

# RIP-RAP

Restoration, Improvement and Preservation  
Through Research and Projects



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

November 1989

## 6 Reasons Why I'll Never Be a Great Fisherman

### 1) I use the same fly all season.

I change flies frequently on the first day of fishing season, at least until I catch my first trout. Then I become consumed with the notion that the fly that produced this first fish is my only "good" one and I leave it on until I either lose it or it rusts off.

### 2) I can't handle success.

On the rare occasions when I actually do catch fish (a complete list of these occasions is on file at the Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum in San Francisco), I immediately lose interest in catching any more and retire to the stream bank where I spend the rest of the day mentally reliving the experience and flagging down other anglers to tell them about it.

### 3) I like to nap at streamside too much.

Aside from vagrants,

there are few grown men who will sleep on the ground in public. I am one of this rare, bold breed--and I find there's nothing quite like curling up in tall grass at streamside on a sunny day and taking a nap.



Unfortunately, my "naps" often last all day.

### 4) Big fish don't interest me.

I am quite content to skim one four-inch brookie after another across the surface of the water all afternoon, even when I hear the slap of fifteen-inchers on the water around the next bend. In fact, during one trip I took to Quebec, my French-speaking guide nicknamed me "Gooper"--which is apparently French slang for "fish that can only be seen

under extreme magnification."

### 5) I like to wander too much.

I am consumed with a desire to discover a secret waterfall somewhere on the Kinni, a waterfall thick with leaping salmon and marauding brown bears--much like the waterfalls you see in advertisements for menthol cigarettes. This compulsion often makes me spend entire days thrashing my way up muddy, briar-choked paths while my friends remain miles below, contentedly puffing on their pipes and posing with the 18-inch browns they caught twenty feet from their cars.

### 6) I like to watch other fishermen too much.

I really do enjoy watching other people catch fish nearly as much as I enjoy catching them myself, although few anglers believe me. Most think I'm staring at them because I've developed romantic feelings toward them or because they've stolen my favorite hole. Both cases are rarely true.

-The Editor

# Chapter News and Notes

## Fall Clean-Up Scheduled

On Saturday, Nov. 4, Kiap-TU-Wish will host our 2nd annual fall clean-up on the lower Kinni. This is easy duty and families are encouraged to attend. You bring some garbage bags and something warm to drink, and we'll bring the doughnuts.

We'll meet at the tennis courts at Glen Park in River Falls at 10:00 a.m. Expect to stay for a couple of hours.

## Bizarre Phenomenon Department

Jean Mitchell reported that an angler walked into her fly shop last summer and reported catching an inch-and-a-half-long rainbow trout in the Willow. When Jean told me this I immediately felt feelings of envy, since that was larger than any of the fish that I caught last year. Then Jean told me I was missing the point--they don't stock rainbows that small, so this fish must be the result of natural reproduction.

## New Kinni Park on the Horizon?

The upper pond on the Kinni in River Falls has been drained, and the city is probably going to leave it drained all winter long.

In fact, Jon Jacobs reports that there is some sentiment for leaving the pond drained permanently and turning the once-submerged banks into parkland. No decision has yet been made.

## Thanks, Joe

Kiap-TU-Wish extends its thanks to Joe Marcino of the DNR for his fine presentation on fish pathology at last month's meeting. Joe is sort of the "Quincy" of the fish world, and he showed us how you can recognize common fish illnesses through post-mortem examinations.

It will be a long time before many of us forget his slides demonstrating the ravages of hatchery and stream-borne diseases.

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## MEETING NOTICE

When: 8:00 p.m. Nov. 1  
Where: This Sports Club  
in Midtown Hudson

This month's speaker is artist and Alaskan and Argentine guide Bob White. Bob wowed us with tales of fishing the antipodes last spring, and he's just returned from another season in Alaska. Naturally he's got a few stories to tell, and he might also favor us with slides of his original artwork.

And why not join us for dinner before the meeting? The Sports Club menu includes many tasty, reasonably-priced entrees--and since they provide us with free meeting space, it seems like the least we can do. See you then!



# BANQUET PLANS REVEALED!

After months of breathless anticipation, Kiap-TU-Wish has revealed the location of this year's gala Christmas banquet and silent auction. It will be held at the Hudson House, located at the second westbound exit off I-94 in uptown Hudson, Wisconsin. The date is Wednesday evening, Dec. 6.

Cocktails will be at 6:30, followed by dinner at seven. Our featured speaker is chapter favorite Charlie Johnston whose photos and commentary on fishing in far-away climes never fail to bring down the house.

For dinner, chapter members can choose one of the following:  
Hudson House Special Steak (\$12.00)  
Boneless Breast of Chicken (\$10.50)  
Broiled Shrimp (\$15.00)

Your cost includes everything--dinner with all the trimmings, gratuities, a spellbinding presentation by Charlie

Johnston, and an opportunity to bid on some delightful items in our silent auction--including a hand-crafted rod by Dorothy Bergmann.

Reservations are a must, and they must be phoned in to Jon or ~~Kathy~~ *Karin* Jacobs at (715)386-7822 or Bob and Jean Mitchell at (612)770-5854 (daytime only). When you call, be prepared to state your dinner choice. The deadline for reservations is November 29th.

Jean Mitchell says that auction donations are beginning to pour in, but we need many more. Remember--items don't have to be related to fishing! Last year they included everything from fly rods to carrot cakes. Call Jean Mitchell or Jon Jacobs to make a donation.

Last--and perhaps most important--members are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the banquet for donation to food shelves.

## Notes From Jon Jacobs

Many TU-ers recently received a mailing from American Rivers, a preservation organization. If you received this mailing, please read it and consider what this organization has to say. They definitely don't like dams!

Speaking of dams, more and more professionals

from the Wisconsin DNR say that politics, not rational facts, will determine whether or not a new dam is built at Willow Falls in Willow River State Park. So don't be bashful in expressing your opinions on this subject to the politicians.

Kiap-TU-Wishers Andy Lamberson, Mike Dziki, Kent Johnson and Jon Jacobs visited the Lew Jewett Chapter of the federation of Fly Fishers at their October meeting. Federation members have helped us tremendously over the years. More

information about this fine organization is available from TUer Mike Stanton, the human dynamo who currently serves as Lew Jewett Chapter president.

Fish Manager Marty Engel reports that 20 beavers (*Castor canadensis*) were extirpated from the Kinni in the Parker Creek section and in the area immediately above Interstate 94. The rodents had made a considerable mess of things and Marty will likely be seeking out help in cleaning up after them.

-Jon Jacobs

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**Winter Projects Looming**

Winter is the time for the hale and hearty among us to pull on their long johns and do some stream improvement work. Plans are already in the works for several projects this winter, including adding some fencing to keep horses out of part of the "Weatherby" stretch of the Kinni.

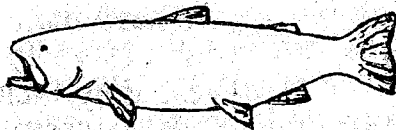
Marty Engle also says that he'll definitely need our help in electrofishing the lower Kinni next

spring. Set aside a day or two in April.

**Quote of the Month**

"If people destroy something replaceable made by humanity they are called vandals. If they destroy something irreplaceable made by God, they are called developers."

-Joseph Wood Krutch  
quoted in *North Country Notebook* (quote supplied by Jon Jacobs)



The RIP-RAP is often a stepping stone to fame for its contributors. Last month, for example, Mike Alwin's RIP-RAP piece "A Lesson on the Kinni" was reprinted in the Hudson Star-Observer! Send your contributions to:

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**KIAP-TU-WISH  
CHAPTER**

**TROUT UNLIMITED**

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