



A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

MARCH, 2013 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects

MARCH PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY KYLE AMUNDSON

Chapter News

Thank you Mike Kilgore for your presentation on fishing for brook trout on the Sutton River, it looked like a fantastic trip.

We will be voting in new board members at the March business meeting as well as hearing brief statements from the project leaders. We will then receive a talk about future stream project work from our DNR habitat manager, John Sours.

The chapter will once again host a booth at the Great Waters Fly fishing Expo from March 22nd – 24th. If you would like to volunteer at the booth, contact any board member.

State Banquet

Long time Kiap member Kent Johnson was the recipient of the Jeff Carlson award for outstanding contribution to conservation resources. Thanks for all of your work Kent.

National Banquet

The national banquet will be held in Madison this year (September) and the state council is looking for volunteers, mainly for folks to set up auction items and collect money. If you are interested please contact a board member.

Project Activity

Board member and stream project coordinator Randy Arnold has been scheduling days for brushing. Please check the web site for updates and watch for emails.

Welcome new members:

Colton Branville (Luck), Steve Healy (River Falls), Dan Milbrath (New Richmond), Don Schuld (Stillwater) and Gregory Smith (River Falls).

**Kiap-TU-Wish
meetings are
held at Bob
Smith's Sports
Club, the first
Wednesday night
of the month.
The March meet-
ing is on the 6th.
Dinner begins at
6 PM, Meeting
to follow at
7 PM.**



MARCH MEETING AGENDA

BY KYLE AMUNDSON

1. Nominations for the board. Submitted nominees: Gary Horvath, Randy Arnold, Bob Trevis, John Kaplan and Greg Olson
2. Treasurer's Financial Statement – Gary Horvath
3. Grant Status Statement – Greg Meyer
4. FlyFishing Clinic Update – Bob Diesch
5. Project Planning Committee Statement– Hans Jung
6. Spring Appeal – Greg Meyer
7. Winter Habitat Projects – Randy Arnold
8. Stream Project Discussion – John Sours
9. Adjourn

Save The Date!!!

This year's Rush River Clean Up is April 20th.

From 9 AM to Noon,
at the Ellsworth
Rod & Gun Club.

For more info contact
Sarah Sanford at
thesjsanford@gmail.com
or look for
Rush River Clean Up 2013
on facebook

SOME PHOTOS FROM A RECENT DAY OF BRUSHING ON PARKER CREEK



ABOVE: RANDY ARNOLD, JEFF HIMES, AND GREG DIETL.

LEFT: JEFF HIMES, HANS JUNG, RANDY ARNOLD, AND TOM HENDERSON

PHOTOS BY DAVE CUMMING



The Trimbelle River / Highway W project is well under way. John Sours' DNR Trout Crew has been removing stumps and piling logs, brush, and stumps on the site above Beldenville. At the time of this writing in late February, rock is being delivered to armor the banks and prevent erosion.

The board of directors has decided that the project for 2014 will be to continue downstream from the current project. Under the direction of Hans Jung, the long range planning committee has been compiling a list of potential projects for future years. Because of the long lead time in applying for grants, a project for 2015 must be determined by late 2013. We recently received a donation of stock. It was necessary to establish an account at a brokerage firm. With this account now set up it will be easier to receive such donations in the future.

Randy Arnold, our volunteer coordinator, is planning some brush cutting activity with the blessing of the DNR. Watch for opportunities for winter fun. The results will include some good exercise, camaraderie, and better casting & fishing.

The annual meeting is held in March. Three new board members will be elected. We would like to have some "new blood" on the board. Term of office is three years. The board meets once per month and has usually skipped a couple of months each year. This is a good opportunity to learn more about how the chapter works, to keep track of what is happening with various streams, meet with some great people, and influence the work of the chapter. Currently there are nine board members but the bylaws call for eleven.

The speaker for the March meeting will be John Sours, who was unable to talk to us in February.

For several years Kiap-TU-Wish held a fly fishing clinic on the Kinni. Bob Diesch is resurrecting this event. It will be held the first weekend in June. Look for a call for volunteers elsewhere in this issue.

The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo will take place March 22-23-24 at the National Sport Center in Blaine. Our booth is number 44.

Two things that we can always use more of:

- 1) Rip Rap articles, stories, pictures. Here is your chance to polish your writing skills and become a published author. Send items to both Greg Meyer (meyer-creative@comcast.net) and Scott Hanson (scott@yes-tech.com). Subject line of e-mail should say "rip rap article." Photos should be high resolution, preferably 2 MB or greater. Articles should be MS Word document attached, not e-mail text. Single-spaced is the best.
- 2) Ideas for speakers or programs for meetings. Send ideas to me or other board members.

Upcoming meetings: John Sours, annual meeting and election, fly tying, and Marty Engel.



FLY FISHING CLINIC

BY BOB DIESCH

Would you like to help a young person learn to fly fish?

The chapter is sponsoring a fly fishing clinic for a day at the park in River Falls on June 1st. The date was chosen because it is a free fishing day in the state of WI and no license is required. The day will consist of classroom and field training on entomology, rigging, and casting. We are limiting enrollment to 25 participants (12 or older) that must sign up for the event with the park district of River Falls. It would be great if we had enough instructors for the casting session such that it was one on one or two on one students to instructors. We are asking for volunteers that can commit their time and expertise to help out with the casting lessons and provide some mentoring for the day. There will be a general instruction session by one person followed by individual instruction provided by chapter members. We will start out on the lawn and then move to the river and fishing. If you are interested please contact Bob Diesch at 612-889-4481 or bob@etestinc.com. Thank you!

SUTTON RIVER FOLLOW UP

BY TOM SCHNADT

Mike Kilgore's presentation on the Sutton River at February's chapter meeting did a wonderful job of describing the river and its natural beauty. The Sutton River is a unique Ontario river; it is free flowing over a bed of gravel from Hawley Lake to Hudson Bay. There are no rapids to line or portage. The river is suitable for anglers with average canoeing skills and good wilderness camping skills. The reward for those interested in undertaking the 7-10 day trip is the opportunity to fish sea-run brook trout. These fish are plentiful and unlike local trout or Western trout are not selective in their feeding habits. They readily chase streamers, dry flies and mouse patterns. Most fish are in the 3-5 pound range.

If you are interested in canoeing the Sutton River, I suggest renting a satellite phone. Fly-in trips are susceptible to a variety of delays such as weather. Another reason for delays could be corporate clients like DeBeers, who get first shot at early morning flights. This can delay the trips of sportsmen. You can argue the fairness of this, but you are still left standing at the dock when the plane takes off. The satellite phone lets you know what is happening at the air base and certainly gives any trip an increased measure of safety.

Hearst Air, a second generation air service, operates out of Pickle Lake. They offer fly-in service and canoe rental (satellite phones, too). Hearst Air tries to space trips on the Sutton River from two to three days apart. In season, mid-July to the end of August, 10-12 groups canoe the length of the river. There is also an option of a guided trip. With this option you are based at Hawley Lake and are able to make day trips on the river. When I contacted them, Melanie Villeux was helpful and knowledgeable. Hearst Air's phone number is 866-844-5700. Their website is hearstair.wordpress.com.



ABOVE: A TYPICAL SUTTON RIVER BROOK TROUT.
RIGHT: A RUSTIC CABIN ON THE SUTTON RIVER.
PHOTOS BY TOM SCHNADT



KENT JOHNSON WINS AWARD

BY GREG MEYER

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter member Kent Johnson awarded with highest Trout Unlimited Honor in Wisconsin.

Kiap-TU-Wish chapter member and Hudson resident Kent Johnson was recently awarded the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited “Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award” at the WITU state council banquet. This is the highest individual award that is given by WITU, honoring the most outstanding TU volunteer contributor in the state.

Johnson, an environmental scientist and a former Kiap-TU-Wish board member, has been instrumental in the protection and monitoring of the Kinnickinnic River as well as numerous other coldwater streams in western Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Chapter president Kyle Amundson stated, “This is a seldom given award and it is a highly distinguished award for members who have given of themselves for a lifetime’s work. Thanks goes out to Kent for all of his hard work over the years.”

Here is an excerpt from the WITU banquet program:

We don’t give out the Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award every year, but this year the honor goes to Kent Johnson of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. Jeff Carlson worked for many years on coaster brook trout restoration. This award recognizes someone who, like Jeff, has taken a leadership role on a major project that either improves an entire stream, reach, or watershed, or which has preserved or restored a species in a body of water.

We are recognizing Kent for his many years of work on behalf of the Kinnickinnic River in western Wisconsin. As urban sprawl threatened the Kinni in the late 1980s, Kent helped set up monitoring stations on the river to gauge thermal impacts. He then monitored these stations since 1992. The data he collected led to storm water management reform around the river. It was Kent who led the effort to produce the chapter’s award-winning video, *Storm on the Horizon*. That video outlined the threats to trout streams from urban development. The chapter’s efforts and the data generated by Kent’s efforts ultimately led the City of River Falls to adopt a ground-breaking storm water management ordinance.

Sometimes people love a river so much they just won’t let threats to it get the upper hand. For being a champion of the Kinnickinnic River for over 20 years, this year’s winner of the Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award is Kent Johnson.



Kent Johnson being congratulated by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council Chair Kim McCarthy



GATORADE RESSURECTION

By DALE FRETLAND

Alright. So...the season is over. Snow and cold. And here I sit. Disappointed about the summer. Whining about my few times in the water, questioning the condition of the streams, crabbing about the heat...my mind tumbles. Someone with the appropriate degree probably calls this "free association." My biggest gripe about summer: the heat. My second biggest complaint: the heat. Makes me miserable...sweat in my eyes...hydration...energy level...Gatorade...red squirrels! Whoa... that's a leap! Guess I'd better slow down; back up, because there's a story here. A story about heat. About red squirrels. About Gatorade!

During the particular summer-of-memory, the red squirrels were out of control: they were eating my bird food, stealing the dog's food, annoying me to the edge of insanity! They swore at me and I swore back. Childish encounters, I know. The endless heat only added to my red-rage. I had live-trapped an uncountable number and donated them to Wisconsin, hoping they didn't have backpacks or inner tubes to return across the St. Croix River. The population eventually tapered but the heat didn't. I hadn't caught a squirrel for a couple days but the traps remained set. The thermometer seemed locked at 500 degrees. Fahrenheit.

One day, coming home from work, I saw a live-trap had sprung and in it laid a squirrel. Red. Prone. Inert. Dead? Not quite. Almost, but not quite.

"Poor little guy. That's a crappy way to die. He doesn't deserve it."

I carried him to the patio where I placed him in the bottom of a five-gallon pail. Thinking he was dehydrated, I grabbed a container of water and a medicine dropper and shot some water into him.

I returned after about ten minutes. Limp. Unresponsive. Nothing. I repeated the water therapy and left.

When I returned, he was unchanged so I gave him more water and sadly walked away.

After another ten-or-so I picked him up again. His body felt cold. Death was near. Then: "Gatorade!"

Desperate, I dashed to the refrigerator and brought a bottle of Gatorade to the patio. He got a mega-dose of the juice from the medicine dropper. And then another. I laid his cold, limp body on the bottom of the pail and left. I was saddened that I'd caused a pointless, miserable death. I walked away, beating myself up. After all, weren't we fellow creatures on this spinning orb, just trying to stay alive? To get by? Make it from one day to the next? I was really bummed.

When I returned to the pail, I expected a corpse. I was disappointed in myself and sad that I'd have to bury the little guy – so full of life before my trap and the heat.



The sight in the pail just blew me away. There was the red squirrel; on his feet, his tail hairs all frizzed, looking up at me, and clearly pissed. I didn't get the message. Stupid me. Thinking I'd give him one more shot of Gatorade, I reached to pick him up when he exploded! That red rat came roaring up at me like he was King of the Serengeti!! He clearly planned on a non-surgical removal of my fingers! I pulled my hand back at the same moment he cleared the lip of the pail. He burned across my lawn and disappeared.

I counted my fingers: five.

I looked into the pail: empty.

I thought: "Gatorade! Wow!!"

Alright...So, the season is over...But maybe that's kind of OK. Winter is a good time to chase the butterflies of the mind. To remember an earlier summer. The heat. A red squirrel. And...

Gatorade!

FLY TYER'S CORNER: THE KLINKHANSON

BY SCOTT HANSON

The KlinkHanson has appeared in RipRap before, but it's been a while, so I thought I would include it again. It's a versatile fly that I designed to imitate mayflies that are stuck halfway out of their nymphal shuck. The abdomen is always made of pheasant-tail fibers, but you can change the thorax, wing, and hackle colors to match whatever species of mayfly you want to imitate. The one in the photograph is tied to imitate a blue winged olive mayfly, so I used olive dubbing for the thorax, dark dun hackle, and dun antron for the wing. It's tied on a size 18 Tiemco 2487 hook.

THE KLINKHANSON

HOOK: TIEMCO 2487, SIZE 10-20

THREAD: 8/0 TO MATCH THE THORAX

RIB: SMALL COPPER WIRE

ABDOMEN: PHEASANT-TAIL FIBERS

THORAX: SUPERFINE DUBBING, COLOR TO MATCH THE NATURAL

WING/POST: ANTRON YARN IN DUN, TAN, WHITE, OR PINK

HACKLE: DRY FLY HACKLE, COLOR TO MATCH THE NATURAL



PHOTO BY SCOTT HANSON





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE MARCH MEETING!!!

March brings us the annual Business Meeting. You can have a part in shaping the future of our Chapter.
Wednesday, March 6th
Dinner at 6PM
Meeting at 7PM

The deadline to make submissions for the April issue is Wednesday, March 20th.
Thank you!

