



A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

NOVEMBER, 2011 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects

PRESIDENT'S LINES & NOVEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

BY KYLE AMUNDSON

We will be hosting Joe Gathman, UW-RF Biology Professor, for our November chapter meeting. He will discuss the effects of water quality on macro-invertebrate populations. Don't miss it.

The Trimbelle River tire cleanup went well with 11 volunteers and 2 DNR personnel (Barb and Marty). We pulled 217 tires from the stream bed which amounted to 3.4 tons. Thanks to all of the volunteers.

The board is currently reviewing our options for next year's volunteer/restoration activities. We have several de-brushing projects in mind, and there may be some leftover work on Pine Creek. With a cutback in both state and federal funds, we will spend some serious time researching various new grants and other funds for future work on both the Trimbelle River and the Rocky Branch (a tributary to the Kinnickinnic). Starting restoration work on the Trimbelle River has long been at the top of my list as president, and our local DNR personnel are enthusiastic for this project as well.

I was remiss in addressing the chapter with the President's Lines in last month's RipRap, including recognizing our new members. So welcome: Nathan Anderson (Hudson), James Cumming (Hudson), Patrick Dean (Hammond), The Durand Sportsmen's Club, Jeffrey Everts (Milltown), Mark Gherty (Hudson), Justin Gillis (New Richmond), Allen Johnson (Roberts), Al Kikos (Balsam Lake), Paul Mack (New Richmond), Juli Mansur (Deer Park), Derrek Pederson (Roberts), Doug Peterson (Hager City), Terry Plaehn (Roberts), Brett Ptacek (Centuria), Garrett Wenzel (River Falls), & George Wright (River Falls). Welcome all! I hope to see you at our monthly chapter meetings at Bob Smith's Sports Club in downtown Hudson.

Winner
Bollinger Award
Best Newsletter
2010

**Kiap-TU-Wish
meetings are held
at Bob Smith's
Sports Club, the first
Wednesday night of
the month. The
November meeting
is on the 2nd.
Dinner begins at 6
PM, Meeting
to follow at
7 PM.**



I had the pleasure of sitting in on the latest Banquet Committee meeting, at which a large portion of the plans were set for this year's Banquet. I am very excited about the vast array of auction and raffle items that will be a part of this year's event. It seems as though each year the Committee outdoes itself by finding more outstanding things to entice people to crack open their wallet. Jonathan Jacobs will fill you in on all the details in his article that begins below. Make sure you read it, and take heed of all he has to say. My beautiful bride has already agreed to accompany me to the gala event, so we should have plenty of time to find a babysitter. Make sure to put it on your calendar - Thursday December 8th.

The rest of this issue is also chock full of good info. Make sure you check out everything, especially Greg Olson's wonderful article about fishing out in the western United States. I'm sure a lot of you have fished out west at some time or another, but Greg puts his own special twist on things in his article, "Westward Ho!", starting on page 6.

Just because the Holiday Banquet is already on our radar, don't forget about the November meeting at our regular meeting spot, Bob Smith's Sports Club. Wednesday, November 2nd, dinner starts at 6 P.M., and meeting at 7 P.M. Hope to see you there.

Have a great month!

HOLIDAY BANQUET NEWS

BY JONATHAN JACOBS

Nature Conservancy Director is featured banquet speaker

Stillwater resident **Rob McKim**, Midwest Regional Managing Director of the Nature Conservancy, is the featured speaker at this year's **Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet**. Mr. McKim will talk about the accomplishments and the challenges of conservancy work.

The banquet venue is, as it has been for several years, **Tartan Park** in Lake Elmo, MN. The diner menu includes top round of beef, champagne chicken and Tartan Park's always delicious array of vegetables and salads. It may be of heuristic value to note that Tartan Park has a well-stocked bar.

In acknowledgement of the perilous state of our economy, cost per person remains, through the generous support of the chapter, \$35. The banquet will be held on **Thursday, December 8**. Social hour begins at 6 PM and, through the miracle of time-bending, continues until 7:30 PM. The program begins at 8:30 PM. There will be time after the program ends to place more bids on auction items. **You must make reservations for the banquet by noon, Monday, December 5**. Call Michael Alwin at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (651-770-5854) or Jonathan Jacobs at 715-386-7822 to assure your place at the table for the social event of the season.



BANQUET NEWS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The banquet has two primary purposes, both of which are critically important to the health of the chapter. First, it is without a doubt the best venue we have to get our band of brothers and sisters together for a really good time. Second, this is one of our two primary fund-raising tools. One can think it unfortunate that the almighty dollar enters into the equation, but it's an inescapable fact of life, folks. Projects in the last few years on Pine Creek, Plum Creek, the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic, the Trimbelle River and the Rush River have a total cost in the quarter million dollar range. We're a small chapter with limited funds, but we leverage those funds to obtain grants or to work cooperatively with organizations like the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust for the benefit of our coldwater resources.

The aforementioned auction is a showcase component of the banquet. We have in hand, at this writing, donations from businesses such as the Lake Elmo Inn, Kinnickinnic Lodge and Outfitters, and the Mayfly Lodge in Viroqua, WI. Other businesses are coming on board soon. There will be a Scott fly rod and guided drift boat fishing available at auction. Your donations are valuable, too. How about donating your gently used Mercedes-Benz Geländewagen, or that vintage Chris-Craft you tow behind it? If you've abandoned your dreams of rock and roll stardom, consider toting your 1960 Gibson Les Paul or 1958 Flying V down to Bob Mitchell's in advance of the banquet. Tired of smacking your knee against that Gustav Stickley* Craftsman bookcase in the hallway? Broom it out! Does ennui set in when you set the table with Grandma's Limoges china? You know what needs to be done. Has that statue by Browerville, Minnesota-born sculptor Joseph Kiselewski, winner of the Prix de Rome, ceased to do it for you? Unburden yourself! The same thing applies to those originals by De Stijl proponent Piet Mondrian, westerner Georgia O'Keeffe* or the Swiss modernist Paul Klee.

If the time isn't quite right to go forward with the preceding donations, we know from experience that fly collection of a dozen to eighteen flies sell very well, that handcrafted jewelry and crafts go well, that fly angling equipment moves, that books do well, that homebaked confections and desserts go quickly and that framed commercial art can be valuable. It may be that you work for a company that needs to promote its consumer products. Talk to the sales and marketing folks. **Please, if at all possible, bring your banquet donations to Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in advance of the banquet.**

In addition to your material donations, you can donate your time, too. The beleaguered denizens of the banquet committee appreciate to no end your help in setting up and taking down, your service as floor captains to keep things running smoothly, your hawking of bucket raffle tickets and your math skills at the end of the evening when you pre-total bid sheets for our checkout folks. You may discuss your desire to volunteer with any member of the banquet committee, which is comprised of Emily Wemlinger, Deb Olmstead, Tom Henderson, Jonathan Jacobs, Greg Dietl and Michael Alwin.

**I am pleased and proud to note that Herr Stickley was a Cheesehead born in Osceola, WI. Georgia O'Keeffe was also a Wisconsinite; she was born near Sun Prairie.*

KIAP-TU-WISH BOARD MEMBERS & CONTACT INFO

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY TOM HENDERSON

Let's beat our own drum: Kiap is a great Trout Unlimited chapter. We have accomplished a great deal to make our little corner of the world a better place....for both fish and fishers. This past year's highlights include:

- + We extended the restoration of Pine Creek downstream and upstream, including the big spring.
- + Parker Creek restoration was completed, with work between Pleasant Ave. and County Road J, and also upstream from J.
- + Sarah Sanford organized and led the Rush River Cleanup again.
- + We removed 217 tires from the Trimble River....3.4 tons. The flotilla of watercraft would have made Huckleberry Finn proud.
- + Lunkers were built and installed in Plum Creek. It was necessary to jet posts into the stream bed, and build some of the lunker structures on top of the posts.
- + We partnered with UWRF, initiating a macroinvertebrate study on the Kinni. This will continue in future years.
- + Greg Meyer spent three days of his own time at a seminar to become better able to write grants.
- + Three members attended a weekend seminar on restoration techniques.
- + We continued to follow through on our pledge to assist the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust to purchase land adjacent to the Kinni, forever protecting it from development.
- + A great deal of time was spent working on a strategic plan, creating a long list of goals and objectives. More on this in a later issue of RipRap. Suffice it to say that there will be opportunities for all.

Some of the above items cost no money, or nearly none but did require significant volunteer time. An estimated 1400 hours were spent on chapter activities (combining project work and other chapter operations).

As for the coming year, plans are already being made. We will meet with Marty Engel and John Sours of the Wisconsin DNR to discuss a long-term effort to improve the Trimble River. The vendor of rock for Pine Creek seems to have given us more than we ordered; the excess may be used next year to improve the tributary from the north. The City of River Falls is working on funding for improvement of Rocky Branch, which flows into the Kinni from the south.

Speaking of the lower Kinni: were you aware that there is a new access from the south to the middle of the canyon? Look for a land trust sign just west of the peacock farm on county road FF.

Stay tuned. More to come in 2012.



WHY WOULD ANYONE STOP ANGLING FOR TROUT?

ARTICLE COURTESY OF WISCONSIN DNR

MADISON -- More than 800 anglers who haven't fished for inland trout the past three years will have a chance to tell the state why they've hung up their fly rods and spin casting rods and are no longer seeking the wily trout in Wisconsin.

The Department of Natural Resources mailed out surveys earlier this month to more than 800 randomly picked fishing license holders who had once been trout anglers but who had not bought a trout stamp that would allow them to fish for trout in Wisconsin's inland waters since 2008.

"What we're trying to find out is what are the reasons that people are no longer fishing and is there anything we can do about that," says Marty Engel, a Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist stationed in Baldwin.

"Obviously, angler retention is as important to us as any business. We want to know what the reasons are, and if there is anything we can do to address things like access or regulations, or anything else under our control."

The survey is part of Wisconsin's ongoing review of inland trout fishing. Participants at public meetings last spring got to tell DNR fish biologists what they like about trout fishing now and what they think could be improved. Meeting participants also filled out a survey to give more specific feedback on all aspects of trout fishing and management in Wisconsin, and nearly 2,000 completed the same survey online.

A second mail survey will go out later this fall to randomly selected trout anglers. DNR researchers are using results from the previous surveys available at the public meetings and online to help fine-tune the questions for the mail survey, which also will ask about angler effort, catch and harvest.

Jordan Petchenik, a DNR social researcher, is working with trout researchers, on the survey that seeks to find out why once avid anglers quit.

Petchenik worked with DNR's licensing staff to run a query of the automated licensing system to see how many people bought a trout stamp for every year 2004-2008 but stopped buying the stamp after 2008. That total was 2,268. Those people received a letter to verify their address was still current. The survey design called for 800 of them to get a survey in the mail to fill out and return. The surveys were mailed out the second week of October.

"We know that the people who dropped out for the last three years had been dedicated trout anglers at one time because they had purchased trout stamps for five consecutive years," Petchenik says.

Results from the mail survey of anglers who have fallen away from the sport in Wisconsin won't be available until the end of the year, he says.

Engel hopes the results will offer the DNR important insights into trout fishing and trout management, and how the DNR can work to improve both. "It's been more than 20 years since we surveyed trout anglers, and I don't think we've ever surveyed people who hung it up to find out why they did or what we can do to get them back."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: about survey methodology contact Jordan Petchenik (608) 266-8523; about how survey results will be used contact Scot Stewart (608) 273-5967 or Marty Engel (715) 684-2914 ext 110



WESTWARD HO!

BY GREG OLSON

When I was 14, we loaded up the station wagon and headed out West again for summer vacation, this time visiting Yellowstone National Park. As we overlooked the Yellowstone River Valley, my dad stated, “Wow, just think of what it would be like to live out here.” My dad was a school teacher and my brothers and I always considered that Dad could find employment anywhere there was a grade school, so picking up and moving to a new locale was something my brothers and I discussed from time to time. My brothers and I looked at each other with excitement, which quickly passed, when my dad followed with, “But if we lived out here, where would we go on vacation?” We never did leave Hudson and except for four years of school, I have lived my whole life in the St. Croix Valley.

I have journeyed out West for the past five summers either for work or vacation. I have managed to get some fly fishing in and have experienced some incredible angling. At these times, I still wonder if I could cut the umbilical noose and leave the St. Croix Valley in which I have spent virtually my entire life and move out there. The mountains, vast plains, big sky, fast water, intense sun are all so much different from the Midwest. I love the contrast from the landscape back home, but those same contrasts make me feel like an alien, an outsider. In the end, the Midwest is home and where I feel most comfortable, even when it comes to fishing. It is fun to fish bigger, faster water, using new techniques, but if I had to choose one type of water to live by, I would have to place myself in a Midwestern spring creek with a 4-wt in hand.



Author (far right) and friends walking in to fish the Roaring Fork near Walden, CO in August of this year. Photo by Mike New



Near the end of my first season of fly fishing five years ago, I was lucky enough to attend a week long conference at Big Sky Ski Resort in Montana. At the conference we had our afternoons off, so naturally after our first lunch I headed back down the mountain and into the first fly shop I saw, which happened to be East Slope Outdoors. I introduced myself to the owner, Dave Alvin, and as we began talking about where and how to fish, I commented on the “Hodag” he had on the cash register. He was impressed that I could recognize the mythical dragon like creature that “haunts” the woods around Rhinelander, Wisconsin. He explained that Rhinelander is where he grew up and lived before taking the plunge 20 years ago when he moved out to the Big Sky area. As we talked about fishing back in Wisconsin, he sized me up, sold me six spruce moth imitations, and sent me to a place on the Gallatin where his guides don’t take many clients due to the difficult wading.

Difficult wading was an understatement, I was sure if I slipped I would wind up in Bozeman, 44 miles away, as I had never experienced current like that before. However, the fishing was incredible. My favorite agent of pestilence has to be the Spruce Moth. These moths were everywhere. I imagined the rainbows in the Gallatin must have felt like the Israelites in the wilderness, but instead of manna raining from the heavens there were moths falling out of the spruce trees. If my employer ever doubted my dedication, the fact that I left that river every afternoon, to attend the evening seminars, speaks volumes. After the morning lectures I would be first in line for lunch, inhale it, drive like a madman down the mountain to the Gallatin, fish as long as I could, drive like I stole the car back to Big Sky, and grab a plate of leftovers right before the evening talks. Always, the light from the projector attracted a few wayward spruce moths in the dark lecture hall, which was a constant source of annoyance for the presenters, but it would induce an ear-to-ear grin with me. I was used to having to work for my fish, trying to read the water, and trying every fly in my box. The entire Gallatin appeared to be great trout water, just one long, roaring riffle, and the only fly I needed was a spruce moth imitation.

However, after a couple days of this incredible fishing, I stopped in at the fly shop again to replenish my supply of spruce moths, thank Dave for placing me in an awesome stretch of the Gallatin....and then sheepishly ask what other fishing opportunities were close by. Here I was having incredible dry fly fishing, something that I had had no success with back home! Still, something was amiss. For one, I was fishing a stones throw from Hwy 191, with a constant stream of semis, dump trucks (road construction was going on a mile up river) and RVs heading to Yellowstone. It was also too easy. I didn’t have to stalk the fish. In the large riffles, with slimy rocks, I could stumble around and still catch fish at my feet. I also didn’t have to read water. The riffle I fished seemed to stretch for miles and was so wide I could not cast to the other side. The current appeared to be uniform, with no drift better than another.

Dave responded that a trip to the Madison or Yellowstone would require more than an afternoon’s time, but that I could try one of the many feeder creeks of the Gallatin. I got directions to one and drove over. Now this was what I was more accustomed to: a small stream with plenty of brush and trees all around to get hung up on. I no longer heard the traffic zooming by on Hwy 191, just the sound of tumbling water. The one constant was the spruce moth and these fish seemed absolutely famished. Every decent size boulder and plunge pool held a 12-15 inch rainbow. I fished this creek for two days and never saw another angler. At first I couldn’t believe I had this creek all to my self, but as I kept climbing upstream from 8000 to 9000 ft, over numerous downed spruce trees (causing the love/hate relationship between the trout angler and the spruce moth), avoiding bear scat, and tumbling down a bank into the water that tore a large enough gash in my elbow that I was chumming with my own blood for awhile, I could see why most everyone stayed on the Gallatin. Still it was the kind of intimate water I have grown to prefer and fished it exclusively my remaining two afternoons and never saw anyone else. The arduous climb was rewarded with a waterfall at the top, which flowed from the meadow at the top of the mountain.

I did a double take the first time I saw the meadow stream. The small stream meandered back and forth through the meadow, in no hurry to leave the mountain top. The riffle, run, and pool pattern was as recognizable as on the Kinni, but did it hold trout? The large waterfall would not allow passage of fish from the Gallatin. I walked over to the first pool and peered in. My shadow caused the scattering of dozens of fish and I thought I detected some orange bellies! I crept up to the next pool on my hands and knees and sent the spruce moth over the water. A fish instantly hit, and after I got the 10 inch brookie to hand and removed the fly, I admired him as I would a long lost friend. Here we were, two non-natives from back East, reunited on a mountain top 1,000 miles from home. Now I was in my element.

In case you were wondering the answer to my father’s question about where we would vacation if we lived out West, I posed it to Dave. For vacations, he and his family returns to Wisconsin and yes, he brings a fly rod or two.





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE NOVEMBER MEETING!!!

November Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 2nd
Dinner at 6PM
Meeting at 7PM

The deadline to make submissions for the December issue is Tuesday, November 22nd.
Thank you!

