



# RIP-RAP

Restoration, Improvement and Preservation  
Through Research and Projects

INSIDE: Book Reviews!

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

December 1990

## UWRF Official Hears Kiap-TU-Wish's Message

A meeting last spring between University of Wisconsin River Falls campus planner Dale Braun and members of Kiap-TU-Wish has yielded positive results for the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River.

Kiap-TU-Wish learned that campus plans included the placement of parking lots within the floodplain of the South Fork. An estimated 900 parking stalls will be required to meet the projected shortage for the campus. Kiap-TU-Wish members voiced concern over the potential impacts this could have on the South Fork and the lower Kinnickinnic, such as increased flooding and the introduction of heated water after rain events. Dale Braun conceded that the South Fork has historically been viewed as a ditch by the University. A series of alternatives and safeguards were discussed, along with other issues affecting the river.

In an open public meeting held November 8th, the campus parking plan was unveiled. The new parking lots had been removed from the floodplain and a retention pond had been added. The pond will be designed to accept inputs from an existing source of runoff plus the new expansion. An existing parking lot located on the floodplain was redesigned to take it further from the river.

After the meeting, I talked with Dale Braun and thanked him for his efforts. I also suggested that the pond could be designed as a detention pond thus eliminating runoff to the river in all but the largest rainfall events. Kiap-TU-Wish will continue to follow the development and implementation of this plan.

Gary Horvath

## NEW STREAM IMPROVEMENT CO-CHAIR

Kiap has again been favored by a show of Leadership. Craig Mason has relinquished his position as the WI Stream Improvement Co-Chair to take over as Editor of the Rip-Rap. The WI Co-Chair role has been assumed by Gary Horvath, a board member who has impressed all of us with his watchdog role in River Falls the last couple of years.

COMING NEXT MONTH: FISHWORKS '91

## CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Final plans are being made for our Holiday party on Wednesday December 5th at the Hudson House! By now you should have your reservation called in to Jean Mitchell (612) 770-5854 or Jon Jacobs (715) 386-7822. We still need items for our fabulous silent auction! Drop them off at the Mitchell's Fly Shop or bring them the night of the Banquet. Cocktails will be served at 6:30, followed by dinner, a delightful talk by Charlie Johnston, and the silent auction. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food shelves. We hope to see you there!!

## BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS!

Here are some brief book reviews from two well-read trout anglers. They may help you find that special Holiday gift or serve to shorten the closed season for those of us who cannot afford a trip to New Zealand!-CM

### Jon Jacobs' List

**The Curtis Creek Manifesto**, Sheridan Anderson. This book is an amazing thing: an angling comic book. It's low cost and absolutely packed with sound advice and whimsical but very effective illustrations. Anderson's graphic style is very evocative of the wacky 60's, but for an aging hippie travelling incognito like me, that's a strong point in the book's favor. Available in fly shops and directly from the publisher, Frank Amato Publications.

**A River Dream**, Allen Say. This is a children's book and I know of no better way to introduce young people to the beauty of flyfishing and the ethic of catch and release than through this book. In it, a young boy, while ill, takes a dream trip with his uncle to a trout stream where he had in real life failed to catch a fish previously. In the dream, the fishing is better but the youngster is faced with a decision that takes maturity. This is another book that is beautifully illustrated, this time with realistic paintings that adults are certain to enjoy, too. Currently available (at discount at The Angler's Art).

**Naturals, A Guide to Food Organisms of the Trout and Nymphing, A Basic Book**, Gary Borger. There is a surfeit of books available on these and related topics, but I prefer Borger's because they offer sound advice, clear writing and are nicely organized. I like them, too, because Borger seems to be a very honest writer. In **Nymphing**, Borger acknowledges that there is truly nothing new under the sun and attributes most nymphing methods to previously published authors, unlike some writers who, unfathomably to me, attempt to grab credit for even the teeniest of innovations. Both books are currently in print.

Now for one on surface fishing: **Fishing Dry Flies for Trout on Rivers and Streams**, Art Lee. This book does not have my unqualified endorsement. The book is extremely "information dense", as they say. Unfortunately, Lee's writing style is extraordinarily dense also. Still, his suggestions on equipment, reading the water, tactics and flies are worthwhile. Lee is very much a generalist when it comes to fly selection and as one who grows weary of hatch matching, I find that refreshing. Lee has some interesting ideas on recognizing one's strengths and weaknesses as an angler and on working on both.

**The Ways of Trout**, Leonard M. Wright, Jr. A very interesting book that addresses the question of when and why trout feed. Wright admits that he is not a scientist and that these questions need more research by trained biologists. His books have a smooth, flowing style that I find exceptionally readable. Read this book and find out about "the hidden trigger" that moves trout to satisfy their hunger. Currently in print.

### BOOKS OF THE HEART AND SOUL

Any, but preferably all of John Gierach's trout trilogy: **Trout Bum**, **The View from Rat Lake** and **Sex, Death and Flyfishing**. Gierach is clearly the best of the new writers and with the passage of time will be considered among the best of angling writers, period. People have told me that his style is mindful of Garrison Keillor, in that Gierach seemingly starts on one subject, wanders away into several others and then ties them all tidily together. I think this comparison flatters Keillor far too much. True, the two authors do have this trait in common, but Gierach isn't a whining poseur whose given name is actually Garry. Anyway, Gierach entertains, informs, instructs and, best of all, philosophizes with the best of them. Each book certainly stands alone, but I think it pays to begin at the beginning, which is with **Trout Bum**. All three books are currently in print.

Fishing and Hunting from A to Zern, Ed Zern. Zern is arguably the most humorous outdoor writer to be found, but his writing style is much to be admired, too, and might make a case for excising the word "outdoor" before writer. Currently in print.

A River Runs Through It, Norman MacLean.

Perhaps when everyone I know presents me with their receipts from the purchase of this book, I'll quit touting it. I say that literature of any kind doesn't get any better than this. In print in various editions.

A couple of anthologies: Silent Seasons, edited by Russell Chatham. Three essays each by seven very good authors, including Chatham, novelists Jim Harrison and Thomas McGuane (who made Richard Nixon's White House enemies list), the late Harmon Henkin and Charles F. Waterman. I like books such as this because different voices are represented. Each one is well worth listening to.

The Ultimate Fishing Book, edited by Lee Eisenberg and Decourcy Taylor. This is a coffee table book in format, but it isn't fluff. It combines fine photographs, reproductions of classic artwork and essays by such luminaries as Ernest Schwiebert, Bill Barich, Ted Williams and Geoffrey Norman, whose long essay ties the book together thematically. I believe it's still in print, but you may have to search. Many libraries have the book.



#### THE ACERBIC ANGLER'S LIST

How to Fish from Top to Bottom by Sid Gordon. The one book I know of written about Wisconsin fishing. One winter it changed me from an occasional trout fisher who usually got skunked to a full blown fanatic who then could catch some fish. I still hold the record for most times skunked in Minnesota and Wisconsin and I never have caught 40 fish in one day on public water.

The Complete Angler: (The notes of Theodore Gordon, Patron Saint of American Flyfishing) by John McDonald. It will help one understand and accept the handed down traditions, mores, and ethics that somehow makes one happier and prouder to be a flyfisher.

While the following are mainly the older, eastern books, now is the time to collect them, thanks mainly to publisher Nick Lyons. And don't forget you can trade, lend/borrow and get books from the public library.

Samplers: (Smorgasbord) to help you decide your favorite taste in authors. Fisherman's Bounty Nick Lyons, Ed; The Masters on the Dry Fly J. Michael Migel, Ed; and The Masters on the Nymph via the Theodore Gordon Club.

History: Paul Schullery, Edward Ringwood Hewitt.

Humor: Ed Zern and Patrick McManus.

Gourmet meat, potatoes, and vegetables that taste almost like dessert: Roderick Haig-Brown (perhaps the most skilled writer of all). Vince Marinaro, Joe Brooks, Ray Bergman and Charlie Brooks.

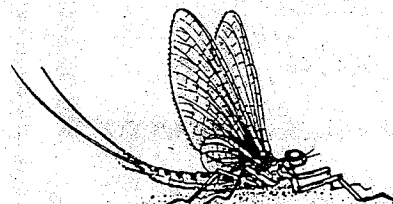
High calorie desserts: Robert Traver, "Chairperson of the committee to blow up the Mackinac Bridge" and my favorite author. Nick Lyons, Charlie Fox, Alfred Miller (Sparse Grey Hackle), Arnold Gingrich, and Charles F. Waterman.

Can't leave out: Ernie Schwiebert, A.J. McClane, Lee Wulff.

Best of the new "Western" writers: John Gierach, David Hughes.

How-To Writers: I learned the hard way before these books, so read very few but Tom Rosenbauer impresses me the most.

Fly Tying: I am so inept at tying - I never got/bought one!



A.A.

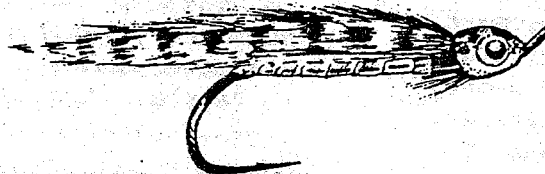
NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Our sincere thanks to Tim Holschlag, our November speaker for his excellent presentation on smallmouth bass angling and conservation. His organization, the Smallmouth Alliance, has already done a great deal to spread the gospel of protecting the fish and its environment in the three short years since its inception.

Andy Lamberson, K-TU VP and flyfishing guru, was the featured speaker at the TCTU November meeting. His topic was the Kinnickinnic River. Andy offered some general angling advice along with his slide presentation, but his primary message was the Kinni is at risk from development, hydropower and poor agricultural practices. Andy had drawing power; this was far and away TCTU's best attended meeting of the year. Good job, Andy!

Lee Haas of the Osceola, Wi. trout hatchery called me on Thursday, November 16th to tell me that 25,000 rainbow trout fry were available for stocking in the Willow Race. The fish should be in place by the time you read this. Lee said that he's loved fish as long as he can remember and a visit to his facility will confirm that. It's a beautiful, immaculately maintained place in a gorgeous pastoral setting. I highly recommend a visit, which you can make on weekends even in the face of severe budget cuts that are pinching DNR programs across the state. Buy as many trout stamps as you can afford!

*Jon Jacobs*



**MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Dec.5- Holiday Party**  
**Jan.2- Tom Helgeson-**  
**Missouri River**  
**Feb.6- Tom Anderson- Nymphs**  
**March 6- Business Mtg.**  
**April 3- Fly Tiers**  
**May 1- Marty Engel Wisc.**  
**DNR**

**KIAP-TU-WISH**

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