



RIP - RAP



Editor: Ken Hanson

RESTORATION & PRESERVATION
THROUGH RESEARCH & PROJECTS

APRIL 1995

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Kiap-TU-Wish Receives Embrace-A-Stream Grant

National Trout Unlimited has awarded the Kiap TU Wish Chapter an Embrace-A-Stream Grant of \$5562.00, for the establishment of a continuous temperature and flow monitoring station on the lower Willow River. The project was initiated in an attempt at answering nagging questions about dam operation and its suspected link to the declining trout fishery of the Willow River.

Construction of the housing structure will begin this coming spring at a site below the Little Falls Dam. People who signed the chapter volunteer list will be called once the work dates are finalized. If you would like to work on any aspect of this project, please call Gary Horvath at 715-425-8489 or contact any board member.

Welcome to new members:

January

Stephen Stenger
Howard West
Jim Holmes

February

Durk Stark
Bill Lovegren

APRIL MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Wed. April 5
TIME: Dinner at 6:30
Meeting at 8:00
WHERE: JR Ranch

April's program is our annual fly tiers demonstration. This year we have something for everyone. Featured tiers this year include Ellen Clark from the Federation of Flyfishers, Tom Helgeson editor of Midwest Flyfishing, flyshop owner Michael Alwin, saltwater specialist Brian McKinley, and Tracy Peterson supplier to flyshops.

Please come for dinner.

ANNOUNCING THE THIRD ANNUAL D.F. FLOTE

FISHING HAT CONTEST & REVIEW

Sponsored by the Righteous Board of Directors, Kiap-TU-Wish

Wear your favorite (ugliest, weirdest, luckiest, etc.) hat to the April meeting and you'll be sure to receive praise, ridicule, respect or condemnation from your fellow chapter members. This will be a great opportunity for those of us who are stylishly inept to take a look at what's hot for the up and coming '95 season. As usual, the decision of the judges (The Chief) is final and you must be present to win.

Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings Set

The spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings will be held on April 10th, along with the annual Conservation Congress meetings. The rules affecting the Willow Race system will likely be discussed at the St. Croix County meeting. The proposed regulations would be for the entire Willow River below the Mounds Dam and would include the Willow and Race branches. There would be an April 1 opener with artificials only and no kill. After the general opener in May, a 1 fish over 16" bag limit would be allowed. The Kiap TU Wish Chapter's Board of Directors supports the proposed rule changes for the Willow.

Also on the agenda are two advisory questions from the Conservation Congress. The first deals with potential trout hatchery closings. Osceola is among the hatcheries that may be closed due to budget constraints. This hatchery supplies many of the trout for the Willow and Rush Rivers. The Kiap TU Wish Chapter opposes the closing of these hatcheries. The second advisory question asks if the DNR could use 10% of trout stamp money to fund inland trout stream surveys. Please come and voice your opinion on these issues. The

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KINNI CANYON PLANT DIVERSITY

The following was taken from an article by Steve Dzubay which appeared in the January 26, 1995 issue of the River Falls Journal.

Sometimes it takes a second opinion to affirm what you already know.

The Kinnickinnic River valley is a Midwestern jewel laced with unusual plants and wildlife which should be protected and preserved.

Sedge meadows, spring ponds, relic stands of white pine, weeping cliffs, boreal forest and an abundance of yellow ladyslippers are all "a real treasure, along with everything else you have here" said Sara Rogers, a biologist with the National Biological Survey.

Rogers typically spends her days scrutinizing aquatic plants in the Mississippi River near her Onalaska office. But this past summer and autumn, she spent at least two weeks combing the banks of the lower Kinni to map the local plant community for the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust.

KRLT - a local, private, non-profit conservation group whose mission is to protect the Kinnickinnic watershed - recruited Rogers to conduct the survey in hopes of acquiring another tool to protect the resources, said KRLT Chairman Robert Chambers.

At a lecture on campus Wednesday evening, Rogers unveiled the first draft of her findings on a computer-generated map created by UW-RF geography Professor Charlie Rader.

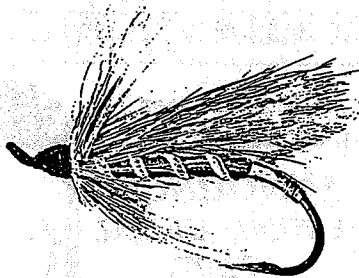
Copies of the color-coded map will eventually be provided to each Kinnickinnic area landowner who

cooperated with the study. It will also serve as a reference for anyone who wishes to study or savor the species Rogers cataloged.

Rogers said the mission given her by KRLT was "to map plant communities in the river corridor between River Falls and CTH F. The real fun of being a botanist is you never know exactly what you're going to find in any one community."

She began her presentation by offering background on the diverse regional plant communities that have found their way into a narrow, diagonal band stretching across Wisconsin, which botanists call "the tension zone." The area is so named because some 75 species reach their range limits here.

Included are the Alleghenian



element, plants which evolved from the Appalachian region of the U.S.; the Boreal element, cold-tolerant evergreens which crept down from Alaska and the Northwest Canada; the Ozarkian element, burr oaks and other drought-resistant species from the near south; and the Prairie element, including grasses and small herbs which spread from the native prairie regions.

"The Kinnickinnic valley is almost a tension one in its own way," said Rogers, explaining that

she found about 500 different species of plants within the narrow corridor.

Among the more remarkable:

- "Pine relic": Groupings of white pines which dominated in small areas of steep, north-facing slopes. Fossil records have indicated such stands could be 12,000-plus years old.

- "Shaded cliff": Other steep areas whose cool, rocky environments play host to up to five varieties or what Rogers termed "a waterfall of ferns."

- "Weeping cliffs": North-facing limestone formations unique to this driftless area which was missed by the last glacier. Cliffs are wet year 'round.

- "Bluffprairies": Small, steep slopes covered with small herbs and grasses, similar to those you can see while traveling along the Mississippi River.

- "Sedge meadow": Wet open areas dominated the grasses.

- "Coulees": Deep, shaded divides which generally run north or south, producing northeast- or southwest-facing slopes. Hillsides are generally forested in sugar maple on one side and basswood on the other because of the temperatures extremes.

- "Balsam fir": Rogers came across one stand of 400 native balsams. "I've never seen a stand this size so far south. And beneath the shaded bows, yet another plant community thrives, including the Canadian yew - a species usually found much farther north," she said.



Skip's Loose Threads

Beadheads: the weight, the flash, or both? Although the beadhead fly has proved its effectiveness for the past few years, questions remain about the reasons for its success. Roman Moser, the German flyfishing guru who invented the beadhead, thought that it was the combination of flash as well as weight at the head which gave the fly a jiggling action. Recently, according to Fliegenfischer, the German equivalent to Fly Fisherman, experiments with black matte beads have shown that beadheads with no flash still attract trout. My own experiments with non metallic beads have shown that caddis pupa patterns with shiny plastic beads are very effective on our local streams. I guess the jury is still out.

If you would like to try non metallic beads in some of your patterns, you can get them at craft stores like Frank's, or Jolly's, or at fabric shops like JoAnne Fabrics or Minnesota Fabrics. They come in all sizes and colors, and they're very inexpensive. Take a few sample hooks to thread them on so you get the correct sizes. And

don't feel embarrassed in a fabric store!

I use clear ones on midge pupa imitations. The flyshop has a series of caddis pupa with barrel shaped pearlescent beads. Of course there are gold, brass, and silver beads that look exactly like the metal ones.

I believe the first American instance of beads in flytying was in the Optic fly, created in the Hudson Valley of New Jersey for Shad fishing. This fly was supposed to imitate the impaled eye of a shad, a preferred natural bait in the nineteenth century. West Coast steelheaders have used beads for a long time in egg patterns, and, of course, we can't forget all those Mepps spinners with their colorful bead bodies.

Consider using beads instead of wire windings for weight on flies. Has anyone fished with a single bead on a hook, with no other dressing? Tiny Clouser Minnows with a beadhead instead of lead eyes work very well. A fluorescent orange, plastic bead at the tail of a Sulphur Spinner makes a terrific egg sack. Experiment, experiment, experiment!

Notes From the Acerbic Angler's 36 Years of Trout Fishing

Through the generosity of Jean Frantes, Dick Frantes' widow, I obtained a record that he kept of his 36 years of fishing on Minnesota and Wisconsin streams. As these notes cover quite a lengthy period of time, its taking quite a bit of effort to sort out the information that is of interest. I think the following will be of interest to the members that knew Dick.

From the period of 1956 through 1992:

He fished a total of 219 streams in Minnesota and Wisconsin. 109 of these streams failed to produce trout.

He spent a total of 7334 hours fishing these streams with a success ratio of 1.4 trout per hour on Wisconsin streams and 1.0 trout per hour on Minnesota streams.

His record on the Kinni from 1956 to 1992:

He fished 1120 days for a total time of 3851 hours. He caught 6259 trout of which 5724 were browns and 429 were brooks.

Vern Alberts

Thanks again to Perry Palin for the donation of more of his flies to enable continuation of the door prize drawings at monthly meetings. Also, thanks to Karen and Skip James for the donation of the Ultra III line for this purpose at the January meeting.



"I'd say your Muddler is having a bad hair day."

Spring Hearings continued from page 1

hearings will be held on Monday April 10, 1995 at 7:00 PM. at the following locations:

Pepin County:

Pepin Government Center, County Board Room, Durand

Pierce County:

Hillcrest Elementary School Gymnasium, 350 S Grant, Ellsworth

Polk County:

Unity High School Auditorium, Balsam Lake

St. Croix County:

American Legion Post 240, Baldwin



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KIAP-TU-WISH
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Meeting Schedule

1995

Apr 5: Fly Tiers

May 3: Marty Engel WI DNR

Sep 6:

Oct 4: Members Slide Show

Nov 1:

Dec 6: Holiday Banquet