



Conserve. Protect. Restore.

The KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER's
almost monthly publication

Volume 8 | Issue 3
November 2014



The November 5th meeting is at
the Valley House, 6 miles north of
Hudson on WI State Hwy 35.

The Valley House
1237 Hwy. 35, Hudson, WI 54016
715-549-6255

Sal V. Linus contributed the photo
above which was taken on Pine Creek
near Maiden Rock.

*A former Kiap-TU-Wish project, this
spring creek and its banks are at times
a riot of color, sound and scents. It's not
always easy to catch the native brook
trout that live in its clear waters, but
the creek's finery sure make it worth
the effort. See www.kiaptuwish.org for
details about this stream's restoration.*

The Drift: Words from our President.

Project work: As the season ends there is very little activity. Dan Wilcox made arrangements to obtain additional straw with native grass and forb seeds from a landowner who maintains a natural prairie. By the time this issue of Rip-Rap goes to print, the DNR and volunteers from Fairmount Santrol, directed by Randy Arnold, will have spread this on the corridor along the Trimbelle River. Two benefits of this are that the deep, strong root systems prevent erosion, and the habitat for birds is improved.

Planning is well under way for the habitat project on the upper Kinnickinnic River (Red Cabin site) in 2015. Within the next month or so, the DNR will mark trees to be removed. Watch for volunteer opportunities. There will likely be cutting and burning along Parker Creek this winter also.

Next regular chapter meeting: The November 5th meeting will be held at the Valley House, located a couple of miles north of North Hudson on highway 35. Perry Palin will be there to talk about fishing, special flies, hand made wooden rods, and his collections of fishing stories.

Meeting venue: We want your comments. If you attended either of the last two meetings at the Valley House, what did you think of the location, the menu, etc? If you did not attend, was it due to the distance or other factors? Send your comments to kiaptuwish@hotmail.org.

Amery area: We held a special meeting in Amery on Monday October 6th. Sixteen members and non-members were present for Perry Palin's presentation and discussion of the potential culvert replacement project.

Banquet: Mark your calendar for December 4th at the Lake Elmo Event Center. Dennis Anderson, outdoors columnist for the StarTribune, will be speaking.

Board meetings: At the meeting on October 20th we will be setting the budget for the coming year. In addition, we are awaiting a budget estimate from John Sours of the DNR for possible additional work on the Trimbelle. It may be feasible to do the additional Trimbelle work in 2015 if money is available. In the next couple of months, we will also begin planning for future projects beyond the Red Cabin site. We will meet with Marty Engel and John Sours to discuss potential projects for 2016: upper Kinni, Trimbelle, or ????

Enough said.

~ Tom Henderson

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Exploration

{Words :: Images} Perry Palin

I grew up in an area of many small brook trout streams. On a good day I would bring home a limit of ten trout. There were a lot of us fishing and keeping baskets of trout, and by the end of June every year, I had to walk a long way from the road to find good trout fishing. It also helped to check out any inconspicuous wet spot to see if fish were there.

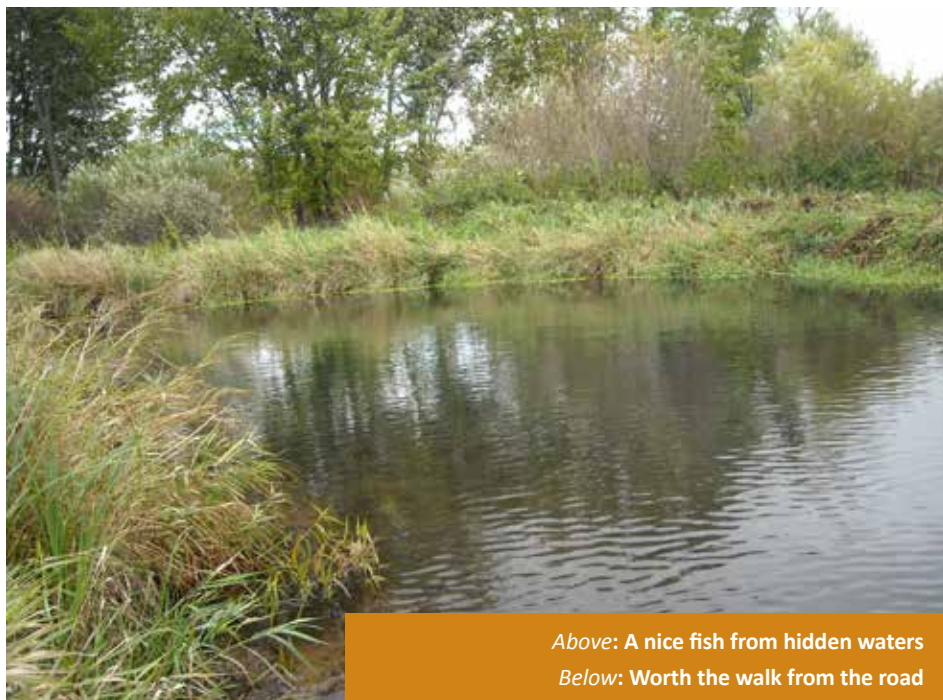
We've since learned to limit our kill, and Western Wisconsin has more fish near the bridges than NE Minnesota ever did, but there still are great rewards in exploration.

Map study, Internet searches, and hot tips offered in a bar over a few beers do not tell me what the water really looks like, and how good the fishing can be. The four counties in the Kiap-TU-Wish region hold over 120 trout streams. How many of them do you know? How many of them have you seen?

I fish the popular streams, and I also fish marginal streams that see little fishing pressure. I learn something every time I go out. Sometimes I learn not to return, but other times I have good luck.

I've been led to trout water by snapping turtles, Great Blue Herons, and Wood Ducks. I've found them near rills small enough to step across, but a big snapper or a heron needs a little more room to operate, and sometimes there's a spring pond or beaver pond just through the alder thicket; it might be big enough for a roll cast, and sometimes that pond will have trout in it.

The good fishing might be a little further upstream or down than where I'm fishing now. I was fishing a creek that was new to me, catching little fish



Above: A nice fish from hidden waters

Below: Worth the walk from the road

in little pools. I was ready to write the spot off when a fifteen inch brown came from under a log and grabbed my fly. Where did he come from? I think he came from the deep water in the downstream meadow I found on the other side of the alders and the prickerbushes. The meadow has been good to me since.

Return visits to streams will pay dividends. I found a fair trout stream that I would fish above the road, and

then turn back at the foot of a quarter mile of ankle deep, wide and sandy flats. One year a flood silted in my fishing water. I thought I had lost a stream, but then I discovered that the sand came from the old flats, which were now scoured into deep pools. The fish moved into the new habitat, and the fishing is better there now than it ever was close to the road. Now the poor fishing near the bridge discour-

{continued on page 4}

The Holiday Conservation Banquet

December

4

...is just around the corner, and here are the specifics.

The DATE is Thursday, December 4th. The PLACE is the Lake Elmo Inn Event Center on Highway 5 in Lake Elmo. The TIME is 5:30 PM for socializing, silent auction bidding and bucket raffle stuffing, 7:00 plated dinner with the program at 7:45. The COST is \$45 per person or \$60 if you forgot to register or show up unannounced. You may REGISTER by calling Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, 651.770.5854 or by registering on line at: <http://2014tuholidaybanquet.splashthat.com>. The DEADLINE for reservations is Monday, December 1st at 5:00 PM.

The Committee scored another coup this year; our featured speaker for the evening is Dennis Anderson, angler, hunter, horseman and outdoors columnist for the Minneapolis StarTribune newspaper. Dennis' list of credentials is inspiring, as are his observations on fishing, hunting, dogs, horses, conservation and politics. We believe this is a program you won't want to miss.

The Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet is our most important fund raising event of the year, and this year's bucket raffles and silent auction promise to be spectacular. You will find a wide array of tackle, pottery, art, guided fishing trips, jewelry and collectible books. Because of its importance to the Chapter's critical work we encourage you to bid early and bid often and keep stuffing those buckets. Additionally, this is a great opportunity to part with some of those treasures you've been hoarding over the years. Perhaps you've tired of that E. C. Powell cane rod? Maybe you gave up on the mandolin and want to get rid of that Gibson F5? Are you tired of looking at your copy of Trout and Salmon of North America?

Whatever you decide to donate can be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop or Lund's Fly Shop and the sooner the better. (Please, no magazines; we'll just recycle them.)

When you make your reservation you will need to indicate your choice of entrée:

Chicken Calvados: sautéed chicken breast topped with sliced apples and mushrooms in an apple brandy cream sauce.

Top Sirloin: choice sirloin served with sautéed mushrooms.

Salmon Ravida: cooked with fresh herbs and shallots.

All dinners are served with a first course Festival Salad, Fresh Vegetable Medley, Minnesota Wild Rice, rolls and butter and coffee or tea. The cash bar will be available all evening. We accept cash or check at the door and there is an ATM machine on the site for your convenience.

So, don't wait...make your reservation NOW!

~ Mike Alwin

PLACE:

Lake Elmo Inn Event Center

TIME:

- 5:30 PM—socializing, auction & raffle
- 7:00 PM—plated dinner
- 7:45 PM—program starts

SPEAKER:

Dennis Anderson—outdoorsman & columnist for the Minneapolis StarTribune newspaper

COST:

- \$45 per person
- \$60 per person if you forgot to register or show up unannounced

REGISTER:

- Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop at 651.770.5854
- on line at 2014tuholidaybanquet.splashthat.com

DEADLINE:

5:00 PM on December 1

Next RipRap deadline: Friday, November 14

Editor's note:

A fun aspect of editing the newsletter is getting a sneak peek at articles, photos and other chapter happenings. The material sits with me for awhile as I go about my daily routine, and I find myself musing over the experiences and expertise of other Kiap-TU-Wish members. Sometimes connections to chapter events pop up in odd and unexpected ways.

This month, inspired by *Perry Palin's article*, I decided to spend the last of the Minnesota season exploring new trout water. While fishing, I tried to de-puddle my roll cast via *Margaret LeBien's casting tips*, all the while drifting a *soft hackle fly*, similar to what Brian Smolinski features in the Fly Tier's Corner. And finally, a day or so later, K-TU's legendary Jim Humphrey was mentioned in conversation. I interjected "I have Jim Humphrey's shoes!" which I won at a previous year's *Holiday Conservation Banquet*. I think there's a newsletter article in there somewhere. "Fishing in Jim Humphrey's Shoes" or something like that.

~ Maria

TUDARE Field Trip

On October 15th, Kiap-TU-Wish board members Tom Schnadt and Maria Manion spent the day on a charter bus, visiting stream restoration efforts in southeast Minnesota and northeast Iowa. Sponsored by TUDARE (TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort), the tour included stops at three locations: Waterloo Creek near Dorchester, Iowa; Pine Springs Creek on Seed Saver's Heritage Farm north of Decorah, Iowa; and Pine Creek near Rushford, Minnesota. Fisheries staff, biologists, contractors and TU representatives were on-hand to answer questions and talk about the restoration efforts on these streams. Discussion focused on restoration methodologies, partnerships (public and private) and how Farm Bill Conservation dollars are crucial to restoration efforts in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

Aside from TU chapter members and TUDARE staff, other tour participants included DNR staff from Minnesota and Wisconsin, stream restoration consultants, and landowners. The tour participants were also joined by TU's Western Watershed Restoration staff who were on retreat near Lanesboro, Minnesota.

~ Maria Manion

Left: Jim Edrington, Facilities Manager at Seed Savers, describing work completed on Pine Springs Creek

Right: A heritage apple tree overhanging the "heritage" stream at Seed Savers



A tour stop at Pine Creek near Rushford, MN

{Exploration from page 2}

ages other anglers, and I don't see boot tracks in my new productive stretch.

In the summer of 2014 the rains came, and there were weeks when trout fishing was impossible on our popular rivers. In one of those weeks when none of us could fish the Kinni

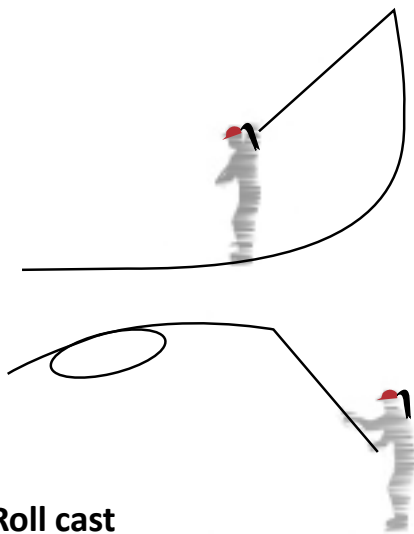
"I fish the popular streams, and I also fish marginal streams that see little fishing pressure. I learn something every time I go out. Sometimes I learn not to return, but other times I have good luck."

or the Rush, I drove to a small stream that flows through forest rather than farms, in an area that was missed by the worst of the week's rains. The fishing is generally poor in the upstream water, and alders choke the stream at the lower bridge. I hiked to a middle stretch that is open enough for an overhead cast, and with good trout habitat. It has always been worth the walk from the road. I caught some smaller fish, both brookies and browns to 11 inches, and seven browns between 13 and 17 inches in length. I lost a few others in that range, and had two big ones break me off. That was a really good day for me, in a week when no one else was fishing.

When I was learning to fish for trout, exploration was an important and interesting part of the sport. All these years later, my fishing is better because I continue to look for the out of the way, little known homes of the trout. 🐟

CASTING TIPS

{Words} Margaret LeBien



Roll cast

The Roll Cast is a bread-and-butter cast. You can fish with it all day, anywhere, but it's not very accurate,

and it's hard to change directions. (For that, you need the Snap T spey cast.) *If your roll casts are unrolling short of your target, or tangling your leader, read on.*

The key to control and power in a roll cast is a big D-loop.

1 Set Up: Details matter if you want to prevent crossover tangles or a hook in your arm.

Either backhand or forehand, reach your rod hand back and up as high above your shoulder as you can. Let the water surface tension pull extra line for the D-loop through your rod hand fingers as you lift.

Check that the rod tip points rearward at 1:00 o'clock. The elbow and reel are aimed at the target, just to the inside and parallel to the line on the water. Make sure the D-loop is outside your shoulder and aligned 180-degrees along your target-line.

2 Load: Shift your weight from the back to the front foot and drive your forearm forward a few inches to start the line moving. Slowly and smoothly, but with force, pull the elbow down so your rod hand is ear-high. Say "Bend the rod butt."

3 Forward Cast: Quickly flip your wrist forward, squeezing the cork hard. Yell "Stop!" out-loud. For a tight loop, stop high at 11:00 o'clock; for an open loop, make a longer, slower squeeze and stop the rod tip lower. Relax your hand instantly to eliminate slack waves and tangles in the line.

If the line rolls out and dies on the water you stopped the rod tip too low.

For extra turbo, Shout "Stab!" as the wrist flips forward, and thrust your rod arm in the direction you want the line to go, until you run out of arm. If you can haul, fire it now. **Good luck!**

FLY TIER'S CORNER

{Words :: Images} Brian Smolinski



Hook :: Size 16 TMC 3761 or Daiichi 1560

Bead :: 3/32" Tungsten Bead/Gold

Thread :: UTC 70 Denier/Fluorescent Orange

Thorax :: UV Ice Dub/Light Yellow

Hackle :: Partridge Neck or Shoulder

If you have questions, stop in at Lund's and ask Brian in person, or send him an email at brian@lundsflyshop.com

Tungsten Bead Soft Hackle

This is a pattern that I've been selling for 7 or 8 years, maybe longer. Originally I bought them from a commercial fly company, one of the big ones, until a few years ago when they discontinued the pattern. The fly had always been a good seller in the shop, but when Matt Shipp started tying it locally, the pattern only got better.

Matt Shipp is a local guide and spends a lot of his time studying and tying traditional Japanese Tenkara and English Spider style soft hackle flies. He tweaked the pattern just a bit so that the hook gap was wider than that of the commercial ties, and partridge was substituted for the original solid brown hen hackle.

Since tying these soft hackles for the shop, Matt's been fishing them a lot and claims that they are now one of the most effective patterns he uses.

- [1] Start with the bead on the hook just as a normal bead head nymph. Begin wrapping thread from behind the bead back to just above the barb on the hook.
- [2] Wrap back up to about the halfway point of the hook. Make a small dubbing ball in the middle of the hook shank slightly smaller than the bead.
- [3] Then, in front of the dubbing ball, make several thread wraps over each other to build up a thicker spot on the body for the inside of the bead to catch on.
- [4] Tie off thread and cut. Apply a drop of head cement and slide bead back so it butts up against the dubbing ball.
- [5] Start thread again in front of the bead and tie in the partridge hackle.
- [6] Make 2-3 turns with the partridge hackle, tie off and finish the fly.

Notes From the Field:

2014 Trimbelle River Headwaters Wrap-up



The following is a summary of the Trimbelle project work, to date. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated time on their weekends, and sometimes weekdays, to help restore this brook trout stream. In good weather and bad (mostly bad, it seemed), people showed up to cut box elders, burn brush, plant trees, monitor stream conditions, build luncker structures, seed, mulch and eat hot dogs.

Fall & Winter 2013

In the fall of 2013 John Sours and the DNR stream crew developed an access trail going east from Hwy 65 just north of the Trudeau farm with the big blue barn. They breached a large beaver dam and installed a culvert and gravel in the low areas. 5,048 tons of rock was delivered that winter.

Kiap volunteers worked 214 hours clearing about 400 box elder trees along the river last winter and burned the tops. Conditions were brutal with cold and deep snow.

Spring 2014

On April 19 in driving rain and snow, Kiap and Fairmount Santrol volunteers planted 1,100 tree and shrub seedlings along the stream corridor of the 2013 project. The seedlings were provided by DNR forester Gary Zielske who helped plant them.

John Kaplan, Kent Johnson and other Kiap volunteers did before-project monitoring in May. Steep cut banks and shallow sand bottom in the

An October morning on the Trimbelle

stream didn't provide much suitable habitat for trout or substrate for macroinvertebrates.

Summer & Fall 2014

The DNR stream crew was delayed by rain and wet conditions. They managed to work in July through mid-September. They completed 1,800 feet of stream restoration with 8 lunger structures, root wads, logs, grade control plunge pools, boulders, and gravel spawning substrate. They opened up and stabilized several large springs. Kiap and Fairmount Santrol volunteers worked 77 hours building lunger structures, seeding and mulching the 7.3-acre construction area.

Duke Welter provided swamp milkweed seed from Monarchs Watch. John Sours broadcast the milkweed seed along the stream. We received a donation of 200 bales of native prairie grasses and forbs from Lisa Mueller of Ellsworth, Wisconsin, from her CRP field that she had to mow this fall. A neighbor raked and baled the field. On October 15, Kiap and Fairmount Santrol volunteers seeded the construction zone with mulch from those bales. Randy Arnold has built bluebird boxes to go out next spring.

Total Volunteer Effort

Volunteer effort was a total of 263 hours by Kiap people along with 52 hours by Fairmount Santrol. Volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold kept the crews organized and well-fed with cookies and hot dogs. He cooked at least 18 hot dogs on each of seven work days, a total of over 150 hot dogs!

Potential Future Work Project

A fishing easement is in progress for the Trudeau property that would

also allow restoration work in the future. An area to stockpile rock this winter has been cleared. The stream corridor through the Trudeau property is clear of box elder trees. This further work is pending a scope of work from the DNR, and Kiap Board approval.

An existing easement is in place that would allow restoration work on the Pechacek property, about 700 feet of stream above Hwy W to the first spring. This further work is also pending a scope of work from the DNR and Kiap Board approval.

Project Expenses

Expenses for the 2014 project were \$81,439. Fairmount Santrol donated \$28,382. Kiap contributed \$32,950. The chapter plowed back the \$25,000 reimbursement that was received as a River Grant from the DNR for last year and \$7,950 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Friends of Wisconsin TU contributed \$2,000. Kiap applied \$17,867 from Chapter operating funds to the project. Another DNR River Grant for \$46,135 and a \$6,890 soil and water conservation grant from Pierce County are pending. These funds would be available for the next phase of the upper Trimbelle River project.

When all is said and done. . .

After the next phase is constructed, the Trimbelle River Headwaters Project will be a continuous 5,610 feet of restored stream, altered to incorporate direct discharge of springs, with a narrowed channel to increase current velocity, exposed gravel substrate, deep pools, and a variety of cover—all of which favor native brook trout.

~ Dan Wilcox

Kiap-TU-Wish

Board Members & Contact Info

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Next RipRap deadline: Friday, November 14.

RipRap is always on the lookout for writers, photographers, story suggestions, etc. Please feel free to shoot me an email, tap me on the shoulder at chapter meetings, or even send me a bona fide letter. Any way you choose, have your material, comments or suggestions to Maria Manion by the second Friday of the month for submission. manion.maria@gmail.com



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
P.O. Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016

Welcome New Members!

Nathan Anderson	<i>Hudson</i>
Jeff Butler	<i>Frederic</i>
Murray Humble	<i>Forest Lake</i>
Bill Lamb	<i>Menomonie</i>
Tim Lawson	<i>Hudson</i>
Alan Morris	<i>St. Paul</i>
Deb Rogers	<i>Amery</i>
Nicole Sheldon	<i>River Falls</i>



Jane Doe
123 Anystreet
Hudson, WI 5401



DON'T MISS

the NOVEMBER 5th MEETING!
at the Valley House

1237 Hwy. 35, Hudson, WI 54016
715-549-6255

Dinner begins at 6PM (your dime).
The meeting begins at 7PM.

Check us out on the web:
www.kiaptuwish.org

Perry Palin will be speaking at our November 5th meeting.

Perry moved from NE Minnesota in 1972 and fished the Kinni, the Rush, and other area streams until he moved to NW Wisconsin in 2000. Perry was led to Kiap-TU-Wish by Dry Fly Dick Frantes in the 1970's and he continues to donate flies for the Dick Frantes Memorial Door Prize. On November 5th, Perry will speak about his wood fly rods, his second book entitled Fishing Lessons — Stories and Essays from Midwestern Streams, and about fishing for brook trout on Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior.

Are you on our e-mail list?

If you are not on our email list, you may be missing out on important information that can't possibly be covered in RipRap in a timely manner. We often send out information on environmental calls-to-action, volunteer work days, and meeting updates. Contact us at kiaptuwish@hotmail.com to be added. Please indicate if you'd like to be added to the general list, volunteer works days, or both.