



Rip Rap

April Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 2
Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
Dinner: 6:30
Program: 8:00 "Fly Tiers"

Featuring: Dave Schubert, Scott Nordby, Tracy Peterson, Bill Stieger, Mike Alwin, Dennis Hook

President's Lines:

Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited has come a long way in the past three years, thanks mainly to the efforts of Gary Horvath, whom I think belongs in the same legendary category as Roger Fairbanks. Kudos are due also to Ted Mackmiller who oversaw the chapter's successful effort to have the Mounds Dam removed. Skip James persists in putting out the finest news letter in the state of Wisconsin and Andy Lamberson continues to push the limits of our web site. I would like to welcome Ellen Clark and Brent Sittlow to the Board of Directors. Mike Alwin and Mark Dostal have both decided to step down from the board, but I'm sure they will continue to lend their expertise in chapter affairs.

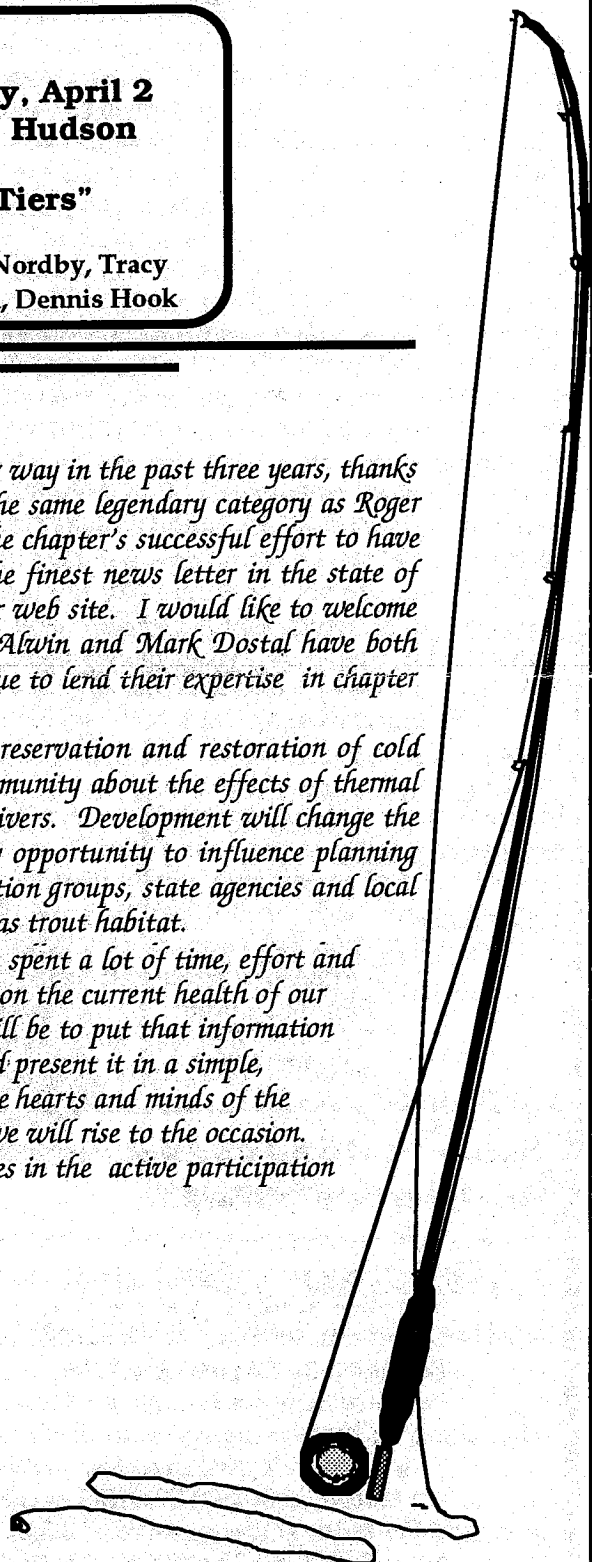
The goals of the chapter will continue to focus on the preservation and restoration of cold water streams in western Wisconsin. We need to educate the community about the effects of thermal pollution, and involve citizens in maintaining the health of their rivers. Development will change the landscape dramatically in coming years, and we should take every opportunity to influence planning and zoning ordinances. We should join hands with other conservation groups, state agencies and local municipalities in order to keep the Kinni, Willow and Rush viable as trout habitat.

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Fortunately, we have spent a lot of time, effort and money collecting information on the current health of our local rivers. Our challenge will be to put that information in a historical perspective, and present it in a simple, forceful way that will win the hearts and minds of the public. I am confident that we will rise to the occasion. The strength of our chapter lies in the active participation and depth of our membership.

Sincerely,
 Tony Stifter, President



Should the proposed St. Croix River bridge be built? ...

An editorial by Skip James

There is definitely a need for a new bridge in the Stillwater area over the St. Croix. The traffic on Friday afternoons, or when Anderson Windows lets out is horrendous between the stretch of Hwy 36 and Houlton. During these times Stillwater's main street traffic is reduced to a crawl.

It seems that the congressman whose district is affected, Bill Luther, has conflicting thoughts concerning construction of the bridge. On the one hand, he has strong ties to environmentalists within the Democratic party who would like to see the St. Croix remain as pristine as possible, but has many powerful political friends in Minnesota State government who would like the bridge built. He has, so far at least, not taken a position on the legal confrontation between the Minnesota/Wisconsin Departments of Transportation, which favor and bridge, and the United States Department of the Interior, which refuses a permit for the bridge based on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The question of jurisdiction will be decided in Federal court, but no Federal funds will be forthcoming for the proposed bridge unless Rep. Luther comes out in its favor.

Several fly fishers were discussing this issue at the Fly Shop the other day and at the time I didn't have a strong opinion. Since then, I've been mulling the matter over in my mind.

It seems to me that the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is a bill which promotes the objectives of Trout Unlimited: keeping rivers undammed, clean, free of intrusive development, with healthy, unpolluted ecosystems. I am truly worried that if the State of Wisconsin and the State of Minnesota win a successful court battle over jurisdiction, the effectiveness of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be critically undermined. I am distrustful that state governments will take an environmentally responsible stance in the preservation of their waters if they are not constrained by the federal bill. Most Western states actively promote and encourage water intensive mining and agriculture, and chafe under federal regulations to preserve instream flows and water quality standards. What would these agencies do if the authority of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was compromised by a federal court?

So, in regard to our local problem, I would encourage Rep. Luther to perhaps find a compromise with the Dept. of the Interior under which that agency would allow a new Stillwater bridge to be built in as environmentally sound fashion as possible without the matter being taken to court. It may not be exactly the bridge that the state transportation authorities have planned, but it would certainly ease traffic congestion and provide access to the Twin Cities for communities in western Wisconsin. That solution would boost the political stock of an environmentally friendly congressman, upgrade the local infrastructure, and allow federal highway monies to be used to get the project built. Best of all, it would avoid an unwelcome legal precedent that might threaten other rivers designated wild and scenic.

If you're inclined to agree with me, please send a letter to:

Rep. Bill Luther
1811 Weir Drive Suite 150
Woodbury, MN 55125

Some exciting events are planned at Bob Mitchell's Flyshop....

Free Casting Tuneups with Bill Hinton

Saturdays at 10:30, Apr. 5 and 26

Women's Only Classes: Ellen Clark and Karen James, instructors.

Beginning fly fishing, May 3, May 31 \$25. (call to sign up)

Intermediate fly fishing June 14 and 16 \$25 (call to sign up)

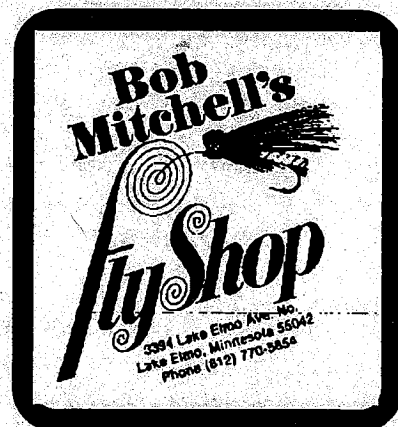
Fly Fishing for Trout (in cooperation with the Science Museum)

Two nights of instruction, plus full day on Whitewater River.

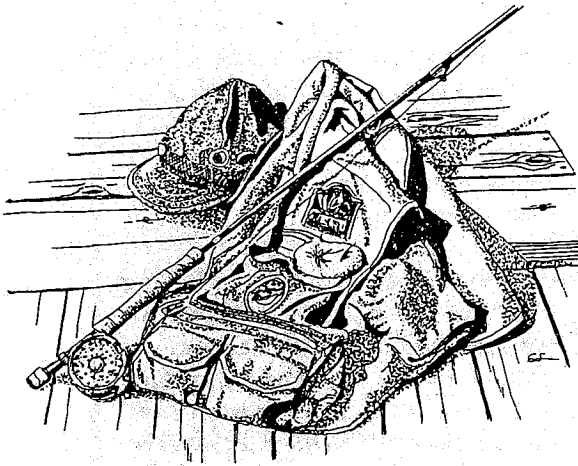
April 16, May 8. Call 221-4513 to register. \$85.

Weekend Fly Fishing School at Wolf Ridge on the North Shore

May 23-25 Call: 800-523-2733 \$165.(lodging and meals)



River Falls Fishing Clinic to be held May 17...



In what we hope will become an annual event, the chapter's Education Committee will host the third Fly Fishing For Trout Clinic in Glen Park, River Falls on Saturday, May 17, from 1-9pm. The Committee members will even provide supper for all participants. The students will learn the dynamics of fly casting, knots, basic entomology, and fishing skills such as fly selection and stream strategy. The evening will be spent fishing for rising trout on the Kinni under the tutelage of our instructors.

There are two ways in which chapter members can become involved in this project. First, consider being a tutor during the clinic. People who have volunteered in the past will tell you it was not only a lot of fun but a highly rewarding experience to help initiate newcomers into our wonderful sport. Second, we hope some of you will donate flies. A dozen or two of your handcrafted creations will make a nice gift and will help keep the chapter's costs down. The Kiap-TU-Wish Education Committee has two goals: to educate the community and to involve the membership. The Trout Clinic does both. To volunteer as an instructor, or to donate flies, call Mike Alwin at the fly shop: 612-770-5854



Scott Clark, Bill Skinner, Al Kiecker havin' fun streamside

Notices....

The Second Annual

"Angler Concert"

Sunday, April 20, 3pm

Phipps Center

Admission: \$5(kids), \$8

Fishworks '97

March 29th cancelled

Ted Mackmiller

will lead Membership Committee

Lower Kinni

to get lunger structures at the Rocky Branch bend.

Got a small (13") color TV?...

Dan Bruski is designing a mobile display system for the Kiap-TU-Wish Education Committee to use in schools and civic meetings. A computer repairman, Dan would also like to have a used VCR for the display. It's OK if it doesn't function perfectly, he'll tinker with it until it is usable. If you have either of these items and would like to donate to the chapter, call Dan at 612-436-7845, or 715-549-6237.

The Eau Galle Rush River Sportsmans Club...

will be having its 22nd annual fund raiser May 3rd at the Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club. Raffle tickets (\$1 each) for cash prizes and the handcrafted canoe hanging in Lunds hardware are available at the store, also from Tony Stifter or Skip James. Hot food and beverages will be available all day. This club, like Kiap-TU-Wish, is committed to preserving trout streams. Help them out if you can.

Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board

Attend the Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings, April 14

There are two issues of interest to area trout anglers on this spring's Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings agenda. The first question is a local fisheries rule change that involves special trout regulations on the Brule River in Douglas County. **Do you favor establishing these special trout fishing regulations on the Bois Brule River between County Hwy. S and County Hwy. B?** The Brule River contains a mix of migratory and resident salmonoid populations. The portion of the river between County Hwy S and County Hwy B contains a large proportion of the resident trout and also sustains some of the highest angler use of any river stretch in northern Wisconsin. The state is proposing artificial lures only, daily bag limit of 3 trout, and minimum size limits of 10" for brook trout, 26" for rainbow trout, 15" for brown trout and 12" for salmon in this section of river. The proposed regulation eliminates live bait use to reduce incidental mortality. The proposed size and bag limits will promote trout spawning at least once before harvest and will improve the quality of the fishing in this section of river.

The second question is a Conservation Congress advisory question involving coaster brook trout. **Would you be in favor of the WDNR in cooperation with other jurisdictional agencies and interested organizations, developing a restoration plan for anadromous coaster brook trout in Lake Superior with the criteria for success based on restoring a wild population of spawning fish and a return to the creel taking a secondary importance, with the protective harvest regulation change of a daily bag limit of one (1) fish over 22" on Lake Superior and for the anadromous streams to Lake Superior a daily bag limit of five (5) brook trout over 8" with only one fish over 22" and all brook trout between 12" and 22" being released, with the season dates remaining unchanged?** Due to over harvest by anglers and the loss of critical habitat, coaster brook trout populations in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior were in serious decline by the early 1900's and virtually wiped out by the 1940's. While the State of Wisconsin has made attempts to restore the fishery through stocking, several key elements were missing, one being a means of protecting the fish from over-exploitation by anglers. Currently, the WDNR has no long term plan for restoration of this population of brook trout nor have they formulated any new regulations to protect what those that remain.

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter encourages members to attend the Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearing nearest them. The meetings are scheduled for Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

St. Croix County
Pierce County
Pepin County
Polk County

American Legion Post 240, 410 Maple St., Baldwin
Hillcrest Elementary School Auditorium, 350 S. Grant, Ellsworth
Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, Durand
Government Center, Balsam Lake

State TU Water Resources Committee Chairman calls for volunteers interested in protecting trout streams...

Gary Horvath, Chairman of The Water Resources Committee of Wisconsin TU, is recruiting new members whose ideas will have an impact in defining the committee's role within the State Council. Individuals interested in protecting and enhancing water quality are needed. Some of the issues before the committee are: point and nonpoint pollution, aquaculture, cranberries and other agricultural impacts, development pressures, land use, mining etc. The River Restoration sub-committee (Kiap-TU-Wish euphemism for dam removal) chaired by Kevin Cooley will continue to report to the Water Resources Committee Chairman. The committee will only be successful if there are enough willing members to tackle the threats facing our rivers and streams. If you are interested in volunteering contact **Gary Horvath at 715-425-8489** or write to him at: **623 W. Pine Street, River Falls, WI 54022.**

New Entity to Coordinate Opposition to Crandon Mine...

There are nearly four dozen different environmental and conservation groups across Wisconsin working to stop the Crandon Mine from opening a sulfide rock operation in the headwaters of the Wolf River. A new organization has been formed to hire a qualified person to coordinate the efforts of these groups into a unified force. Of course that will cost money. Any and all contributions will be gratefully accepted. For further information and progress reports, call **Jim Wise** at 715-453-6015. Send checks to:

Northwoods Alliance Inc.
P.O. Box 65
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Conditions Ripe for Montana Floods...

from Bob and Jean Mitchell

In a letter to Ted Mackmiller, Bob Mitchell asks for our prayers that the snowpack in the Rockies doesn't all melt at once. Already 65% over normal in February, the Spring thaw threatens to cause flooding in rivers from Idaho to New Mexico. Bob cautions all Kiap-TU-Wish members who may be planning a fishing trip to the golden west to check with a local outfitter before making the drive, or they may find that Interstate 90 is under water or their favorite trout stream is a raging torrent. Isn't it wonderful that our chapter has a spy in Belgrade, Montana? The best to Bob and Jean from all their friends back home.

Scenes of Fishworks '97....



The Kinni at the Fishworks Site



**Fish Manager....
Marty Engel in Full
Battle Gear**

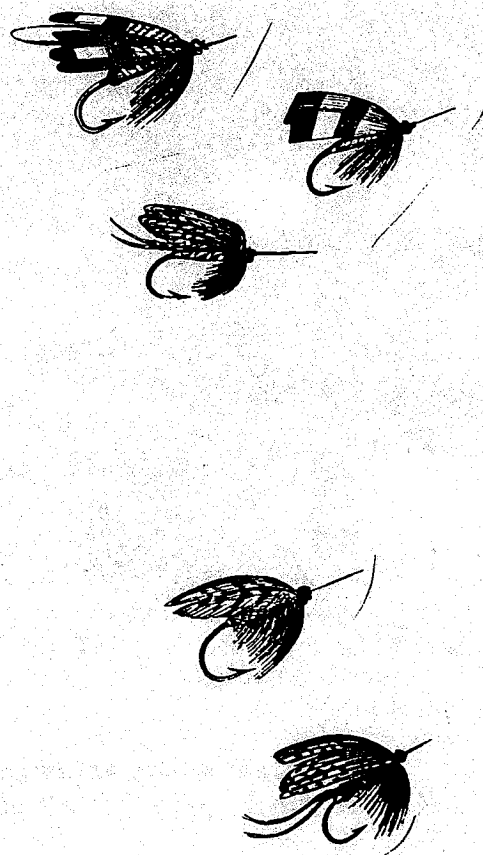
Midges provide the bulk (?) of early season action...

Anglers venturing out for the first time during the first two weeks of March have had lots of dry fly action in the middle of the day on black midge imitations, both individual midge ties and midge clusters. One fly fisher reported seeing as many as eight to ten trout per square yard rising vertically to midges on the Rush River during the noontime hatch. Other anglers have done well on the Kinni with shrimp imitations and small nymphs, fished deep. Most of the action seems to be occurring at the warmest time of the day, but as of yet, no one has seen any *Baetis mayflies*. A weighted #18 Pheasant Tail nymph fished deep on a fine tippet provided a rich harvest for one Wisconsin chapter member. He caught and released eleven trout from one pool. Some took his fly within six feet of his waders. That kind of experience allows one to forget how long and hard this Winter has been. I've received no reports about the Willow River yet, although several members let me know they were planning to fish among the new lunker structures on the lower part of the Race Branch. One person reported midges hatching on the Burkhardt stretch, although there were no trout rising. I would think a Brassie or other midge larval imitation could tempt a trout or two on that water. Dean Hanson brought a *Baetis* adult to the flyshop the other day. He said he collected it from Valley Creek in Afton. It shouldn't be too long before there are tiny dark duns in the weedier sections of the Kinni and Rush, and perhaps a small dark wetfly fished on the swing will do the trick, or perhaps Mike Alwin's *Baetis* Emerger pattern (see February *RipRap*). I personally saw rising fish in the Fishworks '95 stretch of the upper Kinni on March 2. I wished I had brought along my fly rod. Please call **Andy Lamberson** with any stream reports that you have. He will include them on our internet website. His phone number is 715-386-7568.

Skip's Loose Threads...

The first Mayfly expected to appear this Spring is *Baetis*, commonly known as the Blue Winged Olive, even though its wings aren't blue nor its body olive. Although most of us are familiar with this tiny, smoky winged, brown bodied fly, it's helpful to remember some facts about its lifestyle. In weed beds, its preferred habitat, it moves about like a tiny minnow, using its fan like fringed tail like a sculling oar. As the time for hatching approaches, *Baetis* nymphs become active, migrating to shallower water near shore like its larger cousin, *Isonychia*. The nymphal shuck splits under water, and the winged adult swims quickly to the surface. Some adults don't penetrate the surface film, but struggle in the meniscus until they drown. Likewise, *Baetis* spinners dive bomb into the water, carrying a bubble of air with them as they swim to the bottom, or crawl down some log, rock or wader leg to lay their eggs in a bright green cluster glued to the substrate. After oviposition, adults attempt to swim to the surface again, or crawl out of the water.

More than any other species, this mayfly provides lots of reasons to fish an unweighted wet fly or emerger imitation with action imitating its swimming behavior, during both hatch and spinner fall. For every *Baetis* spinner taken on the surface, there are many more that become trout food in midwater. One of the least effective imitations for *Baetis* is the dead drifted nymph. During a hatch, try fishing a small Leadwing Coachman or soft hackle on the swing with twitches to risers in shallow water..... and hang on!



● RiffRaf.... A Review

Oliver Edwards' Flytyers Masterclass

Merlin and Unwin, Hong Kong, 1996
also Stoeger Press, Wayne NJ, 1996
(245pp. \$19.95, soft cover 8 1/2 x 11)

"I feel that if a book begins by telling me how to mount the hook in the vise, it won't be long enough to teach me anything I don't already know."

"It's the best fly tying book I've read in years!"

Skip James

Where does a fly tier's inspiration come from? Certainly from the observation of trout food, the behavior of fish, and the subtle suggestions gleaned from handling materials and hooks. But for me who learned to tie from books, the experiments of other tiers lucidly set forth in print has spurred the most creative thoughts I've had concerning the structure and function of trout flies. And it's been a long time since I've been challenged to think about flies in new ways by a fly tying book.

Gary Lafontaine's concept of a 'trigger' mechanism that draws the trout to the fly was not a completely original concept when he wrote about it in Caddisflies and The Dry Fly. Gary Borger mentioned something similar in Naturals, Roman Moser's 'critical factor' is the same, and Ray Bergman, who didn't believe in imitation, conceded that there was something about the combination of peacock herl and red floss in the Royal Coachman that 'triggered' the fish to strike. Leonard Atherton's concept of color breakup, creating a 'semblance of life' is related to the trigger theory. I'm sure there are many others whose names don't come immediately to mind, but the latest devotee is British fly tier Oliver Edwards.

● Edwards appears at what we would call conclaves and trade shows, tying super exact imitations of insects and other trout food, teaches classes, and writes a regular column about fly tying in three different English magazines. He keeps in touch with European fly tiers, and his book has patterns inspired by friends from Austria, the Czech Republic, and Belgium. He is not only a superb tier, but a tournament fly fisher as well, competing with the British team in the World Fly Fishing Championships. He is a member of FFF, and has been influenced by many American tiers, most notably Dave Whitlock, Poul Jorgenson, Gary Lafontaine and Darrel Martin. This is his first book, representing what he has learned in thirty years of tying flies.

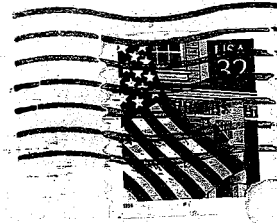
And what a book! I've long since given up reading basic fly tying books. I feel that if a book begins by telling me how to mount the hook in the vise, it won't be long enough to teach me anything I don't already know. Flytyers Masterclass is not a beginners' book. Although it sets out in incredible detail the recipes for twenty important fly patterns, each with the history of its development and tips on how to fish it effectively, it is as though each lesson is the means to teach novel uses of materials, new techniques that one can use in other situations if the reader has the creativity to see the connections. The flies are just as relevant to America as they are to the UK: Mayfly nymphs, scuds, terrestrials, Caddis larva and pupa, Stoneflies. The illustrative drawings, by Edwards himself, are the most precise and beautiful that I have ever seen in a fly tying book. The detail drawings make you feel that the hackle stems and fibers, the tying thread itself are as thick as a man's arm. The photography of the finished flies, by Peter Gathercole, are also beautiful, but one wonders how the backgrounds were selected. In many cases, they do not provide enough contrast with the fly.

● So what did I learn from this book?... how to make convincing Caddis wing buds from Swiss Straw and wings from two new materials not commonly available in the U.S. I will use Flexibody material on nymphs from now on, and many new uses and techniques for closed cell foam. I learned a new way to make jointed legs on Stoneflies and Beetles and novel techniques for producing thoraxes on Mayfly nymphs and adults. I found out how to make dubbing from chopped deer hair, and how to properly use a dubbing whirl. I will experiment with hackle fibers held in a dubbing loop. One of the patterns is the Klinkhamer Special, a parachute emerger tied on a curved hook with a poly yarn wing, designed so that the abdomen is submerged and the wing supports the fly. It's interesting to see that Mon. Klinkhamer developed this pattern independently. I have been experimenting with similar flies for the past three years, as in the Brush Cut Midge. I tie most of my dries on curved hooks with a poly yarn wing and parachute hackle. All of that on only the first reading of the book!

If you are an experienced fly tier, don't miss this book. It will stimulate your imagination and creativity, and your own imitations will be more convincing after you assimilate some of Oliver Edwards' techniques. It's the best fly tying book I've read in years!



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DEADLINES

MAY 4/15

Now on the Internet at:

<http://www.spacestar.com/users/lambcom/kiap.html>

Visit our expanded and enhanced website

Report of the Annual Business Meeting...

Twenty four people attended the Annual Business Meeting at the JR Ranch on March 5th. After sharing a good meal and fellowship around a large table, the meeting was called to order by outgoing President Gary Horvath. Jon Jacobs offered an amendment to the Kiap-TU-Wish bylaws (*see p. 4, March RipRap for complete text*) which passed on a voice vote after some discussion. As a result of the bylaw change, there will be two additional board members serving two year terms, elected in even numbered years, one from Minnesota and one from Wisconsin. Nominations for these positions will be from the floor at a regular meeting of the chapter. If there are no nominees, the positions will remain vacant. The first election of board members under the new plan will take place in 1998. In other business, Brent Sittlow and Ellen Clark were elected to the Board to serve three year terms, Chuck Goossen gave a detailed report on the financial condition of the chapter, and reiterated the need to raise funds, since scheduled projects will require almost all the cash on hand. He said that gifts in any amount would be gratefully accepted, and are, of course, tax deductible. Actually, any gifts made to Kiap-TU-Wish before April 15 are deductible on 1996 federal taxes. After the financial report, Gary Horvath spoke of the conservation issues facing Kiap-TU-Wish in the next few years, the need to monitor development, the threat of ground water pollution from mining and agriculture, and the need to revitalize the state Trout Unlimited organization. At its March 16th meeting, the Board of Directors elected Tony Sifter, President; Ross Nelson, Vice President; Chuck Goossen, Treasure, and Richard Lindholm, Secretary. At latest count, Kiap-TU-Wish had 168 dues paying members; about three quarters of the membership come from Wisconsin.

We all owe a big debt of thanks to Gary Horvath for dedication and superior accomplishment during his term as President. His continuing involvement with TU will include the chairmanship of the Water Resources Committee at the state level (*see p. 4*), as well as local issues involving water quality.