



Rip Rap

February Meeting

When: Wednesday, Feb. 2
 Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
 Dinner: 6:30
 Program: 8:00 Clarke Garry

President's Lines:

My brother used to call this time of year the "dark ages." An apt description for the season when you wake up in darkness, study or work all day, then go home in darkness. I'm sure alot of you are dealing with the "dark ages" by spending time at the tying bench, or perhaps paging through the latest fishing catalog to arrive at your mailbox. And some lucky ones are planning either a winter vacation to some warmer clime or a 'trip of a lifetime' adventure for next summer.

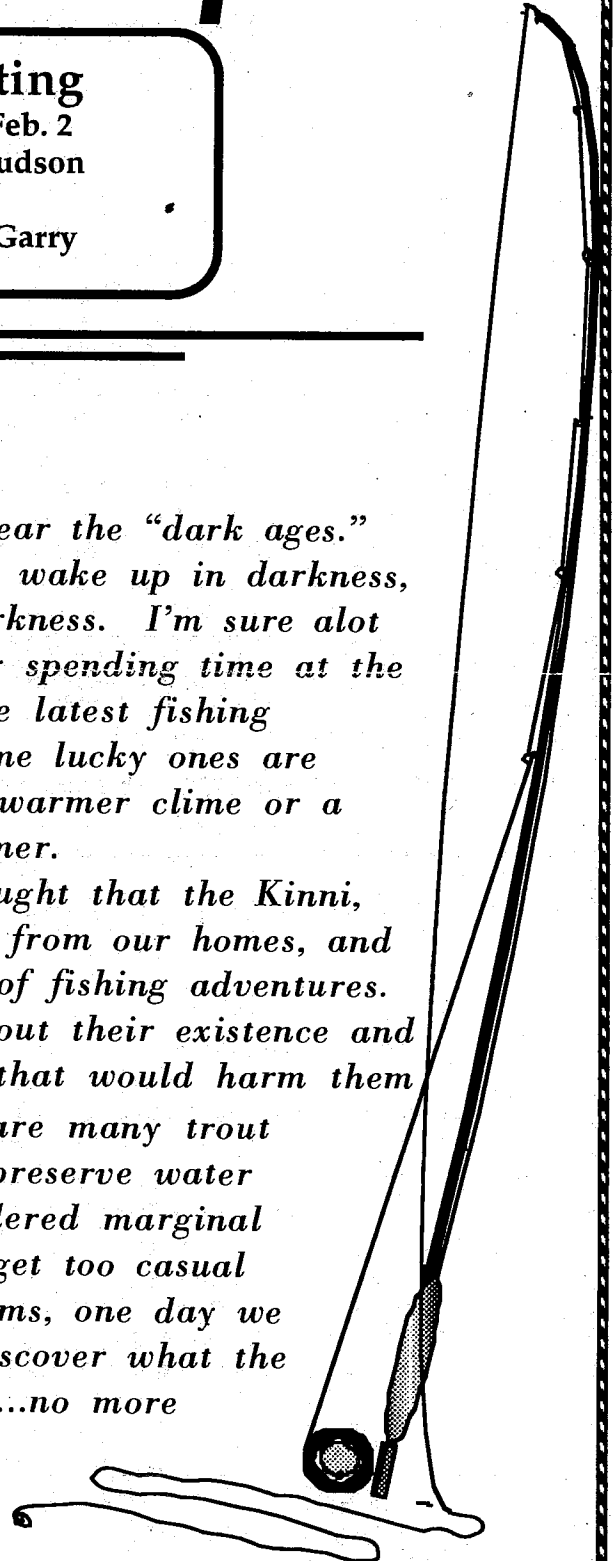
For most of us, it is a comforting thought that the Kinni, Willow and Rush are such a short distance from our homes, and that these quality waters will provide lots of fishing adventures. But I hope that you don't get too smug about their existence and health, because there are forces out there that would harm them

irreparably. There are many trout anglers that toil to preserve water that would be considered marginal around here. If we get too casual about our local streams, one day we may wake up and discover what the real "dark ages" are...no more trout.

Brent Sittlow

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Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

Clarke Garry to Speak at February Meeting...

As most of you are aware, Kiap-TU-Wish has funded a study of the aquatic insects of the Kinnickinnic River by UW River Falls Biologist Clarke Garry. Clarke has been gathering insect samples and although no final conclusions have been reached yet, some interesting patterns of the relative abundance of certain species have become evident. Dr. Garry will explain his methods for collecting specimens, the procedures for identification, and sampling techniques. Sampling infers a certain relative number of individuals in a large area by measuring those in a strictly defined small area. As one may imagine, sampling is impossible with adult, flying insects, which is why Dr. Garry uses 'benthic' specimens, those collected at the stream bottom. He will discuss why his research plan was developed and what the objectives of the study are. Although only one year old, Clarke will highlight the most prevalent species of Mayflies, Caddisflies, and Stoneflies he has found in the Kinni. He'll even bring samples to show. Don't miss his talk!

The List of Swinging Gate Contibutors Grows...

It's not too late to join the ranks of members and friends that have contributed \$100 each to repay the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust for buying this valuable piece of Kinni real estate and in turn selling it to the DNR. These are the latest donors to the cause:

Stephen B. Stenger
Daniel Wisniewski
Bob Bradham
Chuck Milam
Andy Lamberson

The final push to our goal of \$10,000 will be a mailing to members of Twin Cities Chapter of Trout Unlimited. If you would like to contribute, send your check to Brent Sittlow, 803 Kelly Road, Hudson, WI 54016.

Stewardship 2000 Program Funded at Record Level...

Thanks to the efforts of conservationists around the state of Wisconsin, the recently signed budget law includes a renewed, strengthened Stewardship Fund. Set aside for land acquisition in the form of grants to land trusts, local governments, and conservation groups, the new law nearly doubles the Warren Knowles - Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Fund, setting aside \$460 million over the next decade. Over the last nine years, the fund has been a tremendous success story, protecting more than 200,000 acres of key conservation and recreational lands. In the next decade, these efforts will continue with a much larger pot of money. The money is divided into four major sub-programs, each with a unique focus. \$34.5 million per year will go toward land acquisition for conservation and recreational purposes. This includes funding for natural areas, habitat areas, streambank protection, the Ice Age Trail, state parks, state trails, state forests, state recreation areas, hunting and fishing grounds, the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, and lands set aside as important habitat of endangered or threatened species. \$11.5 million per year will provide property development and local assistance, including recreational facilities on state properties and \$250,000 for grants to conservation organizations. \$8 million will fund local parks, Urban Rivers and Urban Green Space programs plus a new grant program to acquire development rights for nature-based recreation. The Great Lakes Bluff Protection program will receive \$1 million and the Baraboo Hills Land Conservation fund will receive \$5 million both only in the first year.

Non-profit conservation groups, like Kiap-TU-Wish, KRLT, etc., will be eligible to apply for grants to acquire land if they can come up with matching funds totally 50% of value. If anyone has questions about the program, please feel free to contact Jordy Jordahl at (608) 251-8140, or at [hjordan@tnc.org](mailto:hjordahl@tnc.org).

Board Responds...

In response to Skip's Loose Threads from the December '99 RipRap and letter to the editor in the January '00 RipRap, the Kiap-TU-Wish Board of Directors would like to make the following statements on our position regarding Cady Creek.

"Our newsletter editor, Skip James, should be commended for his work on RipRap. Our newsletter continues to be the best there is in this state and the Midwest. Skip's hard work and contributions each month deserve our highest gratitude. One of Skip's greatest strengths is his editorial comments that provoke his readers to think very seriously about the resources that they all benefit from in immeasurable ways. One of those editorials made us all think about the intensive work project initiated on Cady Creek this past year. Opinions differ on the content of that editorial, but I think Skip was successful at getting us all to think about things.

The newly created DNR Trout Crew (which Kiap-TU-Wish fought for since 1997) should be commended for a fine job on the Cady Creek Restoration project. We would like to stress that the job wasn't trout habitat creation, but restoration. There is a big difference. Although some have thought the project to be too intensive and somewhat artificial, we believe they did a fine job at restoring the creek to what we believe to be its pre-impacted state. That would be (a) narrower and deeper channel, colder temperature regime, faster flow, and gravel bed substrate suitable for Brook Trout reproduction. It is truly exciting and refreshing to see the trout crew operate efficiently and effectively to restore a gem of a resource like Cady. We are hopeful that the progress made by the trout crew will continue on into the next construction season and the lines of communication with TU and other groups are kept open. By doing that, we can accomplish so much more in the way of trout-habitat restoration.

Lastly, the riparian owners on Cady Creek deserve the highest praise for granting easements and permission to the state to allow such a project to happen. If only 1/10 of all similar landowners had as much regard for our water resources as you've shown, then our streams would be much healthier. Thank you Galoff's, and local dedicated groups like the Elmwood Rod and Gun Club!

Sincerely,
Kiap-TU-Wish Board of Directors

Skip's Loose Threads...

Why not give Retro-Fishing a Try?

Retro-fishing? It's a term I've coined to suggest a return to the use of tackle and methods of the past, perhaps of a particular era of fly fishing for trout. I have a collection of angling books written over a span of perhaps three hundred years. Every line of every book suggests to me that earlier trout anglers, like me, got great satisfaction and enjoyment from their sport. Have trout changed? Evolution is a far slower process than the revolution in technology that has seized the fly fishing media, and I suspect that the trout of today would feel right at home with the trout of Isaac Walton's time, or Frederick Halford's time, or Vincent Marinaro's time.

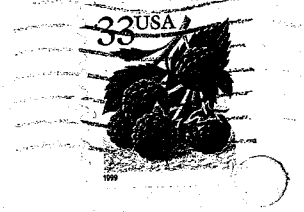
Would it be fun or frustrating to fish for trout using the methods of the nineteenth century? Those long, limber rods, light silk lines, gut leaders, snelled wet flies and downstream swing casts caught lots of trout, as evidenced by the photographs of anglers with clotheslines full of big fish. Do we dare fish our neighborhood spring creeks as Halford did, with only the dry fly presented to visible, feeding trout? To make a comparison with another pastime, professional baseball is the most statistic-encumbered sport of them all. How can we compare Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth with athletes of today? Only if the rules haven't been changed. Well, the rules of fly fishing, if applied to techniques, have changed a lot in the past hundred years.

Progress in lines has made it easier to cast accurately upstream or down, made it a snap to fish the surface or at any depth desired. Strike indicators let us know what's going on beneath the surface, and synthetic fly tying materials now repel water. Leader material is now stronger, slimmer and invisible. By adding a metal bead to a nymph, flies can be fished deeper than ever before. Clothing has progressed from the frock coat with enough pockets for leaders and flies, to the Lee Wulff-invented fly fishing vest, chest packs, breathable waders, and polarized sunglasses.

I've learned a great deal about trout fishing by using methods no longer in vogue, particularly about wetfly fishing with long rods and a downstream, cross-current cast. You know what? It works just as well on the Rush as it did a hundred years ago. I've taken my box of dry flies to the Kinni of a summer night, and vowed not to cast unless it's to a feeding fish. I caught plenty and had a great time. Try retro-fishing yourself. It will add a new dimension to your sport, bring you closer to feeling a kinship with the past, teach you new (old) techniques and prove to you that trout anglers back then had just as much fun as we do. You better go out and buy one of those ancient angling books!



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

Board News...

The board of directors has filled the vacancy left by the retiring of John O'Malley with John Koch. John will stand for membership approval at the Kiap-TU-Wish Annual Business Meeting in March to complete O'Malley's term. John has been active in revitalizing the work project portion of our chapter's efforts. Specifically, he's been working on a major Eau Galle River restoration project, which will become more concrete in the next few months. Stay tuned for exciting opportunities to get your feet wet in the Eau Galle!

KRLT has a new website...

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust has a beautiful new website at www.lambcom/krlt. A labor of love for environmentalist Paul Sollie of Minneapolis, the site contains beautiful photos and graphics of wildlife, all the prior issues of the KinniKeeper newsletter, mission statements and explanatory prose about land trusts, easements, activities, opportunities, membership benefits and organization. The site is dedicated to the memory of Sollie, who died in December, 1999. Andy Lamberson of Kiap-TU-Wish donates his time as webmaster.

