



RipRap

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5 JANUARY, 2009

PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

Banquet Update

The chapter held its annual banquet on December 5th and it was a success. The Tartan Park staff was spot on again and the food was excellent. Scott Thorpe's presentation of his Alaskan guiding adventures was outstanding. There were bears, trout, grayling, salmon, mosquitoes, bears, clients, scenery, beautiful rivers, bears, helicopters, glaciers and photos of Scott's luxury accommodations. Scott does a great job narrating and if you missed it, keep your eyes open for another one. He does his presentations at other venues.

We raised approximately \$4000; a final accounting is still pending. We tried some new raffles and have met to discuss next year's banquet. Kevin Sellers, Ryan Lindus, Scott King and Katy from Sportsman's Warehouse in Woodbury were a tremendous help. They not only donated an eTrex GPS but handled the ticket sales for the raffles also. The chapter extends thanks and appreciation to Sportsman's Warehouse for their continued commitment to our chapter and the banquet. Did I mention I won the eTrex GPS raffle? Tom Andersen's generous donation of the Sage Bass outfit was a big hit. Jonathan Jacob's float trip sold out again and has become a coveted raffle item.

Thanks again to the banquet committee: Jon, Mike, Deb, Nick and Hap for all the organizing and to those who scoured for donations. Mike Alwin's perennial support from Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop is always appreciated. Thanks to Hap Lutter for collecting and counting the funds. Laughing Trout Fly Tying Club once again generously donated to the chapter. Wisconsin State Council President Bill Heart attended, as did Duke Welter and TCTU President Steve Carlton. Patagonia on Grand Avenue in St Paul has become a regular supporter. DNR Fisheries Biologist Marty Engle is always at the banquet and is a big supporter of the chapter.

A more detailed list of contributors will appear in the February Rip Rap.

Chapter Awards

At the banquet, the chapter presented the Silver Trout Award to Andy Lamberson and Randy Arnold for their outstanding volunteer commitment and activities. We have prepared a Silver Trout Award to be presented later to Fairmount Minerals, one of our partners on the Pine Creek project. I was awarded the Gold Net Award and was very surprised and honored.

Volunteers

As you can see, it takes a lot of volunteer effort to organize the banquet and accomplish all the work the chapter does on stream projects. I want to thank everyone who has contributed volunteer time to Pine Creek, and especially Chuck Goosen and Kent Johnson for all their work and hours on stream monitoring on the Willow, Kinni and Pine Creek. Thanks to the board and officers for their continued commitment to the chapter. Thanks to Scott Hanson and Bob Bradham for their outstanding work on Rip Rap.

Welcome New Members — Jon Olson and Greg Olson

It has been a very busy month; I hope to have an update on summer plans for work on Pine Creek in the February issue. Hope to see you at the January meeting.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
PRESIDENT'S LINES	1
MEETING INFO	2
SCOTT'S SCOOP	3
FLY TYING CORNER	4
WATER RATS	7
BANQUET RAVE-UP	7



JANUARY MEETING INFO

Kevin Becker will be the featured speaker at the January Kiap-TU-Wish meeting. Many of you know or will recognize Kevin. He is a very accomplished fly fisherman and photographer who has traveled the world in search of new fishing spots. Here is an introduction to Kevin in his own words:

"I grew up in southwest Minnesota and started fishing with a fly rod at age 12 for crappies and sunfish. Trout were no where to be found on the prairie, and maybe that is why they fascinated me so much. When I moved to the Twin Cities after serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War, I started seriously fishing with a fly rod and have so for the last 35 years. I also loved travel and, having combed through Outdoor Life and Field and Stream when I was a boy, I was very determined to fish the remote places of the planet for those fish with 'spots' on them, namely trout and salmon as well as the more challenging saltwater species.

So, for the last 30 years, I have been fortunate enough to travel to fish 2 or 3 times each year on vacation from my job as a Software Engineer. I have made over 20 trips to Alaska. I have fished the giant steelhead rivers of British Columbia as well as Arctic Canada for char. I have traveled to New Zealand as well as Argentina, both in Patagonia and Tierra Del Fuego. I fished for salmon in eastern Canada and giant brook trout in Labrador. I have fished for sea trout in Ireland and European grayling in northern Italy.

Over the last 10 years I have come to love saltwater fishing for the challenge and warm weather. During the cold Minnesota winters, I have fished bonefish on Christmas Island in the South Pacific, Honduras, Bonaire, Mexico, the Bahamas and Florida. Tarpon in the Everglades and Costa Rica, Permit in Belize.

The challenge of the saltwater flats is what piqued my interest in the carp fishing on the flats of Lake Michigan. It is a "saltwater experience" that can be enjoyed in the Midwest. So for the last 5 years or so, I have made a couple trips during the summer to fly fish for carp in northern Lake Michigan. My program will center around the flats of Lake Michigan and the carp that cruise there. They are truly the most difficult fish to take on a fly and bring a lot of the challenge of the saltwater flats close to home. Crystal clear water, sight fishing for tailing or cruising fish, immense flats where a 30 lb. fish can make a 175 yard run. Mostly done in complete solitude. I will present the basics of the techniques, tackle and tactics to pursue the most difficult game fish in freshwater. It is truly the highlight of each year's local fishing for myself."

This presentation is sure to pique your interest in fly fishing for carp, too. Come join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club in downtown Hudson on Wednesday, January 7. Dinner is served beginning at 6 PM, and the meeting starts promptly at 7. See you there.



KEVIN BECKER

SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

This month's RipRap completely snuck up on me. The funny thing is that I talked to Bob Bradham about the printing of it just last week. It was due to be printed during the week of Christmas, and from our conversation, I knew that Bob wanted to get the file early on in the week so he would have plenty of time to get it printed before the Holiday. I agreed to get it to him on Monday. I even had very concrete plans when I left work on Friday to get as much of it done over the weekend as I could so that I wouldn't have to do much on Monday at work. You would think that since I had such definite plans as I left home on Friday, I would have at least done a little work on it over the weekend. If you thought that, however, you would be wrong. The next time the thought of working on this issue of RipRap crossed my mind was when I sat back down at my desk Monday morning. There was a momentary shudder of panic, which quickly grew in length and magnitude when I realized how much actual work was also on the agenda for the day. I wish that I could say that my entire weekend was completely filled with important things instead of working on RipRap, and while I did get a lot of much-needed Christmas shopping done, a good amount of time was also spent watching season one of Boston Legal on DVD, along with several football games. I can only hope my beloved Vikings play better next week.

So, to make a long story longer, I did not get this issue completed and ready to go to the printer when I was supposed to. I hope that this didn't cause Bob too much consternation. If you know Bob, you know that he is pretty laid back, so I have to believe that even if we was annoyed by my lateness, he wouldn't have let it be known. Thanks, Bob, for not getting too mad at me.

In other news, I am very eager to attend the January Kiap-TU-Wish meeting. Kevin Becker will be the guest speaker, and he will be discussing his annual trips to Lake Michigan to fish for trophy carp. Learn more about Kevin, in his own words, in the article on page 2. Along with that article, don't miss Jon Jacobs' article about all the flies that adorn the water heater cover at his home. Jon is a very loyal writer for RipRap, and for that I thank him profusely. I can always count on Jon to provide me with excellent material, month after month.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to RipRap in 2008. As we begin 2009, please consider writing an article or two, or sending in a favorite photo, sometime throughout the year. Any contribution will be welcomed. Hope you have a Happy New Year! See you next month.



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FLY TYING CORNER



Photo by Jonathon Jacobs

Water
Heater
Flies

WATER HEATER FLIES

BY JONATHON JACOBS

When Greg Dietl and Mike Alwin came by the house before the chapter banquet to evaluate the silent auction items that were warehoused in my basement, they both got an enormous kick out of the rather substantial batch of flies that were seemingly haphazardly stuck in the insulating jacket of the water heater. Mike, in particular, I thought, felt that my collection was one more example of the workings of what he views as an exceedingly random mind. I explained that there was a pattern of logic and order at work that he simply didn't see. On permanent display at the *Musee des mouches sur le citerne d'eau chaud* are **Favorite Flies** that are important to me because they have been given to me by friends, or serve as standards of their type, or are both. I'd like to tell you a little about them. I dearly hope that the photograph accompanying this will allow the reader to correlate images and text. We'll plunge ahead in any case.

- Fly **1** (at roughly ten o'clock on the array) is a commercially purchased Whitlock Near-Nuff crayfish. I don't doubt its efficacy, but after attempting to tie one I appropriated from it the elements I really liked and developed the far simpler Extractor, a well used example of which is fly **2**.
- I have several flies given to me by my friend Kyle Amundson, whose tying skills are most formidable. Fly **3** is his cranefly larva pattern. I once saw Kyle use this fly to empty a riffle on the Rush.
- There is a cluster of egg patterns at position **4**. There's a tiny bit more to a yarn fly than you might think – to do it right you need to learn to snell a hook. One of the flies is linked by a length of monofilament to the “slinky” at the bottom of the picture. My friend Scott Thorpe set my wife up with this when he guided her to her first steelhead a couple of years ago.
- Murry Humble is one of the most talented fly tiers I know. Fly **5** is his take on a Catchpenny Leech, a fly that can be tied with a single marabou blood feather. It's a very simple pattern to tie, so an angler needn't feel reticent about chucking it toward a big fishy-looking log jam.
- Fly **6** is a bent-hook beadhead leech given to me by Ed Twigg, who tied for us at a Dry Fly Dick Frantes tying event.
- My memory is not always perfect. Fly **7** is a large gold ribbed hare's ear nymph. I caught a fish that was once memorable to me, but is not now, on this particular fly.
- Fly **8** is a gorgeous streamer pattern, an Incredible Silver Minnow, or ISM, as Kyle Amundson, who tied it, calls it.
- Fly **9** is a spun deer hair green-over-yellow froggie pattern. This gem came from Kyle, who tied it after observing an early morning frog migration that drove the smallmouth into a feeding frenzy on a famous Wisconsin river.
- Fly **10** is a pretty stonefly pattern with a badger wing, yet another triumph from Kyle.
- The flies at position **11** are my early – and futile, I am compelled to add – efforts at tying Bob Clouser darter patterns.
- Fly **12** is a “machined” foam popper from the bug factory that Andy Lamberson set up in his house in Hammond.
- Vic Stark tied the matuka fly (**13**) at a DFDF event. Vic says that his fly is unlike other matukas because it has a “bunched” tail rather than a hen hackle tail.
- A copper bead head soft hackle orange pheasant tail nymph occupies position **14**. This fly is my standard of standards, and I must have caught a nice fish on this one, but the event is lost in my overcrowded memory banks.

Water Heater Flies continued on Page 6

WATER HEATER FLIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

- Fly **15** is a Ron Kuehn-tied nymph that's designed for carp fishing, an activity that's on fly fishing's frontier at the moment.
- Fly **16** is a commercially-tied "rubber bugger," for lack of a better term. It looks fishy, but I've never figured out how to duplicate it.
- Fly **17** is a commercially-tied Bighorn Bugger, a pattern that's a little loud for my Midwestern sensibilities, but that doesn't mean it doesn't catch Midwestern fish – or that my sensibilities are too offended to tie and use the pattern!!
- Fly **18** is an elegant, minimalist crayfish pattern given to me by Rob Kolokowski, an extremely talented commercial fly tier and designer. He gave me this fly at a DFDF event.
- Fly **19** is a commercially-tied Seagull, a pattern I've simplified greatly in my own tying.
- Fly **20** is Dave Blackburn's (of the Kootenai Angler) take on an X-Caddis. He gave it to me at the Great Waters Expo. I duplicated it and used it to solid effect during last May's caddis hatches hereabouts.
- Fly **21** is a pretty (yes, pretty) rabbit strip-tailed marabou leech in white. I wish I knew where I got it.
- Fly **22** is a big, nasty pike fly from the vise of Ron Kuehn. It practically dares Esoxids to eat it.
- Fly **23** is a spun deer hair diver/slider given to me by Tony Stifter, a long-time friend of mine who was a K-TU president in a galaxy long ago and far away. He tied it at a DFDF event. The fly is tied in muted, natural colors and looks seriously fishy.
- Fly **24** is a Chaos Hopper brought to me from Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone by the peripatetic angler Mike Edgerly.
- Fly **25** is local guide Jim Thomson's iteration of a folded foam diver. I've noticed that there aren't extra parts on guide-tied flies. This one is no exception.
- Flies **26** and **28** are the first two Clouser minnows I ever tied. Paul Buettenhoff (whose name I am likely misspelling – sorry, Paul!) showed me how to tie them at Bob Mitchell's on winter Saturday a long time ago.
- Fly **27** is a Hendrickson Comparadun. I thought Hendricksons were gray-bodied things. Kyle Amundson set me straight with this finely-tied number.
- Fly **29** is a Tony Stifter-tied crayfish imitation of his design. It looks, frankly, like a mess in the hand, but examine it carefully as you fish it and you'll see the cleverness in its design. Like most great flies, it has numerous "triggers" that suggest life when it's in use.
- Fly **30** is a commercially-tied Murdich Minnow, a big, flashy fly that's become one of my favorites for small-mouth. It's big, but it's easy to cast because it's tied entirely of non-absorbent materials. It's a shallow-running baitfish imitation that can really get the fish to commit.
- Fly **31** is a Hex nymph given to me by Paul Wiemerslage when he was first bitten by the carpin' bug.
- Last but not least is Number **32**, an extraordinarily realistic imitation of *Tempus fugit*. Obviously, it's a watch, a Timex that keeps time with near atomic clock like accuracy. I had to retire it from active duty when I cracked its plastic case and it was no longer water resistant. When one is as prone to falling in and getting wet as I am, one needs a water resistant watch. It now lets me know when it's time to get out of the basement and rejoin the world.

Reviewing this collection has been a genuine pleasure. It reminded me of how many good friends I have that I met because of a common interest in fly fishing. It also reminds me to put in an early plug for next April's Dry Fly Dick Frantes memorial fly tying event, which is a great place at which to cadge some truly great flies from some truly great tiers.



WATER RATS

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

Cousin Rodney could catch fish in a rain barrel. I saw him extract the largest, and rare, largemouth out of the Rock River of Wisconsin while he was eating an orange. Down went the cork, up came the fish to brush my head as he swung it up and over to the bank. The trophy went into the gunny sack with the carp, bullheads and other outlandish creatures of the waterworld. Nothing escaped the frying pan, not even the tails of carp or bullhead, I have forgotten which, that were fried crisp and eaten like bacon. I think we thought of the tails as delicacies.

Once we fished at the base of the dam in Watertown, Wisconsin, when the river was low. We took an even 100 carp that were trapped in the pool and dragged them home along the sidewalk. We wanted everybody to see the mighty nimrods with the magnificent catch. The carp were planted after dark in the garden to make healthy vegetables. Perhaps no other piscatorial adventure has pleased me more.

We fished the Rock River in Watertown, Hubbleton, and Hustisford, and led by that giddy Aunt, Rod's mom Rena, rolled down the Indian mounds at Aztalan, now a Wisconsin state park, but then only a curious hump on the landscape. Ah, those were halcyon days.

Rod and I drifted apart for many years, reconnected in Florida when we were middle-aged, but never missed a beat when we searched for stone crabs along the sea wall at night, or feasted al fresco on a bright sand beach on a tiny island out in the Gulf from Fort DeSoto. We might have been pirates marooned on an emerald cay in the turquoise waters of the Bahamas.

We panned for gold in the Red River of New Mexico. We fly-fished for trout in the Namekagon and gorged on all-you-can-eat lake perch in Hayward. We have always been water rats.



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.

BANQUET RAVE-UP

BY MICHAEL ALWIN

All the members of the banquet committee hope you had a fine time at the Chapter's annual holiday soiree. Planning for this year's event began with the debriefing on the Saturday following last year's banquet. Ideas were discussed, notes taken and plans laid for an early beginning to the planning process.

Planning began in earnest in August when five committee members met to thrash out ideas. Original members were Greg Dietl, Jonathan Jacobs, Deb Olmstead, Shannon Nelson and Mike Alwin. After discussing several changes, the basic structure of the banquet was finalized and roles assigned to the fellow travelers.

We are a volunteer organization and we need to sing the praises of our volunteers. Helping out at this year's banquet were Paul Weimerslage and Hap Lutter. But we would be remiss if we did not mention the splendid help provided by the folks from Sportsman's Warehouse who manned all the raffle stations. They did a great job.

Thanks also to all of you who contributed auction items. Special thanks to Bill Schuessler for the Hacker-Pschorr beer. It was deeply appreciated. In this unholy triumvirate the lion's share of the work falls on the shoulders of Jonathan Jacobs. He collects, sorts, stores, labels and completes bid sheets on merchandise donated to the silent auction and then spends most of the afternoon delivering these items to the banquet site and arranging the space for the auction. To Jon I say "ein prosit."





KIAP-TU-WISH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

[WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/
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Don't miss the January meeting!!

Join us Wednesday January 7th at Bob Smith's Sports Club for the January meeting. Renowned local fisherman and world traveler, Kevin Becker, will wow us with his presentation. Dinner starts at 6PM Meeting begins at 7PM

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EDITOR OF RIPRAP!

Let us know if you have an article you'd like to submit.

Deadline to make submissions for the February RipRap is January 21st, 2009

