

Ceding the Sudatenland

Editorial by Jonathan Jacobs

In addition to the five hundred home development that Hans Hagen proposes to build adjacent to the upper Kinnickinnic, there are two more planned for River Falls, one of nine hundred homes and another of four hundred homes. The three would increase the population of River Falls by fifty percent. It's up to the citizens of River Falls to determine whether or not they can countenance the negative social and financial consequences of such rampant uncontrolled growth, but it's up to the members of Kiap-TU-Wish to determine if we can stand idly by while developers change the character of the Kinnickinnic River ineffectually forever.

The dominant thinking in the chapter is that development is inevitable and that our best prospects for protecting the Kinnickinnic lie in working with responsible developers, encouraging them to use "best management practices," which will allegedly allow for greater infiltration of rainfall on a given area of land than will traditional agricultural methods. Too, there's talk of throwing the weight of some exotic regulatory burden on developers that won't readily embrace the use of "BMP". There are several flaws in this line of reasoning. First, the phrase "responsible developers" is an oxymoron. We may succeed in persuading one or some of them to pay lip service to their responsibilities, but it won't work with all of them. Second, regulations can change in an instant and may be difficult to enforce in any case. Third, there's far more to this than stormwater management. What about the hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater generated daily in these developments, as one example among many?

There's no surer way of guaranteeing the affliction of development throughout the valley than regarding it as inevitable. We would do better by working with factions seeking to retain the rural character of the area. We could work toward establishing an agricultural policy that would help farmers stay on the land while treating it as the precious and irreplaceable resource that it is. Buffers, grassy swales, organic crops and rotational grazing all sound far better to me than the consequences of burgeoning populations. We would do better by encouraging the good work of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, which has already worked some miracles and could work more with the right kind of support. We could create a dialog with the Town of Kinnickinnic in an effort to create a better model for limited residential development. There simply must be a better way.

In 1938 British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned from Munich and announced to the world that by ceding the Sudatenland to Adolph Hitler and the Third Reich, he had, in that infamous phrase, secured peace in our time. We all know how that worked out. Are we going to cede the Kinnickinnic Valley with as little effort, as futilely and with as little moral authority?

In memorium

By Michael Alwin

Bob Mitchell, a charter member of Kiap-TU-Wish, died on January 2nd, 2003 at the age of 81. He served on the board and executive committee and spoke eloquently about trout and trout conservation. He was a passionate advocate of the resource, frequently saying, "What's good for the trout is good for the trout angler."

Bob was also a kind and considerate friend, frequently inviting new people to chapter meetings and winning accolades from folks from all walks of life.

Bob and Jean bought a small fly fishing shop in Lake Elmo, Minnesota in 1978 and went about the business of creating a demand for their expertise, service and products. It was the very first fly fishing shop in the Twin Cities and provided them with a modest living and a wealth of friends.

His daughter, Cathy, his son, Tom and a passel of grandchildren survive him.

Friday forum

Headlining the Friday water forum is Maude Barlow, chair of the Council of Canadians, a citizen group with 100,000 members. Barlow has been called the Joan of Arc of those opposed to the sale of Canadian water to an increasingly thirsty world.

"There is a common assumption that the world's water supply is huge and infinite," Barlow says. "This assumption is false. At some time in the near future, water bankruptcy will result."

Barlow cites a United Nations study that says by the year 2025 two-thirds of the world will be "water-poor."

"The wars of the future are going to be fought over water," Barlow declares. She endorses a 1999 paper from the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) that says, "Water is an essential need, a public trust, not a commodity. It belongs to everyone and to no one."

Author Robert Glennon joins Barlow at the Friday forum. Glennon is the Morris Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy at James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Glennon's recent book *Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters* is the current book-of-the-month pick of *Scientific American* magazine.

Water Follies includes a chapter on Perrier's attempts to site a water bottling plant on the Mekan River and Big Spring in Wisconsin. His book offers numerous examples of how groundwater reserves are being strained by overuse or misuse, even in seemingly water-rich areas like Wisconsin.

Saturday conference

The WSN conference continues on Saturday, Feb. 15, at UW-Stevens Point.

The WSN has invited Governor Jim Doyle to outline his administration's conservation and environmental agenda Saturday at Noon.

Saturday conference breakout sessions revolve around a variety of topics of interest to Wisconsin's sporting, conservation, and environmental community, including:

- a session on how to speak with and influence your legislator on natural resources issues, featuring advice from former State Senator Jim Baumgart and other legislators,
- an overview of the recently released "Land Legacy" study that identifies unique lands that community leaders can target for preservation,
- a training session on how citizens can use the federal Clean Water Act to protect their local lakes and rivers.

Admission to the two-day WSN conference is \$50 for individuals who belong to WSN member organizations and \$75 for the general public. These prices include two meals, the Friday forum, and the Saturday conference. Scholarships and financial aid are also available.

Registration information is available by calling the WSN office at (608) 268-1218 or by visiting the WSN's web site at www.wsn.org.

Clinic date set in stone

By Michael Alwin

The annual Kiap-TU-Wish fly fishing clinic will be held in River Falls on Saturday, May 31st. The clinic will run from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM and will feature instruction in casting, stream craft, and entomology. After supper the students will spend the evening fishing on the lower Kinnickinnic.

The Chapter's immediate need is for flies to give the students. We'll happily accept what ever you'd like to donate, but we'd love to receive a bunch of soft hackles, Comparaduns, Sparkleduns and Elk Hair Caddis. These are cheap, fast and effective and there's nothing better than seeing these students catch a fish on a fly that one of our members donated. Donations can be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

WSN to conduct water forum

From a press release

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network (WSN) has confirmed two of North America's leading water authorities as headliners for a "Wisconsin 2003 Year of Water" forum Feb. 14 at UW-Stevens Point.

Council of Canadians' Chair Maude Barlow and *Water Follies* author Robert Glennon will lead a discussion of water issues facing Wisconsin and the world.

The WSN forum is co-sponsored by the UW-SP College of Natural Resources and the UW-SP Biology Department.

Bug report

By Jonathan Jacobs

Kiap-TU-Wish member and UW-RF biology professor Clarke Garry will offer an update on his macroinvertebrate study of the Kinnickinnic River at the February meeting. Clarke has a way of making hard science interesting for laypeople; this is a program not to be missed. Please join us on Wednesday, February 6 at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street. Dinner is available at 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.

Oyez, oyez!

By Jonathan Jacobs

In accordance with chapter by-laws, notice of the chapter's annual business meeting to be held at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street, Hudson on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 PM is hereby given. The chapter president and committee heads will render reports and board members will stand for election. More details will appear in the March issue of RipRap.

An anniversary announcement

By Michael Alwin

This is a scoop! Twenty-five years ago Bob Mitchell quit his job and plunged into the world of small-shop retail. He had no experience, only a love of trout and trout fishing and an abiding belief that a small, cozy, out of the way specialty shop could succeed in this area. Well, twenty-five years later we're still here and sometime in May we're going to pull out the stops and have a celebration! We'll have prizes, games and food and offer everybody a chance to come and visit their friends and have some fun. Stay tuned.

Bentley's announces Ed Richards memorial fly tying contest

Adapted from a press release

Bentley's Outfitters in Eden Prairie is sponsoring its first fly tying contest as a tribute to the late Ed Richards, an expert fly tier who specialized in full-dress Atlantic salmon flies. There are categories for both surface and subsurface flies. The entry fee is \$5.00, of which 20% will be donated to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust as a memorial to Mr. Richards. Judging will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2003 at Bentley's. Additionally, Mr. Richards fly fishing collection will be sold that day with proceed to Mr. Richards' estate. For further information or entry instructions, call 952-828-9554, visit www.bentleysoutfitters.com on the web or e-mail info@bentleysoutfitters.com.

Out of town

Fiction by Allison Jacobs

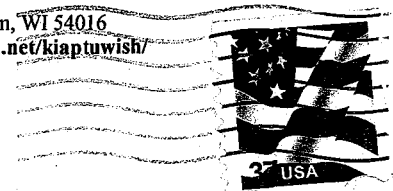
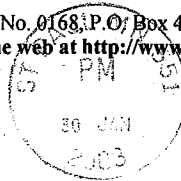
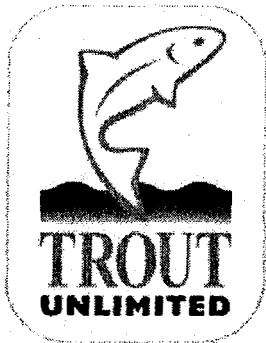
Saturday morning, the clock's red numbers scream "6:45" and she can't get back to sleep. She wishes that she could smell frying bacon or fresh coffee, but all she smells is the rotten, acrid cigarette smoke left on her hair from the corporate party the night before. The sun shines through the slats of the blinds and then through the opaque curtains, creating an ethereal glow in the small room and she needs to get out.

Fifteen minutes later she's sitting in her black Mercedes drinking coffee from a cracked mug. Using her finger, she tries to trace the route to her destination on the dash of the car, but instead she stops in front of her office, where she seems to spend all of her time lately. Cursing to herself, she starts the car again and drives north. City turns to suburbs and suburbs turn to farm country and she knows that she is there. Parking her car in a half-overgrown gravel lot, she sets down her coffee mug and slowly gets out of the car. She can hear the stream and she starts toward the footpath. Lost in thought, she is startled to see the crystalline stream in front of her. Walking slowly to the bank, she lies down on her stomach, rests her head on her hands and feels the warmth of the ground.

Twenty years ago she sat in this spot with a sketchbook that she kept tucked inside her waders. She had no real drawing talent and she knew it, but she was content nonetheless to sketch as her father fished. When she tired of drawing or the tip of her pencil broke, she would venture down to the water's edge and slip in carefully, the cold water rushing past her legs. She would stand behind her father, watching the line and the fly and the rod and the man work together. She was ten then. The years had flown by and she'd found less and less time to spend fishing with her dad. She had more important things: boys, friends, concerts – the list went on. Lying there on the bank, she was flooded with regret. A tear rolled down her cheek, leaving a trail not unlike the ones left by raindrops on the dusty windows of her father's old fishing car.

She lay there for another hour like that before she realized that the sun was bright in the sky overhead. She had stayed longer than she had intended, but as she walked back to her car, she realized that she was filled with a sort of peace. She got in the car, opened the glove box, pulled out a picture of her father and her taken at streamside, placed it on the dash and drove home, remembering.

Allison Jacobs is a student at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.



"If people destroy something replaceable made by humanity they are called vandals; if they destroy something irreplaceable made by God they are called developers."

- Joseph Wood Krutch

"I'm not against progress. Show me some."

-Jonathan Jacobs

"I will explain to him as an acceptable realpolitik: if the trout are lost, smash the state."

-Thomas McGuane

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MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY 5: CLARKE GARRY ON KINNICKINNIC INSECT STUDY. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

MARCH 5: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 2: DRY FLY DICK MEMORIAL FLY TIERS

MAY 7: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR MARCH RIPRAP: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.