



RIP-RAP

EDITOR: CRAIG MASON
LAYOUT: ANDY LAMBERSON

RESTORATION & PRESERVATION
THROUGH RESEARCH & PROJECTS

APRIL 1993

◆ Chapter News

Board Elects Officers

On Sunday, March 14, 1993 the Kiap-TU-Wish Board of Directors elected the following officers for 1993-94.

President: Andy Lamberson
Vice-President: Gary Horvath
Secretary: Don Ausemus
Treasurer: Tom Battey

Committee Chairperson's Appointed were:

Rip-Rap Editor: Craig Mason

Dam Issues: Gary Horvath

Stream Improvement:

Gary Horvath (WI)

Mike Alwin (MN)

Storm Water Management (205J):

Kent Johnson

Willow River: Ivan Schloff

Education/PR: Skip James

Fund Raising: Andy Lamberson

Programs:

Jon Jacobs

Andy Lamberson

Christmas Banquet:

Jean Mitchell

Jon Jacobs

If you would be interested in participating in any of the above committees please contact the Chairperson directly.



APRIL MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Wed., April 7
TIME: Dinner at 6:30
Meeting at 8
WHERE: Hudson House

Annual Fly Tiers Meeting

This month's meeting will be our annual Fly Tiers Meeting. Scheduled to tie are:

Ken Hanson
Mark Larson
Andy Lamberson
Dick Schwartz
Mike Stanton
Ed Thomas

This is a great opportunity to learn some of the areas best "favorite" flies and a great way to learn new tying techniques.

Don't Forget your hat and please come for Dinner!!

◆ 1st Annual D.F. Flote

Fishing Hat Contest and Review

Wear your favorite (ugliest, cleanest, etc.) fishing hat to the April Kiap-TU-Wish meeting and win a prize (amazement, ridicule, respect and/or condemnation) from your fellow fisherman. Even Ralph Cramden's Royal Order of Raccoons had a lodge hat, why not Kiap-Tu-Wish?! No hat is too dirty, studly, pretty or colorful to enter in this Spring fashion extravaganza. Decisions of the judges (The Chief) is final. You Must be present to win!

◆ Chapter News

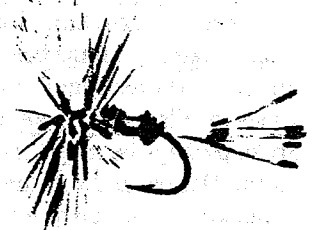
DNR's Shocking Plans!

Despite the Tabloid headlines....the DNR's Shocking plans are a real benefit to the resource. As part of the the DNR's three year study of the Willow, Willow Race and Kinni (among other rivers) the DNR has been conducting electrofishing studies on the Rivers to gauge the effect of the new regulations on the fishery.

Included inside this month's Rip-Rap is a sign-up sheet reviewing the scheduled dates for this years work. If you are interested please fill it out and return the form directly to Marty Engel, our Area Fisheries Manager.

If you have never done this type of work before it's definitely worth taking a day of vacation for! The number and location of the fish amazes even the most experienced. There are jobs for everyone, from shocking to pulling the skiffs to helping with the record keeping. This is the last year of the proposed 3 year study so this may be your last chance to participate for a while.

Please sign up only if you are 100% committed to attend. No shows can cause some serious man-power issues. No dogs please!



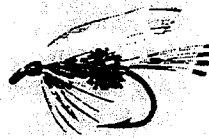
◆ Skip James

A Step Back in Time

Two deer watched suspiciously from a safe distance upstream as I tied the McGinty to my leader point. The wet Royal Coachman on the dropper would just skim the surface, while the thick-bodied McGinty would sink deeper. The slow rhythm of the cast didn't spook the onlookers, as the flies were delivered at the head of the riffle. As the current swept them down, I kept my rod high and made the dropper fly dance on the surface. As the line grew taut, and the point fly started toward the surface, I felt a tug and set the hook. A quick flash of orange and white identified the attacker as a brook trout, which fought strongly until one of his brethren grabbed the dropper fly. Then, it felt as if I had hooked a stick, or a weed. One fish's gyrations canceled the other out. I was glad that my six foot leader was 2X, and that my flies were tied on stout hooks. My bamboo rod protested dragging two fish upstream in heavy current, but eventually it was done, and the two beautiful ten inch brookies lay in the grass at my feet.

I'm glad the logging hasn't seemed to hurt this stream. They've cut down all the trees around here, and when you walk through the head-high grass that's grown to cover the ugly bare ground and the huge stumps, you wonder how this wonderful trout stream will survive. It has lost its green canopy, and now the sand banks stand open to erosion. The deer population seems to have improved, in spite of all the poaching from the logging camps, but the brook trout are still here. If President Roosevelt comes to Wisconsin again to fish the Brule, perhaps he might spend a day at Clifton Hollow and fish the Kinnickinnic, or maybe even here on the Willow. I'll bet he could kill a hundred fish a day here. I read in the

paper that he was planning to visit his ranch in North Dakota, which means his train would pass within a mile of where I'm standing. What an event that would be! The Star-Observer would have to bring out a special edition. It's getting dark. That woman at the Willow-River Inn said she'd cook my fish if I got them to her by eight o'clock. If I hurry, I can just make it. Now where did Ranger go? Oh, there he is, eating wild clover. One of these days, I'm going to trade in this old mare on one of those two-wheel contraptions that I saw in the Sears and Roebuck catalog. I think it's called a bicycle.



Sealed in its watery time capsule, the Burkhardt stretch of the Willow river has emerged much the way it must have looked before the Little Falls Dam was built. There are enormous white pine stumps partially buried in sand, and the prairie plants which have grown up in one short year have come from seeds long covered by water. The brook trout are there, too, and they can be caught with wet flies fished downstream. There are also healthy, fat rainbows in the faster sections. The stream bottom is easily waded, and consists of sand, gravel, and rocks of many sizes, including large boulders. The slower braids and meanders have luxuriant weed growth, providing habitat for insects and scuds, and crayfish and myriad minnows swim in the shallows. Upstream from the Burkhardt bridge, the stream is flat, with willows on the banks. The stream bottom is coarse rock and gravel and it seems to have a consistent depth of about eighteen inches. To the untrained eye, it

appears a perfect breeding area for trout. There are two main accesses to the stream: one, a parking lot on your left, just as you cross the Burkhardt bridge on County A; the other, about three quarters of a mile farther downstream at the old boat launch. This latter access is a little more difficult to use, since you must walk through head-high grass to reach the stream bank. Don't try to fish until dark, and then find your way through the vegetation, you'll get lost...I did! All this land is part of Willow River State Park, and to be perfectly legal, you should have a park sticker on your car. At least one TU member has received a ticket for parking there without a sticker.

This is beautiful water, with lots of fish in it. It will be extremely interesting to see what happens over the course of the next few years. Who will plan the future of this ecosystem, the State Park staff, the area fish manager and Natural Resources, or some other agency? I'm sure Trout Unlimited will want to have input in any decision that affects the stream. I was a little disappointed to find lots of four to six inch brown trout under the bridge at Burkhardt. Are these recently stocked? If so, why threaten the brook trout population with browns? Who decided to stock brookies in the stream? or rainbows? Whoever it was certainly had a sense of history! Whoever it was- Thankyou!



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEET

During the month of April 1993, the Department of Natural Resources will be conducting a series of trout population estimates on area streams (schedule attached). This schedule will be very labor-intensive, so volunteer help is necessary. Those who wish to participate as a volunteer should complete the form below and return it to me, preferably by April 2, 1993. Send completed form to:

Marty Engel, Fish Manger
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Suite 104, 990 Hillcrest
Baldwin, WI 54002

The survey will require wading sometimes swift, rocky water. All sampling sites are one mile long. In the case of the Kinnickinni River some additional hiking will be necessary to reach starting points. Volunteers interested in cooperating with electrofishing should feel comfortable wading in streams under adverse weather conditions for long periods of time. Surveys last anywhere from 6 to 12 hours. For those of you who would like to assist with less demanding work we could use one or two people to record data.

To help, you will need to bring the following items: waders that do not leak (no hip boots please); rain gear; a lunch including beverage; and warm clothing. You may want to bring an extra set of clothes just in case you fall in!

Volunteers should be aware the Department will not pay them a salary for their assistance or reimburse them for loss or damage to their personal property, and in case of injury they will not be covered by Worker's Compensation.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (715) 684-2914.

I wish to help the Department of Natural Resources with trout stream surveys as a volunteer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
(Work) _____ (Home) _____

Date and/or locations you wish to volunteer: _____

Additional Comments: _____

ELECTROFISHING SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 1993

Date	Location	Volunteers Needed
March 29	Cady Ck-KD	0
March 30	Cady Ck-Quarry	0
March 31	Cady Ck-KD	0
April 1	Cady Ck-Quarry	0
April 2*		
April 3*		
April 4		
April 5	Rush R. (M)	2
April 6	Rush R. (E)	2
April 7	Rush R. (M)	2
April 8	Rush R. (E)	2
April 9 *		
April 10*		
April 11		
April 12	Willow Race	2
April 13	Milow Main	2
April 14	Willow Race	2
April 15	Willow Main	2
April 16*		
April 17*		
April 18		
April 19	Kinni-Glen Pk	7
April 20	Kinni-Erickson	7
April 21	Kinni-Glen Pk	7
April 22	Kinni-Erickson	7
April 23*		
April 24*		
April 25		
April 26	Elk Creek	2
April 27		
April 28	Elk Creek	2
April 29*		
April 30*		

* In case of bad weather (cancelation) Monday through Thursday we will work Friday or Saturday of that week.

◆ Andy Lamberson

Caddis Mania

Nothing will bring out the trout, or the trout fisherman for that matter, more than a good early season caddis hatch. Our local streams often have the first big caddis hatch during the first few weeks of the season. The hatch seems to come off in waves, often throughout the day, with the big push occurring the last hour before dark. The size 16 caddis, are often referred to by locals as the "Cinnamon Caddis" due to their cinnamon color. The traditional Elk Hair Caddis in sizes 16 and 18 is the standard pattern for such hatches but over the years I have found a number of other patterns that work very effectively.

CDC Caddis: A simple to tie pattern that consists of a cinnamon dubbed body, a sparse overwing of light dun sparkle yarn, or any other synthetic "wing" material, and then two "CDC" feathers across the back, finishing the wing. I often finish off the feathers by having them stick straight out from the body about 1/8 of an inch, and then dub around the base of the stems to give the fly a finished look. NEVER treat this fly with floatant as that will ruin your CDC feathers. When the fly begins to sink, blot it off on your shirt and then give it a quick, hard blow to knock off the remaining water and "puff-up" the CDC feathers again. My buddies always know when I switch to the CDC Caddis because it sounds as one buddy but it: "Like a whale blowing the water out to take a breath!". Eventually the fly just gets too wet, so be prepared to change flies often.

Kings River Caddis: The Kings River Caddis as it is known in California, is known by a variety of names around the country. I think the most common name in our area is a "Deer Hair Caddis". The fly has a dubbed body, then a wing of deer or bleached elk, finished with a heavily hackled collar of brown or ginger hackle. The fly is

excellent for "skating", a super effective technique that simulates the caddis "dancing" over the water either when hatching or more likely when they are hitting the water while laying their eggs. Short "twitches" so the fly skids across the water in up to 1 foot intervals can be accomplished by raising your rod tip and twitching your wrist just enough to get the fly to skid across the water. Often trout will ignore a dead drifted caddis fly, only to smash a skiddering caddis.

No-Hackle Elk Hair Caddis: Often referred to as a "slow water caddis". This fly can really be used on all but the fastest water. I think it represents an emerging, crippled or spent caddis. The no-hackle consists of a dubbed body and an elk hair or deer hair wing. Do NOT palmer hackle as you would on a standard "Elk Hair Caddis". These flies are cheap and easy to tie because you don't need any hackle. Use the best Elk hair you can find and make sure the hair flairs wide so as to provide the "pontoons" on the water's surface, thus not breaking the surface film and keeping the fly afloat. Try a "permanent" water proofing on these flies. Orvis makes a "permanent" floatant that you dip the fly into and let dry for 24 hrs. You can accomplish the same thing by spraying the flies with 3M's Scotch Guard and letting them dry. Make sure you spray your flies outdoors because Scotch Guard can give you a burner of a head ache if you don't have proper ventilation. I still silicon the fly, even if they are "waterproofed", but they seem to resist soaking in water much better if they have been waterproofed.

LaFontaine's Emergent Caddis: This must be Craig Mason's favorite caddis fly. Not only does he tie them beautifully, but he catches a lot of trout on this fly. The fly is a little too complicated to describe how to tie here, but plenty of books have the recipe. Or even better, buy or rent Jack Dennis' Tying & Fishing Caddisflies Video and watch Gary LaFontaine tie it himself. This video

is on the top of my list of videos that every fly tyer should own.

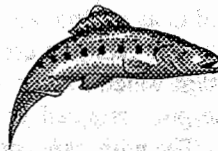
The secret to most caddis fly patterns is to keep them floating high. With the exception of the CDC Caddis (never treat it with anything!), Scotch Guarding your flies can help keep them afloat. I also use a lot of "dry fly powder", the stuff that comes in a little bottle that you can stick your fly in (still on your leader) and then using your thumb as the bottle top, shake the fly in the powder to knock off the water and fish slime. Most powders also advertise that they also help "treat" your fly, but what they really do is get all the water out of your flies. It's best to re-silicone your flies after you blow off the remaining powder. Always use the best, most hollow deer or elk you can find. The reason you want the hair to be hollow is not so that the fly can "float" better, but rather so that when you tie the fly, the thread and hollow cores will cause the hair to "flare" better, providing you with the little "outriggers" or "pontoons" that keep the fly from breaking the surface tension. Remember: Most flies don't float... they just don't break the surface tension. Once a fly breaks the surface tension they almost all start to sink.

Good luck this season and keep an eye out for the caddis hatch. Don't go home in the evenings until after it is completely dark! Often the best hatch will explode in the last 15 to 30 minutes before dark. When they happen you need to be ready with your best caddis pattern and nerves of steel. It is very common during the early season caddis hatches to have every fish in the river feeding at once. Most seem to be jumping right out of the river, as if they were being given an electric shock! I don't know if it just because they are so hungry for the caddis or just so glad because it is spring.

◆ ***Pocket Water Casts*** -In the Tradition of The Acerbic Angler-

Probably the best means of judging size from the rise is derived from the sound produced by the act of breaking the surface when taking a fly, and the comparative weights may be said roughly to be arranged in a scale of harmony, the heaviest fish being the lowest bass, and smallest the highest treble; the intermediate notes indicating the intermediate sizes. In applying this test of sound, it must, however, be remembered that it is only applicable to the case of a fish remaining stationary and sucking in the fly passing over the spot where it is lying. The case of a fish following and dashing at a passing fly produces some confusion in the scale.

Frederic M. Halford, Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice, 1889, Witherby Ltd.

**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



**Kiap-TU-Wish
1993 MEETINGS**

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**