

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited October 2002

## President's Lines

### The Start of a New Season

Kiap-TU-Wish kicked off its fall of 2002-2003 "season" with record breaking attendance at our first meeting.

I hope everyone came to hear about the latest issues on the Kinni, Willow, Rush and Eau Galle rivers. The chapter kept very busy over the summer with meetings with local officials, stream improvement projects and a variety of development issues.

But I suspect most people were there to see an interesting talk by Perry Palin on "homemade" red cedar rods. They were not disappointed! It was a fascinating, funny and just plain fun presentation.

I hope to see you at our next meeting. Jon's presentation on smallmouth fishing promises to be just as good!!

Oh yeah... we also have lots of issues to update you about!

Regards,

Andy Lamberson

Chapter President

## Bronze Beauties!

By Jon Jacobs

No, I'm not talking about nubile beach bunnies, but about smallmouth bass. Early this summer our redoubtable prexy, Andy Lamberson, circulated an e-mail soliciting several of us to do various programs this year. For reasons unclear to me, Andy apparently thought that I was competent to do one on this fine game fish. I like to think of myself as a chap who will step up when called upon by the chapter, so I set about the grueling task of doing the research, i.e., going fishing. It was tough duty, but someone had to do it. I ranged from southeast Minnesota to central Wisconsin to the great north woods and had a fine time. I also caught a couple of fish. I hope I learned a few things, too. I took some pictures and would love to share my experiences with you at the October 2 meeting at Bob Smith's Sports Club at 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in downtown Hudson. Dinner is available at 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.

Jon Jacobs is RipRap's editor.

## Changes to Chapter Bylaws Proposed

By Gary Horvath

Among all chapters in the Wisconsin Council, Kiap-TU-Wish is unique in that approximately 40% of its members are not residents of the state. The proximity of the Twin Cities to such outstanding streams as the Kinnickinnic, Rush and others accounts for this situation. When the chapter was formed in 1972 the founding members stipulated in the bylaws that the President and Vice President must be residents of the state of Wisconsin. Trout Unlimited as an organization was only 13 years old and an unknown entity in Western Wisconsin. Therefore, this seemed like the right thing to do to avoid the perception of "outsiders from Minneapolis" telling the locals what to do.

In the last 30 years the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has established a reputation as staunch supporters of coldwater resources in Western Wisconsin. Not everyone loves us but they understand what we believe in. Because of this, I believe our chapter has outgrown the need for a residency requirement for its officers. Many fine presidential candidates have been denied the opportunity to lend their talents to these positions. In a volunteer group such as Trout Unlimited, a member in good standing should be given the opportunity to strive towards any position in the organization. In a quick poll of other border chapters in the Wisconsin Council there were no residency

restrictions in their bylaws for officer positions. Granted our chapter has a very high percentage of non-residents but **ARTICLE III, Section 1**, of the by-laws still require that a majority of the Board of Directors be residents Wisconsin. The Board of Directors manages and controls the affairs of the chapter, thus maintaining local control.

Therefore, at the next annual Chapter business meeting in March, I will be putting forward a proposal to amend **ARTICLE IV, Section 3 and 4**, of the chapter bylaws to read as follows:

**Section 3:** The President shall be a ~~resident of the State of Wisconsin~~ chapter member in good standing. He or She shall be the chief executive officer of the chapter. He or She shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Board of Directors and shall have the general and active management of business and affairs of the chapter. With the Treasurer, the President may sign and execute in the name of the chapter all contracts, agreements, and other obligations of the chapter, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. He or She shall have the general supervision and direction of all the other officers of the chapter, and shall see that their duties are properly performed. He or She shall submit a report of the operations of the chapter to the members at each annual meeting, and from time to time shall report to the directors all matters within their knowledge and which the interests of the chapter may require to be brought to their notice. He or She shall do and perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to them by the Board of Directors. One (1) person shall not hold the office of President for more than three (3) years in succession.

Gary Horvath of River Falls, WI is former president and current board member and officer of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of TU.

## The Big Three O

By Jon Jacobs

A group of forward-thinking conservationists formed Kiap-TU-Wish in 1972. Do a little math and you'll conclude that thirty years of hard, but effective, work on behalf of western Wisconsin's coldwater resources have flown by. The chapter plans to make this year a special one in every regard – in its meetings, in the work it does and, most especially, at the annual holiday banquet. Jim Humphrey and Bill Shogren, wonderful friends of the chapter and co-authors of the classic guidebook **Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams** have agreed to be our guest

speakers, addressing us on *ESCENAS ROMANTICAS*, or "The Romance of Trout Streams." There will be at least one very special commemorative fly rod available in a fund raising effort and we hope to have other special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary items available at auction or in raffles as well.

Please note that the banquet is for the second consecutive year scheduled for the first **Thursday** of the month, which is December 5th. The banquet will again be held at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo. Look for further details about this event in next month's RipRap.

## Some Good News

By Gary Horvath

Just in: Perrier is NOT renewing their high-cap well permit (due this Friday, September 20). And once they do not renew, if they want to get going in Wisconsin at some point in the future, they will have to start from ground zero with the DNR, according to Elizabeth Kluesner of the WDNR.

The following three articles are reprinted from the September 15 issue of WSNetwork News:

## Sierra Club, Izaak Walton League to Sue Alleged Rush River Polluter

The Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter and Izaak Walton League of America joined together to clean up the Rush River by ensuring that the Jon De Farm, Inc. mega-dairy no longer spills manure and animal feed runoff into the Rush River. The groups sent Jon De Farm Inc. a letter of intent to sue, which gives the farm 60 days to demonstrate that no future discharges will occur or face a lawsuit in federal court. In the past five years, the animal factory has violated federal environmental and public health protections over 12 times by discharging untreated animal waste directly into the Rush River and in some cases failing to report those discharges to the DNR. "Wisconsin residents from across the state visit the Rush River because it is a highly valuable trout fishery," said John Shafer, a local farmer, school teacher, and president of the Western Wisconsin Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. "We hope that Jon De Farm, Inc. will finally be forced to protect the Rush River for everyone who goes fishing, birding, and picnicking there."

SOURCES: Sierra Club (608) 256-0565 and Izaak Walton League of America (715) 273-4757.

## Trout Researcher Position Retained

By Laura Hewitt

I had a meeting with some of the fisheries people at the WDNR the other day and they invited me to help them interview for their new Trout Researcher position. I agreed to do it. I wanted to let you know that I will be doing this, so I could incorporate any input you might have. The interviews will likely take place at the end of October. They also wanted to pass along their sincere gratitude to TU for being such strong supporters of this position. Given the current budget climate they feel extremely fortunate to have retained this position and they give TU a lot of credit for it. The new position will be based in the Monona Research Office near Madison. This should be a good place to foster collaboration because they will be with a whole team of top-notch researchers looking at complementary issues, such as water quality and watershed health.

SOURCE: Laura Hewitt, Upper Midwest Conservation Director, Trout Unlimited, 211 S. Paterson St., Ste. 180 Madison, WI 53703, (608)250-3534, [lhewitt@tu.org](mailto:lhewitt@tu.org).

## Wolf Headwater Purchase Turned Down by State Without Public Discussion

Wisconsin officials have turned down the chance to purchase the Crandon Mine property from its overseas parent mining company saying the purchase price would reduce Wisconsin's ability to buy more sensitive properties with available Stewardship Fund money. The two appraisals of the land and its minerals came in at \$51.2 and \$94 million. Governor McCallum said the purchase would not only hinder the state's ability to purchase other properties in lieu of the Crandon site, but that it was against the wishes of northern WI counties that could potentially benefit from the mine's employment if it is approved. Early word from the environmental and conservation community is surprise that the decision was made by the state without public discussion. There are many stories on the decision. Here are two recent links:

[http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/local\\_6058851.shtml](http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/local_6058851.shtml) Milwaukee.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/state/sep02/79843.asp>.

SOURCE: WSN.

## Editorial

By Jon Jacobs

At the risk of being labeled the chapter's scold, I need to remind you that RipRap is published at some considerable expense, approximately \$2,000 per year. By means of several very generous donations, we've been able to produce a newsletter of which I'm proud and one that has drawn compliments from many of you. There is, unfortunately, a continuing need for funding. I attended the most recent chapter board meeting in September and came away from it with the definite sense that the board expects the newsletter to be substantially self-funding. It's difficult for me to argue with the board's logic. We are first and foremost a conservation organization and given the number and the complexity of environmental challenges hereabouts, it's difficult to justify dipping into the chapter's meager operating budget to produce a newsletter. We've previously discussed in these pages that very little of our funding comes from the dues you pay to TU National. I see that the Lee Wulff Chapter in Elgin, Illinois charges a "chapter assessment" of at least fifteen dollars per year (Chapter "dues" are prohibited by the national organization) to offset newsletter expenses. I'd hate to see this chapter open that particular Pandora's box and I'm sure you would, too, so please consider making a tax deductible donation to the dedicated RipRap publication fund. You may make your check payable to Kiap-TU-Wish, with "newsletter fund" written on the memo line.

One more nag and then I'll stop: RipRap is perpetually seeking editorial contributions. This is your opportunity to share an opinion, to let the world know about an environmental concern, to tell a fish story or to share a favorite fly pattern recipe. It's easy to contribute via e-mail or U.S. postal service. The addresses appear at the top of every page. Also, be reminded that the material published in RipRap represents only the opinions of its author. The Board of Directors is the official policy making body of the chapter.

Now, on a cheerier note, welcome back! Even though you may be experiencing withdrawal symptoms in the aftermath of the season's September 30<sup>th</sup> closing as you read this, I hope that you can reflect back on the past year's angling fondly. Our area was a wet oasis in a vast area of drought this summer. It was sufficiently wet, in fact, to hinder angling occasionally. Local rivers were often high and dirty. I hope it's not overly optimistic to think that a good deal of the precipitation made it into the aquifer to serve as a reserve for next year.

Then again, perhaps your angling year has not yet ended. There are still opportunities to pursue on western rivers, on

local lakes and in Great Lakes tributaries. In any case, Kiap-TU-Wish and RipRap have a dynamite series of meetings and issues planned for the coming year. We hope that you enjoy both.

## Watching the River Flow

By Jon Jacobs

Even a twentieth century guy such as myself has begun to find the value in surfing the web for angling information. One of the most useful sites I've found is that of the United States Geological Survey. The home page web address is <http://www.usgs.gov>. Here you will find information on mapping, geology and water data. However, my favorite address is <http://wi.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>. This page provides an interactive map of the state of Wisconsin. By moving your mouse pointer to locations on the map, you can learn the current flow or stage data for many rivers in Wisconsin. If you double click on a location, you will get more detailed information about recent flow and stage levels and, in some cases, water temperature and recent precipitation. It's quite a tool. You must learn to interpret the data if you expect it to be of the most use to you, but understanding flow might save you a long drive to a flooded or shriveled watercourse. The Kinnickinnic River has a reporting gauging station near County Road F that is now on the map. In addition to finding out if the river is up, one can look for funny little flow variations at midday and speculate on what is responsible for them (Hint: There are dams in the city of River Falls that are supposed to operate in a "run of the river" mode). Also, note that "wi" gives you Wisconsin information. Switch that to the two letter postal code for any state and you will go to that state's map. This can be useful if you're a traveling angler or simply a weather and geology buff. It's a well-organized site and it's well worth the small amount of effort required to navigate it.

## Attitude Adjustment

By John Koch

Just as I had told him it would, and had later secretly prayed for, the large brown silently inhaled the floating caddis imitation I had given him. He set the hook, and the fish exploded from the riffle with a splash that made me turn my head, thinking my companion had fallen in. After a quick tussle, the fish broke off in the heavy current, leaving the young man to shake his head and mutter to himself. But, no rest for the weary: The hatch was on and the fish were feeding. After watching me catch and release two more fish in quick succession, he re-rigged and was almost instantly into another, albeit smaller, fish.

It was a long, good weekend of fishing. After a year and a half of being stationed in Europe with the Big Red One, the Army had left him with a belly full of the world's problems: conversations quickly turned into biting tirades against alien evils far, far away. Midway through his tour, bitter and depressed, he had come to fish with me for a weekend before reporting to a new duty station here in the States.

The second morning of his visit started off with an hour drive to a river known for large small-mouth bass in wadeable water. But our dreams of trophy smallies were quickly dashed: a nightmare of high water and poison ivy confronted us at the county park access. With the approach to the bank of the river impossible, we had no choice except to scout out another spot for our warm water pursuits, this time on another river below a dam. After a couple hours of casting with little to show except three small rock bass, we threw the towel in on bass and went for the sure thing - the night before we had had a pleasant evening of dry fly fishing on some trout water near my house.

The walk to the section of water we wanted to fish is long and at times unpleasant. Snaking through the high grass through a quagmire of mud, muck and filth, one is continually reminded of one's place in the world by the burning sting of nettles, set to the tune of droning mosquitoes.

Sulphurs and caddis flies were hatching, so we imitated the greenish colored mayflies and the olive colored caddis flies with small parachute elk hair dries. We concentrated on fishing the riffles and pocket water, leaving the long, glassy pools to the herons and kingfishers. It was another good night of trout fishing. He had always been a practical sort, mirroring the elder members of our family's Depression-Era thrift, so at his insistence, two 14" browns were gutted and slid into the creel for the next day's breakfast. After this tipping of our hats to our fathers and uncles, we concentrated on fishing for fishing's sake.

I watched him, as he has always been a mirror of myself, in that frighteningly blatant way that only family members can be. The strain of his last year came out in raw emotional rants that at times made no sense to me and were uncomfortable to listen to as well. But I remember feeling the same confusion and anger over similar questions and problems years before when I was in the same position, so I listened. And I watched. I watched as the hard set to his jaw gradually loosened, and his stiff military stature soften. I watched him fly fish, the way that our fathers had taught us: carefully, methodically. A mirror onto myself, a mirror onto our past: my cousin has that same slow, deliberate cast that my father had taught me

so many years ago: pick up the line, feel the rod load, release it to the waiting river. Beautiful. Do it again...

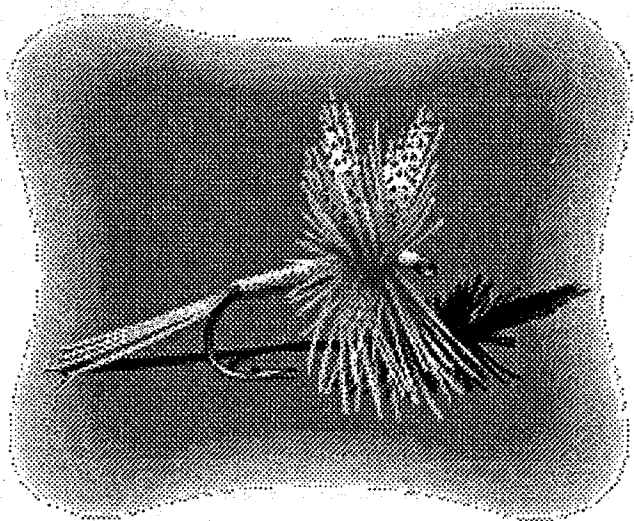
And again I watched as his casts to the water were rewarded with the rise and hookups of more than a few trout. First the olive-colored Sulphurs and then the olive caddis flies: the river that night was abuzz with insect activity. The little parachute elk hair dry we were using split the difference between the two insects perfectly, so much so that an acceptable cast to a likely spot most assuredly initiated a strike. As we fished the long, wide riffle, my cousin was able to target several sizable fish that had moved up out of the deep pool below to feed. He drifted the pattern I had given him over the feeding fish, and his rare, strained smile was eventually replaced with an easy, joyful grin. For a time, we were young kids again with our whole world centered in on the river.

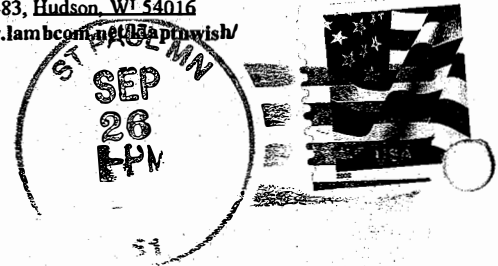
The next morning, as he left for what was eventually a new duty station, I could see that the strain had returned to his eyes. But as I pressed a fly box filled with patterns similar to those that we had used the night before into his hand at the door (a parting gift to ensure, hopefully, a speedy return visit), the sparkle that was there the night before returned.

*I got word from another relative recently that my cousin Pete was having the time of his life at his new duty station - apparently he had been stationed close to elk and deer hunting, and also minutes away from some trout water. I was hoping for a return visit in the not too distant future, but now I'm not so sure...*

(September, 2002)

*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.*





*For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills.*

Deuteronomy, Chapter 8, Verse 7

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**MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

OCT 2: JON JACOBS ON SMALLMOUTH FISHING  
NOVEMBER 6: TBA  
**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 NOVEMBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25.**