



Rip Rap

Holiday Banquet

When: Wednesday, Dec. 1
 Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
 Social Hour: 6:30
 Dinner: 7:30
 Program: 8:30 Jan Zita Grover, Speaker

President's Lines:

With all the pressures on the trout streams of western Wisconsin, agriculture, development, storm-water runoff, etc., it's not hard to be pessimistic about the future of these resources. But as the last issue of Rip Rap goes to press for this year and for the millennium, I'd like to look back on 1999 as a really successful year for Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The year began with the unveiling of our video "Storm on the Horizon." The film has received many accolades and will serve our chapter and others well in the fight against unwise development. In Pierce County, we were able to influence the decision to stop a huge dairy operation that threatened the Rush River, and our friends over there have been successful in keeping proposed sites for such farms away from trout streams. In May, the annual Fly Fishing Clinic took place with great success. This is my particular favorite function of our chapter. On the Kinni, we have gotten some improvement in trash rack cleaning procedures that obtain to the dam in River Falls, something that should help stop the wild fluctuations in the amount of water in the lower river. The new D.N.R trout crew became operational, and began a project on Cady Creek in which our chapter partnered with Ojiblean Chapter and other groups. Such partnerships will continue. The Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed Project was approved and entered its implementation phase. Our own Kent Johnson was on the steering committee and has had a positive impact on the project. The former Maunds Impoundment has been refurbished and now flows freely once again. We've provided funds for the River Falls High School "Biology of

the Kinni" classroom laboratory, as well as Prof. Clark Garry's research study of aquatic life in the Kinni. Last, but not least, Kiap-TU-Wish launched an aggressive fund-raising effort for the recently purchased and protected "Swinging Gate" stretch. Thanks to all Kiap-TU-Wish members for a successful 1999!!!

Brent Sittlow
 President

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Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

Jan Zita Grover featured at Annual Holiday Bash...

Reviews of "Northern Waters" by Jan Zita Grover...

"Jan Zita Grover brings to her writing on fly fishing a fresh eye, a lyric prose style and an original and thoughtful take on the world, a combination of talents that makes *Northern Waters* one of the most engaging books on rivers, woods and fishing I've read in a good long while."

W. D. Wetherell, author of *One River More*

"*Northern Waters* is my favorite kind of fishing book: part memoir, part history, and all engaging commentary on what makes fishermen the way we are. It is also a splendid celebration of the north woods and their often imperiled magic."

Paul Schullery, author of *Royal Coachman*

Author of the recently published "*Northern Waters*," Jan Grover will read from her book and sign copies at the Holiday Banquet. There is still time to reserve your banquet ticket by calling Mike Alwin at Bob Mitchell's Flyshop at (651) 770-5854, or Jon Jacobs at (715) 386-7822. The cost is \$20/person. Auction donations will be accepted at the fly shop right up to the day of the event. Bring your checkbook to the banquet to bid on the many exciting fishing and other handcrafted items. There will be fly collections, antique tackle, clothing, and outdoor gear too numerous to mention. The dinner choices are either Champagne Breast of Chicken, or Hand-carved Roast Beef. Appropriate accompaniments and scrumptious desserts complete the menu. This is the largest annual fund-raiser event for Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Don't miss it!

List of Contributors to "One Hundred Anglers at One Hundred Bucks" grows...

The shortfall between what the DNR could pay KRLT for the Swinging Gate property and what KRLT paid for the old Lubich farm was \$10,000. Kiap-TU-Wish offered to make up the difference and launched a campaign to raise the funds. As of November 16, the list of contributors who had answered the call numbered 35: Have you? If not, you can send your contribution to Brent Sittlow. His address is on the back of this issue, and your gift is, of course, tax-deductible.

Bob Adams
Don Ausemus
Lew Jewett Fly Fishers
Hap Lutter
Skip James
Dan Conley
Richard Cashman
Ed Des Lauriers & Sons
Cathy Villas-Horns
Jim Humphrey
David Schaffer & Sheila Frost
Brian Madsen
Kent Ferraro
Chuck Goossen
John Weaver
Dave Ballman
Brent Sittlow

John Storer
Mike Sittlow
Gerald Bristol
Al Kiecker
Dick Hanousek
Jim Anderson
Maplewood Podiatry Clinic
Debra Olmstead
Green Bay Chapter, TU
Mark Waschek
Sheldon Damberg
Gary Horvath
Al Farmes
Ken Hanson
Bill Couch
J. Nash Williams
Vern Alberts

KRLT Buys Acreage in Kinni Watershed.

Recently, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, in partnership with Pheasants Forever, purchased one hundred acres of land north of I-94, bordering on the DNR land along the Kinni that was the sight of a Kiap-TU-Wish winter work project several years ago. That doubles the land area in that location that will be protected forever from development, and restored to a natural ecosystem. The purchase marks the first time that KRLT has partnered with another environmental/sportsman's group to either secure easements or purchase land outright. The acquisition will be donated to the State of Wisconsin for public open space.

Two government grants aided the purchase: a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, and one administered by the Wisconsin Stewardship Program.

To date, KRLT has protected eight hundred acres of land with permanent conservation easements and land purchases, and has secured permanent public access to over two miles of Kinnickinnic River bank.

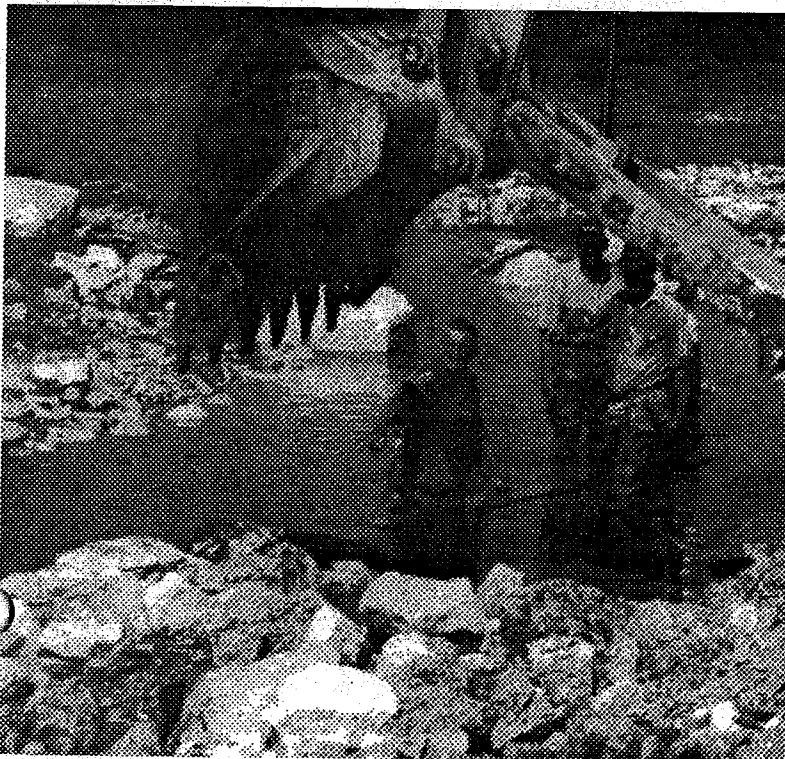
Skip's Loose Threads...

How far do we go before we've gone too far?

The photos on this and the next page were taken at the work site at Cady Creek this summer. As the first project of our newly acquired DNR Trout Crew, the in stream work was well documented. For those of you who have not had the privilege of visiting Cady Creek with a flyrod, it is a clear, cold, spring creek, loaded with Ranunculus and fat, willing Brook Trout. What an anomaly as we approach the millennium to experience such a creek! Those of us from the East know that Brook Trout streams have been only a receding memory for at least seventy-five years, yet here in Wisconsin, a pure relic of the past survives, flourishes, close to a major metropolitan area. The work in the photos was done in the lower stretches of the creek, an attempt to narrow the stream so that spawning gravel could be swept clean by the current, providing breeding opportunities for the trout.

I suppose that, like golf courses, we could simply design and build trout streams, if there was a manifest need for manufactured ones. Who knows, perhaps we'll need to create a few from scratch if the popularity of fly fishing continues apace. But what other eco-denizens are displaced, uprooted, even killed by the kind of gross earth-moving equipment used at Cady Creek? What about the birds, the frogs, the wild flowers, the small rodents, the deer trails, the insect life, the waterweed, even the trees? Do we simply do the 'surgery' and expect Mother Nature to repair the collateral damage?

The State of Minnesota has had a battle going on in it's DNR for many years now over the philosophy and purpose of resource management. The new idea of 'total ecosystem management' is running afoul of the traditional 'fish/game' mentality that was the basis for management for many generations. The old management credo was: what do we need to do to maximize the fish/game population so that the maximum number of fishermen/hunters are satisfied with the outcome of their outdoor experience? Some of you remember the ongoing fight to preserve and set aside 'catch and release' waters in southeastern Minnesota, and the opposition of the Minnesota Trout Association and Mel Haugstad, a retired and disillusioned DNR fish manager. Are we and the DNR concerned only with TROUT, how many, how big, how happy, how many fish in the creel, or should our environmental message be much more inclusive? I think we need to do some reevaluation before the bull dozers roar the next time.





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Jan. 12/15/99

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<http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish/>

Two views of the 'finished product' at Cady Creek

