



# RIP-RAP

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RESTORATION & PRESERVATION  
THROUGH RESEARCH & PROJECTS

May 1993

## ◆ D.F. Flote

### March Dries

One day in March the Chief calls up Drag with an idea about winter fishing in Southern Wisconsin. He called Drag because no one else would buy this nonsense even though Jim Humphrey recommended it, and he needed a truck man to co-pilot his new Explorer on a shake-down, break-in cruise. Drag, who wasn't getting any satisfaction at his tying bench anyway, fell for the promise of a blue-wing olive hatch at 11:00 sharp, guaranteed. John Gierach notwithstanding, these guys go for the real smooth, shiny-type fishing vehicle, and Chief's new one didn't disappoint. It was smooth sailing all the way down the Kickapoo River valley, where they still use horse-drawn wagons for the Saturday morning go-to-town. The Explorer offered overdrive, cruise and equalized stereo, which made more sense to these modern fishermen, traditional flyrodders though they are. They hit the Big Blue at 11:00 sharp.

It was one of those especially rare early spring mornings, one of the first, really, when the sun warms everything not connected to the cold ground, so that while the remaining snow drifts didn't melt, the calm air felt like late May.

Chief had recommended a pheasant tail when they rigged up, but just before Drag could cinch down on that little beauty, the order changed to a #18 blue wing olive, and he had to start all over. He's been known to forget stringing the line guides before tying on, and this change up came just in time to prevent that embarrassment. The trout were

## MAY MEETING NOTICE

**WHEN:** Wed., May 5  
**TIME:** Dinner at 6:30  
Meeting at 8  
**WHERE:** Hudson House

Marty Engel, Area Fisheries Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be giving his annual presentation to the Chapter. Marty plans to review the latest shocking results and review his recently completed study of the Rush River in Pierce County.

Marty's presentations are always very well attended..so come early for a good seat! Hope to see you at dinner.

## ◆ 1st Annual D.F. Flote

### Fishing Hat Contest and Review Winners

An impressive array of hats graced the April Chapter meeting. Despite some rather raw odor and truly disgusting grungy chapeaus, some clear winners were in evidence.

Final candidates were selected by the Chief and then the winners were "voted" on by the members. Congratulations to the three winners. The rest of us will just have to try harder next year!

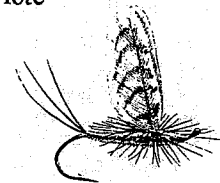
## ◆ March Dries Cont.

indeed rising just below that shallow, gravelly riffle, and the Chief had two before Drag's line was wet.

Feeling generous and eyeing a better spot just below, he helped Drag with his puddle cast, and got him into catching those 8 - 10 inch eager Browns rising to the first hatch of spring. For Drag, it was a first for catching steadily rising fish, and he managed to catch and release a dozen or so. (Drag doesn't count 'em.) The Chief claimed three "sevens", which he explained as seven hook-ups on seven consecutive casts. Drag wondered why the eighth one was so hard, but was pretty amazed by that kind of consistency.

When Chief was explaining the amazing good luck to his wife, and particularly Drag's good fishing, she supposedly countered, "That's not good fishing, that's a damned miracle!" And it probably was, too, because they paid dearly for it. The Italian restaurant was out of Italian food, totally, and Drag's snoring prevented either of them from getting any sleep. Next day it was cold and raw, the fish didn't show, and even the wild turkeys crash landing into the bluff above them couldn't save the day. It wound up to be one of those long, low key rides home, but hey, they got some trout on dry flies in March!

D. F. Flote



D.F FLOTE SPEAKS OUT

In southern Wisconsin there is one of those rustic DNR signs that designates an area as "FISH-for-FUN". Now I can't think of any other reason to go fishing but this got me wondering about the other labels we could put on our streams. How about FISH-for-Profit? FISH-for-WORK? Maybe FISH-for-ENLIGHTENMENT? Or the dreadful FISH-for-MEAT? Maybe that's it. They should label all other streams as "FISH-for-MEAT". Or how about "FISH-for-EXTINCTION" to give some real incentive to it.

Maybe the sign is a DNR attempt at attitude adjustment in a land where the pioneer spirit of meat fishing is still a way of life and reducing limits is the only way to keep the locals from wiping out the whole damned stream. Of course, they would probably blame it on some "outsiders".

Drag's brother-in-law, who claims he wouldn't fish for trout if he couldn't eat 'em, likes the reduced limits, which allows him to do his "work" and get back to camp where he can take a nap. A combination work and meat fisherman, I guess. Drag once suggested that he might like Trout Aire, that catch and eat place in Minnesota. Real efficient, too. Maybe the concept of fun is a halfway step between meat and enlightenment. This is a little disappointing though, because we like to think that trout fishers are a little higher up the evolutionary scale than say hunters, and maybe canoeists.

Why can't the DNR just call it what it is? Catch and Release. There, that wasn't so tough. I think we can handle catch and release, especially since that's where the DNR and any thinking person knows we have to go anyway. Of course, the DNR has to play politics though. They're the guys who are against dams, but are required by law to kick in \$200K everytime somebody wants to rebuild one! Now, there's a bind for you. Let's hope we never get to the point where our DNR believes in catch and release to save wild trout from extinction, but is required by law to allow people to harvest them!

The winter trout season in southern Wisconsin counties is pretty controversial. I guess the natives (humans, not trout) think all of "their" fish are being killed by some guys in Volvos from Minnesota. Or Madison BMW's, maybe. Their best argument is that the pressure should be spread around and not concentrated in one area. We can do it now, with special regs in place and a way to treat each area individually. We should relieve the winter fishing pressure, real or perceived, in southern counties just to be fair. The trade off should be to expand winter fishing to other streams around the state that can handle it and greatly increase catch and release, which may be the only way to protect areas that produce wild trout. Even Scout, as tight as he is, was greatly impressed by the catch and release spring creeks in Montana, where it costs \$50 a day to fish! But that assumes water ownership.

While it is tempting to think that we "own" the fish that we work so hard to promote and preserve, fish come from the water, which in this part

# Join Trout Unlimited

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

### Chapter # 0168

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter was founded in 1972 for the purpose of restoring, improving and protecting trout habitat in western Wisconsin. We derive our name from the local rivers of particular concern to us: The Kinnickinnic, Apple, Willow and Rush. Over the years we have worked closely with private citizens, local governments and the Department of Natural Resources on various projects such as trout stocking, population surveys, streamside trash pickup, bank stabilization, erosion control, stream temperature surveys, placement of in-stream habitat structures, stream bank debrushing, fishing clinics and water quality issues. Conservation minded persons can find rewarding volunteer work within our chapter ranging from preparing mailings, to streamside projects requiring heavy lifting.

There are pleasant social experiences within Kiap-TU-Wish, too. We hold regular meetings from September through May on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the *Hudson House* located off south access road, adjacent to I-94 in Hudson. Meetings begin at 8PM, with dinner available at 6:30. Our meetings feature presentations on angling, flytying, stream ecology and water quality. Of course there are the usual fishing stories and tall tales and we would be very interested in hearing yours at the next meeting! Please join us!

Membership includes a subscription to the national magazine *Trout* and the state council newspaper *Wisconsin Trout*, both published quarterly. The chapter also produces a newsletter, *Rip-Rap* published monthly, September through May.

For more information call: \_\_\_\_\_ ph. \_\_\_\_\_

Or write: Trout Unlimited  
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter  
P.O. Box 483  
Hudson, WI 54016

YES! Please begin my one-year membership to *Trout Unlimited*.

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Regular Membership (\$25)       Family Membership (\$30)

Payment Enclosed\*       Please Bill Me

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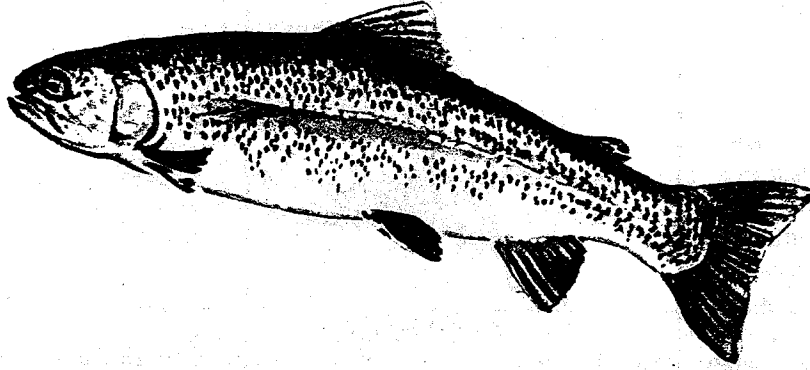
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\* Make checks payable to *Trout Unlimited*

of the country no one can own. That may be the last remaining concept of the native American that we honor and just could be crucial for wild trout. Let the people use and enjoy the water and the fish, but don't abuse and waste them. We need to all stand together to preserve the wonderful gifts we've been given. I believe only when we view our natural surroundings in a spiritual way, will we be enlightened in their preservation.



#### WEIRD FLY CONTEST REDUX

After publicly humiliating myself at the January meeting by showing slides of failed flies I've designed, it's time to offer you a chance for redemption. Even though we had only one entrant in last year's contest, I'm determined to forge ahead with this contest. All of us are, no doubt, getting ready for the coming season. Who knows what wondrous creations you'll concoct to sucker the noble trout? Some of these creations will undoubtedly wind up on the scrap heap. Send them in and win the prize, a crisp \$5 bill and a certificate suitable for framing. There are two rules:

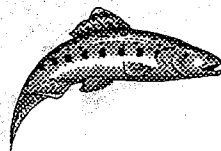
1) The fly must have arisen from a natural phenomenon you've witnessed or heard about. 2) It must have been a total abysmal failure. Contest ends October 30th 1993. Anyone is eligible.

—Mike Alwin.

◆ **Pocket Water Casts -In the Tradition of The Acerbic Angler-**

On May 26, 1934, there was a heavy hatch of dark winged Mayflies on the West Branch of the Ausable River near Wilmington, N.Y., and as there had been excellent sport with the Hendrickson dry-fly the day previous, when the Ephemerelella invaria was on the water, the writer was disappointed when rising fish refused to have anything to do with a Hendrickson fly. Specimens of the flies were secured, and as they had the characteristic markings on their legs which indicate Iron (Epeorus), the fly which is represented by the Quill Gordon, a Quill Gordon dry-fly was substituted for the Hendrickson, and four heavy fish were then taken in rapid succession. Other members of the party then switched to Quill Gordons and also took fish.

*Preston Jennings, A Book of Trout Flies, 1935, Derrydale Press*



**Kiap-TU-Wish**

President: Andy Lamberson (715)386-7568      Vice President: Gary Horvath (715)425-8489  
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**Don't forget to take some slides of your fishing adventures this season for our annual Member's Slide Show in November. If you take a really special trip please consider sharing your trip with the Chapter at one of the open dates listed below.**

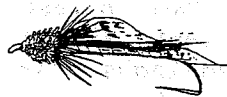
**Kiap-TU-Wish  
1993 Meetings**

- May 5: Marty Engel Wisc. DNR
- Sept. 1: Mike Spittler's: New Zealand
- Oct. 6: Member's Slide Show
- Nov. 2:
- Dec. 7: Christmas banquet

**1994 Meetings**

- Jan. 5:
- Feb. 2:
- March 2: Business Meeting
- April 6: Fly Tiers
- May 4: Marty Engel Wisc. DNR

**Dinner at 6:30    Meeting at 8:00**  
 All meetings are at the Hudson House.



**KIAP-TU-WISH  
TROUT UNLIMITED  
P.O. BOX 483  
HUDSON, WI 54016**

