

RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

April 2006

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Trout fishing

Finally I let it go, all thirty feet of it plus fifteen feet of leader and it looks really good as it unfolds in the cooling air like a beautiful arrow going straight to the heart of something I can't explain, but can't live without.



Lani Waller

Dry Fly Dick Fly tiers to headline April meeting

By Jonathan Jacobs

Kiap-TU-Wish has a stellar lineup of fly tiers scheduled for its April meeting. Headlining the event is Perry Palin, who, in addition to supplying K-TU with about a million door prize flies, actually tied commercially for The Man himself.

We also have commercial tiers Murry Humble, Curt Nordrum, Rob Kolokowski and Scott Hanson on board. Rounding out

our group are three highly talented "civilians": Bob Deisch, who ties saltwater flies, Sarah Sanford, who ties pretty flies and Pete Kilibarda, who ties killer trout flies.

Come see these masters at work on Wednesday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street, Hudson. Dinner will be available in our meeting room at 6 p.m.

TU to receive stewardship award for stream restoration efforts in Midwest's Driftless Area

By Jonathan Jacobs

Tom Helgeson, the publisher of Midwest Fly Fishing magazine has announced that the Thomas F. Waters Stewardship Award will be presented to Trout Unlimited "in recognition of its commitment to the restoration of the streams and rivers of the Midwest's Driftless Area."

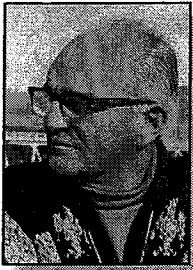
Dr. Waters is a professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota and has written extensively about rivers and streams in our region

and the need to restore and protect them.

According to Mr. Helgeson, TU's vice-president for conservation programs Chris Wood will accept the award at a 6 p.m. reception and TU fundraiser at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo on Saturday, April 1. The Expo is held at the Bloomington Sheraton in suburban Minneapolis.

For further information, please visit www.greatwaters2006.com on the World Wide Web.

Spring ponds and spring holes



By James R. Humphrey

Jim Humphrey is the co-author of Minnesota and Wisconsin Trout Streams. He lives in Oak Park Heights, MN and is a featured contributor to RipRap, whose readers are getting a pre-publication look at "Figments and Fragments", excerpts from Mr. Humphrey's forthcoming book, which he says will be "anecdotal, discursive and far ranging."

Never to be outdone by any companion, Dick Frantes, known variously as "Dri-Fli Dick", or "The Acerbic Angler", took one step too far and sank more than ankle-deep into the black gumbo of Wagon Landing Springs, which Dick obstinately named Wagon Wheel. I knew it already. It had to happen. Now, should I let him stay stuck, or should I wade gallantly to the rescue, thereby winning points to exchange for revelations of secret fishing spots? Naw. What if he should sink deeper? To have that on my conscience? The loss of a truck and driver with whom to alternate on these ridiculous excursions?

Should I go back to my car and bring out the tow rope? Would I have time? Should I throw him my wading staff? Yes. And so Frantes pushed himself back to that finger of sand that extended out from the landing path. But did he quit while he was ahead? Not on your life.

And so we continued to fish Wagon Wheel and Marquee Springs, and others dim to memory over much of a decade.

For those who want to follow in Frantes' footsteps, or maybe not, Wagon Landing Springs lies not too far north and east of Star Prairie, Wisconsin. I wish you joy of the wading, but I would recommend a belly boat to float you into deeper water where the brookies are certain to be larger.

Marquee Springs lies south of Highway 8 in Wisconsin and west of the Apple River, which the springs feed upstream of Amery. You may leap like goats from hummock to hummock around the margin; wiser folk will find the outlet on the east and wade up into

the pond. When I was last there, the bottom at the outlet was silt over firm sand.

I do not recommend either of the springs as a destination. We usually stopped and paid our respects on the way to a hot spot or on the way back from another lost cause. You may "lay up a dime," one of Dick's favorite expressions, meaning that you have accomplished something. I have heard rumors of trout taken around Star Prairie, but you can't prove it by me. Not yet.

Dick named other nameless spring holes, ponds and streams as the mood suited him. He led me on an excursion down a dangerous, wooded slope to a tiny stream, "Toilet Seat," so named because he found one there on his first visit. Dick was also careless: I had the pleasure of removing a hook from his finger, using a true method often illustrated in notable trout books.

SUPPORT RIPRAP

If you would like to ensure its RIPRAP's continued distribution in its current form, please consider a tax-deductible donation.

Make your check payable to "Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited" and write "RipRap fund" on the memo line. Mail your check to:

RipRap Fund
Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016

The man who didn't tie flies Dry Fly Dick

By Vern Alberts

I thought that with the appearance of the Dry Fly Dick Frantes Fly Tiers at the April TU meeting a little history would be in order as a lot of the newer members were either fortunate or unfortunate in not knowing "Dry Fly Dick."

Dick took over the tying program years ago—he lined up the tiers, obtained a supply of flies for door prized and more, so this is the reason his name is now on this once a year program.

Dick was real character. He and his brother, Tom, ran a plumbing business started by their father at the intersection of Annapolis and Smith in the city of West St. Paul. I always thought that this was a front for his main love, "Dick's Fine Flies and Folderol," a separate business that occupied the same location as the plumbing business.

Dick didn't tie flies, so he would try any ruse to get people to tie for him. He would trade material, hooks, equipment or even plumbing supplies because he hated to pay for flies and preferred to establish credit accounts with his tiers.

One day he came down to my house to check my stock. I was tying a lot of flies and would throw them in some red cedar boxes that my father had made for me. There were all sizes in these boxes— from twos to twenty-twos. Dick told me, "Let me take them to the shop and I'll pick out what I want. There were three hundred and fifty flies in the

boxes. In a couple of weeks, Dick brought the empty boxes back.

He had taken all three hundred and fifty flies. I sure had a big credit account.

Due to the nature of his business, Dick was not an early morning fisherman, so most of his fishing was in the afternoon and evening. After lunch he would take off in a rusty old Chev Suburban with the license plates "DRI FLY" so you would know it was him.

From early spring until late fall it was always ready for trout fishing with fly rods, reels, fly boxes waders and boots in the back.

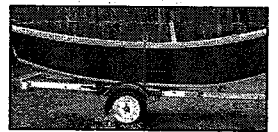
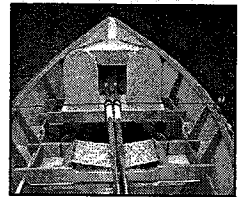
Dick was seldom without a bottle of blackberry brandy in case he wandered into snake country. He probably fished much more than the average trout fisherman and was able to visit a lot of streams that were passed up by the average weekend fisherman.

I miss Dick. I used to stop at the plumbing shop before he retired to shoot the breeze. We would come to chapter meetings together as I haven't driven at night for some time. Dick would drive and I would buy him dinner. It was a good arrangement if you could stand the cigarette smoke. Dick was a chain smoker – the doctor had him quit for a couple of years, but he started again and that done him in.

I hope this will give some of the newer members some insight into why we have a Dry Fly Dick Frantes Fly Tiers program every April.

Vern Alberts served as chapter treasurer for ten years. He lives in Inver Grove Heights, MN.

Driftboat Raffle



This beauty can be yours or a friends for the purchase of a raffle ticket ... or two ... or five.

Tickets will be available at the next meeting; and at Bentley's Outfitters and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

Lovingly finished and detailed, this baby has more appointments than Paris Hilton.

Guaranteed to help you catch BIG fish!

April 10 public hearings to consider single **DNR seeks public inp**

By Gary Horvath, Chapter President

On Monday, April 10, there will be public hearings in each Wisconsin county starting at 7:00 p.m. where residents interested in natural resources management will have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress on proposed fishing and hunting rule changes and Natural Resource Board and Conservation Congress advisory questions posed in the official questionnaire.

Individuals who have an interest in natural resource management are encouraged

to attend the hearing in their county. Individuals attending the Spring Hearings will need to register; they will be given a Spring Hearing questionnaire that contains Department of Natural Resources proposed fishing and hunting rule changes, Natural Resource Board and Conservation Congress advisory questions and a white ballot where citizens can cast their non-binding vote on advisory questions in the questionnaire.

Individuals will also be given a blue ballot to be used on resolutions introduced on the floor by other citizens. Individuals attending the hearing in the county of their residence will have the opportunity to nominate and

Kiap to share space at Great Waters Expo

Kiap is again going to join with Ojiblean and have a booth at the Great Waters Expo at the Bloomington Sheraton (7800 Normadale Blvd.) on March 31 through April 2. We are going to need volunteers to work the booth. Please get in touch with any board member if you want to volunteer some time. Also, any

ideas you may have for presenting our mission at the booth are welcome. We can use photos of projects and other ideas. We'll also be selling drift boat raffle tickets there. The Expo is fun and the booth is a great way to meet people curious about trout, fly fishing, and conservation.

Board members re-elected to new terms

Members present at the annual business meeting in March re-elected Bob Lorenzon, Gary Richardson and Ted Mackmiller to board positions.

RipRap congratulates these gentlemen, wished them well in their new terms and thanks them for their continuing willingness to serve the chapter in critical leadership posi-

tions.

The meeting at which the newly constituted board was to elect officers was scheduled for March 13. It was snowed out. Rescheduling the meeting forced RipRap to go to press without election results. Check the May issue for news about the chapter's new officers.

Statewide trout regulations

It on rules proposals

elect other citizens to the Conservation Congress or stand for election themselves. However, anyone may attend any meeting and give his or her opinion and vote on the questions.

The Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection and the Bureau of Wildlife Management would like citizen input on proposed rule changes that appear in the questionnaire. In addition, the Conservation Congress seeks input on advisory questions within the questionnaire regarding various natural resource issues that have been raised by other citizens or committees within the Conservation Congress.

The results of your input on the questions are advisory to the Conservation Congress and the state Natural Resources Board, the policy making board for the State Department of Natural Resources. The Conservation Congress does not accept written comment on proposed advisory questions; should you have a concern please contact your local county delegates.

This year there is a Conservation Congress Trout study Committee question of great interest to Trout Anglers. It reads:

■ **Question 72:** Create a Single Standardized Statewide Trout Regulation

In 1990, trout streams were grouped into 5 categories that allowed various streams and fisheries to be managed according to their biological potential. In 2003, the regulations were reviewed and modified to reduce the category number to 4, simplify the regulations and continue to manage the streams dependant on their biological and physical capabilities.

While some anglers feel there is a need to manage trout streams on a category basis to optimize the fishery, there is concern by others that regulations are still too complicated and have driven fishers away from the sport of trout fishing. Although, not supported by scientific evidence, some individuals feel that regulations may be responsible for the drop off in youth recruitment to the trout fishing ranks.

■ **Question 72:** Would you support the standardization of a statewide trout regulation that would allow for a 3 bag trout limit with a 7 inch size restriction?

As you can imagine this question has proven to be divisive in certain regions of the state. At the March business meeting the membership decided not to take a formal position and risk distracting attention from the real issues, e.g., development and runoff, groundwater mining, and loss of stream access. Instead, Kiap TU Wish Chapter members were encouraged to weigh in on this issue by attending the hearing closest to them.

Locations:

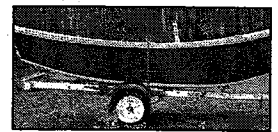
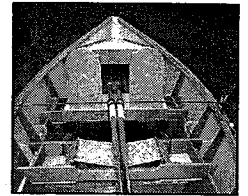
Pepin: Pepin County Government Center-County Board Room, 740 7th Ave., Durand WI

Pierce: Ellsworth Senior High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth WI

Polk: Unity High School Gymnasium, 1908 150th ST/HWY 46, Balsam Lake WI

St. Croix: Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Auditorium, 1019 South Knowles Ave. New Richmond WI.

Driftboat Raffle



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Tickets will be available at the next meeting; and at Bentley's Outfitters and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

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Kiap-TU-Wish Projects

More than 90 have volunteered for Rush River cleanup

By Sarah Sanford

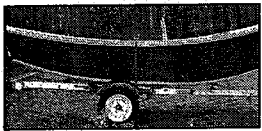
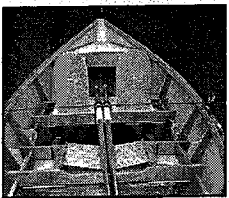
We have over 90 volunteers signed up for the Rush Clean-Up, scheduled for April 22. We meet at 9a.m. at the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club.

Early thanks go to our helpers from Kiap, TCTU, Ojibseau, Laughing Trout and the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club. Door prize donors Chad Borenz, Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine, ENCAMS, Wiscon-

sinonthefly.com, Ray and Michelle Troll, and the trash bag donors at St. Croix County Recycling also deserve a pat on the back. EGRRC will be grilling a pork chop dinner for us around 12:30 on clean-up day.

The 88 volunteers who pitched in last year have been an ongoing source of inspiration for me; I know this year's crew will be stellar. To join in on the fun, email me at rushclean2006@yahoo.com.

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Women's fly fishing seminars available

Kinni Creek Lodge and Outfitters offers a seminar designed especially for women anglers. The seminars feature guide/instructor Jane Clark. An \$85 fee covers instruction and includes use of a rod, reel, leader, tip-pet, flies and fun. Students are encouraged to furnish their own waders or to call Paige

Olson at Kinni Creek to arrange for a loaner pair. Available dates for the seminar are Sunday, April 2nd and Sunday, May 7. Contact Ms. Olson at 715/425/7378 or toll-free at 1/877/504/9705 for further information or to register for the seminar.

Drift Boat Raffle

We have slowly but steadily been selling raffle tickets. The hot spot has been Bob Mitchell's. Thanks to Mike for promoting the sale. We're far from our goal but with the Expo coming up we could do well.

Upcoming meetings

May 3, 2006—Wisconsin DNR

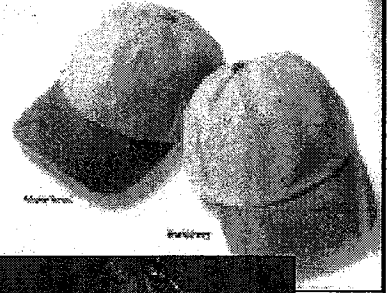
Storm stalls Gilbert Creek project, board meeting

Projects. Work stalled on Gilbert Creek first because of warmth and mud and then snow storms. No new dates are scheduled. No schedule yet for the South Fork project. I will post all work dates on our web site.

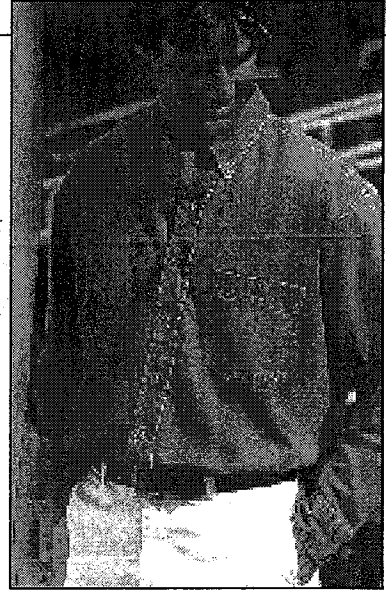
The March board meeting was cancelled because of the snow storm. Work schedules and other obstacles have hindered rescheduling. We're working on it!

Kiap TU Wish Shirts and Hats

#1150 Toppers "Voorhees" Cap - \$20.00
 Features a wide brim and a chin strap. The hat is made of 100% cotton twill fabric. It is available in khaki, forest green, or navy blue. Specify color when ordering.



We are offering official Kiap TU Wish Chapter shirts and hats to our members. A portion of each sale benefits the chapter. These are high quality Three Rivers® shirts and Toppers® hats embroidered with the Trout Unlimited logo and "Kiap TU Wish Chapter". Don't pull a fashion blunder and be seen streamside not wearing one. Fill out the order form below and mail your check payable to "Trout Unlimited" in the appropriate amount to:



Greg Dietl
 10758 Falling Water Lane
 Unit D
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46045 Three Rivers® Long Sleeve classic Denim Shirt

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 XXL \$35.00
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Colors:

- Dark Denim
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46145 Three Rivers® Short Sleeve Classic Denim Shirt

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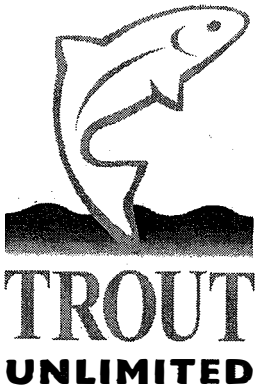
Short Sleeve colors:

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- Light Khaki
- Natural

#28350 Toppers® "Voorhees" Cap \$20.00 Specify Khaki/Forest or Khaki/Navy

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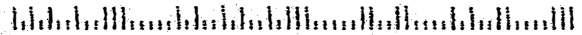
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Deadline for May RIPRAP is Friday, April 21.