

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited May 2001

## President's Lines

*It appears that we have dodged a bullet and avoided massive floods from the spring melt. But we need to stay vigilant. One of the primary reasons our streams like the Kinni were saved was that there are still wetlands around them to absorb the water and meter it back to the stream over the next several months. As development continues around our streams it will be up to Kiap-TU-Wish and it's members to remain vigilant and protect the stream and its important wetlands.*

*It's up to US.*

*Not me, not some other guy....US.*

*The chapter needs the help of ALL its members and I strongly encourage you to get involved. It's not up to "somebody"...it's up to you. Every member of our chapter should have at least one project they are committed to.*

*Otherwise we will be saying "Somebody should have done something"... problem is....YOU are the somebody.*

*Have a good season and get involved in protecting your favorite trout stream.*

*Regards,  
Andy Lamberson*

## The State of the Rush River

Last summer the Wisconsin DNR undertook an exhaustive study of the Rush River watershed, performing electrofishing surveys, collecting temperature data and conducting Index of Biotic Integrity studies. At our May meeting Senior Fisheries Biologist Martin Engel of the DNR will summarize the results of this study for us. The Rush is an extraordinarily popular angling destination and an intriguing river system. Several years ago it was known for having relatively few fish, but for holding some monsters. Now there is anecdotal conjecture that the river has higher numbers of trout, but holds fewer fish of Leviathan status. Join us for a relaxing dinner at 6:30PM at the JR Ranch (Exit 4 on I-94 east of Hudson) on Wednesday, May 2. Then, at 8PM, let Mr. Engel, who is always an engaging and informative speaker, set you straight on the real story of this river. We suggest that you come early to secure a good seat. Mr. Engel's yearly appearance in May has traditionally been one of our most popular meetings, and given the intense interest in the Rush, we could have a record crowd.

## Kiap-TU-Wish Seeks Volunteers for River Expo Effort

By Brent Sittlow

On May 5th from 12-5 PM, our Chapter is participating in the St. Croix River Expo: Encouraging Stewardship, sponsored by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission ([mwbac@mwbac.org](mailto:mwbac@mwbac.org)). The Expo will take place at Karges Gymnasium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at River Falls with a large attendance expected. Other local land and water conservation organizations, such as The Prairie Enthusiasts, KRLT and YMCA Camp St. Croix will also be participating. This Expo should be a great way for our chapter to network with other organizations in our area. It also will serve as a good way to publicize our chapter's efforts in the Kinni, Willow, and Rush River Watersheds. We need volunteers to fill our booth over three shifts. Please contact Brent Sittlow ([bsittlow@presenter.com](mailto:bsittlow@presenter.com) or 715-386-0820) to volunteer for this event.

## River Falls Clinic Is June 2nd

By Michael Alwin

By now you know that the annual fly fishing clinic in River Falls is set for June 2nd. You also know that we'll start at 1:00PM and quit at 9:00PM, that we'll feed our students supper and that we'll have close to twenty of them. What you might not know is that this clinic is a wonderful opportunity to encourage the folks in River Falls to voice their concerns about the River to their local officials. This

could be a crucial time for their voices to be heard based on the renewed debate over the stormwater management plan...reread Gary Horvath's article in the April Rip-Rap.

Jon Jacobs is the lead teacher for the clinic and I provide back-up. So far a bunch of our Chapter members have volunteered to work at the clinic: Bill Lovegren, Ross Nelson, Bill Hinton, Dave Gilbraith, Jim Rees, Paul Wiemerslage, Clarke Garry, Ken Scheurman and Ted and Renate Mackmiller. You could join this list of concerned anglers. We have room for people who want to act as a guide/mentor for a half or whole day. Or you could volunteer to help serve supper and clean up afterwards. Or you could volunteer to tie a dozen flies for the students. Any of this will help ensure the success of this event. If you'd like to volunteer, call me at 651/770-5854.

*Michael Alwin is the proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN and, is a past winner of the Step In Deep Enough To Float Your Hat Contest.*

## Kiap-TU-Wish Election Results:

By Jon Jacobs

At the March business meeting incumbent board members Dave Ballman and John Koch were re-elected by the membership. The newly constituted board, comprised of the aforementioned Messrs. Ballman and Koch along with Gary Horvath, Kent Johnson, Andy Lamberson, Bill Lovegren and Steve Parry met subsequently for the election of officers. Officers for the coming business year are: President **Andy Lamberson**, Vice President **Mark Waschek**, Treasurer **Brent Sittlow** and Secretary **Gary Horvath**. Please congratulate these gentlemen and thank them for the hard work they do for the chapter.

## Senator Seeks Support for Legislation

By Jon Jacobs

In a letter to supporters and outdoor groups, State Senator Russ Decker is seeking citizen support for a constitutional amendment supporting the right to hunt and fish. Sen. Decker is a co-sponsor of a senate resolution on this issue which passed the State Senate by a 31-0 vote.

In his letter Sen. Decker also seeks support for a ban on cyanide mining, pointing out the deadly, toxic nature of cyanide. He points out that Montana has banned the use of cyanide after more than 60 incidents of leaks and spills in mines. Unlike Montana, Wisconsin allows the use of cyanide in mining.

Senator Decker urges concerned citizens to contact their state representatives and senators to ask them to support

a constitutional right to hunt and fish and to support measures to ban cyanide mining.

## Wetlands Protection Sought

By Jon Jacobs

The Sierra Club is leading a coalition of conservation and citizens groups in an effort called Wisconsin Wetlands Watch, or W3. W3 is a response to the wanton destruction of isolated wetlands following the U.S. Supreme Court's destruction of the Army Corps of Engineers ability to protect these critical wetlands.

The W3 program suggests that citizens who suspect that wetlands are being damaged by fill/construction/dredging activities place two phone calls reporting such activities, one to a DNR warden at 1-800-TIP-WDNR and a second to Midwest Environmental Advocates at 608-266-7360. Midwest Environmental Advocates also operates a web site at <http://www.Midwest-e-advocates.org> where concerned parties can find more information. A second web resource is located at <http://www.wsn.org/wetlands>.

Additionally, while the State Senate passed SB37, which would restore to the DNR protective oversight to wetlands left vulnerable by the Supreme Court's decision, the State Assembly is allowing it to languish while construction and development interests influence its future outcome. Citizens desiring to counter this high pressure influence are urged to contact their state representatives and to urge prompt passage of this legislation.

## Merci, dank, takk, thank you!

Editorial by Jon Jacobs

You have undoubtedly noticed in these pages the frequent mention of the need for volunteers in recent months. Andy Lamberson's "President Lines" in this issue points out this acute need. From the Editorial Desk at RipRap it looks as if this chapter and its members need to do some serious soul searching about what it means to be a member of a conservation organization. Member participation in this winter's cooperative brushing projects and last summer's DNR Rush River Survey were, frankly, abysmal. Despite a series of interesting speakers and the opportunity to co-mingle with one's fellow anglers, attendance at the chapter's monthly dinners and meetings was generally woeful (In case you're wondering how eating dinner can serve as a volunteer effort, let me point out that the JR Ranch is kind enough to furnish us with free meeting space with the understanding that we can deliver to them a sufficient gross from the sale of dinners and refreshments to make it worth their while).

The common responses in any discussion as to why things are as they are seem to be "Well, people are terribly busy" and "In any volunteer organization ten percent of the members do ninety percent of the work." I'd like to think that we're better than most volunteer organizations and as evidence of how busy people can find the time to contribute, I'd like to point to two of our chapter's stalwarts, **Brent Sittlow**, a young man still in the process of building a career who managed to work extraordinarily hard - and effectively - in three terms as chapter president, and **Chuck Goossen**, who raised a family and faced a demanding workload as a chemical engineer and yet found time to serve the chapter in every capacity possible for more than twenty five years, most recently as chapter treasurer. If these gentlemen can find the time, energy and dedication to help restore, improve and protect our coldwater resources, so can you. By volunteering yourself, you will thank them in the best way possible for their good work.

On a somewhat less dour and sour note, I'd like to thank all of you for your support of RipRap through this past season. Special thanks are due the Board and Officers for their support of the considerable financial resources which the publication of the newsletter requires.

And I extend my eternal gratitude to these fine folks, all of whom volunteered to write for RipRap: **Michael Alwin, Mike Edgerly, Clarke Garry, Gary Horvath, Jim Humphrey, Alison Jacobs, Layton James, John Karl, John Koch, Ted Mackmiller, Deb Olmstead, Sarah Sanford, Brent Sittlow and Mark Waschek.** Bless you all for your writing talent and your good nature.

We'll see you in the fall. Have a safe, healthy and festive summer. Remember to look for a RipRap postcard in late August inviting you to the September meeting.

## Extra: Terrestrials!

By Jon Jacobs

Once the spring and early summer hatches have faded away, consider using these patterns to add variety and some extra fun to your fishing:

**Letort Cricket:** This is an amazingly simple fly. It has a black dubbed body on, typically, a size ten dry fly hook, with a dyed goose quill underwing, a dyed black deer hair overwing and a black spun deer hair head. Brook trout seem to especially relish it, but fussy, wild browns have been known to pounce on it, too.

**Mike Lawson's Henry's Fork Hopper:** The first effective hopper pattern I've found. I believe the knotted rubber legs are the key, providing a look of life not found in other patterns. The bullet head provides a realistic appearance

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and makes the fly less cumbersome to cast than some others. I've substituted a polypropylene body for the cool but fragile bunched elk hair found on the original. It still works.

**Gary Borger's Flying Ant:** This simple parachute pattern has a highly visible poly wing. I don't think the trout much care about winged vs. plain ants, but mating flights of ants are a common summertime occurrence and the wing post is a blessing to a vision-challenged angler.

**Beetles:** Kent Johnson, who is fond of beetle patterns, recommends black deer hair beetles because they're simple and they float low, key characteristics in effective imitation according to Kent. Kent's almost always right about everything, but if you're like me, with vision that combines the worst of Mr. Magoo's myopia and El Greco's astigmatism, you might prefer something with a peacock herl underbody and a Rainy's Float Foam carapace with perhaps a tiny block of orange foam atop that to serve as a locating beacon.

Astronomically huge numbers of all these insects inadvertently become part of the drift on trout streams all summer and their hefty, protein laden chitinous exoskeletons make them prime trout food when aquatic insects become relatively scarce.

**KIAP-TU-WISH OFFICERS:**

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Treasurer: Brent Sittlow	715-386-0820
Secretary: Gary Horvath	715-425-8489

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Steve Parry	651-430-3695

**RIPRAP EDITOR:**

Jon Jacobs 715-386-7622

**MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2: Rush River Survey Results**

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY, AUGUST, 24.**