

RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

January 2006

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Trout fishing

"Anyone would go fishing thinking he'll catch something.

It's when you go figuring you probably won't that you know you've crossed some kind of line."

John Gierach

Bass talk to highlight January meeting

Jonathan Jacobs will discuss fly fishing for smallmouth bass at the January 4th meeting.

Some of you may recall that Jon did something similar a few years ago. Since then, he has fished a good deal more for these magnificent fish and wants to share some of what he's learned.

"My emphasis, with a few exceptions, is on fishing wadeable sized rivers in the height of summer," Jon says. "I'll have some fresh slides and, hopefully, some fresh ideas."

Jon says he's also mined a couple of ex-

cellent recently published books for information as well.

In a blatant attempt to bribe you into attending the meeting (As if the rib dinners and other fine fare available in our very own back room at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street in Hudson aren't enticement enough), Jon will bring along a dozen or so examples of his favorite bass flies to give away to those of you not clever enough to avoid having them inflicted on you.

Remember, dinner starts at 6 p.m., the meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Presented "Brookie Award" at annual meeting

Jacobs honored for lifetime achievement

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter named Jonathan Jacobs as the third recipient of the TU chapter's Brookie Award, and presented him with a Lifetime Achievement plaque at the 2005 Holiday Banquet.

Both awards recognized Jacob's many years' of work on TU projects and service to the chapter board and leadership. The Brookie Award is a traveling trophy previously awarded to Andy Lamberson and to Chuck Goossen.

"I want to say, as I did the night of the banquet, how deeply honored I am to have received these awards and how grateful I am to the chapter's board of directors for bestowing them on me," said Jacobs. "My wife and daughter, who have always gra-

viously allowed me the time to work on TU projects, deserve a very special thank you as well. Through the years I've had the pleasure of working with a great group of people (including, but by no means limited to, the current board and contemporaries of mine like Michael Alwin and Mr. Lamberson) and that group has my sincere gratitude as well."

According to Jacobs, his work with TU has been "one of the great joys of my life in Hudson these past twenty years." He encouraged other, especially younger club members to actively participate in the effort to "Restore, Improve and Protect Through Research and Projects" some of the most precious natural resources we have in the entire state."

Bass and other wonders



By James R. Humphrey

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*, whose readers are getting a pre-publication look at "Figments and Fragments", excerpts from Mr. Humphrey's forthcoming book, which he says will be "anecdotal, discursive and far ranging."

I have pursued trout with passion, but perhaps there is no greater pleasure than to see a largemouth bass burst out of the water, thrashing, to dislodge a bass bug delivered to him by means of a long, bamboo rod. The take was an explosion that always came as a surprise.

For three years during the Second World War To End War Forever I performed work of national importance at the pleasure of the government of the United States, in Michigan, fighting forest fires, planting trees, improving timber stands, and tending tiny trees for the benefit of posterity. Occasionally I might find a waterlogged rowboat on the bank of a pond on the grounds of Chittenden Nursery, then the largest pine tree nursery in the world. I had to compete for the use of the boat with other laborers at the end of a work day, but once in a while I could push off alone into the quiet of an early evening to row the tub thirty feet out and parallel to the edge of the pads.

My equipment consisted of a nine-foot heavy duty bass rod and a handful of cork bass bugs, shaped by blade and sandpaper, tufted with squirrel tail or found feathers, and enameled to imagination, with eyes, spots and sundry cabalistic signs to enchant a bass.

One early evening I rowed to a small bay to lay the bug into a hot spot. Suddenly the quiet was pierced by the shrieks of a hundred frogs, all jet-streaking on the surface toward the safety of the shore, and crying for their mothers. Behind them on the surface were the ominous V-shaped pursuit waves of eight or more northerns. It was like cowboys herding cattle. I never thought that northerns were that smart.

Another time, same place, I wanted to give my brother-in-law a chance to play with the bass. Naturally, none of the Heddon plugs or Crazy-Crawlers or any other expensively advertised lure could entice the critters out of hiding. Digging desperately in his tackle box we found a yellow-spotted black disc, with a notch cut out of the underside in front, a couple of black oilcloth legs trailing, and a single treble below. We dubbed it the Hockey Puck. Joe threw it out and a bass slammed it. And so they did, all around the pond, on every second or third cast. I loved bass fishing.

And yet, and yet, when Gardner, the fire control officer, opened the trunk of his car to show me a line-up of sixteen or eighteen inch brown trout, just hours ago coaxed or charmed from the Peré Marquette, I imagined myself belly-deep in the Manistee with a trophy trout bending the bamboo. Life offers so many dilemmas, and so little time to choose.

Two other piscatorial events enlivened my life in the big woods of the Manistee National Forest. Bud Fornier, a Forest Service officer, took me trout fishing. He dropped me at a bridge, pointed upstream and said, "Go." I must have frightened every trout, because I didn't see any, but Mr. Fornier filled out.

On another occasion I fly-fished the Manistee River below Tippy Dam, east of the city of Manistee, where I caught a four pound, eleven ounce smallmouth on a peculiar spinner and White Miller. The spinner was curved, something like one of the old-style pop-tops that broke free when you opened the can. That spinner was so efficient, they don't make it any more.

Conservation banquet nets \$4,600

By Mike Alwin

Over 90 Kiap-TU-Wish members and friends attended the Holiday Conservation Banquet on December 8th. This was one of the largest crowds we've ever had and the comments received were wonderfully enthusiastic.

People raved about the food and the service and were delighted with the wide variety of auction items and grab bags. Many people fairly gloated over the treasures they acquired for only a few bucks. This highly successful event netted an astounding \$4600 for the Chapter.

Many, many factors contributed to the success of this year's banquet and the Gang of Four, or Five, or Six (depending on how many show for the meeting) laughingly referred

to as the Banquet Committee would like to thank a bunch of folks for their efforts on our behalf.

Thanks to John Van Vliet for delivering an interesting and entertaining program on his adventures by train through Canada. Thanks to Dave Norling for donating a superbly crafted bamboo rod commemorating the Kinnickinnic. Thanks to Al Farmes for donating scads of fishing equipment and fly tying materials. Thanks to Tom Andersen for scoring a big donation of materials and accessories from one of his customers. Thanks to Bob White for donating one of his beautiful prints.

Finally, thanks to Lyn Johnson and the Tartan Park staff for all their efforts to help us make this event truly memorable.

Thanks to our auction donors

Individuals

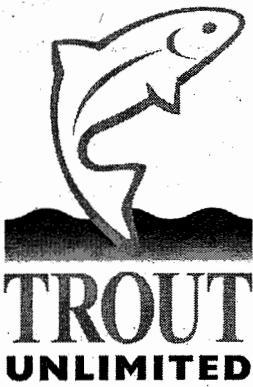
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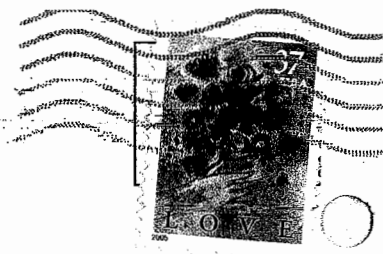
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Meeting Schedule

FWD

January 4, 2006

Jonathan Jacobs on Small Bass Fishing

February 1, 2006

Brad Bohlen, guide and author of Cabin Life Outfitters,
Hayward Wisconsin

March 1, 2006

Annual Business Meeting

April 5, 2006

Dry Fly Dick Trantes Fly Tiers

May 3, 2006

Wisconsin DNR

Deadline for February RIPRAP is Friday, January 20.

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