

Rip Rap

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

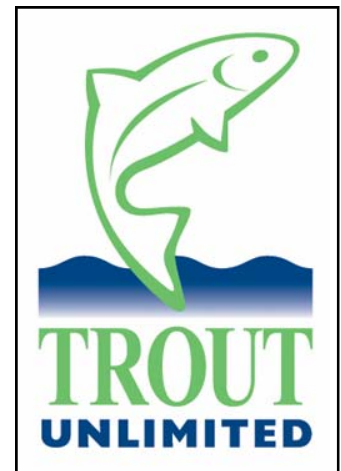
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7 APRIL, 2008

APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

We're paying our annual tribute to the life and work of curmudgeon and conservationist **Dry Fly Dick Frantes** at the chapter's April meeting by celebrating the arrival of spring, the recent opening of the trout fishing season and, as always and most importantly, the art of fly tying. We have a stellar lineup of tiers this year. **Captain Doug Hart**, a retired professional football player and saltwater guide, is scheduled to appear. Former chapter president **Tony Stifter**, whose ability to coax information from anglers about their secret spots while revealing none of his own rivals the late Mr. Frantes' skills in that area, will be with us. Young phenomenon **Cole Madden** is joining us. **Gabe Schubert**, whose saltwater patterns are making fools of bonefish and permit throughout the Caribbean, will be there. **Andy Lamberson** has been taking bass bug construction to a wholly different level in the past year. He'll be on hand to demonstrate his industrial approach to the manufacture of his unique bugs. Laughing Trout stalwart and guide **Jim Thompson** is going to show us some of his secrets. **Scott Hanson** and **John Koch** will be on hand to show us their latest trout fly patterns. Scott ties truly elegant parachute flies and John cranks out a mean Klinkhammer Special, an anodyne for the hurt that snooty spring creek brown trout can inflict on an angler's ego. Last, and most certainly least, there's your most obedient correspondent. After a few of you gently suggested that the instructions that I provided back in January for the construction of a foam bodied diving bass bug could not have been less informative had they been written in Old Icelandic, I'm determined to make amends.

As always, we'd be pleased if you'd join us for dinner at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd St. in Hudson at 6 PM on Wednesday, April 2. The meeting begins at 7 PM.

-Jon Jacobs



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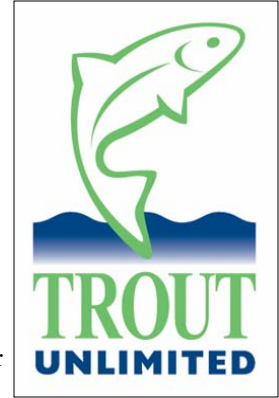


PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

New and Returning Board Members

Chapter member Hans Jung was elected to the board of directors at the March business meeting. Hans was elected to the position previously held by Bob Lorenzen. Hans is adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Department of Animal Science. Please welcome Hans to the board and thank Bob for his service to the board for the past two years. Kent Johnson and Hap Lutter were reelected to board terms, also. Thanks to Kent and Hap for their continuing commitment to the chapter and board of directors.



Great Water Expo

The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo was held in Bloomington on March 14, 15 and 16. There was a lot of traffic at the expo and we got to talk to a lot of folks interested in conservation and trout. Thanks to the following chapter members for staffing the booth over the weekend: Hans Jung, Andy Lamberson, Bob Lorenzen, Jonathan Jacobs, Chad Borenz, Nick Westcott, Gary Richardson, Tom Schnadt, Tom Henderson, Bob Trevis, DuWayne Richert, Randy Arnold. Once again, members stepped up and we were fully staffed all three days.

Sarah Sanford Receives Award

Each year at the Great Waters Expo Tom Helgeson awards the Thomas F. Waters Stewardship Award to an individual or organization that exemplifies the work and spirit of cold water conservation. This year's recipient was Sarah Sanford. Sarah was recognized for her work as the primary instigator and organizer of the annual Rush River Clean Up day. This will be the fourth year of this event and while others are pitching in, this is Sarah's event. She took it upon herself four years ago to set in motion all of the coordination of people and places to make this the premier spring conservation event in our region. In Tom Helgeson's words, "Her vision and perseverance are inspirational." Congratulations to Sarah for being honored with this we deserved award.



Sarah Sanford receives the Stewardship Award from Dr. Tom Waters at the Great Waters Expo
Photo by Gary Richardson

Rush River Clean Up

So, just a reminder: The 4th Annual Rush River Clean Up day is Saturday, April 19, 8 AM at the Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club, 5 miles east of Ellsworth on WI 72.

Pine Creek Brushing Work Day

Brushing on Pine Creek resumes Saturday, March 21, 9 AM. WI 35 to just south of Maiden Rock, Cty AA. Take Cty AA east across the bridge and up the hill to parking and the work site. Bring gloves, boots, water. We could use an extra volunteer to work on the ground trimming up the larger felled trees.

Marty Engel to Speak at May Meeting

The May member meeting is the last meeting of the year until September and is traditionally when fisheries biologist Marty Engel gives his state of the rivers presentation. This year is no exception. This is truly a don't miss presentation. Marty knows of what he speaks. He is a data driven biologist and is in the field collecting and in the office recording and analyzing. There will be more information in the May Rip Rap on the specifics of Marty's topic.

President's Lines Continued on Page 3

SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

Well, I'm getting closer and closer to actually having time to go fishing. As you may recall from earlier Scott's Scoops, I am in the process of renovating my entire basement. Before Connie and I moved in, there was some kind of catastrophic water-related event that left mold growing throughout the finished basement. The carpeting had already been ripped out when we bought the house, but then we also had to tear out all of the old sheetrock, half of the studs, and about 5 tons of bricks (We only tore the bricks out because they were ugly). With the help of a wise and patient handyman friend of ours, I've rebuilt all of the studs, and we just finished putting in all new sheetrock. Within the next couple of weeks, we should be done taping and mudding, and then we'll be ready to actually paint. For me, a guy who had never built anything other than a lopsided shelf for my mom in junior high shop class, this is quite an accomplishment. So I guess I felt the need to boast a little. As a way of celebrating my newfound prowess with power tools, I think I'll take a day off in April and try my luck out on a local trout stream.

Even though I haven't had the time to go fishing yet, I will take the time to tie a few flies at the next chapter meeting. As Jon Jacobs mentioned in the cover story, the April meeting is our annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes Memorial Fly Tying meeting, and Jon was nice enough to ask if I wanted to be one of the tyers. Even if my tying skills are a bit rusty, there will be plenty of other talented tyers for you to watch. It is always an honor to take part in this event, and I hope that you will be able to make it to the meeting.

Sarah Sanford hopes that you can make it to the 4th Annual Rush River Cleanup on Saturday April 19th. She still needs more volunteers to join in. See her article about the event on page 4. There are a lot of other interesting things going on in our neck of the woods, as well. Make sure to read through everything in RipRap so you don't miss out.

I hope you all have been able to get out and spend some time on our beloved local trout streams. See you next month.



PRESIDENT'S LINES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Spring Appeal

By the time you read this you may have already received your annual Spring Appeal letter. I won't restate the appeal letter. I will ask you to consider a generous donation to the chapter. We are a small chapter with big boots, a big heart and a fine legacy. We work hard and accomplish a lot and we rely on our member's volunteer hours and dollars to continue our work. Remember the Kinnickinnic, South Fork, Cady Creek, Tiffany Creek, Rush River, and Pine Creek as you consider your contribution. Thank you!

Welcome to New Members

Leon Erickson Patrick Peters Darrell Schuster

Go Fish!



RUSH RIVER CLEANUP '08

BY SARAH SANFORD

Over 100 volunteers are expected at the fourth annual Rush River Clean-up this April 19th. If you have not received the March Update in your email, you may not be signed up. To be added to the list, to add more helpers to your crew or to subtract them, please email rushclean2008@yahoo.com right away.

Once again the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club has generously donated the use of their clubhouse, 5 miles east of Ellsworth on hwy 72, for our briefing before the clean up and for our lunch afterwards. The Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's club will have coffee and rolls on hand in the morning, but you may need to eat your Wheaties before you come out to prepare for a solid morning of cleaning. Bags and post clean up hauling are provided by Pierce County Solid Waste and Recycling and the Pierce County Highway Department. Bring your own gloves and waders if you wish, but definitely dress for the weather as we will clean rain or shine.

Josh Nelson and his crew from TCTU and Laughing Trout will create and serve lunch with kind donations from Whole Foods Market and Coleman Natural Meats. Stay after lunch to see who or what gets the oddest find award and for the casting/nymphing clinic offered by TCTU.

Renew old friendships and maybe even make new ones with fellow participants from Kiap-TU-Wish, TCTU, Wisconsin Clear Water TU, Hiawatha TU, Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota, FFF, and Keeping Youth Involved, and Laughing Trout.

Thanks to all past and present volunteers for your work in "giving back" to the river we all love and for your active gratitude to riverside land owners.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here's a list of important events that our chapter will be involved in during the upcoming months. You won't want to miss them, so be sure to mark your calendars!

April 2nd	CHAPTER MEETING-- Dry Fly Dick Frantes Memorial Fly Tying Meeting
April 12th	Minnesota Trout Season Opens
April 19th	4th Annual Rush River Cleanup
May 3rd	Wisconsin Trout Season Opens
May 7th	CHAPTER MEETING-- Wisconsin DNR Report from Marty Engel

Watch the website for Pine Creek work days. We should be working on brushing most Saturdays into the spring

CONSERVATION CONGRESS HEARINGS SET FOR APRIL 14

BY JONATHON JACOBS

Make plans to attend the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings on Monday, April 14. Wisconsin offers anglers and hunters a unique opportunity to offer input on natural resources management issues through the congress. This year's hearings will feature many questions of interest to conservation-minded anglers. Please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring%20hearings/index.html> on the web for further details.



FILL THE BOX CHALLENGE

BY SCOTT HANSON

Chapter member Chad Borenz has come up with a wonderful idea that will help our chapter raise some much needed funding. If you were at the March meeting, you would have seen that Chad showed up at Bob Smith's carrying a large wooden case with a hundred and fifty compartments of various size. A lid made of clear Plexiglas was hinged on the top of this box, allowing everyone to look in to the box and see what was in there. At the time of the last meeting, not too much was being housed within the box, but there were a handful of compartments that had a dozen or so flies inside. Chad's idea is to fill the entire box with flies and then raffle off the whole thing to one lucky winner. While Chad is a wonderful tyer in his own right, he doesn't have nearly enough time to tie all of the flies himself. So he has been out scouring the streets for people that are willing to donate a dozen flies at a time. The hope is that he will receive enough flies to fill the entire box by this coming fall and then the raffle will commence. Trout flies are welcome, along with steelhead and bass patterns. As Chad says, "This is a great way to clean out your flies that you never use or tie some up especially for this purpose." Below is a photo of the box, and Chad told me that he plans to bring the box with to all of the upcoming chapter meetings for people to see. If you have some flies that you are willing to donate you can contact Chad at:

Chad Borenz
8315 Delaney Drive
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651.261.8277
chadborenz@gmail.com

Or you can bring them with to upcoming meetings and give them to Chad in person. As a chapter, let's try to get this filled as quickly as possible so we can start to raise some money through the raffle. All of the proceeds from the effort will be going to help fund stream improvement work in western Wisconsin.



Photo by Chad Borenz

FLY TYING CORNER- FOAM POST ADAMS

BY ROBERT TORRES

This fly meets my criteria for a simple fly that I can tie down to size 20 and it has worked well on the water . I like to tie this in smaller sizes 18 – 20 . For hooks, any standard dry fly hook will work but I like the Orvis big eye hooks in size 20 and under.

I tie a thread base, wrap to the rear of the hook and then tie in the tail, dub the body with a taper, and on 18's & 20s use one hackle to tie in a wing. This keeps the hackle wing sparse and provides plenty of room to tie in the visibility post. For the final step, I use a razor knife to cut a small piece of 2mm foam. I tie the foam behind the eye and it rests upright against the hackle wing. The foam compresses easily and does not build up or crowd the eye but instead of whip finishing, I use a half hitch tool to push the foam back and secure with 3 or 4 half hitches. I find the visibility post very helpful on the water. The fly in the picture is a size 20 Orvis Big Eye, brown saddle tail, Adams gray dubbed body, brown hackle wing with white foam post. I did not invent this fly, I saw a picture of it in a British magazine labeled as a Guide Fly and I thought it was a very clever idea .



FOAM POST ADAMS

Thread: Gray 8/0, 10/0, thread of choice

Hook: Any Standard Dry Fly, I tie in both the down eye and straight eye

Tail: Brown, Dun or Grizzly Saddle Hackle, you can mix if you like (brown/dun, brown/grizzly, I don't always mix the hackle)

Abdomen: Superfine (Adams Gray), Beaver Brown/ Olive , or color of choice

Wing: Brown, Dun or Grizzly hackle

Visibility Post: 2mm foam (White or Dun)



Photo by Scott Hanson

EXHIBITION OF BOB WHITE'S WORK TO OPEN IN STILLWATER

BY JONATHAN JACOBS

An exhibition of a major collection of nearly 40 oil paintings, watercolors and pencil renderings by sporting artist Bob White opens at the Stillwater Library on Tuesday, April 8. A reception to celebrate the opening will be held from 5 to 7:30 PM that evening.



Artist Bob White with a large brown he recently caught in Argentina
Photo courtesy of Bob White

Bob is truly an accomplished artist. You may be familiar with his work from the illustrations he's done for John Gierach's column for Fly Rod & Reel magazine since 1992, or through the many books that Bob has illustrated or through his Whitefish Studio's line of note and holiday cards. Bob's work is also in private collections around the world. He's also a great friend of Kiap-TU-Wish. He's headlined our banquet and donated generously to it. When I ran into him at the Great Waters Expo, he told me that he'd love to have Kiap-TU-Wish members come take a look at the library's exhibit, particularly on the night of the reception. If you would like further details or if you have other questions for Bob, you may contact Bob or Lisa White at 651-433-4168. I hope to see you at the library, 224 3rd Street North in Stillwater on April 8.



DEEP AND SLOW

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

There may be nothing more satisfying to a committed fly-fisher than to catch trout with a dry fly cast upstream on smooth water. It is the classic challenge, romanced by angler-authors on the chalk streams of Old England, and embroidered on ever since by American writers.

However, it is an article of faith, and perhaps even a result of scientific studies, that trout acquire 80% of their food from down under, that is, among the rocks and rubble of the bottom or in the water column as insects begin their ascent. Like all other opinions, that is probably an overstatement; perhaps trout take only 70% of their diet underwater.

If one accepts either figure, it follows as the night the day that any angler should fish deep. My experience tells me to fish deep and slow.

I received a lesson from Bob Reynolds years ago on the Willow Branch in Willow River State Park below the bifurcation. The Willow becomes one again a mile downstream. I had fished carefully with a shallow wet fly, or a nymph a bit deeper, and saw nothing, netted nothing. Knowing that Bob was coming along behind me I rested and waited while he fished through a corner pool and long run. I have forgotten how many trout he released but they were of an unusual size, larger than I was accustomed to seeing.

I asked how, and he explained. Reynolds used a short length of lead core between line and shortened leader, and crawled his fly on the bottom. It was a revelation to me. On another occasion, Bob met me on the Rush River downstream from the El Paso dead-end at the tail of a long, deep run. There he pointed to three or four browns in the 16 inch range; some may have been larger. They were lying doggo (or trout), waiting for something nourishing to be crawled to them deep and slow.

The Rush River is the home of minnows, crayfish (crawdads to some of us), and Olive Woolly Buggers that look like leeches.

Coiled in my leader wallet I carry a four foot and a 12 foot length of #9 sinking fly line for times when I want to fish deeper. I loop one or the other between my weight forward floating line and the leader. Fly shops and catalog suppliers sell a wallet of interchangeable, weighted shooting heads, usually 12 or 15 feet long, in four sinking rates. For Florida and local toothy fish, nine inch and 12 inch plastic coated woven steel leaders prevent premature catch-and-release. The nine inch leader might be useful on trout streams. An alternative is to weight the fly to put it on the bottom, but I suspect that Reynolds had good reasons for letting the unweighted fly move freely at the end of a tippet.

If you experiment with deep and slow, you must adjust your casting stroke—lower on the backcast, more sidearm on the forward stroke, and never a tight loop. If you've fished with bugs for largemouth bass, you'll know how to compensate for the additional weight. An Aussie hat will protect your out-standing ears.



Jim Humphrey lives in Oak Park Heights, MN. He is the co-author of *Trout Streams of Wisconsin & Minnesota*. He is a regular contributor to RipRap.

KIAP-TU-WISH OFFICERS

President	Greg Dietl	(651) 436-2604	grdietl@hotmail.com
Vice President	Andy Lamberson	(715) 441-3535	andrewlamberson@hotmail.com
Secretary	Gary Horvath	(715) 425-8489	magshorvath@comcast.net
Treasurer	Brent Sittlow	(715) 386-0820	bsittlow@presenter.com
Board Member	Nick Westcott	(612) 869-3201	nicwestcott@comcast.net
Board Member	Gary Richardson	(715) 248-3699	baddog@presenter.com
Board Member	Hap Lutter	(651) 646-6639	ldlutter@yahoo.com
Board Member	Kent Johnson	(715) 386-5299	jjohnson@presenter.com
Board Member	Bob Lorenzen	(952) 431-4987	blor2006@comcast.net
Board Member	Kyle Amundson	(715) 549-5326	kamundson@mmm.com
Board Member	Andy Lamberson	(651) 261-8277	andrewlamberson@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Andy Lamberson	(715) 441-3535	andrewlamberson@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Scott Hanson	(651) 343-6837	scott@yes-tech.com



KIAP-TU-WISH

PO Box 483
Hudson, WI 54268

WE'RE ON THE WEB

[WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/
KIAPTUWISH/](http://WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/KIAPTUWISH/)

Don't miss the April meeting!!

It's the Annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes Fly Tying Meeting! Come and watch some of the area's most talented and innovative tyers.

The meeting starts at 7 PM, but you can join us for dinner at 6 PM. See you there!
Wednesday, April 2nd at Bob Smith's Sports Bar in Hudson.



**WE'RE LOOKING FOR ARTICLES CENTERED ON FLY TYING
AND TECHNIQUES**

Let the Editor know if you have an article you'd like to submit.
Deadline to make submissions for the May RipRap is April 23rd, 2008