

President's Lines

Our chapter was pleasantly surprised to find out that the Storm Water Ordinance for the City of River Falls is back on the radar screen. A lot of work went into drafts and proposals in the mid-90s, but an official ordinance never did come out of it. We are working to provide some input and support for the proposed ordinance. This time we are armed with "Storm on the Horizon" which we hope gets floated up to the land use decision-makers this spring. Wisconsin chapter members should be warned that your support is especially needed in this debate. Meeting attendance, letters, and public support for this ordinance will be crucial. Please expect phone calls and e-mails from our chapter to update you on when your participation in this process is most critical.

For the hearty souls that tracked through the snow and darkness for the February program, I apologize for its cancellation. To my knowledge, we don't have a mechanism for inclement weather cancellations for meeting dates like we do for brushing projects. Therefore, be it declared that in times of inclement weather, folks should call any officer or board member. Names and numbers of these individuals are printed in each edition of RipRap. Those of you on our e-mail list were warned that afternoon, but not everybody gets them in time or uses this communication method.

I hope that everyone can get a chance to attend our last three meetings of the program year. The March meeting is the annual business meeting (see agenda inside). And as a bonus, we will also have Heath Benike (from February's canceled program) to give us a taste of what could lie ahead for the Eau Galle. The April meeting is the very popular Fly Tiers event. Tiers are needed to make this meeting as popular as it is. Please contact Jon Jacobs if you are willing to do a demo. The May meeting is our traditional DNR session. We hope to have a DNR professional to provide some data and updates in the surrounding watersheds.

*Tight lines,
Brent Sittlow, President*

March: We Do Business

The Kiap-TU-Wish chapter announces that its annual business meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2001 at 8PM at the JR Ranch, Hwys. 12 and I-94, Hudson, WI.

March Business Meeting Agenda:

Heath Benike, WI DNR (30 min)
Board Elections*, Jon Koch (for O'Malley vacancy) and Dave Ballman (5 min)
Treasurers Report, Goossen (5 min)
Banquet Report, Sittlow, Alwin, Jacobs (5 min)
RipRap Report / Funding, Jacobs, Sittlow (10 min)
Website Report, Lamberson (5 min)
Habitat Report / Funding, Sittlow, Koch (7 min)
Storm Water Ordinance – Johnson, Horvath (15 min)
CAFO Report- Sittlow (5 min)
State Council Report- Sittlow (5 min)
New Business (10 min)

Adjourn

*Nominations can be made from the floor for additional candidates, provided the nominee is present.

Heath Beneke To Speak On Eau Galle River Project

by Brent Sittlow

Kiap-TU-Wish is pleased to have Heath Benike from the WIDNR's Eau Claire office for our March Program. Heath has been assigned to large river issues in western Wisconsin and is the focal point for the River Protection Grant program for this area. Mr. Benike and Marty Engel have been instrumental in working with the Army Corps of Engineers on the Eau Galle Reservoir and river. Heath will provide our chapter with data from last summer's project focusing on flow adjustments from the impoundment above Spring Valley. Early indications are that some drastic improvement in water temperature regimes can be achieved with flow modifications. Come and find out the details and the future of this potentially fantastic resource, one that could rival the Rush and Trimble Rivers in Pierce County as a cold water resource.

Volunteers Needed

By Michael A. Alwin

The annual River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic just popped up on the radar screen. This event has become a big deal in the city with neighbors telling neighbors and a number of

students repeating the clinic because they had such a good time. Each year this clinic costs the Chapter a couple of hundred dollars in tackle, flies, food and beverages and of those items, the tackle and flies comprise the greatest single expense. We supply all students, sometimes over twenty of them, with leaders, fly boxes and dozens of flies. We can lower our expenses considerably if you folks donate a lot of flies to the effort. Last year we didn't get a lot of donated flies and this year we want that to change. We've got about 200 members, many of whom tie flies. I'd like to see an increase in the volume of flies donated to this effort. Here are some suggestions: Adams, Olive Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Kinni Sulphurs, Sparkle Duns, Hares Ear Nymphs, Caddis Larva, Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Soft Hackles and Woolly Buggers. I want you to tie us a dozen flies. You're afraid you don't tie well enough? These folks are beginners...they're thrilled with a box of hand-tied flies. So dust off your bench, clean your glasses and put a new bulb in your lamp. Help your chapter wage the battle of public opinion in River Falls.

Gov. McCallum Gasses George Meyer

By Jon Jacobs

Governor Scott McCallum, exercising a legacy of the Tommy Thompson administration, demoted DNR Secretary George Meyer and became the first Wisconsin governor to appoint a DNR Secretary by replacing Meyer in early February with Darrell Bazzell, a high level DNR administrator. Environmental groups across the state have decried this move, not so much in support of Meyer or in condemnation of Bazzell, but instead out of opposition to the political nature of the appointment. State legislators friendly to environmental causes have vowed to renew efforts to depoliticize the office of the DNR Secretary. Critics have been careful to point out that their opposition is to the political nature of the appointment and not to Bazzell, whose views on environmental issues are largely unknown. Bazzell is generally recognized as a bright and competent administrator with a compelling personal history (He came from an inner-city background in Milwaukee and was an outstanding student at UW-Madison). On a chilling note, news reports say that while McCallum expressed respect for Meyer, Meyer's support for the restoration of the office of the Public Intervenor, an independent advocate for Wisconsin's citizens in environmental matters, may have doomed him.

More Brushing Progress Made on the Upper Kinni

By Brent Sittlow and John Koch

As advertised, Kiap-TU-Wish has started another winter season of brushing on the upper Kinnickinnic. We've enjoyed two great days of work, where a lot of progress has been made. And we can make more progress with your help on the last scheduled day this winter on Saturday, March 10th. Join us at the County JJ river crossing these dates for more cutting and burning. Participation has been unexpectedly light this year, since we've had about 3 winters of rest. Now that the County Permit situation is fixed, we need to make up for lost time. New faces are always welcome, so please consider participating in trout habitat work this season.

Thank you to these February 10th "Brushers":

Brent Sittlow
Gary Horvath
John Sours

And to these February 24th "Brushers":

Brent Sittlow
Mark Waschek
Kelly Matheson

CAFO Permit Granted, K-TU Responds

by Jon Jacobs

The WIDNR recently granted a WPDES Permit for the expansion of the Jon De Farm, Inc. in St. Croix County. Kiap-TU-Wish representatives had testified at the public hearing for this permit and had submitted written concerns during the comment period specified for this process.

In a letter to the DNR after it granted the permit, chapter president Brent Sittlow wrote:

Given the fact that this facility has discharged into the Rush River and its waterways, and it is very likely that it will again in the future, our chapter would like to request that the your department specify in the Permit, that this dairy facility must monitor the receiving waters of its discharge. This is a very typical stipulation for many municipal and industrial operations that maintain a WPDES permit. We would also recommend that given the past history of this operation, and the sensitivity of the receiving surface waters, that an invertebrate sampling

be undertaken in this watershed. Data from this sampling can be used to bridge the gap between holes in a surface water sampling program, when a discharge may not be reported, caught, or documented. Please let our chapter know how you intend to follow up with our requests.

"CAFOS", as they're called, are an important watershed health issue throughout agricultural areas of the Midwest. Animal waste products (a polite euphemism for urine and feces) from these large factory-style operations can easily surpass the volume of similar human wastes from a fair sized city that would be required to treat and process its sewage in compliance with federal clean water rules. Yet, very little regulation of these CAFOS is required under current law.

In a related development, the WIDNR has invited K-TU to attend a presentation on the United States EPA on its proposed revisions to federal regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9 in Madison. K-TU hopes to send a representative.

More information on this critical topic will be available at the March meeting of Trout Unlimited.

Help Restore Protection to Wisconsin Wetlands

A recent United States Supreme Court ruling has left up to 30 percent of Wisconsin's wetlands vulnerable to destruction by dredging, fill-in and development. Wetlands are a crucial component of healthy ecosystems and safe drinking water. To its credit, the Wisconsin State Senate with bipartisan support recently passed SB-37 which would restore by statute the protection removed by the court. The bill has moved on to Wisconsin's House of Representatives. You may write in support of this bill to our area's representatives at the addresses below.

Rep. Kitty Rhoades
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
Rep.Rhoades@legis.state.wi.us
608-266-1526

Rep. Joe Plouff
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
Rep.Plouff@legis.state.wi.us
608-266-7683

Tying Times

Editorial by Jon Jacobs

One month from now, our April meeting, as it has for many years, will feature fly tying demonstrations by some of the area's most accomplished, interesting and opinionated tiers. We've come to call this the Dry Fly Dick Frantes Memorial Fly Tying Demonstration in honor of one of our chapter's early stalwarts. This gives me the opportunity every year to tell folks that if you knew Dick, there's no need to explain anything about him and, that if you didn't, there's no explaining him anyway. I can tell you that Dick made up for his own shortcomings as a tier by ingratiating himself to some of the best and the brightest in the business of lashing feathers and whatnot to a fishing hook. Thus, by way of touting one of our most enjoyable meetings a month in advance, the pages of RipRap are this month given over to Tales from the Vise.

By the time you read this, the (fool?)hardy among us will have had the opportunity to fling flies at our favorite quarry. The catch and release early season is now a permanent part of our angling aquascape. We can all hope that March conforms to its stereotype of coming in like a lion and leaving like a lamb. If it does, anglers will find that they have had the opportunity to use a widely divergent selection of flies, perhaps beginning the month with heavily weighted nymphs and by finishing it with dainty blue wing olive dry flies. Considering that historians in the classical Greek age recorded instances of Macedonians using hooks wound with red wool to catch spotted fish well over two thousand years ago, or that Dame Juliana Berners furnished a pattern recipe for a March Brown over five hundred years ago, you'd think that we'd have the art of fly tying down pat by now. You'd think that there would be no need for one more pattern or method. Not likely. While much of what is written about fly tying today is largely a reinvention of the wheel, we do find new materials and techniques and continue to improve. old ones.

Skip James presents us this month with a refreshing look at both a little history and some fresh uses for materials. **Mike Edgerly** and **John Koch** write about the heart and soul of fly tying beyond its technical aspects, and our fascination with it. Since both Mike and John tell you a little about the tribal elders who piqued their interest in producing flies, I'd like to tell you about a very early influence on my desire to tie flies. If you are even a little familiar with John Gierach's writings, you will recall his frequent mentions of his early sporting mentor, his Uncle Leonard. Reading about Gierach's uncle has always

brought a broad smile to my face because I, too, had an Uncle Leonard. He was my father's older brother. (And in a complete aside, I'd like to mention that the fact that he was an older brother was a lifelong key to the particular kind of close relationship that my father had with Leonard and one that surely affected the way I regarded him, too. Family dynamics are an interesting and mysterious thing.)

Although I claim Uncle Leonard as an early influence, he was neither a fly tier nor even a fly fisherman. He was an utterly avid sportsman, however, who fished and hunted as much as, if not more than, a farmer could. There were pheasants and rabbits in abundance in the fields in those Soil Bank years of Ezra Taft Benson's Department of Agriculture and there were trips to Canada, Minnesota and the Mississippi River in search of fish. Even at that, I don't remember either fishing or hunting very much with Uncle Leonard. How then can I possibly claim him as a role model in the outdoor sports?

This way: Uncle Leonard was avid about a number of other pursuits, too. He was a woodworker with an interest in home improvement projects. He took a look at the farmhouse basement one day and decided it no longer need simply be a cellar or storage area. He created down there the first home area I'd ever seen devoted purely to entertainment. Some paint, some wood paneling, an acoustic tile ceiling, improved lighting, a bar and a little decorating and, voila, a rumpus room, as it was called way back when. My parents, along with a group of friends, were frequent guests of Uncle Leonard and Aunt Luella in that rumpus room, where they would engage in long sessions of small stakes poker. I was generally along, too, but I was never bored while the adults played cards. I had the benefit of one of Leonard's other interests, reading. He had what seemed like a limitless supply of *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield* and *Outdoor Life* magazines. These magazines hadn't yet sold out to spinfishing and there were an abundance of articles on the fascinating art of fly fishing. And in the back pages were funky little ads for fly tying materials and secret fly patterns that "almost guaranteed" success astream. I distinctly recall thinking that some day, by some means, I simply had to catch a fish on a Silver Doctor, which I though was just about the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen.

So, there you have it, the genesis of my interest in fly tying can be found in that farmhouse basement. I suspect that many of you have similar stories to tell. Now it's our turn to serve as teachers, mentors and models to the next generation of anglers. Remember to throw in some lessons on the value of pristine environments and wild fish.

Postcard from the Edgerly

At the Vise

By Mike Edgerly

Fly tying is not fly fishing, but it's close. No fly; no fly fishing. No fly, no trout.

Fly tiers take the first step toward catching trout the moment the fly comes out of the vise. Which probably explains why anglers who tie their own, go a little crazy in deep, long winters like this one. We spend hours at the vise spinning out our favorite patterns and remember the successes they brought us in previous seasons. We've taken the initial steps towards fly fishing. But reading the water, stalking the fish and presenting the fly are weeks, may be even months away. Sitting before our vises there remains something about fly tying that connects us to fish and to rivers, even when both are locked away from us by snow, ice and the arbitrariness of those who decide the dates of the season. Miles and months from trout, we're just as curious about them as we are the first day we wade the river in the new season.

In an essay in THE ART OF THE TROUT FLY, writer and tier Darrel Martin put it this way, "Tying extends our understanding of nature. We seek the perfect pattern, even if the perfect pattern never exists. It matters only that we seek. We seek the perfect feather, the perfect method, the perfect theory."

But you don't have to tie flies to catch lots of trout. Before a big float trip down an Alaskan river a few years ago, one of the best fly fishermen I know inaugurated his tying career by trying his hand at a simple pattern for silver salmon. What came out of his vise looked like something the cat coughed up, if the cat had been eating silver tinsel and red bucktail. His flies didn't catch fish, but he hooked and landed scores of silver salmon on other's flies. He hasn't tied since, but his substantial fly purchases help keep lots of professional tiers in business. And he's a cheerful fly mooch who keeps me busy during his visits each season to fish Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota streams.

If catching lots of trout is your goal, fly tying will lead you there.

I tie few flies with traditional upright hackle, in the so-called Catskill style. Many of my dry flies are tied with parachute style hackle. More often, I tie dry flies with no hackle at all, especially when I'm trying to match the sulfur hatch. Flies with traditionally wound hackle aren't that

effective on our streams. Fish that suck down a parachute Adams or sulfur comparadun often ignore the more traditional dry flies, even those perfect patterns turned out by professional tiers.

In the last few seasons, I have tied and fished more soft hackle wet flies than dry flies.

This March, when trout are ripping emerging midges on the Kinnickinnic, a soft hackle wet fly swung downstream in the film will easily out fish popular patterns like the Griffith's Gnat. Later, when the weather warms and the caddis skim the surface of the river, I'll reach first for a partridge and yellow instead of that old favorite, the elk hair caddis. The wet fly will catch more fish feeding on caddis than the dry. Don't take my word on any of this. Ask the trout. They taught me.

Each time I sit down to tie flies, I put to use some of the tools and the skills I picked up at Don MacLean's fly shop in Louisville, KY. Back in the mid-1980's, hundreds of miles from the nearest trout stream, Don made wild trout and cold rivers a possibility. Thanks to Don and his generous spirit, my friends and I became steady casters and got to rub shoulders with some of his friends, like Gary Berger and Barry and Cathy Beck. And we learned to tie flies.

Don MacLean died in the spring of 1997. Not long after getting the news, I found myself thinking of him as I fished the Lower Kinni and caught and released some fine wild brown trout on flies I had tied. Like the fish that is hooked by the fly when it comes from the vise, I had been hooked too.

Mike Edgerly, of St. Paul, MN is the managing editor of Minnesota Public Radio news.

Tying: A Personal History

By John Koch

"...my hook wound with memories, I cast to the shadows of my past beneath the sliding river..."

Flytying has always been a pursuit of the impossible for me. As a child, a favorite rainy afternoon activity was to go through my father's fishing tackle. That I was a dull kid notwithstanding, I remember the dusty hours I spent out in the garage, snooping into his cork-lined tackle boxes, prying open the old metal Perrine flyboxes and rummaging through his trout flies. Holding each one up in awe, I had a dim idea that each had a name and it's own stories to tell,

fueled in part by Sunday afternoons with Curt Gowdy and reading *Field & Stream* articles. I can now recognize some of the patterns with which my Dad fished: the Black Gnat (his particular favorite), the Woolly Bugger, and my favorite at the time, the Royal Coachman.

It was one of those magazine articles that suggested that I, too, could tie my own trout flies. As a 12-year-old without access to money is likely to do, I had tried making various pieces of sporting equipment, with varying degrees of success. My projects act to this day as bookmarks to my past: a dugout canoe (the rotting remnant's can still be found in the woods behind my parent's house), an arsenal of hunting knives shaped from rusty pieces of metal, a home-made black powder rifle that luckily never actually fired...

But never trout flies. Like algebra (which continues to be a mystery to me), tying a fly seemed to me so horribly complex, so terribly intricate, that it was much easier to filch them from my father.

Dad was never much of a fly tier, either. Growing up on a farm in northern Wisconsin during the '30s left little time to fish his beloved Wolf River, much less time to learn to tie flies. Later in his life, when he had me, he bought his flies, which I, being young and broke, would continue to swipe until I left home.

It wasn't until many years later that my interest in tying really took hold.

A tour of duty with the U.S. Marines and seven years of college took me out of the area long enough to decide that it was here that I belonged. Upon moving back, I was naturally drawn to a local group of fellow fly fishermen, some of whom would get together and tie their own flies. It was at one of these "events" that I watched in amazement as one of the younger fellows tied a tiny dry fly and gave it to me. This simple act of kindness has taught me an important lesson: jealousy is a terrible driving force that no one can resist, and will drive a person to heinous acts such as spending time in sewing stores and collecting road kill. (I still have the fly - that "tiny" dry was in reality a #10 Light Cahill - but at the time, it looked like a speck of dandruff)

With a borrowed worn-out vise, a supply of gold Eagle Claw hooks out of my warm water tackle box and some materials stolen from my new wife's sewing basket, I began to tie flies, determined to master the craft as I thought my young friend had. Twelve years later I find myself still in pursuit of the impossible. Those early flies

were long ago razor-bladed back into hooks, to be used for what they were originally intended - lazy afternoons of dunking worms over the side of a boat.

Since I started tying, I've razor-bladed a pretty good number of flies into oblivion. Never content with the ordinary, I like to experiment with new patterns and materials. Part of this comes from genuine curiosity, but a large part comes from being "frugal with materials" (some would say "cheap"). If a cheaper substitute exists, I'll use it. Out of a dozen or so likely candidates that I'll tie over the course of a winter, I'll be lucky if one or even two will earn their keep over the season and become trout flies.

The latest impossible that I've conquered has been a woven-bodied fly. Several years ago, I read an article in *Fly Fisherman* on the subject by a young Norwegian woman by the name of Torril Kolbul. It was interesting, but at the time it looked like the technique was beyond my abilities (far from the truth, as I found out later - it's easy!). After spending a couple hours with a large hook and some chenille, I've been able to tie down to a #16 caddis hook with silk floss. The floss at first disintegrated as I worked with it; I now run it through dubbing wax first. I've also experimented with micro-chenille, larvae-lace, tinsel, turkey tail-feather fibers, crystal flash - anything long enough and flexible enough can be used. The technique involves weaving two strands of material in a precise pattern of knots around the hook shank, producing a segmented fly body that is slightly flattened - in much the same way a natural nymph body is. The stonefly nymphs I've tied this winter look particularly promising.

The next impossible to solve? I'm entertaining the thought of actually tying Atlantic salmon flies. I am pretty confident I will never go Atlantic salmon fishing (any trip to eastern Canada will be in pursuit of brook trout), and so trying to tie one has been a truly humiliating experience. My attempts usually turn out to be expensive, sad caricatures when compared to a properly "dressed" salmon fly. Steeped in the ancient traditions of our sport, meticulously crafted, these flies almost drip with the same nostalgia that drew me to fly tying in the first place. Looking at a collection of traditional Atlantic salmon flies is like opening one of my father's fly boxes again for the first time.

John Koch, a Wisconsin resident, is a Kiap-TU-Wish board member and a frequent contributor to RipRap.

Skip's Loose Threads

Dubbing with Feathers

by Skip James

A few years ago, fly tiers discovered that CDC, 'cul de canard' or 'duck-butt' was a super winging material, and there were many magazine articles describing methods of working with the stuff. These most often recommended tying on bunches of whole CDC feathers in a clump, then trimming with a scissors to get the desired shape. At the time, I remember trying to wind CDC on a hook in typical hackle-fashion with little success. The stuff was simply too flimsy to take the pressure of either fingers or hackle pliers without coming apart. My next experiment involved tearing CDC fibers from the stem and dubbing them directly onto my tying thread, which was wound to produce a rough body that was then trimmed up with scissors. That worked well, and has led me to discover many ways that feather dubbing can be used to produce realistic, diaphanous bodies for wet flies and nymphs, imitations that have a remarkable breathing quality in the water, the "appearance of life" as John Atherton put it. Many kinds of feathers can be used as dubbing material, but the most successful are soft and fluffy, particularly Marabou and Ostrich herls, as well as CDC. The simplest way to prepare feather dubbing is to pull or cut the fibers from the central stem, being careful not to include the stiff part where each fiber meets the stem. Dub each pinch of feather fibers directly onto the thread, and wind it on immediately. I use no moisture or wax other than that which is impregnated in my 6/0 or 8/0 Danville nylon. Gradually build the body on the hook shank. When complete, use a dubbing teaser to roughen and pull out fibers, and then, with scissors, trim the result. I once used Velcro to roughen feather bodies, but it wasn't a precise enough tool. The result should look like a 'haze' of fibres around a slim central core. Feather dubbed bodies and fur-dubbed bodies have much in common. Feather dubbing tends to lie closer to the hook shank than fur dubbing, probably because the material is much softer and compresses better. They can be ribbed in the same way as fur dubbed bodies. Some interesting and convincing effects can be created by ribbing with feather stems, with contrasting herls from Peacock or Ostrich, Goose biots or Crystal Flash. Ostrich herl makes wonderful gills on Stonefly nymphs. Feather dubbing also takes Pantone or other waterproof marker colors readily. With the exception of CDC, feather dubbing is extremely absorbent. This makes it suited to sinking imitations, particularly those life forms that actively swim or undulate in the water: Baetis or Hexagenia nymphs, Scuds, Leeches, Caddis or Midge pupae. Feather dubbing does a

better job than fur in holding minute air bubbles when you want to imitate diving insects, such as egg-laying Caddis or Baetis species.

Unfortunately, preparing quantities of feather dubbing can be a messy business. Bits of feather float in the air like pollen in the Spring. You may want to put a simple dust mask over your nose and mouth and consider doing your chopping and blending in a place that's easy to vacuum after you're through. Experiment with mixing colors, and also incorporating firmer feathers into a soft Marabou base (the equivalent of guard hairs in soft fine fur).

Here are a few patterns, useful in the pre-season, that will give you some practice with feather dubbing materials, and will hopefully inspire you to experiment on your own:

Black Caddis Pupa:

Hook: Tiemco 2457, #14

Thread: 8/0 black

Abdomen: Kelly Green Marabou, dubbed

Rib: Fine copper wire

Collar: One turn of Gray phase Grouse breast feather

Head: Black Marabou, dubbed in front of the collar

CDC/Marabou Baetis Emerger:

Hook: Tiemco 2487, #18

Thread: 8/0 brown

Tail/Shuck: a few fibres of dark brown Zelon or Antron, tied short

Abdomen: dark brown dubbed Marabou

Wings: clump of dark gray CDC

Slim Leech (pictured below):

Hook: Tiemco 5263, #10

Bead: Black, 1/8"

Thread: 6/0 Black

Weight: Fine lead wire on the front half of the shank

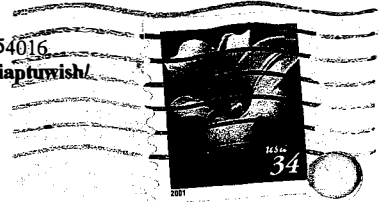
Tail: Short Clump of black Marabou

Body: Black Marabou dubbing

Rib: Fine copper wire or red Crystal Flash



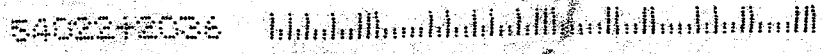
Skip James, of St. Mary's Point, MN is the principal keyboardist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He is a long-time Kiap-TU-Wish member and a former editor of RipRap, to which he now contributes regularly.



Down the mountain, the river flows,
and it brings refreshing wherever it goes;
Through the valleys and over the fields,
the river is rushing, and the river is here.

The river of God sets our feet to dancing,
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer;
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
and we rejoice, for the river is here.

from **THE RIVER IS HERE** by Andy Park
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MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:
MARCH 7: Business Meeting and Heath Beneke, WIDNR on the Eau Galle River project.
APRIL 4: Fly Tiers
MAY 2: Rush River Survey Results

DEADLINE FOR ARIL RIPRAP: FRIDAY, MARCH 23
THEME: TALES FROM THE REGULAR SEASON
(SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE E-MAIL ADDRESS AT TOP OF THE PAGE OR CONTACT THE EDITOR)