has 10 participants (target anglers) monitoring specific sites on rivers and streams in Pierce County. Additionally, there are now 42 chapter participants (general anglers) signed up to make WiseH2O App observations at locations of their choice. General anglers don't have to limit their observations to Pierce County streams. Feel free to monitor throughout the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter area (Polk, Pierce, and St. Croix Counties), and as you travel to fish within the Driftless Area.

There is no limit to the number of general anglers who can participate in this project. The more data that is collected, the better! Consequently, we encourage any and all chapter members to take part!

Those who are interested in monitoring in 2021 can take the following steps:

- Learn about and download the WiseH2O App: Android and iPhone versions of the WiseH2O App are available for free download at the Google Play Store and Apple Store (search WiseH2O). Instructions for downloading the WiseH2O App can be found in the WiseH2O App User Guide, located on the MobileH2O website: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/mh2oapp>.
- Complete On-Line Training: Detailed on-line instructions for use of the WiseH2O App can be found in the WiseH2O App User Guide and the Video Tutorial for Using the WiseH2O App, both located on the MobileH2O website: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/mh2oapp>.
- Obtain Water Chemistry Test Kits: Depending on each participant's level of interest and desired extent of involvement with water chemistry monitoring, 3 types of test kits are available. These three test kits can be ordered directly from MobileH2O, at: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/shop>. A reliable thermometer for WiseH2O App temperature measurements can also be purchased at: <https://www.mobileh2o.com/shop>. To get the most comprehensive data, we recommend that each participant utilize the 2-1, 5-1 and Phosphate test strips. At a minimum, the 2-1 and 5-1 strips should be used.

This project is a great way for our chapter members to play an important role in monitoring the effects of climate change, agriculture, urban development, and recreation on the streams and rivers we cherish. The data we collect can be used in the future to promote coldwater resource management, policies, and legislation that further protect these waters.

Questions regarding the monitoring project can be directed to John Kaplan at: [jmk8990@comcast.net](mailto:jmk8990@comcast.net), 612-963-1699

## SOUTH FORK UPDATE: LOREN HAAS

Nate Anderson, Kasey Yallaly, and a class from River Falls recently performed a fish survey of the South Fork of the Kinni. I was on hand to check water depths downstream of the new ERO structures. It's only been 6 months since we installed them and there has not been a major flood event since. It appears, however, that the structures have been fully engaged at some point.

The water depth was 6 to 12 inches with pure sand and no visible lunger structures. Kasey shocked a total of 30 trout in her last visit prior to installation of the ERO structures. All structures are working well and water depths range from 20 to 43 inches and several lunger structures are now open and cleaned out. One lunger structure is completely cleaned out with 40 inches of water depth and 27 feet of linear creek with depths ranging from 24 to 43 inches. The length of deep water downstream of the structures ranges from about 15 feet to 27 feet. I believe these distances will continue to improve with time and high water events. And by the way, Kasey shocked over 300 fish. The biggest was 10.8 inches.



Photo by Loren Haas



# Maximizing your odds: Or Bringing More Trout to Net

BOB TREVIS

**IN THIS LAST SEGMENT OF OUR BEGINNING FLY FISHING SERIES, HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS THAT SHOULD LEAD TO MORE HOOK-UPS AND MORE TROUT TO HAND. THE KEY TO A GOOD DAY ON THE WATER IS PACING YOURSELF, THINKING LIKE A TROUT (SHELTER/FOOD/COMFORT/PREDATOR AWARENESS), AND HOPEFULLY LEARNING SOMETHING NEW EVERY TIME YOU ARE ON A STREAM.**

## APPROACH

When you approach a stream or river, study the water before making a cast. Are the trout rising? Or will you nymph fish? Where are the current seams, the foam line, overhead cover, etc.? Where are the trout likely to be? Do you have the right fly? Look hard at stepping into the water, if at all.

## FIRST CAST

Make your first cast count. Check your back-cast room and then make your best cast – from the best position. False-cast to the side as necessary to work out some line, judge the distance, and put your first cast where you want it to land.

## COMPLETE YOUR DRIFT

Fish out your casts! If you get no hit (or a refusal) fish your cast until the fly is well on its way back to you, or even below you. Resist the temptation to immediately rip your fly off of the water because you made a poor cast.

## KEEP MOVING

Don't beat a pool or a run to death. Three or four casts to one spot are normally enough. If there's no take after drifting through a spot several times, add weight or shift your attention to your next target. (However, if you are fishing a riffle or large pool, "checker-boarding" the water is sometimes productive.) This is not like fishing a worm – if you have had several good casts and good drifts, maybe the trout just aren't hungry. It happens or you may need to consider a different fly pattern for the next pool or run.

## KEEP IT SHORT

Make short casts so you can control your drifts – whether nymphs or dries. Most trout will be hooked within 30 feet of you. Mend, mend, mend to control your drift. Watch your shadow.

## DEPTH IS IMPORTANT

If you are nymphing and not touching bottom every seventh or eighth cast, go deeper. Trout may be looking up, or cruising the middle depths, but in the absence of an emergence or hatch, they will usually be watching for drifting food near the stream bottom.

## CONCENTRATE

Learn from your mistakes. Brush behind you makes casting difficult? Learn the roll cast. Hooked up on an underwater branch or on the underside of rip-rap? It's okay to wade over and retrieve your fly if it's safe to do so. Did you hook an underwater shelf edge and spook six trout when you went to get your fly? Put that location in your mental filing cabinet and fish the spot again next time. Continuously hooking and losing trout? Check your hook point. Is it sharp, or maybe even broken off?

## CARPE DIEM

Enjoy the day! We all like to catch some trout, but there are many other reasons for most of us to be on a stream. Take it in and enjoy the experience, especially your time away from job, family squabbles, politics, noise and traffic, etc. If your casting arm is a bit tired, take a little break and just watch the water flow by. We are blessed to have our time on the water.

## BEST TIME TO BE ON THE WATER?

The easy answer is, whenever you can. The first few hours of the day, or the last two hours, are often best for finding feeding fish, and cloudy or overcast days are generally better than bright sunny days. Fish have no eyelids, so during the mid-day I have found it best to explore new-to-me water. Also be aware of probable hatch times – April afternoons will find Dark Hendricksons hatching, while Tricos are early morning sex maniacs. A spinner fall usually occurs at dusk, and Blue-wing Olives like grey, even drizzly days. In the winter, rising water temperatures will prompt fish to feed, for a while. You can also catch fish in a light rain, especially when the rain knocks insects out of the sky and onto the water, but if there is even a hint of lightning, get off the water and break down your fly rod! Regardless of when you are on the water, count it as time well spent, learn from your day, and I hope to see you on the water!



Photo from chapter archives



# Blue Winged Olives: A brief treatise

Scott Hanson

don't know if you've noticed this, but Blue Winged Olives (BWOs) are pretty important around here. If you are unfamiliar with BWOs, here is a quick lesson:

A BWO is any small mayfly that has an olive or olive-tinged body, and bluish-gray wings. If speaking in hook-size terms, they can be found anywhere from a size 16 or so, down to 26 or even smaller. Don't ask me which species these insects are, as there are dozens of different species that all fall under the BWO name, and it would take all of my space for this column to list them all. Plus, I probably couldn't pronounce any of them... BWOs could be active on a trout stream anywhere from late February through November, and they might even bleed into January and December some times, who knows. What I am saying is that you should carry a bunch of BWO imitations whenever you go trout fishing anywhere in the Upper Midwest.

Along with the normal nymphs and dry fly imitations, you should definitely carry some emergers. Personally, I carry about 7 different emerger patterns, because I have issues. One of the best is the BWO Spotlight Emerger, in size 18. I first learned about this fly from Brian at Lund's Fly Shop. I don't know who originated the pattern, but Brian asked me if I would tie some for his shop. If you ask me, it's a fun pattern to tie, but again, I have issues. And, it really works. It's got a short Antron shuck, an iridescent Krystal Flash rib, buggy dubbing up front that looks like a soon-to-be-emerged mayfly clawing its way out of its nymphal husk, and it is propped up nicely on the water with a dark parachute hackle. Oh, and the bright white "spotlight" wing/post helps make it visible on the water. It really is a great fly that has all the qualities you might want in an emerging BWO imitation.



## **BWO Spotlight Emerger**

Hook: Daiichi 1130 or other scud hook, Size 18

Thread:  $\frac{8}{0}$  Olive

Wing/Post: White Para Post or poly yarn

Hackle: Medium or Dark Dun

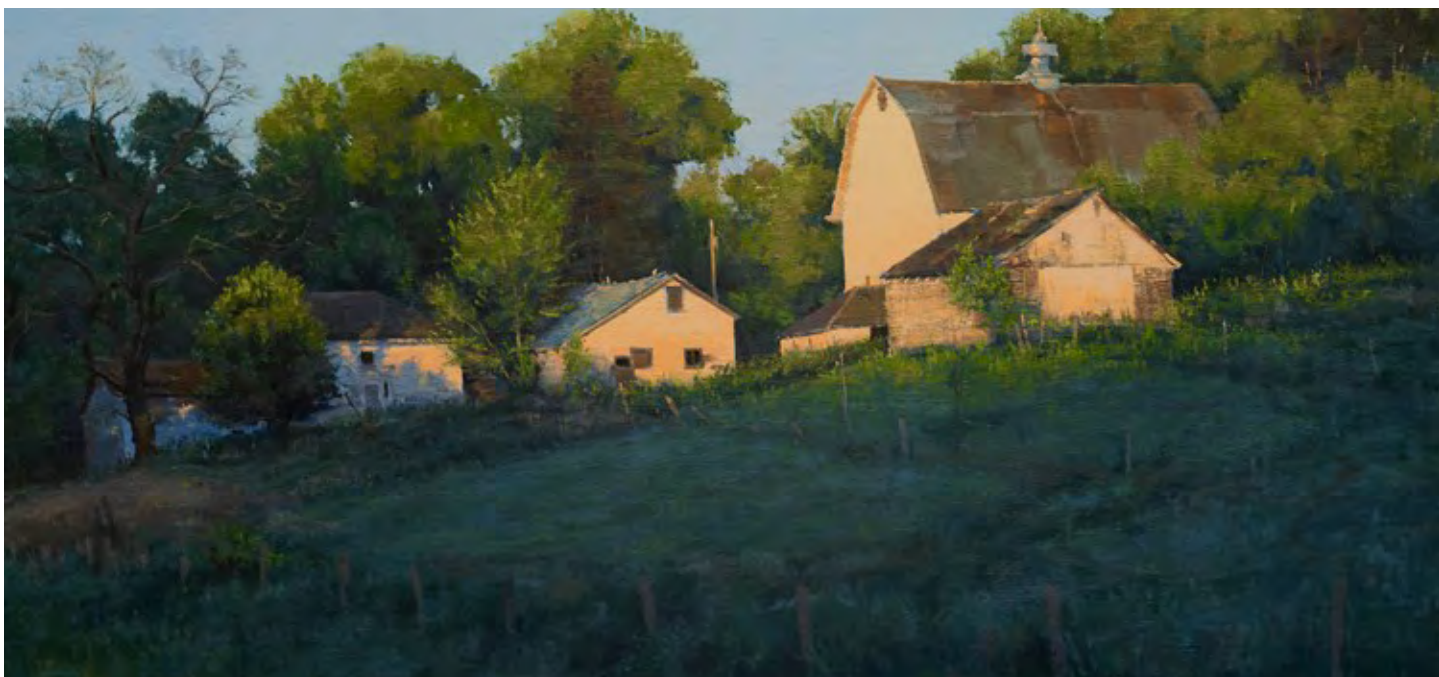
Tail: White Antron

Rib: Pearl Krystal Flash

Abdomen: Olive Superfine dubbing

Thorax: Olive Hare-tron or other nymph dubbing





**Congratulations to Joshua Cunningham of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Joshua's painting "Abandoned to Sunset" won the Best Plein Air Only from the June 2020 Plein Air Salon and 2nd place in the 15th international Art Renewal Center (ARC) Salon competition. In this article, he takes us behind the scenes of his painting, including his techniques.**



**Paul, Minnesota. Joshua's painting "Abandoned to Sunset" won the Best Plein Air Only from the**

## **"Abandoned to Sunset"**

BY JOSHUA CUNNINGHAM

*Reprinted with permission from Plein Air Magazine*

I created "Abandoned to Sunset" as part of my body of work for the Red Wing Plein Air Festival. This year's event was a socially distant mix of click and mortar. If not for the commitment and creativity of Emily Foos, the director of Red Wing Arts, the event wouldn't have happened. One of the differences this year was that she gave the artists two and a half weeks to paint. That extra time opened the door and engaged my imagination for larger work.

While scouting the rolling fields and rugged valleys of the Driftless Region around the upper Mississippi river town, I came across the farm that would become the subject of "Abandoned to Sunset." I couldn't stop picturing how the evening light may unfold across the farm. I took in the logistics of the place; the parking was secure, the painting spot was safe, it was only about an hour away from home, and the forecast looked pretty

consistent for the next several days. Together, these factors made it a great candidate for a 24 x 26 landscape painting.

Over the following four evenings, my appreciation for the unique qualities of each day grew. As plein air painters, we all know this. However, standing in the same place, at the same time of day, and taking in everything enriched my understanding of how interconnected and dependent everything is. A passing cloud one evening would change the tones of the shadows or limit the vital rays of the setting sun, so I held fast to the magic of the first evening and called back to the origins of my growing excitement as the setting sun cast the white buildings in a pinky-orange glow. As I worked, I watched the variety of greens in the shadows stretch across the pasture, climb up the hill and give way to the vibrant warm greens at the end of the day.

### **MY ART TECHNIQUES, COLORS, AND SUPPLIES**

The first session requires a focus on composing the scene, drawing out the primary forms, and studying the light effect by massing the shadow patterns in a thin Paynes grey made up of Ivory black, cobalt blue, and Lead white. By the end of the first day, I had an underpainting. This painting would be more about the glow of sunset on the buildings, than about their current state of repair. Every choice about the value, temperature, hue, thickness of paint would be subject to how it helped express that five to ten-minute window of light.

- Canvas: Claessens C15 Linen mounted to a ½" Gatorboard Panel by Lakeside Studios
- Oil paint: Williamsburg Oils My palette hasn't changed much from my time studying the Prismatic Palette with Joe Paquet.
- Flake White, Cadmium Yellow Lemon, Cadmium Yellow Light, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Yellow Deep, Cadmium Orange, Cadmium Red Light, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson or Permanent Crimson, Manganese Blue Nova (Hue) (Holbein) or Manganese blue from Old Holland, Cobalt Blue, French Ultramarine Blue, Ivory Black, (Gablín) Phthalo Green



- Brushes: Bristle and Synthetic Grey Matters by Richeson
- Masters Choice Extra-long flats by Rosemary
- Easel: Full French Easel by Mabef with a few light bungees
- Medium: Gamblin Safflower Oil 25% (ish) and Gamsol 75% (ish) .

My set up wasn't too far from a quiet road, so anyone going by could easily see my painting with the subject simultaneously. Many people stopped and visited briefly from their "socially distanced" car window. Because I was there for several evenings in a row, some locals made checking on the painting's progress part of their evening. One family would do a nightly cruise on their ATV before bedtime because the kids "wanted to see the painter man." There was a lovely couple who owned a goat farm up the road that I had painted years ago. It was a wonderful reminder of how art can bring strangers together.

I was touched to learn that my painting not only reached those who I met on those nights, but also to a family that was deeply rooted to the farm itself. In my promotion of the Red Wing Plein Air Festival, I posted my progress on my social media accounts, and when I shared that the painting was awarded "Best Plein Air Only," the grandchildren of the original owners discovered that I had painted what I came to learn was a seminal place in their lives. I decided to share this about their letter as a point of encouragement to my fellow painters.

A painting of a barn may not directly address the prominent crises currently facing our nation and globe, but when we do what we are meant to do, at this moment, our action can inspire and touch the lives of others. When people see something of their life expressed as beautifully as we can, they see themselves anew with value where before, there was just the day-to-day.

Usually we can't possibly expect to know who our work will touch or who will be comforted by our endeavor. However, in the case of this particular painting, I was lucky enough to be reminded why our work is so important, and while it might not add specific commentary on the state of our world, it equips us and our audience with the sense of hope, sense of time, and sense of self to address these issues in our lives.

## ON ENTERING THE PLEIN AIR SALON

I was inspired to enter "Abandoned to Sunset" because I felt the painting held a mood while expressing the particulars of how the evening light fell across that farm. I find that the scenes that capture that for me, might be able to do that for others. When I learned how much it had touched the family that grew up visiting that farm, I knew it had done what I had set out to do and it would be a strong candidate for consideration.

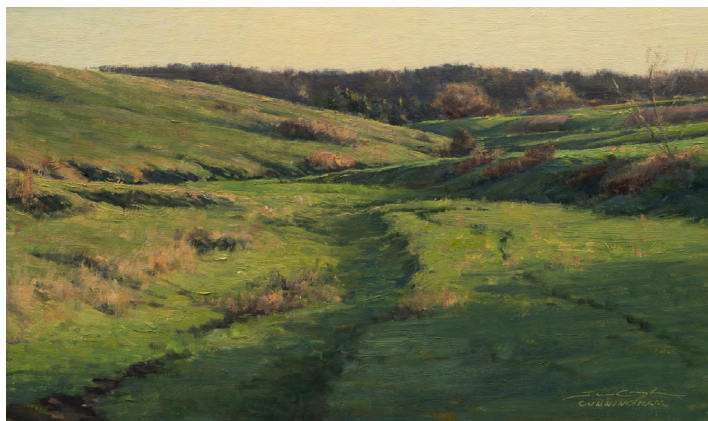
My advice to other who might be considering entering their work, is to seek out the subject that engages and motivates them to be on location. From there, the resulting paintings are sure to have the qualities that a judge is looking to find.



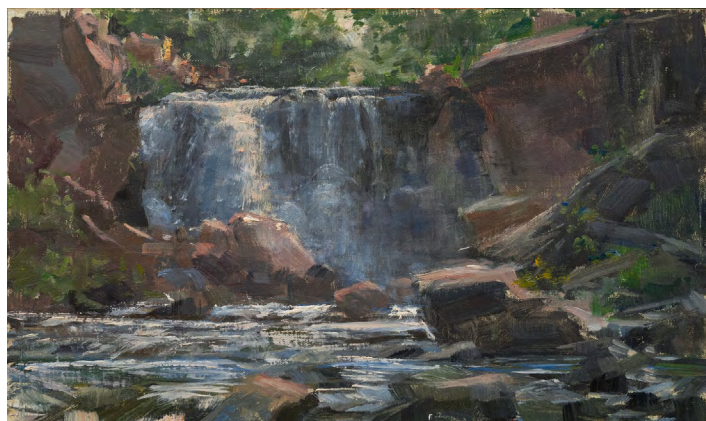
*Linens and Lilacs*



*Spring on the Rush*



*So Begins the Green*



*Winnewissa Falls*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Joshua Cunningham has donated two of his paintings, Creek Song and April Morning, to Kiap-TU-Wish for our major fund raising events. His work continues to gain notoriety as evidenced by his recent award from the Plein Air Salon's 9<sup>th</sup> annual awards and as one of the winners of Plein Air Painting in the 15<sup>th</sup> International ARC Salon Competition. We at Kiap-TU-Wish thank Josuha for his support and look forward to his continued success.



# Hap Lutter: His Vision and the Spring Appeal

JUDY MAHLE LUTTER

**H**ap Lutter, whose life I was lucky enough to share for 52 years before his untimely death of bladder cancer in 2009, was many things. He was an avid flyfisherman, a skilled and much loved orthopedic surgeon, a sculptor, a runner, an author and a caring father and grandfather. He was not, however, good at finances. As a matter of fact he hated keeping records. Yet when Kiap-Tu-Wish needed a treasurer, Hap as a board member was up to the task. One of the last things he did was to make sure that all the books were in order so that I could pass them on to the current president.

In 2006 Hap felt that the chapter could be more effective and pursue more opportunities if they appealed to members to help support the chapter with a donation. As Hap pointed out in the first letter he wrote to members, only a small fraction of the dues that members pay to Trout Unlimited come back to the local chapter. Hap had edited many of the fundraising letters I had written over 20 years as the founder and head of Melpomene Institute (A non-profit organization dedicated to providing information on the physical activity and health of girls and women). I offered to be the editor for his endeavor.

I don't believe anyone has a copy of that first letter, and in fact there are no records of exactly what was raised in the first few years after Hap began the appeal. To my great delight, in 2011 the chapter decided to name the spring-fund appeal in his honor. The idea was to not only perpetuate but to grow the idea of raising more money for important chapter projects.

In the first year for which records were available, a total of \$5,794 was raised. By 2013, donations increased to \$7,999 and continued to grow — from 2017 through 2019 totals close to \$11,500 were raised in each of those years.

Last year, the letter requesting support was ready to mail just as the pandemic really hit. The board decided it was not an appropriate time to ask for contributions. Near years end, however, the letter was revised and sent to members. We were gratified to receive \$8,280. The total over the 10 years for which records are available is \$89,578. Kiap-Tu- Wish has used these funds wisely and creatively and tries to encourage more people to see this as a very effective way to help support the chapter. I know that Hap would be gratified and pleased that his idea has grown, and would be honored that he is now remembered in this way.



Photo by Judy Lutter

# THE GENERIC HOPPER

**Hook:** Tiemco 5212, size 10

**Thread:** 6/0 tan or brown Uni-Thread

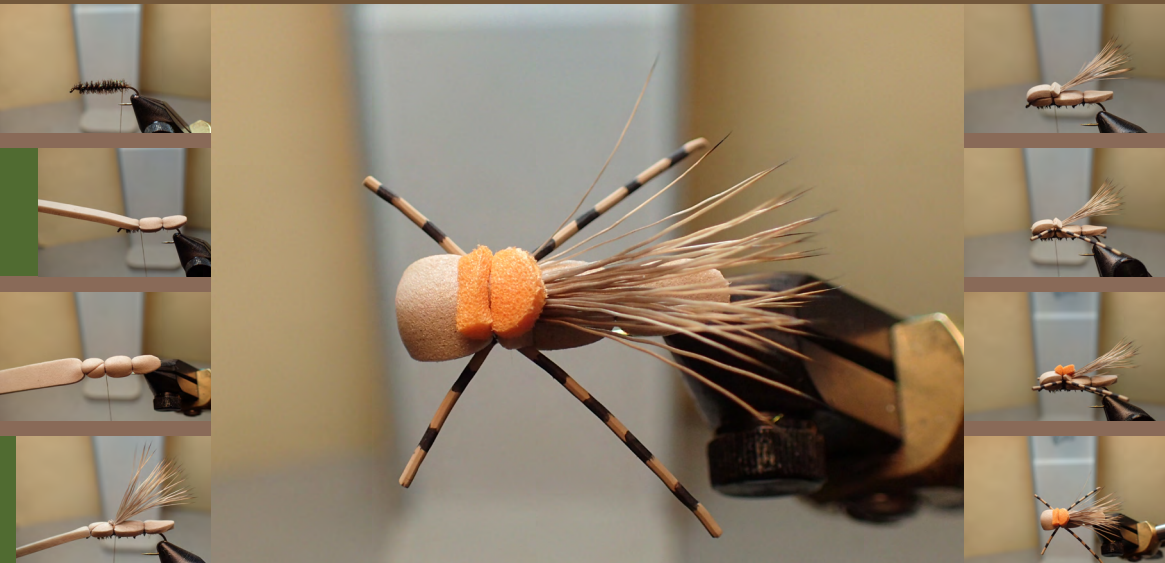
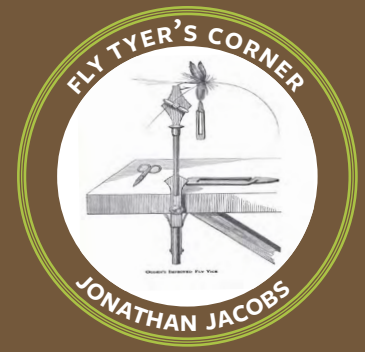
**Underbody:** 2 strands peacock herl

**Body:** 2mm tan foam, about 1/4" wide

**Wing:** Elk

**Legs:** Medium round rubber legs

**Hot spot:** 2mm orange block



- With the hook in the vise, secure the thread to the hook at the eye, wind the thread to the rear of the shank and back to the eye in wide turns, creating a thread base. Select two peacock herls and tie them in an eye space back from the eye. Bind the herls to the topside of the hook, ending with the thread at the hook barb. Leave the thread hanging and wind the herls in tight turns back to the tie in point, secure them with a couple of wraps of thread and trim off the excess. The herl will help hold the foam body in place so that it doesn't spin on the hook shank.
- Take open turns of thread rearward to a point halfway between the hook point and barb. Trim one end of a 2mm thick foam strip 1/4" wide to a "boattail" shape. Saturate the top side of the peacock herl with a cyanoacrylate glue, such as Zap A Gap, and tie in the strip with the curved end extending just past the hook bend. Hold the foam upright, advance the thread one-third of the shank length, press the foam down on the herl underbody, and take a couple of firm turns of thread to bind the foam to the underbody. Repeat this process, creating three body segments with the thread at the eye of the hook.
- Making an "X" wrap, take the thread back to rear of the forward segment and take a turn of thread around the body there.
- Cut a modest clump of elk hair from the hide. After cleaning and stacking it, trim it to length so that the hair, when tied in at the waiting thread, extends just past the rear of the body. If you choose, now would be the time to tie in a few strands of pearl Crystal Flash, too, to give the wing a little sparkle.
- Bend the foam back over the body, tie it in at the waiting thread, bind it down with two or three wraps of thread and trim it short.
- Tie in the rubber legs, centering the thread between the upper and lower layers of foam.
- Tie in a small block of 2mm foam in a bright color to serve as a "beacon" and whip finish the fly at this point. It's best to apply a touch of Sally Hanson's Hard As Nails to the point where the legs are tied in and to the threads on the underside of the fly at the whip finish.
- Trim the rubber legs to a length as seen in this overhead photo of the fly.

When I started tying the Generic Hopper last summer, I had deluded myself into thinking that I had developed a simplified version of Charlie Craven's terrific Charlie Boy Hopper. Charlie's fly has two full plies of foam in the body, which I thought was overkill for use on our relatively placid creeks and rivers, so I eliminated most of the second layer. Further, I didn't have to poke any holes in the foam, which sped up the tying process. I thought myself quite clever for making these changes, but when I saw Ken Hanson's photo of a hopper/dropper combo in the March 2021 RipRap, I realized that I had mostly lifted the pattern from Walt Wiese's GFA (general foam attractor), a fly featured in a video by Tim Flagler of Tightlines Video. Even with any thoughts of originality dashed, I still like this fly. I think it works because of the overall profile it presents, because it lands with a subdued "plop" and because, with its sparse foam body, it floats low in the water like a natural grasshopper would. I also like it because it's simple to tie and durable.

**EDITORS'S NOTE:** Besides being a gifted wordsmith, Jonathan Jacobs is an incredibly creative tyer. As demonstrated in the above history of this pattern, and other patterns of his, each one follows a logical progression of thoughtful steps designed to give the pattern that fishable quality that we all are looking for.





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## May chapter meeting

7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
Kasey Yallaly, DNR Fisheries Specialist, and Nate Anderson, DNR Habitat Specialist, will be presenting the results of the 2020 stream surveys, as well as the current state of trout populations and population trends in western Wisconsin.

## Trout in the classroom

The four classrooms (out of 9) that are participating this year are all doing well and plan to release their trout in the Willow River at the end of the school year. Due to Covid, no volunteers for the release will be allowed. Everyone should check out the April 13th KIAP Facebook video of the cannibal fry from Ben Toppel's Rocky Branch Elementary class. That fry definitely bit off more than it can chew!

The board did agree during our last meeting to sponsor our 10th classroom next fall at Glenwood City High, so we look forward to working with them.

## Creel Survey Announcement

DNR to Conduct Angler Creel Survey on Rush River. This year the Baldwin DNR staff will be conducting an angler creel survey on the Rush River beginning this fishing opener on May 1st and continuing to the close of the fishing season on October 15th. This survey is designed to evaluate fishing pressure, angler demographics and harvest statistics on the river. The survey will be focused from Martel to south of El Paso. Your cooperation in this survey is much appreciated! If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Kasey Yallaly, Fisheries Biologist at [Kasey.yallaly@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kasey.yallaly@wisconsin.gov), 715-977-7354.

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