



# RIP - RAP



RESTORATION & PRESERVATION  
THROUGH RESEARCH & PROJECTS

March 1996

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

## Wisconsin State Council Recognizes Kiap-TU-Wish and Area Fish Manager Marty Engel

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter was this year's recipient of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited's Chapter of the Year Award. The award was accepted by chapter President Gary Horvath at the 11th annual Conservation Awards Banquet held in Oshkosh on February 3. Each year the State Council presents this award to the chapter that has excelled in the restoration, enhancement and protection of state trout streams.

Also honored this year was DNR Area Fish Manager Marty Engel. Marty received the State Council's Fish Manager of the Year Award for his work on obtaining land within the Kinnickinnic River watershed and his work on Willow River regulations.

On a related note, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter member Ted Mackmiller was elected State Council Vice-Chairman at the Council meeting preceding the banquet.

*Gary Horvath*

## You'd think they could wait 'til the Season opened!

A free concert entitled "The Art of the Angler and other Catchy Tunes" will be presented at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin on Sunday, March 31, at 3pm. The brainstorm of local violinist, Julie Ayre, and two musician friends who are also trout fishers, Mike Hipps and Skip James, the concert is built on the theme of Spring and trout fishing. The one hour program will include Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet for piano and strings, Vivaldi's Spring concerto from The Four Seasons,

*See concert on page 6*



## MARCH MEETING NOTICE

**WHEN:** Wed. Mar 6th  
**TIME:** Dinner at 6:30  
Meeting at 8:00  
**WHERE:** JR Ranch

This is our annual chapter business meeting. We will have reports from committee chair as well as a vote to approve changes to the chapter by-laws to remove gender bias.

**Please come for dinner!**

## KINNICKINNIC RIVER IS A PRIORITY WATERSHED

*By Kent Johnson*

With approval from both the St. Croix and Pierce County Boards during the past two months, the Kinnickinnic River has finally achieved priority watershed status! This is excellent news, representing achievement of yet another milestone along the road to protection of this outstanding resource. With establishment of our temperature monitoring network in 1992, with the development and adoption of a stormwater management plan by the City of River Falls in 1994, and with designation of the Kinni as a priority watershed in 1996, the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has much to be proud of. Your concern and involvement have truly made a remarkable difference during the past five years!

The priority watershed program for the Kinni is already underway. The WDNR will begin the "assessment phase" in March, to determine the short- and long-term monitoring needs for the river. I will be representing Kiap-TU-Wish at an initial assessment meeting in March. I'm sure our temperature monitoring network will play a key role in future monitoring. At first glance, an important need will be to expand our temperature monitor-

*See Kinni on Page 2*

## New Dragonfly Guide Published

Dragonflies and damselflies are important components of our native fauna and a food source for many gamefish. Inhabiting a wide variety of habitats, especially wetlands, they are entirely predatory. They catch and consume countless smaller insects on the wing. Naturalists Karl and Dorothy Legler have joined forces with photographer/artist Dave Westover to create a unique field guide that helps us better understand this group of animals. Entitled *Guide to Common Dragonflies of Wisconsin*, the book is unusual in several ways.

This is the first dragonfly guide that concentrates on Wisconsin. The book is illustrated with photographs and drawings of living dragonflies. In addition, the guide is "expandable", allowing for the addition of more photographs of known species as well as photos of new discoveries. For a more detailed description of the book and/or ordering information contact:

Karl Legler  
429 Franklin Street  
Sauk City WI 53583  
ph: 608-643-4926

Gary Horvath

## New Membership Form

Enclosed in this month's newsletter is the current chapter membership form. This new form includes the new TU Membership Services address. Any other membership forms you may have should be destroyed. Please take the time to make a few copies to carry along when fishing and invite someone to become a member of Kiap-TU-Wish.

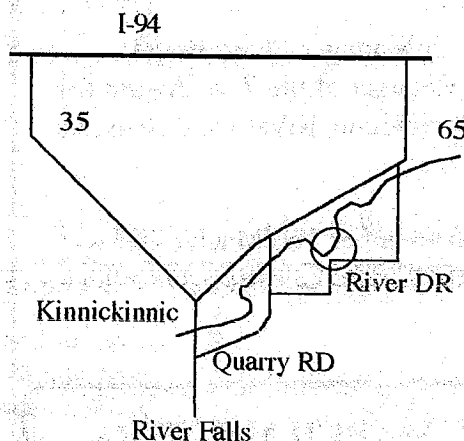
## Fishworks Reminder

Fishworks 96, the Chapter's annual winter stream brushing project, continues on the Upper Kinnie. The remaining dates are:

March 9, March 23

Hours are from 9:00 to 3:00 and workers are reminded to bring warm clothes and a lunch. We need people in waders and volunteers with chain saws. Remember the Kiap-TU-Wish Rule of -20. At 8:00 AM listen to WCCO radio and if the temperature or wind chill is -20°F or lower the work day is cancelled.

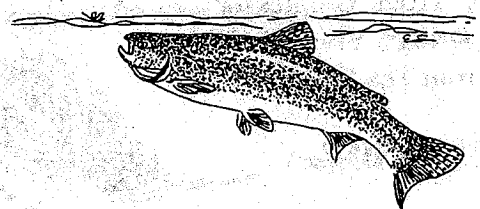
### FISHWORKS MAP:



## Kinni continued from page 1

ing network to two sites on the Rocky Branch and South Fork. I will likely need to enlist your help for construction of shelters in April. Temperature monitoring of stormwater outfalls and detention ponds (by others), river flow monitoring, and automated rainfall measurement may also be in the works. Further, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust has purchased several temperature monitors for the lower Kinni, and began collecting information last fall. The seed we planted in 1992 has grown!

I'll keep you posted as the Kinnickinnic River priority watershed program is initiated. If you have any questions, or have any ideas that you would like me to bring to the March meeting, please give me a call (715-386-5299).



## WANTED: Rip-Rap Editor

Anyone interested in helping out the chapter as editor of our newsletter please contact Ken Hanson at 612-774-8807 or Gary Horvath at 715-425-8489.

## KRLT Poster Available

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) has published a poster featuring a picture of the lower Kinnickinnic River and its canyon. Posters are available for \$10.00 at the Bookpress Bookstore and Custom Art and Framing shop in River Falls, or by mail from the KRLT. Contact Peg Kohring for more information.

KRLT  
N8203 1130th St.  
River Falls WI 54022  
ph: 715-425-5738  
Gary Horvath

## Skip's Loose Threads

By Skip James

### The Case for Winged Wet Flies

Except for streamer fishing, almost all contemporary forms of fly fishing for trout employ the dead drift presentation. To get a good delivery and drift of the fly, the cast must be made upstream, either directly or at an angle to the current, with some help from the angler who throws extra slack in the line either at the moment of casting, or by mending. But many excellent holding and feeding lies of trout preclude the dead drift delivery. The upstream side of logs, rocks, or weed beds are impossible to fish in this manner, without immediate and catastrophic results.

By contrast, most trout fishing before 1960 employed downstream casts, using the rod to give action to one or more flies. Long, willowy three piece bamboo rods were perfect tools to fish in this way. They absorbed the shock of striking a fish on a tight line, made mending easy, and the slender tips were made to impart enticing movements to the flies.

Some aquatic insects are highly active in the water before hatching. The most prevalent Mayfly species, Baetis, does not hatch at the surface from the nymphal shuck, but at the bottom. The winged fly swims to the surface, where it floats while expanding and drying its wings. Baetis species are swimmers, like tiny minnows darting around in the weeds. Some old wet fly patterns, particularly the Iron Blue, Blue Dun, and Leadwing Coachman were tied to represent hatching Baetis. Flies cast across the current, allowed to sink, would flit to and fro, rising from the bottom as the line drew tight in the flow, becoming irresistible to the trout on the prowl.

Baetis spinners lay their eggs on rocks and sticks that extend out of the water, crawling down them while holding an air bubble between their wings. The current frequently washes them away, or they relinquish their hold on the rubble following oviposition. In any case, the winged wet fly fished with action on a tight line is as good an imitation for the egg laying adult as it is for the newly hatched but still

submerged dun.

#### Blue Dun:

Hook: Tiemco 3761 (16-18)  
Thread: Olive 8/0  
Tails: Two wisps of grizzly hackle fibers.  
Body: Muskrat dubbing  
Ribbing: Fine oval gold tinsel  
Hackle: Dark dun, tied beard fashion  
Wings: Natural mallard wing slips (tied so tips are up)

Two stages of the Caddis, emerging pupa and egg laying adult, are imaginatively imitated with winged wet flies or soft hackles. The March Brown wet is a fine match for the mottled brown winged Brachycentrus which is so common on the Kinnikinnick, while a Partridge and Yellow soft hackle mimics the emerger. Try them when the trout won't look at your dead drifted Elkhair.

These Caddis imitations should be fished across and down, skittering the flies on the surface or in the film just before dark. A word to the wise: use a slightly heavier leader tippet; 5x isn't strong enough to absorb the shock of a strike on a tight line. You might try a two fly cast, one on the point, the other on a dropper about eighteen inches above it. Give the flies some action with your rod, just a gentle pulsing motion works for me.

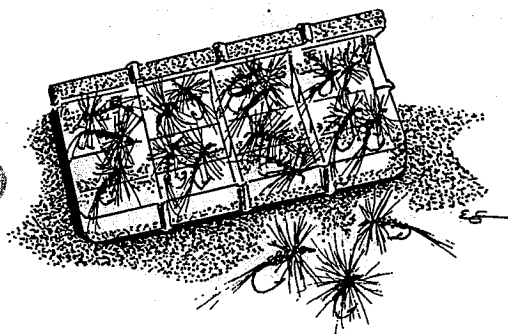
#### Skip's March Brown:

Hook: Tiemco 3761 (14-16)  
Thread: Olive 8/0  
Body: Pale olive brown dubbing  
Rib: Sandy dun, palmered over forward half of shank  
Wing: Matched slips from a grouse tail feather (red stage), tied so that tips are down.

#### Partridge and Yellow:

Hook: Tiemco 3761 (14-18)  
Thread: Yellow 8/0  
Body: Yellow floss  
Thorax: Two or three turns of peacock herl  
Hackle: Three turns of grouse breast feather (red stage)

Dead drift fishing with nymph, split shot and strike indicator is very effective, but there are situations that call for a manipulated, winged wet fly. Carrying just the three fly patterns given here, you can add several tight line tactics to your repertoire, fish places inaccessible to other methods, and imitate active insects. You'll also have more fun, and fool more trout.



## GOOD BYE, GOOD FRIEND

By N. Irv S. Waters

There comes a time when you have to say good bye to a good friend. It doesn't matter how close you've been. It doesn't matter how many years you have been together. You need to say good bye.

When the old friend, your favorite fishing hat, gets jinxed, you have to split, no matter what! Sure, this favorite hat once brought you luck, like the picture of you holding the big trout, with your hat proudly sitting on your head, as if ready to proclaim to the world, "Look at my master. Ain't he something. And I helped him catch this fish." Put those memories out of your mind. Those days are over; this is today. Admit it. The hex has appeared—it's time to go your separate ways. It isn't working any more.

Trust me, alternatives, such as exorcism, are not a kinder, gentler approach. It doesn't work. The demons become more agitated, and big fish sense agitated demons like changes in barometric pressure. You won't see a fish. Besides, how will you handle the nastiest wind storm in the last 40 years —just as your outboard motor unexpectedly stalls?

Once you accept the inevitable, don't do the callous approach, the trash barrel. I mean, after all the good years you and your hat had together, is this the way it should end? How would you like to spend your waning years in a rest home, lying next to a discarded girdle, or an old raccoon carcass? No, I encourage you to adopt a Dr. Kervorkian attitude and show you really care. As hard as it may be, pull the plug.

There are many ways to depart. Burying the dear friend in the backyard works for some, but not for me. My dog, Bullet, sniffs a hat's aroma better than any scent rising from a pheasant. He'll dig up the hat, roll in it like it was a dead carp, which doesn't surprise my wife at all. Among her descriptions of the hat, a decaying carp was one of the kindest. Maybe someday she'll understand the old adage: there never was a lucky hat, without being a ripe hat first?

I plead with you, don't contribute the retired headpiece to a thrift organization, like the Salvation Army. If the hat is jinxed for you, who is to say that it wouldn't be jinxed for the next party? A tax write off is nice, but have some ethics! The poor person shopping at the Salvation Army is the last person who should inherit the jinx. Mind

you, I don't know that jinxes are transferable, but is it worth the risk? Besides, what if your name gets left in the hat, and the new, bedeviled owner tracks you down. God only knows what would happen.

Take stronger actions like, deep sixing it to the bottom of the lake. I once did this, tied it to a heavy cement block, to avoid the winds blowing it ashore and being picked up by some hapless fisherman. The more that I thought about it, however, an unweighted version might have been just fine, as long as the wind was blowing toward Jake Jensen's cabin. You know Jake: the walleye-contest winner for fourteen consecutive years?

Quite candidly, I'm now a firm believer in fire-arms for the final salute. Shoot the hat and get it over with. Just hoist it in the air and let loose with the trusty old 12 gauge. This may seem harsh, but no demon can possibly survive 30 pellets right in the mid section.

Choose your own style, just don't hesitate. If this decision requires a support group, do it. After all, how many fishing days do you have left? Why run the risk?

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### St. Croix County Planning and Zoning Open House Scheduled

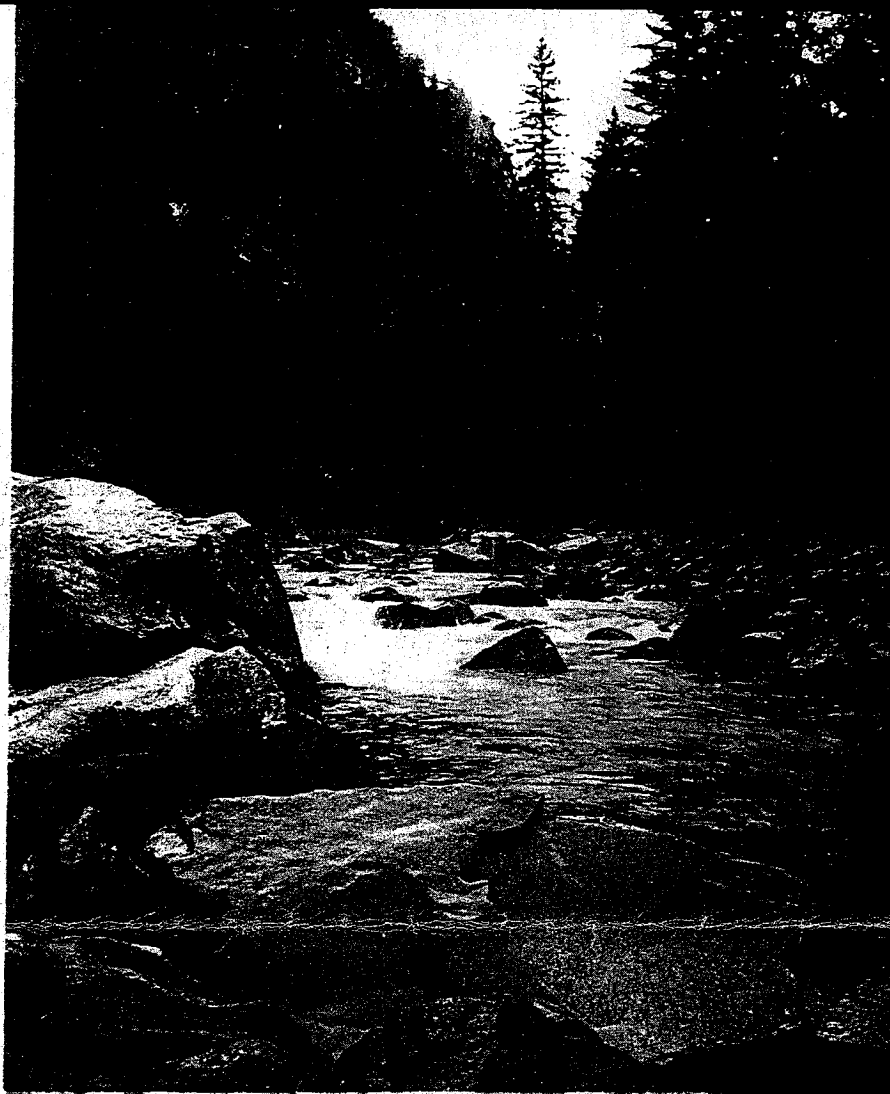
Officials of the St. Croix County Planning and Zoning Project will update citizens on their progress by sponsoring two open houses. Project highlights including a physical feature analysis/mapping prototype, socioeconomic trends analysis and results of the issues workshop and survey will be on display. A 1 hour formal presentation will be held at 7:00 P.M. on both evenings. Changing land use is perhaps the greatest threat to our local streams. Find out what is in store by attending one of these open houses. Open houses will be held:

Tuesday, March 12  
4-8 P.M. Open house  
7:00 P.M. presentation  
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC)  
Hwy. 65 South  
New Richmond

see Open House on page 6



# WANTED... ALIVE AND WELL



"Wild and Scenic"—  
This 11x14 fine art  
print, mounted and  
framed, is available to  
individual donors of  
\$200 and more. The  
photograph, in a limit-  
ed edition of 1000,  
shows the Wild and  
Scenic portion of the  
Clark's Fork and  
appeared on the cover  
of *American Rivers'*  
*Most Endangered Rivers*  
of 1995 publication.  
Donors of \$1000 and  
more are offered a day  
of fishing for a party of  
four on the Clark's  
Fork.

## *How much is it worth to you to protect Yellowstone?*

Given the potential significance of this mine as a precedent to open up mining in other sensitive areas, how much is it worth to protect your own special places from this kind of short-sighted exploitation? After all, if a Canadian company can mine on the edge of Yellowstone, *what area can be safeguarded?*

Noranda's plan to construct a slurry reservoir seven-stories deep in an area frequented by earthquakes and avalanches puts the Clark's Fork (directly downstream) at risk from the moment mine tailings are first placed in this impoundment. If the Noranda mine proceeds as planned, the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone—Wyoming's first and only "Wild and Scenic" River—will inevitably be polluted.

Someone is trying to take something of great and rare value away from our children and from your children, too. A tough battle looms ahead and the outcome is

uncertain. Join us, at least, in knowing years later that we did all we could to protect one of our most important legacies.

### SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO:

Save The Yellowstone Waters  
P.O. Box 940  
Cody, WY 82414

*Save the Yellowstone Waters is a non-profit foundation created by members of the East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited for the sole purpose of fighting the Noranda mine. We're teachers, lawyers, farmers, oil workers and shop owners—ordinary people and volunteers all.*

*Since we have no paid staff, any and all donations will fund more ads, billboards, seminars and activities directed at stopping this mine. Please help us fight this reckless and ominous proposal.*

# DON'T WRAP OUR FUTURE IN A TRASH BAG!



**T**he Canadian mining company, Noranda, plans to dump over five million tons of waste rock on the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park. Incredibly, their plan involves placing this rock on top of a plastic liner the size of seventy football fields in an area frequently racked by avalanches and tremors. But, this liner must *never* leak, because when the submerged tailings are exposed to oxygen, they begin to generate volumes of sulfuric acid.

Sulfuric acid pouring into Wyoming's only Wild and Scenic River is not a news item likely to enhance nearby Yellowstone Park as a destination attraction worldwide. Not only tourism, but recreational and agricultural economies of the region may be sorely damaged by the inevitable failure of this unproven technology. A mine impoundment failure in Colorado is costing taxpayers one hundred million dollars.

Officials responsible for making the final decision on the mine are presently considering various alternatives for the tailings disposal. As Montana's Senator Baucus has proposed, a plan requiring Noranda to haul the tailings out of the sensitive headwaters area to a site which can be safely controlled and monitored is much more favorable to our children and future generations.

WRITE OR PHONE THESE OFFICIALS NOW! IF THEY CAN'T OPPOSE THE MINE, ASK THEM TO PLEASE CONSIDER HAULING THE TAILINGS TO A STABLE, LOWLANDS AREA AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE!

**JILL SIGGINS**  
PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
1002 SHERIDAN AVENUE  
CODY, WY 82414  
307.754.5171, EXT. 200

**GOV. JIM GERINGER**  
STATE CAPITAL BUILDING  
CHEYENNE, WY 82002-0010  
307.777.7434

**BILL YELLOWTAIL**  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR  
EPA REGION VIII  
999 18TH ST., SUITE 500  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466  
800.227.8917

SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO: SAVE THE YELLOWSTONE WATERS  
P.O. Box 940 • CODY, WYOMING 82414

We need your  
help to stop  
a Canadian  
mining  
company  
from spoiling  
Yellowstone  
National  
Park!

**T**his ad ran this past spring, during the time federal and state agencies were writing their comments on a draft environmental impact statement on the mine. The purpose of this ad, which appeared in Montana and Wyoming newspapers, was to support and encourage these resource managers to take what we feel is a responsible stance towards the Noranda tailings impoundment.

We plan to continue this kind of activism, but we need your help and support to do it. Please consider what you can do as a group, or as individuals, to keep this nightmare from ever happening.

Send letters to your congressional delegation and to Congressman Bill Richardson (D-NM) who has sponsored a bill to make the area adjacent to Yellowstone off-limits to this kind of exploitation.

SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO: SAVE THE YELLOWSTONE WATERS, P.O. Box 940, CODY, WY 82414



## JOIN TROUT UNLIMITED AND HELP PROTECT THE RESOURCE

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter  
Chapter #0168

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited was founded in 1972 for the purpose of protecting, improving and restoring the trout habitat in western Wisconsin. We derive our name from local rivers of particular concern to us: the **Kinnickinnic, Apple, Willow and Rush**. Over the years we have worked closely with private citizens, local governments and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on various projects such as storm water monitoring and management, bank stabilization, stream bank debrushing, fish population surveys, placement of in-stream habitat structures, fishing clinics, and fish stocking. Conservation minded persons can find rewarding work within our chapter ranging from preparing mailings to streamside projects.

There are also pleasant social experiences with Kiap-TU-Wish. We hold regular meetings from September through May on the first Wednesday of the Month. Meetings are held at the *JR Ranch* located just north of interstate 94 (exit #4) in Hudson, Wisconsin. Meetings begin at 8pm with dinner starting at 6:30 (reservations are not needed). Our meetings feature presentations on angling, flytying, stream ecology, and water quality as well as latest issues that are affecting our local, regional and national resources. Of course there are the usual fishing stories and tall tales and we would be very interested in hearing yours at the next meeting! Please join us!

Membership includes a subscription of the national magazine *Trout* and the state council newspaper *Wisconsin Trout*, both published quarterly. The chapter also produces a newsletter, *RIP-RAP* published monthly, September through May.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**YES!** Please begin my one year membership to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited #0168

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Trout Unlimited  
Membership Services  
P.O. Box 1335  
Merrifield, VA 22116-9801

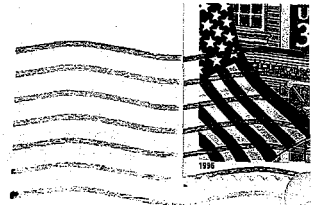
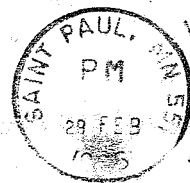
☐ Regular Membership (\$30)      ☐ Family Membership (\$35)  
Payment method:      ☐ Check (Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited)  
   ☐ Charge

☐ Mastercard# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



KIAP-TU-WISH  
TROUT UNLIMITED  
P.O. BOX 483  
HUDSON, WI 54016



#### KIAP-TU-WISH OFFICERS

President: Gary Horvath 715-425-8489  
Vice President: Tony Stifter 715-549-5708  
Treasurer: Tom Batley 612-456-0889  
Secretary: Ken Hanson 612-774-8807

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#### RIP-RAP EDITOR

Ken Hanson  
612-774-8807  
696 E Larpenteur AV  
Saint Paul, MN 55117

#### DEADLINES

APR 3/22  
MAY 4/19  
SEP 8/23  
OCT 9/20

*Concert continued from page 1*

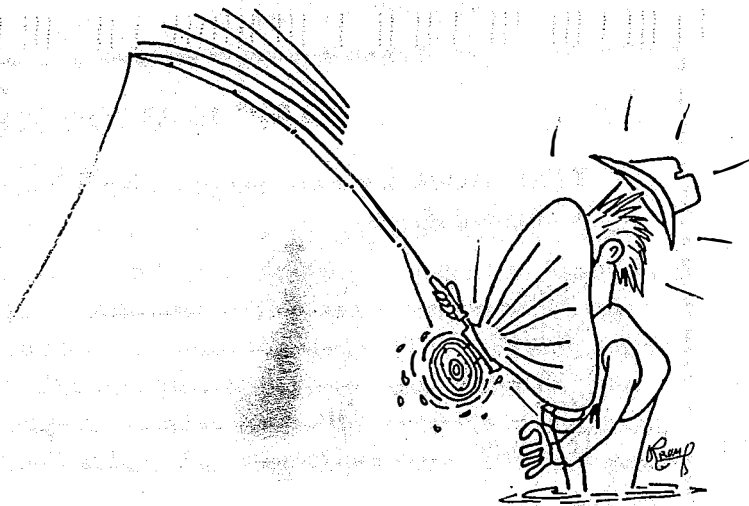
and celebratory music for trumpet, voice, and strings by Bach and Handel. Performers will include Maria Jette, soprano; poet Keith Gunderson, and well known Twin Cities chamber musicians. Before and after the concert, staff from Bob Mitchell's Flyshop in Lake Elmo will demonstrate fly casting and fly tying. The video "The Way of a Trout," will be shown continuously, and there will be displays by local conservation groups including Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Bring your family and learn more about our local trout waters: their recreational use, hazards to water quality, and successful management techniques.

*Skip James*

*Open House continued from page 4*

Tuesday, March 19  
2-8 P.M. Open house  
7:00 P.M. presentation  
St. Croix County Government Center  
Community Room  
1101 Carmichael Road  
Hudson

*Gary Horvath*



**BAD ANGLING IDEAS**  
Back-Lash Air Bags

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