

Martin Engel to provide update at May meeting

By Jonathan Jacobs

Kiap-TU-Wish winds up its meeting season on **Wednesday, May 4** when Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist **Martin Engel** is the featured speaker. Mr. Engel, who is well known for impeccable research, a proactive approach to fisheries management issues and an incomparable work ethic, is a skilled communicator as well. Mr. Engel has been working on an extensive report of his work in western Wisconsin. We hope to hear about that project and about some encouraging news about the **Willow River** and the results of planting feral trout there.

K-TU meetings are held at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street, Hudson. Dinner is available at 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM. You may order from the menu, or you may order up the shockingly modestly priced special, one of the great gastronomic delights available in St. Croix county, a plate of ribs the size of something that Barney Rubble and Fred Flintstone may have whipped up on the grille. In addition, an outstanding variety of potent potables is available from the bar.

Help evaluate the scenic attractiveness of the St. Croix Valley landscape!

By David Pitt

After the main speaker at the May 4 meeting reveals all about the hot spots of trout abundance in Wisconsin, David Pitt, from the University of Minnesota, will provide an opportunity for chapter members to assist the National Park Service and the Minnesota DNR evaluate the scenic attractiveness of the St. Croix Valley landscape. This project is gathering the perceptions of numerous stakeholder groups about the visual character of the landscape within ten miles of the river from Prescott to Danbury. Participants in the project sort sixty-four 5" x 7" color photographs into eight piles based on perceived attractiveness of the landscape in each photograph, and they record the number of the pile into which each photograph is placed. If you are interested in assisting this project after the main speaker at the chapter's May 4 meeting, the sorting and recording process takes about 30 minutes. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!!

RIPRAP

Contem-places:

A flight of fancy

By James R. Humphrey

About the middle of July at evening when the air is limpid and the water flows like liquid pewter, a species of fluorescent mayflies begins to gather for its mating ritual above the bifurcation of Willow River and its Race Branch in the Willow River State Park.

Their glowing and lovely colors are remarkable -- fluorescent chartreuse males and fluorescent green females whose abdomens are filled with orange eggs.

This species of *Stenonema/Stenacron* does not occur as a fishable hatch. Rather, the adults emerge sporadically over a period of weeks, then collect above a run or glide to engage in their final ballet.

Walk up from Trout Brook Road in Hudson, or leisurely down along Trout Brook Trail from the beach parking lot, then find a spur trail that ends between the bifurcation and a favorite glide where the celestial beauties have been encountered in the past. Ask me and I'll go with you.

Jim Humphrey is the co-author of Minnesota and Wisconsin Trout Streams. He lives in Oak Park Heights, MN and is a featured contributor to RipRap.

It's time to volunteer

By Michael Alwin

The annual trout fishing clinic is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th, from 1-9 pm. The Parks and Recreation Department is busily signing people up for the clinic and if the trend continues we'll expect to have over 20 students enrolled by the time class starts. We need to staff this event and there are three ways that you can be involved:

1. Volunteer to be a guide/mentor. You can sign on for a full day or a half day and your duties will involve helping people with their casting and fishing with them in the evening. You may need to loan a rod to a student.

2. Volunteer to help with the supper. This is a short gig and involves helping to set up and serve supper to the students and staff and cleaning up afterwards. You may have to take some cookies home with you.

3. Volunteer to donate some flies to the cause. You could glean flies from your boxes or tie up a bunch of specialties for us. You may have to divulge your secret recipe if your flies are successful.

The Education Committee has two goals: 1) To inform the public and 2) To involve the membership.

To get involved, call me at 651/770-5854 or email me at mike@bobmitchellsflyshop.com.

Anglers gather for Rush River cleanup effort

By Gary Horvath

Anglers from around the region gathered Earth Day weekend to give a little something back to the Rush River, an outstanding natural resource. A group of eighty or more people gathered Saturday, April 23 at the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club, where they were assigned to sections of the Rush and issued trash bags in an ambitious effort to clean-up the entire river. Members of the Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities, and Ojiblean Chapters of Trout Unlimited joined forces with the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsmans Club, Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club, Laughing Trout, and other interested parties in the clean-up effort. By 1:00 p.m. numerous tires, household appliances and bags of garbage were piled along State Highway 72 where it awaited pick-up by the Pierce County Highway Department.

The impressive volunteer turnout reflects the strong interest in the Rush River, a river regarded by anglers as one of the finest trout streams in the upper Midwest. Anglers interviewed commented that they wanted to give something back to a resource that had supplied them countless hours of recreation. "We all recognize that stream access to the Rush is dependent upon the good will of area landowners and it was a way to show them respect and say thank you," said Sarah Sanford, the project organizer.

Cleanup commentary

By Jonathan Jacobs

Gary Horvath's piece above is from a press release he developed for distribution to local media after the April 23 Rush River Cleanup event. As with everything Gary writes, it's crafted for its purpose, which in this case is to garner publicity for an event and to distribute credit where it's due. It's ideal when a press release is printed verbatim, which is why Gary's prose is sparse and to the point. I have no such concerns here in the pages of RipRap, so be forewarned, I'm going to go on in some detail.

First of all, sufficient praise cannot be given to Sarah Sanford for the absolutely remarkable vision she displayed

in organizing this event and bringing it to fruition. Sarah saw a river that was being used hard. She saw landowners who were growing increasingly disgruntled with this intensive use. She saw groups that have common goals and similar outlooks, but who often don't mingle as much as they might. And she did something about it! She created a plan, built a coalition of workers, developed a logistical framework and carried the whole thing off wonderfully.

Second, the event was tremendous fun. The huge crowd that gathered at the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club clubhouse was comprised of a great mix of folks – young and old, urban and rural, local and distant, all of whom mixed together amiably and happily. It was a great pleasure for me to meet some new friends and to renew friendships with people I see infrequently.

The spirit that directs Earth Day looked after us and provided cool, crisp, bright weather in which to work. The Rush River Valley looked lovely in that weather, with a hint of green on the valley walls and a sparkling blue ribbon of water winding sinuously to the Mississippi in the valley floor.

My guess is that workers volunteered to work at particular locations for one of three basic reasons. There were those who simply wanted to get out somewhere; there were those who wanted to pay homage to an area they visit frequently and there were those who wanted to see something new. I fell into the third group. Gary Richardson and I had the honor of accompanying Sarah downriver to the Wisconsin 35 bridge, the most downstream road crossing before the river spills into Lake Pepin. I'd never explored this area previously. While I tried to keep my eyes peeled for garbage on the banks, I couldn't help but occasionally peek into the slow, deep water off the banks. While I never saw a trout, my imagination conjured up spotted bronze behemoths lurking under the logjams or undercut banks. I did pay careful enough attention to the banks to gather up a prize implement tire, which remained inflated and attached to a hefty steel wheel that still carried in it the broken stub of an axle. I've never seen an inflated tire roll so poorly, by the way. I thought I might run out of energy before I got the tire to its destination, a trash pile generated by a 4H troop that was picking up trash along four miles of Wisconsin 35.

Since we'd gone all the way downstream, we had an opportunity to stop and chat with our fellow workers on our way to getting Sarah back in time to perform her post-pickup duties back at the clubhouse. Everyone was beaming about the success of their efforts.

Back at the clubhouse, Duke Welter of the TU DARE program presented Sarah with a selection of flies, a "Driftless

Deadly Dozen", as a token of thanks. Arby Linder, the long-time president of the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsmans Club and one of the hardest working men in conservation, gave us an update on his club's numerous activities

The chili and cornbread lunch served at the clubhouse was a treat – tasty, hearty fare consumed among friends and co-workers. And no one looked askance at me when I reached for a second cookie at dessert time, either! I think everyone was in too good a mood to waste their time upbraiding me. In fact, it seemed that many people had a hard time tearing themselves away, knowing as they did that the giving and sharing they'd done was likely to be the best part of their day.

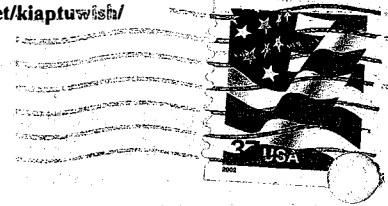
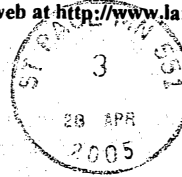
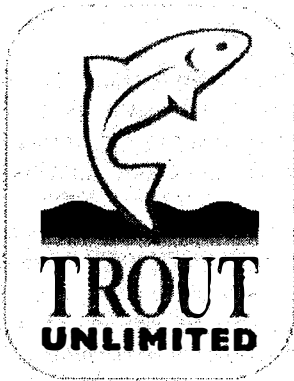
RipWrap!

Editorial by Jonathan Jacobs

Another volume of RipRap goes into the archives with the publication of this issue. Kiap-TU-Wish has had an excellent year and I think RipRap has, too. The great strength of the newsletter lies in its contributors. I would like to thank **Michael Alwin, Jennifer Bruski, Greg Dietl, Eric Forward, Henrietta Glenn, Gary Horvath, Jim Humphrey, Skip James, Hap Lutter, Perry Palin, Sarah Sanford and Paul Wright** for expressing themselves so eloquently in these pages over the past year. I am indebted to **Dan and Jean Bruski**, whose assistance in addressing and mailing RipRap I greatly appreciate.

I would like to thank the chapter's board of directors for their patience and support. As you may know, your membership dues in Trout Unlimited go to support the national organization. Very little of it flows back to the chapters to support day to day operations. That's not a complaint. TU National does good work and marshals its financial resources well. However, it does mean that we're on our own in funding the expense of the newsletter, which can easily run to \$2,000 or more per year. The board determined some time ago that RipRap was to be in one way or another self-funding, as the chapter's meager financial resources are badly needed in the front lines of conservation work. We've made successful appeals to the membership for financial support previously, but those funds have been expended. The board has allowed the money for the production of the last few issues of RipRap to be drawn from the chapter's operating fund. It's unlikely that can continue, so if you believe as I do that RipRap is the single best means of communicating to the chapter's entire membership, please be alert to RipRap's financial needs.

Have a good summer. Live and fish well. We'll see you in September.



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DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

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