

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited November 2004

Argentine trouting with Joseph Meyer at November meeting

By Jonathan Jacobs

Joseph Meyer, the proprietor of One More Cast Fly Shop in Countryside, Illinois, will present a slide show about his experiences in leading annual trips for rainbow and brown trout in Argentina at the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's November meeting.

Mr. Meyer, a former instructor at Orvis-Chicago and Orvis-Manchester, is a member of the Oak Brook, IL chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishers, the Smallmouth Alliance, The Northern Illinois Fly Tyers and D.R.I.F.T., the largest fly tying group in the Midwest.

Through his experiences while employed at Orvis, Mr. Meyer discovered a passion for teaching the art of fly fishing. One More Cast offers two on-the-water trout schools, a saltwater school and a tarpon school, both conducted in Fort Myers, FL, and a Pike/Musky school in conjunction with Bill Sherer's We Tie It shop of Boulder Junction, WI.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3 at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street in Hudson. Dinner will be available at 6 PM and the meeting will begin at 7 PM.

Mr. Meyer is traveling a great distance to tell us his story. Please come and show your appreciation for his effort.

Steve Kinsella headlines Holiday Conservation Banquet

By Jonathan Jacobs

Steve Kinsella, author of **The Highweather Guide to Trout Fishing in the Black Hills** is the featured speaker at this year's Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet. Mr. Kinsella, a professional writer and consultant to Trout Unlimited, will give us a look into the research that went into his book through a slide show.

The chapter will also present its Trout Conservationist of the Year Award to a deserving recipient. The winner will receive an engraved plaque and the award's traveling trophy, a brook trout hand-carved and painted by Craig Aschenbrenner.

The banquet is at Tartan Park, located at 11455 20th Street in Lake Elmo, MN on **Thursday, December 2**. The social

hour begins at 6 PM and guests will be seated for dinner at 7 PM. The upgraded banquet buffet includes a garden or a Caesar salad, sautéed chicken breast with caramelized citrus sauce, roast loin of pork with autumn apple chutney, wild rice pilaf with dried cherries and pine nuts, parsnip potato puree and a medley of fresh seasonal vegetables. This year's menu also includes a fruit cobbler dessert.

The price of this evening of entertainment, great food, fellowship and fundraising is \$35, which includes a bucket raffle ticket, a \$5 value. Reservations may be made through Michael Alwin at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (651/770/5854) or by calling Jonathan Jacobs at 715/386/7822. Seating is limited to the first 110 people to make reservations, so please don't delay in making your call.

Kiap-TU-Wish will again conduct a silent auction as part of its fundraising efforts. Donations to the auction may be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo beginning immediately. At press time, featured auction and raffle items include artwork by Farrah Lemmon, John Koch and Virginia Adams. Orvis has donated a Trident TLS 865 2 piece rod and Bentley's Outfitters has donated a Rocky Mountain large arbor reel spooled with a Scientific Anglers XPS 5 weight WF floating line to match. K-TU welcomes the donation of both angling and non-angling related items. Handcrafted items of all kinds are popular. Look for further details on donations in the December RipRap.

The banquet committee urges you to help with the event. Volunteers can help set up the auction and help with auction checkout at the end of the evening. Call either Michael Alwin or Jonathan Jacobs if you have an interest.

Contem-places:

The enigmatic Hexagenia

By James R. Humphrey

Several years ago my daughter Daphne returned late to our apartment in Kellogg Square on the Mississippi at Robert Street in St. Paul. Dad, Ugh!, the building is crawling with bugs up to the third floor!" It was a final flight of a species of *Hexagenia*, the super-fly of the Midwest. The next morning outside Kellogg Square I found windrows of dead Hex in long sweeps on the sidewalk. Periodically, the Highway 35 bridge in St. Paul is closed due to the slippery nature of zillions of dying bugs. According to W.L. Hilsenoff of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, there are four species of Hex in our area; this one was *H. bilineata*. *H. limbata* appears on many Midwestern rivers, beginning usually about the 21st of June; *H. atrocaudata*, which lives in a sandy environment and is smaller than the others, is

found on the Wolf River. The fourth species of the genus is *H. rigida*.

In recent years the Hex has nearly disappeared on the Upper Kinnickinnic, due, in my opinion, to improving water quality. Many anglers may find that statement surprising. So, let me invoke the experts. The definitive text, *The Mayflies of North and Central America* by Edmunds, Jensen and Berner, states:

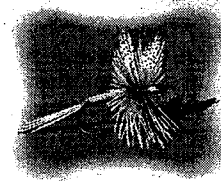
Modern man has enriched streams and lakes with sewage from cities, manure and fertilizers from farms, and natural nutrients from eroding soils. While such over enrichment makes conditions unsuited for many mayfly species, a few forms that strain their food from the water, such as *Hexagenia*, *Ephorn*, and certain caddisflies, thrive on it and greatly increase in numbers. When any river is largely dominated by these filter-feeding insects, it may be on the brink of an ecological disaster.

I rest my case.

One of my precious recollections includes the pursuit of the Hex on the Upper Kinnickinnic upstream of Fullers' ford where I would await the arrival of the juking bats, and five minutes later the slow, lumbering lift-off of the Hex. In the nineteen fifties, the only trout game in town was to fish the UKK. The advice was to go just before dark and wait—wait until it was too dark to see, then cast to the "slurp" of big fish feeding. Sensitive fishers abjured that gang attack on unsuspecting and wholly innocent trout.

For many years I fished the Willow River downstream from the beach parking lot along Trout Brook Trail, and there once under dark of moon, in that reach below the sandstone cliff and well above the bifurcation, the Hex surprised me, coming off like overloaded bombers in a World War II film. Much later, Roger Fairbanks told me a story; how two trout fanatics carried a washtub of Hex nymphs to the Willow near the Slaughter House and gave them their freedom. For more information on that nocturnal adventure you will have to ask Roger.

Jim Humphrey is the co-author of *Minnesota and Wisconsin Trout Streams*. He lives in Oak Park Heights, MN and is a featured contributor to RipRap.



das Boot

By Jonathan Jacobs

Believe me, my young friend, there is *nothing* – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.

- Rat, in *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Back in 1987 or so, Bill Schuessler, who once served as the president of TC-TU, ordered a drift boat kit from builder Greg Tatman of Oregon. Mr. Schuessler had visions of floating the large trout rivers of the mountain West and smallmouth rivers closer to home in his 14 foot McKenzie boat. The business of making a living and the business of raising a family took precedence over boat building and the kit remained in its shipping crate in the warehouse of Mr. Schuessler's company. In late 2003, Mr. Schuessler decided that his other priorities weren't likely to allow him the time to build the boat and he generously donated it to Kiap-TU-Wish to use as a fund-raising tool. **Bill Hinton** took delivery of the kit and stored it at his house through the winter. In the spring of this year, Jack Storer offered us space in his workshop to build the boat. Mr. Hinton assembled a crew of would-be shipwrights and construction began in early summer. To date, Mr. Hinton's crew has included **Bob Bradham, Erik Brandy, Dan Bruski, Greg Dietl, Charles Goossen, "Jupe" Hومان, Allison Jacobs, Jonathan Jacobs, Karen Jacobs, Peter Keller, Ted Mackmiller, Sarah Sanford and Jack Storer.** It's been a fascinating project, as evidenced by the fact that five of the volunteers willing to put time and effort into it are not K-TU members and by the hundreds of hours that the crew has put into the boat's construction..

Mr. Hinton and other experienced woodworkers on the crew have marveled at the quality of the wood in the kit. Plywood particularly has gone down hill dramatically in quality since Mr. Schuessler took delivery of the kit. The solid wood components of the boat are of oak, mahogany and Port Orford cedar. The cedar is truly beautiful wood. It grows only in one small area along the Pacific coast in Washington and Oregon. Tatman's work is of the first order, too, and his design work is elegant.

The crew has worked hard to create a good looking, durable boat, treating all the wood with a mixture of boiled linseed oil and odorless mineral spirits to help preserve the wood and to stabilize it after long-term storage before construction began. Solid wood components received at least three coats of urethane spar varnish, while plywood pieces have been primed with an oil base primer and treated to multiple coats of Tatman-recommended oil base enamel. The exterior hull of the boat is Evergreen and the interior hull is Slate Gray. The exterior bottom has been treated to two coats of Kevlar®-reinforced epoxy manufactured by TAP plastics.

All of the hardware and equipment used to complete the boat are absolutely first class. We've selected German-made SPAX fasteners, UHMW plastic oarlock sleeves and anchor protection plate, a Bo's anchor system, bronze oarlocks and GULL oars, for example.

The boat will ride on a trailer donated to Kiap-TU-Wish by chapter stalwart Ted Mackmiller.

The craft is nearing completion at this writing. The chapter's Board of Directors is determining how best to maximize the return on Mr. Schuessler's donation and the hard work of its volunteers. No matter what scenario is chosen, you will have a chance to become the proud owner of this boat. Look for additional details in future issues of RipRap.

Photos by Chuck Goossen of the boat:



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Photos by Chuck Goossen of the boat:

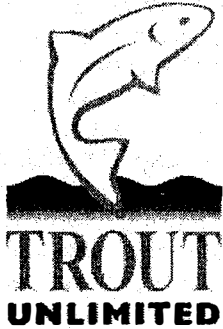


ATTENTION!

There is an error in the article about the Holiday Conservation Banquet. The ticket price **DOES NOT** include a bucket raffle ticket. However, all banquet registrants will be eligible in the drawing for the door prize, an original watercolor painting of a brown trout by Hudson area artist Farrah Lemmon.

I apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Jonathan Jacobs, RipRap Editor



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MEETING SCHEDULE:

NOVEMBER 3: ARGENTINE TROUT FISHING WITH JOSEPH MEYER

DECEMBER 2 (NOTE THURSDAY DATE): ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET AT TARTAN PARK

JANUARY 5: DUKE WELTER ON THE TU DRIFTLESS AREA RESTORATION EFFORT

FEBRUARY 2: TBA

MARCH 2: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 6: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS

MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20.