

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3      DECEMBER, 2007

## DECEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

### HOLIDAY BANQUET NEWS

"In the summer of 2005, I was invited by friends in Chile to come visit them at their home in the capital city of Santiago. They said we would go trout fishing. In the spring of 2006, another friend and I took them up on their offer." Thus began chapter member John Koch's journey to Chile with friends. In his words,

the trip can be summed up as "... friends, food, trout and alpacas". John will be presenting a slide show of his odyssey at the December 6, Kiap-TU-Wish annual conservation banquet. John is an extraordinary trout angler and artist. His interests in art, culture, architecture, landscape, conservation, photography, trout, and angling will

make this a memorable banquet presentation.

-Greg Dietl

President of Kiap-TU-Wish

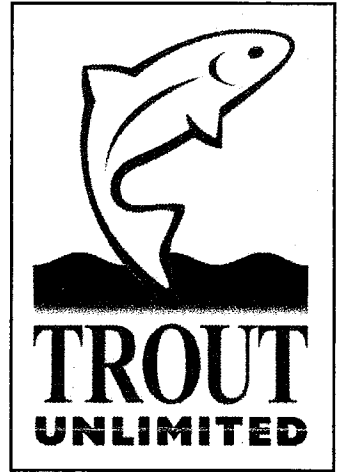


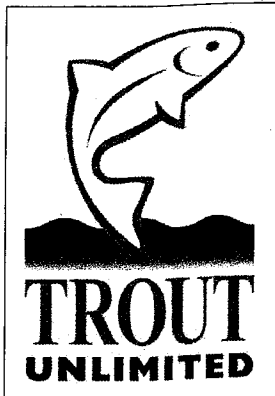
Photo Montage Courtesy of John Koch

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEETING INFO	1
PRESIDENT'S LINES	2
SCOTT'S SCOOP	3
HOLIDAY BANQUET INFO	4
WHO WILL OWN THE RIVERS?	5
SILVER CREEK AND THE BIG WOOD RIVER	7

## PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL



I want to extend a long overdue welcome to new Kiap-TU-Wish members. The National website record keeping has improved dramatically and it is now easier to locate new memberships. And, these new membership names migrate more effectively to our mail list. I believe our mail list is now more accurate than it has been for a long time. However, if you know someone who is a chapter member and is not receiving Rip Rap, please notify any officer or board member.

There have been twenty three new chapter members since January, 2007. Welcome to the following new Kiap-TU-Wish chapter members:

Greg Corrigan	Kirk Danielson	Bret Ethier	
Paul Jensen	Gerald Keithley	Franklin Pass	Steve Campbell
Hugh Gwin	Gerard Haines	Tim Pulford	Ben Brassler
Quentia Schaltz	Mike Shore	Eric Stewart	John Worrell
Dale Byboth	Ted Haland	Jake Jagdfeld	Mike Maxson
Troy Miller	Richard Warner	Ryan & Sarah Hitzeman	

If you are a new member and your name is not on the list please let me know.

This is a great opportunity for new members to attend the annual Conservation Banquet (see Mike Alwin's article in this issue) and meet other chapter members. We would love to have you there.

### Pine Creek project makes Trout Magazine

Our Pine Creek project made the pages of Trout Unlimited's national publication Trout, Fall 2007. It's a good photo shoot of the project and is part of a tribute to partnerships with Land Trusts. Kiap-TU-Wish continues to be partners in conservation with the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust and the West Wisconsin Land Trust. These two vital conservation organizations always need financial support and membership. For more information check their websites for organizational and membership information: [www.wvlt.org](http://www.wvlt.org) & [www.kinniriver.org](http://www.kinniriver.org).

If you participated in any electrofishing events this past summer, please send me an email with the days and the river. I need to capture the hours for the record.

See you at the banquet.



## SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

Having secret spots to fish is one of the best feelings a guy (or gal) could have. That's been my experience at least. In the past couple years I have been fortunate enough to find a healthy handful of secret spots within a day's drive of my house. Just knowing that they're out there is half the fun. My goal for next season is to get out and find another handful of secret spots. I'm sure that I'm not the only person in the world to know about my secret spots, but when I've fished them, I've seen very few other people around. So in my head I tell myself that I must be the only person to know about them. However, I didn't even find them all myself. A few of my secret spots were told to me by good friends who swore me to secrecy. I

vow to take their secrets to the grave.

I admit that I have sometimes had trouble keeping myself from telling others about my secret spots. As I have grown older and wiser (?) though, I have come to the realization that there are very few secret spots out there to be found, and there will be fewer and fewer as the years go by, so I have gotten more and more tight-lipped about my spots. You couldn't pry them off my lips with a crowbar, now.

Just the other day, when I was working at the fly shop, a customer came in practically screaming to anyone who would listen, about how great the fishing is at one of my favorite secret spots! As you can imagine, it took all my strength not to strangle

him. Unfortunately, Mike told me long ago that it is definitely not cool to strangle a customer. So, instead, I decided to take this customer aside and tell him to keep his secrets to himself. But, alas, he left the shop before I had the chance. So, take this as a warning: Don't tell too many people about your secret spots. If you do, it won't be long until loud-mouthed people start to blab, and the crowds will arrive. I just hope the next time I visit the secret spot that this customer was blabbing about, the crowds won't be too big.



The Editor with a beautiful coho salmon caught in one of his secret streams. Don't ask him where.

Photo by Randy Richter

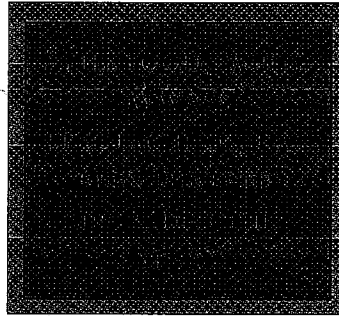
## HOLIDAY CONSERVATION BANQUET LOOMS (OR WILL YOU BE LEFT IN THE COLD?)

BY MIKE ALWIN

The loose confederation of stalwart Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers laughingly referred to as the Banquet Committee wishes to inform the membership of this august body that the Annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet, and therefore its registration deadline, is imminent. The banquet date is **Thursday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**. Tartan Park, a handsome and exceptionally well run facility, is once again the venue. The evening's festivities will begin with the social hour at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 7:00 followed by the evening's program... a stunning visual presentation of Chapter Member John Koch's once in a lifetime trip to Chile. And yes, there will be big fish pictures.

The group of cherished volunteers laughingly referred to as the Banquet Committee wishes to inform you that the food, while always spectacular, has been further upgraded this year. The lucky attendees will feast on grilled breast of chicken Chardonnay and pecan crusted Canadian walleye. The dinner includes a very classy strawberry and mixed greens

salad or Caesar salad, oven roasted potatoes with rosemary, a medley of fresh seasonal vegetables and will be topped off by a peach cobbler and the best coffee this side of the Fly Shop. All this for a mere \$35, IF you call in your registration to Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (651/770-5854) before the registration deadline of **Monday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM**. It behooves you to call now because 1) the room's capacity is 110 and 2) late registrants will be paying \$45.



This group of serious conservationists laughingly referred to as the Banquet Committee is currently engaged in the business of making sure that the Herculean task of planning and executing this gala event succeeds at its mission of raising dough for the Chapter's various conservation efforts. We do this by shak-

ing down the membership and area donors for merchandise and services for the silent auction and bucket raffles. We need your treasures. These could include but should not be limited to books, artwork, fishing tackle, hootch, a flourless chocolate cake, a boat, computer, an Air-stream, plasma TV or anything else you're not using and you think somebody else might want. Please remember that this is the Chapter's major fundraising event of the year so give generously. Donations may be dropped off at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop until Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Finally, the group of wizened individuals laughingly referred to as the Banquet Committee wants you to know that we're not too proud to accept additional volunteers. We could use folks to help set up the auction and bucket raffles and help with auction checkout at the end. Call Mike at 651/770-5854 or Jonathan Jacobs at 715/386-7822 to volunteer.



## WHO WILL OWN THE RIVERS?

BY JONATHON JACOBS

*Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of Trout Unlimited. The author is a member of Trout Unlimited.*

Water flows uphill towards money. — Anonymous, a saying in the American West, quoted by Ivan Doig in Marc Reisner's, *Cadillac Desert*, 1986

Boundaries don't protect rivers, people do. - Brad Arrowsmith, Landowner along the Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska

"Archibald Cox...inspired the nation with the awesome totemic power of skinny bow ties."- Lisa Birnbach, *The Official Preppy Handbook*

Jon Jacobs is a former Editor of RipRap, and now is a regular contributor to this publication. He lives in Hudson, Wisconsin.

A dispute erupted within TU at the national level early this year as the organization struggled to establish a policy regarding its approach to stream access disputes. TU activists in Montana had filed a brief in support of public access to the Ruby and Bitterroot Rivers, where *nouveau riche* landowners had built impenetrable fences and had claimed certain waters did not meet the state's standards of navigability. TUers in Pennsylvania were involved in a dispute that arose after Donny Beaver's Spring Ridge Club's fenced off a section of the Little Juniata River. The national organization, citing the possible divisiveness, bitterness and distraction from its conservation mission, attempted to promulgate a policy that would have prevented any part of TU from so much as offering comment any time a private landowner asserted a property rights claim. A firestorm of anger rose from the rank and file. Many felt that TU National feared offending wealthy potential donors and had sold out the volunteers who serve as foot soldiers in Trout Unlimited's conservation battles.

The brouhaha received considerable media attention. *Field & Stream* covered the issue in its conservation column in the June, 2007 issue. *Fly Rod & Reel* published an article about it in its July/October issue.

In a way, this is all yesterday's news. At this year's annual meeting, TU reinstated the policy developed by its *Stream Access Working Group* in 2006. Still, the dispute provided a revealing look at the attitudes of Charles F. Gauvin, Esq., the national organization's president, of board chairman Robert Teufel and of its board of trustees.

The board is mostly comprised of folks with names that readily connote the cachet of old money, names like Pulver Ensign, Dunbarton Oakes, Trip Triplett III, Firth Forth V, Winchester Remington, Exeter Phillips, P.P.K. Walther, Hudson Essex and X. Patriate Wanderlust. I mention this because I don't think that the board had a malevolent intent when it sought a new policy. They simply recognized the complaining landowners in Montana and Mr. Beaver as their own kind and reacted tribally to the difficulties of their fellow members of the Old Boys Club.

Bowtie sportin' Charles Gauvin, whom I daresay has never been called "Chuck" or "Charlie: in his life, produced an utterly astounding column in the April edition of TU's house organ, *TROUT*, in which he came down firmly on both sides of the access issue. In one paragraph he wrote, "As citizens, we are right to demand enforcement and defense of stream access by state authorities and federal land managers." Yet, two paragraphs later he wrote, "The reality is that stream access is not, and never has been a part of TU's mission or vision." This is a curious statement in light of TU's *SAWG* 2006 work. Mr. Gauvin spoke unintended volumes when he wrote, "Many of us learned to fish on public waters..." Well, yes, like the

"Rivers" continued on Page 6

## "RIVERS" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

99.88 percent of us who didn't learn by attending Biff and Muffy's Down East Squaretail Day Camp in the Longfellow Mountains.

Again, officially this issue is in the wake. However, the *Field & Stream* report on this topic attributes to the unctuous Donnie Beaver a statement that cuts to the core of this issue with laser-like accuracy. Mr. Beaver says of the angling public, "They could do what I'm doing [buying access] instead of bitching about it on the Internet. I'd even help show them how to contact landowners and raise money." He's exactly right and we are blessed to have a local organization that does exactly that. It's the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. One hears occasionally that the Trust doesn't do enough to provide angler access on the lower Kinnickinnic River. Codswallop, I say. It's our best and brightest hope to guarantee public access there. On the cover of the Summer 2007 of its publication *Kinni Keeper*, the Trust announced that it had purchased 45.5 acres on the lower river. A photo of the property accompanies the announcement. I know the stretch of river pictured well; it's one of my favorite stretches of trout river anywhere and I am both pleased and relieved to know that it's in the hands of the Trust. Even at an extraordinarily friendly price, it took a huge financial commitment to make this happen, the kind of commitment that membership dues can't even begin to cover. If you truly believe in both preservation and access as ardently as you maintain you do, write a check payable to the Trust today for as large a sum as you can possibly afford. Consult with your estate planner about a heritage gift. Check with your tax planner about the possible benefits of a stock donation or the use of another instrument that would provide a tax benefit to you. Whatever action you take, take it today, before Mr. Beaver or one of his ilk beats the Trust to the next piece of available property.



**DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE  
ANNUAL KIAP-TU-WISH HOLIDAY BANQUET  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AT THE TARTAN PARK  
CLUBHOUSE IN LAKE ELMO, MINNESOTA. CALL MIKE AT  
BOB MITCHELL'S FLY SHOP @ (651) 770-5854 BEFORE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD TO SAVE  
\$10 ON YOUR TICKETS.**



## SILVER CREEK AND THE BIG WOOD RIVER

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

Silver Creek in Idaho is a gigantic spring creek that shows to the visitor a deep, wide, smooth flow with a fine filigree of surface currents and thick beds of emerald weeds. There are others like it: the Henry's Fork, the Firehole at Old Faithful, Hat Creek in northern California below the powerhouse; and the fabled River Test at Whitchurch, England. The American streams remain in a near natural state, if you excuse the presence of dams. The Test is different; the trout are raised in stews, and the weeds are barbered to allow for a bankside angler to cast a nymph or wet fly. It is a different world.

On Silver Creek you cast a dry fly, usually quite small, either from the bank, if you can cast over the grasses, or from an occasional gravelly point of entrance. Even there you will not want to wade into the silt. This is one tough, technical chal-

lenge; and that is why it attracts anglers from hither and yon. That fine filigree of currents twists and turns the fly in ways that fool the consummate dry-fly purist.

The Nature Conservancy owns five miles of stream and has obtained easements on many more miles. You are asked to check in at the Conservancy office, but there is no charge for the privilege of fishing. A contribution is always welcome, because easements and stream protection never come cheap. If you walk down to the first bridge you will see belly boats mid-stream, but fishing from watercraft is not allowed on the creek, which in other states would be labeled a river.

Silver Creek is south of Ketchum and Sun Valley, a ski destination, so it is conceivable that a visitor could combine both arts.

The Big Wood River is a

freestone stream near Bellevue, Idaho, which is an easy drive from Silver Creek, and a less expensive headquarters. The river runs swiftly over pea gravel and is easily waded. I can't say that the rainbows came frequently on the Big Wood, but any angler who was frustrated by Silver Creek will welcome the friendlier challenges of the Big Wood.

What sticks in my mind is an early evening on the river with the light fading over the mountains to the west, the sound of clear water sliding through the lip of a pool, and the song of a trout taking line.




---

Jim Humphrey lives in Oak Park Heights, MN. He is the co-author of *Trout Streams of Wisconsin & Minnesota*. He is a regular contributor to RipRap

---

### KIAP-TU-WISH OFFICERS

President	Greg Dietl	(651) 436-2604	grdietl@hotmail.com
Vice President	Andy Lamberson	(715) 441-3535	andrewlamberson@hotmail.com
Secretary	Gary Horvath	(715) 425-8489	magshorvath@comcast.net
Treasurer	Brent Sittlow	(715) 386-0820	bsittlow@presenter.com
Board Member	Nick Westcott	(612) 869-3201	nicwestcott@comcast.net
Board Member	Gary Richardson	(715) 248-3699	baddog@presenter.com
Board Member	Hap Lutter	(651) 646-6639	ldlutter@yahoo.com
Board Member	Kent Johnson	(715) 386-5299	jjohnson@presenter.com
Board Member	Bob Lorenzen	(952) 431-4987	blor2006@comcast.net
Board Member	Kyle Amundson	(715) 549-5326	kamundson@mmm.com
Board Member	Andy Lamberson	(651) 261-8277	andrewlamberson@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Andy Lamberson	(715) 441-3535	andrewlamberson@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Scott Hanson	(651) 343-6837	scott@yes-tech.com



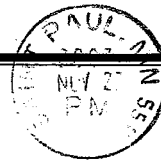
KIAP-TU-WISH

PO Box 483  
Hudson, WI 54268

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/  
KIAPTUWISH/

5402262035 0005



# Holiday Banquet coming soon!!!

For reservations, or to drop off donations, stop by Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo and talk to Mike. Or you can call the shop at (651) 770-5854. Advance reservations must be made before 5 PM on Monday, December 3rd.

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
**FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF RIPRAP!**

Deadline to make submissions for January RipRap is December 19th, 2007.

