

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited November 2002

Fishing the Keystone State

By Jon Jacobs

The Wednesday, November 6 chapter meeting will feature a presentation by Pennsylvania native and serious trout enthusiast Ray Morris on trout fishing in his home state. Mr. Morris, who works for the U.S. Department of the Interior, is a member of the Twin Cities Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Mr. Morris' presentation will impress you with Pennsylvania, the original home of spring creek angling in the United States and a state with remarkable freestone mountain fishing as well.

Kiap-TU-Wish meets at Bob Smith's Sports Club at 601 2nd Street in downtown Hudson. Dinner is available at 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM. Please join us then.

You're invited!

By Jon Jacobs

You and your guests are invited to a very special 30th anniversary holiday banquet. We are returning for the second year to the **Tartan Park Clubhouse**, the 3M-owned facility south of Lake Elmo, MN at 11455 20th Street North on **Thursday**, December 5. The social hour begins at 6 PM and the banquet begins at 7 PM. Be sure to arrive early to bid often at the silent auction. We will again have the use of two rooms, one for the auction and a second for the meal and presentation. The buffet-style meal will feature sliced round of beef and boneless chicken breast as entrees with au gratin potatoes, vegetables, dinner rolls and a beverage as accompaniments. The cost is twenty-five dollars per person. You may make reservations by calling Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop at 651-770-5854 or Jon Jacobs at 715-386-7822.

Kiap-TU-Wish is greatly honored this year to have as its banquet speakers two wonderful friends of the chapter, Jim Humphrey and Bill Shogren, co-authors of the classic guide book **Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams**. Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Shogren will present a program entitled *The Romance of Trout Streams*. It's not to be missed.

Kiap-TU-Wish has commissioned the Winston Rod Company to create a special 30th anniversary rod to headline the auction at this year's event. It's a Winston Traditional 8' 6" 3 piece for 3 weight line featuring a cigar handle and an unlocking reel seat with a zebrawood spacer with a retail value of \$595.

We need your special thirtieth anniversary contributions to the silent auction, too. You may drop them at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

A hearty and belated thanks

By Michael Alwin

Dry Fly Dick Frantes once told me that a newsletter has two functions: First, to inform the membership and, second, to praise the volunteers. Allow me to praise the volunteers at our annual River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic.

This year we had 24 students registered, 21 of whom actually showed up. They spent the day casting, studying insects and learning about trout biology and behavior. Then they had supper and went fishing. Throughout the day they had the help of seventeen wonderful folks from Kiap-TU-Wish who showed up to help them. They are: Dan Bruski, Gary Horvath, Bill Lovegren, Bill Hinton, Bob Bradham, Brent Sittlow, Jim Rees, Clarke Garry, Steve Stenger, Ted and Renate Mackmiller, Skip James, John Kaplan, Brett Edstrom, Eric Judge and Matt Nelson. In addition, Tom Andersen loaned us Sage rods (for about the umpteenth year) and Jim Humphrey, Perry Palin, Dave Ballman and Sarah Sanford all donated flies.

My sincere thanks to all of you for helping to make this clinic a success.

I'm proud to be associated with these people and consider them friends. I keep pretty good records but occasionally I slip up. If I missed your name let me assure you that it was unintentional.

Michael Alwin is the proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN and is the long-time chair of the Kiap-TU-Wish Education Committee.



Mr. Alwin explains the finer points of the up and down casting motion to a mesmerized and raptly attentive audience.

A volunteer manifesto

Opinion by Michael Alwin

I never met Jeff Carlson but from the accounts I read after his death he must have been a terrific guy. Certainly he was a tireless volunteer for his TU chapter, Wild Rivers. Besides working on countless stream improvement projects he was the spearhead behind the coaster brook trout project on Whittlesey Creek.

I'm sure that his death left a void in his chapter, but the good news is that people recognized the need for leadership and stepped in to help. The summer issue of Wisconsin Trout had a nice article about one of those folks, a fellow named Bill Heart. Heart chose to honor his friend, Jeff Carlson, by becoming more involved in the chapter and the tasks Carlson had started.

That's the way volunteer organizations work. Somebody sees a need and inquires about solving it and before you know it the organization hands them the reins. I belong to three conservation outfits: The Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited. But the only one I'm involved with is TU. I love our chapter and have volunteered for a number of jobs within it. At various times I've been newsletter editor, program chair, stream improvement co-chair, education chair and banquet guy. When I say we're a pretty high functioning chapter this is what I mean: we don't have an actual banquet chair. Instead, there are a bunch of things to do and Jon and Andy and I just sort of do them. Not perfectly mind you, but the jobs get done. So anyway, after twenty-two years with our chapter this is what I've learned.

First, the health of a volunteer organization is based on the character of its membership. If only one person is doing the work, no one else is vested in the success of the outcome. If you want the organization to be strong you have to continually recruit volunteers. Not members, but volunteers. You recruit for specific tasks from the membership rather than assigning jobs to board members. To do otherwise causes the members to believe that they're not needed and that it's the leadership's job to do all the work.

Second, once somebody has volunteered for something they have accepted a leadership position. Stand back and let them do the job the way they can. Reread Lao-tsu. Kent Johnson took the lead on the temperature data project on the Kinni and has spent ten years or so collecting and organizing the information. Kent has a master's in aquatic biology and as such has probably forgotten more about collecting and organizing data than most of us will ever

know. The last thing we'd want to do is tell him how to do this job. John Koch designs websites at 3M. That's his job. Last year the Kiap-TU-Wish board gave him the job of redesigning the chapter's website. He did a great job of creating a clean, attractive, easily understood and easily used website. The absolute worst thing we could do is go back and redesign his work. The surest way to crush the volunteer spirit is to let them know you don't appreciate the work they did.

Third, there is no substitute for praise. That's the only pay that our wonderful volunteers will ever get and that's why a newsletter is so important: It's the vehicle for recognition. Here are a couple of examples. I'd like to thank Chuck Goossen for being the volunteer model I'd most like to emulate and I'd like to thank Tony Stifter for sharpening my attitudes about volunteer organizations.

This year our chapter will celebrate our 30th anniversary. Long live Kiap-TU-Wish! I hope our efforts continue successfully for another thirty years. To do that our volunteers must be leaders.

Michael Alwin is the proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN.

A lesson learned

By John Koch

For some reason trout rivers have always reminded me of my grade school teachers, not in the physical sense (as I find most trout waters beautiful), but rather a psychological one. My favorite trout water, like my second grade teacher, is serene, friendly, bright and cheerful. It has taught me many things over the years in a kind and gentle fashion. The river I had been fishing most recently this fall, however, reminds me of my fourth grade teacher: A strict, blue-haired old bat, she was aloof and cold and there are many stories about her. And if you messed up, she'd slap you into oblivion.

The crisp autumn day found me waist deep in storied water, anxiously plying the currents with the faint hope of hooking one of its fall run salmonids. A crackle behind me made me turn and look up the "moose path". An elderly fellow, who had apparently just arrived, had come down to see how the water looked. He waved and offered me a cheerful greeting.

"How's it going?"

"OK," I said, adding the standard follow-up I learned from the masters long ago, "bit slow."

To give my statement the proper emphasis, I made a roll cast back upstream.

"Fishing with spawn, then, are you?" he asked.

"Ahh, no, that's a stonefly nymph," I replied, raising the big nymph out of the water for him to see.

"Oh, sure, sure. I see," he said quickly. Another grin: "That's always been a favorite of mine, too."

We talked for a bit, and though the gent and I couldn't have exchanged more than 20 words apiece, I could read the story he told inadvertently when I broke down my rod and followed him the short distance back to the road. As we walked softly through the glowing trees, he explained that he was there with his old friend, his fishing buddy of many, many years. The friend, now laid low with Parkinson's, was barely able to stand and needed help with everything that needed to be done.

I watched as the gent I had talked to patiently and calmly helped his old comrade climb into a pair of well-worn and beaten waders. Like the best of our dreams, the manual dexterity required to operate a fly rod had been lost long ago; he rigged an out-of-the-box-new looking spinning rod and reel for his friend. He then assembled his own fly rod and put on his own waders as his friend silently watched, a calm smile spreading across his age-creased face.

I had finished stowing my own gear, and as the two bent their heads over a box of flies, I made the age-old valediction:

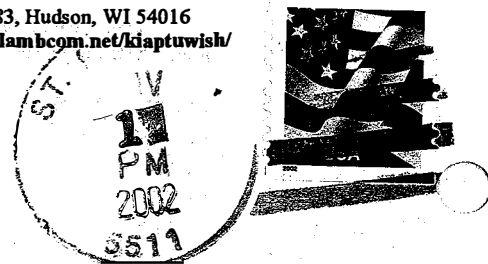
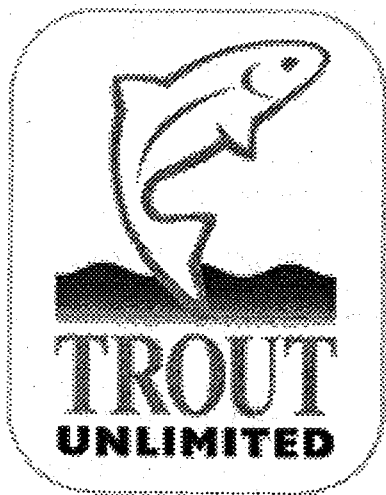
"Well, have a good day then."

Looking up, the two gents grinned and nodded a reply that said all too loudly, "Sonny, we already *are* having a good day."

The fishing that day eventually got better for me. I had lunch and decided to fish a different section of water. I found a couple of pools where some lake-run browns were holding and willing to take a drifting fly. But the vision of the two old friends, quietly surmounting a mountain of obstacles placed in their way simply to spend the day fishing together, is what sticks out as the highlight of my day.

Like my fourth grade teacher, the old crone of a river taught me a simple lesson that day; and while it certainly wasn't the one I had arisen at 4:00 a.m. and driven for 3 seeking to learn, it was perhaps lately the best lesson of them all to learn: "Sonny, we already *are* having a good day."

John Koch of Spring Valley, WI is a Kiap-TU-Wish Board Member, a frequent contributor to RipRap and a licensed fishing guide in Wisconsin.



*He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run
among the hills.*

*He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is
satisfied with the fruit of thy works.*

-Psalm 104, v.10, v.13

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MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

**NOVEMBER 6: RAY MORRIS ON PENNSYLVANIA
TROUT FISHING**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5: HOLIDAY BANQUET

JANUARY 1: TBA

FEBRUARY 5: TBA

MARCH 5: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 2: DRY FLY DICK MEMORIAL FLY TIERS

MAY 7: WISCONSIN DNR

**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 22.**