



# RIP-RAP

## Restoration, Improvement and Preservation Through Research and Projects

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

November 1991

Editor: Craig Mason

Layout: Andy Lamberson

### Willow Falls Dam to be Removed

Last July, the Wisconsin State Assembly cut a \$4 Million appropriation that would have helped fund the replacement of the Willow Falls dam located in the Willow River State Park. Without this funding the plan for the dam consists of funding the removal at the cost of \$1.9 Million.

While this seems to be the final chapter in this story, DNR secretary Carroll "Buzz" Besadny was quoted in a local paper saying "rebuilding the dam is not a dead issue". Local residents have the ear of legislator Sheila Harsdorf and she is very active on the issue. Trout Unlimited is on record opposing the rebuilding of the dam, with a multitude of letters to both the DNR and Harsdorf.

In another matter, the dam on the Willow River at New Richmond is also slated for repair or removal. The DNR ordered an immediate drawdown of the impoundment this past summer due to the unsafe condition of the structure. The city of New Richmond will receive \$200,000 towards repair or replacement and as of this writing no decision has been made.

Also this past summer, the condition of the Powell dam (lower) on the Kinnickinnic was evaluated and found to be in better condition than anticipated. Repairs totaling \$80,500 will be necessary to lengthen the serviceable life of the structure for at least 30 years.

Gary Horvath- Dam Chairman



### FYI

DNR Fishing Hotline for lake Michigan and tributary fishing information. Updated as new info becomes available (414) 649-2842

### MEETING NOTICE

"Montana & More" will be presented by Chapter President Andy Lamberson. The "Montana" portion of the slide show will be of Andy's summer trip to Yellowstone and Armstrong's and Depuy's Spring Creeks in Livingston, Mt. The "more" part of the show will be slides from chapter activities over the summer and slides that are brought by other Kiap members. So bring your slides and be part of the show!

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, Nov. 6**

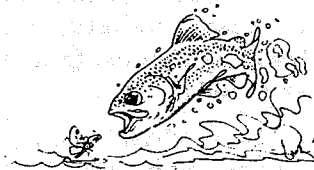
**WHERE: HUDSON HOUSE (BEST WESTERN)**

**TIME: DINNER AT 6:30 MEETING AT 8:00**

### Special Menu for Chapter Meetings

We have arranged the following special menu for chapter members who wish to dine with us before the meeting. Come join us! Dinners will start for under \$5.

10oz. Top Sirloin      Chicken Kiev  
Hamburger & Fries      Grilled Chicken & Fries



### Brown Trout Stocking

On the final day of the Wisconsin trout season a small group of chapter members took time from their fishing to stock over 10,000 Browns into the Willow River and Race Branch. The fish came from the St. Croix Falls Hatchery and averaged 4-5" long. The hardy workers were:

Chuck Goossen      Vern Alberts      Tom Battey  
Jon Jacobs      Skip James      Mark Larson  
Andy Lamberson      Craig Mason

The little trout appeared to be adapting quickly to their new home as many were observed already surface feeding!

## Three Rods on the Hoof

by D.F. Flote

The morning broke cool and dry, a September day to be savored by flyrodders after big trout. These three arrived after dark the night before and wouldn't know the beauty of their campsite until some of the brisk air had filled their lungs and cleared a little of the brain fog caused by a late campfire, conversation, and elbow bending. Actually, there wasn't a campfire, because the birch was green, the Scout saying he couldn't tell in the dark, and anyway the owner had started to checkout the noise at his woodpile. That may have saved the Chief, who liked to burn the cork of his scotch bottle to show what a mountainman drinker he was, because when the morning sun shown on that green jug, it was only half empty.

The Scout and the novice they called Drag hadn't been any help on the scotch, Scout because he didn't deserve it, and Drag because he had his own bottle of bourbon. This guy Drag wasn't much of a flyrodder, but he had brought them to this wild place and knew a clear head would be needed to fish this Blackhoof River, whose banks were so steep and tight with alderbrush that only an occasional otter could get in and out of the water. And he was wise enough to keep track of his own bottle cap. By the time the full moon was nearly overhead and glowing through the spruce, Chief was slumped in his chair after a scary demonstration of *deja vu*, predicting every line of conversation before it was uttered. "I knew you were going to say that!" The others put it down to alcohol poisoning, and they turned in, anticipating this morning just the way it arrived.

Drag had a problem. Chief and Scout were experienced fishermen who could float a dry fly to a rising trout across three currents of water, and bounce a nymph off the bottom, detecting the lightest take. They had come to this stream to fish over the 14-18" wild Browns he had promised on this great September weekend. He wanted to deliver, and he also wanted to observe how they would attack this new water with a fly rod. Last year the big fish were caught on the Devil's own hardware, and to complete his spiritual conversion to flies, Drag had to see those fish taken on a floating line. Then there was the lingering embarrassment of the Carp Corral, another story for sure, but still a situation that required a little retribution.

Drag figured if he could bust their ass in this wilderness, get some nice fish, and learn some technique, he'd just about eclipse the spiritual high of killing that SOB Herman in his rookie season. Right, another story, but he'd never gotten the respect that was due from these guys just because that 4 pound monster fell for a #1 red and white squirrel tail Mepps on exactly the same kind of morning.

Well, that logging trail was easily a mile to the survey cut that led down to the stream, full of nasty holes filled with water. While he still had some breath left, Scout suggested they stop and cast over the better ones. Chief was keeping up, just barely, and wanted to know how much further? Drag was pretty vague, mostly because he hadn't been this far before, and he wasn't sure what he was looking for. Besides, it was starting to feel like a snipe hunt.

The survey cut had to be three years old, and when they got down to the gully the stream lay in, it began to look like there was no way out. Scout headed downstream for a rock he couldn't resist, and Drag was headed up when Chief called them in to discuss their "situation". Actually, he tried to call them in, but Scout ignored him and Drag couldn't believe he was suggesting they consider fishing a little and then hike out the way they came in. Drag planned to fish up to the bridge, some three miles and five hours of fishing away, and the streambed was the flattest way to get there. He knew they might have to swim around some of the switchback corners that were dug out deep by high water, but those two didn't, and if he got them moving, soon there'd be no other way out. He pretended to concentrate on his casting the way fishermen do, making no eye contact and responding vaguely without really listening, and got out of site at the first chance. Scout was here for the fishing, too, and Drag figured he would haul Chief along when their talk got to fly selection and stream conditions, and that's how it worked out.

# Christmas Banquet

Plan now to attend the annual Kiap-TU-Wish Christmas Banquet and fabulous Silent Auction! The party will be held on Wednesday December 4th at the Hudson House Restaurant (top of the hill off I-94). The dinner choices will be as follows:

Hudson House Steak.....	\$12.50
Boneless Breast of Chicken.....	\$11.50
Broiled Shrimp.....	\$15.75

The price includes all of the trimmings, gratuities, and tax plus a marvelous program. Reservations are a must! Please call Jean Mitchell at (12) 770-5854.

We need items for our Silent Auction! This is our chapter's biggest fund raiser - so please contribute. The items do not have to be fishing related. Be creative - we will accept just about anything! The items can be dropped off at Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo or brought to the Banquet.

Reservations should be in by November 25th!

All guests are welcome. Social hour begins at 6:30pm. Dinner is at 7:30pm.

Our guest speaker will be our own Charlie Johnston!

In keeping with the spirit of giving, we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for the local food shelves.

Chief's reason for concern was the memory of dragging out a guy who broke a leg wading in water like this, and the obvious lack of concern by the two Boy Scouts he was with. The and the little swim he had taken in the Missouri River a week ago. Not remarkable, really, except when done in full wading gear. Damn near lost the keys, too. That sort of thing will raise the consciousness to danger, age and mortality. It's just that these guys don't have a plan, or even a goal, and how can it turn out right if you don't, he thought. In the end, he managed to stuff it under his overwhelming passion for trout fishing. Still, there was that stick Drag was pulling along tied to a rope on his vest. What was that all about?

o Drag, this was trout fishing. "Fishing" was higher on the scale than "catching", and "being here" was higher than that. Going to the wilderness, the reason, and fishing, the excuse, he liked to think. But he remembered the time his antique bamboo 4 weight, so lovingly restored and beautiful, had snapped off above the first ferrule, half way between two muddy section roads. That had finished fishing for that day, and he had busted brush for two hours getting back. Yes, "liked to" described it better than "believed", because of the contradictions. Busting brush isn't much like "being here", and "being here" was different when he was with a guy who wanted to plan and organize, like the Chief. He realized he had slid from "being here" to "proving something", so he resolved to back off, and let it go.

out was in his element. Born 100 years too late, he was a hunter-gatherer of the gentlest sort, evolved now to catch and release and active environmentalism. He had a natural way of observing and learning, and when he saw Drag trying to kill the Chief on the hike in, he wondered how this might turn out. Chief was only a little hung over, amazing in itself, and he was fussing and worrying, but the big guy would make it through, the Scout knew from past experience with him. Besides, Scout had some water, and knew he'd win undying gratitude from the dehydrating Chief by caring. Funny how leaders who naturally assume responsibility for the group sometimes forget to take care of themselves, he thought. He found an opportunity to tell Drag that it was just "type A" responsible, and not really a chicken, but by then Drag had figured it out by himself.



Not long after Chief had found his way to the head of this little column moving upstream, the bottom began to change. What had been boulders on gravel became a slippery clay mud, sometimes firm, sometimes real soft and sticky. Not thinking much about it as he crossed to the left side, Chief noticed the gravel on top of the firm clay as he lined up his cast for the next corner. Suddenly his left foot gave way and slid down into the sucking goo, while his right stayed up and forced his knee to his chin. Trapped in that position, he managed to keep his balance and called out to Drag as he came into view below.

Drag swallowed a laugh when he saw that Chief was stuck, and moved up quickly to help. Last year his brother-in-law had just about drowned their buddy Warren, who was stuck in the mud, by pulling back on his shoulder and tipping him into the cold water. Recalling that, he moved to front and offered his stick for Chief to pull on. It took Scout at his elbow extra leverage to finally pull his leg out of that heavy quick sand, and get back on solid bottom. The three rods moved to shore to think this one over, and it was then that Scout offered his water and candy bars, and Chief has his answer about Drag's stick.

Now, this started out as a fish story, and you've noticed there haven't been any fish. There were some, not many, and pretty small, the way it sometimes is. The boys didn't rag on Drag about it, and the beer and steaks over the campfire eased the exhaustion to a comfortable tired. We may need more male bonding and initiation, but here were three guys who worked it out one day, trout fishing on a river they call the Hoof.



## Notes From the Pres:

Kiap-TU-Wish has an opening on it's Board of Directors to fill the remainder of Russ Schalk's term (until March 1992). The position is open to members from Wisconsin or Minnesota who might be interested. The Board meets approximately every 3 months or on an as needed basis. Anyone that is interested in running for the position should talk to any Club Officer or Board member for further details. The new Board Member will be elected by the Board of Directors at our next Board meeting (the date has not yet been determined). This position would be excellent for someone who thinks they might be interested in a Board position but is reluctant to run for a full 3 year term. This opening would be an excellent way to "try it out" before running for the full 3 year term, which will be elected by the Chapter at the March Business Meeting. Please feel free to contact any of the below people for more information:

### OFFICERS:

President: Andy Lamberson (715)386-7568

Vice President: Kent Johnson (715)386-5299

Secretary: Don Ausemus (612)636-0625

Treasurer: Vern Alberts (612)451-1006

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kent Johnson (Wi) (715)386-5299

Jon Jacobs (Wi) (715)386-7822

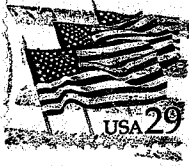
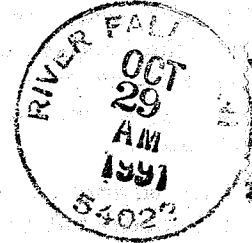
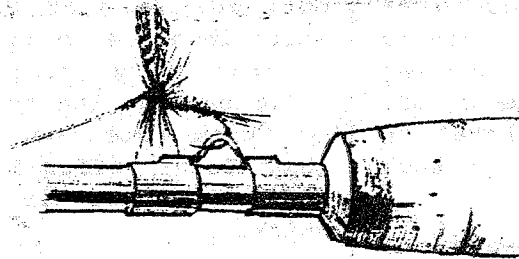
Craig Mason (Wi) (715)425-2282

Gary Horvath (Wi) (715)425-8489

Mike Alwin (Mn) (612) 439-8159

open

Please note the new menu for our pre-meeting dinner at the Hudson house. I would like to encourage everyone to come for dinner. It's a really good time listening to all the fish stories, and the Acerbic Angler even occasionally drops some hints on one of his "secret" fishing spots. Besides, if we don't get enough members for dinner we'll start getting a room charge and we don't want that!!



### 1991-92 MEETING SCHEDULE

Nov.6- Chapter Member Slides

Montana & More- Andy Lamberson

Dec. 4- Christmas Party

Jan. 8- Tom Anderson- Panfish

Feb. 5- Dan Simonson- Wisc. DNR

Water Quality Issues

March 4- Business Meeting

April 8- Fly Tiers

May 6- Marty Engel WI. DNR

Dinner at 6:30 Meeting at 8:00

All Meetings are at the Hudson House

KIAP-TU-WISH

TROUT UNLIMITED

P.O. BOX 483

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