

## January meeting features Duke Welter on the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort

By Jonathan Jacobs

The amazingly energetic Duke Welter is a good friend of Kiap-TU-Wish and many of its members. An Ojibbeau TU member, TU National vice president, stream improvement worker, avid angler and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources board member who somehow fits a law practice into his schedule, he is spearheading an ambitious effort to coordinate a regional project to further recognize and restore the abundant and high quality coldwater resource of the Driftless Area. The Executive Summary of TU-DARE, excerpts from which appear below, puts forth the reasoning behind the effort:

Bypassed by the glaciers, the scenic hills, forests and valleys of the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, is underlain by alternating layers of sandstone and limestone. Abundant cold springs emerge from this ancient bedrock forming in excess of 600 streams that interlace the landscape with more than 3,000 miles of tributaries that ultimately flow into the Mississippi River. Though still bearing some scars from past damaging land use, the 13,000 square mile region has abundant free-flowing cold water. In many places those streams support healthy populations of native brook trout and wild brown trout. Unlike many areas of this country where prime coldwater fisheries are threatened by rapidly diminishing water availability, urban growth, acid rain or mining runoff, the Driftless Area has a potentially bright future. The Driftless Area is already regionally important, and with additional concerted conservation attention could become a nationally significant coldwater resource.

Trout Unlimited seeks to bring together the significant expertise and resources of the dedicated streams of the land with those who are economically and recreationally committed to the region. Our goal is to catalyze a higher level of strategic restoration activity in the region to benefit coldwater watershed resources and protect the Driftless Area for those who will enjoy it in coming generations.

Mr. Welter is pouring a tremendous amount of personal effort into this bold initiative. Please offer him your support by coming to learn more about it **on Wednesday, January 5 at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hudson.** Dinner will be available from 6 PM and the meeting will begin at 7 PM

# RIPRAP

## Contem-places:

### The dog that barked in the day

By James R. Humphrey

Many years ago, Dick Frantes, the Acerbic Angler, and I would make an early season pilgrimage to the upper reaches of the Big Green to fish the pastures down the hill from the Fennimore Hills Motel. We would also fish Castle Rock at County Q, and end the expedition at the DNR lot on the Blue River. Most times at the Blue a black Lab would high-tail from the farm on the hill to share our sandwiches. He was a friendly chap, and we began to listen for his woof when he let us know he was on his way.

Years later, the lady on the hill wrote that our beggar pal had died, and did I have a picture of him? I sent her a picture of Dick fishing at the bridge, with the Lab on point at Dick's side.

More years later with a different cast of characters and a sausage in my hand, I heard a strangely indefinable and distant bark. I assumed that the farm had acquired a new dog and that he was on his way, but no dog appeared. And so our conversation continued until I turned suddenly (Yes, suddenly) to face the manifestation of a black cat's eyes fixed on the sausage. I asked, but no one had seen the cat arrive. Transmogrification? You tell me. The cat wisely said nothing.

*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.*

### Banquet a success

By Jonathan Jacobs

Ninety or so folks gathered at Tartan Park on December 2 for an evening of fellowship, food and fundraising and, most especially, to hear a charming presentation by Steve Kinsella. Mr. Kinsella spoke about the Black Hills, the natural and human history of the area and, of course, about the excellent angling opportunities available there.

Chapter president Gary Horvath presented Chuck Goossen with the chapter's Trout Conservationist of the Year award to standing applause from the audience.

Martha Roth held the winning ticket for the door prize, an original painting of a brown trout by Hudson artist Farrah Lemmon.

The chapter's drift boat, a recently completed craft destined to be auctioned or raffled in a fund raising effort, was on display under on the clubhouse portico. It sat on a trailer donated by Ted Mackmiller and reworked by the craftsmen at **Randy Iten Chevrolet** in Hudson. The crew that worked on the boat, most of whom were in attendance that night, appreciated the many positive comments the boat elicited.

The evening was a sterling success in the fundraising area, with net income from all sources of revenue combined exceeding four thousand dollars.

The board, officers and banquet committee wish to thank the following donors (Business donors names appear in bold type) for their generous support of this event:

Virginia Adams	Vern Alberts
Kyle Amundson	Dave Ballman
<b>Bentley's Outfitters</b>	<b>The Bird House Too, Inc.</b>
Jennifer Bruski	Joan Bruski
Steve Carlton	Loren Carver
<b>The Cellars: Wines &amp; Spirits</b>	<b>Chef's Gallery</b>
Mike Colling	<b>Cottage Chic Boutique</b>
Greg Diel	<b>From the Heart Gifts</b>
	<b>and Home Furnishings</b>
Dave Gilbraith	Charles Goossen
<b>H &amp; F Home Furnishings</b>	Elizabeth Hill
Jim Humphrey	Jonathan Jacobs
Jay Johnson	<b>Just For Me Spa</b>
<b>Keep in Touch Spa/Massage</b>	<b>Kulak Art Company</b>
Andy Lamberson	Laughing Trout
<b>Farrah Lemmon</b>	Cork Lundberg
Corey Mairs	Craig Mason
<b>Metz</b>	Perry Palin
<b>Rio</b>	Denise Robbe
<b>Sage</b>	Sarah Sanford
<b>Simms</b>	Michelle Sittlow
Jack Storer	<b>Sutler's Wines &amp; Spirits</b>
Bob Trevis	<b>Trout Lilly Studio</b>
Paul Wiemerslage	

### K-TU comments on River Falls plan

Chapter secretary-treasurer Brent Sittlow presented this position paper to the River Falls City Council on December 14.

Mayor, Council Members and Citizens,

Thank you for allowing our chapter, to comment on the River Falls Comprehensive Plan at this Public Hearing. Comprehensive Plans for municipalities, like the City of River Falls, are required by law in the state of Wisconsin. But more important than just meeting the "smart growth law" requirement "on paper", our Comprehensive Plans should be the guiding documents and visions for the

future of all municipalities. This is particularly true for municipalities feeling the weight of development pressures like River Falls. In the introduction of chapter 1, the city's draft document claims:

*"This Plan represents the goals and desires of the community as a whole and should be recognized as the City's foremost public statement about the future of the City of River Falls."*

After reading and studying this plan, specifically the Chapter's titled Infrastructure (Chapter 7) and Natural Resources (chapter 8); all of the key environmental buzzwords and general concepts are covered. We are encouraged that the City Staff and elected officials have invested more time and energy into our concerns. In many ways it shows in this document and in other projects and ordinances we've worked on with you. We've come a long way.

However, it is the opinion of our chapter, that there is very little "vision, and desired future conditions" stated in this draft document for the outstanding cold water resources in and around River Falls. The only real data and inventory work done for chapter 8 was making a couple of flood plain and bluff maps, and pasting in a list of some endangered or threatened species (many of which are not even relevant to River Falls.). The plan could do much better by focusing on current fish populations, river temperatures, river chemistry, invertebrate populations, directly in River Falls, instead of documenting that the Paddle Fish are a Threatened Species in the St. Croix River Basin. In essence, measure and document our resources, directly in River Falls, with hard data. And then based on current data and conditions, the plan could list the desired states for these indicators 20 or 30 years from now. The plan should also list the key factors that could influence the desired states for these indicators, and what the City can do about them.

Let me explain the last paragraph, by pointing out some deficiencies in the draft document, and by offering up some real concrete and solid visions and desired future conditions that our chapter, and the citizens of River Falls, should stand for.

- 1) **Impervious surfaces:** Chapter 7 (Infrastructure) and Chapter 8 (Natural Resource) of the draft document does recognize the impacts of impervious surfaces on cold water resources. The document and planners should be commended for recognizing the impacts of imperviousness. However, there is little background given on the current amount of imperviousness within in the city and watershed, and what amount of imperviousness is projected into the future for 50,000 people. Our chapter stands by the fact that once a watershed of a cold water resource exceeds 10-15% imperviousness a coldwater resource cannot survive. Therefore, it is crucial to include an implementing policy that recognizes that specific goals be achieved at reducing imperviousness as growth develops. Where those goals cannot be reached, then a scale of mitigation practices needs to be implemented to offset imperviousness excesses. (such as rain gardens, rain barrels, infiltration areas, pervious pavers or concrete, etc.)
- 2) **Resource Protection Areas and Sensitive Resource Areas:** Chapter 8, section 3, describes what these areas are, and maps them. These areas include wetlands, riparian corridors, bluffs, flood zones, etc. But then at the end of chapter 8, the only implementing policy listed is to develop some kind of bluff ordinance. No implementing policies are given for wetlands, river corridors, or the Kinnickinnic River in this section. We think that the draft document could do better, by including wetlands and river corridors in the implementing policy section of this chapter.
- 3) **Impoundments:** Are the two impoundments in the city, a community asset, or are they detrimental to the natural resources of the City? This

draft either purposely ignores the impoundments, or simply forgets about them in Chapter 8. Certainly the status of the impoundments and the future of the impoundments are on the City's horizon. What is the vision for the two impoundments? Our chapter has a vision with what should be done with the impoundments. Certainly a lot of cold water river restoration and enhancements could be done in downtown River Falls if we didn't have the impoundments. Imagine the regional fishing and natural resource attraction to **DOWNTOWN** River Falls, if we didn't have the impoundments. The River Falls Chamber of Commerce should be salivating at the prospects of such an attraction in the downtown Main Street district. Chapter 5 (Character) refers to a "Waterfront District" and "Riverfront Alley district." Should those districts be on a free flowing, cascading waterfront with bountiful recreational opportunities, or should we settle for a eutrophic impoundment? At the very minimum, there should be some discussion regarding the current state of the impoundments in this draft document, and an implementing policy that tasks the city council to analyze the future alternatives of the impoundments.

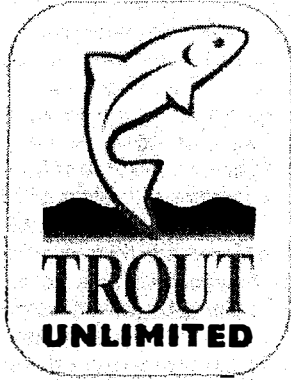
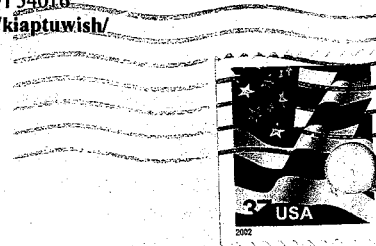
- 4) **Stormwater mitigation:** The city is currently engaged in a storm water mitigation study surrounding the Lake George Basin. The city and the stakeholders of this project should be commended on their progressive attitude for attempting to fix an ongoing problem with our resource. A lot of hard work is bringing valuable data and potential solutions to the table. Our Chapter looks forward to the outcome of the study phase in 2005. The stakeholders of this process have recognized and inventoried approximately 24 storm water sewer sheds that shoot polluted storm water directly to the Kinnickinnic River from the downtown areas, and are seeking solutions to the problem. We believe that the Comprehensive Plan should also include this type of information, so that the City has it permanently documented as an issue for future City Council's and Staff to work from. Again, more time and attention to details written into Chapter 8 would take care of this deficiency in the Comprehensive Plan.

These are just four of many more issues in and around River Falls that affect our cold water resource. These particular issues, and others, are only mentioned in basic generalities, if not fully ignored, by the current Comprehensive Draft. We believe that **more data, more detail, more vision, and more emphasis on the desired future state** of our cold water resources should be part of this Comprehensive Plan. By passing this plan as currently written, we feel that the City Council would be voting for the normal status quo, which ultimately would be a slippery slope of degradation of our resources as we move towards 50,000 people in our urban area. The nationally heralded Kinnickinnic River, and the citizens of River Falls, deserve, more detail and data than this plan offers. So we urge you to delay or postpone your vote on this Comprehensive Plan, until better visions, goals and enhancements are built into the natural resource issues. Our chapter, other organizations, and citizens, would love to be a part of that vision, and extend our desire to work with City Staff at building a more visionary Comprehensive Plan with regards to our cold water resources.

## TCTU resurgent

By Jonathan Jacobs

The Twin Cities Chapter of Trout unlimited is making a renewed organizational effort to supplement the fine fundraising work they've done in past years. For more information, visit the chapter's new web site at: [www.twincitiestu.org](http://www.twincitiestu.org)  
K-TU looks forward to further cooperative ventures between the two chapters.



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**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

JANUARY 5: DUKE WELTER ON THE TU DRIFTLESS AREA RESTORATION EFFORT  
FEBRUARY 2: TBA  
MARCH 2: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
APRIL 6: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS  
MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY RIPRAP: FRIDAY, JANUARY 21.**

**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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