



Rip Rap

September Meeting

When: Wednesday, Sept. 1
 Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
 Dinner: 6:30
 Program: 8:00 What to do with Storm water

President's Lines:

What kind of job allows you to report to a trout stream instead of to an office? Well, the position of D.N.R. Trout Crew Coordinator fits that job description. I'm pleased to report that John Sauers and Ron Roettger of the Wisconsin D.N.R. have started their duties as part of the Trout Crew based in Eau Claire. I had a chance to meet and work with these gentlemen recently at Cady Creek (see pg. 3).

Cady Creek was selected to be the first project site for the Crew, and much has already been accomplished there. On the lower end of this watershed, the stream had become wide, slow, and warm. Narrowing the stream bed increases the velocity of the water, scouring the bottom and providing the brook trout with the cold, deep, currents they need to survive. Unfortunately for a number of reasons, Kiap-TU-Wish was unable to schedule a work day on Cady last Spring, but a couple of impromptu work days were held during the Summer to assist the Crew in narrowing the banks. A joint venture with the Elmwood Rod and Gun Club, many sections of the lower water have already been significantly changed by TU volunteers.

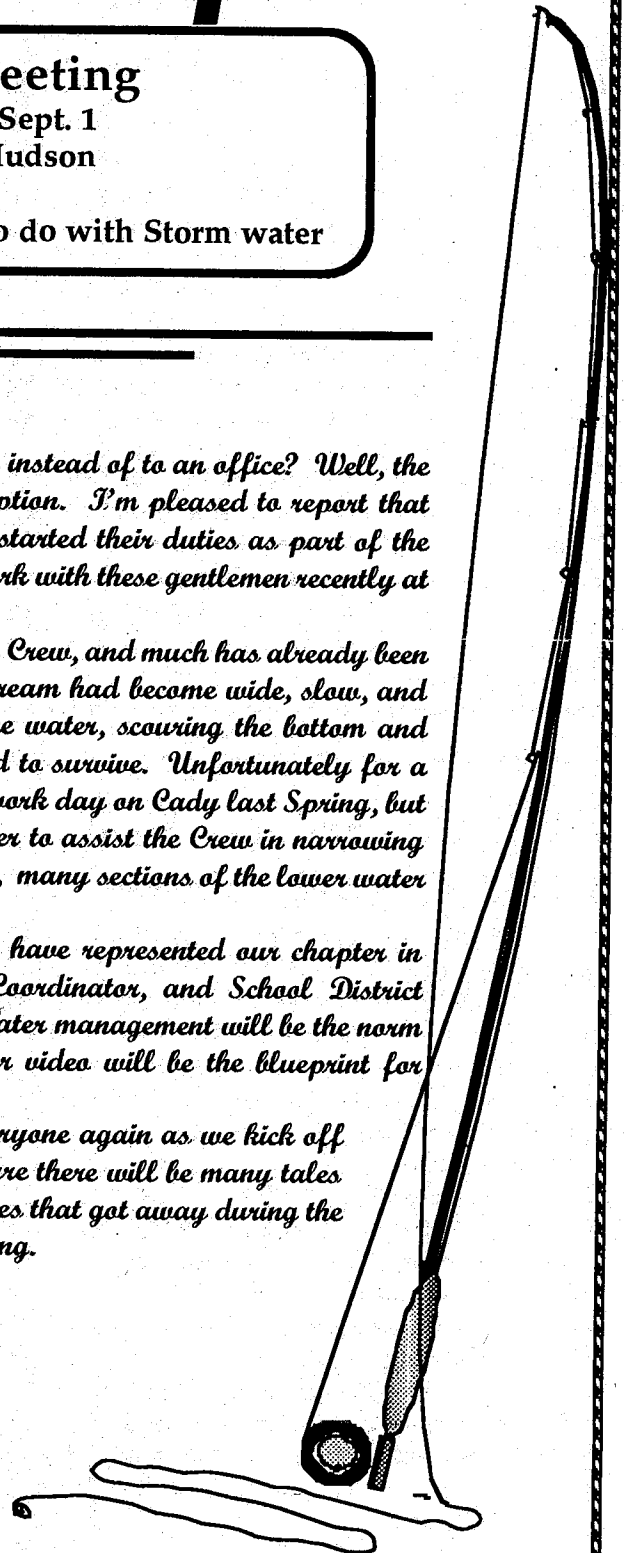
On another front, Kent Johnson and Gary Horwath have represented our chapter in meetings with the new River Falls Engineer, Development Coordinator, and School District Superintendent. We are hopeful that 'best practices' of storm water management will be the norm for the city from now on, and that the concerns raised by our video will be the blueprint for managing the Kinni for decades to come.

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I'm excited to see everyone again as we kick off our meeting schedule. I'm sure there will be many tales of trout caught and the big ones that got away during the Summer.. See you at the meeting.

Sincerely,
 Brent Sittlow, President



Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board...

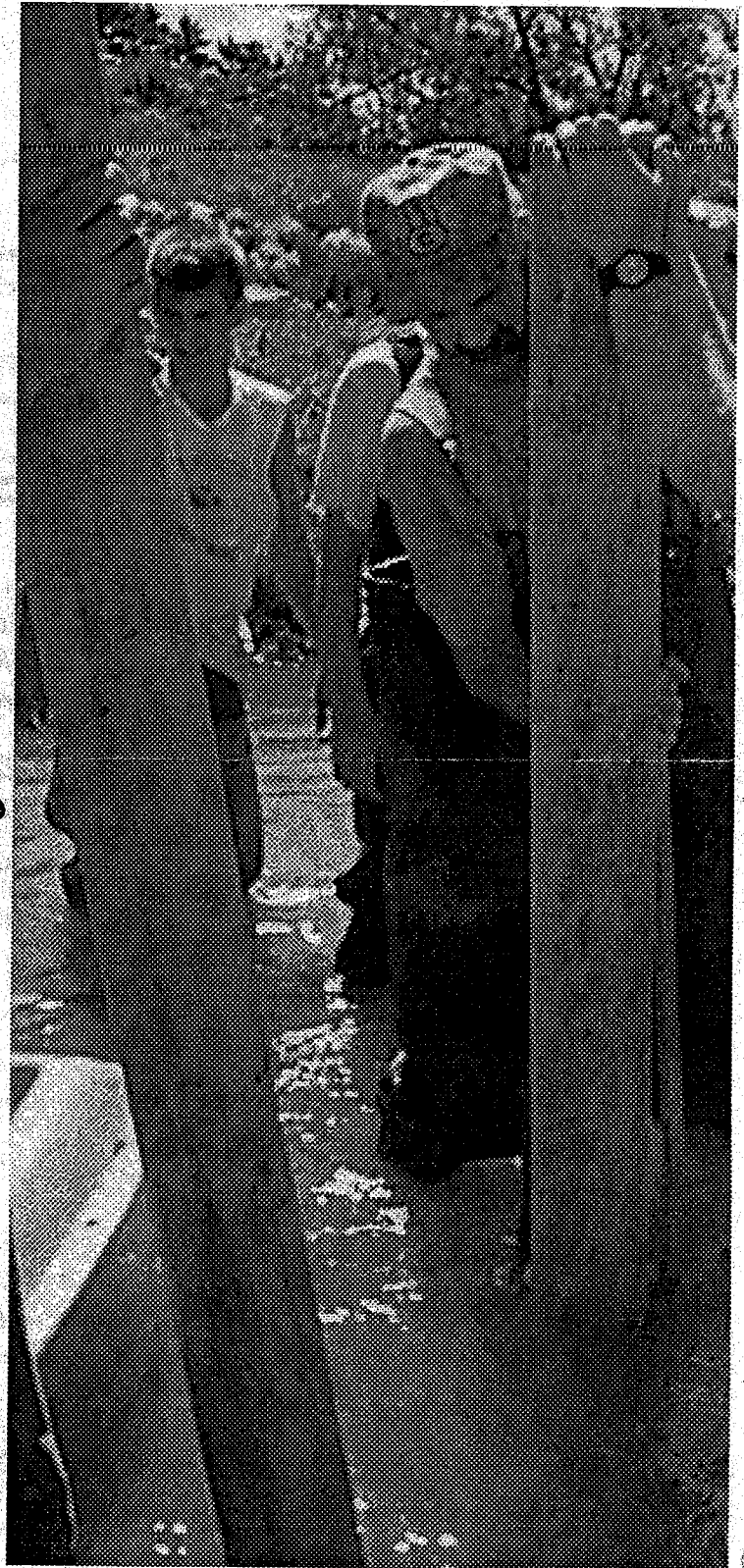
September Program:

Last Spring, Gary Horvath ran across a video that he thought worthy to bring to the attention of the chapter. It is entitled: "Use of Constructed Wetland for Stormwater Runoff." A product of Cornell University, the film shows how to mitigate the potential damage from thermal pollution caused by parking lots, shopping centers, schools, and other large industrial projects by including low grassy areas in the building plans, marshes and ponds that serve as catchments for run off. They can be enhanced further by aquatic plants and various flora and fauna. Migrating birds find such areas attractive as nesting sites as well. The Tamarack Shopping Center in Woodbury is an example of this type of planning. The ponds there are the homes for many ducks and geese, in addition to amphibians and insect life. The film has a more immediate focus, however. The chapter can have a greater impact on proposals for development along the expanded highway corridor between Hudson and River Falls, using the video as a teaching tool.

Volunteers get feet wet at Cady Creek....

Quite a few members of Kiap-TU-Wish aided the trout crew and joined members of the Elmwood Rod and Gun Club during work days on Cady Creek. They not only did good work, but they kept cool as well. They build lunker structures and jetted cover structures. (Editor's rumination: What constitutes a Lunker Brook Trout?) If you'd like to be put on a list to be called to do in-stream work like that on Cady Creek, please contact **Brent Sittlow** (telephone number on the back of RipRap), or e-mail the chapter at <kiaptuwish@hotmail.com.> All volunteers, no matter the time or energy spent working on these projects, are appreciated.

Those pitching in this Summer included **Bob Bradham, Kevin Cooley, Clarke Gary, John Koch, Ted Mackmiller, Aleks Medved, Marty Dahlke, Chuck Goossen, Rich Lindholm and Brent Sittlow**




Keepin' Cool on a hot day in Cady Creek

You can't expect to have good results unless you have great teachers. Here are two of the best: casting gurus: Bill Hinton and Jim Rees. Don't drop that back cast!



Prime movers: Jon and Allison Jacobs, Mike Alwin, Bob Bradham.



1999 Clinic a Resounding Success...

They had a great time! They fished in the rain, caught trout and raved about the experience. "They" are the more than twenty students who attended this year's edition of the Kiap-TU-Wish Fly Fishing Clinic held in River Falls on May 22nd. Students learned about fly fishing equipment, fly casting essentials, trout food and their imitations, threats to the trout stream environment and stewardship. They, they went fishing on the Lower Kinni for the evening.

Just after supper and before the fishing began, the students were shown the video, "Storm on the Horizon" and were involved in a discussion about protecting this delicate resource, thereby fulfilling the first goal of the Education Committee: Educate the community. The Committee is grateful for the help of so many members who volunteered their time and talents, fulfilling our second goal: Inform and involve the membership. Many thanks to those of you who donated flies and many more thanks for the following people who served as guides and mentors: Dan Conley, Bill Hinton, Bob Bradham, Brent Sittlow, Dave Gilbreath, Jim Rees, Clarke Garry, Ron Kuehn, Ken Scheurman, Carol LeBreck and Allison Jacobs. Special thanks to Karen Stifter for organizing the food for forty to fifty people, Karen Jacobs for helping to serve, and Ted Mackmiller for set-up and take-down.

by Mike Alwin

Early Season Sparks Debate...

by John Welter

Dateline Wednesday, May 26, 1999

The Natural Resources Board today approved the early trout season to continue through the 2000 season, "and thereafter until a viable compromise has been voted upon by the...Board." The Board, on a 5-2 vote, directed the DNR's fisheries staff to work with a subcommittee of the Conservation Congress' Trout Study Committee and interested user groups to address a number of issues related to the early season.

The Board resolution, authored by member James Tiefenthaler, Jr., of Brookfield, reminded the Conservation Congress to "be mindful that the ultimate goal is to add fishing opportunities while protecting the resource."

A subcommittee of the Trout Study Committee to include two members from each side of the early season debate, will be appointed to review a list of issues and report back to the Natural Resources Board by December 20, 1999. The Board will consider its recommendations at its January, 2000 meeting. If any rules proposals are included with the recommendations, the Board could decide to put them on the DNR's rules-hearing agenda for the April 2000 hearings.

Also included in the Board's action was an amendment directing the DNR to determine any trout waters that are particularly sensitive to damage to spawning sites or have unique conditions that fish managers believe merits their exclusion from early season fishing. Those streams could be exempted immediately by the fisheries staff on an emergency basis or by the hearing process for the 2001 season, if there is a proven biological basis for their exclusion.

Board member Howard Paulson voted against the full motion after unsuccessfully opposing the amendment. He said he supported the original version of the motion, but could not back it if the amendment was included.

Fisheries staff members and thirteen public citizens, including six representatives of various TU chapters and three other TU members speaking for themselves, gave suggestions to the board in testimony. Many urged compromises to reduce the divisiveness which has become associated with the early season debate, including allowing local fish managers some latitude to close certain streams in their area to fishing, establishing zones for early season fishing similar to other fish and game management zones, allowing some fish to be taken and killed, and closing the early season two weeks before the regular season opener on streams that were recently stocked, to allow fish to disperse. A TU State Council committee is being constituted to consider recommendations to be made to the Congress subcommittee appointed to address these issues.

Now's Your Chance to Speak Out on the Early Season...

Mr. John Bethke, Western Wisconsin Regional Vice President of Trout Unlimited, has been appointed to the committee that will propose a unified Trout Unlimited position on the issue. (see preceding article) Write to him at 118 Vernon St., Westby, WI 54667

Lower St. Croix River Expo...

The first ever Lower St. Croix River Expo will be held on Saturday, September 18, at the St. Croix Falls, WI High School. The Expo will feature booths, informational activities, and forums on the region's watershed improvement projects in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kiap-TU-Wish has signed up as a participant and will occupy a booth that day. We plan to show "A Storm on the Horizon" and talk with Expo-goers about our activities in the cold water arena. We'll also have membership forms handy. Contact Kent Johnson (715) 386-5299 if you're interested in helping out with this event. Half-day and full-day volunteers are sought.



Skip's Loose Threads:

Fishing with your sons on a high country Colorado lake

It doesn't get any better than this...

The old VW Scirocco with the missing door panel nimbly climbed the foothills of the Rockies with my older son, Evan, at the wheel. He'd always wanted a car like mine, and now he had one. There were a few rusty spots, some missing accessories like an outside rearview mirror and a gas tank cap, but the engine purred, tuned to perfection by its owner, who, when working, was a gifted jet-fighter mechanic. Fishing time has been hard to come by for Evan: father, husband, student, bread-winner, even with the trout so close. My younger son, Matthew, also a Denverite since his college days, spends almost all his weekends in the mountains: climbing, hiking, taking pictures...moving pictures, of course, since Matt is a videographer. He often packs a little ultra-light spinning outfit and a few twister tails on his weekend jaunts, but rarely catches a trout. He told me he got one about four inches long last Fall, and marveled at its beauty. He took lots of photos of it, nestled in his hand, before letting it go. From his description, it was a yearling Cutthroat. Matt was to join us the following day on a tiny lake near Leadville, a lake loaded with Rainbow Trout up to two-feet long. As the car approached the tunnel under the pass, we could see dirty snow on the ridges. Emerging on the other side of the mountain, the road followed a tiny, snow-melt stream that increased in size as we dropped lower into the valley. First it cut its way through the rock and then became a meandering stream through willows and alders, and then through a flower-bedecked meadow. After stopping for burgers and beer at a saloon in Leadville, we began to climb the dirt track to the lake. A torrential rain shower pelted us, stopping as suddenly as it had begun. Mt. Massive loomed across the valley as the sun came out from behind a cloud. After throwing our stuff in the bunkhouse, we walked down to the lake. The alders had been cleared for about a dozen feet along the shore, and three ancient rowboats were baking in the sun. As we approached, two magnificent fish darted out to deeper water from the grass along the bank. There were slashing rises everywhere, and trout leapt completely out of the water. The air was full of blue Damsel flies, and they were mating, the pairs like iridescent blue 'O's in the air. When one of these pairs touched the surface, there was a savage boil and the trout, if lucky, got a double meal. Often, the trout missed. Needless to say, it didn't take us long to get out our fishing equipment.

I had brought stuff for three people, knowing that my boys had no fly tackle of their own, at least not balanced outfits. In addition to my two cane rods, I'd packed a Sage 8' 4wt. and an Orvis 9'3" 5 wt, both with reels and lines. I intended to give outfits to both boys at the conclusion of our time together and figured that Matt with his hiking might be able to use the little outfit and because of Evan's penchant for lakes, I had brought for him what I thought would be a great float tube rod. I'd also packed two sets of waders and wading shoes, enough flies for three people. I forgot a few things though, including hats. Both kids wound up with sunburned ears and noses.

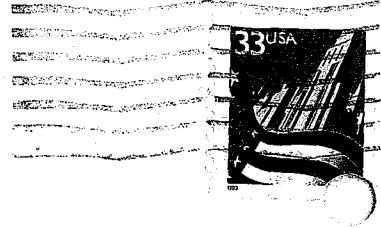
Evan got into his waders as I rustled up a float tube for him and rigged his rod. I didn't have any adult Damsel fly imitations, but figured that a big bushy attractor might work, so I tied a size 8 Humpy to his 3x tippet. We launched the tube, Evan put on his flippers and stepped into the tube, following my advice about walking backwards away from the shore until the water was deep enough for him to sit down. I handed him his rod and was gratified to see he'd not forgotten how to cast a pretty fair loop. He was into a fish on his second cast, and as it jumped, he hollered with glee, a happy shout that echoed down the valley. I had neglected to supply him with a net, so he sculled back toward me and I netted his fish for him. It was a Rainbow about seventeen inches. It was the largest trout he had ever caught! We snapped the net to one of the tube's D-rings and he was off on his own.

Just then, a car horn sounded behind me. I turned to see Matthew running down the bank. He had gotten off work earlier than expected and arrived soon after we did. He'd seen Evan catch his first fish, and it was all I could do to convince him to change clothes before putting on the other pair of waders and joining in the fun. When he was ready, he boarded a tube and paddled off down the shore. He'd been fishing with me the previous year, and was an old hand at the float tube and casting. Evan was surprised at his skill. Of course, older brothers are always surprised when their juniors do anything better than they do.

The frantic action kept up for over an hour, until the sun started to go down and the air cooled. Then all was quiet until tiny dimples began, first near the shore, then slowly moving out into deeper water. Looking through one of the last, almost horizontal rays of the sun, I noticed what looked like tiny white dots moving up and down in the air. Just then a white dot passed my face and I realized that I was looking at the egg sac of a Mayfly spinner. A minute later, I caught one. It was almost completely colorless except for the light yellow egg sac. I guessed it to be Callibaetis, and tied a #14 Polywing spinner to my 5x tippet. I dressed the silk line and cast to the nearest dimple in the fading light. My fly rested quietly on the water, almost invisible from forty feet. The water reflected the rosy sunset sky as a light breeze ruffled the water. I noticed my leader curving to the right and raised the rod to feel the throb of a fish. I stood on the shore and caught two more as my boys paddled to meet me. After a Mexican feast at The Grill, and several Margaritas, we all slept soundly. How lucky I am to be the father of these two young men!



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DEADLINES

Oct. 9/15/99

Visit our Website for Stream Reports, Chat and Chapter News
<http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish/>



March 29, 1999

Dear Brent...

Congratulations to Kiap-TU-Wish on winning the Wisconsin TU Silver Trout Award. Way to go!

We're proud of you guys and gals.

Jean and I are hanging in there. Fortunately we have our personal RN to help keep us around. That's daughter Cathy, of course.

We have had a pretty mild winter. No below-zero temps. Snow that disappears in a day or two. Not bad fishing either. See enclosed photo for proof. That was taken about five miles from home on the East Gallatin. On a purple Woolly Bugger. Next month the midges should frustrate me- as usual.

We look forward to RipRap each month. Wish we could be there for your Spring Fishing Clinic.

Keep up the good work, Brent, and all you TUsers

Your Montana Buddies,

Bob and Jean



Bob nets a rainbow near Belgrade, MT