

# RipRap

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

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## MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

The annual chapter business meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at Bob Smith's Sports Club. There are three board seats to be filled. Bob Lorenzen will be stepping down from his board seat and Hans Jung will be standing for election to Bob's seat. Kent Johnson's and Hap Lutter's terms are up and both have agreed to run for another term. There will be a discussion of the year's expenditures and a Treasurer's report and discussion of the plans for the summer. With the early season open, you can fish in the afternoon and join us at 6 for dinner and 7 for the meeting.

*-Greg Dietl  
President of Kiap-TU-Wish*

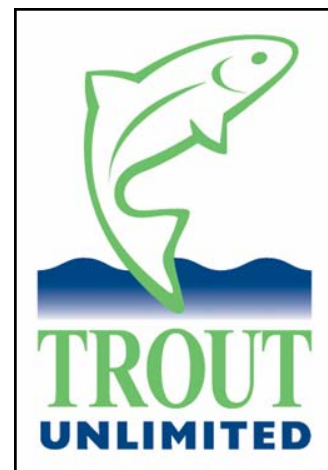


Photo by Andy Lamberson

**This is just one of the fun and interesting predicaments that can occur while working on stream improvement projects. If you'd like to see more of this type of fun and excitement just go to one of the Chapter's Work Days. Check the Kiap-TU-Wish web site for more information.**

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## **PRESIDENT'S LINES**

BY GREG DIETL

### **Pine Creek Update**

This is being written on Friday, February 15, the eve of the first brushing project on Pine Creek in 2008 in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this project this summer. The brushing was scheduled for Feb 9 but bad weather predictions caused postponement. Tomorrow's forecast looks great. The project plans are moving along very well as is the financing. The chapter received a \$5000 grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation; \$2000 from Friends of Wisconsin TU; and \$10,000 from the TU National Embrace-A-Stream (EAS). We've been very fortunate to receive fully funded grants two consecutive years by both Friends and Embrace-A-Stream. We still have three grants pending that look promising; but I'm not counting the dollars until they're in the bank. More on that next month.

Former chapter President and current Secretary Gary Horvath wrote both of the successful Embrace-A-Stream grants and has done an outstanding job. In my discussions with the EAS committee members concerning our funding, both of them commented on how well these proposals were done.

Thank you, Gary, on behalf of the chapter, for stepping up and writing these two grants; they amount to \$20,000 that we were able to put into the Pine Creek project.

With the funding falling into place and with good volunteer turnouts, we should be able to finish the project this year. Plans are for over 3000 feet above last year's project and possibly for some work downstream from last year's end point where there is still some stream gradient.

### **Donation received**

The chapter received a cash donation from Tom Prin of Minnesota to show his appreciation for the chapter's work and especially for the work on Pine Creek. In Tom's words... "I'm an avid trout fisherman who frequents your territory a lot. You folks do a great job... Love that Pine Creek area!" Thank you Tom.

### **Sarah Sanford recognized at Wisconsin TU Banquet**

The Wisconsin TU State Council recognized Sarah for her 4 years of work organizing the annual Rush River Cleanup and awarded her the Unsung Most Valuable Trout Award at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet in Steven's Point. Sarah's accomplishments with the Cleanup serve as an example of what one person can do when they decide something needs to be done and then does it. Sarah's volunteer work on stream projects, banquet setup, and fly tying were also acknowledged. Sarah spoke highly of Kiap-TU-Wish upon her acceptance and we are lucky and proud that she is a member. Congratulations Sarah on receiving this well deserved award.

### **John Sours receives award at Wisconsin TU Banquet**

You all know John. We know he's the best there is and the State Council gave John the DNR Professional of the Year Award. Just list the projects John has been involved in: Cady Creek, Eau Galle, Tiffany Creek, Gilbert Creek, Elk Creek, Kinnickinnic, South Fork of the Kinnickinnic, Rush River, Pine Creek. Often being in two places at the same time, I swear, he's managed to get these projects done. He has also been a mastermind in getting the dollars needed for these projects. John received the Chapter's Silver Trout Award this year and now has the recognition of the State Council. Congratulations to John for his outstanding accomplishments preserving our cold water resources.

### **Welcome to new chapter members**

Welcome to the following new chapter members: Randolph Geissler, Don Klein, Arby Linder, Bob Ringgenberg, and Tom Henderson.

President's Lines Continued on Page 3

## **KIAP-TU-WISH OFFICERS**

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## SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

As I am writing this, there are exactly two weeks until the catch and release trout season begins in Wisconsin. I suspect that many of you who are reading this are extremely excited for the season to begin. It is exciting for me to know that I will soon be able to go fishing, even if I probably won't have any time to fish for a couple of months. Just knowing that I could go if given the chance is very reassuring to me. But, instead, I will be spending the majority of my time during the next couple months either working on homework or working on our basement. I have two goals for this spring: First, to finish up the 19 credits that I need to finally graduate from college; and second, to get our basement refinished so I can throw myself a big graduation party in it in June. We finally started putting up the sheetrock on the ceiling today, so things are moving along nicely in the basement. And school's not going too badly, either, if you don't count Intro to Literature. Turns out I'm not a big fan of 19<sup>th</sup> century poetry. Oh well.

For those of you who will be trout fishing in the next couple of months, check out Jon Jacob's article on flies for the early season in the Fly Tying Corner. Jon is a superb angler and fly tier, and he's written a wonderful article showcasing some of his favorite flies for March and April. Check it out on page 4.

Speaking of the Fly Tying Corner, I received notes from several people who were excited about having a monthly article dedicated to the art of tying. I've even received a couple of tying-related articles that will be in upcoming issues. But I can always use more submissions. If you have a favorite fly or tying technique that you'd like to share, send me an article. It doesn't need to be long. I can even photograph your fly for you if you don't have the proper photographic equipment. Drop me a line at [scott@yes-tech.com](mailto:scott@yes-tech.com).

Good luck if you get out to fish soon. I'll see you out on the water later this spring. Talk to you next month!



## President's Lines Continued from Page 2

### **Expo volunteers needed**

We still need volunteers to staff the Expo booth on March 14, 15 and 16. Friday setup looks good but we need some hands for Sunday and take down. Send me an email if you want to help.

### **Chapter member injured**

Chapter member Bob Diesch was injured while doing some brushing on Pine Creek on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Here's Bob description of what happened: "I jumped off a downed tree (approx 2 ft) to get out of the way of a branch I just cut. I came down while rotating and twisted my knee. The damage is a fractured tibia. They are going to operate next Thursday to put the pieces back together. A standard procedure. I should be walking 6 weeks after surgery. Prescribed physical therapy: A summer of long hours of trout fishing with a brace. Crutches will get me by in the meantime."

Fortunately, Randy Arnold was working with Bob that day and was able to sled him out of the woods and get him to a hospital. Bob could not walk or drive. Between Randy and Andy Lamberson, they were able to shuttle vehicles back and forth after the trip to the hospital. We all wish Bob a speedy recovery.

### **Bob Lorenzen stepping down from Board of Directors**

Bob Lorenzen is stepping down from his seat on the Board of Directors. I want to thank Bob for his time on the board and his commitment to the chapter. Bob has been a dedicated volunteer on projects with a real knack for problem solving and keeping projects moving. This is not goodbye, he's still a member and we'll see him at meetings and projects.



## FLY TYING CORNER: THE EARLY SEASON

BY JONATHAN JACOBS

Fly photography by Scott Hanson

**2008** marks the twelfth continuous year of a catch-and-release-only early season in Wisconsin. It opens on the first Saturday in March. That's March 1 this year, so the season is as long as it ever gets. This season, especially during the first few years, occasioned some controversy. Landowners, in particular, weren't necessarily keen on having anglers tromping about on their land for two additional months. Most of that seems to be behind us now, but it always pays to seek permission to angle on non-public lands. Too, there's a lot of stream mileage in public ownership or easement that is more readily accessible before streamside foliage emerges and you might like to direct your efforts there.

What I like best about March and April angling—even more than relief from cabin fever—is that it's simply different than it is in high season. There's a stark beauty on the land, there are surprisingly good insect hatches of bugs we don't see later on and, obviously, the weather is different. I also like seeing the fishing progress from a deep dredging affair to surprisingly nice dry fly action.

I've selected seven patterns from my early season fly box that may illustrate how varied the approach to early season angling may be. They are: the Pink Squirrel, a specialized Pheasant Tail Nymph, the Ray Charles Nymph, the KU Stone Fly, a Palm Emerger, a parachute olive and a Harrop hair-winged dun.

The **Pink Squirrel** is, even for a down and dirty veteran like me, an abomination. What it might imitate, other than a mutant fish egg or irradiated scud, is beyond me. However, it does take fish. It gets down deep and is visible in cloudy water (although it catches fish at a brisk rate in crystal clear water as well). Because it gets down so well, it makes a good point fly when trailed by a small, dark nymph.

### PINK SQUIRREL

**Hook:** Daiichi 1120, size 12  
**Thread:** 6/0 UniThread, orange  
**Bead:** 5/32" dia. bright brass  
**Tail:** Two short length of pearl Krystal Flash  
**Rib:** Medium copper wire  
**Abdomen:** SLF fox squirrel  
**Collar:** Fluorescent pink chenille



Pheasant tail nymphs have been taking trout since the day English riverkeeper Frank Sawyer fished the first one. My favorite variation is what I call a **BHSHPTN**, shorthand for **Bead Head Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail Nymph**.

### BHSHPTN

**Hook:** Daiichi 1550, size 14  
**Thread:** 8/0 UniThread, orange  
**Bead:** 1/8" dia. copper plated tungsten  
**Rib:** Fine copper wire  
**Tail and abdomen:** Five dyed orange pheasant tail fibers  
**Thorax:** Peacock herl  
**Hackle:** Two turns grouse or other soft hackle



**Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail Nymph.** Along with countless thousands of other folks, I invented this fly. Well, that's a huge stretch, but I did decide on my own to tie it with dyed orange pheasant tail and a copper bead (The bead is now copper plated tungsten. The extra density of the tungsten often allows me to dispense with shot on the leader) on the "scientific" assumption that orange is a fishy color.

I'm told that Bighorn River guides developed the **Ray Charles nymph** as cress bug imitation. I don't know about that, but I do know that it's extraordinarily simple to tie and that it catches fish. I had once had an odd experience with this fly on a Minnesota trout stream early in the year. The stream carried wild brown trout and stocked rainbows. I fished the RC, as it's sometimes called, as a trailer behind a BHSHPTN. Both flies caught fish, but the pheasant tail mostly caught dummy

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“Early Season” Continued From Page 4

rainbows, while the RC mostly caught the supposedly discriminating wild browns. I usually fish the fly, which is unweighted, behind a weighted trailer.

Sometime in the last half of March and on into part of April, our local rivers produce a couple of different stonefly hatches. One of these flies is tiny, but the other is a fair-sized bug. Murry Humble ties a beautiful nymph that imitates the larger insect, but I seize on its appearance to do my first dry fly fishing of the year. I’m unsure of the biology and natural history of this critter, but it looks to me as though their behavior that gets the fish going has something to do with egg-laying. The bugs skitter about on the surface of the water and even dive and pop up again. I tie and fish what is essentially a Hemingway caddis tied with a black body and chartreuse egg sac, a long, sparse wing of black deer hair and with a slightly undersized dun hackle that I call a **KU Stonefly**. I’ll tell you what “KU” stands for some day.

**RAY CHARLES**

**Hook:** 1550 Daiichi, size 16  
**Thread:** Fluorescent red  
**Shellback:** 1/8” pearlescent Mylar  
**Body:** Tan ostrich herl, palmered



**KU STONEFLY**

**Hook:** Tiemco 100, size 14  
**Thread:** 6/0 UniThread, black  
**Egg sac:** One turn chartreuse or yellow micro chenille  
**Abdomen:** Black dry fly dubbing  
**Wing:** Black deer hair tied slightly long and slightly sparse  
**Hackle:** Dun or badger, slightly undersized.



**PALM EMERGER**

**Hook:** Tiemco 100, size 18  
**Thread:** 8/0 UniThread, olive  
**Tail:** Barred wood duck fibers  
**Abdomen:** Olive goose biot  
**Thorax:** Olive dry fly dubbing  
**Hackle:** Dun hen hackle



I found the **Palm Emerger** pattern, a blue winged olive imitation in John Gierach’s book *Good Flies*. I like it because it’s simple to tie, durable and, while it floats low in meniscus as a good emerger should, it remains fairly buoyant as it’s fished. The book suggests tying it on a Tiemco 200R hook, a pretty little curved shank number, but I generally tie it on a standard size 18 dry fly hook.

“Early Season” Continued on Page 6

**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!

February 26th	Andy Lamberson giving Pine Creek presentation to TCTU
March 1st	Pine Creek Brushing Catch & Release Trout Season Opens– Wis.
March 5th	CHAPTER MEETING– Annual Business Meeting
March 14, 15, & 16	Great Waters Expo
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

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

**“EARLY SEASON” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

Parachute flies have the advantage of floating low like a natural insect, but Jim Humphrey points out that they are effective in part because the user can track the fly on the water and can thus, perhaps even sub-consciously, create a more natural drift. The **Parachute BWO** pattern shown here is dead-conventional except for the fuchsia post. My tired old eyes appreciate its high visibility, particular on those dark and even rainy days when olives seem to hatch most prolifically. I’ve seen olives in March hereabouts and there are strong hatches in April.

**PARACHUTE BWO**

- Hook:** Tiemco 100, size 18
- Thread:** 8/0 UniThread, olive
- Tail:** Coq de Leon fibers
- Abdomen:** Olive dry dubbing
- Post:** Fuchsia HiViz or other bright synthetic
- Hackle:** Dun



**HARROP HAIR WING BWO**

- Hook:** Tiemco 100, size 18
- Thread:** 8/0 UniThread, olive
- Tail:** Coq de Leon fibers
- Abdomen:** Olive dry fly dubbing
- Hackle:** Champagne, silver badger or dun trimmed flat across bottom
- Thorax:** Olive dry fly dubbing with hackle wound over it
- Wing:** Dun coastal deer hair.



The last olive imitation here is a **hair wing dun** as developed by René Harrop. I think it presents one of the most realistic silhouettes of any mayfly imitation. The one minor trick to tying them is to tie in the hackle at about the halfway point of the body. Finish the body, wind the hackle forward and tie it off. Tie in the wing and you’re done.

You’ll notice that I haven’t made any mention of midge patterns. While midges are an important trout food in the early season, I’ve never gotten under way as a midge fisherman, despite numerous attempts. Perhaps one of you can enlighten me and the rest of us on how it’s done.



**SPRING APPEAL**

BY HAP LUTTER

To the right are the categories and individuals who responded to the 2007 Spring Appeal. If I have left any out or mis-categorized you please let me know so I can have a correction made.

Last year we had modest goals and almost met them. Our goal of raising \$4500 was met but the participation goal of 28% of the membership was missed. We had 25% of the members contributing.

We are launching our 2008 Spring Appeal in mid March-after you all have had a chance to get into the water and reignite your passion for the waters of western Wisconsin. After this occurs our goal is to have 33% of you, our members, make a contribution to the Spring Appeal.



\$35-\$49	\$50-\$99	\$100-\$199
Alberts, Vernon Anderson, Dennis Battey, Tom Bieraugel, Robert Bruski, Dan Bump, Jeff Carver, Loren Christiansen, Tim Christiansen, Robert Davis, Peter Diesch, Robert Ducklow, Thomas Ebensperger, Gary Forward, Eric Goossen, Chuck Hippel, Doug Jacobs, Jon Jackson, Eric Judge, Eric Jung, Hans Klous, Jason LeBreck, Carol Loida, Barb	Madsen, Brian Neary, Paul Nelson, Jerry Orensteen, Bruce Wright, Paul Zaudke, Ron	Adams, Bob Alwin, Mike Ballman, Dave Bristol, Gerald Douglas, David Drutowski, Mark Dunder, Keith Hennessy, Tim Johnson, Kent Lamberson, Andy Lindholm, Richard Lorenzen, Bob Mackmiller, Ted Nichols, Hudson Quinn, Paul Richardson, Gary Sanford, Sarah & Collins, Mike Schmitt, Tom Schnadt, Tom Torres, Bob Wiesner, Bob
		Arnold, Randy Ausemus, Don Benson, John Bradham, Bob Carr, John Christensen, Jeffery Dietl, Greg Horvath, Gary Humphrey, Jim Lovegren, Bill Means, Steve Nelson, Tracy Payne, Steve Schoenwetter, Jim Sittlow, Brent Westcott, Nick Wiemerslage, Paul
		<b>\$200+</b> Lutter, Hap Kaemmer, Art Wilkening, Dan

## HIGH-TECH: LOW-TECH

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

The summer 2007 issue of *Trout* included an article, “High-Tech Tools for Tracking Trout”, that reminded me of a winter day on the upper reaches of the Kinnickinnic when the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter was cutting brush, removing obstacles from the stream and burning the heaps of debris. Chain saws were howling when I joined a couple of guys at bankside who were cutting and hauling brush. I saw that winter work was cold, dirty, difficult, probably dangerous, and perhaps ennobling. I exchanged names with Art Kaemmer and Ivan Schloff. Later I learned they were physicians in specialties that required the use of two dexterous hands. I decided that if two doctors could engage in grunt work to save trout, Kiap-TU-Wish was a chapter that I wanted to work with.

I am not a Luddite, but I believe that high-tech is not an unmixed blessing. A scientist in a lab collecting electronic bits fed to him from a chip implanted in a trout, and transferred to a high-flying airplane or satellite, might lose the human, hands-on connection with another living creature.

Last summer, my son-in-law, John Vollrath, a member of the Frank Hornberg chapter, and I stood on Rolling Hills Road at the bridge over the Tomorrow River. A volunteer crew from the chapter was installing a lunger structure and implanting boulders midstream to break the flow and create pockets for trout. On the left bank, three or four members were rolling a huge rock downhill, using an unusual claw made of welded steel or pipe. It fit over the top of the boulder like an upside-down basket. Basket up I suppose it might serve as a skid to pull rocks in to place. I had seen it in use a couple of years earlier and remarked on the creative genius, Bud Nehring, who had designed and welded it. The claw is a remarkable low-tech tool. Note: there is some danger when rolling rocks downhill because rocks and boulders respond to gravity.

Low-tech trout stream rehabilitation must appeal to folks who want to dig in the dirt, make friends of persons with differing experiences, protect the environment and connect with the natural world. We should tell our friends that there is more to fishing for trout than catching them; and we welcome all hands.




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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.

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Members of the Frank Hornberg Chapter of TU using “the claw” to install boulders in the Tomorrow River

Photo by Jim Humphrey





KIAP-TU-WISH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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

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***Don't miss the March meeting!!***

It's the Annual Business Meeting! Come to hear what's going on in the chapter and have your voice heard in the Board Member elections.

The meeting starts at 7 PM, but you can join us for dinner at 6 PM. See you there!  
Wednesday, March 5th 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 April RipRap is March 19th, 2008