



Rip Rap

Annual Holiday Banquet

When: Wednesday, Dec. 4
Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
Social Hour: 6:30 pm
Dinner: 7:30 pm

"Kodiak Island Flora and Fauna"
Encounters with huge trout and bears
by Midwest Fly Fishing's Tom Helgeson



President's Lines:

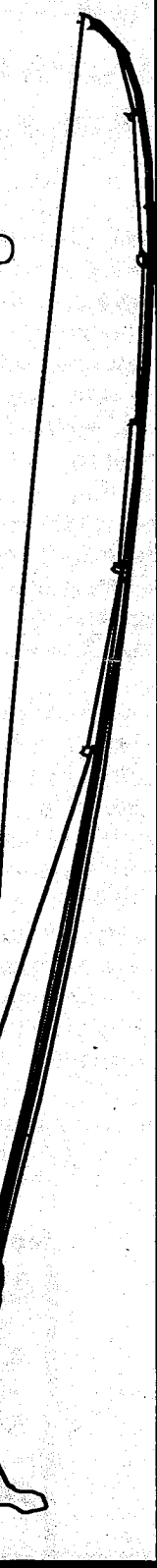
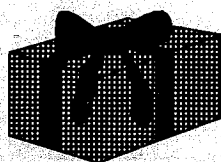
What a year it's been! I don't have the right words to thank all the people that have contributed their ideas, time, and labor to make Kiap-TU-Wish the finest chapter in Wisconsin. You've certainly made my job as president far easier and enjoyable than I ever expected. We've accomplished a great deal to preserve and enhance our wonderful local streams, raised the community's consciousness about their cold water resources, and drawn national attention for our efforts. Now, in this holiday season, let's remember to be thankful for all of Nature's bounty, and promise to continue our stewardship in the coming years. Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to all members and friends of Kiap-TU-Wish!

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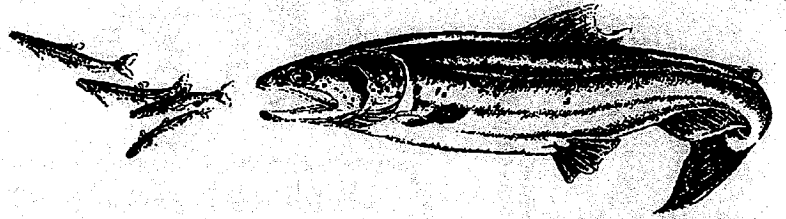
Sincerely,

Gary Horvath



Stream Improvement Gearing Up. Mysterious location of this year's project to be revealed at January meeting!

The Chapter is in the process of redeveloping our worker list for FISHWORKS '97. This project consists of cutting brush and alder within twenty or thirty feet of the stream bank; felling, delimiting and stacking offending trees within the stream corridor; hauling and burning brush; and removing predetermined log jams from the stream. You don't have to be Charles Atlas or a brain surgeon, but it's fun and inspiring to actually help the stream, and the camaraderie of your fellow workers is 'icing on the cake.' Details of the project will be announced at the January meeting. It's location may surprise you. If you are motivated to be a Kiap-TU-Wish FISHWORKER in '97, please fill in the form at the bottom of the page and deliver it to a chapter board member or officer at the next opportunity, or mail it to Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, 3394 Lake Elmo Ave No., Lake Elmo, MN 55042.



Chapter Seeks Important Help

Kiap-TU-Wish needs volunteers for two very important positions:

Program Chair

This person will set up an adjunct committee to generate program ideas for chapter meetings at the start of each year. The Chair will coordinate the chosen programs, confirm dates and handle details with the presenters and be responsible for getting publicity about upcoming programs to the Rip Rap Editor.

Stream Improvement Co-Chair, Minnesota

The Minnesota Co-Chair will work closely with DNR Fish Manager, Marty Engel, and the Wisconsin Co-Chair, Mark Dostal, to define project areas and parameters and set work dates. In addition, the Minnesota Co-Chair will establish and maintain the list of Minnesota stream volunteers, call them prior to each work date, and report the names of the workers and results of each work date to the RipRap Editor.

Interested parties should contact Gary Horvath at 612-296-1535 as soon as possible.



<u>FISHWORKS '97</u>	
NAME _____	PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____	
DO YOU HAVE:	
ANSWERING MACHINE: <input type="checkbox"/>	CHAIN SAW: <input type="checkbox"/>
HAND LOPPER: <input type="checkbox"/>	

Gathering information about road salt...

Once again, in Minnesota and Wisconsin, the season for applying road salt has arrived. I've always thought that here is an area of environmental stewardship that TU could and should be involved with. My concerns are these:

1. Spring runoff from salted roads and bridges carries highly acidic water directly into rivers and lakes.
2. Many highways parallel trout streams and other rivers.
3. Most of the residual salt and sand is not recycled, but pushed into drains or left in piles in ditches.

Last Spring, on a beautiful day in late April, I made a trip to Hay Creek. As I was entering Redwing, Minnesota on Highway 61, I watched state road crews sweep load after load of salt and sand into storm drains in the median of the four lane highway. Those storm drains empty directly into a marshy backwater of the Mississippi River.

I have read somewhere that salt is effective in blocking ice formation only in a narrow band of temperatures, from approximately 20 degrees to freezing. If this is so, is it cost effective to spread the salt so liberally, considering the fact that most of our Winter days are far colder than that? Last Winter, there were five days in which there was some form of precipitation and the temperature was between 20 and 32 degrees!

Have other environmental groups like Pheasants Forever or Ducks Unlimited ever studied the effects on nesting birds of salt buildup in roadside ditches? Does the decline in Minnesota pheasant population correlate with road salt usage? Are there any studies?

Are there any alternatives to salt that might be less toxic, and maybe less expensive? Where does the salt/sand mixture come from, how much of it is used each year, and how much does it cost? From whom does the state buy it?

I've always wondered whether the auto body/collision industry lobbies for the use of road salt. Just think of the money people could save if their cars didn't rust out in four or five years! Ostensibly, salt is put on roads to prevent auto accidents and to save lives. Are there controlled studies to prove that its use is effective in accomplishing the stated goals?

Is the Minnesota or Wisconsin Pollution Control Agency aware of the damage done to wildlife, groundwater, and plants by the Department of Transportation's use of road salt?

Please send information about road salt usage to RipRap Editor.....

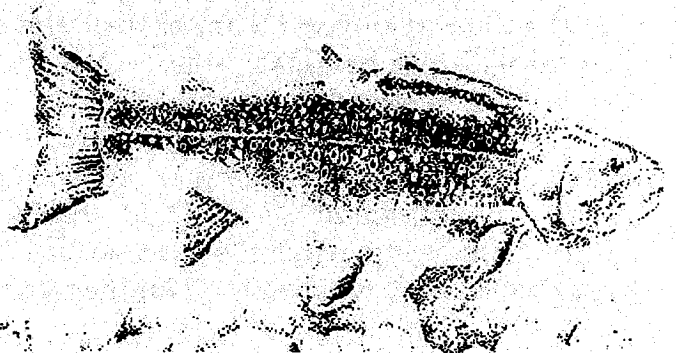
Skip's Loose Threads..... Literally!

I want to talk about clothes for trout fishing, and some personal observations about my 'threads.' I want my fishing clothes loose, comfortable, dry, and capable of protecting me from insects, brush, and the sun. Starting at the top, I wear a felt hat with a wide brim that protects the back of my neck from sunburn, shades my eyes, keeps the rain off, and deflects the occasional errant cast that might sink a hook in my ear. It's only disadvantage is that it smells like a dirty dog when it gets wet. The color is indescribable, it used to be dark brown, but it's so sun bleached that it's the color of cardboard.

My shirt is almost always long sleeved cotton. Long sleeved, so I don't get too sunburned on my forearms, even though I can roll the sleeves up for coolness. Cotton, because it's the most comfortable fabric there is next to your skin, and I rarely wear an undershirt. There are a lot of shirts on the market with vented underarms, tons of pockets, made of space age materials. I'll take a basic, cotton shirt in tan or khaki. Cheap shirts have short tails that keep coming out of your pants. Make sure there's plenty of room in the shoulders.

Cotton pants worn under waders will be clammy and eventually cold because they soak up moisture. Even if there are no holes in your waders, you will get wet from perspiration. Jeans for wet wading, or under neoprenes are an abomination. Better to buy polyester/cotton blend slacks, like Dickies or Sears Best Workpants, since they are non absorptive. When you remove your waders your trousers will dry almost instantly. The fabric is much stronger than pure cotton, and the pockets are deeper. These pants are also meant to be worn around the waist instead of the hips, and as a result allow greater comfort and freedom of movement.

Always carry a fresh pair of cotton socks to put on after the fishing is done, and a handkerchief in your pocket or neckerchief around your neck.



Rif Raf

by Ken Olson

On Sunday night, I dropped off three wonderful, delicate, newly restored Heddon Rods off at Skip's house. He was in a hurry, practicing, all dressed up for a concert. Baxter was glad to see me. Skip asked me to write a piece about Christmas. When I asked him how long I had, he said: "five days." Five days to write something publishable about Christmas! Walking out to my car, I knew what I would write about, or rather 'who' I'd write about.....

Ardis died last year. She was in her eighties. She had come to fill an empty space in my life: a space left empty when my mother and father died, only a few months apart about ten years ago. Ardis and I became friends and Ardis became important to my wife and me.

Ardis wasn't able to get around very well the last couple years of her life. I offered to pick up and bring her groceries. I took Toby, her little dog, to be groomed. Every month or so either I, or my wife and I, would take Ardis to breakfast or to dinner. When Ernie of Ernie's Log Cabin Bar died, Ardis and I attended the service and the funeral. Ernie was over ninety years old. Ernie too, had filled a special place in my life. Someday, I now realize, I will have to write some of my "Ernie" stories, as I do have a few.

Christmas was a special time for Ardis. She had grandchildren and great grandchildren and she had a strong faith and strong Christian values, and she was always ready to share these with others. She hosted a prayer meeting at her house.

She lived right across the road from the Rush River. At night, at the cabin, you could hear the river as it made a sharp turn and a quick drop. The hole across from her house was aptly named "the breakfast hole." One could always count on a trout or two for a meal if the urge became unbearable.

The last few years, my wife and I bought a Christmas gift for Ardis and we always looked forward to delivering it, spending a couple hours with her in her warm, friendly house. I would stand by the front window, looking out over the river, wishing I could fish again. Wondering what the year would bring, knowing that Ardis probably didn't have a great deal of time remaining. Not many Christmas celebrations left...

Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet Rapidly Approaches!

The chapter's annual holiday affair is one that you definitely do not want to miss. There will be fine food and drink, the traditional silent auction and a captivating presentation about Kodiak Island and its flora and fauna (steelhead and huge bears in particular) by Midwest Flyfishing publisher Tom Helgeson.

The JR Ranch has graciously extended their deadline for a final dinner count to Wednesday, November 27th. However, this date is absolute! If you have not yet made your reservations, please call Mike Alwin at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (612-770-5854) or Jon Jacobs (612-930-8245 or 715-386-7822) as soon as possible to do so.

Make Reservations by November 27th.

Christmas, El Paso, and Ardis Barg

by Ken Olson

Snow, cold and deep, holds the banks of the Rush River this Christmas
as it always has; wintry, birdless day
across from the white house down the road on Fisherman's Rest
down the road from Ernie's Log Cabin Bar, down past Merlin's
just past the cabin where we stayed one terribly cold and windy January
my wife and I, huddled over the pot bellied stove
the only place where there was any warmth, except maybe under
layer upon layer of hand-stitched blankets, unable to move, afraid to get up.
They called it a Canadian Clipper and it prowled in secretively
then leapt outside like a maniac, like a possessed maniac.
Once I dreamed of polar bears and death in that cabin.
More than once, Ardis Berg helped me start a fire in the stove
kneeling on her hands and knees, that little Christian woman
in her eighties, lecturing me about drinking beer:
"I'm a teetotaler, you see. And I can see that you're not."
Her skilled hands made the fire yellow and red, made the round stove hot
and the kettle on top sizzle and hiss.
Ardis, widowed wife of Clint, in the quiet of the white house across from the
"breakfast hole" where you were sure to catch a trout or two for breakfast
Up away, you could always catch a few brookies if you had mind to
But they're not there anymore
And Ardis, she's not there anymore, nor is Ernie
This year, Rich left The El Paso Bar and Grille
His friendly greeting, all his words of politics and books silenced
the smiles, clasp of hands, embraces, gone
Listen, Ardis, you can still hear the river. Ice doesn't cover all the water
Some riffle moves fast and steady over smooth rocks
With luck, I'll fish this place again; in March now, the early season
Christmas, the Rush River, sounds of water over smooth rocks
carrying the lives and words of lost friends
carrying brook trout finally to their secret place.



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TROUT UNLIMITED
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DEADLINES

JAN 12/15
FEB 1/15
MAR 2/15

Now on the Internet at:

<http://www.spacestar.com/users/lambcom/kiap.html>

Letters to the Editor

Dear Skip,

You're doing a great job as RipRap editor. Enjoyed your Willow River History. There is one item in the article that should be clarified. That is in regard to the statement on the Nords on page 3. Anton Rude was not Fred Nord's grandson. He was the husband of Marie Nord, the daughter of Fred Nord, and at 90 years young still resides at the Nord family farm home on the Willow Race. Her husband, Anton Rude, died over 20 years ago.

Just last year Marie sold, with the approval of the Nord family, the Nord farm to the State of Wisconsin as an addition to the Willow River State Park, rather than to developers. Had it been sold to developers both branches of the river would have been lost to trout fishermen.

I'm enclosing a photo of the plaque that was dedicated to the Nord family in 1979 by Kiap-TU-Wish, Minnesota TU and other local fishing groups.....

Good fishing,

Roger Fairbanks

