



RIP - RAP



Editors: Ken Hanson & Skip James

WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

April 1996

Notes From The President:

Chapter elections were held at the March meeting and Board Members Andy Lamberson and Kent Johnson were both returned to office. At the Board meeting held March 10th the Board reelected myself as President and Tony Stifter as Vice President. A new Treasurer and Secretary were also elected. They are Chuck Goosen, Treasurer and Richard Lindholm, Secretary. I would like to thank outgoing officers Tom Battey and Ken Hanson for all the hard work they have performed for the chapter.

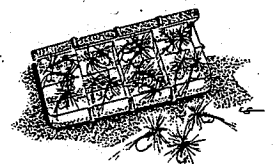
The upcoming Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings on April 8th will likely be the last chance for an early season in Wisconsin. It is unlikely that the Conservation Congress will support another initiative any time soon and the DNR will be hesitant to move forward without the Congress' blessing. If you wish to have early angling opportunities please attend one of these meetings.

As you will notice on page 4 of this newsletter, the Department of Natural Resources has decided that removal of the Mounds Dam is the financially responsible thing to do. The tone of comments received by the DNR at the informational open house on April 10th will weigh heavily on the final outcome of this issue. While it does not make sense financially to repair the dam, the

final decision will ultimately be political. The opportunity to remove a dam on a river with such potential for scenic beauty and fishery restoration comes once in a lifetime. For the Mounds dam and the Willow River, that time is now. I personally appeal to each member to attend the informational open house on April 10th, 2 - 8 PM at the Willow River State Park Nature Center and voice support for

removal of the Mounds Dam. Just an hour out of your day with results that will last forever.

Gary



APRIL MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Wednesday April 3rd
TIME: Dinner at 6:30 Meeting at 8:00
WHERE: JR Ranch

April's meeting is our annual fly tying demonstration and this year we should have something for everyone. The featured tiers will be Ellen Clark who is active in the FFF as well as TU, Dick Schwartz master of the Gold Ribbed Hares Ear, Scott Nordby from the St. Paul Fly Tiers who ties ultra-realistic patterns, Brian McKinley will tie Northern Pike flies, Gabe (sorry Gabe we didn't get your last name) a young tier from Stillwater, Murry Humble will have fun with weight, and Allison Jacobs (Jon's daughter), fresh out of basic fly tying class at Bob Mitchell's, will offer the beginner's perspective.

Also don't forget:

THE FOURTH ANNUAL D.F. FLOTE FISHING HAT CONTEST & REVIEW

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

Last year we didn't see too many hats so lets see if we can do better this year. Remember to wear your favorite, luckiest, ugliest, smelliest hat and receive honor, recognition and ridicule from your fellow chapter members. As usual, this contest will be judged by "The Chief". All decisions are final and you must be present to win.

Mounds Dam Informational Open House Set For April 10th

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has determined that the Mounds Dam on the Willow River is too expensive to repair. As a consequence, the DNR has recommended to the Governor that it be removed. An informational open house at the Willow River State Park Nature Center is scheduled for 2 - 8 PM., April 10 to answer questions from the public. DNR personnel from various fields will be present at the meeting.

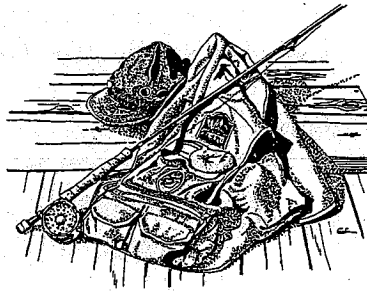
The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter Dam Committee has put together a facts sheet on this issue which is included in this month's newsletter (see page 4). All members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting and voice support for removal. Minnesota members should not hesitate attending, since the dam is located within a state park that greatly benefits from the proximity to the Twin Cities metro area.

Removal of the Mounds Dam would restore a 2.25 mile section of river to its free flowing state. In one section, the un-impounded river would flow through a spectacular canyon dropping 37 feet in 1 mile. This can become a reality by attending the April 10 meeting.

Gary Horvath

Kiap-TU-Wish on the Internet!

Past President and board member Andy Lamberson has established a web site for our TU chapter. For those of you with a computer and internet access, the address is <http://www.spacestar.com/users/lambcom/Kiap.html> Whew!!!, that's a lot of letters, periods, etc. I took the address down from Andy's lips at a recent board meeting, and had to try three times before I was able to visit the site. If you have a service that provides bookmarks, or an address book, or some way of reestablishing a previous connection, use it.



Andy has created a colorful page (trout stream blue!) Headed by our chapter name and the TU logo. It lists the officers and board members, with hot links to those of us who have internet addresses, a membership form with a hot link to national TU and their web page, a place to register comments or send messages, and current water and hatch conditions of local streams. There's a bulletin board of environmental issues, complete with the means to send your opinions instantly to whichever governmental agency has jurisdiction, including Congressmen, Senators, and the Governor.

See Internet on page 6

Fate Of Early Trout Season To Be Decided April 10th

Voting at this spring's Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings will decide the fate of the proposed early trout season in Wisconsin. Under the proposal, the season would open March 1st and would extend until the regular opening of the fishing season on the first Saturday in May. During the early season, fishing for trout in inland streams would be catch and release, artificials only with barbless hooks. Only spring ponds and other sensitive waters would be excluded.

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter voted to support the proposal and all members are asked to attend the meetings in their respective counties. The meetings are scheduled for Monday, April 8 at 7:00 PM at the following locations:

St. Croix County, American Legion Post 240, 410 Maple St., Baldwin

Pierce County: Hillcrest Elementary School Auditorium, 350 S. Grant, Ellsworth

Pepin County: Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, Durand

Polk County: Government Center, Balsam Lake

Gary Horvath

Skip's Loose Threads

By Skip James

Montana in March

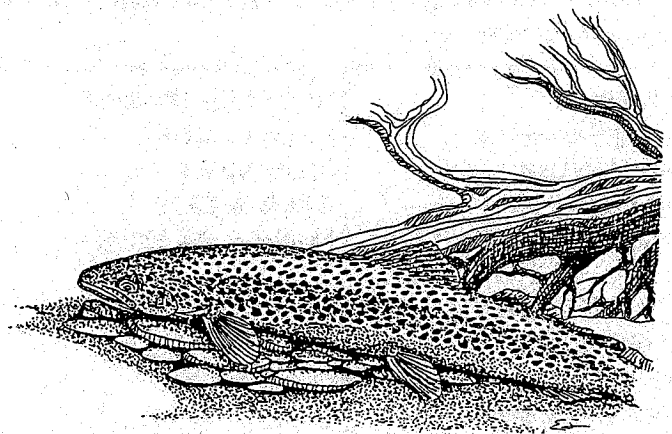
Saturday morning, the 23rd, snow and sleet blew across the valley as Karen and I ran, hunched over, from the Bighorn Angler to Polly's for breakfast. With three to five inches of snow forecast, and winds of thirty miles per hour, we were more concerned with driving over the pass back to Billings than with floating the river. I had caught a beautiful rainbow on a scud the afternoon before, as the temperature dropped twenty degrees in two hours. It became too hard to cast, too cold to wade that thirty nine degree water at Three Mile. But the week that ended with a blizzard began as a harbinger of Spring.

Taking advantage of a cheap flight coupon my wife had received in the mail, we flew to Billings on Monday, March 17, we decided to spend four days at Chico Hot Springs Lodge, one of our favorite places, about halfway between Livingston and Yellowstone National Park. We like the cheap, old fashioned but comfortable rooms at this 1890's resort, and its gourmet food. Neither one of us had been to Paradise Valley at this time of year, so we called George Anderson at his famous flyshop, and asked for tips. He booked us on DePuys and Armstrong's Spring Creeks, but declined to guarantee pleasant weather. We figured that if it was too cold to fish, we could soak in the hot pools, and read novels.

As it turned out, Tuesday was beautiful, with the highs in the 50's, and Karen and I had a wonderful day catching big rainbows who were much more concerned about sex than gluttony. The fish rolled and jumped in the shallows, the midges hatched in profusion, and even the few Baetis that hatched got some attention. The fees at the spring creeks are half of what they are in the Summer, and although there were other anglers, the streams were pleasantly uncrowded. Armstrong's on Wednesday was a repeat performance, with a pink shrimp being the most effective fly for us. We wondered whether the trout thought it was a shrimp or an egg, though. Karen had several trout rise to her tiny, fluorescent orange strike indicator. We also caught fish on tiny Pheasant Tails, and Black Midge Larvae.

On Thursday, we visited Bob and Jean Mitchell, in Belgrade. Bob is having trouble finding a place to fish, because at this time of the year, most of his local streams are closed because the ranchers don't want calving interrupted by guys in waders. But he has Lionel's beautiful Osprey drift boat in his garage! Jean told about the wonderful Rivers Edge flyshop in Bozeman, where the owners, the Corcorans, have allowed them to hang out, wind chenille or dispense advice, whenever they yearn for the old days when they owned a flyshop. They seem happy and busy, and would love to see old friends when they're in Montana. We had a nice visit and lunch.

Since Montana has a 365 day trout season, its possible to find excellent fishing at any time of year. Since most of the tourists show up in the Summer, rates are higher then. Insect hatches are minimal, but there are more nymphs in the water at this time of year than at any other, and fish are in prime condition. You can never count on the weather, so it's wise to half a plan 'B' if you can't fish. Chico Hot Springs offers dog sledding, cross country skiing, horseback riding, in addition to the popular hot pools. But the mountains are so majestic, and the people so friendly, that it's almost always worth the trip.



Mounds Dam Removal Fact Sheet

Please help efforts to restore the Willow River to a natural state by supporting the removal of the Mounds Dam. The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources has decided that the best option for the Mounds Dam is removal. Unfortunately, there may be strong opposition to this decision. You can help make removal a reality by attending the April 10th informational open house at the Willow River State Park Nature Center or by contacting the persons listed below. Everyone is encouraged to participate no matter your place of residence since the dam is located within a state park. Drop in and tell DNR officials why you favor removal of this dam. The Dam Committee of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited has put together a brief list of facts on this issue.

Reasons to Support Removal of the Mounds Dam

The removal of the Mounds Dam would restore a 2.25 mile section of river to its original free flowing state.

Removal would improve downstream water quality and eliminate the current water quality problems that exist behind the Mounds impoundment.

Temperature regimes in the river below the dam would improve once the shallow impoundment is eliminated.

The dam generated no electricity.

The cost of repair is 2 million plus dollars (3.2 million if seeping south wall is corrected) v.s. \$800,000 for removal (without the extras added to the removal option).

Future maintenance costs are eliminated by removal of the dam. Costs for maintenance and removal in the future will likely escalate.

Proposed automated operation and warning system for the dam is costly and not included in the repair option. The need for this is eliminated with removal.

A similar removal of the Willow Falls Dam resulted in creation of an important fishery and scenic river corridor.

In addition to attending the meeting on April 10th, please write, call, fax, or e-mail the following people and state your preference for removal.

<p>Governor Tommy Thompson Room 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702</p> <p>ph: 608-266-1212 fax: 608-267-8983 e-mail: wisgov@mail.state.wi.us</p>	<p>Rep. Sheila Harsdorf Room 15 North State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708</p> <p>ph: 608-266-1526</p>	<p>Senator Alice Clausing Room 420 South State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707</p> <p>ph: 608-266-7745 e-mail: uswlssam@ibmmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary George Mayer WDNR P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707</p> <p>ph: 608-266-2121 fax: 608-267-3579</p>
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**Remember: Mark Your calendar, April 10th. 2-8 P.M.
Willow River State Park Nature Center**

Got Questions? - Contact a Dam Committee Member (listed on page 6)

Ivan Schloff's Rods, Reels and Guns for Sale

Several fly rods, reels and guns belonging to the late Dr. Ivan Schloff are for sale. Ivan's will stipulated that his sporting equipment was to be sold and the proceeds to be donated to Kiap-TU-Wish with designation that the money be used for stream improvement on the Willow Race below the bridge at Brook Trout Road.

This is a great opportunity for someone seeking high quality sporting equipment. Especially for those people who knew Ivan and would like any items for sentimental reasons. If you are interested in purchasing any of the following items, please call Tom Anderson at 715-381-5234.

Graphite Fly Rods

1. G. Loomis IMX 9 1/2' 4pc #8 Line w/cordura covered hard case \$100
2. Orvis 9' 4pc #9 w/detach fighting butt, tube & sleeve \$100
3. Scott 10' 4pc #8 w/tube & sleeve \$100
4. Orvis 8' 4pc #7 w/tube & sleeve \$75
5. Unknown MFG. 81 2pc #4 built by Gordy Sime \$25
6. S/A System 10 9 1/2' #10 w/tube & sleeve \$50

Fly Reels

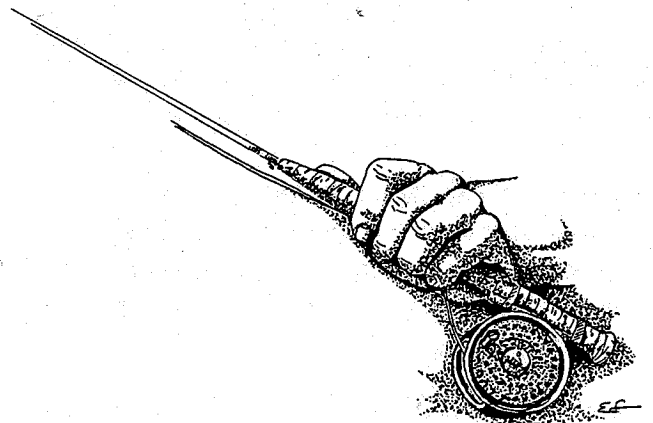
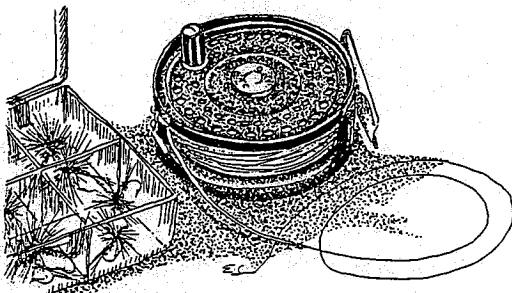
1. ATH 630 SI (left retrieve) \$400
2. Seamaster Tarpon \$500
3. Seamaster Salmon \$200
4. Abel #2 w/Abel Arm \$125
5. System 2 89 (old style) w/4 spare spools \$75
6. System 2 78 spare spools qty 2 \$20
7. Reel of unknown MFG. (possibly Clem Dove) saltwater size \$50

Bamboo Fly Rods

1. Heddon 8 1/2' HCH for #7 DT line (Bill Stanley Favorite) w/tube & sleeve \$100
2. M.K. Spittler Co. 8 1/2' 2 special tips (#5/6 and #6/7) w/tube & sleeve \$600
3. R.L. Winston 8 1/2' (#9936) w/tube & sleeve \$700
4. Paul Young Prosperity 9' (no line wt. listed) w/tube & sleeve \$800
5. M.K. Spittler Co. 9' #8 #267 w/tube & sleeve \$600
6. Orvis Battenkill 7 1/2' #6 w/tube & sleeve \$500

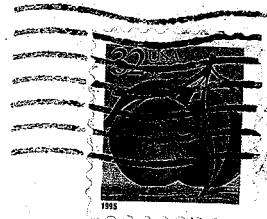
Firearms

1. Orvis Waterfowler (Baretta) 12 Ga. w/choke tubes \$1200
2. Remington 1100 w/3 barrels \$350
3. Winchester Super X Model 1 12 Ga. w/2 barrels \$400
4. Smith & Wesson MDL 1000 12 Ga. \$200
5. Keckler & Koch Benelli Super 90 12 Ga. \$400
6. Ithica MDL 37 Ultra Feather WGT 20 Ga. \$125





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DEADLINES

MAY 4/19
SEP 8/23
OCT 9/20
NOV 10/25

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Kevin Cooley 715-386-0559
Gary Horvath 715-425-8489
Herbert Lundberg 612-439-0462
Ted Mackmiller 715-549-6777
Anthony Stifter 715-549-5708

Skip James to Take on Rip-Rap Editor Role

The time has come for me to pass the keyboard and mouse over to the capable hands of Skip James. Skip has agreed to take on the role as Rip-Rap editor beginning with our September issue. This will give him time to collect material over the summer.

The content of Rip-Rap is primarily from our membership. Please support Skip by keeping those stories and articles coming. I will finish off the season with one more issue in May and then I'm off to do a little fishing.

Ken

Internet continued from page 2

You'll also find a photo album of our local chapter's work projects, updates on meetings and events, and a lovely portrait of Andrew, the younger Lamberson, with a large smile and a trout to match. Those of you who have fishing photos that you would like to share may send them to Andy for inclusion. His address is: 2104 Chestnut Dr. Hudson, WI 54016.

Plans for the future include an electronic version of Rip-Rap, and simplifying the address. Kudos to Andy Lamberson for his vision and hard work in setting up and running our web page. Now the whole world can see why **Kiap-TU-Wish is the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter of the Year!**

Skip James

