

# RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

January 2007

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## Trout fishing

*"I am not against golf, since I cannot but suspect it keeps armies of the unworthy from discovering trout."*

Paul O'Neil

Ranger to discuss fly fishing, rehabilitation projects

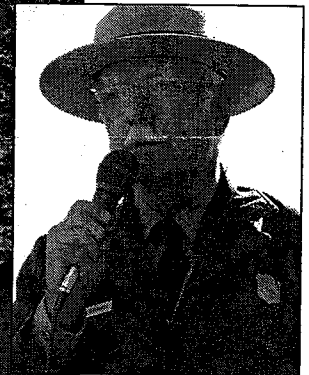
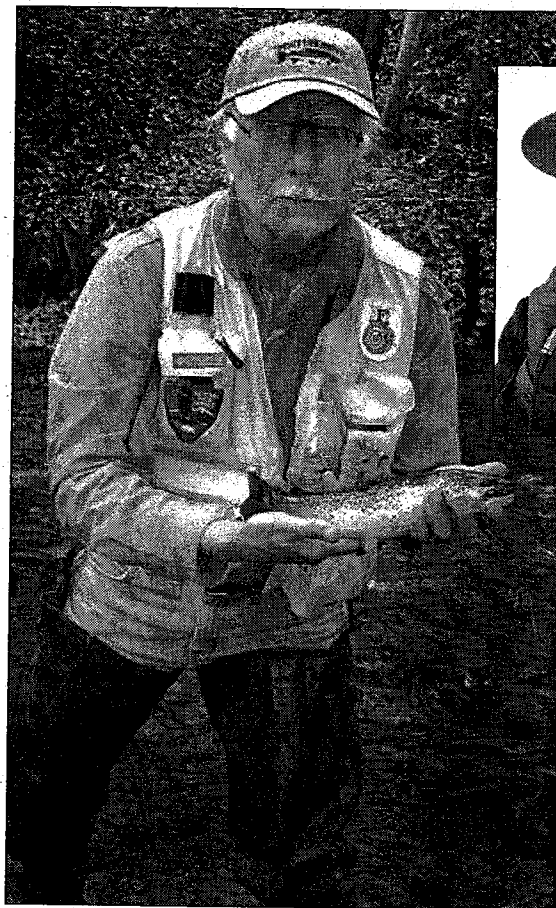
## St. Croix Scenic Riverway

By Greg Dietl

Chapter member and Park Ranger for the St Croix National Scenic Riverway, John Weinberg, will be giving the presentation at the January 3, 2007, membership meeting.

Weinberg's topics will be fly fishing within the St Croix National Scenic Riverway; bass and musky on the St Croix, trout on the upper Namekagon. He will also be talking about a segment of the Cap Creek rehabilitation project done by the National Parks Service and the WDNR.

Weinberg has been fly fishing for over 55 years. He grew up near the Adirondacks and Catskills. He has lived, worked and fished in Colorado, California, Oregon, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Now semi-retired, he guides at 7 Pines Lodge, gives fly fishing seminars and in his words lives with a "have

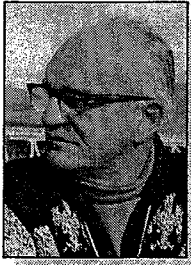


Park Ranger John Weinberg will discuss fly fishing on the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers.

rod will travel" attitude. Last summer he fished the Letort and Yellow Breeches in Pennsylvania.

This is a do not miss presentation in the middle of winter!

# The Three Rivers



By James R. Humphrey

Jim Humphrey, of Oak Park Heights, MN, is the co-author of Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams. His new series is anecdotal, discursive and opinionated, according to the author. The essays may eventually appear in a collection. Humphrey welcomes comments, including rebuttals. "A bit of controversy is good," he says.

By James R. Humphrey

Cross the Golden Gate Bridge just after dawn when the morning fog is beginning to lift and drift, and the tops of islands and the Berkeley hills are tipped with the rose of sunrise. The three trout rivers with the old Spanish names lie north, crossed by Highway 1, the coast road. Leave the freeway, 101, in Marin City. Hurry. There is not enough time to visit the giant redwoods of Muir Woods. Pass the road to Point Reyes National Seashore with its spectacular views of sea and sky, and pelicans and sea lions; and sometimes the migrations of whales. Point Reyes, named for Spanish Kings and pronounced "raise" by Anglos, marks the bay where Sir Francis Drake dropped anchor in 1579 in the course of his circumnavigation of the globe in the Golden Hind.

You who remain committed to the three rivers will also pass a sleeping Bodega Bay where Hitchcock filmed "The Birds." The remote schoolhouse, site of a tense scene in the movie, is only a bit off the highway, but steelhead may be flashing a pink sash over silver armor in the Gualala. You may skip the Russian River on the way north as I have always done. It was, and still is, intimidating. But bolder fishers may discover a run of possibilities there. Next up is Fort Ross State Historic Park, site of a Russian fur trading station, also worthy of a visit; but not on this trip.

The Gualala is not far north of Stewart's Point and Sea Ranch, a Sixties leisure development on a bluff above the ocean. Go inland near the village of Gualala on the road to Annapolis.

Perhaps it was in 1965 that Charles Ritz

came to the Fairmont Hotel ballroom in San Francisco to demonstrate his high-line, high-speed, HL/HS, casting techniques to a roomful of beautiful people who were "dressed to the nines" and sipping Martinis.

It was a gala affair sponsored, if I remember correctly, by the Golden Gate Casting Club, a storied institution. That slight man in the tux made magic, sending the line up into the dimness of the ceiling. It was a convincing show. In his book, "A Fly Fisher's Life," Ritz elaborated on his theory.

It required stopping the rod earlier on the backcast to angle the line high, and to use the line hand in a couple of pulls to increase the speed. He wrote, referring to the delivery of the fly to the water, "...almost always shoot the line." To prevent splash, he wrote, "let the fly glide to the water." Ritz developed his theory and technique on the larger European rivers, so the ability to cast at distance was important to him. The HL/HS cast is useful on our big rivers to reach a distant run, and a steeple cast will keep your backcast out of trees.

My three rivers, the Gualala, the Navarro and the Garcia are spate coastal rivers that enter the Pacific Ocean north of the city of bays and bridges, of mist and light and magic, and the sensual aroma of spices from the mysterious East. San Francisco has been called, "Baghdad on the Bay."

There's a fall or winter rain on the coastal rivers to raise the water flow and call the steelhead to begin their spawning run. My three rivers, when I searched them not far from their mouths, were broad, flat, shining in the sun, with pebbled beaches made for

See "Three Rivers," page 7

# KRLT transfers 39 acres of lower Kinni to State Park

Nearly 39 acres bordering the Kinnickinnic River, including historic remnants of a dam serving the 1850 Clifton Hollow settlement, are being added to Kinnickinnic State Park, announced Dick Steffes of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Brent Sittlow of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT).

"Caring landowners, foundation supporters and members of the KRLT and the DNR made it possible to protect this outstanding resource property," according to Brent Sittlow, board president of the non-profit land conservation group.

This part of the Kinnickinnic River is known for the beauty of its unique bluffs and tremendous diversity of plant communities. It is well known to paddlers and fishermen. The newly protected land is close to a common public access and take out point in the state park.

Dozens of endangered, threatened or special concern plant, animal and insect species are found among the mixed hardwoods and limestone bluffs of the lower Kinnickinnic Canyon. This parcel also adjoins land previously protected with conservation easements by landowners and the KRLT.

"We appreciate the long-standing partnership we have with the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust and its community members in the watershed", said Dick Steffes, real estate section chief, for the Department of Natural Resources.

Using Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program funds, the DNR was able to purchase 38.9 acres of land from the KRLT. The Wisconsin Legislature created the program

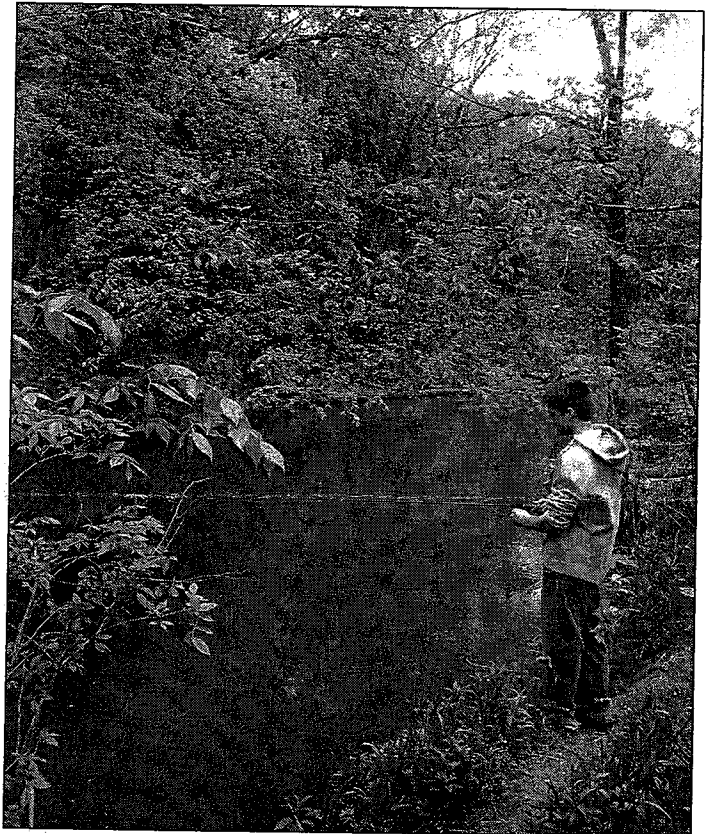
to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand

opportunities for outdoor recreation. Wisconsin's Stewardship Program continues the work of an original Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP) enacted in 1961 with the support of Gov.

Gaylord Nelson and renewed in 1967 with the support of Gov. Warren Knowles.

Today Wisconsin's Stewardship Program works to protect Natural Areas, to improve Wisconsin's State Parks, to acquire for Wisconsin Wildlife Areas and to protect wetlands and fisheries. It also provides funds to aid local municipalities with recreational projects.

Kiap-TU-Wish members Kent Johnson and Brent Sittlow serve on the KRLT board. Hap Lutter is an honorary board member, and Eric Forward is on staff.



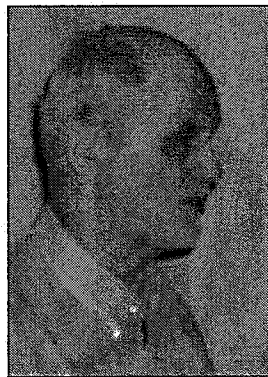
A boy enjoys a day fishing along the banks of the Kinnickinnic River. Photo courtesy of KRLT.

## President's Lines

### Banquet Update

This year's annual banquet was a success by all measures. Over 100 people attended, we raised \$4,300. We were well entertained by our speakers Larry Mann and Wendy Williamson from Hayward Fly Fishing Company, were well fed and had the opportunity to recognize deserving individuals.

Ted Mackmiller received the Gold Trout Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of service to the chapter and its mission and his crusade on behalf



Ted Mackmiller

of the Willow. Kent Johnson received the Silver Trout Award for his outstanding contribution to conservation of coldwater streams, their watersheds, his 15 years as a Kiap board member and the tremendous work he has done with the City of River Falls.

The chapter also awarded a Silver Trout to Roger Widner for his legendary contribution to cold water conservation in western Wisconsin. Roger passed away in September and the award will be presented to his family at a later date.

Thanks to the banquet committee, Jon Jacobs and Mike Alwin for another outstanding get together. Thanks to all who donated time and merchandise to the raffles and auctions; especially to Nick Westcott and Gary Richardson for tracking down so many contributions. Deb Olmstead again brought her touch to the auction items. Thanks to the 3M staff for another great job.

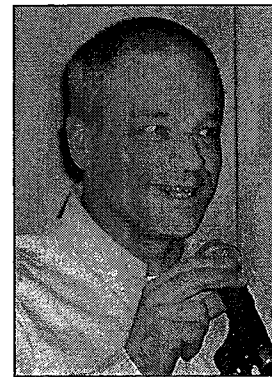
### Other club service

Lest you think I'm spending too much space thanking people, we need to remember that this is a volunteer organization and nothing gets done without the vital donations of time and effort by our members. There are many behind the scenes accomplishments

by chapter members.

To mention a few: Andy Lamberson recently took on the task of monitoring the DNR plans to expand the Willow River State Park camping facilities.

John Koch wrote an excellent letter to the



Kent Johnson

DNR asking for their vigilance in monitoring agricultural activities that threaten rivers. Gary Horvath spent untold hours writing an Embrace-A-Stream Grant and Friends Grant. This month's issue features an acknowledgment of Ginnie Adams, a long time Trout Unlimited and Kiap-TU-Wish supporter who also passed away this past year.

### Next year

The upcoming year will afford many opportunities for members to get involved in chapter activities. There will be stream improvement work, special events needing members to represent the chapter, help recruiting fly tiers for the April meeting, finding speakers for next year's meetings, writing for Rip Rap, assisting with the Spring Appeal, joining the banquet committee. Please contact any board member or officer if you want to join in on any chapter activity.

*"The upcoming year will afford many opportunities for members to get involved in chapter activities."*

**Greg Dietl**

# ● Ginny Adams Remembered

By Mike Alwin

The paintings of Ginny Adams grace the homes or offices of many a Kiap-TU-Wish member, those watercolors being evocative and a daily reminder of what we cherish as trout anglers. Ginny painted trout stream landscapes from Wisconsin all the way to Alaska, each one being a testament to the beauty of the stream and its surroundings. Many of those paintings were donated to Kiap-TU-Wish as fundraising items at the Holiday Banquet. Late this summer Ginny was diagnosed with cancer so advanced she chose to forego treatment. She died on September 26th.

Ginny and Bob wandered into Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop after their son, Michael, died in an ice fishing accident. Grief stricken, they were quite literally gathered in by Bob and Jean and began to make a new cache of friends out of the Saturday inhabitants of the Fly Shop, a tradition they carried on until Ginny's illness. So strong was this tradition that they came with The Shop when I bought it in 1994. I've never regretted the inclusion of these two wonderful people in the exchange.

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While Bob might be described as "crusty," Ginny was the very soul of compassion, a woman whose kindness and broad smile never failed to proceed her into a room. She made friends so easily that people would anticipate her arrival, often staying later than they intended just to be able to visit with this sweet little lady. Ginny taught painting for years and the same pattern was repeated at the venues where her classes were held, many of her students becoming friends for life. A celebration of her life was held on October 2nd, at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Mendota Heights.

This is a friend who will be sorely missed.

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## Chapter submits grant requests for Pine Creek restoration

Gary Horvath has submitted an Embrace A Stream grant request to the national Trout Unlimited office for restoration of brook trout habitat on Pine Creek.

The \$10,000 request, and an additional one for \$2,000 from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will be used to help fund a \$95,000 project.

According to Horvath, the overall goal of this project is to restore and conserve healthy populations of the native Eastern Brook Trout within Pine Creek. The habitat work on this stream will result in increased stocks of Brook Trout in both numbers and their distribution within the improved stretch.

Horvath noted, that based on similar work on other streams within the county, we will see improvements in survivability of subsequent year-classes of fish and an increase in young-of-year and adult densities of Brook Trout within the stream.

Horvath said that the opportunity for this project arose out of meetings between state officials, three Trout Unlimited Chapters and other interested conservation and sporting groups, which have been underway for a number of years. This project will strengthen this group and their relationships with each other and the surrounding community.

### Conservation Objectives

The conservation goal of this project is to stabilize severely eroding banks, reduce in-stream sedimentation, provide in-stream cover and increased spawning habitat to Pine Creek.

This will be accomplished using tech-

niques developed by Wisconsin fish managers across the Driftless region. Steep eroding banks graded and sloped until a bank of a 3:1 foot slope is achieved. This provides a gentle slope for rising floodwaters, which in turn greatly diminishes erosion and sedimentation.

Where suitable, "LUNKER" structures will be added to provide cover from predators and refuge during flood stage. These structures are covered with rock and soil and then reseeded to stabilize the banks. In addition, plunge pools will be installed to create deep water and over winter habitat. Boulder clusters will be installed to enhance midstream cover.

The installation of bank cover narrows the stream, which results in a scouring of the bottom exposing the gravel favorable to successful reproduction. Finally the stabilization of banks will result in a decrease in suspended solids and sediment during runoff events, thus improving water quality within the stream and Lake Pepin.

Measurable objectives include:

- Restoration of 3,500 feet of stream bank and habitat in Pine Creek.
- An increase in Eastern Brook Trout numbers by 40-50% within the stream.
- An increase in Eastern Brook Trout 10 inches and larger of 50-100%.
- Reduce bank erosion 10% of pre-existing conditions.
- Reduce fine sediment and increase coarse substratum by 50%.
- Increase aquatic macrophyte growth by 25%.

*Gary's work on this went above and beyond; many hours went into this grant. Thanks Gary for the outstanding effort on this grant.*

**Greg Dietl**

## Three Rivers, from page 2

coastal rivers to raise the water flow and call the steelhead to begin their spawning run. My three rivers, when I searched them not far from their mouths, were broad, flat, shining in the sun, with pebbled beaches made for strolling. The water was so clear I could see "two pounders," immature steelhead, belly-down and slow-finning in pools at depth. Nothing moved them and, in truth, they wouldn't weigh two pounds in spite of the hype.

Steelhead were captured, probably regularly, by dogged anglers who drifted a spawn bag over their redds. I saw a few trout taken in runs between pools. The tackle consisted of a heavy duty rod and a large diameter reel loaded with monofilament. A few anglers used an odd, closed spinning reel with the

line flowing out of a side orifice. No one that I saw fished with a tapered fly line and a large nymph or wet fly; except once, on the Navarro when an angler sank a wet fly at the end of standard fly line and tapered leader. The aficionados gathered at the pool to watch the battle. That may have been the first time that a west coast steelheader used standard tackle. The contest seemed likely to continue longer than I could spare, so I went downstream to drift a wet fly over a two-pounder.

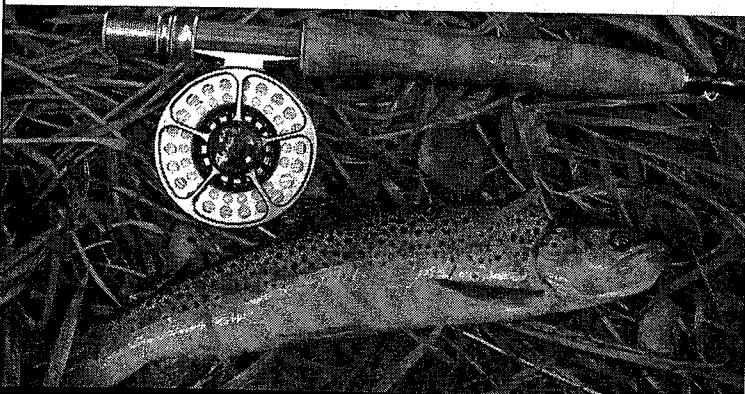
In the Midwest now, steelhead are routinely taken on large nymphs or fluorescent yarn flies and heavy-duty fly tackle. Years ago I met an angler on the Brule who fly-fished with a stonefly nymph. He too was ahead of the pack. We learn as we go; or watch.

The Gualala is my kind of river--broad, clean, with gravel beaches, and two-pounders suspended maagically in pools.

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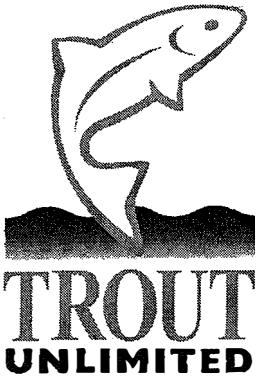
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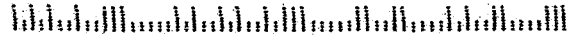
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## Upcoming programs

February—Chuck Dayton, Global Warming  
March—Business meeting  
April—Fly tying  
May—Wisconsin DNR

Deadline for February RIPRAP is Friday, January 26