



Rip Rap

May Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 7
Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
Dinner: 6:30
Program: 8:00 "DNR Viewpoint"

Marty Engel's Annual Report on the 'State of the Streams.' Plenty of time for questions and answers.

President's Lines:

A new 'general opener' is almost upon us, and those of us who have not yet taken advantage of the early season, are beginning to be more affected by the warmer weather. We will soon be installing the temperature and flow monitoring instruments at the newly constructed station on the Willow. If you'd like to help calculate the river's flow under different conditions, please contact Gary Horvath or myself. It will be useful to collect data over the summer, as fall or early winter will bring about the removal of the Mounas Dam. It's hard for me to imagine what the river will look like, with a gradient of 47 feet per mile. River Falls will be making welcome modifications to the lower dam in Glen Park which will help maintain stable water levels in the Kinni. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the Trout Clinic on May 17 (see p. 3), but my wife Karen will supervise the meal. She could use some help, if another spouse might be willing. Gary Horvath continues to be a steward of our rivers. In March, he attended a meeting with the Department of Transportation suggesting that they incorporate 'best management practices' into their plans for the four lane expressway that will link River Falls to interstate 94. I'm afraid development is on our doorstep. We must be able to provide relevant, up to date information to the people who will be deciding how this development will take place!! (see p.3)

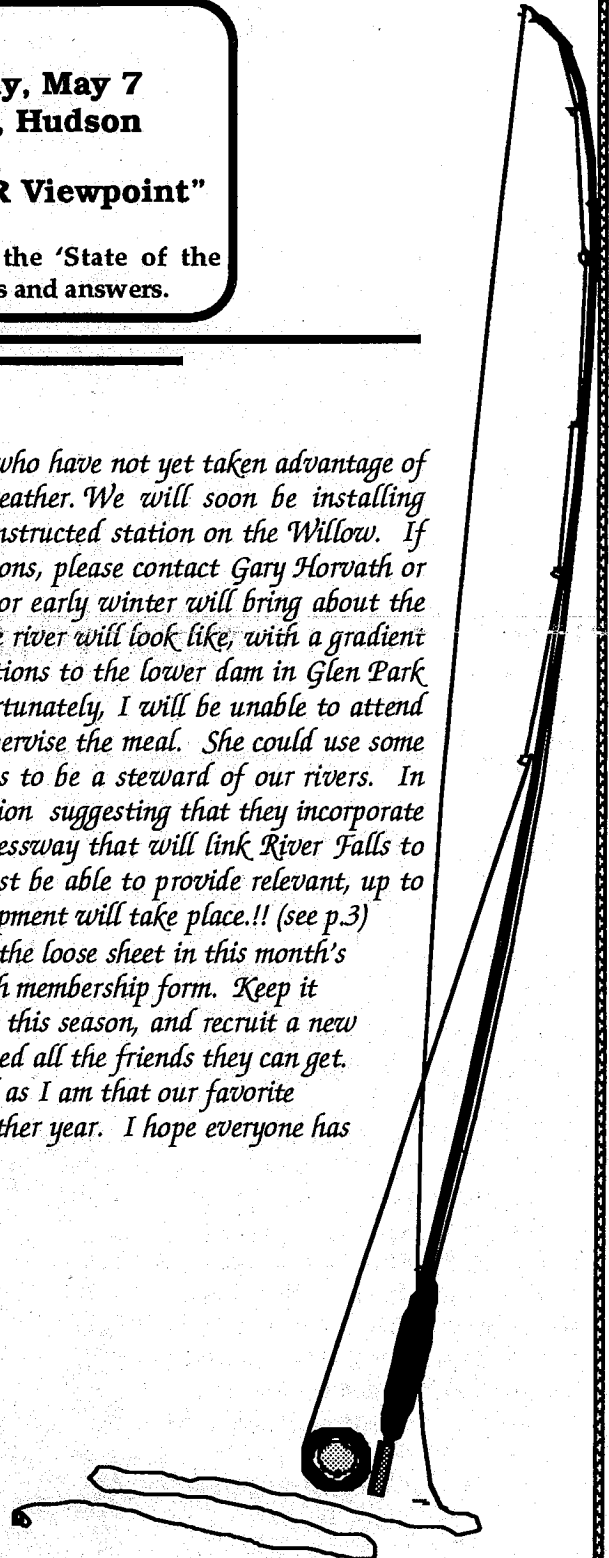
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You will notice that the loose sheet in this month's newsletter is a Kiap-TU-Wish membership form. Keep it with you in your fishing vest this season, and recruit a new member or two. The rivers need all the friends they can get. I know everyone is as excited as I am that our favorite hatches are returning for another year. I hope everyone has a successful season.

Sincerely,

Tony Stifter, President



Web-page inspires local youngster...

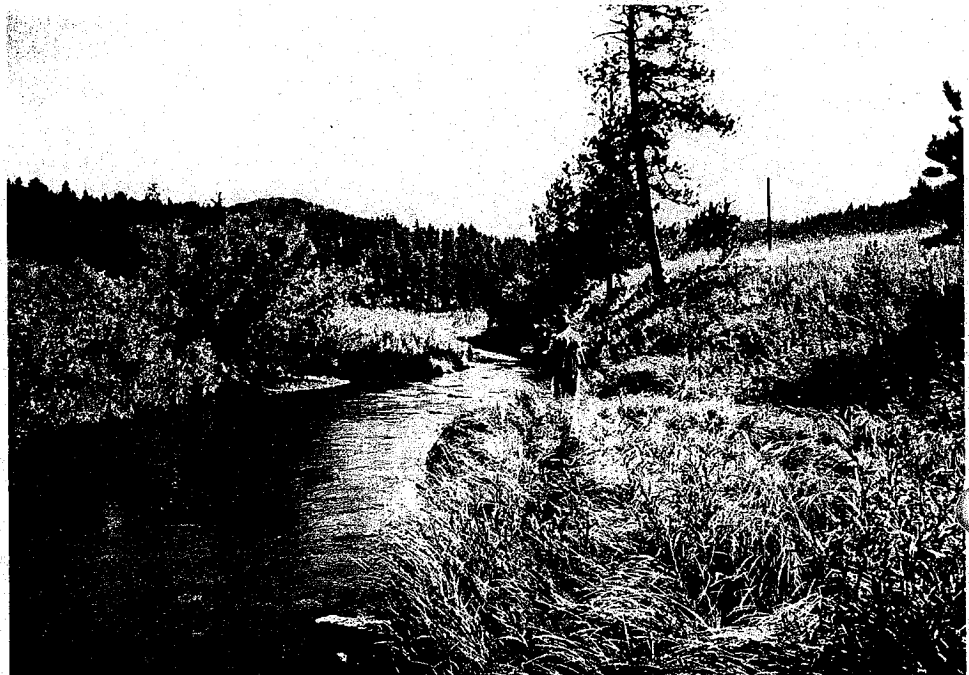
Mike Couch gazed out the window of Ray Donatell's classroom at Meyer Middle School in River Falls. It wasn't that he was bored, exactly, but his mind had had too much Winter and his thoughts flowed quite naturally to the Kinnickinnic River and thoughts of Spring. Awakened from his reverie by the teacher, Mike was being asked to choose a topic for a school project, both a written paper and a display of some kind. Without a second's hesitation, young Couch decided to investigate the Kinni.

Later that afternoon, while surfing the net with his home computer, he ran across Kiap-TU-Wish's home page. After reading the information, Mike placed a telephone call to our web-master, Andy Lamberson, who put him in touch with TU President Gary Horvath. Mike talked to Gary, who promised to send him information on cold water resources, what TU was doing to curb thermal pollution from storm water runoff, news of other TU chapters. Sifting through this pile of information, Mike found the information he needed to write his paper, and he was intrigued that there was a group of people organized to protect his beloved Kinni, and he wanted to see what it had accomplished in person.

So he cajoled his father, Bill, into taking him to one of Kiap-TU-Wish's Fishworks workdays one Saturday morning in March, where he met several chapter members and Marty Engel. Both he and his dad lent a hand with the brushing project that day. During the morning, conversing with fellow Fishworkers, both Mike and Bill Couch got educated about cold water resources and their fragility in the face of development pressures. It turned out that Mr. Couch was a member of the Kinnickinnic Township Board, which had resisted calls from both TU and KRLT to modify their building permit regulations. Mr. Couch is now an advocate for doing what is necessary to preserve the Kinni, we have a friend on the Kinnickinnic Township Board, and Kiap-TU-Wish has won another friend for the river. And Mike? His paper was turned in on time, and his project, due Friday, April 18, will be on display at his school.

There is hope for the preservation of the Kinnickinnic and any other trout stream so long as TU members are willing to share their thoughts and their commitment to preserving cold water resources with others. All of our outreach tools: clinics, meetings, banquets, government hearings, RipRap, web page, are crucial to this effort. We should all be proud that Andy's efforts have paid off so handsomely in the life of Mike Couch. Let's reach all the Mike Couch's in our area.

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Kiap-TU-Wish Education Committee plans fishing clinic...

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in western Wisconsin."*

On May 17, the chapter will host the 3rd annual Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic in River Falls. The all day clinic starts at 1pm in Glen Park. Students will spend the afternoon learning to cast a fly rod, tie knots, locate and stalk fish and identify insects. Education Committee members will serve supper for the participants, after which everyone will be treated to an evening of fishing on the Kinni, with students guided by our tutors. Our hope is that our River Falls students will become emotionally involved in trout fishing and that they'll become stewards and allies in the struggle to preserve the finest trout stream in western Wisconsin.

In order to be successful we need your help. First, help us by volunteering to be a tutor. Committee members will be doing the formal teaching. Tutors will work with one or two students at a time reinforcing the lesson, whether knots, casting or equipment, and later act as guides for the evening fishing. Tutors are asked to bring an outfit (rod, line, reel) to loan to a student for the day.

If you can't be a tutor, consider donating a gift of flies. Each student will receive a complimentary fly box with which to start his/her trout fishing career, and it will help defray the chapter's cost if you could donate a dozen or two of your hand crafted creations.

To volunteer as a tutor or to donate flies, call **Mike Alwin** at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, 612-770-5854

Searching for the right medium...

Members of the Education Committee have been sharing ideas about the possible production of a Kiap-TU-Wish video, slide show, or narrated multi media presentation to be used in schools, public hearings, at trade shows, clinics or community events. This production would clearly show the harm to trout streams caused by unregulated development, thermal pollution or riparian degradation and hopefully educate the populace to demand protective measures for threatened rivers. It would also show the role played by Trout Unlimited, and particularly Kiap-TU-Wish chapter in protecting our local streams. At the most recent board meeting, \$100 was earmarked for further study of this exciting and ambitious proposal.

Lunker Structures to be installed in Kinni...

In case you've wondered about the long pile of boulders just upstream of the 'no trespassing sign' bend, they're to be installed as rip rap to prevent the river from further eroding the high bank. Almost 150 yards of park path has been lost to crumbling banks. Once the bank has been stabilized, grasses and shrubs will be planted to hold the sandy soil more firmly. In cooperation with the DNR and the city of River Falls, Kiap-TU-Wish has pledged \$1,000. to provide the materials for lunker structures which will be hidden under the riprap boulders on the deep side of the bend. The actual construction work is slated for June. The project should provide shelter for some real whoppers in that stretch of River!

JOIN TROUT UNLIMITED NOW AND HELP PROTECT THE RESOURCE

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #0168

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited was founded in 1972 for the purpose of protecting, improving, and restoring the trout habitat in western Wisconsin. We derive our name from 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on various projects such as storm water monitoring and management, bank stabilization and repair, stream bank de-brushing, fish population surveys, stocking, placement of in-stream habitat structures, fishing clinics, and other educational activities. Conservation minded persons can find rewarding work within our chapter ranging from preparing mailings to streamside projects.

The membership also enjoys pleasant social experiences. We hold regular meetings from September through May on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the JR Ranch, located just north of exit #4 off Interstate 94 in Hudson, Wisconsin. Meetings begin at 8pm with dinner at 6:30, (optional, reservations not necessary). Our meetings feature presentations on angling, flytying, stream ecology, and water quality as well as the latest issues that affect our local, regional and national trout resources. 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's newspaper: *Wisconsin Trout*, both published quarterly. The chapter's own newsletter, *Rip Rap*, is published monthly, September through May.

Application for Membership

Yes!

I want to join Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited #0168

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

Mail Completed Application to:

Trout Unlimited
Membership Services
P.O. Box 1335
Merrifield, VA 22116-9801

Regular Membership \$30 Family Membership \$35

Payment Method: Check (Make check payable to Trout Unlimited)
 Charge

Mastercard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Skip's Loose Threads....

Now that the snow's gone, and the rivers have crested, we can pay closer attention to some of the smaller miracles of Spring. One of my favorite streamside occupations is identifying wildflowers. It's truly amazing how plants that get no light for most of the warm months flower in the early spring before the forest canopy fills in. Bloodroot, Trillium, Trout Lilies, Violets, and later Phlox and Virginia Bluebell all flower before the tree foliage has maxed out.

I've always suspected that the procession of wild flowers is tied closely to the hatches of insects from trout streams, since both organisms depend upon light and heat to trigger emergence. For a few years now, I've kept track, in an informal way, of what was blooming when certain hatches appeared. I hope this pricks your curiosity, because I've found a significant correlation, but I'll let you discover it for yourself. There is a new book, The Phenology of Trout Streams, by an angler who fishes the East slope of the Rockies in both the US and Canada, in which he groups various insects with timely wildflowers, although I doubt whether his information would be useful in the Midwest in any more than a general way. Phenology is the study of the relationships between climate and biological cycles in nature.

There are various guidebooks to wildflowers on the market that are cheap, durable, and small enough to be carried in a fly fisher's vest. I own both the Peterson Field Guide to Wildflowers, about \$15., and A Guide to Field Identification, Wildflowers, by Golden Books, about \$5. I'm sure there are many others available at most bookstores.

The Peterson book is more detailed, with fewer color plates and many more black and white drawings. It is organized by blossom color...i.e., all the red flowers are grouped together. The Golden Guide has more color plates and less information on the plant. It is organized by plant families. Both books give dates for blooming. It would be really neat if a wildflower book were organized by season, showing the succession of blooms appearing from earliest Spring through early Winter.

Just what you needed! Something else to lug around with you. You may discover a new hobby in the diversity of wildflowers, or maybe not; but you might never forget that the peppery smell of phlox on a windless evening seems to signal the beginning of huge hatches of Hydropsyche caddis.

*"Never forget that the
peppery smell of phlox on a
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Skip's Spotted Wing Emergent Caddis...

Hook: Tiemco 100, #16

Thread: 8/0 olive

Abdomen: Borden's Haretron Olive Tan #25

Rib: Yellow Krystal Flash

Thorax: dark natural Hare's Ear, picked out

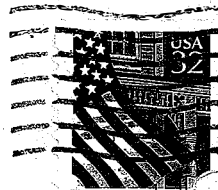
Hackle: Dark Grouse

This is a simple to tie wet fly that I find more useful than any dry pattern, including the famous Elk Hair Caddis. I fish it quartered down and across the current and let it swing on a tight line through feeding fish. Strikes are usually violent, so use a 4x tippet. Don't put floatant on the imitation. Usually the more bedraggled the fly gets, the more effective it is.





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DEADLINES

Sept. 8/15/97
Oct. 9/15/97
Nov. 10/15/97

Now on the Internet at:

<http://www.spacestar.com/users/lambcom/kiap.html>

Visit our expanded and enhanced website

RifRaf....

Poetry, Reviews, Fiction, Criticism

"Here, then, is found the true attractivity of fishing. To hear the soft wind sough through the leafless branches in early spring, caressing the willow-cats until they arch their furry backs in delight, is the call that sends us forth to observe, religiously, "Opening Day." The insect life of June, the green trees, the up-springing flowers, the songs of multitudinous birds...those are the things which call us out; not the desire to catch fish. Every true angler is an embryonic poet, feeling things which he cannot express, seeing things which he cannot describe. He who fishes for fish is not an angler but a mere fisherman. He who angles that may become proficient with latest wrinkles of tackle is not an angler but an experimenter. He who seeks to collect samples of everything in tackle is not an angler but a faddist. The true angler partakes somewhat of the natures of the foregoing, but, first of all, he is a lover of God's Out o' doors."

from Trout Lore, by O.W. Smith, Stokes Publishing, New York, 1917

