



# Rip Rap

## October Meeting

When: Wednesday, Oct. 6  
 Where: JR Ranch, Hudson  
 Dinner: 6:30  
 Program: 8:00 Ted Miner

### President's Lines:

If you haven't already, you will soon be receiving an invitation from the Board of Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter to participate in the "100 Anglers for \$100" fund raiser for the purchase of the Swinging Gate section of the Kinni. This piece of land is a very high profile and heavily fished section of the river that deserves to be protected for perpetuity, and it will be! Anglers and recreationists who love the Kinni are very fortunate to have the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust working every angle to ensure that parcels like the Swinging Gate are preserved. As the mailing explains, the land has been transferred to the Wisconsin DNR, but at \$10,000 less than what was paid for it by K.R.L.T. Hopefully through the generosity and commitment that our membership has for the Kinni, we can make up that difference and ensure that K.R.L.T. will be there again in the future to protect more land in the watershed.

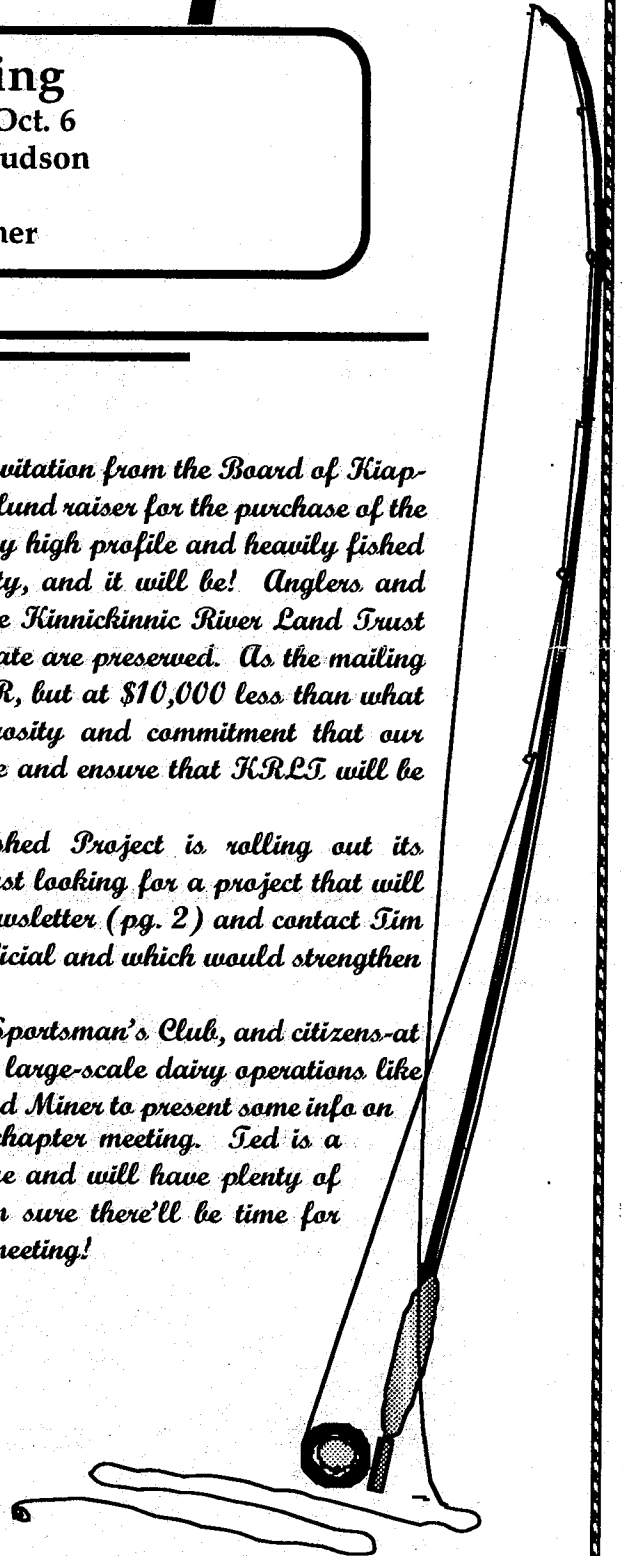
On another front, the Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed Project is rolling out its implementation phase. This is exciting news for those of us just looking for a project that will improve the river. Please read the announcement within this newsletter (pg. 2) and contact Tim Poppo or me on ideas or projects that you think could be beneficial and which would strengthen the partnership between TU and the Watershed Project.

Lastly, organizations like TU, Rush River Eau Galle Sportsman's Club, and citizens-at-large of Pierce County continue to struggle with proposals for large-scale dairy operations like the Julimar proposal of last Winter. I'm pleased to welcome Ted Miner to present some info on this topic at our upcoming chapter meeting. Ted is a dedicated player on this issue and will have plenty of news to share with us. I'm sure there'll be time for discussion, so don't miss the meeting!

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Sincerely,  
 Brent Sittlow, President



## Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

### Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed moves to Implementation Stage...

What does this mean for you? It means it's time to go to work. With the strong partnership built between TU and the priority watershed project, I wanted to take a moment to extend a personal invitation to all Kiap-TU-Wish members to call me with suggestions for improving water quality, or how we can provide education to farmers and community.

Who better has a feel for the needs of the Kinni watershed than you? As the eyes and ears of this project, I welcome any input or feedback from your membership. There are many types of activities for which the project provides cost-sharing. Most are focused mainly on rural agricultural practices, and the list doesn't mention education at all, but three of the items are shoreline and streambank protection, shoreline buffers, and wetland restoration, for which the Watershed Project will pay up to 70%. But don't let that limit your imagination. Please call me with any ideas you might have.

Tim Popple  
Project Manager, Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed  
715-684-2874 Extension 130

### Kathy Wurzer merits Award...

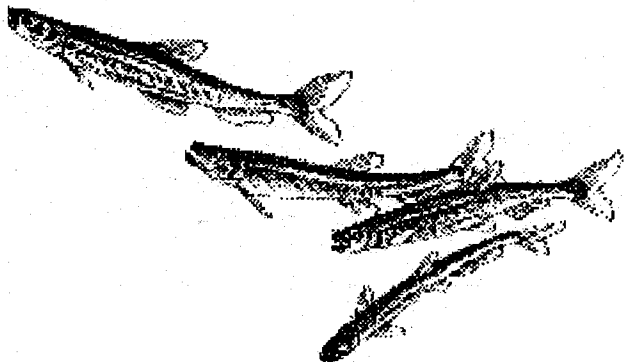
The producer and 'talking head' of our video project "Storm on the Horizon", Kathy Wurzer, won a silver award at the June Chicago Film and Video Festival. About 170 of the original 200 copies of the video have been distributed. The Board of Directors authorized the purchase of another 200 copies at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Kent Johnson and Gary Horvath recently used the video extensively as a lead-in to discussions with the River Falls school superintendent, school board members, architects and others concerning plans for roof and parking lot water run off from the new high school that is to be built on the south east edge of River Falls.

### Leadership Training Opportunity...

Eight TU members could have taken part in a leadership training conference at Baraboo, October 1-2. Sarah Johnson, professional leadership trainer, ran a seminar to develop skills that certainly would be useful for chapter and state Trout Unlimited leaders. Since this item is reported after the fact, it will be interesting to find out whether anyone was nominated for this training by Kiap-TU-Wish. The offer and announcement of the conference was by John "Duke" Welter on September 24th.

### Annual Stocking Continues...

For the 28th consecutive year, Chuck Goossen has supervised the stocking of 10,500 Brown Trout fingerlings into the Lower Willow River. The fish came from the St. Croix Falls hatchery, and the average size was about 1 oz. In addition to Chuck, assisting on September 24th were chapter members John O'Malley, Sean O'Malley, Ted Mackmiller, and Herb Lundberg. Thanks to all!



## A Step Forward in Fly Rods...

by Perry Palin

The challenge and reward for fly tiers is in constructing flies with your own hand and mind, and then going out and catching fish with them. A further challenge and reward is in making your own rod, and catching fish with it.

In 1998, master tackle-maker Gordy Seim was making fly rods of White Ash. Gordy is a talented craftsman, his rods are beautiful, and he inspired me to attempt to make something equally as useful and beautiful. A problem arose, however, in obtaining the proper piece of wood. Gordy spent a lot of time in lumberyards for each good White Ash board he found that would be suitable for a fly rod. I decided to go in a slightly different direction.

In Superior Fishing, first published in 1865, Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, uncle of Teddy Roosevelt and a sportsman in his own right, describes his preference, with one reservation, for a Cedar fly rod: "A Cedar rod never warps; it springs to the hand as quick as thought to the brain; it is never slow or heavy; it cannot be kept down by the wind or the current; it is never aught but quick, lively, and vigorous; it will cast three feet farther than any other rod of the same weight, and strike a fish with twice the certainty. The wood is extremely light, but the grain is short; it never loses its life, but will snap under a sudden strain."

I have made about twenty Cedar fly rods, using a 3x3/4" tongue and groove house siding for my material. These rods are from six to eight feet in length, of one, two, or three-piece construction, and cast line weights from three to seven. Some are as stiff as a graphite rod, some have moderate actions, and a few bend well down into the handle. The action is determined by the part of the tree (sapwood is light and stiff, heartwood is heavier and more flexible), and the taper of the blank.

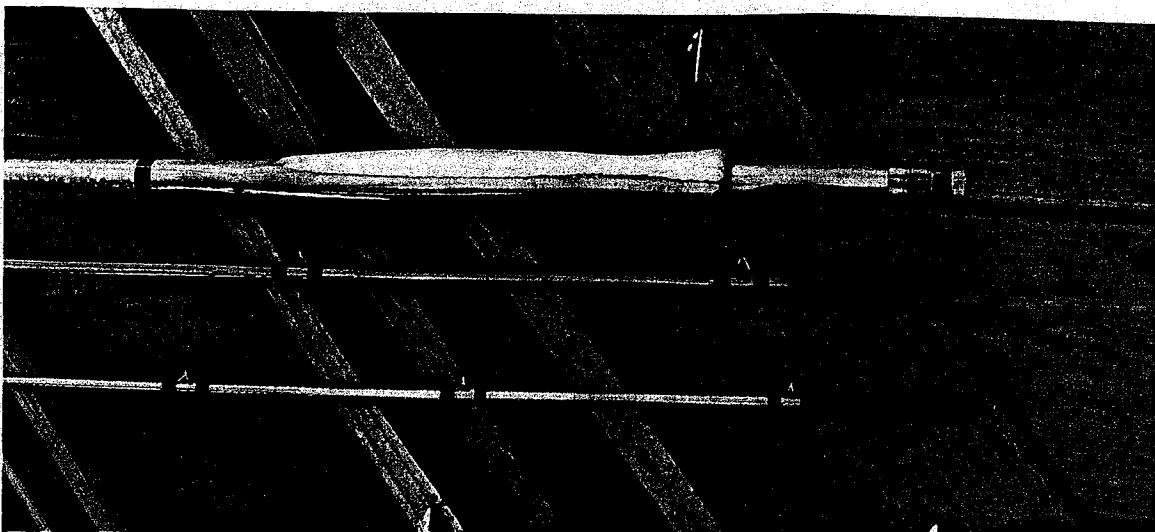
I carve a knotless, straight-grained piece of wood with a simple utility knife, finishing the blank with a Stanley trimming plane, which is available for about five dollars from hardware stores. I sometimes carve the blank freehand, and sometimes use an adjustable hardwood planing form, an invention of Gordy's. For multi-piece rods, short lengths of fiberglass rod blank are cut for ferrule sleeves.

Handles are swelled Cedar, and the reel seats are an extension of the blank, with a reel-foot bed carefully inlaid in the Cedar with the utility knife. Reel-seat rings are cut from copper tubing, the kind used to plumb houses. The blank gets a coat of Devcon 2-Ton two-part epoxy, and a second coat after the guides are wrapped to the blank.

These rods are simple, attractive, cheap, and they work well. In my early experiments with Cedar, I broke some rods, but I have overcome my early design and materials problems, and have not broken a rod in several months. When I did break a tip or mid-section of a multi-piece rod, it would take about an hour to carve and finish a replacement. Since late July of 1998, I have caught quite a few Wisconsin trout with these rods.

Making Cedar rods has taught me about rod actions, casting, setting the hook and playing fish, and it has made me a better fisherman. Perhaps most important, it has been fun, and has added challenges and rewards to my fly fishing.

If any Kiap-TU-Wish members are interested, they could contact me for a materials list, step-by-step instructions, and copies of my notes for making Cedar rods. There are twenty-five steps, unless you count pulling splinters and applying bandages, in which case there are thirty-four steps to building a Cedar fly rod.





GIANT FALLS, WI  
PM  
OCT 2  
1999

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## Skip's Loose Threads...

### Pain Relievers for Wading Shoes

It's probably just my age, (58), but my feet hurt after a day of wading in rocky streams, or in hiking a few miles in my wading shoes. If you have the same problem, perhaps I can make the price you pay for a day of fun astream a little less. My wading shoes, (I have two pairs), are Weinbrenner Borger Boots. The reason I have two pairs is because pair one is a size larger than pair two, allowing me to comfortably wade wet most of the season in the smaller pair, and supplying the required room for waders and heavy socks in the larger pair. Unfortunately, both sets of boots have no arch support, no cushioning other than what my waders and socks supply. The other day, between El Paso and the Pig Farm, I seduced a few trout to my Baetis imitation on the Rush. Amid the wild colors of Autumn, the red Sumac and bright blue Asters, I hiked back to the car. My feet were killing me, even though the foliage was as distractingly lovely as possible. My feet have always reminded me that I have been fishing.

On the way back home, I stopped at a supermarket in Hudson to buy a few things for supper. Almost by chance, I went through the aisle that had jock straps, ace bandages, mouthwash and shaving cream. There, about eye level, were Dr. Scholl's Maximum Comfort Work Insoles, "Clinically proven to relieve lower back pain aggravated by foot shock and over-exertion." I bought a pair on a whim for about ten bucks, wondering whether they might work in my wading shoes.

Last Tuesday, I was on the lower Kinni, with the insoles installed in my Borger Boots. What a difference! I felt as if my feet had been liberated from Auschwitz. I fished for five hours, about two more than usual, and did quite a bit of walking, not only in the Kinni's rocky bottom, but over the stream-side trail and up the steep path to my car. The insoles made a terrific improvement in the quality of my time astream, and that evening, I didn't feel the predictable after-effects of walking in supportless wading shoes for most of the day. Usually, my feet would ache for hours after a fishing trip... not with the Dr. Scholl's insoles!

Most wading shoes have little or no support for the feet. The manufacturers are mostly content to provide something that fits over waders and sticks tenaciously to the bottom of the stream. I recommend that you try some form of insoles in your wading shoes to provide arch support, and cushioning for the heel and ball of the foot. What? Oh yes, I caught six trout, including two on dries in the lower Kinni. Last trip of the season most likely.