



# RipRap

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

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## OCTOBER MEETING INFORMATION

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust Executive Director Nelson French will be the guest speaker at the October 1, 2008 membership meeting. Mr. French has been the Executive Director of the KRLT since September, 2007. Mr. French has served as Director of Legislative Affairs at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Executive Director of Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Vice President/State Director of the Nature Conservancy of Minnesota and also served as Director of Government Relations for the Nature Conservancy. Founded in 1993, the KRLT has been working to conserve resources within the Kinnickinnic watershed. Mr. French will provide an update on recent activities and acquisitions.



Nelson French

Please join us at 6 PM for dinner and 7 PM for the meeting and presentation.



- Greg Dietl



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## PRESIDENT'S LINES

BY GREG DIETL

### Pine Creek Update

The Pine Creek restoration project continues to make progress. DNR trout crew John Sours and Nate Anderson have again done an outstanding job on this project. While we have been a bit thin on chapter volunteers, volunteers from Fairmount Minerals, a local mining company, have provided an incredible boost to this project. Andy Lamberson has worked very hard with Fairmount company officials on this project and has written about the partnership in this issue. Without Fairmount's help we would not be anywhere near as far along as we are. Plans are in the works to continue the project next year. The chapter should have sufficient grant funds left from this year to continue to move upstream next summer.

### Board of Directors Changes

Nick Westcott has stepped down as a member of the board. The chapter thanks Nick for his service on the board, his project activities, and especially his work on the annual banquet. No pressure Nick but, we sure hope you can continue with these activities. Chapter member Bob Diesch has been elected to the board to fill the vacancy. Bob has been attending board meetings regularly and has been working with the city of New Richmond on issues related to the operation of the New Richmond dam. Please welcome Bob to the board and thank him for stepping up to this position.

### Welcome to New Chapter Members

Please welcome new chapter members Dean Simpson, Joe Yira, and Keith Knoke, D. Callanan, and Kevin Manley.

### Chapter Annual Financial Report due

National Trout Unlimited requires each chapter to file an Annual Financial Report (AFR). This process requires local chapters to account for their finances, including grants and other fund raising activities and how they spend their money. The report is due annually on November 15. The report is also used to account for chapter activities that are applied to the annual Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI). This is an annual report of chapter activities based on a point system to assess if chapters are effectively engaged in fulfilling their chapter charter requirements. Each chapter must be rechartered every 4 years. The index is filed with the State Council. The State Council assesses the index and if the points obtained warrant rechartering, they notify National TU. Kiap-TU-Wish was rechartered in 2007. The CEI is based on a variety of factors such as: number of membership meetings held annually and membership attendance at the meetings; the number of board meetings and attendance at the meetings; chapter projects and volunteers activities including the number of volunteer hours; chapter communication with members such as a newsletter, website and email list; education and conservation events. This is not the full list but it gives you an idea of what goes on behind the scenes and how important it is to have active, engaged chapter members, board members and officers. The reports are prepared annually by the chapter treasurer and president. We will be working on the AFR in October. Bob Diesch has volunteered to assist treasurer Hap Lutter and me with the preparation of the report.

### Banquet

Banquet planning is underway. Your help is needed in soliciting donations for silent auctions and raffles. Please contact Mike Alwin, Jonathan Jacobs, Nick Westcott, Scott Hanson, Deb Olmstead, Shannon Nelson, or me. The banquet date is Thursday, December 4, at Tartan Park.



## SCOTT'S SCOOP

BY SCOTT HANSON, EDITOR

The end of the trout season is quickly descending upon us. As I am writing this, there are exactly 13 days left to fish for trout in the local streams of Wisconsin and Minnesota. If you want to get out and tease your nearby trout with fur and feather, you better do it soon. When we all get together for our next meeting, it will be the day after the stream trout season ends, so I'm sure everyone attending will be filled with stories about their latest forays out on the water.

As I'm sure most of you know, there are still fishing opportunities all around us even though the inland stream season will be ending. We have two articles in this issue of RipRap highlighting some of those opportunities. Perry Palin writes about the numerous trout ponds in Wisconsin's Washburn County which remain open in to the winter months. His tales of large brook trout swimming around in the shallows makes me want to head up there as soon as possible.

Jim Humphrey writes about a fall fishing scene which occurs much closer to most of you who are reading this. Square Lake, a few miles north of Stillwater in Minnesota's Washington County, is a popular destination for people wanting to catch some newly stocked rainbows before winter hits. Make sure you read his article to get all the details.

Of course there are many other possibilities to try to catch a fish before the long cold winter months. Many people try their luck at steelhead and salmon runs in various Great Lake tributaries. The smallmouth bass fishing should still be good in nearby rivers. Maybe I'll get out and try to tempt some northerns as they are putting on their fall feedbag in my local lake. Or maybe I should scrimp together all of my life savings and head down south to do some saltwater fishing. Whatever you choose to do, I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the fall weather while you still can. See you at the meeting on Wednesday, October 1st at Bob Smith's Sports Club, and I'll see you next month right here in the pages of RipRap.

Have a great month!



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## KIAP-TU-WISH TEAMS WITH MINING COMPANY FOR PINE CREEK RESTORATION

BY ANDY LAMBERSON

A headline of a TU chapter teaming with a mining company is not common, but that is exactly what is happening with Wisconsin's Kiap-TU-Wish chapter and Fairmount Mineral's Wisconsin Sand Company in Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. Kiap-TU-Wish, Fairmount Minerals and the West Wisconsin Land Trust have developed a unique relationship of support for the Pine Creek restoration project that is yielding big results.

Pine Creek is located in S.E. Pierce County and empties into the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin. The creek and land surrounding the creek are owned by the West Wisconsin Land Trust and are preserved forever. Pine creek is a native brook trout stream in the "Driftless Region" of Wisconsin and records indicate that it has never been stocked. The brook trout that inhabit the stream are true natives, residing in the stream for thousands of years. Despite excellent water quality, the stream has suffered due to poor agricultural practices and the clear cutting of timber in the late 1800's. With average bank heights of nearly 10 feet, very shallow stream depths and wide slow moving water the trout habitat and population have suffered considerably. With funds from Trout Unlimited's Embrace-a-Stream program, federal funds from the Fish and Wildlife Department, Wisconsin Trout Stamp project funds and major donations from Kiap-TU-Wish, The Twin Cities (MN) Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the local Patagonia store, the restoration project was started in the summer of 2007.

In addition to funding the project, hundreds of hours of volunteer time were needed. Volunteers constructed and placed lunger structures and prepared, seeded and mulched the repaired banks and riparian area around the stream. Volunteers from Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities TU, Clear Waters TU and West Wisconsin Land Trust went to work on the significant undertaking. Despite good turnouts at work sessions, the project really needed more volunteer help. That is where Fairmount Minerals jumped in.

"Tim Stauffer, Regional Manager of Fairmount Minerals Wisconsin Sand Division contacted me in early August looking for an opportunity for Fairmount employees to volunteer on the Pine Creek project" reports Kiap-TU-Wish Board Member and past President Andy Lamberson. "Fairmount operates a silica sand mine just a couple of miles away from the project. Tim and the plant Manager, Al Nelson, were looking for an opportunity for their employees to fulfill their corporate objective of 40 hours of paid volunteer time per employee per year. It was an opportunity that was literally in their backyard!"

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter President and Project Lead Greg Dietl has been impressed with the turnout. "At the next Kiap-TU-Wish work night the company sent over fourteen employees and another dozen a week later. They have made a huge contribution towards reaching our project goals. We would not have completed nearly the amount of bank restoration, seeding and mulching without them."

Kiap-TU-Wish, Fairmount, and West Wisconsin Land Trust are in the process of organizing another major work effort, according to West Wisconsin Land Trust Executive Director Rick Gauger. "The three organizations are working together on a plan to harvest native prairie seeds from Maiden Rock Bluff this fall, and then plant the local biome grass and forb (flower) seeds at Pine Creek. This is a great opportunity for West Wisconsin Land Trust to utilize a big group of volunteers, and assist Fairmount Minerals with giving back to the region." The event is planned for Saturday, Nov. 15th.

This unique cooperative effort between these organizations is making a big impact on Pine Creek and will provide outstanding native brook trout fishing for generations to come.

You can find more information about the Pine Creek Restoration Project on the Kiap-TU-Wish website at [www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish](http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish).





## WASHBURN COUNTY TROUT LAKES

BY PERRY PALIN

At the end of September, the stream trout season comes to an end. For those who are not ready to closet their rods, there are the seepage lakes of the Washburn County Forest.

Ten years ago, when the DNR was still experimenting with these small lakes, Ted Mackmiller was catching trout in them. When I went to work in Shell Lake in 2000, Ted told me about them. At that time, their season closed with the stream season, which was too bad, because the best fishing was in the fall. The season has since been extended into the winter, and the best fishing is in October and early November as the brook trout cruise the shorelines in a vain attempt to find a place to spawn.

The fish are planted as fingerlings, grow for a couple of years, and then die of old age. The DNR encourages us to keep the fish, within the legal limit, and they are delicious. In their first fall, the brook trout should be 7-10 inches long, and second year brookies will be a fat 11-14 inches. Those are averages. I have found stunted fish in one lake, and brookies larger than 15 inches swim in at least two or three of them.

Some of these lakes are close to the road, but most require at least a short walk on a forest trail. Tick Pond is an easy mile or so from the car. Last year I fished a half day there with Al Hopeman, and we caught 40-60 brook trout between us, with about a third of them a foot or so in length.

I've caught a few on the surface, but mostly I use small streamers or wet flies. The pattern doesn't matter much. I've caught fish on just about everything I've tried between size 14 and size 10. The fish are often in clear water less than a foot deep, and they spook easily. I've caught a lot of fish by moving slowly and sight fishing along the banks.

Some of these lakes are marshy or choked with downed trees, and it's best to use a small craft. Others have firm banks and open areas for fly casting, and can be fished successfully in dry leather shoes.

Interested? The information is a little dated, but the maps are still good, at <http://www.co.washburn.wi.us/departments/forestry/info/troutfishing/index.htm>

Tick Pond? Well, that's not the "map" name. But if you go out to explore, you'll find good fall trout fishing in these lakes.



Perry Palin began his serious trout fishing in NE Minnesota streams in 1959. Currently living outside of Cumberland, Wisconsin, he ties a few flies every year, and carves fly rods out of cedar house siding, hardware store dowels, and sticks he finds in the woods. His current local favorite streams have so few and such small fish in them that they aren't worth mentioning. "Take care of the Kinni and the Rush," he says, "you're so lucky to have those streams. You don't want to lose them."



Photo by Perry Palin

## FLY TYING CORNER: THE KINNI SULPHUR

BY MICHAEL ALWIN

**This** story begins in the 70's, the decade of bell bottoms, wide lapels and even wider ties. For several years I had read accounts in Fly Fisherman Magazine about sulphur hatches in the East and I remember being confused by Latin names for the first time. The question in those pages was whether the sulphur was only *Ephemereella dorothea* or whether it could be any yellowish mayfly. Talk about a controversy.

Confusing the issue was whether or not we in the upper Midwest possessed a sulphur at all, much less a "true" sulphur. At the 1976 Upper Midwest Trout Symposium at the University of Minnesota a gentleman named Gary Crawford delivered a paper on Trout Food Habits in which he distinguished our Mid-western sulphur and the Eastern variety. He admitted he didn't know if it was a separate species or just a geographical variant but was fairly confident that the color was of little consequence. As you'll see, sometimes color can be very important.

The boys in the St. Paul Fly Tyers certainly noticed the difference, noting that while the sulphur on the Willow was yellow, the sulphur on the Kinni was "green." Early in the 1980's my friend Skip James published a little remembrance about fishing the sulphurs on the Willow one evening. He had tied beautiful imitations which worked to perfection and he naturally assumed that they'd work equally well on the Kinni. But when he tried them the next evening on the Kinni he received a cold dose of reality, his imitations were refused. In desperation he netted some naturals and upon examination was surprised to see that they were indeed "olivaceous." Taking the color into account at the vise his next imitations were much more successful.

It is now known, thanks to the studies of Clarke Garry, Ph.D., that the evening sulphur is a widely distributed mayfly named *Ephemereella needhami*. This pattern is the result of my study of mayflies on the Kinni in the 1980's. Clarke identified it as the female of the species.



### Kinni Sulphur

Hook: #16 dry fly hook (shank length should be 8-9mm.)

Tails: yellow or pale ginger rooster hackle

Wing: cream antron yarn

Body: dark olive polypropylene dubbing

Hackle: yellow or pale ginger rooster hackle tied parachute style



## SQUARE LAKE

BY JAMES R. HUMPHREY

The Judge netted another rainbow and lifted it from the net in a moment of triumph. It was a shining day for the fly-fishing fraternity, to be out in force, spread along the bathing beach at Square Lake, 12 miles north of Stillwater, Minnesota.

Square Lake is square only in the imagination of some early settler, but it is a gem of a deep water lake, popular on fall weekends for scuba divers and fly-fishers for planted trout.

We can't claim that trout are planted for our pleasure: more likely the Department of Natural Resources introduces 2,000 trout in October to satisfy the needs of ice fishermen, truly a remarkable breed apart. Imagine squatting around a hole in the ice, waiting for a wandering northern, walleye or trout to seize your minnow. It's our version of cold comfort; without the comfort. I did it once, and gave it up for the pleasures of cold March days when the Hendricksons may be on the rise in a hundred trout streams, or on 90 degree days when the sweat puddles in the waders. Really, trout fishing is not all that bad. Perhaps we denigrate it to neophytes in order to discourage them from taking space on our streams. As a newcomer to certain streams I was warned of the dangers of rattlesnakes eager to jump out of the rocks and attack.

I digress. The DNR plants the rainbows sometime in October, more often about the second week, but occasionally not until November, depending on the availability of stock from the hatchery and crew scheduling.

In addition to the image of anglers spread out along the beach, I remember fondly the Impressionistic picture of a pretty young woman in a belly boat out along the edge of the deep weeds, and she whooping and hollering with every netted trout. And there is the judge 20 feet to my north, extending his cast beyond my limits, and catching trout. I didn't mind: it's enough to be alive on a friend's "blue bird day" when the fraternity exchanges information, speculation, and probably wild fantasy.

Sometimes, but rarely, the trout move into the shallows when four or five males will sport around a larger female in a display of foreplay. Then a small Adams or Griffith's Gnat may attract the anger of a pursuing male.

Rods are fives to eights; the most common fly is the Olive Woolly Bugger, but sometimes Ken Hanson's Square Lake Streamer will activate the rainbows. Rarely will we sink Backswimmers.

Backswimmers are curious cousins of waterboatmen and are widely distributed in lakes, ponds, and the slow waters of streams. We've fished them in trout lakes for a change of pace, or challenge, but never with great success. The insect looks like an elongated beetle of many colors. I have in #10s and #12s, mallard and brown, palmered Grizzly with silver ribbing, and Olive and Orange tied by that big fish fisher, Jim Loga.

Because it needs gaseous oxygen, the backswimmer sucks air on to a plastron, then dives to forage on the bottom for algae and the larvae of midges. The literature states that it can stay down a long time but I have never waited that long.

A plastron is a padded vest that fencing masters wear to break the thrust of blunt points, or what an umpire wears to cushion a fastball. The silvery bubble of air carried into the depths has been described in Sid Gordon's *How To Fish From Top To Bottom*, when a female caddis dives to deposit her eggs.

Sometimes we loop a weighted backswimmer far out with a tuck cast and retrieve slowly. Unweighted swimmers may float on fine leaders.

There is also a brief early season in May at Square Lake, but few of the old hands bother: by then the early stream trout season in Minnesota and Wisconsin is already in vogue. Come to Square Lake in October and look for the osprey nest in the trees above the long bend of shore north beyond the beach and the fishing pier. Yes, you may cast from the pier, but it is properly sporting to spot from up there, then take your skill to the congenial line on the beach. Welcome.

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





KIAP-TU-WISH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

[WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/  
KIAPTUWISH/](http://WWW.LAMBCOM.NET/KIAPTUWISH/)

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# *Don't miss the October meeting!!*

Come to the October meeting to hear guest speaker Nelson French,  
Executive Director of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust.  
The meeting starts at 7 PM, but you can join us for dinner at 6 PM. See you there!  
Wednesday, October 1st at Bob Smith's Sports Club in Hudson.



## **SUBMISSIONS WANTED!!**

Let us know if you have an article you'd like to submit.  
Deadline to make submissions for the November RipRap is October 22nd, 2008