

## Kent Johnson and Andy Lamberson to provide update on KK monitoring, River Falls issues at February meet- ing

*By Jonathan Jacobs*

**K**ent Johnson and Andy Lamberson have been involved with the chapter's Kinnickinnic River monitoring project from its inception. Both have poured an astonishing amount of effort and expertise into its planning, funding and ongoing data collection and analysis.

Last October Mr. Johnson made a presentation at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, a gathering of water quality professionals from both the Twin Cities metropolitan area and greater Minnesota held at the Earl Brown Center in Brooklyn Park, MN. The presentation focused on the Kinnickinnic River and examined the thermal impacts untreated stormwater and the thermal aspects of the two power plant impoundments within the city of River Falls with the year 2001 used as a benchmark year. Mr. Johnson will provide an update and a summary of this cutting edge work at the February meeting.

Mr. Lamberson is a stormwater management specialist with the highly regarded engineering firm of Short, Elliot, Hendrickson (SEH). One of his projects involves working with the city of River Falls to develop a means of gauging the effectiveness of the city's stormwater management ordinance and a method of making the data available to the public on an ongoing basis. The project measures water quality parameters (water temperature, nutrient load, suspended solids) immediately downstream of the Sterling Ponds, a development undertaken after the city passed its ordinance and compares that with data collected within the previously developed area of River Falls. Stormwater from the Sterling Ponds area makes its way to the Kinnickinnic River via Sumner Creek, a dry run tributary that enters the main stem of the river just north of the city. Mr. Lamberson's presentation will complement Mr. Johnson's.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2 at 7 PM at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Hudson. Dinner will be available in the meeting room at 6 PM. Please show your support for these two long-time members and the important work they are doing by joining us for dinner and the meeting.

## Contem-places:

### My big river

By James R. Humphrey

The black midges rise to the surface of the Rio Grande on every winter day when the sun is high. In metronomic sequence they wiggle up from the cobbles of a deep run, visible all the way, and they are seized by industrious trout. If an angler is skillful with his Griffith's Gnat, Black Ant or Dumb Bunny he may strike a brown or rainbow. A brace of fat and sassy rainbows broiled on a Christmas Day lingers in the memory.

The Rio Grande is open year around in New Mexico and easily accessible along seven miles of state park south of Taos on the highway to Santa Fe. October-spawning browns are numerous around Dunn's Bridge north of Taos, where one may spy a nymph strolling to one of the natural hot tubs. Try to keep your mind on your duty.

During the winter months anglers may alternate between the clear waters of the river and the ski slopes above Taos at 12,000 feet. Casual visitors can roam the art galleries in town or make a pilgrimage to the five-story pueblo, continuously lived in for 800 years. The all-conquering Spaniards marched up the Rio Grande in 1610 and stayed to form a mixed community. Kit Carson and the Anglos came later, many by cutoff from the Oregon Trail. The wagon ruts are still visible between Raton and Santa Fe.

After dark when the mountains loom and the shadows hide mysterious and monstrous shapes, the giant browns wallow and thump on the surface. What beasts are they feeding on? I never stayed to find out.

N.B. In 1977 a youngster caught a six pound brown in one of the tiny acequias (aqueducts) that water the garden patches of Taos.

*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.*

### Kinnickinnic work day scheduled

By Greg Diell

For those of you with a burning desire to get out and do some winter stream work we've got the solution. The WDNR needs help burning brush piles on the Kinnickinnic. These are very large piles and burning needs 6 inches of snow and very light winds to prevent the fire from spreading. With that in mind we have scheduled **Saturday, Feb 5 at 9 AM** with Feb 12 as the backup date if conditions don't allow work on the 5th. Directions: STH 65 out of River

Falls to County J, take J east 1.4 miles to DNR parking lot next to power station. By foot, travel north then west 1 mile off the hill to the river bottom. The brush piles will be obvious. We need 10-12 people, so if you make it or if you have questions, let me know. Phone me at 651-714-1525 or e-mail me at mccaiglee@hotmail.com.

### W. Wisconsin Habitat Projects Planning Committee meeting updates

The Ojibseau chapter of Trout Unlimited this week approved a contribution of up to \$5,000 to the 2005 Eau Galle project. TCTU's leadership is considering a contribution and will let us know when they make a decision.

For those of you who picked up Gilbert Creek hats at the meeting and haven't yet paid for them, please remember the price is \$12.00 (of course, you are free to send more) and it's a fund-raiser for the 2005 Gilbert Creek project, and shoot a check made out to Trout Unlimited to Duke Welter at P.O. Box 228, Eau Claire, WI 54702.

Plans are coming along for a clean-up day on the Rush River this spring; we'll let you know when the date is set.

TU and other representatives will be attending the Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club meeting January 25 to talk about the Rush River Anglers Path initiative.

### Wild Bill

By Hap Lutter

The period around Christmas and New Year is thought of as the season of giving. We are now entering the season of enforced giving. You probably all know what I mean. Via mail, you will soon receive "season's greetings" from Uncle Sam in the form of IRS papers. This of course does not engender the "joy of giving" that we're supposed to feel in the holiday season, but it does remind us that there are ways of giving which make supporting our uncle in Washington D.C. less onerous. My father-in-law, William Mahle (affectionately known by his children as "Wild Bill"), long ago made the observation that you have several ways to "give" money. He realized that your giving can be directed to tax deductible areas that provide you pleasure or it can be sent to Uncle Sam to purchase another bolt for a B-1 bomber. The latter certainly gives you little pleasure and has little impact in the overall scheme of things. He realized that if you decide to get pleasure from your money, find recipients who are truly appreciative, in whom you make a difference and where you can see results that af-

fect you. He has set a standard for my wife Judy and me in the direction and type of our giving. His bottom-line in contributions has been that you should have fun giving your money away and that you should get the most bang for your buck (This may be one reason for the "Wild Bill" moniker). One program (although not a tax-deductible one) he devised years ago was to make a deal with each of his nine grandchildren: When they went to college they would receive a small check per month spending money if he was provided a letter - not a postcard - discussing what was going on in their lives. Although it smacks slightly of bribery, it was actually a wonderful contribution to his and his grandchildren lives that allowed him to keep in touch and to get real-time feed back. He has found many other creative ways to enrich the lives of people and small organizations by providing critical donations. He receives double pleasure because he realizes that the contributions change lives and are not going to the coffers of an ungrateful government.

I like the idea of thinking nationally but giving locally. Like "Wild Man", "locally" to me means smaller organizations where I know working members and for whom I know a contribution will be well appreciated and effective. Giving to the large groups, such as cancer or heart research organizations or National Trout Unlimited, is important, but I reserve my major contributions to smaller, needier groups. Last year we contributed a moderate gift to a struggling school that assists children who have various learning difficulties. Within a day of their receipt of the check the fund director of the school called us, effusive about the gift and promising to keep us informed as to how the money would help their program. This is exactly the type of target we're attempting to hit.

The \$35 you send every year to Trout Unlimited for membership is an important contribution. Some of you may contribute more. The national organization does wonderful work in your name for cold water fisheries, but almost none of that money comes back to your local chapter!! The list of projects you can affect locally on the rivers that you enjoy is long. The monies available for these are scarce and well rationed.

We will be sending a letter next month asking you to consider a contribution to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter equal to your national dues. This will directly affect the rivers you fish and enjoy! You will see the results locally and their effects will be national. Try to become a "wild person" with a targeted monetary gift and your life will be much for happier. I guarantee it.

*Hap Lutter is a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's Board of Directors.*

## We mean business

*By Jonathan Jacobs*

In accordance with the chapter's by-laws, notice of the organization's annual business meeting is hereby rendered. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Hudson at 7 PM. Officers will render reports on chapter activities and finances. The membership will elect directors to fill vacancies on the chapter's board and will conduct such other business as may come before it. A slate of candidates for the board positions will be published in the March issue of RipRap.

## Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo set for April 1 -3

*By Jonathan Jacobs*

Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine's second annual Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for April 1 through April 3 at the Sheraton Minneapolis South, 7800 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN. The event will feature presentations by fly fishing luminaries Dave and Emily Whitlock, Annette McLean, Mike Lawson, Kelly Galloup and Tim Holschlag. Environmental stewardship is again a major theme of the event. This year the focus will be on the Midwest's Driftless Region. A special half-day presentation on the TUDARE project will open the Expo. For more information, visit [www.greatwaters2005.com](http://www.greatwaters2005.com) on the web.

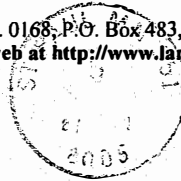
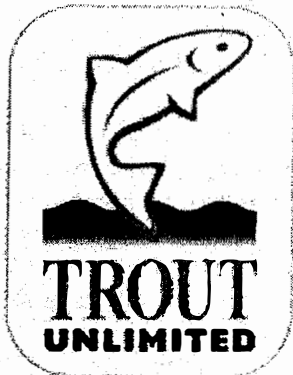
## One volunteer needed

*By Michael Alwin*

For the last decade or so Kiap-TU-Wish has hosted a trout-fishing clinic on the Kinnickinnic in River Falls. We always have in excess of twenty students and about a dozen Chapter volunteers and everyone always tells us they had a great time. Volunteers typically spend from four to eight hours with the students, but that doesn't include the prep work, most of which starts about sixty days prior to the clinic. There are announcements and solicitations to be made, tackle to be prepped, leaders to be tied, flies to be packaged, instructional material to be prepared, instructional duties to be assigned and food donations to be secured.

As of this writing I have not yet made the decision to host another clinic. Most of the preparations are kind of fun, even though they take some time. What's holding me up is finding someone to solicit food donations in River Falls. It would be ideal if one of our members in River Falls would assume this responsibility. There are only about four or five calls to make and perhaps one pick-up prior to the clinic. If someone would volunteer for this one job it would make the rest of the process far less stressful and I could virtually guarantee that the clinic would be held this spring.

We need one volunteer in River Falls to ensure that our trout fishing clinic is on-going, so that we can continue to inform the citizens about the fine natural resource in their back yards. Are you that person? To find out, call me here at The Shop: 651/770-5854.



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**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

FEBRUARY 2: Kent Johnson and Andy Lamberson on Kinnickinnic monitoring  
MARCH 2: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
APRIL 6: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS  
MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH RIPRAP: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18.**

**CHAPTER COMMITTEES, ONGOING PROJECTS AND CONTACTS:**

Kinnickinnic Monitoring: Kent Johnson, Project Leader  
Willow River Monitoring: Chuck Goossen, Project Leader  
Fundraising Committee: Corey Mairs, Chair.  
Publications: Jonathan Jacobs, Editor.  
Program Committee: **VACANT**  
Education Committee: Michael Alwin, Chair  
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