



# RIP-RAP

Restoration, Improvement and Preservation  
Through Research and Projects

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

March 1991

Editor: Craig Mason

Layout: Andy Lamberson

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Kiap-Tu-Wish will hold its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 1991 at 8PM at Act2, 516 2nd St., Hudson. The president will present summaries of the past year's activities and accomplishments and the chapter's financial status. Two board members will be elected to three year terms. The nominating committee has placed the names of the two incumbents whose terms are expiring, Craig Mason and Michael Alwin, on the ballot. Subject to the terms of the by-laws, two additional nominations may be accepted from the floor. Any other chapter business, including amendments to the by-laws, may be considered.

## FISHWORKS '91 UPDATE

Over the last couple of work dates a tremendous number of wonderful people have turned out to help the chapter with this headwaters project on the upper Kinnickinnic. In January these hardy, chainsaw wielding ecofreaks cleared over 200 yards of stream bank, both sides, of standing timber. Some of these trees were very tall willows and there was the usual mixture of dead elm and box elder. On February 9th the two dozen workers cleaned up the site by burning the remaining wood piles and cutting the stumps at ground level. The area looks really nice now and should be beautiful by the end of the summer. Area Fish Manager Marty Engel has now turned his troops 180 Degrees to clean up last years site on the west side of the bridge. There are some piles we didn't get to burn last winter and some dead standing timber we should have cut but didn't. In addition, the next work date, February 23rd, is the day on which we're going to split our forces and rebrush a section of the Kinni near the Poor Farm. In order to work two crews on the same day we need a lot of volunteers...so get your tush out there and give us a hand. On the last couple of dates, in addition to our members, we had volunteers from the Twin Cities chapter and a couple of our good friends from the Willow River Rod and Gun Club. Fishworkers included:

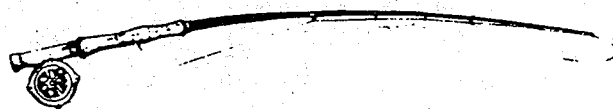
Gary Horvath	Craig Mason	Dave Dorn
Chuck Goossen	Jeff Johnson	Mark Schultz
Paul Wright	Vern Leppanen	Bob Bradham
Gary Albig	Mike Alwin	Ken Olsen
Bill Hinton	Skip James	Andy Lamberson
Jim Humphrey	Art Kaemmer	Dick Frantes
Byron Torgerson	Richard Strom	Kent Johnson
Jon Jacobs	Mike Reiter	Mike Kelly

## FISHWORKS '91 CONTINUED

Marty Engle	Matt Putzier	Tom Battey
Dan Bruskie	Tim Faricy	Mark Dostal
Murray Humble	Mary Hinton	Dan'l Boone Bruskie
John and Carolyn Abrahamson		

Thanks to everyone for their efforts!

*Mike Alwin*



## WILLOW RIVER ROD PROJECT

March 6th is the date of the Chapter's Business Meeting and the date on which the drawing for the Spittler Quadrante Rod will be held. You will be eligible for the drawing if you've mailed in your donation or if you donate at the meeting. There will be extra tickets available at the meeting if you'd like to increase your chances, and we hope you remember the funds are dedicated to the Willow River. Note: This rod has *never* been fished!

## WE NEED YOUR MEMORIES!

Well actually what we really need is for members to take slide pictures of their fishing adventures over the summer and bring them to the first Chapter Meeting next fall!

It is becoming "tradition" for the first meeting of the year to be a recap of all of our fishing adventures (or mis-adventures!) for our fellow TU'ers. So...stick a roll of 35mm Slide film in your camera this summer so you can show the rest of us that 20 inch Brown you landed, or the beautiful stretch of some river you won't reveal the name of. It's a lot more interesting the more of us that participate!- *Andy Lamberson*

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you to Tom Andersen for his slide show and reminiscences on the fond memories related to insect hatches over the years.

Belated thanks, too, to Tom Helgeson for his presentation at the January meeting on fishing the tail waters of the Missouri River in Montana.

The St. Paul Flytiers and Fishermans Club donated one hundred dollars to our chapter in February. We thank them for this generous contribution to our stream improvement fund.

Two recent presentations at our meetings, those by Charlie Johnston on fishing in South Dakota's Black Hills and by Tom Andersen on fishing memories have set me to thinking, first about the Hills, because that's where I did my first flyfishing for stream trout and, secondly, about anglers' selective memories. I can relate fishing stories from years ago flawlessly, but don't ask me who I had lunch with yesterday, or to name quickly a half dozen co-workers, or what's on tomorrow's work agenda.

I can recall vividly, without any references to notes, the first trout I ever caught on a nymph (a size 16 g.r. hare's ear, by the way). It was a 10 inch brown that took in a riffle in Rapid Creek directly across from the high school in Rapid City. I can recall any other number of details from that trip. My wife and I had come to visit friends, Joe and Diane, in Rapid City and Joe, a native of the area, had just recently been bitten by a fishing bug. He took us to a little brook high in the southern side of the hills, where brilliantly colored little brookies practically fought for my elk hair caddis. This was in very late June and we fished under some of the bluest, clearest skies I'd ever seen. When we got back to his truck, it was covered with a fine yellow dust that a call to the Forest Service confirmed as pine pollen. Incidentally, even though my friend no longer lives in the Hills and no longer fishes, you'll not learn the name of this creek from me. An anglers' pact has been made and I'll not breach it. I will tell you that Karen and I went the next day to Castle Creek, a mile or so upstream from a reservoir, and had another

fine day with the brook trout and rainbows there. There's good fishing in many areas of the Black Hills and I heartily recommend a trip there.

I'd like to share a few more angling memories with you, things that I recall more clearly than the headlines from today's newspaper. I can recall my wife having a fine evening's fishing along Quarry Road while she was nearly too advanced in her pregnancy to fit into her waders. I can remember when Craig first trusted me sufficiently to show me one of his favorite stretches of river, a place that's come to hold magic for me. I see myself hurdling along in the passenger seat of Dick's DRY FLY Suburban, nearly freezing in the world's most effective auto air conditioning, as we drove eastward in search of brook trout. I see myself kneeling in the Root River at its confluence with Canfield Creek in May of 1985, doing well with a parachute Adams, but becoming sad thinking of my father, then dead nearly three years, and how much he would have loved such a place. I can remember standing midstream with Mike, talking of career problems and problems in matching the hatch. Sometimes the fishing memories developed far from the stream.

I remember vividly working with Andy in his basement on the trout regulation proposal that we so strongly believed in. And this is my ultimate point in all this rambling: some of my finest and clearest memories come from trout fishing and many of those involve people with whom I became acquainted through Kiap-TU-Wish. I could, if Craig were willing to print it and you were willing to read it, go on endlessly with these stories, but these will suffice.

As I leave the presidency of this chapter, I've come to realize that while we do good, we can enrich our own lives tremendously and that if we do enough good over enough time, we can leave a legacy for our children, too. Please keep up the good work. I thank you.

*Jon Jacobs*

## Opinionated Opinions to Guide the Rookie Trout Fly Buyer-Tier-User

By the Acerbic Angler

Tom Helgeson & Bob Mitchell have near encyclopedic knowledge and are quite ethical in helping you.

There are many skilled tiers around, but they simply cannot compete moneywise against imports and short cut tiers. But the involved efforts to "curry their favors" (the very best can be primadonnas) can be worth a try.



In judging store bought flies:

1. Check if the tier kept the eye clear of tie-off thread and glue - the simplest, best, and quickest way to judge quality for the beginner. It is regrettable that despite the billions of words of advice written, etc., none mentions that in the past, black tie-off thread meant unweighted.

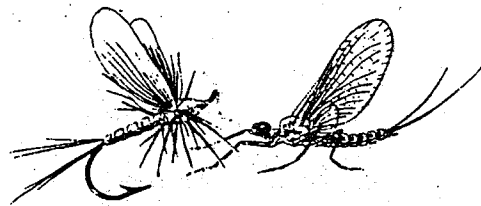
2. By far the most important thing in a dry Mayfly, Caddis or Hopper is the quality of the hackle - test its stiffness between your lips.

3. Blue dun is the best color, but top quality is the rarest to come by except for Cree. Grizzly is the most available, perhaps the biggest reason for the popularity of the Adams.

Don't even think of dyed necks for dry fly hackle. On average, the very pale colors are the easiest to dye, but are poor quality and spraying them to give them sheen can fool the human eye, but not the trout's eye. Very few colors in nature are solid close up.

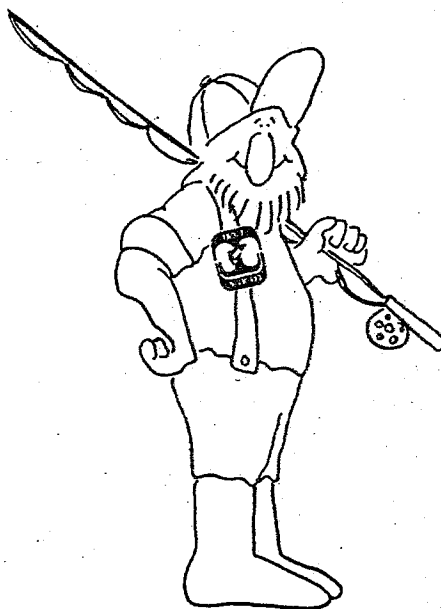
4. Quill bodies are the best for delicate dry mayflies, but don't overlook peacock herl for sinking flies. Soft hackle flies, I believe, are vastly overused and overrated. Why? (perhaps later)

The tail on the dry mayfly should not be anywhere as long as the real thing because you will miss more strikes and get more wind knots. Mayfly duns have their wings straight up, but the only way to imitate that is with parachute hackle.



I personally like the wings spread wider than usual, on a 45 degrees, to minimize landing on its side and you cover both the fluttering wings of a dun and the not completely spent spent-wing. And use hackle tip wings as per Vince Marinaro.

How to EVENTUALLY (don't buy too many patterns too soon) find your place in the normalcy curve between the rare one fly fisher, the 9-19 patterns advocated for the very beginner by a very well known, talented and admired local writer; and carrying 3-400 patterns can best be achieved by avoiding near duplication. More on that if there is an overwhelming demand (means 1, 2 or possibly 3 requests) in the future. Keep in mind, with pollution changing feeding patterns, knowing when, where, why & how to use many flies all times of the year, in all types and sizes of water is a never-ending, fascinating challenge. A.A.



## WORDS FROM THE WISE

Anyone who has ever enjoyed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area owes a world of thanks to the late Sigurd Olson. He fought for the preservation of this wilderness area into his late 70's. The main problem Olson had in the battle was getting people to understand the concept of the intangible values of wilderness. "You must understand," Olson said, "that in saving the BWCA - in saving any wilderness area - you are saving more than rocks and trees and mountains and lakes and rivers. What you are really saving is the human spirit."

Ted Williams (the writer, not the baseball player) recently observed a common occurrence in our modern world. "Why is it", he writes, "that a new subdivision destroys the very physical feature it was named after?"

When John Muir, the father of our National Park System, was asked about his lifelong devotion to the study of nature, he said, "I went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out until sundown, for going out, I found, was really going IN."

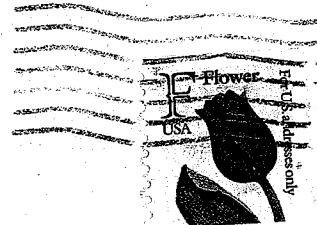
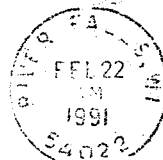
Edward Abbey's passion for the environment is well documented in his many books. For all his anger at the spoilers of his beloved West he has left some wise advice for those fighting the good fight. "Be as I am - a reluctant enthusiast, a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the West; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it is still there."

And finally, for those of us who don't mind fishing alone and rather enjoy it, a message from an Old Guru, J. Krishnamurti. "The ecstasy of solitude comes when you are not frightened to be alone, no longer belonging to the world or attached to anything."

The 8th Annual TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED National Conservation BANQUET will be held on Friday, March 22, at the Bloomington Marriott Hotel, 79th and Cedar. Social hour at 6:00 p.m.; dinner at 7:15 p.m. Exit from I-494 at the 24th Ave. off-ramp south to 79th St., then west one block.

Dinner \$35; couples \$55 (not two fishing buddies). (A \$45 payment includes a one-year membership in TU - new members only.) Send name(s) and checks to Trout Unlimited, 14029 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337. Reservations received by March 1 will receive a special gift redeemable at the banquet. Tickets will be held at the door, not mailed in advance. No door sales, please.

Door prizes, Grand Door Prize, open and silent auctions will be featured.



### MEETING SCHEDULE

March 6- Business Mtg.

Bamboo Rod Drawing

April 3- Fly Tiers

May 1- Marty Engel Wisc. DNR

3Wt Rod-Reel-Line

"Un-Raffle"

KIAP-TU-WISH

TROUT UNLIMITED

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