

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited May 2003

## Road tripping on the Misinformation Highway, or Anglers in Wonderland

*Editorial by Jonathan Jacobs*

If you've looked at the Kiap-TU-Wish web site in recent months, you know that, to quote the site, "Stream reports are back!" Frequently, the postings are not stream reports per se, but commentary on how the author views the world of trout fishing. Recently, a chap who goes by the clever moniker "flyz4trout" posted a message meant to discourage readers from fishing the Rush River on the Winger property along Wonderland Road (or 730<sup>th</sup> Avenue to you anglers not of a certain age). He reported that the Wingers were upset about several things- anglers' dogs harassing their cattle, miscreant youth setting fires (!) near the bridge by their house, snotty fly anglers harassing their grandchildren last summer for fishing with live bait, et cetera. A cynic might conclude that Mr. flyz4trout was trying to discourage other anglers so that he might have the water more to himself, but I think not. For one thing, he wrote that the Wingers had signed an easement and thus were constrained from doing anything about the situations mentioned. From there the posting took on a life of its own as other anglers weighed in. One respondent said the stream belongs to state of Wisconsin [Sort of true. The water and animals in it are held in trust for the public by the state. The riparian landowners own the streambed, although in navigable streams they can't claim trespass rights on the streambed.] and that "the easement has been purchased by the state to assure a corridor for anglers to use the stream..." This is where things begin to fall apart. I called the DNR and learned that THERE IS NO EASEMENT ON THIS STRETCH OF WATER! The Wingers may have a cooperative agreement with the Rush River-Eau Galle Club or some such thing, but the state is out of the picture.

There are several lessons that can be drawn from this, not the least of which is that if you see it on the Internet, quadruple check it before you accept it as true. You can also use this as a reminder to display the impeccable manners of a gracious guest when angling, easement or no. I've not met the Wingers, but those who have tell me that they are fine people. It's most certainly true that they've tolerated generations of anglers traipsing about on their property. Unless, for some perverse reason, you want that to end, behave responsibly. For example, leave your canine companion at home. If you think that either your brother and sister anglers or the landowner appreciate your hound's presence, you're patently delusional.

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Here's a truly radical thought: If you pull up to a parking area and find a dozen cars parked there, as has been the case at Winger's, don't make your vehicle the thirteenth. Find another place to fish. Think about this. Rural folks treasure their privacy. In large part that's why they're rural. How would you feel if a dozen strange cars were parked directly in front of your house every day and how would you feel if the strange occupants of those cars milled about on your property and said nasty things to your kin? This is a situation that needs to be addressed all up and down the Rush River. I've heard reports of upwards of twenty anglers' cars parked in El Paso during the major hatches. If I lived there I'd certainly be wondering who in that horde might be too interested in the contents of my garage or worse.

Lee Wulff once said that a secret river has no friends. He said that when the United States population was probably not much over one hundred million people. Unlike us, he never had to worry that a river might have too many friends.

## auf Wiedersehen

By Jonathan Jacobs

Another volume of RipRap goes into the archives with the publication of this issue. The newsletter will resume publication in September in postcard form. Full sized issues will follow beginning with the October edition. The editorial staff wishes to thank all those who contributed to RipRap by offering financial support or editorial effort. This year **Michael Alwin, Eric Forward, Ken Hanson, Gareth Horvath, Allison M. Jacobs, John Koch, Andy Lamberson** and **Hap Lutter** provided material for publication. May we hear more from them next year. You can contribute editorially, too. It's easy, fun, non-caloric and healthful! If you can't write an article, but enjoy reading other's work, write a check. RipRap has a burn rate of around \$2,000 per year and the chapter's board expects it to be substantially self-funding.

Have a good summer. Fish as much as time, fortune and the law will allow, keep a watchful eye on our trout streams and, in general, celebrate our too-short, but glorious, summer.

## Board elects officers

By Jonathan Jacobs

At a meeting held on Wednesday, April 3, Kiap-TU-Wish's Board of Directors elected Andy Lamberson as president, Corey Mairs as vice-president, Gareth Horvath as secretary and Brent Sittlow as treasurer. All terms of office are one year. Please congratulate these folks and please

thank them for their willingness to work on behalf of the chapter and its conservation cause.

## Martin Engel is May speaker

By Jonathan Jacobs

**Martin Engel**, a senior fisheries biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources based in Baldwin, is the featured speaker at the May meeting of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Mr. Engel has been with us on several previous years in May. His presentations are always informative, fact-filled and interesting. Join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hudson on Wednesday, May 7 at 7 PM for the meeting. Dinner, as always, will be available from 6 PM.

## On target with River Falls clinic

By Michael Alwin

The Kiap-TU-Wish Education Committee has two goals:

1. Educate the community
2. Inform and involve the membership

Every year these two goals achieve synthesis during our annual Flyfishing for Trout Clinic which we sponsor in conjunction with the River Falls Park & Recreation Department. Every year we get an opportunity to teach citizens in River Falls about their beautiful trout stream and the many threats to her survival. Every year the stalwart members of Kiap-TU-Wish help new anglers discover this great sport. This year's clinic is **Saturday, May 31 from 1:00 to 9:00 PM.**

As of this date (4/24/03) Park & Rec reports that we already have fourteen paid registrants and we're still a month away. We will have over twenty when registration closes. During this clinic the students will learn about the essential equipment, get some good casting instruction, get a little dose of entomology and learn a fair amount about artificial flies. We'll feed them supper and give them a little environmental lesson and then we'll take them fishing until dark. They get all this for a paltry ten bucks, truly a good deal.

Now that you are informed, here are two ways to get involved: You can volunteer to help teach or you can tie up some flies for the students. If you volunteer to be a teacher/guide you can choose a half day or full day. Please bring a rod and reel for student use. If you want to volunteer some flies you can get by really easy by tying up some soft hackles, Hares Ears or comparaduns in 14's or 16's. To volunteer, call me at The Shop at 651/770-5854. Whatever you choose to do you'll have a good time and you may help save Wisconsin's finest trout stream.

*Michael Alwin of Stillwater, MN is the proprietor of Bob Mithcell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN and is the long-time chairman of the chapter's Education Committee.*

## Schultz, Ward float eliminating local oversight of feedlots

State Senator Dale Schultz (R- Richland Center) and Representative David Ward (R- Fort Atkinson) plan to propose legislation that would strip local control over zoning decisions regarding concentrated animal feeding operations (Factory Farms). This means that there will be no more conditional use permits or other local zoning controls on these operations.

Senator Schultz directly attacked people who have expressed concerns about these operations. He said, "Will this legislation mean that the effectiveness of people hiring lawyers to fight farm expansions will be diminished? I hope so." This is unacceptable. It also flies in the face of state required Smart Growth efforts. Local citizens have the right to determine the conditions under which they will live. I hope you will all see fit to write the above legislators, and your State Senator and Representative, and express your opinions on this ill-conceived legislative proposal. Also, please write your local papers. This has to be stopped. You can find the addresses for our legislators at the Wisconsin Stewardship Network website at [www.wsn.org](http://www.wsn.org) and at the official website for the State of Wisconsin. Thank you, and please get busy.

SOURCE: Tom Hermann, 6278 County T, Egg Harbor, WI, (920) 743-6034, [thermann@dcwis.com](mailto:thermann@dcwis.com).

*Reprinted from the April 15, 2003 WSNetwork News*

## TU signs George Meyer letter calling for independent DNR

For several years now, Wisconsin TU has backed proposals to return the position of DNR secretary to report to the DNR board, rather than to the governor, which is the current practice. Now, George Meyer, former secretary, is heading an effort on behalf of a number of state fishing, hunting, and conservation organizations to put pressure on the legislature to release the pending legislation to the floor of the senate for a debate and vote. Meyer believes he has the votes, if he can just get DuWayne Johnsrud to bring the bill out of committee.

I have signed the attached letter on behalf of the Council. Please consider signing on as chapters and send your signature block back to George.

Thanks for your help.

SOURCE: Jon Christiansen, Chair, WI Council of Trout Unlimited.

Dear Speaker Gard and Chairman Johnsrud:  
The undersigned hunting, fishing and trapping organizations representing tens of thousands of hunters,

anglers and trappers throughout the State of Wisconsin respectfully request that the Assembly Natural Resources Committee schedule a hearing in the very near future on Assembly Bill 30. This bill relates to the Natural Resources Board appointment authority of the DNR Secretary. Please let us know of the hearing date. Thank you very much for your help on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Christiansen

Cc: Governor James Doyle

Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer

Senator Neal Kedzie

Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Secretary Scott Hassett

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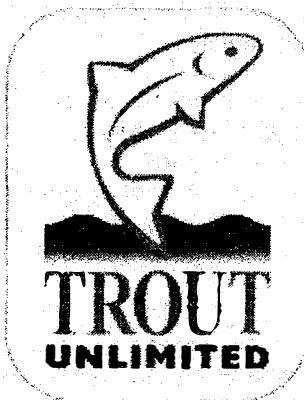
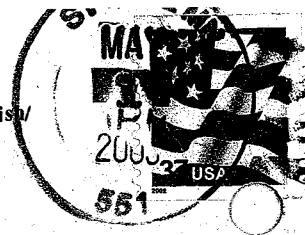
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**MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

**MAY 7: WISCONSIN DNR**

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 19.**