

RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

March 2006

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Trout fishing

"My father was very sure about certain matters pertaining to the universe. To him, all good things—trout as well as eternal salvation—come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy."

Norman Maclean
A River Runs Through It

Kiap TU Wish receives St. Croix Habitat Development Award

By Greg Dietl

The St Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department's Land and Water Conservation Committee awarded Kiap TU Wish the 2005 Wildlife Habitat Development Award for the volunteer work the chapter did on Tiffany Creek in Glenwood City in 2005.

Kyle Kulow, St Croix County Watershed Land Specialist presented the award at the Department's Award Banquet on Thursday, February 9, in Baldwin. At the banquet to receive the award were chapter members Andy Lamberson, Ted Mackmiller, Bob Lorenzen and myself.

The section of Tiffany Creek that was worked on was over 2000 feet on the St Croix County Fairgrounds. By all measures, this project was a big success. Kiap TU Wish put in close to 600 hours of volunteer

time on this project in the winter and spring of last year. Other volunteers not affiliated with TU also put in many hours. Twin Cities TU and Ojibseau Chapter had volunteers participate, also. We were honored to receive the award and were in good conservation company (and enjoyed an excellent meal).

Other awards that evening were Conservation Teacher Award presented to Cindy Landers, Hudson Middle School; Speaking Awards presented to Cole Rebhan, New Richmond Middle School and Bria Long, Westside Elementary School, River Falls; Water Quality Leadership Award presented to Squaw Lake Rehabilitation and Management District; Conservation Leadership Award presented to Shawn Schottler.

Thank you to all the volunteers who put so much time and effort into this little jewel of a brook trout stream.

Annual meeting set for March 1

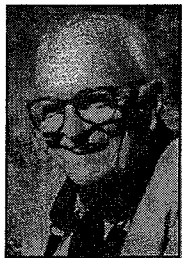
Please join other members for dinner and find out what's happening with the chapter at our annual business meeting. Chapter Board Members Bob Lorenzen, Gary Richardson, and Ted Mackmiller are

seeking to regain their seats on the board.

News on chapter activities will be discussed and a 20 minute movie on early WI DNR stream habitat improvements by Bob Hunt will be shown. Please join us.

Thermopolis

By James R. Humphrey



By James R. Humphrey

Jim Humphrey is the co-author of *Minnesota and Wisconsin Trout Streams*. He lives in Oak Park Heights, MN and is a featured contributor to *RipRap*, whose readers are getting a pre-publication look at "Figments and Fragments," excerpts from Mr. Humphrey's forthcoming book, which he says will be "anecdotal, discursive and far ranging."

It was after dinner at the Holiday Inn, but far from the witching hour. Trout were picking insects from the riffles, leaving that bright diamond of action at the surface. Rainbows, no doubt; but in a pool at the base of a solid cascade of thermal deposits a pod of large "gulpers" was sipping miniscule something's in the film. I had fished for gulpers before in the Rio Grande and the San Juan so I knew something about them. Browns for sure, and I worked them over using every trick out of the vise and box. As the shadows crept in, activity on the riffle behind me closed down for the evening, and the pod of browns dissolved into doubt.

A voice asked, "What are you doing?" He was an elderly gentleman, I believed, although he was half-hidden in the shadows of trees and the onset of evening.

"I'm trying to catch one of those brown trout but I can't raise one."

"They're carp," he said, and I could imagine him biting down on his pipe stem in an excess of humor. I guess I gulped.

The city of Thermopolis, Wyoming, rejoicing in having the world's largest hot springs, sits on the arbitrary separations of the Wind River and the Bighorn River. Upstream through the reservation toward Jackson Hole, it is the Wind, downstream into Montana to Fort Smith and the junction with the Yellowstone, it is the Bighorn.

The Wind ran bank-full, the color of skim milk, when we paralleled it the next day going upstream. Far up, outside the reservation where the water cleared, I stopped at a Forest Service station, but the officers there were not fisherpeople; they hadn't a clue to the status of local trout fishing. So I went

back to the bridge we had just crossed. The river was a painting lovely enough to enthrall an Impressionist. The wading was a delight, but the jinx or hoodoo or spell was on me still. Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons area would be another story, I was certain. We anglers are optimists.

Years later I fished the Afterbay on the Bighorn at Fort Smith in the Crow reservation. The river was high and dangerous. Al Farmer and I linked arms to cross a formidable run to reach an island. While we cautiously probed the edges of the island the drift boats sailed through in lordly procession, dropping leaded flies underneath bobbers that were as large as tennis balls. So that was trout fishing?

On one of those days when I probed the bottom of a shallow riffle for nymphs and caddis cases, my unattached staff drifted away. At the end of the day two anglers followed us to the parking lot. One of them walking my staff. It proved once more to be a small world. He was also a member of the Twin Cities Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The staff is still with me, and more useful now than then.

SUPPORT RIPRAP

If you would like to ensure its RIPRAP's continued distribution in its current form, please consider a tax-deductible donation.

Make your check payable to "Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited" and write "RipRap fund" on the memo line. Mail your check to:

RipRap Fund
Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016

Trout Epiphanies

By Hap Lutter

A day on the river with Marty Engel and the "shocking" crew brought several revelations regarding fish populations and culinary advances. Last year we had a crew headed by Marty on the upper part of the lower Kinni. The shocking process (electrofishing) is an amazing phenomenon and anyone who appreciates the beauty of a river and marvels at its resources should participate in a shocking event.

Being one of the "older farts" on the team I quickly gave over my wand responsibility to younger members and joined the group of netters. What astounded me was the number of fish present in areas that you would think is unsuitable habitat. It certainly will make me fish some areas I would have thought not worth the effort. Quite large fish (for the lower Kinni) - 13 and 14 inches - were brought out from knee deep channels and undercut banks.

When I moved to the measuring team I was amazed to see the number of fry and minnow species which were present, but the dominant species present was brown trout. We counted over 2000 of fish in the short stretch of the river!

Marty continued to shake his head and comment on the large amount of biomass present, but also on the size of fish present. If one were to graph size versus number there was a classic skewed curve with the top of the curve being approximately 10 inch fish. It seemed that well over two-thirds of the fish in the river were below the 10 inch level.

With this amount of competition it is difficult for fish to become large. The light goes on! This is what Marty has been talking

about for years.

He has told us that he wanted to extend the number of fish available to take. The slot limit now goes from 10 inches to 16 inches, meaning that one can take five fish below 10 inches, or 4 below 10 and one above 16, but who would want to take a 16 inch fish?

I had previously adhered to the moral and ethical high ground of always observing catch and release, but seeing the massive number of fish below 10 inches has altered my attitude. If we ever want to see larger fish on the lower Kinni we have to harvest more smaller ones, although this may be an impossible task.

But....what do you do with a 10 inch fish.? If you have ever tried to clean and cook a bunch of small fish, you know it's like cleaning dace and eating sardines. More crunchy bones than tasty meat! So the culinary Eureka! What I found I could do is make a version of the French "petite frites"-small fries.

I will make a small literary diversion now and discuss with you one of my passions. This is finding new ways to cook traditional fish dishes, making you seem like a gourmet cook when really you are a short order fry hack. Many of you would like to be in the position of impressing significant others, friends, and in/outlaws during holidays. I'm going to give you a series of quick and easy but tasty ways to prepare fish.

These recipes which I'm going to give you now and in future issues of Rip Rap have many advantages: Increasing your Omega 3's, cutting your cholesterol, and elevating your status in as a renaissance person.

The first recipe in the series appears on page 5.

Driftboat Raffle



This beauty can be yours or a friends for the purchase of a raffle ticket ... or two ... or five.

Tickets will be available at the next meeting; and at Bentley's Outfitters and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

Lovingly finished and detailed, this baby has more appointments than Paris Hilton.

Guaranteed to help you catch BIG fish!

Kiap-TU-Wish board report

Lamberson fills in with Yellowstone program

Andy Lamberson stepped up and gave his Yellowstone National Park presentation last month, when scheduled speaker Brad Bohlen had to cancel.

Andy also presented the outline of his plan to have a chapter trip to YNP for fishing, hiking and critter watching in September,

2007. Stay tuned for more details! Thanks Andy for saving the evening.

We had 49 people attend the January meeting and around 40 at the February meeting. Keep it up folks; this makes for an informed, entertained, well fed, convivial, active membership as well as a happy waitress.

Kiap to share space at Great Waters Expo

Kiap is again going to join with Ojibseau and have a booth at the Great Waters Expo at the Bloomington Sheraton (7800 Normadale Blvd.) on March 31 through April 2. We are going to need volunteers to work the booth. Please get in touch with any board member if you want to volunteer some time. Also, any

ideas you may have for presenting our mission at the booth are welcome. We can use photos of projects and other ideas. We'll also be selling drift boat raffle tickets there. The Expo is fun and the booth is a great way to meet people curious about trout, fly fishing, and conservation.

Drift boat raffle needs sales help

Raffle tickets are selling slowly but steadily. You are urged to get some tickets and try your hand at selling some.

We need additional sales help. Buy some as gifts for a friend or chapter member who covets the boat. Dunn County Fish and Game bought \$100 in tickets to use as door

prizes at their meetings.

Think creatively—we still have time to make a dent in the 1500 tickets. See any board member for tickets. Tickets are available at Bentley's Outfitters and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. Thanks to both Gordon and Mike for helping this effort.

Members attend 21st annual State Council banquet

Five chapter members squeezed into Andy Lamberson's Toyota SUV and drove 15 MPH to Wisconsin Rapids on Friday, Feb. 3 for the Council Banquet (and meeting). Ice, snow, rollovers, jackknifed semis were all encountered en route. Andy is a great driver and all arrived safely. Feel free to ask Andy,

Jon Jacobs, Kent Johnson, Gary Horvath or myself about the trip. I won't go into details here. State chapters were well represented and working hard across the state. I do think there was unanimous agreement that the Blues man on Saturday night was a highlight.

Lorenzen to attend TU DARE workshop

Kiap board member Bob Lorenzen is going to attend the TU DARE workshop March 24 and 25 in Avalanche, WI. This is very valuable workshop that will help the chapter in planning and executing future

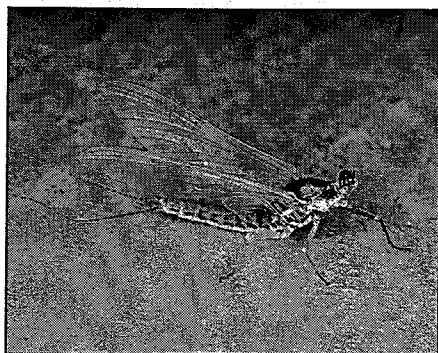
projects and chapter fund raising efforts. Ninety participants are signed up to attend this weekend event and chapters from all over Wisconsin are participating as well as chapters from Illinois and Iowa.

The Kinni Sulfur gets a new name

By Clarke Garry

The female mayfly pictured above has a new name following studies by researchers at the Department of Entomology, Purdue University.

This species, which is the larger of the two Kinni sulfurs, was originally given the stand-in name, Ephemerella species A, by Dr. W. H. Hilsenhoff at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Later



he began calling it Ephemerella inermis, keying specimens with western U. S. mayfly keys. For a period of time Dr. W. P. McCafferty at Purdue concurred with this name, however, following the most recent revision (Jacobus and McCafferty 2003), which included examination of reared males from the Kinni, the new name is Ephemerella excrucians.

K-TU seeks fly tiers for April meeting

By Jonathan Jacobs

As we have every year for the last fourteen, at the April meeting we will celebrate the art of fly tying and the memory of one of the chapter's archetypal grumpy old men, Dry Fly Dick Frantes. If you would like to tie at this event, or if you know someone who

would, please contact me at 715/386/7822. Please remember that one needn't be an expert to tie at this event. It's been our experience that everyone who has ever sat at a vise has a technique or a pattern in which others would be interested. It's a most fun thing to do. Give it a whirl!

Petite Frites are galloping good

By Hap Lutter

This dish is served as an hors d'oeuvre.

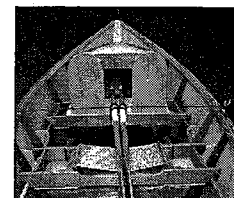
Take your 8 to 10 inch fish and fillet them beginning behind the gills and cutting to tail. If you get some bones from the dorsal spine, it's no problem since they are small and when you cook them they become soft and crunchy. If you want to get fancy roll them in flour and sprinkle with pepper, cumin, or rosemary spices. You don't have to bread them or dip them in anything.

Heat a skillet with vegetable oil (I prefer this to olive oil because vegetable oil can be

used at higher temperatures, but try olive oil since the flavor is different). When the oil just begins to smoke drop the fillets in. Flip them over once after they sizzle and curl and remove them when they are crisp. Drop them on a paper towel and they are ready to eat.

Make a dipping sauce using a glob or Mayo, a glob of good mustard, and a glob of horseradish. As you noticed I haven't given any specific proportions since the best way is mix, taste and go from there. You're now on your way to becoming a galloping gourmet.

Driftboat Raffle



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Kiap-TU-Wish Projects

Kiap members continue to help in big way with Gilbert Creek Project

By Greg Dietl

The chapter continues to work on Gilbert Creek. Chapter member Randy "chainsaw" Arnold has been going over to Gilbert on Saturdays and felling boxelders by the dozens. Randy is a wizard with his saw. He recently suggested another chapter workday which is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9 AM until about 1 PM. Thanks Randy for

all your efforts over there. By the way, Randy was equally busy with his saw on Tiffany Creek last year. There is no schedule for the South Fork project as yet. Keep checking the web site for work day postings. Gilbert directions: I-94 to County Q exit (Knapp), south on Q about three miles—you will see the work. You can park on the shoulder of Q.

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Pierce County to help with Rush cleanup

By Sarah Sanford

A meeting with Steve Melberg on February 15th at the Pierce County recycling plant has yielded both benefits and challenges. They will donate the garbage bags and ask us to separate our recyclables from the trash. Our thanks to Steve, and to David Murphy.

Thanks are also due the Pierce County Highway Department, which will again collect our bags on Monday after the cleanup.

Andy Lamberson has volunteered to lend his GPS skills to plot the location of large items that need to be removed from the river. I recall seeing a car's hood on the riverbank south of 10 last year, and it is my hope that with Andy's help, I'll know where to send volunteers to remove such items. Thanks Andy!

Still needed: A post-lunch kitchen cleanup crew.

TU shirts and caps make a great statement

By Greg Dietl

In this issue you will find a brochure and order form for ordering shirts and caps with Kiap TU Wish logos.

The idea for this campaign came from Gary Horvath who designed the brochure and order form. These are high quality shirts and caps that will be embroidered with Kiap TU Wish Trout Unlimited logo. This is a great way to build chapter spirit and the

chapter will make a small profit from each sale. You will look good in your new Kiap apparel! The products come from Heart Graphics in Ashland, WI. owned by Bill Heart, President of Northwoods Chapter of TU. You are strongly urged to order quickly so we can get delivery of your order before the summer break. Instructions for ordering are on the order form. Look sharp, feel good, and help the chapter treasury.

[illegible]

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a man standing in an industrial setting. He is wearing a dark, heavily textured jacket, possibly made of fur or a similar material, over a light-colored shirt. His pants are light-colored, and he is wearing a dark belt. The background is dark and indistinct, with some structural elements visible. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, similar to a photocopy or a stylized print.

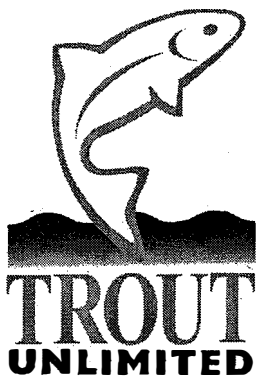
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Dark Forest
Natural
Light Denim
Black
Light Khaki

Light Denim
Light Khaki
Natural

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Meeting Schedule

March 1, 2006

Annual Business Meeting

April 5, 2006

Dry Fly Dick Trantes Fly Tiers

May 3, 2006

Wisconsin DNR

Deadline for February RIPRAP is Friday, March 24.