

## Andy Lamberson: K-TU's "Conservationist of the Year"

*By Jonathan Jacobs*

Chapter president Mark Waschek announced immediate past president Andy Lamberson as the winner of the chapter's inaugural "Conservationist of the Year" award at the chapter's December 4<sup>th</sup> holiday banquet. Mr. Waschek presented Mr. Lamberson with a plaque commemorating the award and with a "traveling award", a hand-carved and hand-painted brook trout by chapter member Craig Aschenbrenner. Mr. Waschek cited Mr. Lamberson's contributions to fulfilling the chapter's mission of "restoration, improvement and protection" of local trout streams through:

- Unending advocacy and support for the City of River Falls storm water planning and management efforts.
- His efforts in obtaining the 205J planning grant that ultimately resulted in the creation of the city's storm water management plan.
- His key support of the storm water and shoreland ordinances.
- Spearheading funding and production of the chapter's award-winning educational video "A Storm on the Horizon."
- Extensive participation in chapter stream improvement projects.
- Involvement in Willow River dam issues ((Willow Falls, Mound Plant and New Richmond dams).

In concluding his remarks Mr. Waschek said, "I'm sure there are other accomplishments that don't immediately come to mind, including the myriad of activities (programs and banquet planning, chapter projects, board meetings, etc.) that come along with multiple terms as president." "His leadership, the example he sets for other chapter members and his advocacy efforts on behalf of our cold-water resources have been remarkable," Mr. Waschek added.

## Banquet a success

By Jonathan Jacobs

A crowd of approximately 75 people gathered at the Tartan Park clubhouse on December 4<sup>th</sup> for an evening of dining, boon companionship, socializing and, through a silent auction, fundraising. Highlights of the event included Bob White's recounting of his around-the-world angling dream trip and Mark Waschek's presentation of the first annual "Conservationist of the Year" award to chapter stalwart Andy Lamberson.

The chapter's officers and board of directors wishes to thank Bob White, Tartan Park and all those who contributed to the silent auction. Below is a list of donors. It is not a complete list, as many donors wish to remain anonymous.

Perry Palin  
John Koch  
Ken Mattson  
Greg Dietl  
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Charles Goossen  
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Mark Waschek  
Jonathan Jacobs  
Vern Alberts  
Hap Lutter  
Corky Lundberg  
Kinni Creek Lodge & Outfitters  
Craig Aschenbrenner

## Net Profit

By Jonathan Jacobs

The regular chapter monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 7 will feature a net making demonstration by Chuck Goossen. The only thing wrong with Chuck's nets is that they may be too nice to take out fishing, as they fall somewhere between art and fine furniture. Join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Hudson at 7 PM for the meeting. Dinner will be available in our meeting room at 6 PM.

## The First Annual Wild Game Fly Tying Contest

By John Koch

Now that the regular fishing season has passed, and winter seems well underway, we would like to announce the First Annual Wild Game Fly Tying Contest. This will be a contest for the purpose of raising money for, and awareness of, the excellent trout stream restoration work being done in Western Wisconsin by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The rules of the contest, while a little unusual, are fairly simple:

\* The fly or flies you submit must be tied exclusively with materials collected from birds, game, or varmints that may be legally hunted or trapped in Wisconsin or Minnesota. It is not a requirement that you harvest these materials yourself. For those game animals, such as moose, where a lottery was used to award tags, we will assume that a tag was issued.

\* Aside from the hook, tying thread, wire, tinsel, and head cement, artificial or man made materials may not be used. So, for example, a fly tied with the use of chicken hackle, peafowl, calf tail, sheep's wool, or other livestock are excluded, as are flies which incorporate materials like Krystal Flash, Antron, polyester, foam, beads or dumbbell eyes. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but simply to give an example of the types of material excluded in this contest.

\* The materials you use may be dyed.

\* The fly or flies you submit may be either of your own design or established patterns. Please be sure to include the name of each fly you submit.

\* Each fly submitted must also be accompanied by the recipe you used to tie the fly. If you will be under the age of 16 on March 29, 2004, please note your age and birth date along with your fly recipe.

\* There is no limit to the number of flies you can enter. The entry fee is \$5.00, **per fly**, payable to Kiap-TU-Wish. The contest coordinators will take no money from the contest, but will simply serve as a conduit for the funds. All money will be donated to the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter. Any flies submitted by someone whose check does not clear the bank will be disqualified from the contest. A report of the funds donated to Kiap-TU-Wish will be posted on the internet at the conclusion of the contest. Mail your entries to:

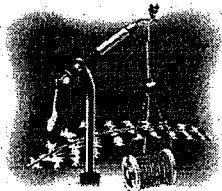
Fly Tying Contest  
1609 Maple Manor Court  
Mound, MN 55364

\* Entries must be post marked by March 29, 2004. Your name, address, and email address must also be included with your entry. Upon receipt, each fly will be tagged with a number, and that number will be recorded along with the tier's name. This way judges will not be able to associate the fly with a tier whose name they might recognize. All flies will be "anonymous" to the judges. Once final selections have been made, the names of the tiers will then be revealed.

There will be 3 prize categories: Dry Fly; Wet Flies and Nymphs; and Streamers, Steelhead, and Salmon Flies. First prize in each category will be an assortment of hackle and hooks in the approximate retail value of \$50. You are really competing for bragging rights, and the appreciation of all anglers who will enjoy the benefits of Kiap-TU-Wish's stream improvement projects. A book on the subject of fly tying will be awarded to the best fly by a tier under the age of 16.

Judging will take place at Kiap-TU-Wish's annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes fly tying meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2003 at Bob Smith's Sports Club in Hudson, Wisconsin. Dinner is at 6 PM; the meeting starts at 7 PM. Contestants need not be present to win. All winners will be notified by e-mail, and prizes will be sent via the USPS. Names of winners, their flies, and recipes will be posted on the Wisconsin Fly Fishing Bulletin Board (<http://www.wisflyfishing.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?board=General>).

All flies submitted for entry in the contest will become the property of Kiap-TU-Wish. Upon completion of the contest, the flies will be assembled in to a fly box, and will be raffled off in one lot at the Spring Wisconsin Fly Fishing Conclave, to be held at the campground behind the Lamp-lighter Bar & Grill near Ellsworth, WI. Announcements will be made early in 2004 of the exact dates of the Conclave. The funds raised from this raffle will also be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish for continuation of their stream improvement work.



## "Apathy is the glove into which evil slips its hand"

*Editorial by John Koch*

I found this, in all places, the John Deere consumer magazine, "The Furrow." A year or so ago, I bought a lawn tractor from a local dealership, and ever since, it seems, I've had a lifetime subscription. Or rather, my four-year-old son does. Much to this conservationist's chagrin, we are dazzled by full color spreads of industrial-sized tractors, seed drills, and the latest in CAFO technology on a monthly basis. Every month my son and I read through "his" magazine, oohing and aahing at the glossy images of tractors plowing, haulers hauling, spreaders spreading – you get the idea.

So, in amongst the ads for the new 4995 Rotary Windrower ("A Powerful New Way to Cut Hay") and the articles on what-to-do-with-your-farm-now-that-you've-been-forced-out-of-the-dairy-business, I was a bit surprised to find a quote like this:

"Apathy is the glove into which evil slips its hand"

I was taken aback because, here in this magazine that at times represents a sinister force threatening our trout streams, I've come upon a line of words that can be directly applied to coldwater conservation as a whole.

Originally taken from Bodie Thoene's fictional account of Hitler's Europe, Munich Signature, the quote beautifully describes what can and will happen to our resources as a result of our indifference. The evils facing our trout streams are many, and we are all familiar with them: uninspired development, misguided legislation and just plain bad agricultural practices, to name a few.

Evil slips its hands into our lack of action in a variety of ways: manure spills and toxic waste dumps are graphic examples of what can happen when evil is introduced to a trout stream; it's easy for everyone to rally against them, it's fun to get mad for awhile and write letters and position statements, and everyone feels good about themselves: "Yep, we sure showed them; bet they'll never try that again."

But what is far more insidious and damaging, but least likely to gain our sluggish attention, are the day to day circumstances that lead up to accidents like these, and the laws that are passed that encourage them: they take up too much time and effort to keep up with.

So to, a lack of concern leaves a failed river system with too much sediment and not enough flow to support its native species: no one shows interest, so the abuse continues as livestock are left to freely graze and trample its banks. Eventually the land is developed, and what was once a native brook trout stream is lost forever because no one cared. Somebody should really do something about this; somebody else will take care of it...

We've taken it upon ourselves to address these issues by forming an organization called Trout Unlimited. We tell ourselves that by joining this group, we've committed ourselves towards "Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries." But are we really committed to this?

Or are we committed to having a TU bumper sticker in our back window to flirt for our fellow fly fishermen; are we committed to a once-a-month social hour, all the while telling ourselves and our acquaintances "See, I'm really committed...?"

Commit yourself to the cause. Serve the resource, and not yourself. Support a habitat project/restore a trout stream by helping with planning a project, raise the necessary funding, or volunteer to work on one. Find out what's going on at city hall/ the county seat and what you can do put TU's agenda into the planner's heads. Serve actively as a Chapter Officer, or on the Board of Directors. Find out and stay informed about what's going on with our State Government, and consistently ask the questions that need to be asked of our elected officials.

And when you do, remember another quote:

"do your needed work out of love, the love that dares not speak its name, the love of sparseness, beauty, open space, clear skies, and flowing streams, grizzly bear and mountain lion, wolf pack and twelve-pack, of wilderness and wanderlust and primal human freedom and so forth." - Ed Abbey

## Matching the Hatchet

Book review by Bill Stieger

The Hatches Made Simple  
A Universal Guide to Selecting the  
Proper Fly at the Right Time  
By Charles Meck  
Countryman Press 260 pages

If you're one who peruses fly fishing magazines, you might wonder why no book on fly fishing mentioned therein garners a bad review. Whether it's a technique book (the sex manual equivalent), or the breathless memoir of some millionaire who "left it all to pursue the lure of trout angling worldwide," fly magazine reviewers gush over every tome. They pepper their reviews with phrases like "useful new techniques," "fresh insight in the angler's world," and "offers a new perspective on angling today."

That no fishing book sees honest criticism is no surprise: the authors, magazine editors, and so-called "professional" fly fishers know each other. They're *buddies*. Lefty, Dave, Joan, Gary, Jason, Randall, Mel, and the like spew these books as a means for making means. Workshops, videos and clinics are made possible through publishing. Casting a grumpy eye onto a fellow angling writer's book is like telling your Aunt Hilda she's the moron she really is. With the money made from the fly fishing pie in very short supply, it's simply bad form to lob a bomb. It's considered in the biz as downright traitorous.

But that it's understandable does not excuse the fishing book critic's basic dishonesty. Critics and their magazines render readers poor service with their chuckle-headed approval of all fishing books. And that leads me to my writing of this review. It is, in part, because I doubt I could get it published elsewhere. And budding fly fisher folk should be forewarned of a truly moronic treatise on fishing fly hatches.

Charles Meck's **The Hatches Made Simple, A Universal Guide to Selecting the Proper Fly at the Right Time** ostensibly offers the reader sage insight into fly selection. In the introduction, Meck states the book's purpose: "First, it should help you tremendously in with pattern selection by showing you what mayfly colors at different times of the day and season. Second, it will *limit* (italics mine) the number of patterns you'll need to match many of the major hatches to a manageable few."

Meck's theory is thus: In April and May, your hatches will consist of "grays and a few browns." Summer mornings will consist of "olives, dark grays, tans and browns," while

summer evening will see "creams and a few dark grays and browns." I'm simplifying here; Meck's first chart reveals transitional areas between seasons "Transitional lights," "Transitional grays," etc.

If that's the thrust of "Hatches Made Simple," Mr. Meck could've printed it on a card and posted it in a fishing magazine. But he spends 260 pages in his book refuting his own theory of simplification. After mention of his "restricted patterns"—a blue winged olive and an Adams for early spring hatches—he marches the reader through chapters of Latin-spangled entomology. Things deteriorate further when he reaches the chapter on spinners: "You can match most spinner falls by carrying one box with a series of spinner patterns with you. I first discussed this in "How to Catch More Trout." If that box holds 64 compartments, here are the recommended patterns to take with you. This selection will match more than 95 percent of the hatches you'll see...." He follows with a table of 9 different colored spinners that you'll tie in sizes 10 through 24. Just think, all you need to cover spinner falls are 64 patterns! How's that for simplicity? For caddis flies, Meck suggests carrying 9 different colored patterns in sizes 10 through 20. So you only need to carry 54 patterns to cover all your caddis hatches!

The following chapters pile on hundreds of variations of trout stream insects for western, eastern and Midwestern hatches—dates, time's of day, sizes of fly. There are some fine photos of mayflies by Ted Fauceglia, followed by pictures of parachute artificial with names like "Light Gray with Olive Reflections" and "Pale Olive with Yellow Reflections." These are followed by more charts, then scads of recipes for fly patterns.

One particularly galling part of the book comes when Meck relates the story of guiding Vice President Dick Cheney on a Pennsylvania stream. "...I suggested he try an 18 Blue Quill to match the hatch. In the next hour Dick Cheney gave a fly-fishing clinic to all of us. He caught 13 of those 14 rising trout. To this day we affectionately call that pool the "Cheney Pool."

Now, I realize there are many fine Republicans who fly fish. But Dick Cheney has the most reprehensible record on environmental matters of any human to serve in the American government. As a congressman in the '80s, Cheney voted repeatedly against the Clean Water Act, against funding for cleaning up hazardous wastes and against reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act. He's behind the Bush Administration's new energy bill, that, if it passes, will make it near impossible for citizens to sue polluters. The only pool named after Mr. Cheney should be a ditch poisoned with PCBs.

Meck is the worst sort of fly fishing instructor. In his books and articles he advocates the use of Bead Head Glo Bugs, tandem rigs (I don't like them for dries; the fish turns away from the dry fly, gets hooked in the eye by the trailer), and a Royal Wulff he ties with Krystal Flash he calls the Patriot. He stresses miracle patterns as the panacea for unbent fly rods, furthering the spread confusion to neophytes who choose him as their fishing piper.

And how in the hell could a normal working person find time to tie 64 different spinners?

If you're relatively new to fly fishing for trout, get some Adams, hare's ears and elk hair caddis and go have some fun.

*Bill Stieger is a writer, editor and jazz drummer. He lives in River Falls, WI*

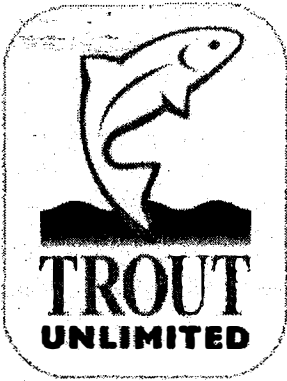
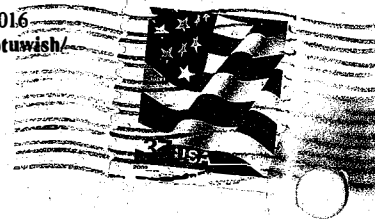
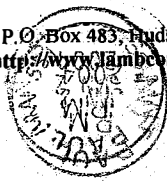
## The hot half dozen

*By Jonathan Jacobs*

The idea that Andy Lamberson presented in these pages last month of distilling one's fly selections to six patterns is creating a buzz within the chapter. We are going to find a way to incorporate the concept into this year's Dry Fly Dick Frantes April fly tying demonstrations. In the mean time, I thought I'd take my shot at this. What's interesting to me are the flies that I love to use that don't make the list, mostly because their use is so specialized. I place nearly totemic value on the Orange Julius for the sulfur hatch, for example, but I've never worked up the nerve to try it outside that three week wide window when one sees the naturals on the water. The same thing can be said about the Winter Stonefly patterns. Here, more or less in order of importance, are my final six:

1. Size 14 pheasant tail nymph of dyed orange pheasant tail with a copper bead, peacock thorax and woodcock soft hackle.
2. Size 8 black woolly bugger with brass conehead.
3. Size 10 gold ribbed hare's ear nymph.
4. Size 18 Rene Harrop hair wing dun in blue winged olive color scheme.
5. Size 18 dark deer hair caddis.
6. Size 6 (3407 Mustad) Clouser minnow, gray over white with silver Krystal Flash.

Looking at my list, I'm a little surprised, and perhaps a little appalled, that there are only two dry flies on the list. Still, considering that our season now covers seven months of the year, it's prudent to set aside notions of orthodoxy and go with what works.



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**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

JANUARY 7: CHUCK GOOSSEN ON NET MAKING  
FEBRUARY 4: TBA  
MARCH 3: BUSINESS MEETING  
APRIL 7: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS  
MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY RIPRAP: FRIDAY, JANUARY 23.**