

RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

December 2006

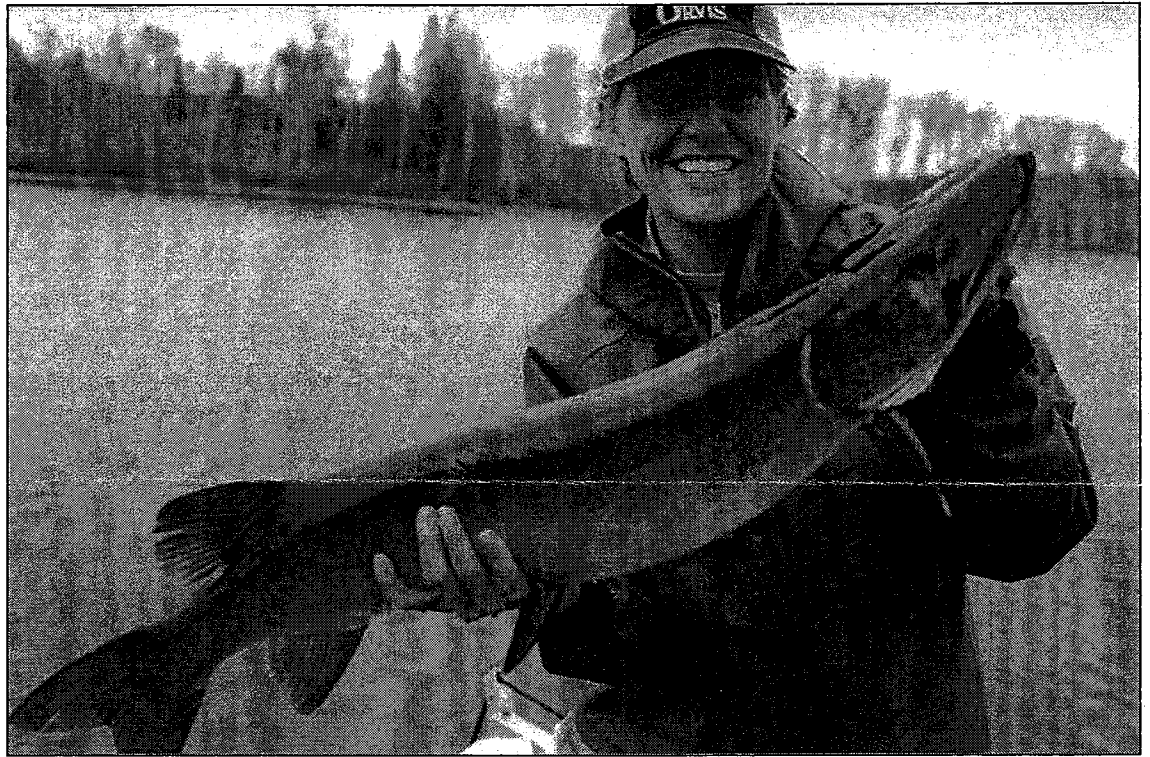
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Trout fishing

"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."

John Steinbeck



Wendy Williamson of Hayward Fly Fishing Company shows off a nice muskie.

Hayward outfitters to highlight annual banquet and auction

By Michael Alwin

Save this date, Thursday, December 7th, 2006, for this will surely be the highlight of your holiday social season. Heck, for some of you it could be the highlight of your entire year.

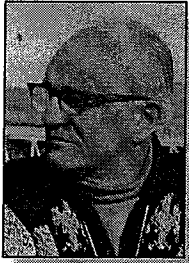
Anyway, that is the date of this year's annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. If you've attended this ban-

quet in years past you know what a convivial gathering it is. If you've never attended you'll be in for a pretty sizeable surprise...this is the most relaxed, friendly and low-key fundraiser you're likely to attend.

Yes, it is a fundraiser. No, you won't feel like you've been hustled to buy stuff you don't want. There's a story here begging to be told.

See Banquet, page 3

Big fish I have seen



By James R. Humphrey

Jim Humphrey, of Oak Park Heights, MN, is the co-author of Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams. His new series is anecdotal, discursive and opinionated, according to the author. The essays may eventually appear in a collection. Humphrey welcomes comments, including rebuttals. "A bit of controversy is good," he says.

There were two 36" northerns from Muskellunge Lake and about five feet of muskie on a cane pole with 40# test line and an eight inch sucker. There was a four pound, 11 ounce small-mouth from the Manistee hooked on a White Miller and an odd tin spinner of the kind so effective that they don't make them anymore. There was that big brown at Dunn Bridge on the Rio Grande, and a 22 inch, beautiful, recently dead brown on the Lower Kinnie on Humphrey's pool. There is the recollection of a gigantic, toothy dogfish that came up and grinned at me like the Cheshire cat in Alice—more ominous than friendly, getting ready to take a piece of me. There were several Chinooks in the Milwaukee River south of Capitol Drive, all in the 30 inch range, but one that Joe Balestrieri caught that reached from above his belt to ankle. I have seen and caught countless northerns from Nipigon and Lake Wabinoosh, an embarrassment of riches, all 20 to 40 inches; too many I fear, but that was years ago in another country, "besides, the wench is dead."

There was Dick's 24 and one-half rainbow on Sawmill Lake in November when the fish took line into the second backing. A steelhead taken on a fly in the Gualala. Dr. Rowell's brace of steelhead from Wisconsin's Bois Brule. A brown from the White River of Arkansas that John Schorn certified to be 20 inches, although I couldn't confirm that, being so anxious to release it. But John was an honorable gentleman and

first class trout. There was a similar size cutthroat on the Yellowstone downstream of Buffalo Ford, when light was fading and the world was at peace. I was in the boat when Eino Tutt caught a huge walleye on Balsam Lake; and with him in a boat on Nipigon when he brought to net a Coaster that might have scaled six pounds. The Coasters are outsize brook trout that fatten in the big lakes; they are being encouraged to return to Lake Superior along the Wisconsin shore.

I have heard of many large, huge trout, taken regularly by big-fish fishers; unfortunately I have seldom been present to witness the action. Fish sometimes are larger in the imagination than they are in the net. One night I saw sizeable walleyes on Balsam Lake, lined side by side like ships in slips, with noses pressed against the steep shore, their eyes in the moonlight shining like pearl buttons. I never expect to see such a sight again.

● Banquet, from page 1

Twenty or so years ago Jean Mitchell was our chapter President. If you knew Jean you knew a woman who was down to earth, low-key and pretty informal. In those days the chapter membership had dwindled to about 118, programs were tough to find and the push was on to create a big event to generate some new enthusiasm for the chapter.

The suggestion was made to host a TU National Banquet, a big buck affair that draws lots of attention and advertising...and costs a ton of bucks. Jean's response was, "No. We're pretty informal around here. Let's have a tackle swap."

And that's exactly what we did. Of course, over the years the banquet has changed to reflect the focus of the chapter. These days Kiap-TU-Wish is involved in many more capital intensive projects and so the fund raising component of the banquet has become more important.

You'll still find lots of donated tackle...rods, reels, lines, waders, flies...but you'll also find gift items, jewelry, art works, vintage books, delectable chocolate desserts and, once in a while, a computer or a little motor for your boat. Every year is different so you never really know what you'll find...treasures, for sure.

Program to feature Hayward fishing guides

Entertainment this year will be provided by Wendy Williamson and Larry Mann, owners of Hayward Fly Fishing Company. Their program will spotlight the unique fisheries and the scenic and historic waters that surround them in their little corner of "God's country."

Larry & Wendy were trout guides in

Colorado but their work now revolves around drift boat fishing for big smallmouth, muskie and pike. These people are generous folks who genuinely enjoy sharing their outdoor experiences with others and their program will make you want to book a trip with them.

Registration details

The venue for this evening of friendship, good food and entertainment is Tartan Park, with the social hour starting at 6 p.m, dinner at 7 p.m with the program following. The banquet menu features roast loin of pork with apple chutney and Queen's Breast of Chicken with wild mushroom cream sauce and cornbread stuffing. Accompaniments include classic garden salad or Caesar salad, wild rice pilaf with dried cherries and pine nuts, parsnip potato puree, a medley of fresh seasonal vegetables and mixed berry cobbler and coffee for dessert. All this can be had for a mere \$35 and that low fee includes a ticket for the door prize.

The deadline for reservations is 5:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 4th. Call Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (651/770-5854) to secure your reservations. Call now because the room's capacity is only 110 and there is a surcharge if you register late or walk in without a reservation.

It is not too late to contribute items for the silent auction and they may be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop until Dec. 5th. Items could include but not be limited to tackle, flies, books, gadgets, household furnishings, a decent red wine, jewelry or the se-



Larry Mann holds the net, while Wendy Williamson holds the fish. They will tell about their Hayward outfitting experiences at the annual banquet.

See Banquet, page 5

President's Lines

By Greg Dietl

While visiting Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop on a recent dreary November day, many of the occupants of the shop were commenting that this is the time of year when they're just not quite sure what to do with themselves. Some were planning trips for later in the winter, others were talking about restocking fly boxes, tying new patterns or shedding the unused ones that have been in the box for years. Many were discussing recent events on the political scene. Someone mentioned it was a good time to rest and reflect and someone mentioned it was a good time to give thanks.

I would like to thank all the chapter members who participated in chapter activities this past year. We recently filed our annual financial report which includes volunteer hours.

We reported over 740 volunteer hours. When you consider habitat projects, water monitoring, attending city council meetings, writing grant proposals, maintaining the website, editing and publishing Rip Rap, banquet planning, participating in special events and clinics to name some, our hours were spread out over a wide variety of activities. We should be pleased with our participation level. I believe our actual hours are higher and that we need to do a better job of capturing what I call more of the silent, less visible hours members put in on activities that benefit our mission of cold water conservation. I promise to work on a plan in the future that will better capture the actual hours our members dedicate to activities.

Upcoming projects for next year include Pine Creek, continuing work on Gilbert Creek and possibly some work on the Eau Galle. I hope to meet with Marty Engle in December to see about some brushing work

this winter on the Kinni. I would love to see this type of winter project return. Keep your fingers crossed and watch the website for updates.

Andy Lamberson was nominated and accepted by the board to fill the empty board seat. Andy is welcomed back to the board and has already agreed to be the chapter contact for monitoring the Willow River State Park campground expansion plans.

TCTU has elected Steve Carlton as its new President. Kiap TU Wish thanks past TCTU President Kevin Biegler for his years of service and all his accomplishments and welcomes Steve as the new President. Kiap TU Wish has worked with TCTU on a variety of projects over the past few years and looks forward to continuing this partnership.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the banquet, December 7th.

2-minute drill for advertisers

As you may have already noticed, RipRap has begun accepting advertising. The reason is to help defray the \$300 per issue costs of printing and mailing the newsletters to your homes.

Money that Kiap-TU-Wish spends on paper, ink and stamps is money that could be spent on stream preservation and other conversation projects.

So now it's up to you to show our supporters that their advertising works. If you visit one of their businesses, tell them that you saw their ad in RipRap. And right now, stop what you are doing, go to your computer, visit their web sites and request to be added to their online newsletter list. You can do this in two minutes. So do it! Now.

*We reported
over 740
volunteer hours.
But I believe our
actual hours are
higher and that
we need to do
a better job of
capturing the
silent, less visible
hours.*

Greg Dietl

Salmonflies re-established on Utah's Logan River

By Paul Wright

Two years ago this past November when I was in Logan, Utah, visiting my son, I had the opportunity to take part in the first step of a salmonfly relocation program on the Logan River, which I wrote about in the March 2005 RipRap. This outing consisted of overturning stones in the Blacksmith Fork River, which has a healthy salmonfly population, and capturing the live nymphs for transportation to the nearby Logan River. About 30 volunteers took part in this first endeavor.

Salmonflies, for unknown reasons, disappeared from the Logan River in the mid-sixties. This effort to re-establish this once plentiful insect in the Logan is headed up by Mark Vinson, entomologist at Utah State University, and coordinated with the Cache Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Utah Division of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service.

While enjoying some upland bird hunting and trout fishing with my son in Utah's Cache Valley this past October, I had the chance to talk to Mark again about this project. He told me that adult salmonflies

were observed the following year near the site of that first transplant, giving hope that the species might re-establish itself in the Logan River. Several additional transplants of nymphs have since taken place, although with some difficulty due to high spring runoff conditions. Some adult salmonflies have also been relocated as part of this four year project. Additional information can be found at www.usu.edu/buglab

Oh yes, we had some good Hungarian partridge hunting and I managed to catch a couple of pretty decent Browns, which as far as I know, should still be swimming in the Logan River.

Banquet, from page 3

cret recipe for your to-die-for flourless chocolate cake...or the to-die-for flourless chocolate cake itself...what was I thinking?

We also need volunteers at about 5:30 pm to help set up the silent auction and to help facilitate the check out procedure at the conclusion of the auction. Don't be bashful. We could use your help and it's a lot of fun to be involved in this enterprise.

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A few months ago Nick Westcott sent me a file containing several interesting quotes that we use in the "Fishing" piece on page 1.

If you see a short example of great writing that you think would interest or amuse our readers, send it to me.

We can't publish complete articles without permission, but we can publish excerpts from them. And if we would like to use the entire article, permission can often be obtained simply by asking.

Rod Hanson

How to submit articles for RipRap newsletter

By Rod Hanson

Some members have recently asked about how articles are selected for RipRap. Here's the answer.

Submissions to RipRap are chosen for publication based on the following criteria.

1. Club news—next speaker, projects, president's report, board actions, etc—will always be published.
2. News about any member related to their TU service will always be published.
3. "How to" articles—casting, fishing, tying, cooking, etc.—will usually be published, but will sometimes be held for a future publication date depending on space requirements. We need MORE "how to" articles.
4. Personal accounts of fishing trips will always be published IF YOUR NAME IS JIM HUMPHREY. Otherwise, these articles fall to the bottom of the pecking order and will be used only when they are needed to fill space. Since this happens quite often, here are a few guidelines for writing your personal fishing article.
 - a. Keep your articles under 400 words.
 - b. Include an interesting photo of a person doing something. Have the person fill the frame of the photo, not be a speck in the background.
 - c. Use short sentences, strong verbs, and leave the bloviating to Bill O'Reilly. So, if in your story, the trout trembles in the cusp of your wet, shivering hand or the dying sun spangles on the shimmering water, you can forgetta'bout it.

5. Finally, remember that your editor is obsessed with one question—What will RipRap's readers read?

I believe they will read articles that tell them what our TU chapter is doing to improve trout waters and the sport of trout fishing, and they will read articles that help them get more enjoyment from the sport and from their participation in Trout Unlimited.

For an explanation of what they won't read, refer to 4c.

Technical Issues

No matter how worthwhile your article is, it can still get lost in the shuffle. To help your editor do his job well, please make sure your article meets these following technical requirements.

1. The file is word-processed. No email text, please. Attach your articles to your email as MS Word or other word processor document. Otherwise I have to copy your email text into Word, fix all the line break errors, and adjust other formatting snafus.
2. Clarity and completeness of the FILE NAME. Here's an example of a good one:

Rush cleanup with photo.doc—this file name tells your editor what the article is about, where it will go in the newsletter (club projects), and that it's accompanied by a photo. Beautiful.

Here's an example of a worthless file name that leaves your editor pulling his

hair and muttering expletives:
543227-HV-31-3859.jpg

The following is much better:

Rush cleanup.jpg

Confusing file names are the main culprit in articles getting lost during prepress.

3. A complete SLUG. A slug is the essential information found in the upper left corner OF YOUR ARTICLE. It includes the following:

1. Your name
2. Phone number and/or email address
3. A short description of the article—"60 members help with Rush

cleanup"

4. File name of photo if there is one—
"Photo included--rush cleanup.jpg"

In case you wonder why I need this information at the top of the article as well as in the file name, it is because once the file is placed into the page layout application, I have no idea of who wrote it, whether there is a photo, etc. unless I search for this information from your email, which is mixed in with all the hundreds of other emails I received in the last month. So I need it at the top of the article.

RipRap needs more "how to" articles—how to catch 'em, how to tie 'em, how to cook 'em.

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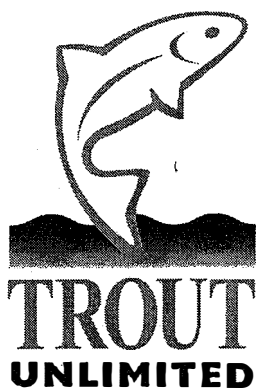
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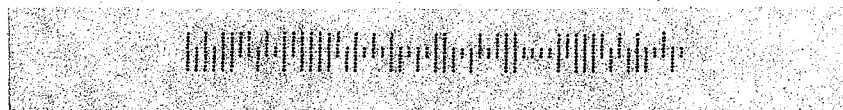
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Deadline for January RIPRAP is Friday, December 22.