

RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

May 2007

DNR biologist wraps up year's programs with talk on

Wild brook trout

Inside

- 2 Sierra Nevadas
- 3 Bristol Bay threat
- 4 Board report

Trout fishing

"Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught."

Anonymous



DNR biologist Marty Engel measures a brown trout raised during an electroshock population inventory on a local stream.

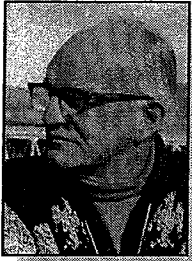
By Greg Dietl

Marty Engel, DNR Fisheries Biologist for western Wisconsin is the guest speaker for the May 2, Kiap-TU-Wish membership meeting. Marty's planned topic is "Population Characteristics of Wild Brook Trout Streams in Western Wisconsin with Special Reference to Catch per Unit Effort and Management Implications."

As you can see from the topic, Marty is a scientist and clearly brings his science to the management of trout and fisheries. His presentations affirm how fortunate we are to have a fisheries biologist of his caliber in our region. Marty's presentations are always well attended and very informative. This is a must see presentation

This is the last membership meeting until September. Please join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson. Come early for a good seat, dinner and sharing your early season angling stories. 6 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. presentation.

Streams of the Sierra Nevadas



By James R. Humphrey

Jim Humphrey, of Oak Park Heights, MN, is the co-author of Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams. His new series is anecdotal, discursive and opinionated, according to the author. The essays may eventually appear in a collection. Humphrey welcomes comments, including rebuttals. "A bit of controversy is good," he says.

Driving down the snaky gravel road to the Tuolumne River was a white-knuckle experience. There the river was boulder strewn, wide, fast moving and unfishable for a wading fly-fisher. The sun bounced off the V-walls and baked the brain. Retreat was an option eagerly seized after thinking deep thoughts for as long as five minutes. An auto passed me going up when I turned toward my car. I followed, thinking that he would run interference if anyone else was so stupid as to come down while we were going up that narrow trail.

About half-way up, the road bent in towards the sheer cliff, then turned out sharply. As the other driver negotiated the turn the outside rear wheel of his car seemed to spin over nothing; it spewed gravel into the void. I held my breath. His wheel caught, gripped, pushed. The car accelerated up and out and away. I stopped on level ground at the summit to take a breath. Goodbye, Tuolumne, goodbye forever!

There are many fine trout streams draining the white snows of California's Sierras. I have crossed many and have found time to fish for trout in Hat Creek, the McCloud River, the Smith for salmon, and the three coastal steelhead rivers, the Gualala, Garcia, and Navarro. The Feather River is the one to which I'd return given half a chance, partly because I have not explored all of it.

California covers 156,000 square miles, and the Sierras form a 600 mile forested wilderness spine. There are many national forests and national parks, but it seemed to me that much of the foothills east of Sacramento were posted against trespass by lumber

companies and ranches. I remember meeting loaded lumber trucks powering around the curves of narrow mountain roads, and wondering where the ranches pastured the cattle. Up there, many streams still bore the scars of placer mining going back to the middle of the 19th Century. Water pumped at high pressure blasted and straightened the streambeds, leaving an ugly dead channel.

Some of the old names remain to remind us of the glory days of the Golden State. There are Mokelumne, Fiddletown, Drytown, Grizzly Flats, Placerville, Eldorado, and Emigrant Gap. Some, like Hangtown, have been replaced by a less evocative name.

I cannot claim to be an expert on California trout, although I lived in Menlo Park for five years and regularly fished in Pescadero Creek for small rainbows—immature steelhead. See "Portola Creek" in "Figments and Fragments." Most of my experiences on the other rivers were enjoyable but brief.

I enjoyed my hours on Hat Creek in the long riffle below the powerhouse, and even

See Sierras, page 6

Where's Jim been?

Editor's note—In case you want to know where Jim's columns have been the last two issues, here's the answer. They are still sitting on my hard drive because RipRap didn't have enough submissions for March or April to fill eight pages. Because of press requirements this year, we have had to publish in multiples of 4 pages.

Anyway, I'm glad Jim's back, and I'm glad we are able to publish an 8-page edition again.



Tim Bristol, TU's Alaska program director, with a nice catch.

Bristol Bay mining threat

By Scott Hed—Outreach Director
Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska

Anglers and hunters from across the world are very concerned about the future of southwest Alaska's famed Bristol Bay region. When sportsmen and women think of this area, thoughts focus on unparalleled trophy rainbow trout and salmon fishing, huge herds of caribou migrating across the tundra, and roaming bears. The experiences found in southwest Alaska simply are not found in many other places in the world, let alone our own country. This region is a world-class destination for sportspersons who desire to fish or hunt in a truly wild and remote setting. Unfortunately, it's also a place squarely in the "bullseye" of mining interests.

This region's fish and game have supported native inhabitants for millennia. More recently, this region is the world's largest supplier of wild salmon, employing thousands of workers and generating close to \$300 million of revenue annually through commercial fisheries. Finally, thousands of people travel to and recreate in the Bristol Bay region every year, most coming for the fishing. These sportspersons deliver another \$61 million of

revenue annually.

The Kvichak, Mulchatna, and Nushagak watersheds support millions of fish worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually. They also provide critical big game migration corridors, calving and wintering grounds for the Mulchatna caribou herd, as well as forage for brown bear and moose.

Great uncertainty clouds the future of a healthy Bristol Bay region due to the highly controversial proposed Pebble Mine. If Pebble Mine is developed, it will dramatically alter all of the lands and resources of southwestern Alaska. At risk are over 1,000 square miles of lands managed by the State of Alaska as well as millions of acres managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently voted unanimously to explore special measures to ensure Bristol Bay fish habitat is protected from threats posed by developing the Pebble Mine. In addition, legislation is being considered to designate fish and wildlife refuges for the Upper Talarik, Lower Talarik and Koktuli Rivers and may be expanded to include all the waters of the Nushagak and

See Bristol Bay, page 6

To learn more about this issue and join this important conservation battle, visit: www.sportsmanalliance4ak.org. Sign the online petition to protect Bristol Bay's resources. Or visit us at www.tu.org/bristolbay.

President's Lines

This is the final Rip Rap edition under editor Rod Hanson. Rod has served as the editor since January, 2006 and is stepping down from the position to coach youth basketball. Please join me in thanking Rod for serving as editor for the last year.

I am very happy to announce that Scott Hanson has volunteered to serve as the new Rip Rap editor. Scott will begin his position in the fall with the next cycle of issues. This is the same Scott Hanson that works at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop. See Scott's own introduction in this issue.

It appears that work on Pine Creek will begin in July. There will be work this spring and summer on the South Fork of the Kinni. There may be a structure building day soon. We will need boots on the ground for both of these projects. Work dates and times will be posted on our website and we will be sending email notices. If you are not on the email list, go to our website and get signed up. Check the website regularly for updates on projects and the latest on hatches and catches.

We will have a booth again this year at Kinnifest in Glenn Park in River Falls on Saturday, June 9, 10 AM to 3 PM. We will have a booth with "Storm on the Horizon" running

and be available to the public for Q&A about TU and the Kinni. The chapter will also have a fly fishing clinic the same day at the park after Kinnifest. If you have questions or want to volunteer for either event or both, contact me, any board member or Mike Alwin. See Mike Alwin's article in this issue. More information should be available at the May meeting. Again, watch the website for information and updates.

The Spring Appeal fund raiser is in progress and letters have been sent to chapter members. If you have not responded yet, consider a donation. Our chapter has two fund raising efforts annually, the banquet and the Spring Appeal. These are the main sources of funds we have to continue our stream improvement efforts. If you've misplaced your letter you can contact Spring Appeal Chair and board member Hap Lutter.

If you have suggestions for guest speakers for membership meetings next year, please let me know. We need speakers for October, November, January and February. There have been some suggestions but no dates are taken as yet.

With that, have a safe and healthy summer.

New RipRap editor named

By Scott Hanson

Hello! My name is Scott Hanson. I am extremely excited to become the new Editor of RipRap. I will strive to continue the very high quality design that my predecessors have achieved. For the past several years, I have watched with anticipation for my issue of RipRap to be delivered to my mailbox, and will do my best to ensure that this publication continues in that same tradition. I foresee a

publication that covers all of the pertinent conservation topics dealing with our beloved trout streams, along with articles about fishing, fly tying, ecology, maybe pieces of fiction, and even a few recipes thrown in, among other things. I know that there are numerous people involved in our chapter that will be willing to make submissions, and I am very grateful of that. Especially during the first

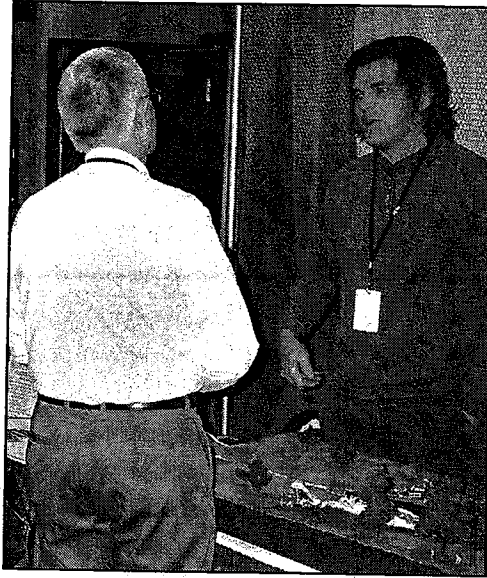
(Continued next page)

2007 Expo A Hit!

By Nick Westcott

A contingent of Kiap-TU-Wish members attended the 2007 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo on March 30 to April 1 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington.

Tom Helgeson, producer of the show, said the three day attendance attracted approximately 3,000 fly fishers. Tom expressed the following about this year's Expo, "It was a very good show for us, and, more importantly, there was a feeling of it being truly the expression of the fly fishing community (fly tiers, rod builders, conservation organiza-



Randy Arnold shares a thought with one of the visitors at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.

Many, many thanks to Sarah Sanford, Andy Lamberson, Greg Dietl, Gary Richardson, Bob Diesch, Bob Lorenzen, Hap Lutter, Hans Jung, Randy Arnold, Ted Mackmiller, DuWayne Richert and Doug Klamerus who spent their weekend attending the Kiap booth. Also, a big thank you goes out to Mike Alwin, of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, who has graciously accepted to house and display the stream restoration diorama.

tion volunteers, etc) and that was my goal all along." I couldn't agree more. We had the opportunity to meet with, and speak to, many new folks interested in Kiap's mission.

New editor, from page 4

few months of my tenure, any and all submissions will be highly appreciated.

Some of you may recognize me from working at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop for the past few years. I am also employed at a small electronics distributor named Yes-Tech in Oakdale, MN. I attend Concordia University in St. Paul, and will be finishing up my degree in Marketing this December. I live with my beautiful wife, Connie, and our dog, Toby, in Oakdale. If you are interested in submitting something you've written, or a photograph or drawing, please feel free to email it to me at scott@yes-tech.com. Thanks!

Ultimate fishing gear for our ultimate trout streams

Scientific
Anglers™
MASTERY
DEALER

ST. CROIX

FEATHER
UMPQUA
MERCHANTS

AIRELO

HARDY

CORTLAND

BUCK
KNIVES

FISHING

Huge selection of flies—standard/local patterns

Lund's Hardware & Fly Shop

201 S. Main St.
River Falls
425-2415

www.lundshardware.doitbest.com

Bristol Bay, from page 3

Kvichak drainages.

If these lands are opened to mining, it is highly likely that the construction of dams (including the largest dams on earth), roads, bridges and other infrastructure necessary to support commercial development would have extensive negative impacts. These impacts may include, but are unlikely to be limited

to: habitat fragmentation, increased road access into wildlife habitat, increased competition for finite populations of fish and game, disturbance to wildlife behavior and impaired ability to migrate, increased poaching and trespassing, concentrated hunting and fishing along new road corridors, a decrease in water quality for fish, game, and human use, and a decline in fisheries and spawning habitat.

Hearings address rules changes on local streams

By Jon Jacobs

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings were held in every Wisconsin county on Monday, April 16. Among the proposed local fisheries rules changes related to trout management for our area are:

Question 24 asked "Do you favor eliminating special regulation waters on Plum Creek (12 inch length limit, bag limit of 2) from CTH SS downstream to the Chippewa River and reverting back to the baseline regulation for the county, Category 4...?" This portion of Plum Creek lies in Pepin County. Special regulations were adopted in 2003 in the hope of increasing trout densities there. Surveys indicate that poor habitat limit production there and that angling effort is low. Voters statewide cast 909 "yes" votes and 319 "no" votes.

Question 25 asked, "Do you favor eliminating the Category 5 special regulations [Ed. Note: a slot limit] on the Kinnickinnic River and Parker Creek in St. Croix County and Kinnickinnic River including the Upper and Lower Ponds in River Falls in Pierce County and replacing the regulation with a standard Category 2 Regulation...?" The statewide vote total on this question was 981 in favor versus 322 opposed. Electrofishing surveys indicate that the slot limit had not worked to improve the size structure of the fish population as it has in the lower Kin-

nickinnic. It appears that trout densities are too great and angler harvest too low for a slot limit to be an effective trout management tool on this stretch of river.

Vote totals listed here were derived from this source: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/2007/results/statewide.pdf>.

Sierras, from page 2

more a couple of miles downstream where the river flowed slickly, swiftly and belly deep. The weeds were thick and the stream begged for dry flies only. It was a peculiar combination of a large spring creek with a fast pace and a surface composed of a network of subtle tongues and currents. I have seen three other streams of similar configuration: the Henry's Fork of the Snake, Silver Creek in Idaho, and the Firehole outside of Old Faithful Lodge.

When I was returning from a trip to Lassen to visit Jim who worked that summer for the Forest Service, I stopped for a fix of coffee on the Feather River below the canyon. I immediately found a trout in fast water. And so, I would return, given half a chance. When Jim had given his three years to the Marines, we made a coastal pilgrimage together, finishing on the Smith River close to Oregon, where Jim caught a five or six pound steelhead; that we ate.

Kinni Fest fly fishing clinic set for June 9

By Mike Alwin

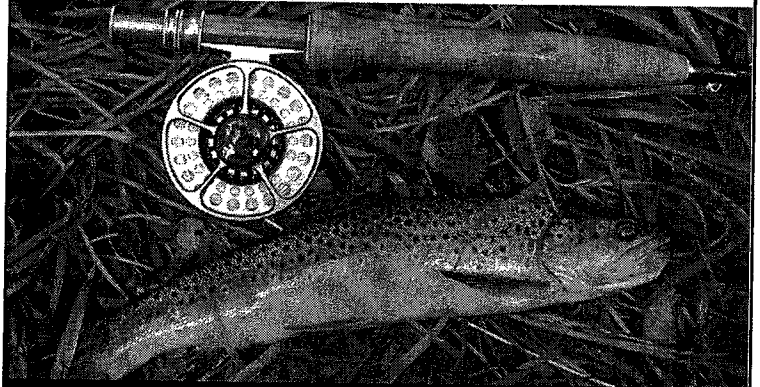
The Education Committee is pleased to announce that the Chapter will hold a fly fishing clinic on the Kinnickinnic River on June 9th as part of Kinni Fest.

Kinni Fest is a celebration revolving around the river and is sponsored by a number of businesses and organizations in River Falls. Participants in Kinni Fest will have the opportunity to investigate the flora and fauna of the area under the tutelage of knowledgeable instructors and will be able to sign up for the clinic at the Kiap-TU-Wish booth.

The clinic will consist of a couple of hours of casting instruction and a discussion of fishing strategies and then....and evening of guided fishing on the lower river. Volunteers are needed to act as guides, so contact me at 651/770-5854 or atmike@bobmitchellsflyshop.com.

Book a Corporate Fly Fishing Day!

Limo service from 3M to the River!
Groups of 10-20 people.
Guides, gear, breakfast, lunch & Après Fishing Party.
Fly Fishing, it's more peaceful than Golf.



Kinni Creek Lodge & Outfitters

1-877-504-9705

www.kinnicreek.com

Fly Fish - Paddle - Rest

FLY FISHING OUGHT TO BE A BLAST

AND IT IS WHEN YOU RELY ON PEOPLE WHO KNOW AND LOVE THIS SUBLIME SPORT TO HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.

FLY FISHERS HAVE BEEN HAVING A BLAST IN BENTLEY'S FLY FISHING CLASSES SINCE 1996. TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH FUN, CHECK OUT THE SEGMENT FEATURING OUR OWN ANDY ROTH ON RON SCHARA'S MINNESOTA BOUND PROGRAM ON KARE II TV. YOU CAN FIND THE VIDEO CLIP ON OUR WEB SITE.

IF YOU WANT TO BRUSH UP YOUR SKILLS, OR INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO THIS GREAT SPORT, WE KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT FUN. CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR UPCOMING CLASSES. YOU, AND YOUR FRIEND WILL BE GLAD YOU DID. IT'S A BLAST.

In-store Beginner Fly Fishing

Saturdays: May 19, June 16 & August 18

On-stream Beginner Fly Fishing

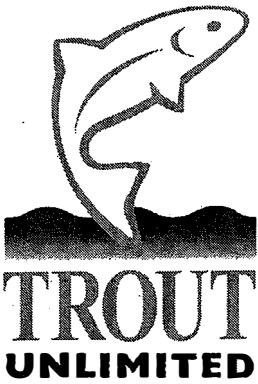
Saturday May 19

Casting School

Saturday July 21



Visit our store at Normandale Village
5123B W. 98th Street, Bloomington, MN
(952) 828-9554
www.bentleysoutfitters.com



First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hastings, MN
Permit #16

PO Box 483
Hudson WI 54016.

5402232036 0006



RIPRAP

• Restoration • Improvement • Preservation through Research And Projects •

RIPRAP is a publication of Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited, No. 0168, PO Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016.
E-mail RIPRAP at turiprap@hotmail.com. Visit us at www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kyle Amundson, kyleamundson@mmm.com	715-549-5326
Kent Johnson (jjohnson@pressenter.com)	715-386-5299
Hap Lutter (llutter@yahoo.com)	715-425-9792
Gary Richardson (baddog@pressenter.com)	715-248-3699
Robert Lorenzen (blor2006@comcast.net)	952-431-4987
Andy Lamberson (andrewlamberson@hotmail.com)	715-441-3535
Nick Westcott nicwestcott@comcast.net	612-869-3201

KIAP-TU-WISH OFFICERS

President: Greg Dietl (grdietl@hotmail.com)	651-436-2604
Vice president: Andy Lamberson (andrewlamberson@hotmail.com)	715-441-3535
Treasurer: Brent Sittlow (bsittlow@pressenter.com)	715-386-0820
Secretary: Gary Horvath (magshorvath@comcast.net)	715-425-8489

RIPRAP EDITOR

Rod Hanson (rodhanson@comcast.net)	715-426-1626
---------------------------------------	--------------

Upcoming programs

End of year, have fun fishing!