

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited May 2002

## President's Lines

### Good News!

It seems like the President's message is mostly doom and gloom.... so it's really nice when I can report some good news!

\*The River Falls City Council passed the Storm Water Management Ordinance!

A lot of work went into this by a number of our members and it's been a more than ten-year effort for some of our members. It's a good start.

\*The Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Baldwin/Hammond area has suffered a series of significant setbacks and appears to be a dead issue at its proposed location. Again, a lot of Kiap members put in some considerable time on this issue.

Both these issues help reinforce the idea that we (and that's a big collective we!) can do something to help protect the Kinni. We need to keep our guard up...and keep making the extra effort that is needed.

\* The Eau Galle project is back up and going. John Koch has been the champion of this project and deserves a lot of credit for his efforts and persistence.

\* K-TU board member Kent Johnson gained recognition from the Twin Cities Chapter of Trout Unlimited in April for his work on storm water monitoring on the Kinni. Kent has put in hundreds (if not thousands) of hours on this project and we now have a mountain of data that can be used to help protect the Kinni. Kent also applied for a grant from our local Wal-Mart that resulted in a \$500 donation towards a PC to process all that data.

### \*It's Trout Season!

I hope you make it to our last meeting of the season on Wednesday, May 1st.

Regards,

Andy Lamberson

## Get the Engel Angle on Angling

By Jon Jacobs

**Martin Engel**, DNR Fisheries Manager for western Wisconsin, will be our guest speaker at the May meeting. Mr. Engel will present a history of the area's fishery. This is an intriguing topic and you can rest assured that Mr. Engel will give us a fresh, well-researched view of it. Join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club in Hudson on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> for dinner (available at 6 PM) and at 7 PM for the meeting. May meetings have for the past several years featured a representative of the DNR as speaker and have proven to be among our best attended. Come early for good seating!

## Encomium

By Michael Alwin

**A** couple of years ago an irritated, brash young man wandered into one of our monthly meetings and demanded to know why we weren't doing something to try to resurrect the Eau Galle River. At the time we weren't doing much of anything in the area of stream improvement, largely because the Kinnickinnic Town Board had shut down our winter projects. After a couple of months of his ceaseless haranguing, the board made him Stream Improvement Chair, a job to which he's obviously well-suited based on what he's accomplished in just two short years on the job: brokering the Eau Galle project with the Corps of Engineers, temperature monitoring on the Eau Galle, Trout Crew work on Cady Creek, building thirty lunker structures for placement in the Eau Galle, two separate brushing projects on the Kinni and initiating discussions with the Ojibseau chapter for joint projects on a couple of smaller brook trout streams. **John Koch** exemplifies volunteerism at its best and deserves our thanks and a round of praise for work well done.

## River Falls Clinic Set for June 1<sup>st</sup>

By Michael Alwin

**S**peaking of volunteers, there's still time to get on the volunteer list for the River Falls Clinic. As you must know by now this clinic is conducted through the River Falls Parks & Recreation Department to introduce the citizens to this wonderful resource that runs right through their town. We attempt to do this by teaching them to fish the Kinni and to cherish it the way we do. As Uncle Bob used to say, "A river can never have too many advocates."

Each student in our clinic will receive flies, leaders, supper, casting and entomology instruction and an evening guided fishing. We supply the flies, leaders, supper, all the instruction and the guides for fishing and you can help in one of two ways. 1. Volunteer as a coach/mentor/guide for a half-day or a full day. Or help out on the Food Crew. 2. Tie us a bunch of flies. We can use soft hackles, nymphs, olive emergers or Kinni Sulphur patterns. Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, whatever.

The goals of the Education Committee are:

1. To educate the community
2. Inform and Involve the membership.

Please follow John Koch's lead.

Call me at the shop 651/770-5854 to volunteer or hit me up at the May meeting.

**Michael Alwin**

*Michael Alwin of Stillwater, MN is the proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN and is a long-time TU activist.*

## Editor Offers Profound Thanks

By Jon Jacobs

**T**he time of year has arrived when I must thank the good folks who have contributed to RipRap in the past publication year. They are: **Michael Alwin, Mike Edgerly, Clarke Garry, Jim Humphrey, Layton James, Kent Johnson, John Koch, Andy Lamberson and Elizabeth White.** Dan and Joan Bruski label, stamp and mail RipRap and due to editorial sloth they have hitherto not been credited for this important contribution. I'm sure you agree that they all did fine work. If you would like to join this august group next year, we'd relish the opportunity to edit your prose. Send it to the chapter's conventional or e-mail address and you, too, can be a literary lion.

Thank you, too, to all of you whose generous contributions to the publication fund helped continue the publication of RipRap in its present form. Unfortunately, even though we carefully marshal our resources, publication expenses are considerable, so feel free to contribute again if you like what you see (and let us know if you don't like what you see in the form of a letter to the editor).

Remember to look for RipRap in postcard form in early September because with this issue, it goes on hiatus for the summer. Before that happens, however, I'd like to thank all of you who read RipRap and all of you who have had good things to say about it.

Over the summer, fish hard, care about the environment and have as much fun as is medically advisable.

## Spring Hearing Results In

By Jon Jacobs

Wisconsin's Conservation Congress Spring Hearings produced generally good results for trout conservation.

On the question of trout regulation simplification, attendees in 70 counties voted by a margin of 4,662 to 1,611 in favor. The DNR had proposed eliminating Category 1 (with its ten fish daily bag limit) and simplifying the "menu" for Category 5 regulation.

There were several questions related to "coaster" brook trout. The statewide total of votes on the question of catch and release fishing for brook trout on Whittlesey Creek was 2,367 in favor and 669 opposed. A question on a twenty-inch minimum length/one fish bag in Lake Superior drew 3,719 votes in favor and 1,141 in opposition. On the general question of the establishment and development of a Wisconsin coaster restoration policy, voters favored the idea by a margin of 3,866 to 297.

Voters were clearly in favor of banning cyanide in metallic mining in Wisconsin. There were 6,224 votes in favor and 541 in opposition.

## River Falls Adopts Stormwater Control Ordinance

By Jon Jacobs

Several years ago the city of River Falls undertook a study of stormwater management in the city under the auspices of a federal 205J grant. Kiap-TU-Wish, with Andy Lamberson, Kent Johnson and Brent Sittlow taking the lead, worked hard with the city, first in helping with the grant applications and, subsequently, by helping to shepherd the study along. The study recommended the creation of a stormwater control ordinance. At its Tuesday, April 9 meeting, the River Falls City Council unanimously enacted an ordinance that will require all new development in the city to be done in such a fashion as to entirely infiltrate a 1.5" rainfall. The ordinance also creates a "toolbox", or series of elements that can be used to mitigate stormwater events in existing areas. This ordinance is a pioneering work and River Falls is unique among small cities in Wisconsin for having such an ordinance. The City and everyone who worked so diligently on this issue is to be congratulated.

## Roberts/Hammond Project Dead

By Jon Jacobs

The sewage treatment plant project that the villages of Roberts and Hammond had intended to undertake in the headwaters of the Kinnickinnic River will not proceed. The project failed to win DNR approval. However, the municipalities still have problems with their existing facilities and more than likely would like to accommodate development, thus further scrutiny will be required.

## Riches, Ditches and Sons of...

Editorial by Jon Jacobs

America's Main Street, let's say, for the sake of this discussion. John Gierach, in an essay in his insightful book *The View from Rat Lake* (Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, CO, 1988) said of his home river, Colorado's St. Vrain:

*The main branch is short lived as a trout stream. By the time it's gotten very far out onto the plains it's been drained for irrigation, polluted by agriculture, bulldozed, and otherwise trashed by the people who see streams as nothing more than ditches for "their" water. You have to watch out for people like that. They're wrong in the beginning, but they can become right; given half a chance, they'll turn a river into a ditch.*

We have more than our share of ditchmakers here in the Badger State and they're thriving across the St. Croix as well. In the Sunday, April 14 edition of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, outdoor columnist Chris Niskanen reported on a Minnesota DNR proposal to extend the mileage of designated trout water on the Vermillion River and its tributaries in Dakota County (Electrofishing surveys have found a thriving population of brown trout, some sizable, in this river system). This would invoke tighter water quality rules for cities and industrial users discharging wastewater to the river. Niskanen reported that the cities of Farmington and Apple Valley are opposed to the designation, as is the Builders Association of the Twin Cities. All apparently fear that the designation will slow development. OK, at least they're up front about their motives, no matter how retrogressive their nature. According to the *Pioneer Press*, the Apple Valley public works director said that he believes work being done by his city and a river watershed council is sufficient to protect the stream. This is dissembling and disingenuous. The obvious question for Apple Valley's city fathers is this: If the work you're doing is "sufficient", what have you to fear from tighter water quality standards? The personal opinion here is that there's a worry that better water quality

standards might interfere with plans to create a ditch. And should you happen to be considering contracting the construction of a home somewhere in the metropolitan area, you really ought to ask your contractor if he's a member of the Builders Association. If he is, ask him to justify, if he can, his opposition to clean water.

## Ah! September

By Jim Humphrey

Ed. Note: RipRap is publishing this slightly out of synch piece in the May issue for at least four reasons. First, RipRap is always honored to publish Mr. Humphrey's work. Second, it will remind you that summer is fleeting, indeed, and that you ought to get out there and fish! Third, the article contains solid advice. Fourth, there's no way that this would fit on the post card that is the September issue.

September has arrived, at last! Warm and pleasant days, cool evenings, and just enough soft rains to color the streams are typical of this best of all possible months. Brown trout are beginning to stir in anticipation of their October spawning runs upstream and into the feeders. All species go on the feed.

The significant mayfly hatches are reduced to a manageable handful: Tricos, early mornings through the end of the season; *Baetis* and *Plauditus punctiventris* (formerly *Psuedocloeon*), collectively known widely as Tiny Bluewinged Olives, usually appear in the afternoons. If you are one of the lucky anglers your favorite stream may display an early evening spinner fall of the size 10 *Isonychia*, best described as a Mahogany Drake. The Blue Dun or Slatewinged Mahogany Dun, *Paraleptophlebia*, is an afternoon hatch. The spectral White Fly or Trailer, *Ephoron*, may patrol back and forth so close to the surface that a leaping brown will vault from the water to capture it. The ubiquitous, warm weather *Stenonema/Stenacron*, Light Cahills and Sulphurs, might still be collecting in serious spinner falls. Species of size 10 caddis will also make their appearance.

If there are none of these hatches to match, it's time to bring out the big guns – Muddlers, crayfish and various streamers and bucktails on the larger rivers. Fished dry and greased, a Muddler is a sub for a late, large grasshopper. In the middle depths, a Muddler is a minnow; on the bottom it's a sculpin, a favorite food of bottom-foraging large brown trout.

A heavier rod and sink-tip line is recommended. Leaders may be short and stout – seven to nine feet tapering to .007", which tests at four pounds breaking strength or more. If you encounter a lunker, a slip strike is necessary. Lift the rod then immediately let the line slide through thumb and forefinger of the line hand as the trout streaks

for freedom. If you don't slip-strike a trophy trout, assuredly it will pop the leader.

A crayfish replica may be the best lure of all. Big browns on the Namekagon and on the Rush of Wisconsin scarf up crayfish all season long. Your crayfish should be small – not more than two inches in length, preferably brown or tan, with claws that pulsate when the fly is crawled or pulled in spurts among the cobble and rubble. Several deep, long runs of the Prairie River of Wisconsin, upstream from Merrill, have given me heart-stopping moments in September. If your brown is over 16 inches, please put it back. We promise to release it, too – if we catch it.

Jim Humphrey, of Oak Park Heights, MN is a freelance writer and co-author, with Bill Shogren, of Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams.

## The Common Burrowers

By Clarke Garry

When talking insects with anglers and conservation groups, the Hex is a species about which there are almost always questions. Many people have observed or heard about the impressive hatches of these adults that occur along lakes and large rivers. And its ups and downs through recent time are a "wonderful mystery" (Humphrey pers. comm.) that we can now begin to appreciate.

When I initiated my benthic macroinvertebrate work in the mid-'90s, I eagerly anticipated collecting the larval stage of this insect, known as the common burrower. Now-retired colleagues who had taken classes to the Upper Kinni in the early '70s recalled finding mature larvae nearing two inches in length. What a find that would be! When recent sampling produced only a few small larvae in expected locations, including targeted backwaters thick with silt, my questions began. And now I'm understanding that an insect in decline can be an indication of improving water quality.

Plentiful and consistent Hex hatches on the Kinni are referred to as far back as the mid-1940's by Humphrey (1989). Humphrey and Shogren (2001) write of the decline of the Hex and detail possible reasons: "The disappearance of the *Hexagenia* may be the result of improved water quality - falling water temperatures, a reduction in siltation, a speeding of the flow . . . , or other factors beyond our ken." Interestingly, Edmunds and others (1976) build a case for the inflated hatches once seen, ". . . it is almost certain that the great masses of mayflies . . . are a symptom of man's unknowing influence with the environment. Modern man has enriched streams and lakes with sewage from cities, manure and fertilizers from farms, and natural nutrients from eroding soils." Today we see the Kinni responding to earlier stream

protection projects, such as fenced easements, which restrict cattle access and encourage bankside vegetation. This protection has led to a reduction of the impacts expressed by Edmunds, including the important result of lowered water temperature and a shift in the insect community (Engel pers. comm.).

The best known of the burrowing mayflies is *Hexagenia limbata* (Ephemeroptera: Ephemeridae). Its reputation is based both on large size (larva and adult up to 32 mm without tails) as well as large hatches. Larvae inhabit silt-based substrates and prefer slower, backwater areas. These larvae are extremely efficient diggers that produce U-shaped tunnels in soft bottom sediments. As with many animals that live in aquatic burrows, the larvae propel water by rhythmically waving their gills (Edmunds *et al.* 1976). From this flow they can filter detritus as well as extract oxygen. Pre-adult subimagos (duns) emerge from late June into August.

There are four species of the genus *Hexagenia* in Wisconsin. All have an assigned tolerance value of 6 (based on a ten point scale, 0=excellent, 10=very poor) (Hilsenhoff 1987), i.e., a hypothetical biotic index sample composed entirely of *Hexagenia* would rate water quality as fair. This is in striking contrast to today's common Kinni mayflies such as *Ephemerella inermis*, *Baetis tricaudatus*, and *Stenonema vicarium* which have tolerance values of 1, 2, and 2, respectively, and all of which indicate excellent water quality.

[I acknowledge and appreciate informative discussion and correspondence on this topic with Marty Engel, Roger Fairbanks, and Jim Humphrey.]

#### References:

- Edmunds, G. F., Jr., S.T. Jensen, and L. Berner. 1976. The Mayflies of North and Central America. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 330 pp.
- Hilsenhoff, W. L. 1987. An improved biotic index of organic stream pollution. *Great Lakes Entomologist* 20:31-39.
- Humphrey, J. R. 1989. The Kinnie. *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, July, pp. 32-35, 59-61.
- Humphrey, J. R. and W. D. Shogren. 2001. *Trout Streams of Wisconsin and Minnesota*, 2nd ed. Backcountry Guides, Woodstock, VT, 302 pp.

#### Addendum:

One of the purposes of my benthic sampling and databasing project is to develop a permanent record of the macroinvertebrates that are living now in the Kinnickinnic River. I am also interested in documenting entomological

changes where possible. I am asking interested anglers to send me any accounts of past hatches, particularly where dates and locations are included, that I can archive as part of my macroinvertebrate records. These will hopefully include, but are not limited to, the Hex hatches.

I would like to receive written Kinnickinnic River and tributary accounts by email ([clarke.garry@uwrf.edu](mailto:clarke.garry@uwrf.edu)) or letter (Department of Biology, UWRF, 410 South 3rd Street, River Falls, WI 54022) and would appreciate an accompanying statement granting me permission to use your account online or in written reports (in which I would acknowledge the contributor). Details regarding this request can be found at: [www.uwrf.edu/~cg04/Kinni\\_page2000/hatch\\_accts.html](http://www.uwrf.edu/~cg04/Kinni_page2000/hatch_accts.html)

*Dr. Clarke Garry of River Falls, WI is a professor of biology at the University of Wisconsin- River Falls*

## Aerial Photography, Maps Now Online

By Elizabeth White

A new Web site, created as part of a partnership between UW Sea Grant and the Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility at UW-Madison, provides access to aerial photography and other map images of the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior coasts of Wisconsin.

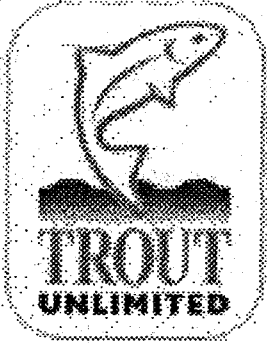
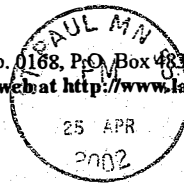
Development of the Web site (<http://ortho.lic.wisc.edu>) is part of a project aimed at teaching the application of the geographic information systems (GIS) and related spatial technologies to support sustainable management of Great Lakes coastal resources.

Users of the Web site can choose from recent or historical digital orthophotos (aerial photographs that have been corrected to represent the geometric qualities of a map), scanned topographic maps produced by the U.S. Geological Survey, or a graphic depiction of elevation.

They can also view the entire coast or zoom into a specific city, village, or site of interest. They can then print the image, find out more information about how and when it was created, or download it for use in other software.

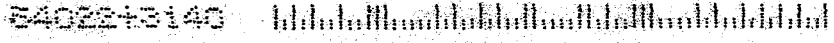
The Web site is based on open-source Web mapping tools developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Minnesota. For more information, contact David Hart by email at [dahart@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:dahart@facstaff.wisc.edu) or by phone at (608) 263-5534.

*Elizabeth White is the editor of littoral drift. This article appeared originally in that publication's Nov/Dec 2001 issue. Reprinted by permission.*



*In a mucked up lovely river, I cast my little fly.  
I look at that river and smell it and it makes me want  
to cry.*

*Oh, to clean our dirty planet, now there's a noble  
wish  
And I'm putting my shoulder to the wheel 'cause I  
want to catch a fish..*



*From Spring Wind by Greg Brown. © 1992 - Brown,  
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**MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

**MAY 1:** WiDNR on local conservation issues  
**JULY:** DATE, PLACE AND TIME TBA

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 20.**