

RipRap

A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

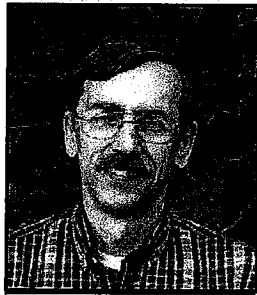
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 OCTOBER, 2007

OCTOBER MEETING INFORMATION

If you are curious about "Bioenergy: Where are we today, where we want to go, and bumps along the way", then you need to come to the October 3, 2007 chapter meeting.

Chapter member Hans Jung will give a presentation on this current important topic.

Hans is Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota since 1986, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, and Dept of Animal Science. He has degrees in wildlife biology, ecology



HANS JUNG

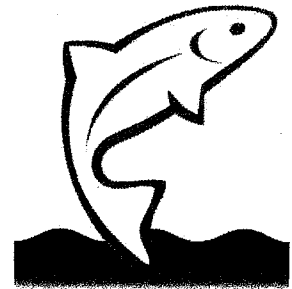
and a Ph.D. in animal science from the University of Illinois. Hans has done research in a variety of areas including evaluation of biomass feedstocks for bioenergy conversion potential. This is a very timely and important topic that has the poten-

tial for widespread impact on soil and water use. Hans has a lot of information to share on this topic and it should be a lively discussion.

Join us at Bob Smith's Sports Club in downtown Hudson for this meeting and presentation 6 PM for dinner and 7 PM for meeting and presentation.

-Greg Dietl

President of Kiap-TU-Wish



**TROUT
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CHANGES FOR RIPRAP

When you opened up your mailbox, you may have noticed that your copy of RipRap looks different than in past months. That's because this is the first issue put together by your new Editor, Scott Hanson. He is brand new to editing and publishing a newsletter, so he is happy to get any positive OR

negative feedback that you think might be warranted. That doesn't mean he'll listen to it, but at least he's willing to take it.

The editor is not the only newcomer to this newsletter, however. You probably noticed the beautiful color printing. We have chapter member

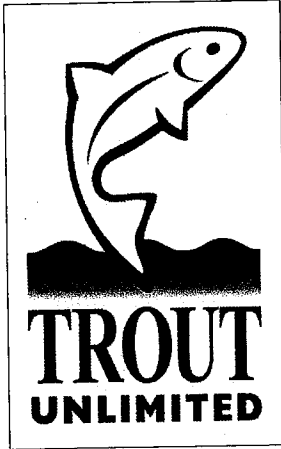
Bob Bradham to thank for that. He has taken over the printing duties and is doing a fantastic job.

There may be a few more changes in the layout in coming months, as we figure out what works and what doesn't. Let us know what you think!

Thank You!

PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL



I'm going to open with a cliché and say that spring and summer absolutely flew by for me. There was excellent early season trout fishing and plenty of midsummer large and small mouth bass fishing, thanks to Andy Lamberson and Jonathan Jacobs. And, there were the chapter projects. Chapter members had ample opportunities for hands on stream work. Volunteers worked many hours in the winter on the Gilbert Creek project in Dunn County. Then came the South Fork of the Kinni project. There were four evenings and 135 hours between May 15 and the middle of June seeding and mulching on the South Fork. This project looks great and you should make a point of getting over to see it and fish it (next year).

One of the side benefits of these project is seeing the hidden talents of chapter members emerge in a crisis. Ask Jonathan Jacobs and Bob Lorenzen about the evening the power mulcher broke down and they dove in and repaired it in a cold driving rain. By the way, 135 hours of volunteer time is the equivalent of 3.3 40 hour work weeks by a DNR employee. This should give you some perspective on how valuable this time is to these projects.

The focus shifted to the long awaited Pine Creek Project near Maiden Rock, on July 10. The DNR had moved in the week before and made tremendous progress in a short time. On July 10, 16 volunteers from Kiap, TCTU, West Wisconsin Land Trust, Clearwater's TU Chapter (formerly Ojibseau), as well as local residents of the area built 44 luncker structures. 64 hours were worked that night. There were equipment failures and again, members solved these issues and work moved on. Ask Randy Arnold about removing stuck drill bits from oak luncker structures.

On 7-24, another 16 volunteers installed structures in the stream and built another dozen. The saving grace of driving rebar in 94 degree heat is that is was being done in a very cold brook trout stream. Work progressed on 7-31, 8-7 and 8-21 seeding and mulching. Bob Lorenzen again saved the day when the power mulcher broke down again and he literally fixed it with a paper clip; it hummed along the rest of the night. Although no one could salvage the ATV. Five nights and 374 hours were worked on Pine Creek, the equivalent of 9.35 40 hour work weeks by a DNR employee.

I cannot say enough about the work done by John Sours and Nate Anderson from the DNR. Those of you who have worked on these projects have seen first hand how these streams transform. We are truly fortunate to have John and Nate working in our area.

I have not even touched on the number of hours logged on Pine Creek by Kent Johnson and Andy Lamberson taking pre project measurements of water temperature, bank height, stream width, substrate and producing a project document. The hours were many and Kent and Andy are going to do a chapter presentation at the November membership meeting.

Remember to share your trips, adventures, photographs, stories, maybe a tall tale or two with the rest of us. Send them into Rip Rap editor Scott Hanson so we can all get a glimpse of the wider world.

Please note the annual banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 6 at Tartan Park Clubhouse. Start thinking about those donations.

RUSH RIVER CLEANUP A SUCCESS

BY SARAH SANFORD

The third annual Rush River Clean Up drew 98 volunteers to the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club on Saturday the 21st of April, 2007.

With bags donated by Pierce County Solid Waste, helpers were dispatched to 28 spots along the Rush River to remove trash and recyclables. Fortified by coffee and doughnuts supplied by the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club, folks from both Minnesota and Wisconsin pitched in to clean nearly 25 miles of water.

St. Croix County Fish and Game sent 4 members to the clean up. They were joined by volunteers as young as 5 and as old as 89. All enjoyed lunch back at the Gun Club

prepared and served by Laughing Trout Flyfishing, donated in part by Coleman Natural Meats.

Tons of trash, tires and recyclable materials came out of the river, but the oddest find was a waffle iron.

Members of the Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota won a jar of Becky Bersch's Rush River Gold Honey for finding the appliance near highway 10.

The majority of clean up volunteers came from Trout Unlimited chapters including Ojibseau (Menomonee), Kiap-TU-Wish (Hudson), and Twin Cities Trout Unlimited. Students from UW Stout and UW River Falls were also in attendance.



Photo by Gary Richardson

SARAH SANFORD STANDING NEXT TO A HUGE PILE OF TRASH DURING THE 3RD ANNUAL RUSH RIVER CLEANUP

- Kiap-TU-Wish member Sarah Sanford spends countless hours each year organizing the Rush River Cleanup.

KINNI FEST ALSO A SUCCESS

BY MIKE ALWIN

After months of preparation Kinni Fest, a local celebration of the Kinnickinnic River was held on June 9th. Attendees got introductions to aquatic biology, prairie habitat, rain gardening, birdwatching and forest succession. Five chapter volunteers taught casting and stream craft and dragged students out on the Kinnickinnic River to fish the evening hatch. These volunteers were so

good that almost all the students caught a trout or two! The volunteers were Greg Dietl, Bill Lovegren, Scott Hanson, Paul Wiemerslage and Mike Alwin.

-Mike Alwin is the Chair of the Education Committee for Kiap-TU-Wish. He is the proprietor of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN.



Photo by Scott Hanson

CHRISTY, A NEWCOMER TO FLY FISHING, SHOWS OFF A NICE TROUT SHE CAUGHT DURING KINNI FEST

“THESE VOLUNTEERS WERE SO GOOD THAT ALMOST ALL THE STUDENTS CAUGHT A TROUT OR TWO!”

SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

"I USED TO FISH
A LOT...
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I used to fish a lot. Up until a few years ago, starting in March, I would usually go fishing 5 times a week all the way through September. Throw in a handful of outings scattered throughout the months from October to February, and I figure I went fishing more than 175 days each year. Needless to say, I was pretty well tuned-in to the fish back then. I went several years without getting skunked. I spent almost all my waking hours thinking about fishing, trout, flies, and the like. I made sure I had very few commitments in life, outside of work, so that I could take off and hit the stream at a moment's notice. To steal a phrase from John Gierach, I was a complete trout bum, to-

tally consumed with fishing.

Boy, how things can change. Now, it's rare if I fish more than 2 or 3 times a month. I almost never tie flies any more except when I'm working at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop each Tuesday evening. My life has been completely filled with the things that make a person a well-rounded member of society, and I wouldn't change it for anything. About three years ago I met an amazing woman who I somehow convinced to marry me; we bought a wonderful, but neglected, house which we are in the process of renovating; I have gone back to college to finish my degree, which hopefully will be completed in December;

we bought a puppy last November, who takes up way more time than we realized; I am working two jobs, although my part time job at the fly shop doesn't usually seem like work; and now I've taken on the role of being the Editor of this fine publication. If I was still fishing all the time like I used to, none of these things would have happened, and I certainly never would have realized how much fun I have writing. Hopefully, in the coming months, you will enjoy reading this column as much as I know I will enjoy writing it, and hopefully you will enjoy the new look and feel of Rip-Rap. Be sure and let me know what you think. See you next month.

CHAPTER PARTNERS FOR RUSH RIVER EASEMENT

Last June the chapter was advised that the DNR needed some financial help in obtaining an easement on the Rush River. The chapter acted quickly teaming up with Twin Cities TU and the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club to provide the final funding for this easement. The three partners contributed a total of \$4000 to finalize the transaction

The location, known as the Jake's Easement is off the 465th Street Bridge, the first bridge

upstream from where Lost Creek enters the Rush. The easement includes provisions for a parking lot on the east side, river access on the east side for the first ¼ mile and river access on both sides for the next ¼ mile for a total of ½ mile upstream from the bridge. This is a standard DNR easement: parking, fishing access and a habitat improvement easement.

This is an important easement on the Rush River and the Boards of Directors from

TCTU and Kiap-TU-Wish acted quickly and decisively in helping fund this purchase. Thanks to Twin Cities TU and the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club for their partnership in making this easement happen.

-Greg Dietl

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME: TROUT POPULATIONS GROWING THANKS TO STREAM HABITAT WORK

MADISON – 2007 marks the 30th anniversary of the Wisconsin trout stamp and state fisheries biologists say trout anglers have plenty of reason to celebrate. Data collected from streams throughout the state show that trout populations -- and anglers fishing inland waters -- have benefited significantly from habitat restoration work supported with trout stamp funds.

"Studies conducted by fisheries biologists across the state show that where habitat restoration or improvement work is done, the overall number and size structure of the trout populations improve," says Mike Miller, a Department of Natural Resources stream ecologist who coordinates stream monitoring. "In general, more young fish survive and the number of larger, older fish increase."

Since the trout stamp began in 1978, the DNR has restored more than 750 miles of trout stream, kept more than 700 miles free of beaver dams and maintained the good condition of many miles of trout streams throughout Wisconsin.

The program has also restored dozens of spring ponds -- some of northern Wisconsin's most productive native trout waters -- through projects that remove the debris and silt accumulated over hundreds of years. An article in the June issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine highlights these projects.

Trout Unlimited in a 1999 national report called the state's

inland trout program a model for the nation because of its commitment to providing angling opportunities by focusing on protecting and rehabilitating trout habitat rather than on stocking hatchery trout of catchable size.

"Trout streams require certain environmental conditions to be healthy," says Miller. "Cold, clean water, overhead cover such as undercut stream banks or woody debris, clean gravel for spawning, and an adequate supply of insects and forage fish for food. If a stream is missing any one of these factors, it won't be producing to its capacity."

A 2000 study reviewing 15 years of studies of habitat development techniques identified which methods work better than others. DNR has used the results of that study, conducted by Ed Avery, a now-retired DNR fisheries researcher to guide its work since.

"Our goal is to have streams restored to the extent where there is good habitat, increased natural reproduction, and we have a good recreational fishery. The Ed Avery study showed us which techniques were most effective at improving fish populations," says Larry Claggett, coldwater fisheries ecologist. "Certain methods like bank covers for protection, current de-

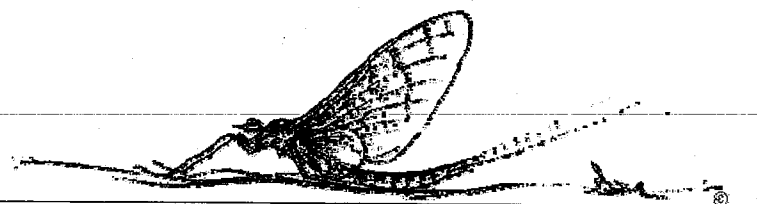
flectors which guide the current under the covers, beaver dam removal and stream bank brushing, all proved to be successful techniques of improving the habitat and therefore, the fish population."

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited groups, along with Land Conservation staff (NRCS), numerous local rod and gun clubs and other partners have worked in cooperation with the DNR on many of the habitat improvement projects, contributing time, labor and organizing large fund raising efforts.

Today there are nearly 9,000 miles of Class 1 and 2 trout streams in Wisconsin, making up 85 percent of the total of trout stream miles. Class 1 streams are high quality waters that have self-sustaining trout populations and although the fish in these streams are often smaller in size, the streams hold good numbers of trout.

Class 2 streams have some natural production, but require some stocking to maintain desirable trout populations. Just because they're Class 2, however, doesn't mean they're coming in second for trout fishing. These streams often have good survival of adult trout, frequently producing fish of larger than average size.

-Article courtesy of Wis. DNR News



WATER RATS

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

Jim Humphrey, of Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, is the co-author of *Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams*. He is a regular contributor to RipRap

Cousin Rodney could catch fish in a rain barrel. I saw him extract the largest, and rare, largemouth out of the Rock River of Wisconsin while he was eating an orange. Down went the cork, up came the fish to brush my head as he swung it up and over to the bank. The trophy went into the gunny sack with the carp, bullheads and other outlandish creatures of the waterworld. Nothing escaped the frying pan, not even the tails of carp or bullhead, I have forgotten which, that were fried crisp and eaten like bacon. I think we thought of the tails as delicacies.

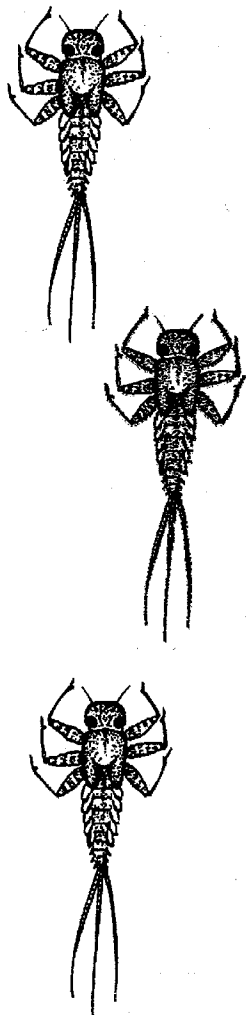
Once we fished at the base of the dam in Watertown, Wisconsin, when the

river was low. We took an even 100 carp that were trapped in the pool and dragged them home along the sidewalk. We wanted everybody to see the mighty nimrods with the magnificent catch. The carp were planted after dark in the garden to make healthy vegetables. Perhaps no other piscatorial adventure has pleased me more.

We fished the Rock River in Watertown, Hubbleton, and Hustisford, and led by that giddy Aunt, Rod's mom Rena, rolled down the Indian mounds at Aztalan, now a Wisconsin state park, but then only a curious hump on the landscape. Ah, those were halcyon days.

Rod and I drifted apart for many years, reconnected in Florida when we were middle-aged, but never missed a beat when we searched for stone crabs along the sea wall at night, or feasted al fresco on a bright sand beach on a tiny island out in the Gulf from Fort DeSoto. We might have been pirates marooned on an emerald cay in the turquoise waters of the Bahamas.

We panned for gold in the Red River of New Mexico. We fly-fished for trout in the Namekagon and gorged on all-you-can-eat lake perch in Hayward. We have always been water rats.



BLUNDER REVEALED!!! BANQUET PLANS LAID!!

THE DETAILS EXPLAINED HEREIN.....

BY MIKE ALWIN

At the September membership meeting a colossal faux pas was committed by an individual in a leadership position in our Chapter. Horrors! This aforementioned gentleman shall remain nameless in the hopes that he may retain a shred of respectability. BUT, it can be revealed now that the gentleman in question actually said that the Banquet Committee has a Chair! Ludicrous! This "leader" went on to name a person he thought was the

Chair! Oh the Shame! This individual actually serves on this very committee and should know better!!!

Therefore, let it be stated that the headless confederation laughingly referred to as the banquet committee has indeed met and now provides you with the following details. The annual Kiap-TU-Wish Holiday Conservation Banquet has been set for Thursday night, December 6, 2007. The social

hour begins at 6:00 PM and dinner is at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$35 for registrants and \$45 for walk-ins. This year's menu has been upgraded again (we're always thinkin' of you) and the program features a Chilean fishing trip with our very own John Koch.

More details will be revealed in the November RipRap, but for now get this date, 12/6/07, on your calendar.

THE UNFAMILIAR

BY JOHN KOCH

"So, there it is, *Amigo...*" Carlos said in his heavy Spanish accent.

"...I'll see you back at the truck."

With a smile and a clap on my back, he turned and walked back down the short trail, down to the vehicle waiting below.

I stood and watched the stars, the sun's rays long gone from the Patagonian night sky. Images from the past week spun through my head, each now a memory burned into my brain: a giant brown trout caught on a tiny dry fly, eagles screaming and swooping across an endless valley under a limitless sky, *gaucho's* and their cattle dogs driving their cattle down the middle of the road on horseback. We had fly fished these wild rivers of Chile for a week, catching wild rainbow and brown trout to our hearts content. We had experienced the best that Patagonia could offer: its food, its people and its land.

We were presently on our way back to town after a wonderful day of fishing dry flies on the Rio Simpson, and tomorrow we would board a plane headed north; in three days I would be back in Wisconsin.

But there was one thing I had not yet seen, and I was determined not to miss it. On our way back to spend a last night at our hotel, I mentioned my problem to our guide.

"Oh yah, sure.... no problem" Carlos replied, "There's a good spot just ahead we can stop at."

High up on a mountain road, we slowed and turned off onto a gravel pull-off. We could see the city lights of Coyhaique far off down below in the valley. My friend Mark, Carlos and I jumped out, and leaving the old truck running, hiked up a short incline. Looking into the night sky, I saw a bewildering array of unfamiliar stars.

"OK, right above the mountain top: look there, my friends..." Carlos pointed above the dark peaks of the southern Andes.

"Right there?" We could now see what he was pointing out.

"Si..."

We looked, and I smiled to myself: mission accomplished.

"So, there it is, *Amigo...*" Carlos said. "I'll see you back at the truck."

Mark followed Carlos back to the road, their voices fading with them into the dark.

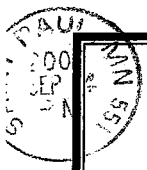
I watched the Southern Cross blaze her path across the dark South American night sky a little while longer. I then turned and walked down to join my waiting friends below.

John Koch is an artist and author living in Spring Valley, Wisconsin. He owns Trout Lilly Studios along with his wife, Deb. He is a regular contributor to RipRap.

"WE HAD FLY FISHED THESE WILD RIVERS OF CHILE FOR A WEEK, CATCHING WILD RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT TO OUR HEARTS CONTENT."

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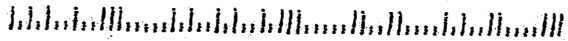


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Don't miss the October meeting, "Bioenergy: Where are we today, where we want to go, and bumps along the way", presented by chapter member Hans Jung.

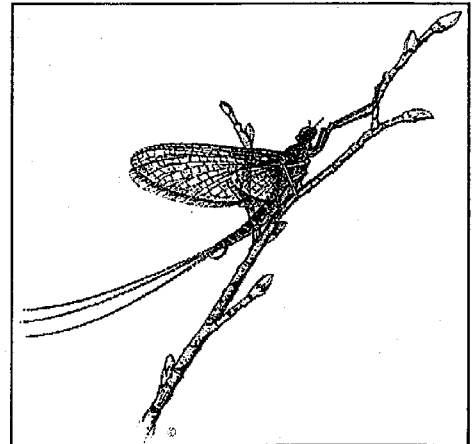
Wednesday October 3rd, 2007.

Dinner begins at 6 PM

meeting at 7 PM

Bob Smith's Sports Bar

Downtown Hudson



The Editor of RipRap is always looking for contributions in the form of articles, photos, fly recipes, or whatever.

Deadline to make a submission for the November issue is October 24th, 2007.