

Welcome back

By Jonathan Jacobs

We're twisting the ignition key and popping the clutch on another publication cycle of RipRap with this issue. We're off to a fast start with work from a wide variety of contributors, all of whom have something important to tell you, whether in straight reportage or in something more sentimental. I'm simply thrilled to have so many voices represented here and I hope you like what they have to say.

The last week of September is approaching as I write this. I have nebulous plans to close out the season with a flourish and am rushing this issue to press. That's a feeble excuse for not listing October's speaker and program here. **Please check the chapter's web site for details on the October meeting.** The venue and time are standard: We're at Bob Smith's Sports Club at 601 2nd Street in Hudson on Wednesday, October 6. Dinner will be available at 6 PM and the meeting will begin at 7 PM.

Vox populi

Editorial by Jonathan Jacobs

This is an extraordinarily important election year. Voters face critical decisions in choosing to vote for candidates that they think will best represent them at all levels of government. Please remember when considering candidates' positions that sound environmental policy is in your best interest.

The October issue of *Field & Stream* magazine features remarkably good interviews with both President Bush and Senator Kerry. There's a tone of deference in several of the questions, but both candidates are asked to explain some of the more controversial aspects of their environmental records. The questions are orders of magnitude tougher than those asked by one of magazines four years ago when it essentially donned fishnet stockings, high heels and a slinky little off the shoulder dress and asked one party's candidate, "Looking for a date, soldier?" Read it if you can find a copy. And remember to vote, it's both a sacred privilege and a high honor.

Banquet planning under way

By Jonathan Jacobs

A banquet planning committee comprised of Deb Olmstead, Greg Dietl, Corey Mairs, Eric Forward, Mike Alwin and Jonathan Jacobs is working to create K-TU's best holiday bash ever. The event will be held again this year at 3M's Tartan Park in Lake Elmo on **THURSDAY, December 2**. If you would like to contribute to this effort, the next planning meeting will be at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo on Wednesday, October 13 at 5:30 PM. Look for further details in next month's RipRap.

In praise of our volunteers

By Michael Alwin

Kiap-TU-Wish hosted our annual trout fishing clinic in River Falls on June 5th. About 20 or so students took the class, where they learned casting, entomology and stream craft, as well as ecology. The chapter fed everybody supper (which included delicious cookies supplied by **Best Maid Cookie Co. of River Falls** for dessert - Ed.), supplied them with flies and leaders and then took them fishing until dark. Once again, it was an unqualified success even though fewer fish were caught than in years past.

A volunteer organization cannot survive without volunteers and we have them in spades. Without these fine people we wouldn't have been able to mount this program and keep it running all these years. This year the Education Committee would like to thank **Bill Hinton** for once again leading the casting instruction, **Clarke Garry** for collecting, displaying and teaching the students about the invertebrate life in the Kinnickinnic and **Brent Sittlow** for stepping into the role of ecology teacher and river cheer leader. We collected flies from **Dave Ballman**, **Corey Mairs**, **Bob Torres** and **Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop**. My friend **Jon Jacobs** deserves thanks for acting as lead teacher and for picking up a bunch of loose ends I manage to somehow drop. In addition, **Bob Bradham**, **Paul Weimerslage**, **Allison Jacobs**, **Skip James**, **Greg Dietl**, **Bill Lovegren** and **Mark Leyde** served as guides and mentors and earned kudos for doing so. Sage representative **Tom Andersen** supplied rods, reels and lines. Finally, **Renate Mackmiller** once again kept us from going hungry by organizing, procuring and serving supper to us and then cleaning up after us. Give her a big hug and a kiss, she deserves it.

The Education Committee has two goals: First, to educate the community and second, to involve the membership. We hope we can continue to do so.

Michael Alwin of Woodbury, MN is a frequent contributor to RipRap.

Reporting for duty

By Greg Dietl

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers were called upon for three projects this past summer. Membership response was excellent. We also drew help from TCTU.

After weeks of box elder removal and bank work by the DNR at the River Drive site on the upper Kinnickinnic, we were called on to seed and mulch at that site. The project was completed Saturday morning, June 17, with enough time left to enjoy brats, dogs and tales streamside. K-TU volunteers were: **Gary Horvath**, **Gary Richardson**, **John**

Koch, **Tracy Nelson**, **Paul Wright**, **Hap Lutter**, **Nick Elliot**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Chuck Goossen**, **John Carr**, **Bob Bradham**, **Ted Mackmiller** and **Greg Dietl**. Volunteers from TCTU were **Mary McKee** and **Gerard Haines**.

The DNR requested our help with electrofishing surveys on August 9, 10 and 11. On August 9 volunteers shocked at two locations on the Eau Galle River. Volunteer shockers included **John Koch**, **Bob Weisner**, **Chuck Goossen** and **Greg Dietl**. On August 10 on the lower Kinnickinnic **Tom Johnson**, **Chuck Goossen**, **Greg Dietl** and TCTU members **John Mowery** and **Nick Altringer** assisted with shocking. On August 11 on the upper Kinnickinnic we had **Sarah Sanford**, **Chuck Goossen**, **Jon Jacobs** and TCTU member **Steve Carlton**.

A number of shockers were rookies, including me. It was a great learning experience. Working with a superb DNR crew supervised by **Marty Engel** made repeating this experience something to look forward to. You've got to see these guys in action. If you've never been on a shocking crew, I recommend that you give it a try. We're looking forward to **Marty's** analysis of the numbers in his annual presentation to the chapter next spring.

On August 21 we assisted UW-River Falls professor **Kerry Keen** and other staff and students prepare for installation of water quality monitoring equipment on the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River on the campus. Volunteers dug two forty foot long trenches so that pipe could be buried to house monitoring equipment. In what looked like scenes from a chain gang, volunteers used picks, spades, shovels, gloves and waders to dig the trenches and move rip rap and other obstacles, including tree roots, rocks and just plain dirt. This was an arduous project well done by **Gary Horvath**, **Paul Wright**, **Hap Lutter**, **Tracy Nelson**, **Kent Johnson**, **Greg Dietl** and TCTU member **Phil Veith**.

The chapter drift boat project is another story of tremendous volunteer effort and dedication. It is an ongoing project and I'll leave that story for **Jon Jacobs** to tell.

Chapter members also worked throughout the summer with the DNR, Ojiblean Chapter members, Dunn County Fish and Game and TCTU volunteers on the Gilbert Creek project in Dunn County. Chapter volunteers have included **Ted Mackmiller**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Gary Richardson**, **Mike Alwin**, **Jim Humphrey** and **Greg Dietl**. This has been another very rewarding project in which to participate. The project is producing another beautiful brook trout fishery and has saved another cold water resource.

All of these projects are truly inspiring examples of what volunteerism can produce. All you have to ask is this: What if no one showed up? Who would do the work? We

have a lot to be proud of as a chapter in our ongoing efforts and hope to keep it going as projects develop in the future.

There are no habitat projects scheduled just now, so if you are eager to get involved, the drift boat project is ongoing and can use help. I have been posting projects on our K-TU MSN site (the one requiring a password), sending e-mails, posting on the Wisconsin Fly Fishing Home Page and other sites. Bill Lovegren has been making phone calls to chapter members in Minnesota and I've been calling Wisconsin residents who signed up for habitat projects. The calling has been the most effective method of rallying members. Communications can always improve and Bill and I welcome suggestions you may have for improving notification on projects.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you to all who participated in this summer's projects. John Sours, Marty Engel and Kerry Keen have also sent their thanks for our chapter's work and support.

Greg Dieltl

Greg Dieltl is vice president of K-TU and chair of its Habitat Committee.

WFFP donates to K-TU's Eau Galle restoration fund

By Jonathan Jacobs

Participants in the Wisconsin Fly Fishing Home Page Spring Conclave, which was held on the banks of the Trimbelle River in June, raised \$1,220 for the chapter's Eau Galle River restoration fund in a raffle held at the event. Businesses who supported the event included **Andersen Sales, Sokol Associates, Wellman Sports Marketing and The Sporting Life Adventure Travel Company, Bentley's Outfitters and Stewart Fly Fishing Company.**

Making a deposit

By Sarah Sanford

With two days notice, I cleared my schedule for one September Thursday. The morning dawned bright and cool. Fun was on the schedule. Fish stocking on the Rush! The call for volunteers came via my tying buddies in the Laughing Trout flyfishing group from the Rush River Eau Galle Sportsman's Club. And although Laughing Trout had enthusiastically offered to cough up tons of volunteers, yours truly was the only one available.

"They sent one little girl," was what Arby Lindner implied as he chuckled about the less than stellar attendance by

the Laughing Trout. I told him that I was the hardest worker in the club, so they'd done the best they could do.

The Saint Croix Falls hatchery was the source of the 2000 or so hand sized browns carried by the bucketful into the Rush. Two crews of RREGSC fellows and two DNR workers labored from about 10 until noon, stopping at bridges and farms from Centerville to El Paso. At a couple of the stops, trout were poured into deep holes from the bridge deck.

A few opportunities for education were presented when locals stopped to complain about the timing of the stocking, two weeks before the close of the season, and when a Mom with two armloads of kids watched in wonder. The DNR was on a schedule and these fish needed to find new homes before other tasks could be accomplished. A tiny red haired child was awed that a bucket once splashing over with wriggly, wiggly fish was miraculously empty! "Where did they go?" she asked a crewmate. He knelt on the bridge deck and pointed between the railings at the Rush's new residents. "They jumped really far!" she exclaimed.

Barring any uh, "rides" with eagles or ospreys, that will be the biggest jump of their lives. Our crew was unclear on the survival rates of stockers like these, but this batch certainly had moxie. Several were seen rising to insects floating by before we drove away. And now I know the lie of several large, territorial browns that came out to chase the little guys off. One more thing? Free lunch at the Red Barn courtesy RREGSC. Thanks Arby and Lynn!

Researching Tick Pond

By Perry Palin

Robin and I had worked our way through the St. Paul Sunday edition. I wanted a break from stream fishing. It was a sunny dry day, and we decided on a walk in the woods.

I studied the map before we left the house. When I had the basic idea of where Tick Pond could be found, I left the map behind and we took the truck out to the county forest. On the fire trail we found a pullout at the start of a hiking trail.

The trail was closed to all but foot traffic, and the grass was knee high where the sun came in through the hardwoods. The trail was dry, but steep in spots, and I was glad I had my heavy shoes. The forest was a mix of maples and oaks, with a few ancient white pines that the loggers had left behind. When we walked far enough, we

started looking for the path to the lake, a spur off the main trail. I was sure we missed it, we went back and forth over a hundred yards of trail, and then Robin spied the path winding off through the trees.

We walked the last 100 yards to Tick Pond, and as we reached the shore, two sleepy mergansers got up from a floating log and flew to the middle of the pond. I think I heard one of them burp as they took off.

The pond is just a few acres, the water deeply stained, and there is a lot of wood down in the water. While the hills are steep around the pond, there are good places to stand on the shore in leather shoes and shoot a cast out to deeper water, or pull a damsel nymph slowly past a tree trunk. The brook trout, I'm told, like the acidic copper colored water, and wood to hide under.

When we got back to the truck, I found a couple of ticks on my jeans. By the time I finished a complete check at home, my count was thirty four wood ticks and two deer ticks, so the name Tick Pond was assigned.

In the Washburn County Forest there are a number of small lakes that are planted with brook trout, or with brookies and rainbows together. Fingerlings are planted in the spring, and the fish grow fast. By the first fall they are seven to ten inches long. Some of these lakes will freeze out in the winter, but not all of them, and not every year. In their second autumn, the brookies will be thirteen inches and over a pound, and the rainbows about fifteen inches long. The lakes have a mix of damsel flies and dragon flies, leeches and snails, caddis flies and midges, and beetles and backswimmers. A few have minnows that compete for food with the smaller trout, but feed the bigger brooks and rainbows.

These ponds are seepage lakes, with no inlet and no outlet. There is no natural reproduction, and if the fish are not caught by a merganser, or an eagle, or an otter, or an angler, they will die of old age. While the regional DNR staff appreciates catch and release in the streams, they encourage harvest, within the legal limits of course, on these ponds. Summer fishing can be tough when the water is warm, but when the stream season closes at the end of September, the ponds come into their own, and they are open for fishing through February. October and November can produce fast fishing in a beautiful fall landscape. I catch most of my fish with small streamers, unless the fish are after backswimmers, and then a small beetle on the surface works best. I've fished a few of these ponds, from shore, or in waders, or from a canoe. This year will bring my first fishing at Tick Pond.

I've seen the brook trout from Tick Pond. I volunteered to clean fish for a research project, in a shameless attempt to ingratiate myself to the DNR staff and to mine them for information. The brook trout were in two year classes, eight inches and thirteen inches long. The bigger fish were deep and dark and beautifully marked.

Find the public information on fourteen small trout lakes in the Washburn County Forest at:
<http://www.co.washburn.wi.us/departments/forestry/info/troutfishing/index.htm>. Guess which one is Tick Pond.
Perry Palin donates huge number of flies to K-TU and writes too infrequently for RipRap.

Another one in the books

By Sarah Sanford

The strangest thing happened this week. I began hoarding. At the grocery store I was compelled, as if by some unseen hand, to stock up on vast quantities of meat. Fish, fowl, pork and beef all larded my cart in family packs. Family packs! There are two of us. We eat maybe three meals of meat a week. Perhaps my hidden depression era-baby was coming out and crying for me to lay by all the goods we'd need for winter.

Here it is, almost the end of the trout season as I write. Winter is surely on its way. Snow. Cold. Guilty trips to Iowa for stocked trout. Food isn't all I'm hoarding. I'm storing up memories. A friend asked about the August fishing trip to Alberta. So I sent him photos of my husband and me, grinning and gripping some piscine pals. Feeling an unnatural need for accuracy (borrowed from my engineer husband, no doubt), I told our buddy "we only had one day out of ten with fishing like that."

His e-mail reply: "You only need one day like that." Thoughts of the day our guide Alan Brice took us to "Frenchman's Creek" in southwest Alberta will have to warm me when sharp winter air freezes my nostrils shut this December. I'll daydream about the streamside picnic of garden tomato on that bakery bun with Alan's secret basil pesto while I'm hunched over my fishfowlporkbeef stew in February. Grimly grinding jerky between my teeth, I'll pine for just one more chance at lobbing hoppers to fat, leap-splashing rainbows while presenting gnats to the fickle, midge-tickling browns that slip through winter waters.

I'll tell you, if you stand still long enough, about the brook trout I caught on the Rush in September. The flame orange underside and fins striped with black and white. No doubt you've seen him before with his jaw starting to hook and his back surprisingly far from his belly given how close his head was to his tail. But telling you helps me hoard his

doubt you've seen him before with his jaw starting to hook and his back surprisingly far from his belly given how close his head was to his tail. But telling you helps me hoard his image for the drab, slush-colored days of January. Thank you for that.

Sarah Sanford of Robbinsdale, MN is one of the chapter's shipwrights.

First trout

By Jim Humphrey

In the late nineteen fifties, three business associates were returning from a meeting at Balsam Lake (A week of solid work, of course). Played out, exhausted, they stopped for a caffeine recharge at the bridge over the Apple River at Highway 8. Coincidentally they had their fishing tackle handy. In a sylvan refuge below the bridge Bob stretched out with a cup to observe and direct the antics of his pals. Bud hung a Heddon Crazy Crawler on his casting rod and leaped to a precarious pose on a boulder. Jim noticed curious, diamond flecks on a downstream riffle. Bud cast, whooped and fell in. He floundered ashore with a two pound largemouth that was grinding tooth and jaw at the Crazy Crawler.

Jim flexed his nine-foot, sixteen-dollar bamboo bass rod with a panfish wet fly attached, and promptly landed a trout.

And so a love affair with trout and the trout's world began. That complex of riffles, boulders, deep pockets and runs through a photogenic half-mile downstream to the county park still catches the memory and the imagination.

Jim Humphrey is the co-author of Trout Streams of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Perspectives on Wisconsin's waters

From the May/June 2004 issue of littoral drift

Wisconsin's Waters: A Confluence of Perspectives is the newest edition of *Transactions*, the journal of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Topics include (1) the global context for Wisconsin's waters, a basic "primer" on water, and the effects of climate change; (2) water policy and management in Wisconsin; (3) and the values we bring to and take from our waters. The volume is \$8 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. The table of contents and further information can be found at www.wisconsinacademy.org/publications/transactions.html. To order a copy, email contact@wisconsinacademy.org or call (608) 263-1692 x 17.

Wisconsin water policy database now available

From the May/June 2004 issue of littoral drift

The Wisconsin Water Policies Inventory (WWPI) debuted last month, providing citizens with a new, Web-based tool for researching the state's major policies pertaining to water. It enables Wisconsinites to browse state policies by category – including water quality, unique waters and management activities – or to search using keywords and browser features. The URL is www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterpolicy

The Web site and database were developed during Wisconsin's Year of Water by a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate seminar, in partnership with the UW Aquatic Sciences Center and assisted by a network of agency, university, and non-governmental advisors.

"This is an effort to make the state's current policies and policy goals more transparent," said Steve Born, UW-Madison professor of planning and environmental studies, who co-directed the project with Elisa Graffy, United States Geological Survey policy specialist. "Citizens are often surprised to discover what the many laws and rules do and don't say, but the hardest part is finding them in the first place."

Born added that the Wisconsin Water Policies Inventory may be the first of its kind in the United States.

UW Sea Grant Web Developer Rich Dellinger built the database and Web interface, and the UW Aquatic Sciences Center is hosting the Web site.

CHAPTER COMMITTEES, ONGOING PROJECTS AND CONTACTS:

Kinnickinnic Monitoring: Kent Johnson, Project Leader

Willow River Monitoring: Chuck Goossen, Project Leader

Fundraising Committee: Corey Mairs, Chair.

Publications: Jonathan Jacobs, Editor.

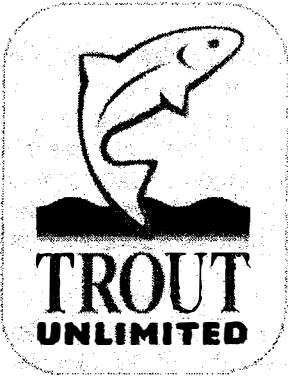
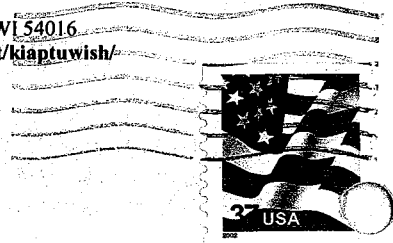
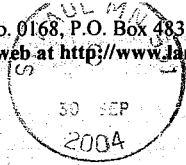
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Habitat Committee: **Greg Dietl**

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River Restoration Committee: Ted Mackmiller, Chair



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MEETING SCHEDULE:

OCTOBER 6:

NOVEMBER 3:

DECEMBER 2 (NOTE THURSDAY DATE): ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET AT TARTAN PARK

JANUARY 5:

FEBRUARY 2:

MARCH 2: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 6: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS

MAY 5: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER RIPRAP: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18.