

Kiap-TU-Wish News

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS

There may be 61 days left 'til Christmas, but Kiap-TU-Wish's party planners are already hard at work on December's Christmas party.

This year's party will feature a silent auction, and we're asking everyone to donate items. The proceeds will go to Kiap-TU-Wish's war chest.

We're looking for fishing and outdoor paraphernalia, both old and new; but any imaginative item will be most welcome. We merely ask that you drop off your donations as quickly as possible at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, or at the homes of any chapter officers.

The party will feature a buffet dinner in the cheerful confines of the Valley House. After-dinner entertainment will be provided by Charlie Johnston, who will dazzle us with the romance of trout fishing in Scotland. For reservations (about \$10) call Bob or Jean Mitchell at (612)770-5854 or (715)386-3319.

NEWCOMERS IN THE WILLOW

On October 22, about 25,000 Irwin strain rainbow trout sac fry were stocked in the Willow/Race system.

Jon Jacobs and Craig Mason were on hand to help. And special thanks to Allison Jacobs for donating a utility vehicle that was used to move the buckets of trout--her little red wagon.

POTENTIAL KIAP-TU-WISH PROJECTS MAPPED

Last month Kiap-TU-Wish's DNR liaison committee met with area fish manager Marty Engel.

Jon Jacobs, Ivan Schloff, Dave Dorn, Mike Alwin and Chuck Goossen listened as Marty described the following projects he'd like the

chapter to undertake:

1) Beaver Control

New regulations list all trout streams as beaver control areas. Chapter members could become designated beaver-removers.

2) Stream Mapping

Chapter members could help the DNR list specific problem areas for erosion control and non-point pollution. This would entail walking streams with maps to pinpoint those areas.

3) Brushing and Re-brushing

The DNR says that brushed areas have a measurably higher trout population. The chapter could be recruited to maintain brushed areas and initiate new ones.

4) Fishing Day

This may become an annual event teaching the pleasures and ethics involved in fishing.

5) Stocking

Marty indicated that his stocking crews are overworked during spring and fall and that any manpower we can supply will be more than welcome.

6) Stream Survey

The chapter could help develop baseline stream data. Kiap-TU-Wish has owned an electrofishing rig for several years, but has seldom used it. The DNR would furnish training in

stream survey techniques and recruit us when needed.

7) Habitat Improvement

The DNR would design the projects and recruit us to do the labor.

8) Easement Procurement

This would involve, through purchase or 20-year lease, access to streams on which there is currently no easement or not enough. Public access is crucial since the DNR is legislatively mandated from improving streams on which there is no access.

9) Fundraising

This would involve raising lots of money in a matching grant arrangement for specific improvements.

-Mike Alwin

THANKS TO MARTY ENGEL

Special thanks to last month's speaker, Marty Engel of the DNR, for explaining the proposed changes in Wisconsin's trout fishing regulations and for his considerable effort in developing them.

The proposed regulations make good scientific and social sense. Marty stressed that our support for them at next spring's Conservation Congress will be critical to their implementation. We will keep you posted concerning the date and location of the local Congress hearings.

-Jon Jacobs

Help Trash the Kinni

Kiap-TU-Wish has declared Saturday (Oct. 29) to be Clean Up Day on the Kinni. A number of chapter members and friends are planning to meet at the river that day to pick up litter and share each other's company.

It will also be an opportunity for the citizens of River Falls to become aware of our chapter and perhaps learn more about the very

special stream that winds through their town.

So pack a picnic lunch and bring the kids: It's easy work that's guaranteed to produce a warm glow of accomplishment. It's also a good excuse to get the family together. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the tennis courts in Glen Park (turn west on Park St. off highway 35 in River Falls).

My Most Memorable Trout

Two years ago I contributed a testimony to this newsletter. Now, as then, none of my catches stands above the others. Only my experiences seem worth placing in a special slot of remembrances. One trout, though, leaps out at me from the pages of someone's fishing annals--those of my husband, Gene.

The never-to-be-forgotten fish was an eight-inch brookie, easily the most beautiful fish I've seen, or so my memory tells me. Maybe its beauty was enhanced by its status as the first native of the species to enter my fishing experience. Or maybe it was the weird way it entered.

It was late on a September day, 1981. Gene and I were finishing up a four-day excursion to the Wisconsin Brule and its adjacent territory along the southern Superior shore. It was one of those trips that turned up more voracious mosquitoes, mammoth flies and minuscule rainbows than two anxious piscophiles can handle.

Typical of those early forays, we spent a lot of time scouring maps to find

fresh water that might yield brook trout. We had yet to find any and my patience was thin. Still an uncoordinated beginner, I had already thrashed enough narrow waters and lost enough leaders to last a decade.

Gene, of course, remained undefeated. As I looked longingly homeward, he looked expectantly mapward. "There's one more spot," he mused. "A little feeder creek to the Brule headwaters. Ha! It says 'Class I Brook Trout!'" I pulled my hat over my eyes. Home could wait. Gene's famous "Blue Book" was gospel.

Two agonizing hours later, we arrived at "unnamed" creek. I gasped.

"All this way for that?"

I pointed to an iron pipe poking out of a ravaged hillside. Water from an unseen source dripped steadily to the rocks several feet below, pooling here and there as it limped slowly down the hill. It disappeared into a wood that probably extended a quarter mile to the headwater lake.

This was undoubtedly the

least promising piece of water I'd seen and I refused to budge from the car. Gene didn't hesitate. Known for his ability to don waders in four seconds flat, he was into the woods before I could settle comfortably in my seat. The following minutes ticked by slowly. The sun was low and I fell into a welcomed snooze.

A rap on the window jolted me awake. Gene stared dejectedly at me through the glass, his hands behind his back like a disappointed kid. I was about to express my condolences when his mouth stretched into a broad grin. He brought forth his long-awaited prize, its oranges and greens illuminated in the fading light.

We silently admired the incredible color, then were overcome with unanticipated sadness. We both knew it belonged back in its secret pool beneath the aspen branches.

"I just wanted you to see it..." Gene apologized.

"Well, you'll have others to return," I offered.

"This was a great finale to four days of frustration."

Gene headed for the back of the car, then turned.

"You know, it's not dark yet. You really have to experience this yourself to appreciate it. There's one more place about five miles south..."

I passed him the map.

-Donna O'Keefe

Tonight we will gather to be entertained and enlightened by Hilary Bates. Hilary is manager of the Minneapolis Orvis store, and the topic of tonight's program and slide show will be trout fishing around the U.S.

