



# RIP-RAP

*Restoration, Improvement and Preservation  
Through Research and Projects*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

January, 1992

Editor: Craig Mason

Layout: Andy Lamberson

## FISHWORKS EXPLAINED

For the past several years Kiap-TU-Wish has been involved in a series of stream improvement projects in the headwaters of the Kinnickinnic and Willow rivers. We are now in the process of gearing up for Fishworks '92, another project on a narrow, twisted section of the Kinni near the headwaters. Some of you might be wondering why we spend so much time on these smaller waters and why we don't tackle a big, invasive project and maybe garner a little publicity for ourselves.

Our projects try to follow what I refer to as the Wisconsin model...labor intensive bankside projects. There are basically two things you can do with a stream: You can institute dramatic changes via in-stream habitat structures or you can tweak the riparian habitat and allow the stream to heal itself. Big projects still make sense in areas that have been extensively damaged by logging or unrestricted grazing (Kiap-TU-Wish is investigating just such a project), but fisheries biologists now believe that many streams would be better off with just a little help in the healing process. Their measurements of success are increases in trout populations and diversity of biomass. By these standards, streams have shown remarkable improvement simply by keeping cattle off the banks.

We try to accomplish two specific goals in every Fishworks project. First, we want to stabilize the banks to prevent erosion. Second, we want to reduce sedimentation in the project area. To accomplish the goals our strategy relies on three techniques:

1. Removal of streamside brush to encourage the growth of natural grasses.
2. Removal of dead and undesirable tree species if their presence poses a threat.
3. Removal of in-stream debris if it impedes the stream flow.



## FISHWORKS CONT.

The benefits of these meager efforts are immediate and measurable. With the brush and trees no longer shading the banks, bankside grasses, which do a better job of holding soil, are encouraged. With more sunlight reaching the stream bottom, aquatic weeds and grasses take hold, offering food and habitat for invertebrates and shelter for fish. With in-stream impediments removed, the current quickens, dislodging sediment and exposing the gravel bottom and offering further accommodation for the invertebrates. And with the dead or weakened trees removed, the threat of future deadfalls littering the stream is reduced. Finally, the reason we're working in the headwaters is that we want to cleanse the river from the top down. As these upper reaches begin to heal you'll find us working farther down stream.

Mike Alwin

## **JANUARY MEETING NOTICE**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY JAN. 8, 1992**

**TIME: DINNER AT 6:30 MEETING AT 8:00**

**WHERE: HUDSON HOUSE**

This month's presenter will be Kiap-TU-Wish's own Tom Anderson with his popular "Flyfishing for Panfish" presentation. Tom's presentation has earned rave reviews and is guaranteed to help you through the hot summer (as hard as it is to imagine now!).

Don't forget that dinner starts at 6:30 with a specially priced menu for those of us on our after Xmas budgets! So come and swap stories and find out if anyone has ventured into the cold for some early season fishing!

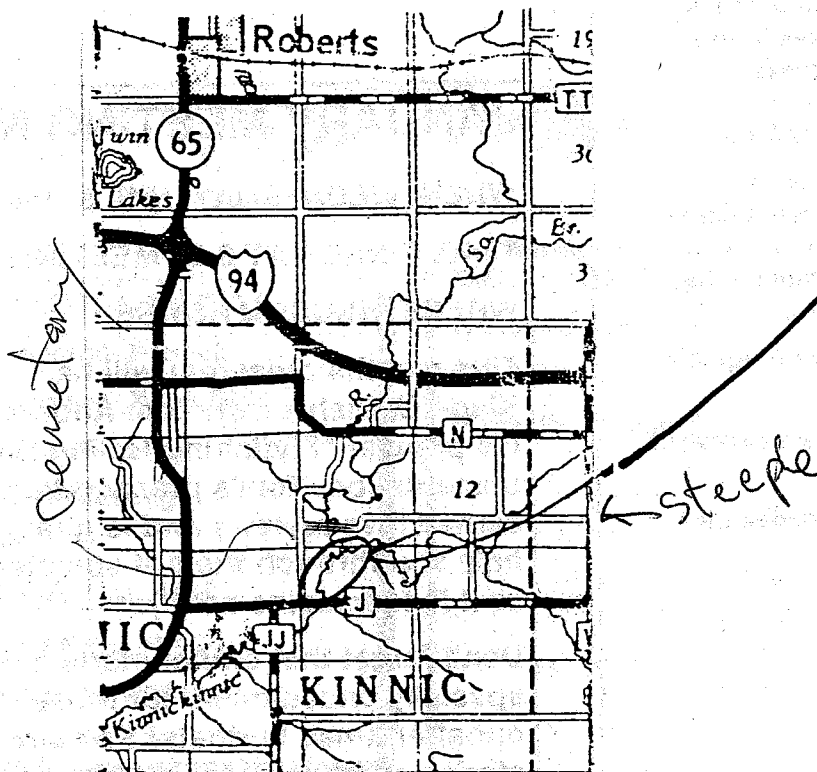
## FISHWORKS '92 READY TO ROLL

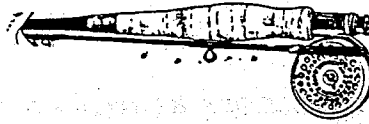


Plans for **Fishworks '92**, the annual Kiap-TU-Wish winter project, have now been finalized. Designed by **Marty Engel**, Wi. DNR Area Fish Manager, the project will improve a section of the fabled Kinnickinnic River upstream from the "Poor Farm". Marty's crews re-fenced hundreds of yards of stream bank during the summer and now the area must be brushed to allow streamside grasses to stabilize the banks. The project will start on **January 18th** and will continue on **February 1st, 15th, and 29th**, and on **March 14th and 28th**.

Workers should wear warm clothes and bring waders or hip boots, a bow saw or chainsaw, a rope or come-along, lunch and a hot beverage. Project hours are from **9AM to 3PM**. Everyone is welcome! If you would like to get your name on the Fishworkers list, call Gary Horvath in Wisconsin at (715) 425-8489 or Mike Alwin in Minnesota at (612) 439-8159.

**Directions:** Take I-94 to Wi 65 (Roberts exit). Go south apprx. 1 mile to Co. road N. Turn left on N and continue apprx. 2 miles to Cemetary road. Turn right on Cemetary and continue apprx. 1 mile to Steeple road. Turn left on Steeple and drive to bridge over the Kinni. **See you there!**





## HOG HOLE

The Chief has a big heart and a playful soul, so when this new guy Drag came around, he decided to help him out and have some fun. The thing was, this guy had suffered the moral decay of fishing trout for years with a spinning rod, and came now for penance with a brand new fly rod and an attitude that said, "Hell, it can't be that hard."

Chief had started a lot of fly fishers, mostly because he'd had the opportunity to fish all around the country and enjoyed sharing it, and also because he was convinced every person added to the ranks of those protecting and developing the resource was one less defiling it. He was willing to recruit them one at a time, too, if that's what it took, because it will take some tough anglers to preserve cold water fishing into the twentieth century. Besides, it was fun seeing a guy catch his first trout on a fly rod. Still, Chief was going to make damned sure it was hard, because even though Drag seemed committed to catch and release, you just can't go soft on these Mepps guys.

So there was that afternoon in April, when the caddis hatch was so thick you couldn't breathe without inhaling one. The Chief had Drag so excited that he missed two line guides stringing up and had to start over. Even the terminal knot to the little Elk Hair had taken fifteen minutes, and by the time they hit that pretty little stretch those trembling hands threw more wind knots and tangles than a five year old. Chief caught a few and Drag got blanked, and hooked, on that funny magic that happens early on a trout stream. And Chief discovered that Drag was hopelessly addicted to "stuff."

Drag was struggling uphill to the moral high ground of fly fishing catch and release. Last fall his spin fishing partners had insisted he poach a fish rather than release it, and he'd made an extra solo trip just to cleanse his soul and release some. It worked, too, because all winter he studied fly fishing, and resumed acquiring new stuff with the zeal of a convert. Orvis, and L.L. Bean, and The Fly Shop, and Mitchell's were all delivered, studied, browsed, and shopped. Guys need Stuff. Just handling it can transport them to a trout stream or hunting camp so quickly it must be spiritual. And there's that Ego thing when they buy some good stuff from another Guy. They may not communicate very well, but there is something pretty strong and non-verbal going on there. Drag always says his stuff supported his self esteem through that unemployment time, and if something can make you feel good then, it must be important stuff. Women don't understand stuff any more than they understand releasing fish, which they see as going shopping without buying. But Drag's wife introduced him to the Chief at a company party during all this subconscious confusion, and when the big guy

drifted a dry fly across two currents of conversation right next to a croissant stuffed with shrimp, Drag took the fly like a nine incher takes a #16, and never looked back. Chief enjoyed being the Guru and Drag finally had a friend who appreciated good stuff.

There was that sweaty night Drag met the Chief on his favorite beat and they shared the water a while, then moved up to the next run where some fish were rising. It was there that it all came together for Drag; see the fish, find the current, time the cast, hook the fish. Just like he'd read about so many times, the mystery revealed! Chief may have been more excited than Drag, having initiated another novice. For his part, Drag thought it was kind of puny. It seems the ghost of Herman, the 20" brown on his wall caught 16 years ago on ultra-lite spinning gear, was going to be the scale against which this fly fishing would be measured. When the Chief heard that story, the plan started taking shape.

The Friday Nite Fish began to include Scout and the Wit as Drag was introduced to more and more of the local water. The nickname came from the three fishermen "dragging" the novice all over the county to not catch fish. They were more social than some of the solitary "I don't fish with just anyone" types. Drag thought they might be the dawning of intelligent life East of the St.Croix. And the mysterious "Hog Hole" was mentioned more than once. Hog Hole. Drag began to believe these guys probably knew of such a place, where you just walk up, throw in a fly, and hook into the fish of a lifetime. Chief said that they liked to "rest" it a couple of weeks in between outings, and that made sense. He was even invited one time, only to be cancelled at the last minute because of a birthday party Chief couldn't get out of, and Drag wound up at the Gate, trying his damndest to float drag free through all those currents and rising fish, and catching a bat on his backcast for the trouble. All the while, that Hog Hole lerked in the back of his mind, and those "hogs" kept getting bigger!

Then, on one of those hot August days when nothing seems to move, Chief decided it was time and invited Drag over to fish the Hog. His instructions were to bring the big gear, and maybe a canteen and blindfold for the ride out in the trunk! It seems Scout, who practically lives on the river, discovered this spot late one evening, catching a nice trout and then breaking off a really big fish after dark. On subsequent outings, he got into similar heavy fish, landed a few, and eventually showed it to Chief, who was more than a little impressed and filed it away for future reference.

After meeting up with Chief and loading his gear in the back, Drag was pleased with the mood of acceptance he felt as they headed out. Chief didn't insist on a blindfold, and he seemed real open about discussing the secret spot. Only he and Scout, who would join them there, knew about this place, and since Drag had the

potential of landing a really big fish, Chief had brought his video camera to record the action. Drag knew he had produced some fishing videos before, and was honored to be part of the filming of a secret hole. He felt he was finally getting some respect from these guys, and he accepted the fact that the hole was right in town, and not only that, it was right by the water treatment outlet. Chief assured him the discharge was drinking quality and even colder than the river, and surmised the reason it was virtually unknown to other trout fishermen was because it was right under their noses. Best place to hide something, after all. That made sense to Drag.

They arrived before Scout, and that seemed to fret the Chief a little. It was a pretty enough place, notwithstanding the pervasive scent of sewage treatment, and the cold water felt good on such a hot evening. The water ran down a rocky little spillway across the river, and that noisy riffle made it easy to believe big trout were lined up just below to eat the well fed nymphs produced in the water. The choice of a Purple Leach seemed odd, but Drag basically didn't have a clue in that area, so he tied on and waded out to begin casting. Scout showed up about then, and strung up as Chief started his filming. Wading out as deep as he could, Scout indicated where the fish lay, and in fact were rising, near the other bank.

It was hard to believe how polite he was in offering the best spot to Drag, who was so intent on casting that far he wouldn't have noticed a 747 landing. In fact, Scout quit casting all together and pulled out a beer as he continued to give encouragement to Drag. And then, just as he hauled back for another monster cast, the fly caught. Something solid, something heavy, something...moving now, first up a little, then down. Scout suggesting he get the line up on the reel, Chief talking a mile a minute. Lord, it must be an enormous Trout! Now a long run, staying down, strange.

"Big fish, Bud! Is that the biggest trout you've ever had on, Bud?"

Gaining some line now, coming up a little.

"Give him the butt! You've got him now!"

No, another run, rolling over, down again.

"Lean on him, Drag. Keep your hands up!"

Wait, what's that unusual mouth?

"Chief, this one's got lips."

"Big fish, Bud. Good Fish."

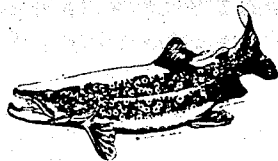
"Shall I use your net, Drag?"

"Ya, net that scum sucker, Scout. You clowns have got me into an 8# Carp!"

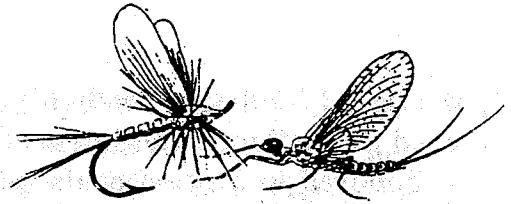
"Hold 'em up there, Scout, I need a few more feet of this Golden Salmon!"

And so it was that the Chief got his Golden Salmon Sucker on the Hog Hole.

D.F. Flote



## JON'S BOOK REVIEWS



We're down to the time of year when, if you can't escape to the Tropics or Antipodes, the best fishing is, as Arnold Gingrich said, in print. I'd like to tell you about a few books that I've enjoyed reading. Some of them can be found readily as new books, some are available at modest cost in the used market and some of them are as difficult to find as native, wild brook trout. There are means to find the rare one's though. Ask your friends for a peek at their bookshelves or visit your local library, which may have a surprisingly extensive angling library. I suggest the following:

I like anthologies. They serve as samplers and they suit my short attention span. **The One That Got Away**, edited by M. Green and C. Waugh and published by Bonanza Books, features work by authors known primarily for their angling related stories, such as Nick Lyons and R.L. Haig-Brown and stories from the pens of more "literary" figures like Guy de Maupassant and Steven Vincent Benet. It even has a science-fiction fishing tale! **The Flyfisher's Reader**, edited by L. M. Wright, Jr. and published by Fireside Books is a good one. It features stories by novelist Tom McGuane, New Yorker Magazine correspondent Bill Barich, Robert Traver, Ed Hewitt, Theodore Gordon, artist Russell Chatham, William Humphrey, and perhaps best of all, John Tainter Foote. Foote contributes "Fatal Gesture", which details the continuing misadventures of George Baldwin Potter, the protagonist of Foote's classic, "A Wedding Gift".

I much admire the work of John Geirach and W.D. Wetherall, two writers from the most recent generation of angling authors. Geirach's latest, published by Lyons & Buford, is **Where the Trout Are All As Long As Your Leg**. It's a slender volume, really more of an extended essay, and if you value books on a page per dollar basis, it may not be for you. But if you favor fine, incisive writing with a sometimes philosophical twist, don't miss this one. The author's central theme is that we have a need for secret places and that they are becoming increasingly more difficult to find and preserve in our polluted and over-crowded world. Wetherall's **Vermont River** was chosen by Robert Berls in a Trout Magazine article a couple of years ago as one of the best angling books of the last thirty years, a choice with which I'll not quibble. **Upland Stream**, his latest, is even better! In a series of essays he chronicles a fishing year. In between the calendar date essays are others, such as one that celebrates the Connecticut River, and another, a travelog to the West Highlands of Scotland. They are all thoughtful and beautifully written. In one he asks this question: "For if beauty dies in mass, how can it be expected to live in the particular?" He's referring to our culture's penchant for the loud and grotesque in architecture and city planning and to the terrible hyperbole of advertising lingo. Not your typical Me and Joe story is it?

Incidentally, these are handsomely produced books that pay attention to the bookmaker's art. Geirach's book features gyotoku fish prints by the author and the dust jacket on Wetherall's book is evocative of a fine woodcut.

I do occasionally read books of instruction and technique. I like **Hatches** by Al Caucci and Bob Natassi. It's the most useful, to me, of the books that attempt to codify and explain the distribution, lifestyles, and patterns of emergence of mayflies. It also provides detailed instructions for the construction of the incomparable Comparadun dry fly. **How to Tie Freshwater Flies** by Kenneth Bay is one of the best flytying instruction books I've seen, particularly if one is going it alone without lessons. In clearly written text and excellent photographs, Bay illustrates the construction of various types of flies, his theory being that the techniques shown will enable the reader to tie many patterns based on these different types. **What the Trout Said** by Datus Proper seems to be a book that never really received it's due. This is a book mostly about the design of dry flies and the materials that go into their construction. Proper has had an interesting career as a foreign service officer, one that allowed him to fish in such exotic locations as Ireland and Portugal, and he writes well of his experiences.

I had a great time reading a British book, **Fly-Dressing Materials**, written by John Veniard and at one time published in this country by Winchester Press. Veniard's family has been in the feather business since 1923 and he seems to know something about every kind of plumage in the world. Eventually his family chose to concentrate on fly-dressing material and his knowledge is encyclopedic, indeed. You can learn to build a chicken house in this book, for example, and he provides this priceless advice on skinning a chicken: "...run the blade up through the skin to the base of the head, or to where the bird's chin would be if it had one." There is an interesting history of the chicken as a domestic animal and how it has been bred to produce quality hackle, there are excellent color photos of materials and detailed discussions on their uses, instructions on organizing your tying area, and advice on dyeing materials.

Finally, I'd like to tell you about an entirely different, but very important book, **Selling The Dream** by Guy Kawasaki. This book has nothing to do with angling, but it has a great deal to say to people who are interested in causes pursued by organizations like T.U. The author tells you to find a cause, be it commercial, religious, or conservation, and to evangelize it with such zeal that others are bound to take it up with you in an attempt to change the world for the better. It's partly an inspirational book, but mostly it's a practical guide to building an organization that is efficient and purposeful. In case you think I've gone off the deep end on this one, I'd like to point out that the Audubon Society and the NRA are two groups that Kawasaki admires. Also, the book is written with a strong sense of high good humor. Give it a try... it can't hurt to expand your horizons.

Jon Jacobs



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

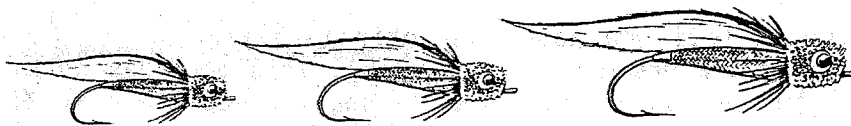
I would like to thank everyone involved for this years very successful Xmas Banquet. With a record 86 attendants the Chapter raised over \$1600 in the Silent Auction! Special thanks go to all those members who contributed raffle items to the auction. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Jean Mitchell's hard work in organizing the Xmas Banquet. Jean has been the organizer of this event for many years and works incredibly hard to pull it off.

As Mike points out in his front cover story on Fishworks '92, the benefits of our hard work on the streams is paying off in a better Kinni. Please plan on attending this years work sessions. There is a job for everyone, from cutting down old trees to tending the fires. We have a job that you can do, despite that bad back or trick knee!



### Kiap-TU-Wish

President: Andy Lamberson (715)386-7568      Vice President: Kent Johnson (715)386-5299  
Secretary: Don Ausemus (612)636-0625      Treasurer: Vern Alberts (612)451-1006  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
Kent Johnson (715)386-5299      Jon Jacobs (715)386-7822      Craig Mason (715)425-2282  
Gary Horvath (715)425-8489      Mike Alwin (612)439-8159



### 1992 MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan. 8- Tom Anderson- Panfish  
Feb. 5- Dan Simonson- Wisc. DNR  
Water Quality Issues  
March 4- Business Meeting  
April 8- Fly Tiers  
May 6- Marty Engel Wisc. DNR  
Dinner at 6:30 Meeting at 8:00  
All Meetings are at the Hudson  
House (Best Western)

### KIAP-TU-WISH

TROUT UNLIMITED

P.O. BOX 483

HUDSON, WI. 54016