



# Rip Rap

## May Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 5  
 Where: JR Ranch, Hudson  
 Dinner: 6:30  
 Program: 8:00 Marty Engel Speaks

### President's Lines:

*I'm always happy to see new faces at our chapter meetings. And I'm especially happy to see youngsters at our meetings and functions. On a recent ride to the spring State Council meeting in Sun Prairie, the topic of conversation was trout fishing, (of course). Somehow, and I don't know how this happens, when trout anglers get together and talk about rivers and fishing, the story of their first trout or fishing outing as a kid is told. I can vividly remember the first trout I took on a fly. It was a warm July evening during a Hex hatch in northern Wisconsin. I was a thirteen-year-old in leaky waders using my dad's old sneakers for wading shoes. It was great!*

*I was lucky that I had a dad that liked to fish and allowed and encouraged me to tag along. A lot of other kids weren't so lucky. One of the more profound statements I heard on that ride to Sun Prairie was: "The world doesn't owe us any more trout." Conversely, we probably owe it to the world to get kids and others involved in trout fishing and outdoor activities.*

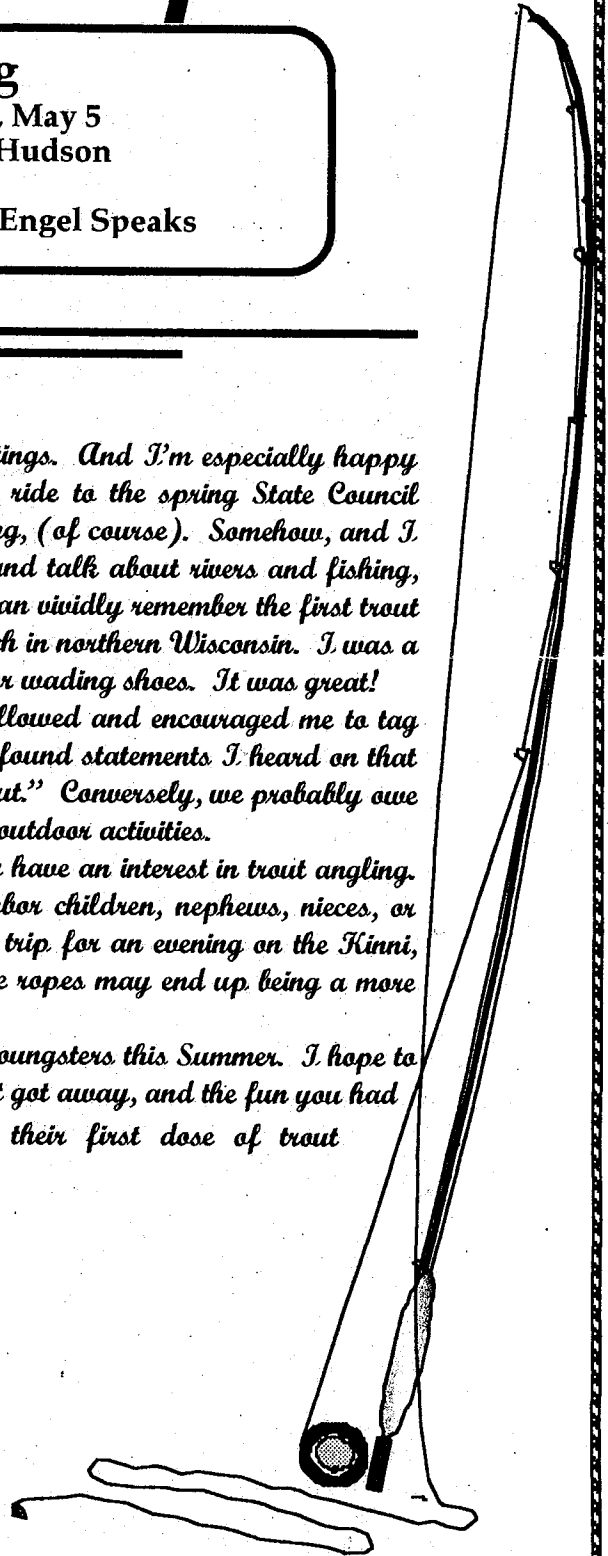
*Each of us should take the time to seek out kids that may have an interest in trout angling. I'm sure most of us can think of at least a handful of neighbor children, nephews, nieces, or grandchildren that would be thrilled to death to enjoy a guided trip for an evening on the Kinni, Willow, or Rush. The gratification you get by showing them the ropes may end up being a more vivid memory than how many trout you landed that night.*

*Best of luck to each of you as you wade the rivers with youngsters this Summer. I hope to greet you again in September with stories of fish caught, ones that got away, and the fun you had with junior anglers tasting their first dose of trout fishing.*

*Sincerely,  
 Brent Sittlow, President*

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# Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

## Chapter Offers Fly Fishing Clinic..

The Kinnickinnic River Fly Fishing Clinic, sponsored by the Kiap-TU-Wish Education Committee and held each Spring in River Falls, consistently provides both its students and its staff of volunteers with a very positive experience. Students learn the rudiments of fly fishing for trout and gain an understanding of how rare and delicate a resource a special place like the Kinni is. Now in its fifth year, seasoned volunteers report that they take pleasure in the teaching and the camaraderie found in spending a day on the water with other TU members.

Both students and volunteers will have three more good reasons to attend this year's clinic: First, the lead casting instructor is Bill Hinton, whose analytical style and pleasant demeanor can work the kinks out of anyone's casting. Second, Clarke Garry, of the UW River Falls biology faculty, has agreed to introduce us to the aquatic insects indigenous to the Kinnickinnic. Third, the chapter's much heralded video, "A Storm on the Horizon" will be presented.

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 from 1pm-9pm. The Education Committee needs volunteer instructors, guides and helpers. We also need people to plan and serve the evening meal and clean up after it. This year, for the first time, we would like to create a greater division of labor so that volunteers do not have to commit for the whole day and evening. So, even if you are free for only part of the day, please sign up.

Since the chapter provides each student with a leader, a small fly box and selection of flies, it would help if all you talented fly tiers out there could come through with a dozen or two of your favorites for the Kinni, or a small financial donation to underwrite the leaders and boxes. The clinic is a great way to educate local folk about Kiap-TU-Wish, too, and builds strong, positive links between the chapter and the public.

The clinic will be a topic of discussion at the May meeting, but if you are interested in participating in this rewarding event, or in serving on the Education Committee, please call Michael Alwin at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop (651) 770-5854, or Jon Jacobs at home (715) 386-7822.

*Volunteer for the clinic,*

*Bring a young person,*

*Tie a fly or two,*

*Fix a meal,*

*Be a 'Guide for a Day,'*

*Teach streamlore,*

*Tie knots,*

*Assemble tackle,*

*Donate money,*

*Make a new friend*

## Chapter receives grant.

Kiap-TU-Wish will receive a C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant, in the amount of \$750 from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. This will fund, in part, the reproduction and distribution of our new video: "Storm on the Horizon." The Natural Resources Foundation is a non-profit organization which develops, promotes and funds education, restoration and management programs related to the environment in the state of Wisconsin. They focus mostly on 'grass-roots' initiatives like our video project.

## Early Season continues...

The statewide vote tally at various county meetings of the Conservation Congress on April 12 were: On the question of continuing the early season: 2,417 in favor, 2,145 opposed. Thirty-nine counties were in favor, thirty-two counties opposed. On the question of ending the barbless hook requirement: 1,493 in favor, 2800 opposed. The written comments are yet to be tallied by Mr. Al Phelan, but are expected to be heavily in favor of continuing the early season. For those of you that attended the meetings: Thanks for "gettin' political!"

## **Kiap-TU-Wish Endorses the proposed Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area...**

A proposal to permanently protect 20,000 acres from development, and to restore the land to native western prairie grasslands in our area (Polk and St. Croix Counties), has been vigorously endorsed by our Board of Directors. The project, if approved, will be funded by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. What does this mean for trout? Well, whether you're a prairie buff or not, grasslands and their attendant ecological communities are very beneficial to our watersheds and ultimately to our rivers. This is nothing but goodness for our fragile cold water resources.

There will be a land acquisition component to the project, (but no reduction in property tax revenue for the counties), along with partnerships with local landowners and agencies interested in restoring their land to native prairie. The project has been passed by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and is waiting for the Governor's approval. Governor Thompson has been hesitant to approve this, however, and your advocacy is urgently needed to keep the proposal alive. Also, this is a great way for Kiap-TU-Wish to partner with another local environmental organization: Citizens Protecting and Restoring Prairies (CPRP). Please send a letter of support to:

**Governor Tommy Thompson  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702**

### **KRLT Plans River Clean up Day, May 8...**

There'll be lots of plastic, Styrofoam, beer cans, bottle caps, polyethylene, ziplocs, etc. in the Kinni and on her banks after the hoards of opening day fisher people have their share of fun with the trout this weekend. Join members of The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust in a clean-up day on Saturday, May 8. Sandy Tauferner, administrative assistant, will coordinate volunteer 'gangs' in order to cover as much of the river as possible. Call her to volunteer at: (715) 425-5738.

On Saturday, May 1, members of Kiap-TU-Wish and KRLT handed out Angler Brochures to fishermen at access points on the Kinni. They included Chuck Goossen, Art Kaemmer, Brent Sittlow, Gary Horvath, Jon Jacobs, Ted Macmiller, Paul Wiemerslage and Andy Lamberson. The Brochures explain efforts to preserve the river and its ecology, encourage catch and release, and inform the reader how to become a member of KRLT. Membership forms for Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited were also available. Another great partnership opportunity!

### **Another Useful Film Produced..**

Gary Horvath has endorsed a video he's discovered. America's water continues to be adversely impacted by many sources of pollution. Modern-day impermeable surfaces increase storm water runoff, which accelerates erosion and downstream flooding. A new video: "Use of Constructed Wetlands for Storm water Runoff." shows developers, natural resource managers, community planners, educators and the general public how properly constructed wetlands moderate flow extremes and improve water quality. Added benefits include enhanced groundwater recharge, aesthetic appeal, and the creation of wildlife habitat. The twenty-minute video would be a valuable tool for Kiap-TU-Wish in lobbying efforts. If you'd like a copy to add to your collection, send a check made out to Cornell University for \$19.95 to Cornell University Resource Center, 7 BTP, Ithaca, NY 14850.

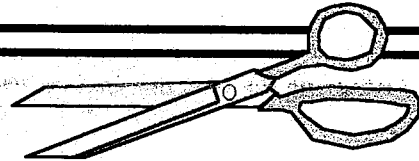
## Who Are We...?

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (168) 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, stream bank de-brushing, fish population surveys, placement of in-stream habitat structures, fishing clinics, video production, and fish stocking.

Conservation minded persons can find rewarding work within our chapter ranging from preparing mailings to streamside, 'get wet' projects. There are also pleasant social experiences with Kiap-TU-Wish. 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 interstate 94 at exit #4 in Hudson, Wisconsin. Meetings begin at 8pm, with dinner preceding at 6:30. Our meetings feature presentations on angling, flytying, stream ecology, and water quality as well as seminars on the latest issues affecting our local, regional and national 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, as well as the state council's newspaper, Wisconsin Trout, both published quarterly. Kiap-TU-Wish also produces a newsletter, Rip-Rap, published monthly, September through May. Also, be sure to check out our internet website at <<http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish>> Our mailing address is: Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016, but to become a member, you must send your dues and application to the national office, whose address is below.

## Membership Form



**Yes!** Please begin my one-year membership to the **Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (168)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

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

Regular Membership (\$30.00)  Family Membership (\$35.00)   
Payment Method: Check (make payable to Trout Unlimited) Charge

Mastercard# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Code 168

## Skip's Loose Threads:

### Doesn't anyone want to use a truly high-tech fly line?

Of course I'm talking about silk fly lines. I've fished with them since buying my first one five years ago, but no one seems to be climbing on my bandwagon. It's hard to understand, what with the clamor for the advantages of the latest technology in rods, reels, leader material, fly tying material, wader material. How can all those smart, savvy fly fishers be content to throw those cumbersome, wind-catching, hard-landing, stiff plastic lines that basically haven't changed since the late 50's? It can't be the price of a silk line, now about \$175. It's common knowledge that the prices for every single bit of fly fishing equipment have skyrocketed during the last decade, and otherwise prudent and thrifty anglers seem willing to plunk down several hundred dollars for a reel, or half a grand for a graphite stick with nice finishing touches, (actually, the same nice finishing touches that have been on every single flyrod ever made regardless of price since about 1890). No, it's got to be because of that silly propaganda put out by plastic line manufacturers after World War II... that you can save so much valuable fishing time by not having to dress your fly line each time you go out, or wipe it clean when you're done. No, it can't be that. There are more line cleaners and dressings on the market now than ever before. Most professional fly fishers still insist that a clean fly line casts further, floats better, shoots farther than a dirty one, and they seem to think it's worth the small amount of extra time spent in the cleaning. Well, if it isn't the propaganda, than why are so many otherwise competent, intelligent, experienced fly fishers handicapping themselves by not using a silk fly line?

The finest silk fly lines are hand-made by Noel Buxton of Phoenix Lines in England. I own Phoenix lines in the following sizes: DT3F in 'mere green', DT4F in straw, and DT5F in straw. This past season, I purchased a silk line from a French manufacturer. Although it cost nearly as much as the Phoenix, the quality was poor. It was not as supple, had an oily textured surface, and was not anywhere near as thin as the Phoenix lines. How are these silk lines made? I quote from the Phoenix brochure:

"In producing the Phoenix line, we use only the finest pure Chinese silk, this is wound onto 'cops' ready for braiding. These 'cops' are then loaded onto a braiding machine where the taper is built into the line as it is braided. To give you some idea of the skill and care that this requires, it takes forty-five minutes to braid the four foot tapered sections of a DT line, and the tips of a size #5 line contains one hundred twenty ends of silk.

But braiding is only the beginning of the story, at this stage some of the lines are dyed olive to produce the 'mere green' color, whilst others are left in their natural colour, which when dressed gives the very pleasant light straw colour of the standard lines. The lines are then impregnated, under pressure, with linseed oil to ensure that every strand is penetrated and are hung to dry. They are then impregnated again with other oils to completely fill the braid and are again hung to dry, this time in controlled, heated drying cabinets. Now, they are ready for varnishing and when the last coat is on, they are left to mature, before finishing and boxing. For a trout line, this has taken eight weeks from braiding to boxing."

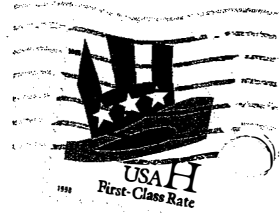
Each Phoenix line comes with a tin of red-label Mucilin, the preferred line dressing and floatant. If left undressed, the silk line functions as an intermediate. I've found that one dressing, which takes about two minutes, lasts the entire day. When I get home, I thoroughly dry the line by draping it over two pegs on my porch about ten feet apart. When dry, I store the line on the reel. Each Autumn, I clean the lines in mild soap and water, dry thoroughly, and store in loose coils in a shoe box. In the Spring, a simple dressing is all they need to be good as new. The 4-weight line I bought five years ago is in as good condition now as when I received it in the box. About an inch of line is removed each year where my leader butt was tied to it. Of course, being a double taper, the line can be, and has been, reversed each year, which equalizes wear.

Having fished with a silk line (actually three different lines) over the past few years, I thought I should give a report on how they've held up to pretty difficult fishing pressures, and review the distinct advantages of silk over plastic. Since silk fly lines are thinner for their weight than plastic ones, and therefore less air-resistant, you get more distance for the same casting effort, more delicacy in presentation (my leader butt diameter is .015), more room for backing on your reel, easier pickup. I don't often give testimonials, but fishing with silk has done more to improve my performance astream than anything else. The line speed generated by a cane rod with silk is almost the same as a graphite rod with plastic. The casting advantages of a silk line on a graphite rod are truly amazing.

Why don't you give them a try? Phoenix Silk Lines can be purchased in this country from Belvoirdale, run by ex-Brit Grahame Maisey. The lines sell for \$240 each, with a 10% discount for TU members. Belvoirdale's address is P.O. Box 176, Wyncote, PA 19095-0176. The telephone number is (215) 886-7211.



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<http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish/>

**Something  
to Carry  
with You..**

This is the last issue of RipRap until September. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable summer season. Included in this month's edition is a membership form for Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. Please put it in your vest, and when the opportunity arises to speak to a fellow angler whom you think would be an asset to our group, share the form with that person. By then, the form will be folded, probably torn, maybe wet. Why not put the form in a small zip-loc bag and seal it for safety. After all, we all want to make a good impression with strangers. If you're feeling evangelical, you can get more forms from Board members, officers, Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, or Skip James.

**Something Else  
to Carry  
With You...**

*Fairy ears a-listening,  
Hear the buds sprout in the spring,  
And for music to their dance  
Hear the hedgerows wake from trance;  
Sap that trembles into buds,  
Sending little rhythmic floods  
Of fairy sound in fairy ears.  
Thus all beauty that appears  
Has birth as sound to finer sense  
And lighter clad intelligence.*

Viscount Grey of Fallodon