

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited March 2005

Annual business meeting set for 3/2

By Jonathan Jacobs

This is the second notice of the organization's annual business meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street in Hudson at 7 PM. Officers will render reports on chapter activities and finances. The membership will elect directors to fill vacancies on the chapter's board. The nominating committee has nominated **Kent Johnson** and **Hap Lutter** for re-election to fill the regular vacancies created by the expiration of their terms. Other business will include the approval of minutes of the last business meeting and other new business that may arise.

As always, dinner will be available in our meeting room from 6 PM. Come learn about what our chapter has done in the past year and offer your support for Mr. Johnson and Mr. Lutter.

SPRING FUND RAISING LETTER

Coming soon will be a letter for the financial committee requesting a donation to at least equal your national dues. This will help tremendously the projects that impact the waters that you enjoy. Please respond to this with a contribution.

WE HAVE A MATCHING GRANT WHICH WILL DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION!!

Fly tiers wanted

By Jonathan Jacobs

It's time to prepare for a rite of spring – our annual tribute to the art of fly tying and to the memory of angler/conservationist/raconteur/bon vivant Dry Fly Dick Frantes. If you would like to participate in this year's festivities at the Wednesday, April 6 K-TU meeting, or if you know of a hot prospect that we could dragoon into tying for the fawning masses, please contact Jonathan Jacobs at 715/386/7822 or via e-mail at turiprap@hotmail.com.

Contem-places:

Under the I-94 Bridge

By James R. Humphrey

Once upon a time a world-famous angler came out of the East to fish the fabled waters of the Kinnickinnic River.

At the same time an ancient fly-fisher, bow-hunter and champion environmentalist came out from the wilds of Minneapolis to stalk the elusive brook and brown trout of the upper river.

Fortuitously, the anglers met close to the Interstate 94 bridge. Our local friend, in keeping with Minnesota Nice, allowed the world-class fisher first dibs on the shadowed glide under the bridge. You know what it's like there, and why our resident hero was content to sit back and observe the technique of that author of many books and articles about the Art. In that distant time, writers of trout sagas were properly respected and deferred to.

And so the morning wore on. Those persnickety browns continued to select miniscule somethings from the surface while the expert continued to lay delicate casts on their noses without success. None. Much later the visitor stormed red-faced out of the water shaking his rod. Throwing a glance at Al Farnes, he shouted, "Those trout can be caught!"

And so they can, but not always, not even by famous fly-fishing authors. If you have been skunked there, be not chagrined; you were in good company.

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.

Rush River Litter Walk

By Sarah Sanford

In cooperation with TCTU, Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club and the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsmen's Club, Kiap-TU-Wish invites volunteers on a Rush River Litter Walk. Mark your calendars for the morning of April 23 and join us for a nice walk in the woods, a little litter picking, and lunch. Gathering time 10 a.m. Plan to carpool to the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club, where stream sections that need your attention will be assigned. Carpools or buses will be directed to the major bridge crossings from Hwy 29 north of Martell, all the way to Maiden Rock.

We're looking for 100 volunteers to span the 25 fishable miles of the Rush. Each will be scouting approximately one quarter of a mile for litter. You may need waders or boots

to keep you dry on your quarter of a mile assignment. Garbage bags will be provided.

Aside from the warm fuzzies of doing something good, you'll gain a new appreciation for the resource, meet others who share your love for this water, and demonstrate an important ethic. That ethic is one many of us former scouts have heard before "leave a place better than you found it".

Landowners on the Rush are especially invited to share in the celebration at the Gun Club to be held after the Litter Walk. If you would like to grant access to the stream from your own property for this one-day event, we'd be happy to scout for litter at your place. Let us know. Otherwise we'll enter at bridge crossings and keep our boots wet as we make our way along the river.

K-TU members who have not already done so, may sign up for this event with Greg Dietl (Telephone: 651-714-1525 E-mail: mccaignee@hotmail.com) or Sarah Sanford, sarahsanford@yahoo.com.

TU Stream improvements progress

By Greg Dietl

Chapter stream improvement chair Greg Dietl filed the following reports about two of the chapter's ongoing projects:

Tiffany Creek, February 19

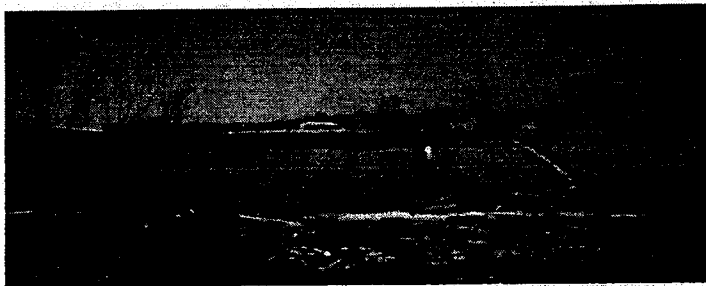
Today's efforts were frustrating! We tried to burn but it was too green and wet. The plans have changed a bit. We have the west side stacked and the piles will be bulldozed into a large stack later. We switched sides and began stacking the east side of the creek—with good success. We are now stacking that side in a series of smaller piles between the stump line and the rock wall. The DNR will then bulldoze those piles, also. We are scheduling next Saturday, 2-26 and should be able to get that east side stacked and finished. There won't be a work day scheduled on 3-5 and I'll post the next chapter in the Tiffany Creek project as soon as the DNR gives me the next sequence. Thanks today to 16(!) volunteers: **Doug, Ron, Loren, Bob, Andy, Kent, Warren, Caleb, Chuck, Eli, Zee, Sarah, John K. and Eli K.** Phil and special thanks to **Bill Woods** for showing up with a pot of homemade chili—what a treat! **Randy Arnold** has been going over during the week and working solo. This project has a July 1 deadline and there is lots left to be done so stay tuned for the next schedule. And thanks to everyone—we've had a terrific number of hardworking volunteers working this project and it's going very well. Oh, yeah, I lost my glasses over there today—but in spite of that—it was a good day to brush! - Greg

Kinnickinnic River, February 5

Today's burn was a success. Under the watchful eye of DNR representatives **Marty** and **Jay**, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers burned all 8 large piles of brush on a glorious 51 degree February day. Thanks to **Tracy Nelson, Chuck Goossen, Chad Borenz, Hap Lutter, Eric Forward, Paul Wright, Bob Lorenzen, Ron Zaudke, Bob Bradham, Charles Condon, and Greg Dietl**. Brats were served at noon after a start between 8:30- 9 AM and work finished up around 3:30 PM. That's roughly 77 hours of volunteer labor. The brush piles are gone and the DNR plans on a prairie burn in the spring. This is a great start to restoring the Kinnickinnic to its prairie stream roots. Thanks again to all who came today! - *Greg*

Photos from the work projects:

Kinnickinnic:



Tiffany Creek:



KRLT Offers Field Trip

By *Eric Forward*

Headwaters Project Area Sunday, March 6, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come explore the KRLT's "Headwaters Project Area" on a 1.5 mile snowshoe* hike. This is the area where there are enough springs and seeps to allow the Kinnickinnic to start to flow year round. You will observe springs, remnant prairie/oak savanna, restored prairie, wildlife and aquatic life. A discussion of the history and future management activities of the project area will be led by Brent Sittlow, Kiap-TU-Wish Treasurer and Secretary. *Degree of difficulty: Moderate* Participants must supply their own snowshoes, if snow conditions do not permit this will be a normal hike without snowshoes.

The field trip will proceed rain or shine except during severe weather. Pre-registration is required. You must register before 4 p.m. on March 4th. To register please call Eric Forward at the KRLT office at 715-425-5738 or email him at krleric@presenter.com. Directions, maps and details will be sent upon registration. The cost is \$5 for adults. There is no charge for children under the age of 18. All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration fees are non-refundable. No pets, please.

K-TU welcomes new members

By *Jonathan Jacobs*

The following folks have joined our ranks since last September when the current RipRap production cycle began:

Robert Bieraugel
Robert Diesch
Leigh Hagness
Bob Mazanec
Owen Mobley
Dave Norris
James Rasmussen

Daniel Wilcox

Chad Borenz
Kevin Greaser
Rod Hanson
Denny Metzger
Troy Ninneman
John Opitz
George Zaske

K-TU welcomes these members and wishes to thank them and the numerous members who have renewed their memberships in recent months for hooking up with us.

Conservation groups unite to support license fee increases

Adapted from a press release

A press release released February 9 by a consortium of conservation groups, including the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, the Madison Audubon Society, the Gathering Waters Conservancy and **Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** made a case for increased license fees in Wisconsin:

Madison: Today, hunters, anglers, sporting groups and conservation organizations voiced their support of the hunting and fishing license fee increase proposed by Governor Doyle as a necessary step to retain the high quality of Wisconsin's hunting and fishing opportunities.

Wisconsin's largest conservation organizations supported Governor Doyle's proposal to increase fees from \$20 to \$32 for a hunting license and from \$17 to \$20 for a fishing license as a reasonable way to protect hunting and fishing in Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin hunters and anglers have affirmed over and over again that an increase in fees is a reasonable way to protect hunting and fishing traditions. The fees must be used to maintain and improve hunting and fishing conditions," said George Meyer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

"Without the proposed fee increases, services to the average hunter and angler will be reduced and conservation efforts will suffer," said Tom Thoreson, a retired Conservation Warden serving on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. "As an avid hunter and fisherman, I, like thousands of other Wisconsinites, want to see my services and opportunities improve, not diminish. Even with the proposed fee increase, a license to hunt or fish costs less than one gas fill-up in your car or truck."

In 2003, 82 percent of voters supported a constitutional amendment to hunt, fish, trap and take game, proving just how committed Wisconsinites are to hunting and fishing. Supporting the proposed license fee increases is another sign of that commitment.

Recent tight state budgets have required the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to make painful cuts to programs that maintain and enhance the Wisconsin hunting and fishing experience. The fee increases will help offset these losses and ensure that the level of service does not decline.

Without increases in license fees, negative effects could include:

- Continued vacancies in Conservation Warden positions;
- The elimination of wildlife biologists;
- 70 percent reduction in operation funds for public lands management, which includes pheasant stocking and wildlife population surveys;
- Additional hours curtailed or a total loss of some Customer Service Centers;

- 15 percent reduction in stocking of trout, musky and walleye;
- 20 percent reduction in trout habitat work;
- An overall decrease in the quality of our lakes and streams; and
- Loss of wardens responsible for preventing illegal hunting.

"These fee increases are modest and overdue," said Jeff Smith, legislative chair for **Wisconsin Trout Unlimited**. "Paying \$20 to be able to fish every day of the year is a bargain compared to a day at a theme park."

Reducing the quality of fishing and hunting in Wisconsin could also have a detrimental effect on Wisconsin's \$11.7 billion tourist industry which is heavily reliant on hunters and anglers from Wisconsin and other states.

The groups are calling on the Joint Finance Committee and other Legislators to support Wisconsin's hunting and fishing community by supporting the proposed license fee increases.

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Increasing hunting and fishing license fees is one of eight budget priorities listed in the Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book 2005-2006, the unified agenda of more than 35 conservation organizations. To view the budget priorities, visit www.conservationvoters.org/budget05/budget05brbk_introl.shtml.

Utah Salmonfly Relocation Project

By Paul Wright

Ever since my son and his family moved to Logan, Utah, I've had the opportunity to enjoy Utah's great outdoors on many occasions. Along with some great hiking and grouse hunting in the mountains, I've also had some very good trout fishing in the Logan River for browns, rainbows, and the occasional cutthroat.

Last November while in Logan, I noticed an article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* about a project to restore insects to the Logan River. The insect of interest here is the salmonfly, which for unknown reasons disappeared from the Logan River in the early to mid-1960s. Prior to that time these insects were extremely abundant in this river and, while there are a number of possible explanations for their disappearance, there is no supporting data.

I talked to Mark Vinson, avid angler and entomologist at Utah State University, who, along with the Cache Anglers chapter of TU and other volunteers, is taking on a four year insect relocation project. This project is being coordi-

nated with the U.S. Forest Service and Utah Division of Natural Resources. Vinson stated that it is puzzling that the species has not been able to recolonize the river, which suggests a number of possible factors, including a continual source of pollution.

On a chilly Saturday morning my son Scott and I joined a group of about 30 volunteers on the Blacksmith Fork River for a few hours of kicking stones and capturing live salmonfly nymphs with nets. Mark gave us some background information on the project, as well as a brief orientation on how to collect and identify the nymphs. According to Vinson, there are two species of salmonflies here, *Pteronarcys californica* and *Pteronarcella badia*. Both used to flourish in the Logan, so nothing is being put into the river that wasn't present before. These nymphs appeared similar to the stonefly nymphs I've seen in Wisconsin trout streams.

The Blacksmith Fork is a trout stream similar in size to the Logan and is loaded with salmonflies. Both of these streams flow out of the Bear River Mountains in drainages about ten miles apart and confluence south of Logan in Cache Valley. That morning the group collected a couple thousand nymphs of various ages for relocation to their new home in the Logan River. A few dozen will be kept in traps in the river where they will be monitored regularly.

For more information about this experiment look under "Projects and Research" at <http://www.usu.edu/buglab>.
Paul Wright of Hudson, WI is long-time member of Kiap-TU-Wish. This is his first contribution to RipRap.

KLRT executive director resigns

Source: St. Paul Pioneer Press

The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported in its Tuesday, February 15 edition that Rick McMonagle, executive director of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, has resigned to pursue new career options. Mr. McMonagle will remain with the land trust until its board chooses his successor. The board expects to fill the position by June. According to the Pioneer Press, during Mr. McMonagle's more than eight years with the KRLT, the land trust has grown from 100 to more than 1,700 acres.

Wolf River protection fund created

By Jonathan Jacobs

The Wolf River, a storied wilderness river in northeast Wisconsin, had been imperiled beginning in the 1970s by the prospect of sulfide mining for copper in its watershed. TU members may recall the public outcry and heated debate surrounding the issues of surface and groundwater

degradation, mine ownership and stewardship and the overall negative environmental and economic impacts of the proposed mining operation.

Fortunately, two Native American tribes, the Potawatomi Tribe and the Sokaogon Chippewa Mole Lake Tribe, stepped forward in October, 2003 to purchase the Nicolet Minerals Company, its 5000 acres and its mineral rights for \$16,500,000, with each tribe to pay one-half by 2006. The tribes immediately notified the state of Wisconsin to end the mine permitting process. This purchase would effectively end the threat posed by sulfide mining. However, the danger will not pass until the tribes have paid for the property in full. The Potawatomi Tribe is equipped to meet its financial obligations, but the small, disadvantaged Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe is not.

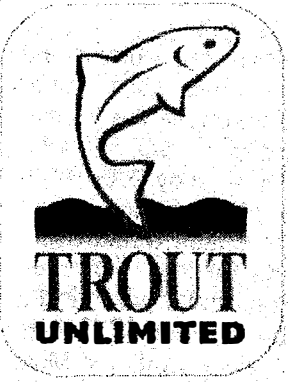
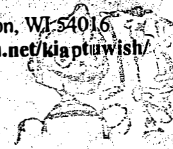
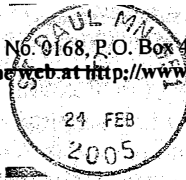
The Tribes must be recognized for their willingness to take on the financial burden imposed by their conviction that protection of the Wolf River watershed is important to their culture and their future. To help ease the burden, the **Wolf River Protection Fund** was chartered in August, 2004 for the express purpose of seeking public and private funding to assure that the Mole Lake Tribe is able to retire the eight million dollar debt when due and to take all reasonable actions to assure protection of the Wolf River watershed forever from environmental degradation associated with metallic mining and to fulfill its trust responsibilities to future generations.

You may make a tax-deductible contribution to this worthy cause by making a check payable to the Wolf River Protection Fund, c/o CoVantage Credit Union, 502 W. Pioneer Street, Crandon WI 54502.

A detailed history of the mining threat to the Wolf River and the heroic efforts to end that threat may be found at www.wolfriverprotectionfund.org



Early Season, edition # A/P, John Koch



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MEETING SCHEDULE:
MARCH 2: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 6: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS
MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR MARCH RIPRAP: FRIDAY, MARCH 25

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Willow River Monitoring: Chuck Goossen, Project Leader
Fundraising Committee: Corey Mairs, Chair.
Publications: Jonathan Jacobs, Editor.
Program Committee: **VACANT**
Education Committee: Michael Alwin, Chair
Habitat Committee: Greg Dietl, Chair
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Chapter membership development: **VACANT**