

# RipRap

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4      JANUARY, 2008

## JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

It is not too early to be thinking about and planning those summer smallmouth bass outings. So, by popular demand, chapter member Jonathan Jacobs will be giving his acclaimed smallmouth presentation. With a couple years at the helm of his driftboat under his belt, there will be an emphasis on float fishing for bronze backs. Jonathan is an excellent smallmouth preda-

tor (catch and release) and boatman. You will learn tips on pursuing this outstanding game fish and possibly a fly pattern or two; although, I doubt he will give up his best spots. Bring your notebook for this informative and lively presentation.

Join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club downtown Hudson, Wednesday, January 2, 6 PM for dinner

and 7 for the meeting and presentation. As an added incentive to get out on a January evening, there will be some bonus door prizes.

-Greg Dietl

President of Kiap-TU-Wish

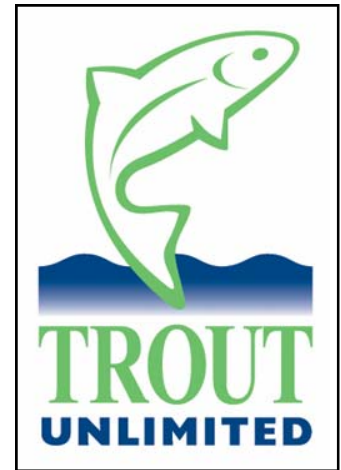


Photo Courtesy of Jon Jacobs

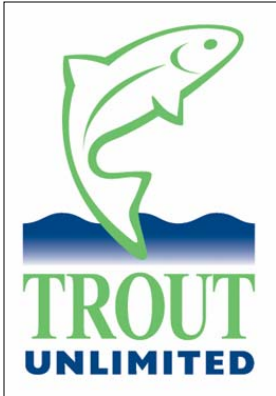
Jon Jacobs at the helm of his beloved drift boat

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## PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL



On a cold, dreary December night in Lake Elmo, the chapter held its annual conservation banquet at Tartan Park Clubhouse. Inside the clubhouse it was positively pulsating with warmth and activity (ok, a little verbal overkill perhaps). However, the banquet was a success by all measures. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, the chapter raised \$5200, a record net. There were deals to be had and some prize possessions taken home. Jack Storer won the Sage VT2 7'9" 3 wt 4 pc Pine Creek Special fly rod; Elliot Olson won the Pine Creek Special Ross Evolution Reel. The Jacob's family drove home with another chair (there is a story there). We managed some Cork Lundberg brownies among other treasures. I think the dinner was the best yet. All in all, there were many satisfied customers.

The centerpiece event was John Koch's excellent presentation of his Chilean fishing (and eating) trip. Thank you, John, for that excellent show. Chapter awards were presented to Randy Arnold for his extraordinary volunteer efforts. Hap Lutter received an award for his successful fundraising with the annual Spring Appeal. John Sours and Nate Anderson, the DNR trout crew, received the Chapter's Silver Trout Award for their outstanding contributions to coldwater conservation.

I want to thank the leaderless banquet committee comprised of Mike Alwin, Jonathan Jacobs, Nick Westcott, Deb Olmstead, Scott Hanson, & Shannon Nelson; I helped a bit, also. We have already had a brief recap meeting to see what we can do to make next year's event even better. For openers, we are going to start planning in July rather than September. We welcome and strongly encourage increasing the ranks of the committee and will entertain all ideas; so, if you have ideas, let us know.

Thanks to all of you who scoured for donations from merchants and those of you donated your own previously prized possessions for the silent auctions. Thank you to our reliable perennial supporters: Mike Alwin from Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Andy Roth from Bentley's Outfitters, Ryan Lindus and Kevin Sellers from Sportsman's Warehouse, Paige Olson from Kinni Lodge and Outfitters, Laughing Trout Fly Tyers Club, chapter president Steve Carlton and all the members of Twin Cities Trout Unlimited who regularly attend and support our banquet, and new supporter Patagonia of St. Paul. Thanks to DNR Fisheries Biologist Marty Engle. Thanks to the Tartan Park Clubhouse staff who provided an excellent meal and service.

Thanks to all of you who attended the banquet and so enthusiastically support the chapter in all our conservation efforts. We need you! We've now got more dollars in our account to continue our efforts. These dollars buy rock, lumber, seed, monitoring equipment, support flow gauges, and allow us to help with land and easement purchases; all in pursuit of our mission. On another note, the banquet is a great annual social event for many of us to meet, get acquainted (or reacquainted), share a good meal, maybe even tell some tales. It certainly is one of the highlights of my year. Mark your calendars for next December's event.

Just a couple more non-banquet related thank-yous: Scott Hanson and Bob Bradham for the job they are doing with the Rip Rap newsletter and Andy Lamberson for the excellent website. See you at the January meeting.



## SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

Well, it will soon be a new year. By the time of our chapter's next meeting, we will be a couple of days in to 2008. As I write this, there are only a few days left until Christmas, but still a whole lot of Christmas shopping for me to get done. If I didn't have a newsletter to put together, I'm sure I would be out amongst the crowds right now, trying to figure out what to buy all of my nieces and nephews (it seems like there are about 482 of them nowadays). I don't think of myself as a really old guy, but I sure don't have a clue what teenagers are in to anymore.

My shopping predicament makes me think that maybe this is a good time to set some New Year's resolutions, and do my best to see them through. So, here we go:

- 1.** I resolve to get to know my nieces and nephews better. If I make it a priority to spend more time with them, not only will I have a better idea what to get them for Christmas and birthdays, but maybe I can be a good adult influence on them, and they'll stay on the right path in life. (Maybe one or two of them will even become avid fly fishers!)
- 2.** I resolve to get our basement finished as quickly as possible. Our original deadline to be done renovating was last July, but it keeps getting pushed farther and farther back. I better get done soon so that I'll have more time to fish next summer. St. Patrick's Day, 2008, sounds good. If I'm not done by then, there'll be big trouble.
- 3.** I resolve to be completely done with all my classes by Graduation Day next Spring. That means I have to take 19 credits between now and May 18<sup>th</sup>. I can do it. Then I'll go fishing.
- 4.** I resolve to go camping more often next year. Connie and I only went once this year, which was not nearly enough. We both love to camp, but it seemed like we never had enough time. I better start looking at the calendar and make some reservations now, so that this coming year doesn't end up like 2007. If I recall correctly, campgrounds usually have a body of water nearby. I'll bring my rods.

Well, I guess those are some good resolutions to start out with. Now that I look back at them, they all end with more fishing for me. I think I see a theme here. Nothing I can do about that now. Once my resolutions are set, I gotta make sure I get them done.

**I hope all of you have a Safe & Happy New Year! See you in 2008**



## REFLECTIONS ON THE HOLIDAY BANQUET

BY SCOTT HANSON

As Greg mentions in his President's Lines column elsewhere in this publication, the annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet was a rousing success. I am not always able to get to the monthly meetings, so it was a great time for me to get back in touch with some old acquaintances, as well as meet a bunch of new people that are interested in the same conservation issues that I am. The only problem was all of the people trying to get me to reveal my secret streams that I wrote about in last month's Scott's Scoop column. I'm proud to say that I was able to keep all of my secrets, and should be able to take them to my grave, even though some people, you know who you are, made a concerted effort to get me to reveal them.

John Koch's presentation about his trip to Chile was wonderful; I have repeatedly found myself daydreaming about the idyllic locations in his photos, especially the tiny little creek where his friend caught all the huge rainbows and browns on dry flies. Someday, maybe I will visit that creek myself. Thank you, John, for the terrific show.

Along with the wonderful dinner and presentation, the chapter was able to raise a record amount of money through the silent auction and bucket raffles. I am pleased to say that my wife and I were able to win two of the bucket prizes: a kayak trip from Kinni Creek Lodge & Outfitters, and a romantic dinner for two at Vino in the Valley. We can't wait to make use of our winnings next summer. There were dozens of interesting items up for bid in the auction, including several rods and reels, wonderful artwork, food items, books, and many other things that are too numerous to list. I will list all of the individuals and businesses that were very generous with their donations. From me, Greg, and everyone on the Board, we'd like to send out a huge thanks to everyone who made the banquet possible!



### LIST OF DONORS

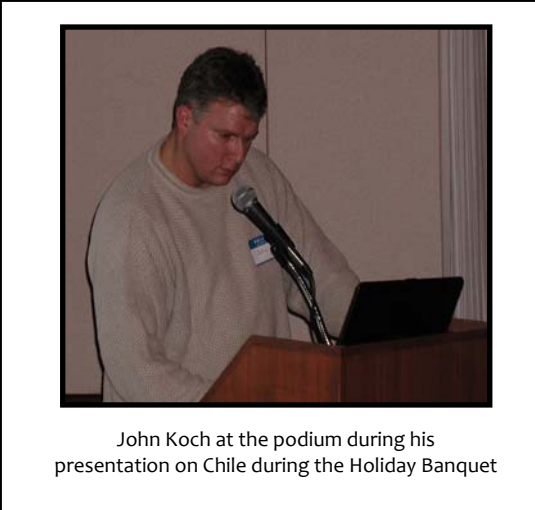
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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| > Steve Madsen          | > Shannon Nelson        | > Jack Storer           |
| > Just for Me Spa       | > Scott Thorpe          | > Al Farnes             |
| > Cork Lundberg         | > Steve Kennedy         | > Oakdale Gun Club      |
| > Gander Mountain       | > Jim Humphrey          | > Sarah Sanford         |
| > Herb Lundberg         | > Al Hopeman            | > Bob Wiesner           |
| > Perry Palin           | > Luther Chevrolet      | > John Van Vliet        |
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| > Bill Woods            | Course                  | > Trout Lily Studios    |
| > Jon Jacobs            | > The Birdhouse, Too    | > Gary Richardson       |
| > Chuck Goossen         | > Kinni Creek Lodge and | > Sportsman's Warehouse |
| > Paul Wiemerslage      | Outfitters              | > Bentley's Outfitters  |
| > Patagonia             | > Badlands Golf Course  | > Nick Westcott         |
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| > Alwin/Olmstead        | > Dave Lundeen          | > Bill Schuessler       |
| > The Cellars Wines and | > Ron Renfro            | > Vino in the Valley    |
| Spirits                 | > TCTU Board Members    |                         |

# Thank You!



# SCENES FROM THE HOLIDAY BANQUET

ALL PHOTOS BY GARY RICHARDSON



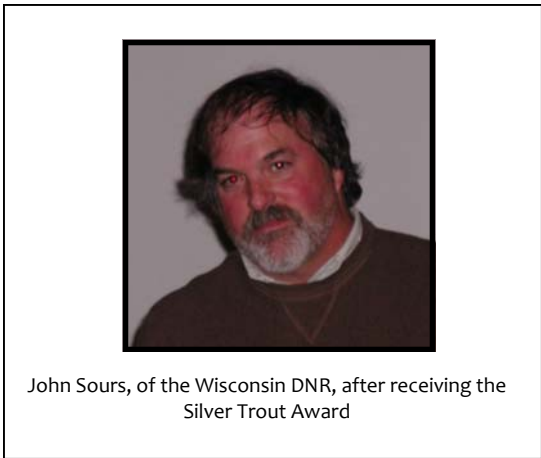
John Koch at the podium during his presentation on Chile during the Holiday Banquet



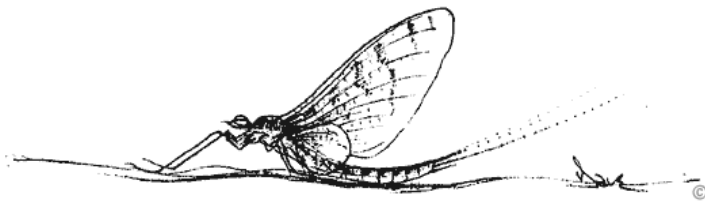
Nate Anderson, of the Wisconsin DNR, shows off his Silver Trout Award at the Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Banquet



Hap Lutter receiving his award from President Greg Dietl at the Holiday Banquet



John Sours, of the Wisconsin DNR, after receiving the Silver Trout Award



# A few photos to help you get through the long winter



All Photos by Scott Hanson

## ERRANT THOUGHTS ON HOOKS AND TIPPETS

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

You have read the works of the Masters: Halford, Skues, Hewitt, LaBranche, Bergman, Wulff, Sid Gordon, and other fly-fishers more recent. It is a marvel how many theories and practices have been enumerated, illustrated, and put to practice on stream and in print.

George M. L. LaBranche in his 1914 book, *The Dry Fly & Fast Water*, after examining all the evidence from his experience, listed in order of importance the elements necessary for the successful presentation of an artificial dry fly to a trout. (His discursive writing style is also catching.) He said that the placement of the fly in the feeding lane or within the trout's circle of interest is of first (1) importance. (2) Is the action of the fly upon the water—dead drift, egg-laying hop or bounce, or spentwing. (3) Size of fly. (4) Form or shape. (5) Color. We will have to assume that he meant first to differentiate between a downwing caddis and an upwing mayfly.

His relegation of color to a distant five will test the conviction of anglers who demand the "urine-stained belly fur of a female fox" to finish their Hendrickson which replicates the

male of one of the early *Ephemellus*.

LaBranche's succession has much to recommend it, although I wish there were some way to asterisk size. Several masters have noticed that a mayfly always appears larger in the air than in hand, due to the halo effect of light passing through wings and tails. Their advice is to use a smaller fly.

You may argue the merits of LaBranche's order of importance around the campfire or over a cocktail table at the end of a day. I am left with a haunting question: Why will any trout accept *anything* with an obvious hook in it that is attached to a tippet that must look like a tow-rop? Why would a trout discriminate between the categories and sizes of flies, yet ignore the black or blue hue of the hook and the glint and size of a tippet?

LaBranche and Hewitt, and no doubt others, experimented with unattached flies tossed on a feeding lane that were immediately taken by trout that had ignored a fly attached to a tippet. LaBranche was even thoughtful enough to break off the barbs on one of his experiments. Many fly-fishers have

often seen trout feed on free floating naturals while ignoring the artificials.

Does the color of the hook make a difference? Do gold or bronze hooks attract trout as does the tinsel of a Gold-ribbed Hare's Ear? Do black hooks repel? Are tinted leaders preferred by discriminating trout? Should you tie flies on under-sized hooks? It seems to me that experts are marvelously adept at gliding over these questions. I leave it to you to solve the enigmas. If you do, let me have the answers. I would like to write a book about it.

Addenda: (1) I detest down-eye hooks, especially on tiny flies. Down eyes narrow the gape. Gary Borger, in an article in *Fly Fisherman* demolished the theory that the down-eye acts as a hinge to better set the hook: the pull on the hook is *always* parallel to the shank. (2) I have noted elsewhere in my writings that live scuds swim with a straight body and the legs extended like oars, so why do we tie scuds on bent hooks? Out of water, scuds do curl in the hand like cocktail shrimp. A recent magazine article recommended bent hooks for midges, too. Beats me.




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Jim Humphrey lives in Oak Park Heights, MN. He is the co-author of *Trout Streams of Wisconsin & Minnesota*. He is a regular contributor to RipRap

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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*Don't miss the January meeting!!*

Join us at Bob Smith's Sports Bar in Hudson on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2008  
Chapter member Jon Jacobs will be talking about fly fishing for smallmouth bass,  
both wading and in a drift boat. Plus, there will be extra door prizes.  
The meeting starts at 7 PM, but you can join us for dinner at 6 PM. See you there!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF RIPRAP!**

Deadline to make submissions for February RipRap is January 23rd, 2008