

Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited October 2005

President's Lines

By Gary Horvath

Welcome back to another season of RipRap. Hopefully you got in all the fishing you had planned back in May. It was a great summer for Kiap-TU-Wish. The fly-fishing clinic in River Falls was another smash hit. It passed mostly un-noticed, but this was the 11th year of the clinic that was first held June 17, 1995. From its inception Jon Jacobs, Mike Alwin Bill Hinton, Ted and Renate Mackmiller and countless other volunteers have made this event the success that it is. I would like to express my thanks to every one.

Chapter volunteers participated in the stream restoration projects on Tiffany Creek and the Eau Galle River. Both projects were completed and look great. The Tiffany project gave Glenwood City a new appreciation for this little gem that was long taken for granted. An adjacent landowner expressed interest in continuation of the project downstream. The narrowing of the Eau Galle through the city of Spring Valley should go a long way to reduce detrimental temperatures and restore the downstream trout fishery. Again, thanks to all the volunteers who turned out on the work dates. There is still an opportunity to participate on the Gilbert Creek project being conducted by the Ojibseau Chapter. See the web site for details.

Early this month I received word that funding might be available for a major portion of the work required to restore Pine Creek in Pierce County. This remarkable little Brook Trout stream has outstanding water quality but has some severe bank erosion problems. This stream had been identified for work in the summer of 2007 before this funding opportunity came along. The chapter board decided to raffle the drift boat with all proceeds going into the Pine Creek restoration effort.

In other actions the Board authorized a water quality study on the Rocky Branch of the Kinnickinnic River to be performed by the University of Wisconsin River Falls. The Board also allocated \$600 to ensure continuation of the USGS flow monitoring station on the lower Kinnickinnic. A link to this site can be found on our web site at www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish/

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to consider a voluntary subscription to the RipRap. Our long running publication is a huge asset to the chapter but it is not cheap to produce. Annual costs of the newsletter average about \$2000/year. The board recently reaffirmed the publication's importance to the chapter by directing some base funding to its production. If each member could pay a voluntary subscription of \$10.00 to Rip-Rap we could guarantee its future publication.

Finally, it's not too soon to start thinking about the Holiday Banquet. We need items for the silent auction. Last year we raised nearly \$4000 and hopefully we can duplicate this effort. I want to thank you in advance for your generosity to your chapter. I believe we continue to fulfill our mission in West Central Wisconsin and hope you continue to support our efforts.

Figments and Fragments

Portola Creek

By James R. Humphrey

There was a place, 45 minutes up from Palo Alto and Stanford University where nine inch rainbow trout attacked almost any artificial fly enthusiastically before they were called to the sea, where they donned the silver jackets of steelhead. It was my retreat in Portola State Park at the end of quarter-mile stroll from a minor parking lot. It was quiet, curiously silent; few songbirds sang in the arms of the trees. Not even the endless traffic on El Camino broke the barrier of Skyline Drive. The creek was swift - pool and riffle through a narrow gorge crossed and bridged by fallen giants. The redwoods have been there for thousands of years, and likely will survive us. But I fear for the loss of the sweet, still, misty air and the tiny trout that flash at the fly.

My rod was a six foot, #6, four piece Fenwick fiberglass. Yes, four slip-over sections; I have been partial to multi-piece rods ever since. The fly was something small and gaudy, similar to any brook trout fly. The eager and acrobatic little rainbows didn't care. The reel was a Pflueger #1494, good then and still running smoothly after 40 years. It will be useful in 2065, given a touch of grease on the spindle and a few drops of Armorall® on the fiber and bronze brake.

In 1963 a banker came from Basra in Iraq to attend an international conference. To show that I was not ignorant of history and geography I mentioned the Fertile Crescent and the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. I pronounced it as "U-fraytees", as we hear it today. He turned politely and said "U-frats" as in "brats" (naughty children). But all he really wanted from his visit with me was to see the redwoods. I took him to the park and walked him under a cool green nave of the giants. I did not reveal my place, which may yet lie at the end of a contemplative stroll.

In my memory the creek will always be Portola, partly because I like the sound of it. Its map name is Pescadero Creek, a stream 15 or 20 miles long that picks up tiny tributaries and finds the Pacific at Pescadero State Beach. Some day you may walk the warm sands barefooted with your trousers rolled. You may watch the steelhead porpoise inside the breakers while they wait for rain to signal that it is time to move up.

Jim Humphrey is the co-author of Minnesota and Wisconsin Trout Streams. He lives in Oak Park Heights, MN and is a featured contributor to RipRap, whose readers are getting a pre-publication look at "Figments and Fragments", excerpts from Mr. Humphrey's forthcoming book, which he says will be "anecdotal, discursive and far ranging."

John Van Vliet headlines banquet

The chapter's annual holiday banquet will be held at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo on Thursday, December 8. Author John Van Vliet is the scheduled speaker. Look for details about the menu, program and select auction items in upcoming issues of RipRap. Should you want to serve on the banquet committee or help in any way with this year's event, please contact Greg Dietl or Jonathan Jacobs (contact info. on RR's back page) or Michael Alwin at 651/770/5854, whom you may also contact to make reservations.

Rod maker Dave Norling donates cane rod to Kiap-TU-Wish

By Jonathan Jacobs

Dave Norling, a K-TU member from Minneapolis, MN who makes absolutely exquisite hollow-built cane rods, donated a rod to the chapter late this spring. The 7½ foot, 4 weight rod, inscribed by the maker with the phrase "Kinnickinnic Special" is a two piece, two tip number with a hand-made sliding band reel seat. The rod will be on display at fall meetings and will be available at auction at the chapter's December Holiday Banquet.

Mr. Norling follows Dave Ballman and Jay Johnson into a group of extraordinarily talented local cane rod makers who have generously donated high quality, handcrafted rods to Kiap-TU-Wish. For further information about Mr. Norling's work, visit his web site, www.davenorling.com.

Paul Wotzka is October speaker

Paul Wotzka, a water quality specialist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be the speaker at the October K-TU meeting on Wednesday, October 5. Mr. Wotzka has been conducting an ongoing study of agricultural impacts on the White-water River system in southeast Minnesota for several years and will present a summary of that study at the meeting.

Kiap-TU-Wish holds monthly meetings from September through May at Bob Smith's Sports Club, 601 2nd Street in Hudson. Dinner in our meeting room is available at 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM. A map and directions to the Sports Club can be found on the chapter's web site.

Keeping in touch

By Gary Horvath

After every mailing of RipRap a few undeliverable copies are returned to the P.O. Box due to bad addresses. Most attempts to track down the proper address fail. To receive uninterrupted delivery of the National publication Trout, the state Council newspaper Wisconsin Trout, and our chapter newsletter RipRap, all you have to do is access the national TU database at <http://www.tu.org>. You can correct mailing and email addresses at this site.

To access your profile information, go to the National site and login by entering your username (tu followed by your membership number) and your password (your membership number is your initial password). From here you can edit your personal profile. Unfortunately at this time you cannot edit your chapter affiliation. This continues to be a problem with many of our Minnesota members who for little known or understood reasons continue to be reassigned to the Twin Cities Chapter. Anyone who suspects they have been reassigned without consent can contact Wendy Reed through the National site and ask to be reassigned to Kiap-TU-Wish.

Editor needed

Editorial by Jonathan Jacobs

"Somethin' tell me I got to go." – Howlin' Wolf

There's no news in the above headline. The newsletter has needed an editor since Skip James cased his blue pencil back in the spring of 2000. I've had a frolic posing as one since then, but it's time for someone to do the job for real. My personal enthusiasm for the work has declined only slightly and I am willing to continue through the year or until one of you lucky souls steps forward to carry on, whichever comes first. Should the new editor want, I'd be willing to continue to contribute articles to the publication. In truth, it's a great job that offers tremendous satisfaction, but I think it's unhealthy for the organization for one person to hog any job for too long a time. After all, the president of K-TU is limited to three consecutive years on the job, presumably to guarantee a periodic refreshing of the approach to the task.

Frankly, there are substantial challenges facing RipRap that would be better met by a new editor. As examples, the graphics and format of the newsletter need updating, there's a need for better photo reproduction and more people ought to be writing for it. Those are simple and fun projects, however, particularly in comparison to the major one of securing an ongoing source of revenue for the production of RipRap. Some years ago, when the chapter was even worse at fundraising than it is now, its board of directors determined that RipRap should be self-funding. Many of you have contributed to make that so. However, RipRap ran up a deficit of around \$300 in the 2004-2005 publication cycle (RipRap costs roughly \$2,000 per cycle to produce and mail). At a September 19, 2005 meeting, the board generously erased that deficit by transferring money from its general operating fund. The board also provided financial support to get this year's cycle underway. I suggested that the board form a "publications subcommittee" that would include the new editor to study and resolve the issue of funding. If you think that's a good idea, mention it to a board member or officer, particularly if you're willing to bring your personal energy to the undertaking. **Please contact me if you are interested in becoming editor of RipRap.**

I thank the board and officers for their support through the years, Dan and Joan Bruski for their much-needed assistance in labeling and mailing, those who have contributed articles, art and photographs and the many of you who have sought me out and expressed to me how much you enjoy reading RipRap.

Fish kill on Little Bear Creek

By Jonathan Jacobs

According to a Wisconsin DNR press release dated July 22, 2005, approximately half of a 40,000 gallon manure spill on a farm operated by Bumside Dairy entered Wiesenbeck Creek, a Little Bear Creek tributary in Buffalo County on July 11. The toxic manure killed all fish and most invertebrate life from where it entered the creek to its confluence with Little Bear Creek, a distance of nearly a mile. The spill created a significant fish kill in Little Bear Creek for some distance downstream of the conflu-

ence. Both creeks had low density, naturally reproducing populations of brook trout. Reportedly, on July 10 a heavy equipment operator working on an expansion project at the farm drove over and inadvertently opened a valve that once opened to an above-ground storage facility. The spill occurred on July 11 when the operators pumped the barn reception pit.

Clinic redux

By Michael Alwin

June 4th, 2005 was a steamy day in River Falls, but it didn't prevent about 24 students from enjoying a day of fly fishing instruction, a light supper and an evening of fishing for trout on the beautiful Kinnickinnic River. These students were subjected to three hours of casting instruction and even then seemed to respond relatively enthusiastically to instruction in equipment, entomology, artificial flies and streamside strategies. They even politely stayed awake during our supertime conservation diatribe.

Numbers of dedicated chapter members need to be thanked for their involvement and it gives me great pleasure to do so. Once again, **Perry Palin** donated dozens of flies and **Tom Andersen** loaned us a set of ten rods and reels. **Bill Lovegren**, **Bob Bradham**, **Brent Sittlow**, **Paul Wiemerslage**, **Clarke Garry**, **Skip James**, **Greg Dietl**, **Kyle Amundson**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Mike Colling**, **Dave Ballman** and **Dan Bruski** donated their time and considerable expertise to spend the day as guides and mentors. Three people deserve special mention: **Bill Hinton**, FFF certified casting instructor, spent the entire day teaching casting. **Jon Jacobs** once again picked up my slack and served as lead teacher and **Renate Mackmiller** picked up the food, organized the buffet, served us and made us all look good by doing so.

I am extremely proud of our chapter members. These wonderful people gave up a whole day to volunteer to help other folks learn how to fish and to show them why they should care about this River. They did this because they realize there is no better use of their time.

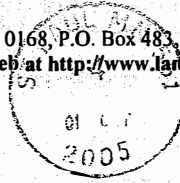
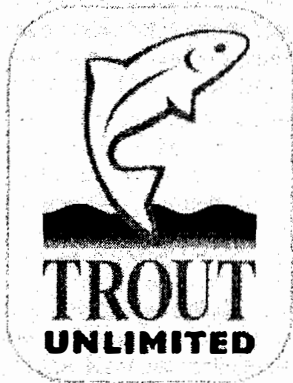
Volunteers step up for K-TU

By Jonathan Jacobs

In addition to the River Falls Clinic, K-TU members worked hard on a number of other projects this summer.

Offering help with the stream restoration effort on the Eau Galle River were **Bob Bradham**, **Andy Lamberson**, **Gary Horvath**, **John Koch**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Mike Colling**, **Gary Richardson** and **Greg Dietl**. Assisting the WiDNR in a major electrofishing survey were **Jonathan Jacobs**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Ron Zaudke**, **Chuck Goossen**, **Charles Condon**, **Mike Colling**, **Gary Richardson** and **Bob Lorenzson**.

The chapter thanks these members for continuing K-TU's long tradition of serious volunteer participation.



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MEETING SCHEDULE:

OCTOBER 5, 2005: PAUL WOTKZA, WHITEWATER RIVER MONITORING
NOVEMBER 2, 2005: RICK REMINGTON, WESTERN WISCONSIN LAND TRUST
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005: HOLIDAY BANQUET AND AUCTION; JOHN VAN VLIET, SPEAKER
JANUARY 4, 2006: JONATHAN JACOBS ON SMALLMOUTH BASS FISHING
FEBRUARY 1, 2006: BRAD BOHEN, GUIDE AND AUTHOR, OF CABIN LIFE OUTFITTERS, HAYWARD, WI
MARCH 1, 2006: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 5, 2006: DRY FLY DICK FRANTES FLY TIERS
MAY 3, 2006: WISCONSIN DNR

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER RIPRAP: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

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If you value the newsletter and would like to ensure its continued distribution in its current form, please consider a tax-deductible donation to support it. Make your check payable to "Kiap-TU-Wish Trout Unlimited" and write "RipRap fund" on the memo line. Mail your check to:

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Thank you for your support!