



Rip Rap

March Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 1
 Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
 Dinner: 6:30
 Program: 8:00 Jim Humphrey
 Annual Business Meeting

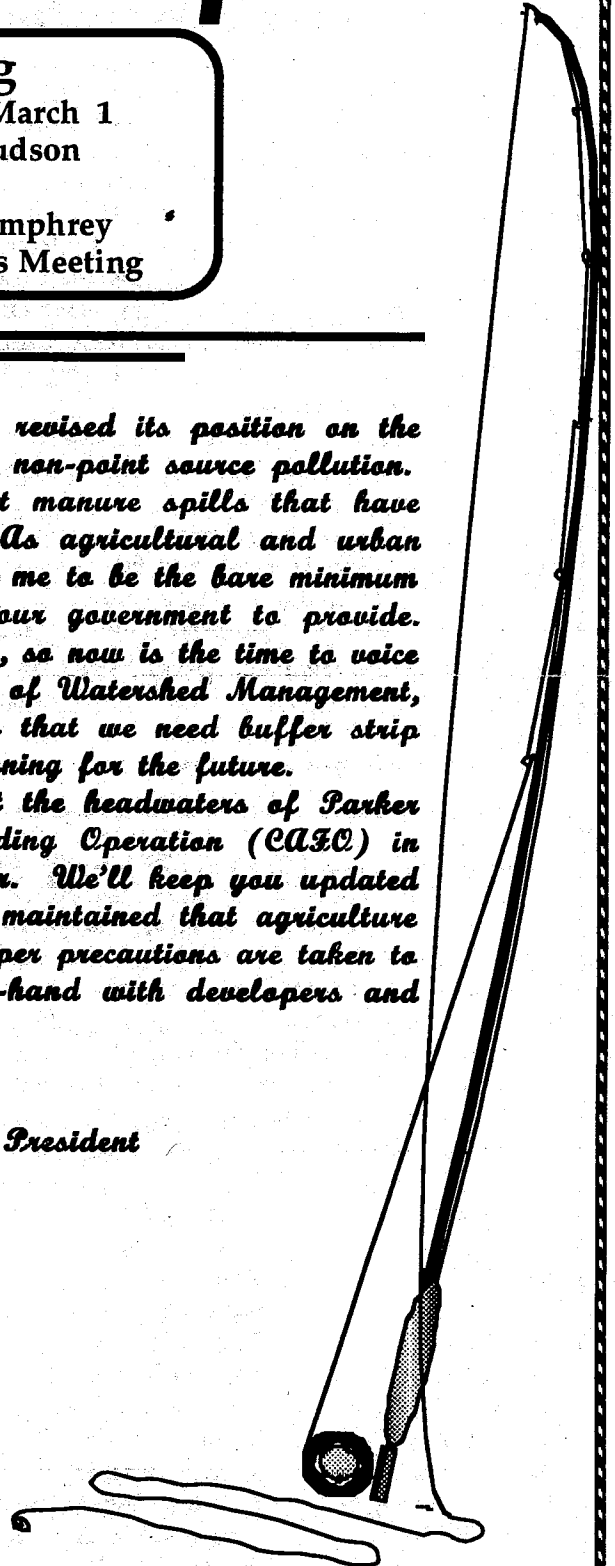
The state of Wisconsin has, in recent years, revised its position on the benefits of buffer strips in minimizing the impact of non-point source pollution. This is especially troubling in light of the recent manure spills that have effected our watersheds and others in the state. As agricultural and urban pressures intensify, establishing buffer strips seem to me to be the bare minimum protection for our waters that we should expect our government to provide. Public meetings on this subject will be held in March, so now is the time to voice your concerns. Write to Al Shea, Director; Bureau of Watershed Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 and tell him that we need buffer strip provisions reinstated as an essential part of his planning for the future.

News of a possible heifer barn expansion at the headwaters of Parker Creek and another proposed Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in Rush River watershed have filtered in to our chapter. We'll keep you updated as more information surfaces. Kiap-TU-Wish has maintained that agriculture and urban expansion can be done successfully if proper precautions are taken to protect watersheds. Our goal is to work hand-in-hand with developers and farmers to jointly protect OUR waters.

*Sincerely,
 Brent Sittlow, President*

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Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

Jim Humphrey to speak at March Meeting...

Those of you who might decide to avoid the March meeting because of the boring, repetitive business aspects of electing officers and dealing with budget reports should rethink your position. Member **Jim Humphrey**, well-known fishing author, raconteur, and peerless authority on the trout waters of Minnesota and Wisconsin will sweeten the pill of the business meeting by telling tales, some tall, about his favorite rivers. If we're lucky, he'll bring copies of his book to sell and autograph. Every member of Kiap-TU-Wish should own one.

On a more mundane level, Board members **Ellen Clark** and **Brent Sittlow** have finished their three-year terms, and **Bill Lovegren's** two-year term is expiring also. The nominating committee has recommended **Gary Horvath** and **Bill Lovegren** to fill the three-year seats. They are still seeking candidates for the two-year seat. The Board appointed **John Koch** to fill the unexpired term of **John O'Malley**. Mr. Koch will need membership approval at the meeting as well.

River Falls Clinic...

The annual Kinnickinnic River Fly Fishing Clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. This event brings together folks from River Falls who want to learn to fish the river with our chapter members who want to protect the river. The Education Committee has been sponsoring this clinic since 1996 and it's been a hit since its inception. Students and volunteers alike rave about it. Speaking of volunteers, there are two primary ways that our membership can get involved: 1) become a mentor/guide for the event, or 2) tie a dozen flies for us. There are others jobs that need doing as well. A meal is served and we need food preparers and a crew to clean up afterwards. The event involves group instruction in casting, insect identification, trout stream ecology and protection, fly-fishing equipment and knot tying. The day ends with a guided evening on-stream session. If you want to volunteer, just call **Mike Alwin** at (651) 770-5854. The Education Committee has two goals: educate the community and involve the membership. The River Falls Clinic is an excellent way of doing both. Join us!

Swinging Gate Fund Drive Exceeds Goal...

The final chapter of Kiap-TU-Wish's effort to raise \$10,000 to repay The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust for their shortfall in the sale and resale to the DNR of the 'Swinging Gate' property reached a successful conclusion last month. Letters were sent to members of the Twin Cities Chapter of TU and the response was extremely gratifying. In addition to the new donors, listed below, thanks are due to **Ted and Renate Mackmiller**, **Bill Lovegren**, **Gary Horvath**, **Andy Lamberson**, **Brent Sittlow**, and **Michelle Lawrence** for stamping and stuffing envelopes, and to **Brent Sittlow** for acknowledging the gifts. The \$500 extra funds will be used sometime in the future to provide enhancements at the 'Swinging Gate.' The Board may decide to use the money for disabled access, improvements to the parking lot, or some similar project.

John Knauff
Alan Spaulding
Kurt Pitney
Gregory Farley
John Slanika
Thomas Waters
James Hobbs
John Lundsten
Andrew Phillips
Brian Weedman
Sarah Sanford
Dennis Nelson

Midwest Fly Fishing
Howard Segal
S.W. Riley
Philip AuClaire
David Norling
Robert Hengemuhle
Stephen & Cynthia Snyder
Heidi & Randall O'Connor
Michael Brinda
Steven & Connie Brewer
Dennis & Maureen Hook
William Whitney

Timothy Day
Randal Gackstetter
Gordon Coachman
James Donoho
Philip Vieth
James Secord
Donald & Virginia Thompson
Eric Judge
Thomas & Laura Fredericks
Elinor & Wm. Ogden, Jr.
Twin Cities Chapter, TU
Pamela & Charles Barer

Dan Golden
C. Steven Wilson
Gregor Campbell
Brian McGlenn
Paul Stoll
David Macomber
J.P. & Lynn Little
Richard Bennett
Ernest Steck, III
Garret Grabko
Glen Bean
J.G. Ordway, Jr.

Prognosis Favorable for Winter Trout Season, opening March 1...

The early catch and release trout season opens March 1 statewide with state fisheries officials predicting good opportunities for anglers if the weather warms sufficiently to let ice thaw and stream flows become normal. "Trout populations are in good shape statewide, so I'm predicting good fishing as soon as it gets pleasant enough to be out on the water and fish get active," says Larry Claggett, a DNR cold water fisheries biologist.

The early season runs through May 5 on all inland trout streams except for three biologically sensitive streams: the White River upstream from Pikes Bridge in Bayfield County, the category 5 sections of the Tomorrow River in Portage County, and the West Branch of the White River in Waushara County. The early season does not apply to lakes, ponds, spring ponds, and Great Lakes tributaries that have separate rules for migratory trout and salmon. The Lake Superior season opens March 25.

Anglers must use only artificial lures and flies for any kind of fish they catch in trout streams, and must immediately release them. Anglers must use barbless hooks to catch fish, but may have barbed hooks in their possession. "We reinstated the early trout season in 1997 to give trout anglers additional time to fish, while making sure the resource wasn't damaged," Claggett says. "To the best of our knowledge, the season has achieved both of those goals."

Wisconsin has more than 9,000 miles of cold-water trout streams, with more than 3,500 miles designated as Class I streams because they support naturally reproducing fishing populations. In 1999, Trout Unlimited's national office released a report that called Wisconsin's inland trout management program a model for the nation because of the DNR's half-century long tradition of providing angling opportunities by focusing on protecting and rehabilitating trout habitat rather than on stocking artificially propagated trout of catchable size.

Scott Stewart expects excellent trout fishing in southern and southwestern Wisconsin streams. Dave Vetrano reports from the La Crosse area that due to abundant springs in the coulee region, and stable base flows and cold water temperatures, fishing this season should be even better than last, when many fish in the 20-plus inch range were caught in our region. (excerpted from the DNR website)

An Open Letter

by Dr. Robert L. Hunt

Maybe the Perrier Co. has only the best of economic and environmental intentions regarding its proposal to mine spring quality ground water from trout stream aquifers in central Wisconsin. Maybe the company did nothing wrong by keeping their explorations and negotiations secret from public scrutiny for many months. Maybe - maybe not.

Maybe Secretary Meyer is delighted that a local citizen environmental group (Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited) was the first organization to do what the DNR should have done, raising public concern over potential adverse environmental impacts from the proposed Perrier operation. Maybe - maybe not.

Maybe Mr. Meyer has already eagerly signed the Friends of the Mekan petition and is enthusiastically encouraging his staff to sign the petition too. Maybe - maybe not.

Maybe Gov. Thompson is already planning to use the considerable powers of his office to encourage Perrier to seek an alternative water source that would not endanger 10,000 year old, irreplaceable trout streams in central Wisconsin. Water from the springs and artesian wells within the city limits of Westfield, for example. Maybe - maybe not.

I don't know the answers to these maybe-maybe not issues, but I do know this. The citizens of Wisconsin are still environmentally blessed and envied to live in a state that sustains almost 1500 trout streams totaling 9560 miles. Every mile of every trout stream is dependent on ground water for its existence.

There are no sources of surface water, snow melt runoff from mountain tops to provide trout-quality water. There are no deep reservoirs to provide cold, bottom water outflows. Summer air temperatures are too warm to allow surface water dependent streams to cool off sufficiently at night. Without year round inputs of ground water, trout streams in Wisconsin would cease to exist.

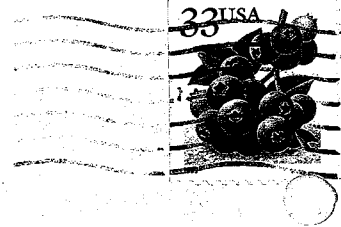
Equally important, there is no surplus ground water entering Wisconsin trout streams at any time of year. Based on my own research studies done during 33 years as a trout research biologist with the DNR, and supported by field data gathered by other DNR biologists, the evidence is clear: trout carrying capacity declines as ground water quality and quantity declines.

I hope that DNR and Perrier negotiators can amicably agree to do the only right thing: carry out a DNR-authorized environmental impact study of any aquifer favored by Perrier before authorization is given to proceed full scale with mining of ground water for commercial purposes.

(Dr. Hunt has been invited to write an article for Rip Rap. Look for it in an upcoming issue. Ed.)



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DEADLINES

Mar. 2/15/00

Vist our Website for Stream Reports , Chat and Chapter News
<http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish/>

Kiap-TU-Wish Winter Work Projects to Resume...

The two-year dispute between the DNR and St. Croix County over permitting and fees that has kept our chapter from performing needed brushing work on the Kinni and other streams has finally been resolved. Previous efforts to iron out a compromise between the county board and the state agency failed. The DNR has state authority to do its work of protecting and enhancing streams, and is specifically forbidden to pay permit fees to any local government. St. Croix County insisted that the DNR apply and pay applicable fees for their permits to work on the Kinni. Even though the cost of paying the fees is negligible, DNR personnel were reluctant to deal with St. Croix county because of the precedent it would set. Basin Team Leaders **John Paddock** and **Bob Michelson** met with St. Croix County legal and zoning staff on February 18 to discuss and resolve the issue. In future, DNR staff will simply send a notification letter to the County when work projects are planned. rather than formally applying for a permit.

