



Rip Rap

April Meeting

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

President's Lines:

Been fishin'? That's the greeting I've received quite often recently. And yes, I've been fishing. But for how long? As most of you know, this is the final year for the experimental early season. The Conservation Congress and D.N.R spring hearings are slated for this month (see pg. 2), and it will be decided whether an early catch and release season in Wisconsin will become permanent. Many of our members have strong opinions on both sides of the issue. There are legitimate concerns in each camp. As a Chapter, we have decided not to take a position, in deference to those diverging views. However, I feel we should publicize the hearings for those of you who want to express your opinions publicly. It is important that the views of trout anglers in this region and our chapter be heard. But, no matter how the chips may fall, we are, and always will be in the business of preserving, protecting and restoring cold water resources. Although the love of trout fishing binds us together, the true mission of TU is to make sure that the fish have a place to live, not in figuring out how and when to catch them.

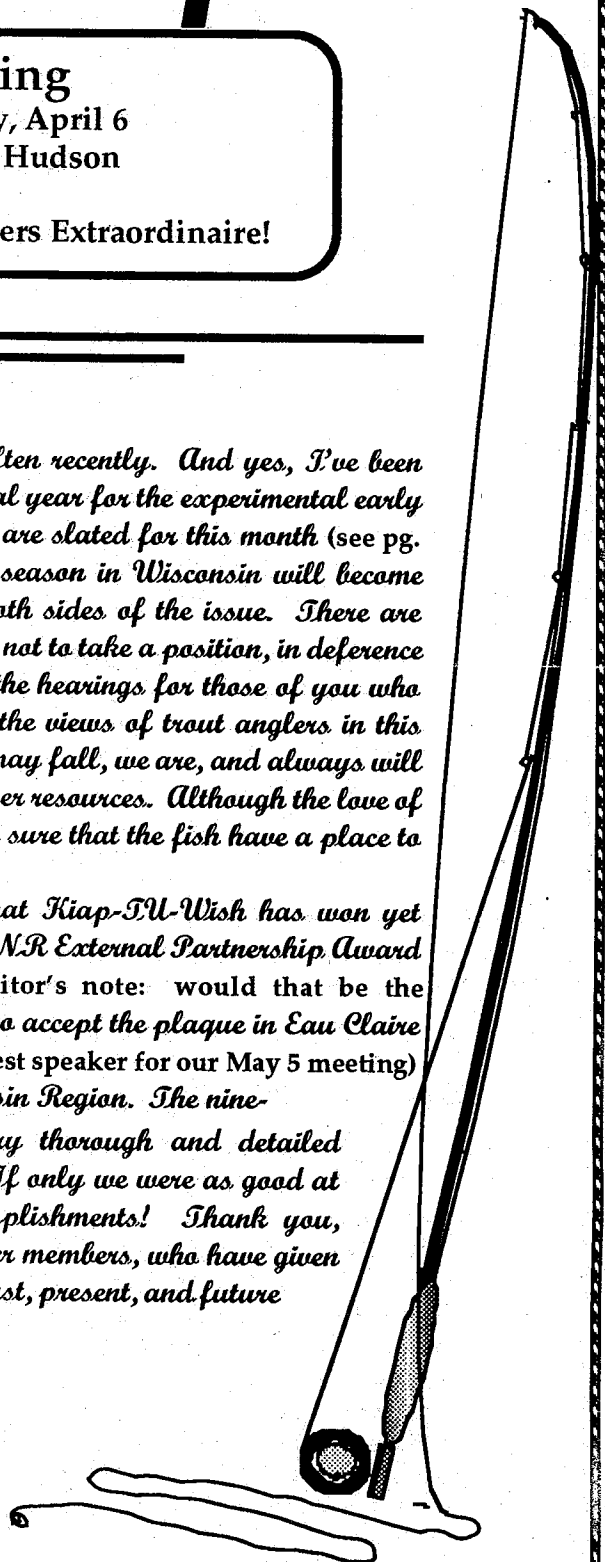
Again this month, I have the pleasure of reporting that Kiap-TU-Wish has won yet another award! Our Chapter has received the 1998 Wisconsin D.N.R External Partnership Award for Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection. (editor's note: would that be the "WDNREPAFMHP" award?). Six of our members were on hand to accept the plaque in Eau Claire on March 3rd. The nomination came from Marty Engle (guest speaker for our May 5 meeting) who is the D.N.R fisheries manager for the Lower Chippewa Basin Region. The nine-

page nomination was a very thorough and detailed history of Kiap-TU-Wish. If only we were as good at documenting our own accomplishments! Thank you, Marty, and thank you chapter members, who have given your time and talents in the past, present, and future

*Sincerely,
 Brent Sittlow, President*

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Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

Dates and Agenda for Conservation Congress...

Hearings will be held on Monday, April 12, at the following locations. If you can't attend, (Minnesota residents are invited to participate too), you may send written comments to Mr. Al Phelan, Conservation Congress Liaison, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 no later than April 16th. Only 'snail-mail' comments will be counted, no e-mails, please. Here are the locations:

Pepin County	Government Center, Durand
Pierce County	Hillcrest Elementary, Ellsworth
Polk County	Government Center, Balsam Lake
St. Croix County	Cashman Auditorium, WI Technical College, New Richmond

7. Should the DNR reauthorize the early catch and release trout season?

The current experimental early trout season began in 1997 and is up for permanent status, modification, or removal.

8. Do you favor allowing the use and possession of barbed hooks during the early season?

Wardens have had many problems enforcing the barbless hook requirement, (Dave Hausmann spoke of this at our last meeting). Most studies show that barbed single hooks do very little damage to trout if the fish are released carefully. There will probably be no early season if the barbless hook requirement is maintained.

9. Do you favor prohibiting the possession of any baits other than artificial lures on designated category 5 trout streams?

When wardens encounter fishermen using bait on 'artificial only' streams, they find it difficult to catch anglers who are adept at hiding or stripping their hooks of bait before the warden can actually examine their hook. If possession of bait was illegal, it would be far easier for them to enforce the regulation for artificials only.

Come out to one of these meetings, and let your opinions be known. It's great that there is so much 'grass-roots' input into the regulation process. Take advantage of it.

Twin Cities Chapter holds annual Banquet...

Friday, April 9 is the date. Silent Auction 6pm, Dinner 7:15pm. Sheraton Metrodome, 1330 Industrial Blvd, Mpls. is the place. There will be raffles, live auction, great door prizes, custom rods, guided trips and much more! Single dinner is \$50, couples \$80. Sponsor level is \$200 which includes two dinners and other benefits. Kid's dinner is \$20. For more information or reservations, call (651) 770-5390. All proceeds go to help volunteers protect Minnesota's purest waters and best trout and salmon streams.

Keep a watchful eye....

Gary Horvath and Brent Sittlow met with Wisconsin DOT, the DNR liaison, and Hoffman Construction Company to go over the plans for the HWY 35 expansion from I-94 to River Falls. If anyone sees signs of erosion or sediment problems during the construction process, please call Brent, or an officer or Board member with the details. (Their numbers are on the last page of Rip Rap).

In order to foster kinder and gentler trout handling, Ted Mackmiller and Gary Horvath posted TU "Consider Proper Release" signs at access points to local rivers.

On opening day, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust will have volunteers at access points to distribute angler brochures to raise awareness of the fragility of cold water fisheries and encourage anglers to join in the effort to preserve the Kinni. If you'd like to volunteer, call Skip James, at (651) 436-1565.

Kiap-TU-Wish Opposes Siting of Feedlot Operation Near Rush River...

At a public hearing at the Martell Town Hall on March 18th, our president, **Brent Sittlow**, delivered a strong statement on behalf of the chapter in opposition to the proposed Julimar Dairy feedlot operation which, if authorized, would be built on the west side of the Rush River upstream of CH 29. At this time, it is not clear what the ultimate outcome will be. The State of Wisconsin will ultimately decide whether or not a Wisconsin Pollution Elimination Discharge Permit will be granted. This permit is necessary for operations that consist of more than 1000 animals. A dairy cow is considered to be 1.4 animal units, so this means that more than 700-800 cows will require the permit. Here is the text of Brent's speech:

"On behalf of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I'd like to offer the following statement concerning the proposed Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in Martell Township of Pierce County, WI.

Our chapter recognizes that CAFO's and large-scale dairy operations are undoubtedly the future of Wisconsin agriculture. Large producers in today's agricultural marketplace have the capital, resources, and technology to efficiently maximize the production of their operations. Additionally, through safe operation and effective management, these large-scale dairy operations can benefit the local communities through employment, taxation, and crop marketing opportunities. Having visited the Julimar Dairy in Rush River Township, it is apparent that their existing operation is very efficient and productive as a milking operation.

However, is the particular site chosen for this new operation in the best interest of Martell, the cold water resources flowing on, beneath, and beside this site, or even Julimar Dairy itself? Our organization believes that the site chosen for the new Julimar Dairy possesses not only severe physical limitations, but also the potential for catastrophic and destructive events that can destroy the fresh water resources that this community, county, and state enjoy.

It is no secret that the Rush River is a very high quality cold water fishery. To many anglers, it is the choice destination for trout fishing in Wisconsin and the entire Midwest. Like all cold water resources, the Rush enjoys and relies on a delicate balance of habitat and water quality to thrive as it currently does. But as the pressures and threats from various sources in the watershed mount, that delicate balance is easily thrown off.

The site of the proposed dairy operation and the five million-gallon manure storage lagoons tips this delicate balance. The site will lie in, or very near, an intermittent stream that flows directly to the Rush River on a half-mile away. It is obvious that the landscapes and slopes of this particular parcel contribute to the funneling and run-off of melting snow and storm water during wet seasons. Adding 800 to 1000 dairy cows, driveways, cement slabs, roof tops, and heavy equipment would turn this site into an unnatural bottle-neck for storm water to concentrate and flow through. Such a site begs the question of whether or not a five million-gallon manure storage lagoon can safely withstand the test of time and certain flood events.

Understanding that a nutrient application and management plan is very important and necessary for operations greater than 1000 animal units, our chapter feels that there still is certain potential for disaster during application periods. In eight years of operation at their current location, Julimar Dairy has indicated that three spills have occurred. As this date points out, the fact that having a nutrient management plan and good intentions of safe-handling cannot completely guard against mechanical failure or human error. And with the volume of manure at five million gallons or more, the stakes become even higher when application failures occur, whether it be the fault of machine, or human being.

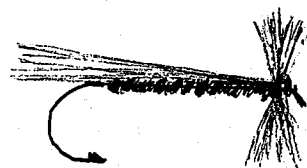
On a regional level, data from the Iowa DNR indicates that in 1998 alone, there were thirty-nine reported fish kills in that state. Of those, thirty-one were manure-related. In Wisconsin in 1998, reported manure-related fish kills have happened in Weedens Creek (Sheboygan County), Fischer Creek (Manitowoc County), and in Parker Creek, a tributary to the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix County). In the locally well-publicized Parker Creek case, the guidelines and practices that are acceptable in this state were not broken. Granted, the operator involved in that case did not have a nutrient management plan and had some bad luck thrown in, but an essentially legal application of manure for his operation resulted in the deaths of up to 10,000 trout. How can a legal application in Wisconsin result in such a serious fish and invertebrate kill? Are our nutrient management plans and accepted practices for crop production sufficient to protect our wet-lands and cold water resources? It is not clear to our chapter that they are.

To conclude, our chapter realizes some benefits of large-scale dairy operations on the Wisconsin agricultural scene, but the site proposed in this situation is totally inappropriate considering the potential for disaster and the valuable resources that would be in its path. We hope that the land use decision-makers realize the dangerous threats of this site. They are knocking at the door of an ecological disaster.

Perry Palin's Hen Pheasant Caddis...

This is a very simple fly, and very effective on the Kinni, Rush, and neighboring streams as a tan adult caddis imitation. (Editor: Perry's style of tying a feather-wing caddis is applicable to many different colors and sizes, using the appropriate plumage, from grouse, rails, etc.) The single feather-tip wing lies flat over the top of the body. This doesn't show the tent-wing shape of caddis wings when viewed from above, but looks just fine from below. I fish an Elk Hair Caddis in strong currents, but the Hen Pheasant Caddis gives a better silhouette on flat water. Dick Frantes preferred this fly with two elk-hair antennae, but they are a pain to tie, and, I think, unnecessary. I got my hen pheasant feathers from a private party who pen-raises the birds for the table. Another soft but not too webby body feather can be substituted, such as those from sharptail grouse and certain quails, or from the body (not the saddle) of domestic chickens.

Hook: 16-18 standard TDE dry fly hook
Thread: 8/0 tan
Body: fine tan dubbing (tan mink or bleached muskrat preferred)
Wing: hen pheasant body feather
Hackle: light ginger



1. Anchor the thread to the hook and dub a thin body 2/3 the length of the hook shank.
2. Strip away excess feather barbs from the tip of a tan pheasant body feather. Holding the feather tip flat on top of the hook, take two loose turns around the stem, just ahead of the body. Pull the feather forward through the two loose wraps until the wing is the proper length, about 1.5 times the body length (Perry's wing extends well-past the bend of the hook, see drawing), then bind down the wing with additional firm wraps of thread. Trim the butt of the feather stem.
3. Apply 3-5 turns of light ginger hackle ahead of the wing. (Perry uses a slightly undersize hackle for this pattern, the hackle is no wider than the hook gap). Whip finish.

Skip's Skuba Caddis...

After reading a great deal of literature about Caddis flies and patterns, I realized that I had no imitations of the diving, egg-laying caddis. After comparing several different concepts of how such a pattern should be tied, I decided to invent my own, employing elements from other people's successful efforts. This pattern, as described, has never been fished by me, so I can't vouch for its effectiveness. It looks good, though, and I'm enthusiastic about its possibilities, and the chance to catch trout when everyone else is thinking that the hatch is over.

Hook: 16-18, heavy wet-fly hook, TDE
Thread: 8/0 Black
Body: Peacock herl
Rib: Copper wire
Bubble sack: Clear Antron yarn
Hackle: Hungarian Partridge breast feather



1. After anchoring the thread on the hook, bind down the end of a piece of copper wire, winding over it with the thread to the beginning of the hook bend.
2. Bind down a peacock herl and return the thread to just behind the hook eye.
3. Wind the herl forward, forming a smooth body. Tie off, then rib with the copper wire. Tie off the wire and cut off surplus.
4. Mount a piece of Antron yarn on top of the shank. Cut off surplus yarn at the head, and trim the rear portion to be the same length or a little shorter than the body.
5. Tie in the stem of a HP breast feather, and take two or three turns. Hackle barbs should extend past the bend of the hook. Whip finish.

Rif Raf...

Barking at Night, and other sins...

by Skip James

This morning, I was awakened by Connie Calder singing a song on MPR's morning show called "How I Love That Dog." Before I was fully conscious, I was aware of canine singing by my bed table. Java signals her readiness for the day's adventures by creeping as close as she can get to my head, while still keeping all four feet on the carpet. Then, she cautiously shakes her head. This makes her choke collar tinkle against the vaccination tags. If this subtle, unobtrusive noise doesn't wake me, she begins to sing, uttering short phrases in the alto register, melismas of pitches that gradually increase in volume until she is sure that the cadence of my breathing signals that I am awake. Then, the tail begins to beat on the wall, grouse-like, with building intensity, until I stick a foot out of bed. Then, after we greet each other formally, she heads down the stairs, tail wagging, leaning against the wall. There is a dark stain on the wall, where a year's wash of skin oil has been gradually and unintentionally applied by a less than upright dog. Some say that it's a trait of Rottweilers to lean against things...the wall, your leg, the car seat. Half Rottweiler, half Golden Retriever, sometimes she falls over in a heap if the thing she's leaning against moves unexpectedly.

I thought it would be proper for me to report on Java's progress as a fishing dog, since the picture essay I did of her a couple of years ago. Now, at age 22 months, Java is full grown, about sixty pounds of energy, friendliness, and curiosity, with an incurable urge to be an engineer. An engineer? Well, when we go fishing, Java seems to enjoy swimming from one side of the river to the other, but almost never empty handed, (or empty-mouthed?) She will ferry large sticks and small logs from one side to the other. In fast water, this is really quite fun to watch, since the current's pressure on whatever piece of wood she's selected can alter the point she wishes to reach. Once, on the South Branch of the Root River, she and her 'project' were carried about 50 yards downstream before she reached the other bank. On another occasion, a couple of beavers watched with admiration from the bank as she hefted a large dead cottonwood branch and swam purposefully across the current. Java didn't see the beavers. Of course, I've taught her to stay downstream of me at all times. This works for the most part, and allows me to do some fairly serious trout fishing, as long as the construction work is carried on behind me, but every now and then, Java forgets and starts moving upstream, past my legs. Then, I say: "Sit," and usually break up with laughter as she does what she is told. Sitting, the bulk of her body now almost weightless in the water, she is slowly rocked off her bottom and tipped over by the current. Remember cow-tipping? It's just like that.

Not all of Java's adventures in the woods fill me with joy. There's usually a dead fish or other dead animal on the bank that she feels compelled to roll in. Then, I'm thankful that there's a lot of water handy to wash the back of her neck and head from smelly gobs of rotting flesh, sometimes with maggots attached. In the Fall, there's the problem of burrs that seem to turn the soft hair of her ears and belly into impenetrable knots.

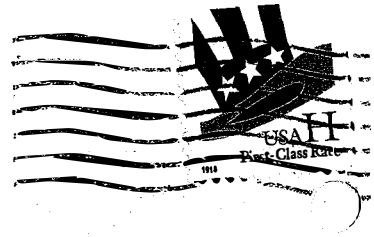
She's not caught a trout yet all by herself, although when I have one hooked, she's incredibly interested to see how big it will be, and follows the leader cutting the water with her eyes. When I hold it in my hand and show it to her, her concentration is intense, and she usually gives the fish a lick. When I let it go, she often lunges for it. I wondered why she licks the fish. I think it's just a way of sensing it, like a child puts everything in its mouth. One day when no one else was around to see, I licked a fish too. I won't tell you what it was like, but I'll bet that now that I've aroused your curiosity, you'll lick one too. See the power of words! If I see someone on the stream this summer take a freshly caught trout and surreptitiously raise it to their lips, I'll know that that person has read and enjoyed the April 1999 Rip Rap.



Java heads for the other bank of the Root River



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May 4/15/99

Visit our Website for Stream Reports, Chat and Chapter News
<http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish/>

Board of Director's Meeting ...

On March 14, the Kiap-TU-Wish Board of Directors met. After the treasurer's report was received and approved, several topics were discussed. Ted Mackmiller spoke of the need to study the dams that supply water to the Eau Galle River. Perhaps the temperature of the river downstream could be lowered if the toe drains would allow for bottom draws. There was discussion of the impending sale of the "Swinging Gate" property on the Kinnickinnick to the Wisconsin DNR. You will remember that an anonymous donor allowed the Kinnickinnick River Land Trust to buy the property on very short notice to save it from being developed. Now, the property between the river and the highway will become DNR land. A discussion of the proposed large dairy operation near Martell led to the position being taken by Kiap-TU-Wish set forth and delivered in Brent Sittlow's speech at the Martell meeting on March 18th (on page 3). There was mention of the early season, and the board determined to maintain its previous stance of neither opposing or promoting it. It was suggested that promoting trout fishing in the 'new' stretch of the Willow River above Burkhardt might strengthen its future claims to being a true trout fishery in the eyes of the DNR. The cost to reproduce the video: "Storm on the Horizon" is approximately \$5 each. Instead of 'selling' the video, the board decided to ask for a donation to the chapter in that amount for each copy. If you want one, (and you should!) call either Andy Lamberson or Brent Sittlow. The chapter has accomplished an amazing variety of projects without a secure source of funding. Various ways of increasing revenue were suggested, including starting a Kiap-TU-Wish endowment fund.

Spring Fishing Clinic, Saturday, May 22...

Still time...

to volunteer your time,
your talent,
your flies.

Chapter members needed
as instructors,
as guides,
as chefs.

Don't wait,
Call Now!

Jon Jacobs: (715) 386-7822
Mike Alwin: (651) 770-5854