



RIP - RAP



Editor: Ken Hanson

RESTORATION & PRESERVATION
THROUGH RESEARCH & PROJECTS

NOVEMBER 1995

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Notes From The President

I would like to encourage all members to attend the upcoming November chapter meeting at the JR Ranch. Aside from an interesting talk by Jim Bourquin on bonefishing, we will be taking time to discuss the proposed early trout season for Wisconsin.

The State Council of Trout Unlimited has asked all chapters for their positions on this issue. After the discussion, which will be limited to one half hour, we will take a vote to determine our official chapter position. Unfortunately, a facts page of pros and cons generated by the State Council was unavailable in time for publication. We will have these fact sheets available at the November meeting. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Gary



Habitat Publications Available From National

Two new publications that deal with trout stream habitat improvement are available from TU National. Saving A Stream is a practical handbook for chapters and others interested in organizing a habitat project. The other publication is a Stream Habitat Improvement Bibliography that contains more than 2000 references on different aspects of habitat improvement. These publications were developed under a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. Copies of Saving A Stream can be purchased through the national office for \$6.50 (includes shipping and handling). Call (703) 522-0200 for

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Wed. Nov. 1st
TIME: Dinner at 6:30
Meeting at 8:00
WHERE: JR Ranch

Flyfishing for Bonefish on Tap For November's Meeting Chapter member and long time angler Jim Bourquin will be talking about bonefishing and other angling opportunities on Christmas Island at this month's meeting. Jim's presentations are always interesting and informative. Chapter members are encouraged to join us for dinner at 6:30.

more information. Stream Habitat Improvement Bibliography is available for \$10.00 (includes shipping and handling) through TU/Forest Service Coordinator Don Duff. Call (801) 524-6491 to order or for more information.

HOLIDAY BANQUET RESERVATIONS

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter will hold its annual Holiday Banquet and Fund Raiser this year on Wednesday December 6, 1995 at the JR Ranch in Hudson. Social hour will begin at 6:30 and dinner will be served at 7:30.

Dinner will be a prime rib buffet for \$16.00 per person (including tax and tip) and will include roast turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, wild rice, tossed salad, pasta salad, roll and butter, coffee, and milk. The JR Ranch is well known for their high quality food.

The deadline for dinner reservations is November 22nd. For reservations call Jon Jacobs at home on 715-386-7822 or at work on 612-930-8245 or call Mike Alwin at Bob Mitchell's fly shop on 612-770-5854.

Donations to Silent Auction Sought



As most of you know, Kiap-TU-Wish has one fund raising event a year. That event is the silent auction held every year at the Holiday Banquet. This year, for the first time in several, we'll be back at our ancestral home, the JR Ranch. Nothing would be more appropriate than to make this year's auction the best ever, and you can help. We need your donations to the auction in order to cover our operating expenses for the year. What can you donate? Well, fly assortments, reels, hand crafted rods or other tackle are always nice, but you shouldn't limit yourself to those items. In the past we've had clothing, artworks, books, collectables, memorabilia, bird houses, desserts (chocolate!), home made maple syrup, televisions and even a computer garner major interest. Remember, half the folks who attend the banquet probably don't fish and might be interested in something else. Use your imagination, then bring your donation to Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop.

Desk Sought

Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop is looking for a small writer's desk, the kind with a writing surface that folds to close the desk. Call Mike at 770-5854



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DEADLINES

DEC 11/24
 JAN 12/22
 FEB 1/29
 MAR 2/23

Skip's Loose Threads

Twenty miles from the nearest pavement! Mike and I had been invited to fish on a 60,000 acre cattle ranch near Cascade, Montana. "The finest freestone stream in the state" our host said. Maybe you guys should fish down from the bridge, there was another fly fisher here two days ago who went up. These were pampered trout. In each small run, we would find brookies in the slowest water, rainbows in the streamy water, and "the big Kahuna" brown at the head. We took turns playing fish and holding the camera. The stream certainly lived up to it's billing. I had brought my little Sage 2-weight, and I was having a ball, casting a 16 Parachute Adams.

A bit after noon, we rounded a corner to find the deepest pool we'd seen yet. There were rocky banks shading the deepest part, the current tongue licking the edges provocatively. Special trout surely lived here. Mike had a vicious strike on his hopper, (a size 10 Jolly Green Giant), and skillfully played a rainbow to net. I removed the Adams and tied on a hopper

myself. The little rod easily delivered the big fly to a rock outcrop about forty feet away, and the float lasted only a few inches before the fly was sucked under and I set the hook into a large brown. I thought I'd set the hook, that is. The fly came back at me. I caught it and examined the hook point. Sharp enough, I took a few swipes with my stone, and cast again. This time a rainbow, smaller but feisty, grabbed the hopper and headed upstream. I jerked hard to set the point, but on the next jump, my hook came free again. I had switched from 5x to 4x to turn over the bigger fly, but I simply couldn't set the hook. Three more fish were 'prematurely released' before I realized what the problem was.

A 2-weight rod, at least mine, doesn't have the backbone to set a large hook. Later, we did some experiments at the cabin, involving a pine board, (a lousy substitute for a fish's mouth) and our flyrods. On our trip, we had my 2-weight, Mike's 3-weight Sage, and several 4 or 5-weights. The latter had no trouble setting the hopper hook in the board at about thirty feet, but the 3-weight barely

worked, requiring a hard jerk, and the 2-weight wouldn't do it at all. Small hooks need little pressure to set firmly, even on light tippets. Big hooks, on the other hand, need lots of pressure. Even if you can cast a big fly with a little rod, you will probably be unable to hook many fish.

Some tips: If you must fish a large fly (10 or larger) on a very light trout rod, always point your rod tip at the fly during the drift, and when you strike, pull backwards in a straight line...don't raise the rod. This will set the hook firmly. It's a salt water technique, and also works well with bass and northerns. If you forget, and lift the rod in the normal striking motion, you still may be able to point the rod at the fish and set the hook properly within the first few seconds. The little rods are designed to fish only small flies, and I learned a lesson the hard way that day in Montana. Just to make sure, I switched back to the 16 Adams, and had no trouble with the next fish. I'll be back for the big brown... next season!

