

RipRap

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

OCTOBER, 2012 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

Rainbow Trout

Restoration, Improvements and Preservation through Research and Projects



A BEAUTIFUL NEW STRETCH OF THE TRIMBELLE RIVER. PHOTO BY TOM HENDERSON

*Kiap-TU-Wish meetings are held at Bob Smith's Sports Club,
the first Wednesday night of the month.*

The October meeting is on the 3rd.

Dinner begins at 6 PM, Meeting to follow at 7 PM.



KIAP-TU-WISH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

BY TOM HENDERSON

At the TU national meeting and convention on Sept 15, Kiap-TU-Wish received the Silver Trout award. This is the second highest award that is given each year to a chapter. Tom Henderson, vice president, attended the convention in Asheville, NC, and accepted the award for the chapter. This is truly an honor. It speaks highly of the work done by all of the chapter members and volunteers.

This is the text of the write-up in the convention program:

A mature TU chapter of about 280 members, Kiap-TU-Wish (#168) ably carries out TU's mission in Wisconsin's west central counties, along the Upper Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. Four major coldwater rivers dominate the region, and the chapter's name reflects this: KInnickinnic-APple-Willow-RuSH. The more dominating feature, however, is the eastward push of development from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. New residential development and commercial properties are gobbling up formerly rural lands, bringing with them stormwater runoff, groundwater depletion, road-building and other vexing challenges for coldwater streams and wetlands.

Kiap-TU-Wish (hereinafter "Kiap") has addressed these issues thoughtfully and built a strong reputation while addressing them. A decade ago, the chapter produced a video, "Storm on the Horizon", which laid out the problems of development and stormwater management and influenced municipalities, developers and other planners. As a result of the video and the temperature monitoring of Kiap volunteers, the City of River Falls modified its long-term stormwater management plan to keep the spring-fed Kinnickinnic River cold and clear. Working with UW-River Falls scientists, chapter member Kent Johnson, a professional hydrologist, has worked to develop monitoring protocols which are now being adopted around the entire Upper Mississippi River basin through TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE).

The counties just east of the Twin Cities are some of the fastest-growing in the nation. As land prices escalate, it becomes more and more difficult to acquire fishing access easements and wildlife areas. Kiap has worked to protect and help acquire several key parcels along the Kinnickinnic River with the WI Department of Natural Resources and the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. As a result, much of the river's corridor has been protected and has public access available since those efforts began in the mid-1990s.

Restoration work on several degraded area streams has been spearheaded by Kiap volunteers over the past 10 years. Over 2.5 miles of Pine Creek near Maiden Rock, 4 miles of Parker Creek, a Kinnickinnic tributary, and the first mile of work on the current multiyear project on the Trimbelle River have all turned out to be extremely successful. Goals of these projects include reducing the endemic bank erosion found across the entire unglaciated, or "Driftless" area of the Upper Mississippi Basin, expanding the available fish habitat, planting native prairie and other species for more diverse wildlife and bird habitat, and providing productive activities for volunteers from TU and other partner groups. The total budget for the above projects raised by Kiap and its partners exceeds \$1 million since 2000, by a rough estimate.

This year a second in-stream project carried out by the chapter removed hundreds of old tires from a stream in its area. For many decades (1920s to 1990s), a tire plant in the region discarded its reject product and rubber tire-making waste in dozens of gully and stream sites. Today area TU chapters work to find resources to remove them.

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AWARD, CONTINUED

Advocacy and conservation projects are accompanied by periodic educational efforts by the chapter, including a well-regarded and well-run youth fly-fishing workshop on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River, as well a fly-tying and fly-fishing classes for adults. Kiap volunteers have also long taken an active role in addressing state coldwater resource issues through their membership on the WI Trout Unlimited State Council.

A well-rounded, mature chapter doing solid research, advocacy, and first-rate stream restoration projects benefits us all by its strong reputation and projects. The Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited deserves our recognition for admirably fulfilling TU's mission in Western Wisconsin.



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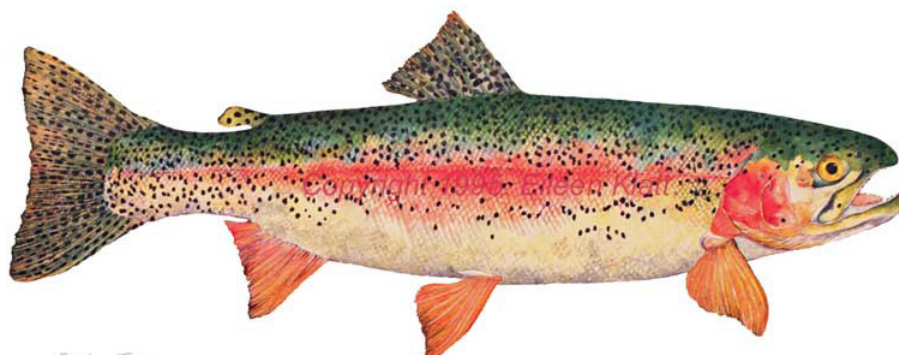
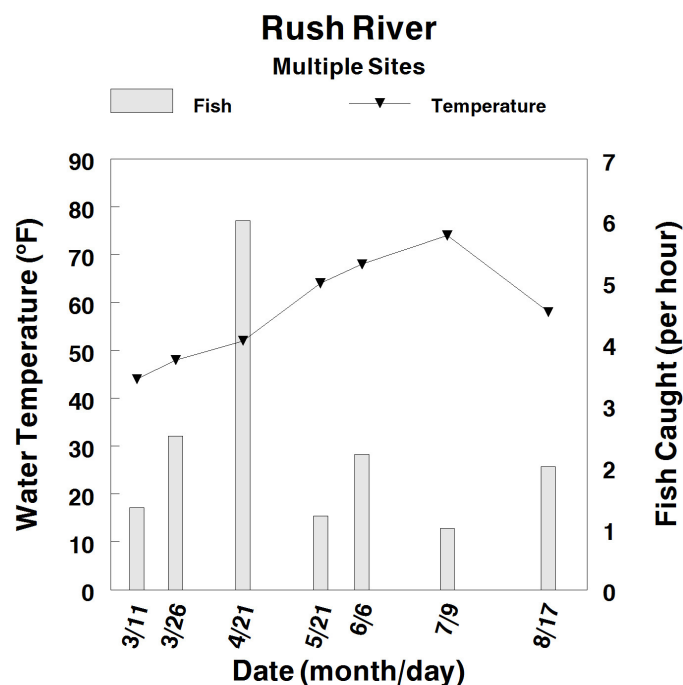


STREAM WATCH LOGS ARE DUE

BY HANS JUNG

Now that the 2012 trout fishing season has ended in Wisconsin, it is time to send me your Stream Watch log book for the season. Do not worry how much or little data you collected, any and all is needed and appreciated. I will be compiling the data collected, and adding air temperature and precipitation data to the records. These data will be forwarded to Marty Engels of the WI DNR. Depending on how much data is turned in, I will also construct some graphical presentations to more easily view trends. The data and graphs will be available later on the KIAP web site. As an example of how some of the data might be displayed, here are my own fishing data for the Rush River from March through August.

Bring your log to the October or November meeting, or mail it to me (26056 Pheasant Run, Lindstrom, MN 55045). Looking forward to receiving your data. Thanks!



Pheasant Trout

SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

As I write this, there are eleven days left in the stream trout season in Wisconsin & Minnesota. I would say that it is time to get out once or twice before it all ends. I am going to try to do that, and I hope that you can too! The October meeting is on Wednesday, the 3rd. Kent Johnson will be speaking about stream monitoring, so make sure you get there at 7PM to check it out. If you want to assure yourself of a good seat, get there at 6 PM and have a delicious dinner before the meeting.

This issue of RipRap is full of fun stuff. Be sure you check out Perry Palin's article, *The Stream Journal*, on page 6. I think that it will inspire you to keep better notes from your days on the water. Maybe your notes won't be as copious as Perry's - you can pick and choose some of his ideas.

Have a great month. I am still always happy to get any submissions for RipRap. If you'd like to get it in the November issue, make sure you get it to me by the deadline, which is October 24th. Thanks!



HOLIDAY BANQUET NEWS

BY DEB ALWIN

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS, ladies and gentlemen . . . changes are in the wind for December's Holiday Banquet & Silent Auction!

First, a **new venue**. The banquet committee has chosen the ***Lake Elmo Inn Event Center*** in Lake Elmo as the site for this year's festivities. Second, a ***"plated dinner"*** (served to you at your table) will replace the usual buffet. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening. Specific details regarding your personal choice of entrée, beef, poultry, or fish – and how to register – will be in the next issue of Rip Rap!

Mark your calendar now for this exciting annual event:

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 2012

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Here is how you can help!

- working with Greg Dietl to help *set-up* the auction the day of the banquet
- soliciting auction items from local businesses, artists, etc.
- donating personal items to the auction (details of how in the next Rip Rap)
- helping with check-out after the auction is over
- dismantling the auction area at the end of the evening

If you are willing and able to help, please speak with any of the following banquet committee members: Mike Alwin, Greg Dietl, Bob Diesch, Tom Henderson, Allison Jacobs, Tom Schnadt, or yours truly.

More details will be forthcoming in the November issue of Rip Rap! Watch for it!



THE STREAM JOURNAL

By PERRY PALIN

For many years I have kept a stream journal. A day of fishing is not complete until I have added a new entry to my personal fishing history.

After reeling up for the last time, trying to remember where I left the truck, actually finding the truck, driving home, and stashing my fishing tackle for the next trip, the day is not over until I sit down with a cool beverage and compose the day's entry in my diary.

The stream journal, and it now records the last three decades of my fly fishing life, brings a pleasant end to the day. It is also a welcome companion on dreary winter evenings, contains a host of memories of wonderful experiences, and is a ready resource in planning new campaigns.

For about a dozen years now I have written my journal entries on my computer. This is the modern way, I suppose, and I can always print a comprehensive hard copy at the end of the season, to read by the fireside in the evening, with a beverage. I have discovered, however, that there are added, unanticipated benefits to recording my stories electroni-



JOURNAL, CONTINUED

cally. My computer records lend themselves to sifting and sorting information in ways that improve the success of future streamside efforts.

While scanning the want ads for paying employment, I learned that many companies use resume-scanning software to match candidates with jobs. No one actually reads those carefully prepared resumes. They simply feed them into the machinery, and at the end of the week the software glances through the whole host of submissions for key phrases that suggest the skills being sought by the employing department. I met a human resources director once, on a small brown trout stream, and I gave him some advice and some flies that didn't work, but he remembered me and in the interest of science, he was able to pirate a copy of his company's software.

It was a mean task to figure out how this could work. My computer journal was written in Word and filed by year. The software came without an instruction manual. Eventually I learned to combine a list of provocative variables and run the software to find patterns in my years of fishing reports. Now I can sit back, develop new combinations of search variables, and hunt for information that will improve my chances for future fishing success.

Of course the value of the output relies on the input. Certain information must be faithfully recorded after each fishing session. I have developed a list of variables that work for me. Some, though not all of them, include: date and time of day; name of stream and stretch; level, clarity, and temperature of water; the change of water temperature over the day, and the direction and slope of the change; weather conditions including cloud cover, air temperature, barometric pressure, wind, and precipitation if any; phase of the moon; bugs observed in the air; bugs observed on the water; bugs observed in the water; trout observed, and the part of the pool, riffle, or run where they were seen; what the trout seemed to be doing while observed; flies that worked and flies that didn't; rod, reel, line, and leader used, with special mention of the tippet size; number, species, size and weight of trout lost and caught; wildlife observed near the stream; number of eagles seen on the ground, and the number of turkey vultures perching in trees; clothing worn, including color of shirt and hat; the content and perceived veracity of conversations held with other anglers, landowners, and boys and girls swimming in the Bridge Hole; the menus of my last three meals; whether I felt "optimistic" at the beginning of the day, or whether I was just trying to get out of the house. There's more, but you get the general idea.

The computer analysis of my journal has produced some surprising results. There are connections that I never would have made without the power of the computer. For example, I have learned that when using subsurface flies in dark colors of size 14 and smaller, my fishing results are substantially improved in both numbers and average size of fish if, in the truck on the way to the stream, I consume a bag of sour cream and onion potato chips. I have confirmed these computer findings with subsequent field trials. I ended the field trials when the "no potato chip" control sessions were getting me down.

The analysis of my journals has improved my fishing success already, but the work continues. Right now I am studying small streams after the leaves fall in September, and I am having promising results with Beer Nuts.

I am looking forward to next season. I am armed with new information, new factors to bring into the plan for a day on the stream, and exciting possibilities of the success that I am sure to have.





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

WWW.KIAPTUWISH.ORG



DON'T MISS THE OCTOBER MEETING!!!

Wednesday, October 3rd
@ Bob Smith's Sports Club
in downtown Hudson, WI

The deadline to make submissions for the
November issue is Wednesday, October 24th.
Thank you!

