



RipRap

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 NOVEMBER, 2008

NOVEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

Richard Gauger, Executive Director of the West Wisconsin Land Trust since November, 1999, will be the guest speaker at the November chapter meeting. Richard has a BS degree from the University of Minnesota in Agronomy and an MS in Soil Science from North Carolina State. Before joining the land trust he spent 10 years as an operator of a grass based organic dairy farm. The chapter has been an active partner with the WWLT for the last 2 years on Pine Creek. Richard will discuss many of the activities of the land trust protecting and conserving land throughout western Wisconsin. Please join us on Wednesday, November 5, Bob Smith's Sports Club, 6 for dinner 7 for meeting and presentation.



Richard Gauger



- Greg Dietl



Photo by Scott Hanson



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PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

Chapter Gift Donation to the KRLT

Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and watersheds is the stated mission of Trout Unlimited. Kiap-TU-Wish has been actively involved in all aspects of this mission. Over the past years the chapter has worked on restoration projects on the Kinnickinnic River, Tiffany Creek, Rush River, South Fork of the Kinnickinnic, Gilbert Creek and Pine Creek. We have made significant financial contributions to purchase the Swinging Gate land on the Kinnickinnic, the Jake's easements on the Rush River and the Bjurquist property on Pine Creek.

Three years ago the Board of Directors authorized the chapter to dedicate up to \$3,000 per year for two years from the chapter's annual spring appeal fund raising efforts to contribute to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust's major capital campaign. This campaign is designed to raise funds to purchase land or easements for conservation throughout the Kinnickinnic River watershed.

KRLT Executive Director Nelson French outlined the capital campaign at the October chapter meeting. In his presentation, Mr. French showed past purchases within the watershed. He also showed some of the proposed purchases of the current capital campaign. One of the proposed purchases is the Lyle and Roberta Johnson property. At the October meeting the chapter presented the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust with a check for \$6,000 for the capital campaign. The chapter has allocated this gift to be used for the purchase of the Lyle and Roberta Johnson property. The property is located in the upper portion of the Kinnickinnic Canyon and includes 1,720 feet of scenic, undeveloped shoreline from which no building or structure is visible during any time of the year from any point along the river. There are significant areas of oak savanna and goat/bluff prairies. When combined with other proposed properties, it will total 3,630 feet of undeveloped shoreline.



Without the conservation and protection of land in our watersheds, little else in our mission can be accomplished. The activities of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust have been vital in protecting the beauty and integrity of the Kinnickinnic River. The chapter is very pleased to have made this investment in the healthy future of the watershed.

Pine Creek Update

Work on Pine Creek this year yielded big results. The summer project completed 1660 feet of the main stem, 520 feet of the north spring tributary and 173 feet of the south spring tributary for a linear total of 2353 feet. Both sides of the bank were completed, therefore a total of 4706 feet of stream bank were restored. In addition, over 8.3 acres was graded, seeded and erosion mulched. Fairmount Minerals volunteers contributed 265 volunteer hours as well a contribution of equipment. Chapter volunteer hours totaled over 700. This was an excellent collaborative effort with Fairmount, the DNR, the WWLT and Kiap-TU-Wish. Restoration work will continue next year when the DNR returns to move upstream.

West Wisconsin Land Trust Pine Creek Native Planting Event

A WWLT sponsored native plant seeding event is scheduled on the 8.3 acre Pine Creek site on November 15. This will be a volunteer event involving the LT, Fairmount Minerals and the chapter. Watch the website for details. Remember, the gales of November may come early.

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SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

Welcome to the first-ever (at least as far as I know) 12 page issue of RipRap! This is not going to be a regular occurrence, however, so please don't expect as many information-packed pages in upcoming issues. This 12-pager was brought about by necessity. You see, I had a conundrum on my hands for the past few months. I had received a wonderful article from chapter member Randy Arnold detailing all of his hard work while repairing the chapter's mulcher that is used on stream work nights. It is a wonderful article, but is much longer than other articles that I have received for publication. I could have broken up Randy's article and published it over 3 or 4 months, but it's my belief that most readers would have trouble recalling the previous month's installment. I know I would have trouble with that. So, I decided to hold on to Randy's article until I had the time to work on an extra-long issue. The time has come, and you can read Mr. Arnold's story beginning on page 5.

I have had great response to my pleas for fly tying articles in the past few months. This month's Fly Tying Corner brings with it a bit of humor from author Perry Palin. If you have ever come to the monthly Kiap-TU-Wish meeting, you have had the chance to win some of Perry's beautifully-tied flies in the monthly drawing. The fly he has written about this month, the Black Horse Fly, is another handsome fly that looks great. Make sure to read the article to find out exactly how to tie this new pattern.

It's almost time for the annual Holiday Banquet. Mike Alwin has written about the upcoming festivities. Look for it on page 9, and be sure to read all of the other articles, as well. This extra-long issue is packed to the brim with interesting chapter information that you won't want to miss. Have a happy Thanksgiving later this month, and I'll see you next month.



President's Lines continued from Page 2

Lamberson Leaving

Chapter member and board member Andy Lamberson will be moving to Winona, MN for employment reasons. Andy's departure will leave a hole in the chapter. Andy is an extraordinary chapter member. He has been president, vice president, board member, webmaster, Pine Creek coordinator with Fairmount Minerals, grant writer, the list goes on. Personally, I will miss him greatly. He's a friend, mentor and dynamic force in the chapter. That being said, he is only going to Winona; in his words, "50 miles from Pine Creek". He will remain a chapter member and has said he will continue as webmaster. He just won't be around as much. We wish Andy and his family the very best in their move.

Another Move

Chapter member Bill Woods will be moving to California, again for employment reasons. I'll never forget Bill motoring into the Tiffany Creek project on a very cold January Saturday in his Mini Cooper with a steaming pot of chili for the volunteers. We were not sure his Cooper would make through the snow and stream but, it did and the volunteers were hungry and grateful. The best of luck to Bill in his move.

Welcome New Member

The chapter welcomes new member Terry Stephan.



FILL THE BOX CHALLENGE

BY SCOTT HANSON

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

Chad Borenz
9031 79th Street South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651.261.8277
chadborenz@gmail.com

Chad would like to thank the following people who have already donated some flies for this very worthy endeavor:

Jim Humphrey
Sarah Sanford

Vern Alberts
Ron Zaudke

Bob Torres
Joseph Meyer

Bob Trevis

Let's try to get this box filled quickly so that we can raise some much needed funding for the chapter! You can send your flies directly to Chad at the address above, or bring them to the next chapter meeting to

give them to him personally. If Chad doesn't happen to be there, you can give them to me or any Board member, and we'll make sure they get to Chad and in the box. Thanks!



Photo by Chad Borenz



ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

BY RANDY ARNOLD

An opportunity is what I am referring to here and a golden one at that. I have always been passionate about pitching in and helping out with volunteer efforts, especially ones which dovetail so perfectly with both my skill set and interests. In this particular case, the opportunity manifested itself in the form of a piece of machinery owned by the Wisconsin DNR and used by John Sours, his crew, and Kiap-TU-Wish members, for restoration work on streams in the western Wisconsin area. I have been a fly fisherman for 45 years, a trout fisherman for over 20 years, and a member of Kiap-TU-Wish for about 4 years. It was the dedication of chapter members and their “hands on” work to improve stream habitat in their region which first attracted me to the chapter and gave me cause to join. Having stumbled across chapter handiwork in my fishing excursions to Wisconsin, I was prompted to do some internet research which led me to the Kiap website and ultimately to my first chapter meeting.

The first Kiap project to which I lent a hand was the winter brushing project on Tiffany Creek. Gilbert and Pine Creek work followed in subsequent years. Commuting over to Wisconsin all the way from Minnetonka for fishing or working, I feel guilty if I don't make a full day of it in order to justify the 2 1/2-3 hr round trip drives. My first year as a Kiap-TU-Wish member, I didn't make it to a single warm weather stream improvement event, reasoning that my time on the stream with a rod in hand was just too limited to be passed over for work. The following summer, I responded to one of Greg's pleas for help with the seeding/mulching on the South Fork of the Kinni. That evening brought me my first close encounter with the Agrimetal Straw Mulcher. This machine is used to mulch and spread a cover layer of straw over newly reseeded areas to afford some protection to the soil/seeds until they have germinated and taken root.

I checked with John to get a little bit of the history behind this machine before starting work on this article. The serial number plate on the mulcher puts its year of manufacture at 1979. John traced the ownership of the machine back as far as the Black River office of the DNR. It was the crew there which took this semi-portable (designed to be taken in and out of a pickup bed) machine and affixed it to the “trailer” (I use the term loosely) on which it resided until my restoration this past winter. My guess is that the crew at Black River grew tired of hefting this 560 lb machine in and out of a truck and found a cheap trailer which someone had cobbled together on which to mount the machine. Those cobbled parts consisted of a front axle, leaf springs, hubs, wire spoke wheels and tires from a 1938 Pontiac along with a bed/box which was fabricated from some old angle iron and boards. When I first saw the trailer, I was convinced that the balding tires with sun rotted sidewalls dated back as far as the Pontiac. From Black River, the mulcher made its way to a stint at Devil's Lake State park before finally ending up in the hands of the Trout Crew down in La Crosse, Wisconsin. When La Crosse passed the machine along to John in 2003, \$1,500-\$2,000 worth of repairs were needed just to make it operational again. Wind the clock forward now to 2006 and, as I stood in front of the machine at the South Fork, I would have been hard pressed to believe that this machine had ever had any more than just band aid, bubble gum or duct tape fixes at any time in recent history. The only thing that looked of value was the 11 hp Honda engine which powered the beast. Despite its appearance and all of its obvious shortcomings, the machine worked like magic that evening as a crew of 6-7 volunteers were able to mulch the large area which we had seeded earlier that evening. With Greg riding atop the trailer, bale after bale of straw were fed into the rotating drum, which in turn fed them into the spinning knife blades before being sucked in by the

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fan and blown out over the job site. It was by no means “a well oiled machine” as parts rattled and scraped together in unharmonious fashion. At the end of the evening, I felt relieved just to be leaving in one piece and not having been maimed by some errant piece or part which could have been hurled from this spinning contraption.



Photo by Gary Richardson

At some point in the evening, I recall that the mulcher stopped working and John Jacobs fixed it with a piece of baler wire or something. The transmission gave out that evening on the ATV which was towing the mulcher, probably due to the weight of the mulcher/trailer and the 3 adults riding topside. Having worked as a welder, machinist, and mechanical/design engineer for a number of years, I knew that I had both the skills and the time necessary to restore this machine to its former glory. I saw this as an opportunity where I could bring the unit over to my shop and do the necessary work on it; a chance to provide volunteer support without having to leave home to do it. Over beers at the end of the evening, I mentioned to Greg that I would be willing and eager to take on this project and asked him to float my restoration offer past John and see if he would be interested.

John didn't jump at my offer just then for whatever reason. But, in conversations with him at the brushing workdays on Gilbert Creek that next winter, he acknowledged having received my offer. Just to let him know that I was still serious about my offer, I made a point of mentioning it whenever I saw him or corresponded with him. The following summer brought with it the restoration project on Pine Creek. I have always had a passion for fishing on small brook trout streams and didn't want to miss out on a chance to help out with this one. On the evening that seeding /mulching had been scheduled I showed up along with 15-20 other eager volunteers. On the first pass with the seeder mounted on the ATV, the transmission failed again. The mulcher was rendered inoperable that evening when the drive belt conveying power from the Honda engine to the machine shredded itself due to the poor condition of the drive pulleys and the general sorry state of the whole drive train. The volunteers used hand seeders that evening and spread the straw bales around by hand. The inefficiencies of this hand spreading led to a lower yield that evening leaving much of the jobsite unseeded/unmulched. I approached John that evening in this air of frustration and again extended my offer to repair the mulcher over the course of the coming winter. I don't recall if he “took the bait” right then, but, over the course of the coming few months and several email exchanges, John agreed to let me attempt the needed repairs.

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Without a trailer hitch on either of my vehicles, John agreed to have one of his crew deliver the mulcher to my place of employment, Augustine Biomedical & Design in Eden Prairie. The delivery was made on a cold day this past December just as the first snow of the season was falling from the skies. I parked the machine in a corner of our workshop where it sat untouched until late January when I finally found some time to start working on the repairs. Having only seen this machine work on the one occasion at the South Fork for a two hour period some two years earlier, I could not completely grasp of the enormity of the task which lay before me. My initial thoughts were that it might take somewhere in the range of 40-50 hours to complete the work but, as I began to disassemble the pieces and parts of the machine, I realized that every single piece of this machine exhibited signs of excessive wear. Holes in steel plates which had once been round were now elongated to three times their width from the constant grinding of metal against metal. Several key drive pulleys which rotate in excess of 2,000 rpm were cracked or missing chunks. Bushings were worn and bearings had so much slop that the balls were falling out of the races. In several places metal fatigue had led to the breaking of welds and cracks in the frame. As I disassembled the machine, I also came to the realization that this unit had never been designed for easy maintenance or "in the field" service or repair of broken/worn parts. I knew that what was needed here was a re-engineering of major components on the mulcher to make it into the sort of unit which would not be in need of constant repairs. An email which I sent to John at this point hinted at what solutions I had in mind to correct the problems; problems which had been inherent with this machine throughout its history. John responded by giving me the thumbs up to do whatever work I thought necessary to make the machine work again. I designed and fabricated numerous new parts to complete the metamorphosis of the mulcher. In one corner of the shop I had a growing pile of pieces and parts from the original machine which would now be obsolete with the new design. John had given me an operator's manual and parts list which he had gotten with the machine. As I visited the Agrimetal website, I was amazed at how little had changed in the design/construction of this machine over the course of 29 years since this one had been built. All totaled, I ended up spending over 120 hours of my time and about \$650 to complete the restoration project. There were a few engine and bearing parts for the rebuild which I was able to buy at considerable savings through eBay. Several key drive components including some bearings and a timing pulley were donated by a previous employer of mine, Arizant Healthcare. The axle, hubs, springs, and wheels/tires which I used to construct a new trailer were found through a listing on craigslist.com. The steel which I needed to construct the various new pieces, parts, and trailer frame were bought through discount/surplus vendors. At our Kiap-TU-Wish chapter meeting in May, Gary Horvath, a chapter member with "hands on" experience at using the mulcher and knowing of my current restoration work, lobbied for the inclusion of a handle on the machine to aid the rider/operator. His reasoning was persuasive so I included a 'Horvath Handle' on the restored machine. If you never had the chance to see the mulcher either in operation or in a state of breakdown before the transformation, you probably will not fully appreciate the changes which were made. John Sours was pretty much ecstatic in his first email to me after he saw the completed unit and even more so after his crew used it on Elk Creek earlier this summer where it performed flawlessly. The high praise which I received from John has more than compensated for the time and money which I invested in this project. My hope is that the next time John has a piece of equipment in need of an overhaul or repair, I won't have to "fish" for quite as long to catch the opportunity to help.



This is Randy Arnold's first article for RipRap. He has been a member of Kiap-TU-Wish for the past 5 years after spending the majority of his life fly fishing for bass, panfish, and trout. He has two daughters, one in college and one in high school. He is married to his wife, Pat, and they live in Minnetonka not far from Ridgedale Mall. He works as a Design and Manufacturing Engineer for a medical manufacturing company in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

TROUT UNLIMITED ASKS MANUFACTURERS TO ELIMINATE PRODUCTION OF FELT-SOLED WADERS AND EQUIPMENT BY 2011

SALT LAKE CITY –At its annual meeting today, Trout Unlimited (TU) asked fishing equipment manufacturers to stop producing felt-soled waders and wading shoes by 2011 to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) by anglers in America’s rivers and streams.

Many waders, wading boots and shoes used by anglers have felt-soled bottoms that are used to provide traction while walking in water. Felt is a material that transmits aquatic nuisance species such as New Zealand mud snails, the invasive algae called didymo and the parasite that causes whirling disease, a disease fatal to trout. Felt soles can very easily become impregnated with mud and other organic matter, and become difficult or impossible to clean and disinfect.

“While the elimination of felt soles on waders and boots will not entirely prevent the spread of ANS, this action will help reduce the risk and help protect our precious aquatic resources,” said David Kumlien, executive director of the Whirling Disease Foundation. This action will also help make the public more aware of the threat of ANS and hopefully will motivate them to change their behavior and practices related to other aquatic recreational activities that may also contribute to the spread ANS.”

New technology and materials provide viable alternatives to felt. Some manufacturers are already using these newer materials on wading shoes and angling products.

Preventing the proliferation of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) is central to TU’s mission to conserve and protect North America’s trout and salmon fisheries. The impact of ANS to native species is substantial, second only to loss of habitat, and is responsible for causing losses in biodiversity, changes in ecosystems, and impacts on economic enterprises such as agriculture, fisheries, and international trade. The costs of preventing and controlling invasive species are not well understood or documented, but estimates indicate that the costs are quite high.

“It’s like a war on our streams, rivers and lakes, with a new enemy rearing its ugly head each week. First, whirling disease, then mud snails, then some invasive aquatic plant,” said Jack Williams, Trout Unlimited’s senior scientist. “We have to be more aggressive in our battle against the spread of invasive species.”

ANS are present in many rivers, streams and lakes around the country. For example, zebra mussels were first found in Lake St. Clair near Detroit, Michigan in 1986 and now infest waters from Vermont to Oklahoma. Each year \$30 million is spent in the Great Lakes to monitor and control zebra mussels, which are responsible for massive changes in the Great Lakes ecosystem including elimination of native mussels and creating toxic algae blooms. Additionally, zebra mussels are creating significant impacts on Great Lakes fishery resources and fishery restoration efforts. The invasive algae didymo, often called “rock snot”, is present in rivers throughout the country, from the Upper Connecticut River in New Hampshire, to South Dakota’s Rapid Creek. Didymo was first seen in New Zealand, in 2004. The country has placed a ban on felt boots for the upcoming 2008 season. A number of U.S. states where aquatic nuisance species are found have reportedly discussed the possibility of outlawing felt-soled wading equipment.

For more information about invasive species and what anglers can do to prevent the spread of ANS, go to www.tu.org.



ALASKAN GUIDE HEADLINES BANQUET!

BY MIKE ALWIN

The Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4th at the always redoubtable Tartan Park. Alaskan guide, bon vivant, raconteur and bear wrassler Scott Thorpe is our featured speaker. His stirring presentation will feature hair raising tales from the bush...and pictures of large fish.

The evening's social hour and initial silent auction bidding begins at 6:00 pm and guests will be seated for dinner at 7 o'clock. The menu is:

Chicken Chardonnay or Chef Carved Baron of Beef
Strawberry Romaine Salad or Vegetarian Pasta Salad
Oven Roasted Baby Red Potatoes with Rosemary
Fresh Green Beans Almondine with Sweet Red Peppers
Tiger Brownies (double chocolate chips, coconut crust, ice cream and caramel sauce) and coffee

Mr. Thorpe's presentation will follow dinner and the auction will conclude the evening's entertainment at approximately 9:00.

This year the Committee is doing a couple of things to encourage more women to attend. First, we have a couple of experts out soliciting auction items that will appeal specifically to our women. Second, we've lowered the price of the banquet for your wife or girlfriend; \$35 for you and \$30 for her. **The deadline for registering is Noon, Dec. 1st.** Attendance is limited to 110 and the price at the door will be **\$50 per ticket.** To register you may call Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop at 651/770-5854 or Jonathan Jacobs at 715/386-7822.

This is our chapter's only major fundraising event of the year and as usual we rely on the largesse of our chapter members and guests to make this banquet a success. To that end we can report that the swag is already starting to roll in. We've so far collected fly tying kits and books and expect to receive sundry tackle items forthwith. Your donation of artwork, computers, large screen TVs, jewelry or a flourless chocolate cake will perfectly compliment these fantastic donations: a 1938 Martin Herringbone D-28; a vintage 20' Airstream; a 1990 Jaguar convertible. Donations may be dropped off at The Fly Shop until Tuesday, Dec. 2nd. Of course it's possible to bring your donation to the banquet, but the Committee would appreciate the opportunity to organize it before hand and limit the chaos at the banquet. And we're always in need of helpers to set up or tear down so don't be shy about volunteering.



KIAP-TU-WISH AND AIR

BY SKIP JAMES

Recent laws banning smoking in restaurants and bars in Minnesota clearly point to both the public revulsion at the habit of smoking cigarettes, and the clear medical evidence that smoking causes all sorts of diseases. Simply being in the presence of second-hand smoke has life-threatening implications.

This is why I find it so disingenuous that my Trout Unlimited chapter, staunch advocates of a cleaner environment, lobbyists for pollution-free water, should subject their membership every month to

a dose of the filthy, smoke-laden air at Bob Smith's Sports Club.

Are people not as important as trout? I wonder how many more people might come to meetings, if Kiap-TU-Wish held them at some smoke-free place, of which there are many in Hudson. Although there are several smoke-free restaurants in town, I don't believe any of them has a meeting space. But scheduling a meeting doesn't have to involve a restaurant. And I can think of at least three meeting places in Hudson that are centrally located, with media facilities, and are free to boot. If several members wish to eat together, that's their choice. But holding the meeting place hostage to a smoke-filled room just because they serve food is ridiculous, and not at all in keeping with the stated goals and principles of the organization. As a charter member of Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, I have supported TU for years with my time, (I was RipRap Editor for seven years), as well as my money. Just as farm run-off from improperly fertilized fields can kill trout by the thousands when a major storm happens, so exposure to a smoke-filled environment can lead to illness and death in humans. How serious are we about preserving and protecting a clean environment? Why don't we schedule meetings in a healthy place?



FLY TYING CORNER: BLACK HORSE FLY

BY PERRY PALIN

Black Horse Fly

Hook: Daiichi 1270 or equivalent, size 12 or 14

Thread: Chocolate brown. Dark, not milk chocolate

Hackle: Soft Greenwell hen hackle, or natural black hen hackle, slightly oversized

Ribbing: Narrow silver oval tinsel

Body: Spring-shed body hair from a black Tennessee Walking Horse



Attach the thread to the hook, and then tie the hackle feather in by the root end, extended over the hook eye. The appropriate attachment of the hackle is described in James Leisenring's writings about tying soft hackles and flymphs. Bring the thread back to the hook bend, and tie in the tinsel ribbing. Allow the ribbing to idle while the body is applied.

This fly has a medium thick body dubbed with the single thread method, rolling the horse hair around the thread with tips of finger and thumb. The horse hair calls for special mention. It is the fine body hair that is brushed off a Tennessee Walking Horse at the end of winter. The horse must be all black. If during the day the horse spends more than half of its resting hours facing east, then brush the coat of the right shoulder and flank of the animal; the slightly bleached sunny side hair will best complement the ginger and black aspects of the Greenwell hackle, and be attractive to the trout. In the southern hemisphere, brush the coat from the left side of the east-facing horse. If you look out in the winter and see the usually east-facing horse facing west, put on your overshoes and go out and turn him around. If you do not own the horse, ask the owner which way he stands while at rest. A gelding, healthy and middle aged, is much to be preferred over either a stallion or a mare, and much preferred over younger or older horses. Do not be deceived by Thoroughbreds, Arabians, Saddlebreds, or the common Quarter Horse. I believe a Bashkir Curly may serve the purpose, but they are rare and very expensive in the Midwest. This fly is made with the coat of a black Tennessee Walking Horse.

Wind the dubbed thread all the way up to the hackle, and then back about one fifth of the hook shank toward the bend. Counter wind five turns of the tinsel ribbing up to the thread, and then tie off the tinsel.

Wind three open turns of the hackle toward the hanging thread, and then wind several turns of thread up through the hackle to the eye of the hook, in the Leisenring method. The hackle fibers do not all come out from one spot on the hook shank, but radiate from the front one fifth of the body, like an insect's legs attached to its thorax. Whip finish a small head, cut off the thread, apply a coat of head cement, and the fly is done.

On Catscratch Creek, over the last few years, I have averaged seven trout per hour using the Black Horse Fly. There are difficult days when only four trout per hour are caught, but I make up for these on fast fishing days when the only limit on productivity is how long it takes to pull in each fish, release it, and get off another cast. Catscratch Creek is a small stream with a small population of small fish. It is not anything special as a trout stream, but I have been pleased to catch more trout there in the twelve to twenty inch range in the last two years than I have at any other time in my life. I attribute this to the Black Horse Fly.

If you think the Black Horse Fly has any potential where you fish, you might tie some. The fly's only rival, in my opinion, is the newly developed and outstanding Red Horse Fly.



BROKEN WINGS

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

Seeing Ken Hanson again at the February meeting of Kiap-TU-Wish, after so many years, brought into full focus a miserable day on Trout Run in southeastern Minnesota. Accent miserable. It was during the early season, March probably, with snow in the shadows, ice on the margins and a blow of nasty sleet---weather suitable for the layered look. I wanted to go home, but Ken was catching trout with abandon, and Dick Frantes, always impervious to the weather, wearing a cap with earflaps down, not his battered postal helmet, was irritating the browns. I don't know what was in our heads, but you know all about trout fishers who have suffered a dull winter of football on TV.

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.

We were a bit upstream of the slab bridge, which is the next crossing north from Bucksnot dam, and I was up against a rock wall upstream from my companions who were taking my trout. Ken was obviously enjoying the sport, casting to bedraggled Hendricksons, the dark females. Most of them were cripples, no more ready to be propelled into this world than I was to be trapped on that gray and grungy day. But what could be done: one of my friends owned the car and held the keys.

Because the trout avoided my fly, I was allowed plenty of time for reflection. And that brought to mind an evening some years earlier when Skip James, of St. Paul Chamber Orchestra fame, delivered a talk about "Cripples." (He may have used a politically correct synonym.)

Skip's presentation was eminently logical. He said that a good share of every mayfly hatch consisted of duns that came out of the shuck crooked, with wings bent or otherwise imperfect and unable to fly. If you have watched mayflies emerge, you know that it is a process fraught with all sorts of possibilities to bend or break a wing. If the dun can't fly it offers a sitting target to a rising trout. If it flutters it probably arouses the predatory instincts of the hunter.

Around the campfire, or more likely leaning against the box of a pickup, you have all wondered aloud why a tattered and torn artificial continued to catch trout after it was chewed to death. I'm not certain how to put this information to use but it has floated to the surface of my memory over the years. Perhaps next time I'll first offer the brown trout of the Kinnie a well-chewed bi-visible; or a be-draggled Adams that replicates the early *Ephemerella*. Contributions to this story will be welcomed.

Thanks, Skip. I'm sure you can expand these ruminations on broken wings.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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Don't miss the November meeting!!

Come to the November meeting to hear guest speaker Richard Gauger, Executive Director of the Western Wisconsin Land Trust. The meeting starts at 7 PM, but you can join us for dinner at 6 PM. See you there! Wednesday, November 5th at Bob Smith's Sports Club in Hudson.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE STAFF OF RIPRAP!!

SUBMISSIONS WANTED!!

Let us know if you have an article you'd like to submit.
Deadline to make submissions for the December RipRap is November 19th, 2008