



A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
DECEMBER, 2010 VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER BANQUET INFORMATION

Sarah Sanford and Emily Wemlinger will keep us mesmerized with tales of big fish and beautiful scenery on their trip to British Columbia in search of trout of all kinds, including giant bull trout. Sure to be entertaining for the whole family, why not bring them all?

Don't forget, the Holiday Banquet is at Tartan Park, not Bob Smith's Sports Club, and it's on Thursday night, not Wednesday night like the rest of our meetings! Thursday, December 2nd. Social Hour begins at 6 PM, Dinner to follow.



Sarah Sanford (above) and Emily Wemlinger (right) catching fish in beautiful British Columbia



HOLIDAY BANQUET NEAR AT HAND

Registration Deadline Imminent

By MIKE ALWIN

One knows the holidays approach when Kiap-TU-Wish hosts its annual Holiday Conservation Banquet. This gala event is scheduled for Dec. 2nd at the estimable Tartan Park in suburban Lake Elmo. Social hour is at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:30 and the evening's program will begin at 8:30. The menu and staff at the clubhouse always draw rave reviews and this year will not be an exception. Prepare to feast on roast baron of beef, chicken saltimbocca, pasta salad, green beans and carrots with balsamic glazed pearl onions and oven roasted baby red potatoes with rosemary.

Guests will be treated to a pleasing, eye-catching and exciting array of items in the silent auction; jewelry, tackle, books and art lead the charge but the signature items are spectacular. The first is a guided fishing trip for smallmouth, pike and muskie. This trip is guided and hosted by Larry Mann and Wendy Williamson from Hayward Fly Fishing Company and is sure to put a bend in your fly rod. The second is a sweet little 7'9" three weight Driftless rod donated by Thomas Knapp of Noname^ Fly Fishing with assistance from Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. This rod is a pure dry fly rod (ok, small nymphs too) built for tight quarters or a stealthy approach. Remember that this banquet is the chapter's signature fund-raising event and your generosity is crucial in helping the chapter fulfill its mission.

As for the program, the charlatan writing this inelegant screed admits to being jaundiced when it comes to seeing pictures of big fish. But when shown pictures of big fish caught by one of the evening's presenters on a previous trip to British Columbia, the aforementioned writer was stunned. Sarah Sanford and Emily Wemlinger will regale you with stories and photos from their latest trip to BC in search of large cutthroats and monstrous bull trout. This is a presentation you don't want to miss.

Donations to the banquet should be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop by Saturday, November 27th. We have a small band of volunteers on the night of the banquet and we need a few more to help smooth out the rough spots. Please consider helping out. To volunteer you may call Jonathan or Michael at the phone numbers listed below.

Tickets for this event are a mere \$35. You may call Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (651/770-5854) or Jonathan Jacobs (715/386-7822) to make your reservation and all tickets are payable at the door. The reservation deadline is 4:00 PM on Monday, November 29th. Please call; showing up without a reservation will cost you \$50. Tartan Park is located at 11455 20th St. North in Lake Elmo MN.

*Some photos from last year's Holiday Banquet.
All photos by Deb Olmstead*



Wooohoo, it's the Holiday season! I am very excited about this year's Holiday Banquet, and not just because it's an excuse for my wife and I to get out of the house for an evening! I have always been intrigued by the solitary creature known as the Bull Trout, and the presenters this year, Sarah Sanford and Emily Wemlinger, will delight us with exciting accounts of their adventures in British Columbia chasing that wily critter. I believe they also had wonderful fishing for cutthroats and other trouts, so it will sure to be an evening of epic tales and beautiful photographs. You won't want to miss it! Sign up now to get discount pricing.

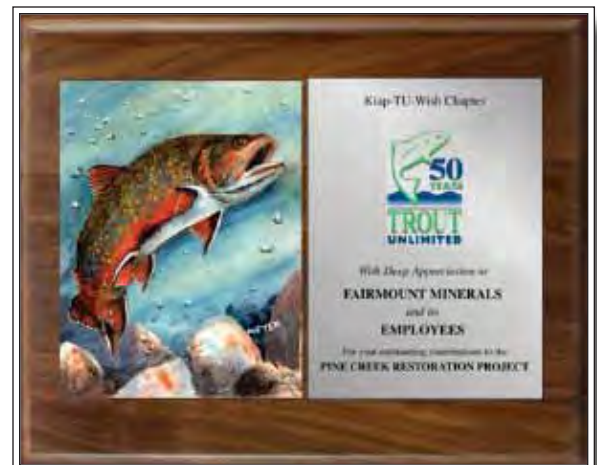
In other news, Kiap-TU-Wish lost a great friend this past Friday, November 12th, when Tom Helgeson passed away. Although I had met him several times, I did not know Tom very well, but I am pleased to include a lovely tribute written by Chapter Webmaster, Greg Meyer. Look for it on page 5. Check out all of the other articles throughout this issue of RipRap, as well. I hope to see you all at the Banquet on December 2nd. Have a great month. I'll see you next time!

CHAPTER AWARD PRESENTATION

BY GREG DIETL

Fairmount Minerals, Wisconsin Industrial Sand Company has been an invaluable partner with the Wisconsin DNR, Kiap-TU-Wish and the West Wisconsin Land Trust in the Pine Creek Restoration Project. From the beginning of the project Fairmount volunteers numbering in the dozens worked side by side with the DNR, WWLT, chapter volunteers and other community members rolling rock, building structures, operating machinery, planting grasses and mulching. This project would not be anywhere near as far along as it is had it not been for Fairmount's extraordinary efforts. The partners are working on funding the final phase of the project in the summer of 2011. Fairmount has already donated \$26,000 to purchase rock and has committed volunteers once again for the summer.

On October 25th, chapter president Kyle Amundson, Andy Lamberson and I traveled to Fairmount's office in Maiden Rock to present a chapter award to Fairmount and its employees in recognition of their contributions to the Pine Creek Restoration Project. Once again, the chapter extends thanks to Fairmount Minerals for their outstanding financial and volunteer partnership to the project. We look forward to working with them again next summer and finishing this award winning project.



Chapter webmaster Greg Meyer designed the plaque and painted the Brook Trout watercolor.



FLY TYING CORNER

This month's Fly Tying Corner brings us two tiny mayfly nymphs. One is a pattern that you probably haven't seen, and the other is an old standby. The Black Ice was sent in by Greg Meyer, and I was hesitant to publish it in RipRap because it is very similar to fly of my own design, (which is a killer!), but it is just different enough so that I ultimately decided to include it. I'm not going to tell you how mine is different! The Pheasant Tail nymph is probably one of the most popular flies in the world today, but most people probably don't tie or use them in the real small sizes. If you don't, you're missing out on a real fish-catcher. Try some next spring when midges or tiny Blue Winged Olives are on the water.

Black Ice Nymph

Hook: TMC 2487 or Daiichi 1550, size 20-24

Thread: Black 8/0

Abdomen: Small black wire

Thorax: Black Ice Dub, brushed out over abdomen

Note: Can also be tied with 1.5mm tungsten bead. (it's the secret weapon)



Tiny Pheasant Tail Nymph

Hook: Daiichi 1550, size 18-24 (the one in the photo is a size 20 or 22)

Thread: Rust 8/0

Tail: 3-5 Pheasant Tail fibers

Rib: Extra-small copper wire

Abdomen: Pheasant tail fibers

Thorax: Small peacock herl

Wing case: Pheasant tail fibers pulled over the thorax

Photos by Scott Hanson



A DEAR FRIEND, TOM HELGESON, PASSES

BY GREG MEYER

On Friday, November 12, the world of fly fishing lost one of its most passionate practitioners to a battle with cancer. Those concerned about the stewardship of natural resources lost an eloquent advocate; those who fished with him lost a mentor; and those who knew him as a friend lost a priceless companion.

Tom Helgeson was a former Star Tribune deputy managing editor, and was a professional journalist and editor for the past 35 years. He founded Midwest Fly Fishing magazine in 1994, and was also proprietor of The Great Water Fly Fishing Expo and the Vermilion Sporting Arts Gallery.

He grew up in Redwood Falls, MN, where he learned to appreciate life in the outdoors. He regularly fly fished the rivers and streams of west central Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota for trout and smallmouth. He fly fished in Alaska each summer for more than 20 years and had sponsored numerous trips to Kodiak Island for fall-run steelhead. Each spring he fly fished for tarpon in the Florida Keys; occasionally he caught one.

In the few short years that I worked with Tom as art director for Midwest Fly Fishing, no one has inspired me more to look beyond the end of my line to the more important issues of our environment and resources, camaraderie, and a passion for the arts. Here is a brief passage written by Tom that really hit home for me:

"I don't pretend to know the answers to many of the questions raised about the future health of our rivers, streams and lakes and their fish. I do know that we're running out of time in our effort to save many of them. We need good, de-politicized fisheries management. We need to be unified, those of us who fish, and signal of support of those management visions that are true. We need to step beyond bickering and let our imaginations, good will and respect for science transport us into and through the future. Three decades ago I could not foresee -no one really could -how at risk our aquatic environments would become. I fished along innocently enough, marveled at what was revealed to me, counted coup on a thousand trout and was at peace with the rivers and streams I choose to get to know. Those were, I know now, halcyon days. Such days for the most part are gone but there is much to celebrate yet and much to do. Fish on, my friends, and be vigilant." TH.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joy Helgeson, and father, Elmer Helgeson. He is survived by his wife, Julie; son, Baird; daughter-in-law Kathy Helgeson; two grandchildren, Grayson Thomas and Zachary Heath; daughter, Carrie Helgeson; sister Bertina Busch; brother-in-law, Noel Busch; several nieces and nephews.

Memorials preferred to Minnesota Trout Unlimited or Guadalupe Alternative Programs in St. Paul.

**Tom Helgeson fishing on the
Missouri River in Montana**



WISCONSIN TU CELEBRATES WITH 40TH ANNUAL BANQUET

BY JONATHAN JACOBS

The state council of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is celebrating 40 years of working to protect and improve Wisconsin's coldwater resources with a sure to be memorable banquet weekend February 4 through February 6 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue. A hospitality room event is scheduled for Friday evening. Chapters, including Kiap-TU-Wish, will have displays summarizing their conservation accomplishments. There will be seminars throughout the day on Saturday, along with the State Council meeting. The banquet itself is Saturday night. The featured speaker is Chris Wood, the new Chief Operating Officer for Trout Unlimited National. The banquet features raffles, silent and live auctions and an impressive array of door prizes.

Tickets for the event cost \$35, which includes complimentary raffle tickets. There is an "early bird special" – ticket requests with an accompanying check received by December 15, 2010 are awarded bonus raffle tickets. Tickets may be purchased by sending a check to:

Henry E. Koltz
c/o 2300 Mayfair Road, Suite 1175
Milwaukee, WI 53226

I've attended the banquet with several other members for a number of years and have always enjoyed myself; the trip helps break the grip of the midwinter doldrums of February. The Holiday Inn is the nicest I've seen and Stevens Point is within easy driving distance on good roads. I encourage you to attend this year. The Council will appreciate your support and I think you'll have a good time. For more info on the banquet, see the ad to the right.

Where We've Been and Where We're Going

2011 TU All-State Annual Banquet

Celebrating Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's 40th Year!

Featured guest speaker Chris Wood, Trout Unlimited's new national Chief Operating Officer.

FEBRUARY 4TH 5TH & 6TH
HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER, STEVENS POINT, WI
1001 AMBER AVENUE, STEVENS POINT, WI, 54481

We've incorporated lots of new things into the 2011 Banquet. Here are just a few:

- Friday night hospitality room party, featuring brewery representatives (and beer) from around Steven's Point
- Displays from Wisconsin's Trout Unlimited Chapters, showing their history, projects, and activities!
- Cocktail hour with live music on Saturday, before the Banquet!
- Presentations throughout Saturday, February 5th by:
 - Simms wader company, from Bozeman, MT (concerning the elimination of felt souled wading boots)
 - Sage rod company, from Washington State (concerning fly rod and line maintenance and other topics)
 - Becoming An Outdoors Woman
 - Boy Scout Fly Fishing Program
- Great prizes from Orvis, Cabela's, Sage, Gander Mountain, and more!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Just \$35 per ticket, which includes raffle tickets for use at the event.
For tickets or more info, contact Henry E. Koltz,
c/o 2300 North Mayfair Road, Suite 1175, Milwaukee, WI 53226
hek@sdelaw.com, 414-331-5679.

Early bird bonus (10 extra raffle tickets if checks received by Dec. 15, 2011)

There is no better way to appreciate the incredible amount of volunteer effort put forth by Wisconsin TU and its members than to attend our annual All-State Banquet. You don't want to miss this one!

TU study praises DNR's trout management

Will The Wolf Survive?

Catch-and-Release Committee Formed

Groundwater bill passes Legislature

TROUT UNLIMITED



KINNICKINNIC SIGNAGE PROJECT

Quite often, visitors and residents of River Falls enjoy the scenic atmosphere provided by floating down the Kinnickinnic River in a tube, boat or kayak without being aware of the approximate time it takes to travel down the river and the locations where it is safe to get out of the river. Many people have attempted to climb the steep cliffs surrounding the river when they wished to get out, which often resulted in injury. Due to the lack of cell phone service and familiarity with the areas where people try to leave the river, a potentially dangerous situation has been created and needed to be addressed.

The Kinni Signage Project was created to serve this purpose by putting signs along the river, including drop off and beach areas, providing important information to people that wish to use the river. For example, the signs indicate that there is to be no littering in and around the river and that there is little or no cell phone reception in the area. The signs also provide the approximate travel time to County Road F by canoe or kayak, which is between three to four hours. Inner-tubing is not recommended because the approximate float time can be up to seven or eight hours.

Planning Director Buddy Lucero has offered a suggestion for a future addition to the project, which would include putting mile markers along the river so that people would know exactly how far they have traveled in a certain amount of time which would be very useful as the unpredictability of river flow is often high.



RIPRAP: REAL OR VIRTUAL?

*The Board is kicking around the idea of sending out RipRap via email, but only to those of you who would prefer that. The rest of you can still get the paper version mailed out to your house. Below is a survey box that you can send in stating your preference. You can also email the Board and let them know how you feel. That address is **kiaptuwish@hotmail.com**.*

Name: _____

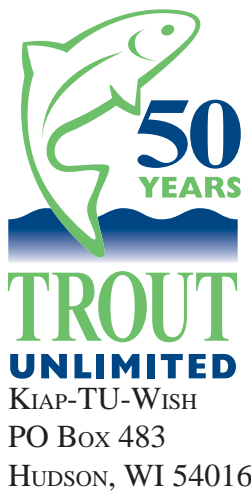
☐ Yes! I would rather have RipRap sent to me via email. My email address is:

☐ No, I like getting RipRap in the mail, and want to continue to do so.

Please mail to:
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016-0483

Or email your preference to:
kiaptuwish@hotmail.com





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY BANQUET!!!

Sarah Sanford & Emily Wemlinger will be talking about chasing Bull Trout in British Columbia! Don't miss it! Thursday December 2nd, 2010 at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo, MN. Social Hour begins at 6PM, with dinner and presentation to follow. Be there!

The deadline to make submissions for the January issue is Tuesday, December 21st.
Thank you!

