

BANQUET A HUGE SUCCESS

By Jon Jacobs

Kiap-TU-Wish put another tremendous banquet in the books this past December 5. Approximately 80 people ate well, saw Jim Humphrey and Bill Shogren deliver a superb presentation on Midwestern trout streams and heard chapter president Andy Lamberson praise volunteers from the chapter's past, present and future. Additionally, the silent auction netted nearly \$2,500 to help fund chapter operations through the coming year.

The banquet organizing committee would like to express its profound gratitude to Messrs. Humphrey and Shogren, two of the world's great natural-born gentlemen. Thanks and grateful acknowledgment are also due all of those who contributed items to the silent auction, to all those who attended the banquet and to those who bid vigorously on auction items. Following is a list of auction donors:

Herb Lundberg
Paige Olson (Kinni Creek Outfitters)
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Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
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SPECIAL DONORS:

Virginia Adams
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Jay Johnson

Chapter Recognizes Past, Present and Future Leaders

By Jon Jacobs

Following is the text of chapter president Andy Lamberson's presentation at the holiday banquet. Mr. Lamberson offered recognition to people who have worked hard on behalf of the chapter over its thirty years of conservation effort.

(continued on page 2)

Past:

Ruby and Roger Fairbanks: Roger and Ruby - Or is it Ruby and Roger? - Are founding members of the chapter. Roger served on the very first Kiap-TU-Wish board of directors and Ruby served as secretary treasurer in its early years. Active environmentalists in a variety of causes, Roger and Ruby are also involved in the OWLS program at Willow River State Park.

Bob and Jean Mitchell: Bob and Jean Mitchell are also founding members and served the chapter for many, many years. Bob was on the founding board of directors and served as president of the chapter. Jean served as chapter president and did a great deal to reinvigorate interest in chapter meetings. Many considered Jean to be the heart and soul of the chapter at a time when volunteerism was not exactly in style! Jean passed away in 2000 in Belgrade, Montana, where Bob currently lives.

Tom Anderson: Tom is a charter member, officer and long time friend of the chapter. Tom served as president and stays active in the chapter in many ways. He's always available whenever we need a good speaker to bring in the crowds and loans the chapter equipment for our annual fly fishing clinic in River Falls.

Vern Alberts: Vern served as the Chapter Treasurer for over 11 years. Vern has been always active in stream improvement work over the years. In his retirement, Vern has become a talented wood carver and has donated several wry carvings to the silent auction.

Chuck Goossen: Chuck... "Mr. I've mixed the numbers up so".... Has been the model for all members dedicated to stream improvement projects. Chuck has probably attended more stream improvement projects than all of us in this room ... combined! By our records, Chuck has served as either a Board Member or Officer for over 15 of the Chapter's 30 years. Chuck has been in charge of the Willow River stocking program forever!

Mike Alwin: I kind of relate Mike to the late Senator Wellstone. You may not agree with him, but you gotta admire his dedication! Mike has served as chapter "gadfly" and "official pot stirrer" for nearly 15 years. Mike was the stream improvement Chairman for many years, and holds the record for the largest turnout at a stream improvement project. Mike continues serving the Chapter as Education Chair and Banquet Committee

Present:

Jon Jacobs: Jon Jacobs is our Chapter's most sesquipedalian member (and the only guy that DOESN'T have to look that word up!) He has served the chapter for sixteen years, as a board member, chapter vice president, and president and is now our sagacious newsletter editor.

Kent Johnson: Kent has been active in the chapter for over 15 years, serving as a board member for over a dozen years and champion for our Stream Temperature Monitoring Study. Kent has invested hundreds, if not thousands, of hours on this project, which has gained the attention of the nation's scientific community for its leading edge data and for recognition of a very serious threat to our trout streams. Kent has authored a variety of

scientific papers on the subject and has lectured at local colleges and universities and has won recognition for his work at the state TU level.

Gary Horvath: Gary Horvath has served the chapter for over 15 years as well, serving as board member, chapter vice president, president and secretary. Gary is also very active on the State Council, chapter stream improvement committee and has demonstrated remarkable skill in defining and researching critical issues.

Ted Mackmiller: Ted serves the dual role of old time member and active participant. Ted is the Damn Dam Chairman as is VERY active in dam removal issues. Ted is a tireless advocate for the Willow River and is the inventor of the soon to be famous "Ted Cup-o-Meter" used for measuring stream levels in the Willow. Ted served on the Board of Directors originally back in 1981 and on the current board for the last two years.

Future (the next generation):

Brent Sittlow: Brent serves both as a "current" member and is one of our members who represent the future of the chapter. Brent served on the board beginning in 1997, subsequently served as president and now serves as chapter treasurer. Brent is active in both the State Council of Trout Unlimited and the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. Brent also actively participates in our stream improvement projects.

Craig Aschenbrenner: Craig jumped into chapter service shortly after joining the chapter. Craig has been very active in our stream improvement projects, carrying the weight of any other 4 members....literally! You should see the guy work...he's a monster! Craig is also working hard on our Holiday Banquet as Chief Fund Raiser and is responsible for many of the beautiful items in our raffle.

John Koch: John is our unofficial famous author in training, frequently offering moving and stylishly written essays in the pages of RipRap. He has served on the board for several years and is the chapter's stream improvement chairman. John has done an outstanding job in working with the Wisconsin DNR to develop project priorities, in advocating for the Trout Crew and in organizing work sessions.

How about you??? While we are blessed with many active volunteers, I'd like to suggest that you can model your involvement after one of the members we have recognized here this evening, or you can serve the chapter in one of many other capacities, as do: (please stand when I call your name).

Dan Bruski: Newsletter and Dam removal advocate. Dan also attends many of the stream improvement workdays and occasionally drags along his wife, daughter and son to chapter functions.

Bob Bradham: Stream Improvement volunteer and long-time chapter member. Bob is also recognized for his outstanding record of chapter meeting attendance and volunteers for the annual River Falls fishing clinic.

Perry Palin: Perry has been the prime provider of the chapter door prize flies for many, many years. Perry's self-deprecating wit has been evident in both newsletter articles and in his recent presentation on constructing cedar rods.

Clarke Garry: Clarke is working on a critical project of documenting the insects of the Kinnickinnic that will be invaluable in monitoring the overall health of the river in years to come.

Marty Engel: The consummate DNR professional, Marty has done more for our area trout streams than anyone and has provided invaluable guidance and advice over the years to our chapter. Marty is without a doubt one of the best coldwater fisheries managers in the United States.

Jim Humphrey: Chapter Sage and invaluable Program Draw, Jim has been active in the Chapter... darn near forever! Jim has attended stream improvement sessions and has made charming and professional presentation at chapter meetings for many years. Jim has always been a "big draw" and a crowd pleaser! His frequent newsletter contributions offer the same sense of professionalism and intelligence one sees in his presentations.

Tony Stifter: After serving the chapter for many years as Stream Improvement Chair and in a stint as president until the lure of Minnesota proved too strong.

Mark Waschek: Mark was very active in the chapter serving on the Board, secretary and Vice President with a bright future until the lure of Minnesota and living closer to job and family lured him away, too. We still see Mark on a regular basis.

Steve Ballman and Bill Lovegren have been board members for many years and bring a keen intelligence and good decision-making skills to the board. Both gentlemen are frequent participants in our stream improvement projects.

January Meeting Rescheduled

By Jon Jacobs

Please note that the January meeting only has been rescheduled to the second Wednesday of the month (January 8). It's still at Bob Smith's Sports Club with dinner at 6 PM and a 7 PM meeting. Our guest speaker will be Rick McMonagle, Executive Director of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. Join us that evening and kick off the new year with a relaxing dinner, pleasant conversation and an informative program.

RF annexes property along river corridor, Kinnickinnic imperiled.

By Jon Jacobs

At a Tuesday, December 17 meeting, the River Falls city council overrode Mayor Eric Amundsen's previous veto of a city council action authorizing annexation of a 236 acre

parcel north of the city along Quarry Road for the purpose of allowing developer Hans Hagen to build a subdivision of at least 500 homes (some sources suggest it may be closer to 600). Plans to extend city sanitary and stormwater service are in place. Construction of the homes is slated to stretch over a ten year period and is scheduled to begin in late 2003 or the spring of 2004. There is considerable local opposition to the annexation and to the development and the threat of court challenges to both does exist. However, in quotes in area newspapers, Mr. Hagen has expressed confidence that the plan will overcome any legal challenges.

Kiap-TU-Wish has followed this matter closely for some time. At one point the chapter, while not in favor of development, felt that it was inevitable and that annexation to the city would provide some protection to the river. Also, the Hagen development, as originally planned, seemed to be environmentally friendly. However, the chapter's final position in a paper that was to be presented to the city council said, in part:

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited believes that the "Kinni Vision" should consist of four key elements:

- Protecting the groundwater supplies that sustain the river and provide a water source for all watershed residents
- Protecting the natural flow regime, water quality and aquatic residents of the river
- Protecting within a river corridor, the natural habitat and scenic beauty of the riverway
- Providing an opportunity for the public (residents and visitors) to enjoy the river

Growth is a permanent process that irreversibly changes the landscape and can create irreversible impacts on our natural resources, unless that growth is carefully crafted in a manner that best protects these resources. We believe that any City or township plans for growth, especially along the important river corridor, should not be implemented until all the elements of "Kinni Vision" are addressed in a sustainable fashion.

It is our chapter's position that the City of River Falls plan for annexation, as reflected in the current development proposal by Hans Hagen, does not adequately support a "Kinni Vision." The Hans Hagen site plan has changes significantly during the past year, and has become much less river-friendly.

This is an absolutely crucial issue, the importance of which cannot be overstated. Look for further reports in upcoming issues of RipRap and for additional discussions of the matter at chapter meetings.



How's your vision?

Editorial by Jon Jacobs

The chapter's board of directors has crafted a statement regarding a "Kinni Vision" (see article on page 3), as they call it, that lays out a series of requirements for protection of the Kinnickinnic as it faces the pressures of development. That's one kind of vision. Now I'd like you to close your eyes and visualize in your mind what the Kinnickinnic River Valley is going to look like in ten years if the Hagen development and others of its ilk go forward. Think about six hundred homes perched on less than a half-section of land. Now think about how many half-sections in the river's corridor might become available for sale at a sufficiently high price. Now multiply that figure by six hundred. How ugly is your vision? The Hagen development is, to roll out a couple of discordant clichés, the tip of the iceberg or the camel's nose under the tent. If you value the beauty, the recreational value and the trout fishery of the Kinnickinnic, be prepared to go to battle on its behalf or the nightmarish vision you just created in your mind will become a relentlessly brutal reality.

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MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

JANUARY 8: NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND WEDNESDAY! WE DIDN'T WISH TO COMPETE AGAINST YOUR FAVORITE BOWL GAME. PROGRAM: FEEDING WILD BIRDS

FEBRUARY 5: TBA

MARCH 5: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 2: DRY FLY DICK MEMORIAL FLY TIERS

MAY 7: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY RIPRAP: FRIDAY, JANUARY 24.