



RIP-RAP

EDITOR: CRAIG MASON
LAYOUT: ANDY LAMBERSON

RESTORATION & PRESERVATION
THROUGH RESEARCH & PROJECTS

OCT 1992

◆ FLY CONTEST

WEIRD FLY REMINDER

Just a reminder that October 30th is the last date for entry into this very special and surprising contest. Everyone is eligible and there are no exclusionary tactics. You don't even have to be a member of Kiap-TU-Wish. This contest is so simple that it is almost scary. There are only two rules: 1) Your fly must have arisen from an observable natural phenomenon. 2) It must be a total and abysmal failure. We've already started receiving entries and have promises of several more, so get busy. You need only include a sample of the fly and a brief description of the phenomenon, your creation and its subsequent failure. (At least one of the judges shows a fondness for a good story.) The winner will be announced at the December Banquet and will receive a crisp \$5 bill and a certificate suitable for framing. Send your entry to:

Weird Fly c/o Alwin
231 No. Sherburne St
Stillwater, MN 55082

Mike

OCT. MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Wed, Oct. 7, 1992

TIME: **Dinner at 6:30**

Meeting at 8:00

WHERE: Hudson House

**WE NEED MORE MEMBERS
TO SHOW FOR DINNER!!**

This month's meeting is "members slides" a.k.a: "What I did over my Summer Vacation". *Please* bring some of your slides. If you have more than 20, please call Andy.

◆ RIP-RAP

ARTICLES NEEDED!!

If you have ever considered launching a literary career now is the time!!

The Rip-Rap is looking for more articles. Write about whatever you wish, what you know about best, or what you wish you knew about. Please send your articles to Craig or Andy on a 3.5" Diskette in any of the following formats: WordPerfect, Word for Windows, Word for DOS, Word for Macintosh, Wordstar or Windows Write. *Please include the version (ie:2.0).*

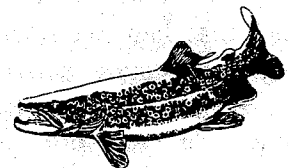
Short handwritten notices will be accepted but due to Andy's slow typing we request any articles to please be on diskette.

◆ TROUT WORKS

Applicant Found

Chapter member and stream worker Herb Lunberg has graciously answered the Stream Improvement Committee's call for a volunteer to take over the maintenance of the Chapter's equipment. Herb's willingness to take on this responsibility is a shining example of the unselfish devotion to the resource for which the Chapter is known. Thanks, Herb!

Mike Alwin



**Don't forget
your slides
for the
October meeting!**

◆ **BROWN TROUT**

By Jon Jacobs

If you fish for trout in western Wisconsin, and you're unwilling to fish on tiny, brush choked creeks or to cast over obviously planted rainbows, you are fishing for brown trout, a.k.a. *salmo trutta*, brownies, German brown trout or von Behr trout. You may be fishing for wild trout, stream born and bred, but you are not fishing for native trout. The brown is, as any number of writers have anthropomorphized, like most of us, the descendant of sturdy immigrant stock. I mention this because the brown trout is so common and accepted a quarry that I believe we forget that it is a successful, introduced exotic, like the carp or the lamprey. Did that last statement raise your hackles just a might? Then consider this: The brown trout was imported to the United States largely in an attempt to restore some sort of a trout to waters that had been too badly defiled by man's activities to support the native char, the Eastern brook trout. Unfortunately, the brown has a strong tendency to push to the headwaters of streams that still support native populations and to out-compete and suppress them there. So, just to be tendentious, I occasionally suggest to friends that the upper Kinnickinnic, which could be absolutely prime brook trout water, be treated with Rotenone to remove the brown trout so that the brook trout fishery could

be restored. Actually, I adore brown trout and that will be the last negative thing that you'll hear from me about these fish. My real point is that the brown is a truly amazing fish, a world traveler and a real tough cookie. Think about it: The ancestors of the fish we attempt to lure to our hooks were harassed by European humans for millennia and survived and even prospered. No wonder they are difficult to dupe with some feathered concoction! The British were perhaps the first to recognize the brown trout's tenacity and toughness, taking the fish around the world with them as they established their empire. Nineteenth century American fisheries expert Fred Mather came in contact with the brown in Europe as a guest of Baron von Behr in Germany and in 1883 made arrangements for a shipment of fertile eggs, thus bringing about a tremendous change in cold water fisheries management that reverberates to this day.



Let's talk about the fish's native range and the places to which it's been imported. If you have the financial resources, you can fish for brown trout on every continent but Antarctica. The brown's current range includes some of the world's most exotic, most beautiful and most historic locales. Chasing brown trout could take a lucky angler to:

All of Europe. This certainly stirs some powerful images in my mind. Imagine fishing the peat-stained waters of Ireland, the windswept highlands of Scotland, the storied British chalkstreams or their equivalents in Normandy. Or you could wade waters in the Black Forest, the Alps, the Iberian peninsula, the Macedonian regions of Greece or the tragically war torn areas of the Balkans.



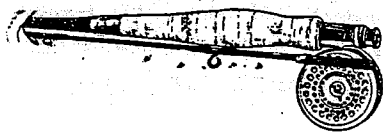
Africa. Brown trout are native to the watersheds draining the Atlas mountains of north Africa. The fish has been introduced to the mountainous regions of Eastern equatorial Africa.

Asia. The brown's historic range extends eastward from Europe through the Caucasus, the Caspian and Black Sea regions and on to Iran and Afghanistan.

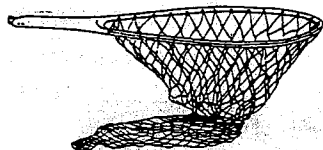
The Indian subcontinent.

The British influence is obvious here. Rivers draining the Himalayas reportedly can offer tremendous fishing. A couple of years ago an article appeared in Rod and Reel magazine touting the fishing in Bhutan, the Land of the Dragon. The photos accompanying the article showed a spectacularly scenic country populated by strikingly beautiful people.

Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. New Zealand, and its "Southern Alps" gets the big play in this group. I doubt if we have a member who hasn't daydreamed about fishing these waters.



South America. Ditto the comments above. Chile and the Patagonian region of Argentina have the most famous and publicized fishing. Our chapter's friend, Bob White, who has guided in Patagonia for several years, showed us slides that had me checking my bank balance to see if I could mount an expedition there. Obviously, the balance was found wanting. There are a few almost bizarre fisheries in South America, including sea trout runs in the Falkland Islands and the foreboding, barren landscapes of Tierra del Fuego and resident populations in the vertical climate areas of Venezuela.



North America. Of course. Canada's most famous fisheries are in Alberta (the Bow, et al),

but streams draining to the Great Lakes and the Atlantic also support populations. I think the surprising thing about the brown in the United States is its range. Of the 48 contiguous states, 32 have brown trout populations. Arkansas recently produced a world record fish.

No matter how wealthy or ardent the angler, there's more than enough fishing for a life time. I think that we are fortunate, indeed, to be able to angle here right in or own back yard for the distant cousins of those fish in the distant and exotic locations mentioned here. Let's renew and redouble our efforts to support the coldwater habitat that the brown and other trout need to survive and prosper.

NOTE: Most of the information for this piece was drawn from these sources: The Compleat Brown Trout by Cecil Heacox, Trout by Ernest Schwiebert, The Ways of Trout by Leonard M. Wright, Jr., and Dr. Robert Behnke's article on brown trout in the Winter, 1986 issue of *Trout* magazine. I recommend all of these works, particularly Heacox', which is rich in both fact and anecdote. You can learn from it, for example, that the "German" brown trout became the ordinary brown trout at the outset of World War I, when anti-German sentiment swept America, and that there was a good deal of resistance to the trout by die-hard brookie anglers, who thought that the fish was ugly, unsporting and poor tasting!

♦ NOVEMBER MEETING

Women in Flyfishing

From the sixteenth century, women have been involved in fly-fishing for trout. Dame Juliana Berners wrote a book in 1563 containing fly patterns still used in England. Mary Orvis Marbury did the same in Vermont in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Since World War II, fly tiers like Helen Shaw, Winnie Dette and Cathy Beck, great casters like Joan Wulff, and outdoor photographers like Kathy Fong have made major contributions to our sport. At the November meeting, Kiap-TU-Wish will feature a panel discussion featuring well-known local female anglers Cathy Dichary, Ellen Clark, Dorothy Bergmann and Karen James. Cathy, as most of you know, teaches classes in flyfishing for women at Bob Mitchell's Flyshop. Ellen is an officer in The Federation of Flyfishers Lew Jewett Chapter, and has worked for Scientific Anglers. Dorothy teaches flyfishing, builds rods, ties flies, and gives seminars all over the upper Midwest. Karen is familiar with equipment, particularly clothing, for women. If you would like to stimulate an interest in fly fishing with one of the female members of the family, this is the meeting for you. Ask questions that will help them select good equipment. So bring your favorite lady and introduce them to a non-competitive outdoor hobby that they can participate as ably as men. Do you have a problem with that? We'll talk about that, too. don't forget about dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. and make any evening out of it. Don't miss "Women in Flyfishing" on Nov. 4th.

Skip James

♦ FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Chapter Priorities
and New Richmond Dam**

At the last chapter meeting the issue of the rebuilding of the New Richmond dam was discussed. I am not sure if I explained the Chapter position adequately so I will try again.

In regards to the New Richmond dam, the Board of Directors, with consul from people close to the issue, wrote a letter to the DNR and City Council opposing the dam. Beyond

that, the Board and Officers felt that pursuing the issue further would not be beneficial for the following reasons:

1. The dam is a very personal, political issue in the community. We only stand to alienate ourselves if we pursue the matter further.
2. The DNR feels that the pond is so small and that the water flows through it so quickly that there is little or no warming effect on the River as a whole.
3. The likelihood of success is VERY small. It's sad to say: "It's a done deal".

4. We don't have the resources to address the issue and therefore it is not at the top of our priority list.

If any member wishes to re-address the issue, we have two good ways of doing that. Attend a Board Meeting (call me for the next meeting) or call the Dam Issues Chairman, Gary Horvath and volunteer your time to help.

Andy

Kiap-TU-Wish

President: Andy Lamberson (715)386-7568

Vice President: Gary Horvath (715)425-8489

Secretary: Don Ausemus (612)636-0625

Treasurer: Tom Battey (612)559-3370

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jon Jacobs (715)386-7822

Kent Johnson (715)386-5299

Gary Horvath (715)425-8489

Craig Mason (715)425-2282

Mike Alwin (612)439-8159

Skip James (612)436-1565

**WE NEED MORE MEMBERS TO SHOW FOR DINNER
OR THE HUDSON HOUSE IS GOING TO START
CHARGING US \$50 FOR THE ROOM!!
PLEASE SHOW FOR DINNER!**

**Kiap-TU-Wish
1992-1993 MEETINGS**

- Oct. 7: Member's Slides
- Nov. 4: Women in Fly Fishing Panel
- Dec. 2: Xmas Party
- Jan. 6: Russian Salmon Odyssey
- Feb. 3: Local Fly Patterns with Skip
- March 3: Business Mtg.
- April 7: Fly Tiers
- May 5: Marty Engel Wisc. DNR

Dinner at 6:30 Meeting at 8:00
All meetings are at the Hudson House.

**KIAP-TU-WISH
TROUT UNLIMITED
P.O. BOX 483
HUDSON, WI 54016**

