

Business meeting set for March 5th

By Jonathan Jacobs

The chapter's annual business meeting will be held at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street, Hudson on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 PM. As usual, dinner will be available from 6 PM. There are several good reasons why you should make every effort to attend this meeting. First among them is that this is the once a year business meeting and your voice and your vote are important in choosing board members and establishing policy for the coming year.

Chapter by-laws require that the chapter president appoint members to a nominating committee for the purpose of naming candidates for board positions. Board members whose terms are expiring are automatically members of the committee, while members at large make up its balance. The committee this year has nominated Bill Lovegren of St. Paul and Corey Mairs of New Richmond for three year terms and has nominated Jonathan Jacobs of Hudson as a candidate to fill the remaining year of the term of office of John Koch, who has resigned from the board. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Gary Horvath intends to introduce an amendment to the by-laws that would remove the Wisconsin residency requirement for the offices of president and vice president. **This proposal has the unanimous support of the current board and officers.** Mr. Horvath's proposal and his reasoning for it follow:

Among all chapters in the Wisconsin Council, Kiap-TU-Wish is unique in that approximately 40% of its members are not residents of the state. The proximity of the Twin Cities to such outstanding streams as the Kinnickinnic, Rush and others accounts for this situation. When the chapter was formed in 1972 the founding members stipulated in the bylaws that the President and Vice President must be residents of the state of Wisconsin. Trout Unlimited as an organization was only 13 years old and an unknown entity in Western Wisconsin. Therefore, this seemed like the right thing to do to avoid the perception of "outsiders from Minneapolis" telling the locals what to do.

In the last 30 years the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has established a reputation as staunch supporters of coldwater resources in Western Wisconsin. Not everyone loves us but they understand what we believe in. Because of this, I believe our chapter has outgrown the need for a residency requirement for its officers. Many fine presidential candidates have been denied the opportunity to lend their talents to these positions. In a volunteer group such as Trout Unlimited, a member in good standing should be given the opportunity to strive towards any position in

the organization. In a quick poll of other border chapters in the Wisconsin Council there were no residency restrictions in their bylaws for officer positions. Granted our chapter has a very high percentage of non-residents but **ARTICLE III, Section 1**, of the by-laws still require that a majority of the Board of Directors be residents of Wisconsin. The Board of Directors manages and controls the affairs of the chapter, thus maintaining local control.

Therefore, at the next annual Chapter business meeting in March, I will be putting forward a proposal to amend **ARTICLE IV, Section 3 and 4**, of the chapter bylaws to read as follows:

Section 3: The President shall be a resident of the State of Wisconsin chapter member in good standing. He or She shall be the chief executive officer of the chapter. He or She shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Board of Directors and shall have the general and active management of business and affairs of the chapter. With the Treasurer, the President may sign and execute in the name of the chapter all contracts, agreements, and other obligations of the chapter, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. He or She shall have the general supervision and direction of all the other officers of the chapter, and shall see that their duties are properly performed. He or She shall submit a report of the operations of the chapter to the members at each annual meeting, and from time to time shall report to the directors all matters within their knowledge and which the interests of the chapter may require to be brought to their notice. He or She shall do and perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to them by the Board of Directors. One (1) person shall not hold the office of President for more than three (3) years in succession.

John Koch resigns from board

By Jonathan Jacobs

John Koch, a Kiap-TU-Wish board member from Spring Valley, resigned his position on February 13, 2003. Mr. Koch said, "Events and changes in my personal life have left little time or inclination to deal with the events unfolding before the chapter; at this point the chapter will be better served with someone other than myself that is willing and able to devote more time to the issues before the board." Mr. Koch has expressed a willingness to continue to act as the chapter's liaison with the DNR regarding habitat improvement projects.

Chapter president Andy Lamberson said in response to the resignation, "I would like to thank John for his truly outstanding work on stream improvements and work with the DNR on prioritizing stream improvement work." "With John's work with the DNR the chapter and the DNR are in the most organized and efficient position I have seen in the 15-plus years I have been involved with chapter." "I strongly support John's continued efforts as our DNR liaison and thank him for his willingness to continue the efforts."

An existential dilemma

By Michael Alwin

Trout Unlimited is a science based organization, as is our Chapter. In fact, the Kiap-TU-Wish by-laws are very specific about the kind of work we can do and how we can do it. Article I, Section 2 says in part, that we can "work with and encourage constituted authorities...through scientific, yet practical trout management..." Later in this same section the language calls for the "dissemination of full and accurate information to the members and the general public."

We've spent the last decade collecting water temperature data on the Kinnickinnic River in the hopes of influencing the City of River Falls to protect it. Kent Johnson has spent hundreds of hours collecting data in the field, crunching data on his computer and meeting with council members and the planning commission. As late as a year ago it appeared that our efforts were paying off. The City Council was on the threshold of instituting the long awaited stormwater management ordinance and one of the most frightening developments seemed to be agreeable to the kinds of river-friendly proposals that the Chapter was encouraging.

Last fall however, the developer quietly changed his proposal, eliminating many of the principles we had encouraged. This development and the Chapter's response to it was reported to the membership in Rip-Rap late last year. At the February 9th Kiap-TU-Wish board meeting, I heard another disturbing piece of information: Apparently the stormwater management ordinance that the council passed had been watered down by the city engineer and will not provide the kind of protection for the river that the Chapter sought. If all we did was rely on science and the powers of persuasion to protect the Kinni, it wasn't enough.

We are left with this: We follow our by-laws to the letter and lose the very river from which we draw our name. It's time to reinterpret our by-laws. I urge our members to attend the the March 5th business meeting and instruct the board to adopt a more aggressive approach to saving the Kinni.

(Editor's note: While I personally agree wholeheartedly with the points put forward by Mr. Alwin, I'm compelled to point out that we do indeed have a dilemma arising from within the by-laws, which say that "no substantial part of the activities of the chapter shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation." I see that the Ojibbeau Chapter by-laws contain identical language, I suspect because the national organization requires it. Nonetheless, Mr. Alwin's opinions make it crystal clear that development is a key issue facing our chapter and that the business meeting is the ideal place to begin creating a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to deal with it.)

Stream improvements continue

Thorough March

By Jonathan Jacobs

Kiap-TU-Wish will continue to work with the DNR near the confluence of Parker Creek and the Kinnickinnic River on alternate Saturdays in March. Check the chapter website at <http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish> for details.

The chapter is also seeking volunteers to manage a call list of volunteers in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. If you are interested, please contact any officer or board member for details.

K-TU supports scientific projects

By Jonathan Jacobs

The chapter is providing partial funding for two projects and is seeking an Embrace-A-Stream grant for a third.

Kiap-TU-Wish contributed \$250 to the USGS for a study to measure distribution of baseflow and springs in the Kinnickinnic River. Other contributing partners in the project are the KRLT and St. Croix County. The work was done in December. In its introduction for the study the USGS said:

The regional groundwater model for Pierce and St Croix Counties being developed by Maureen Muldoon and Kerry Keen as part of the DNR SWAT (well head protection) program has been difficult to calibrate. One of the problems with the calibration has been in understanding the sources of fluxes for specific reaches of rivers. An understanding of the distribution of flux to the rivers will help in calibration and likely increase the accuracy of the regional groundwater model (2002, Keen, written comm.). When completed, the regional groundwater model will be a very useful resource management tool.

The Kinnickinnic River is a major river with high baseflow located in the center of the modeled area. Measuring the baseflow in the Kinnickinnic River at multiple locations throughout the basin and identifying and measuring specific springs will allow fluxes to be quantified by reach and/or specific spring. Additionally, it may be possible to identify the source aquifer of specific springs by use of the springs water chemistry. This additional information can be used in calibration of the regional groundwater model and help determine how much information a regional study of springs may be to understanding the hydrology of spring flow and stream baseflow in Pierce and St Croix Counties.

The chapter authorized an expenditure of \$861 to fund another year of research by University of Wisconsin biologist Clarke Garry (Visit the chapter web site to learn more about Mr. Garry's study) on the macroinvertebrate life of the Kinnickinnic River. Mr. Garry's proposal for funding said:

With completion of a one-year (1999) preliminary Kinnickinnic River insect survey (supported by Trout Unlimited Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter and Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters), plans were implemented for a comprehensive two-year inventory covering calendar years 2001 and 2002. Field work for this expanded study is presently being completed and it is anticipated that lab work for the two-year study will be finalized in 2003.

Rationale

The 2001-2002 inventory project was based on field sampling which resulted in the acquisition of a substantial number of specimens. These specimens require lab processing in the form of sorting, identification, labeling, and databasing of sample information. For example, the project for which support funding is being sought resulted in the acquisition of an estimated 19,007 specimens collected during Year One (2001). An additional 18,000 to 20,000 specimens are estimated to have been collected during Year Two (2002). Previous funding from Trout Unlimited (January 2001 grant) supported the sorting of the 2001 specimens to the family level.

This proposal is designed to provide funding that would be directed toward the completion of the sorting of the remaining (2002) specimens with the employment of a qualified UW-RF undergraduate assistant. This individual would be trained in the necessary sample sorting procedures and in the details of identification, as appropriate. This training reaches beyond simple employment and would be a valuable addition to an undergraduate's biological experiences.

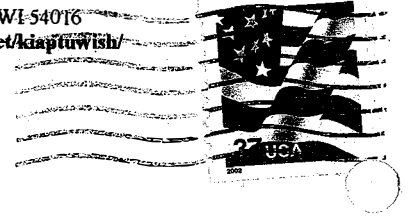
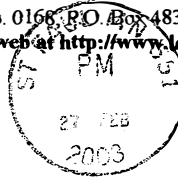
The Embrace-A-Stream grant, if awarded, would allow the chapter to provide substantial funding to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for its study of water quality issues in the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River. Results of the grant application are expected in March.

"Dry Fly Dick" memorial fly tyers to display skills at April meeting

By Jonathan Jacobs

We will pay homage to both the memory of acerbic angler-conservationist-bon vivant Richard M. "Dry Fly Dick" Frantes and the ancient and honorable art of fly tying at the Wednesday, April 2 meeting. Mr. Frantes organized this event for many years. He was well acquainted with every skilled fly tyer within a seventy five mile radius of his plumbing/fly shop in West St. Paul mostly because, while he was an excellent judge of talent, he was, to borrow a phrase from another curmudgeon, Robert Traver, "barely able to unzip a fly, much less tie one." He did an excellent job of finding demonstration tyers who tied in different styles and who represented a wide cross-section of those engaged in the sport.

If you would like to participate in this year's extravaganza, please contact Jonathan Jacobs. The right attitude (a sense of humor coupled with a willingness to share your skills) are more important than dazzling tying abilities.



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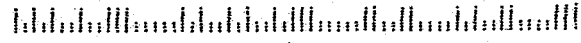
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MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

MARCH 5: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 2: DRY FLY DICK MEMORIAL FLY TIERS
MAY 7: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR APRIL RIPRAP: FRIDAY, MARCH 21