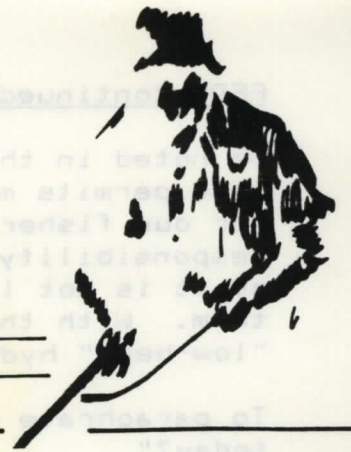


MIDMISSOURI chapter

Trout Unlimited

Vol. 2, No. 3

May 26, 1987



FISHERIES AND THE FEDS

We all recognize that sometimes our governmental agencies can be our greatest obstacle to the goal of improved fishing, but once in a while these agencies offer fishermen (oops, fisherpersons) opportunities to cooperatively reach this goal. Recently, the national TU newsletter announced new efforts by the USDA Forest Service and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which demonstrate these agency's level of interest in fisheries improvement.

The Forest Service has launched a program to enhance fisheries resources in the National Forests. Following the publication of an evaluation report, "Fisheries Habitat Management: A Positive Future," the Forest Service initiated their program which focuses on increased use of state-of-the-art methods to protect, maintain and enhance fish habitat. The program also encourages partnerships with other agencies, users and the public in activating the program.

National forests, managed by the USDA's Forest Service, contain 128,000 miles of streams -- including some of our nation's blue-ribbon trout streams -- and 2.2 million acres of lakes and reservoirs. In Missouri there are many hundreds of miles of streams in the Mark Twain National Forest, including cold and warm water fisheries. This new program presents Missouri TU with a tremendous opportunity for fishing improvements in the state.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as the result of the Electric Consumers Protection Act passed last year by Congress, wants to receive any comprehensive river and resource plans for use on the rivers in our nation.

If FERC has such a plan in their possession when it receives requests for preliminary permits, exemptions and licenses for the use of hydro resources, it will take them into consideration when making their decision.

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FEDS continued . . .

As noted in the TU newsletter, this is a new responsibility for FERC. It also permits members of such organizations as TU to have better protection for our fisheries resources. However, it will undoubtedly be our responsibility to insure that FERC has relevant plans in their possession as it is not likely they will aggressively search out the plans and ask for them. With the tremendous hydro potential in Missouri, particularly for "low-head" hydro sources, this is an important opportunity.

To paraphrase a common precaution, "Do you know where your favorite plan is today?"

TU ADOPTS FEDERAL LANDS PLAN

In a related activity, TU recently adopted a plan developed and proposed by the TU Federal Land Task Force. This plan addresses one of TU's priority issues -- fisheries issues on federal lands.

The plans goals adopted by the National Board are:

- A) Elevate the understanding and value given to fisheries
- B) Seek improved federal land policies, regulations and enforcement to enhance water quality and habitat for cold water fisheries and to promote scientifically based fisheries management decisions
- C) Mobilize the organization to effectively impact the policies of agencies managing federal lands

Now that the plan has been approved, those volunteers working of federal land fisheries issues should contact their Council Chairmen and Regional Vice Presidents for support and coordination. This effort, especially in light of the Forest Service program featured above, affects all of us. Perhaps we can get our Chapter Board to invite representatives of the Forest Service to our meeting so we can find out how we can be involved. How about it Bill?

HOW'S FISHING?

Our Chapter President reports that fishing has been excellent. It is spawning season for bluegill in the area farm ponds, and you can easily catch a basketful to put in the freezer or have a big fish fry.

Trout fishing has also been relatively good. John Smith, Gary Teeple and Bill tried the trophy water a Meramec a week ago. They didn't catch many but it certainly wasn't because the fish weren't feeding, according to Bill. Trout rose heavily toward dusk, but the three were only able to take half a dozen! At the same time, one of Bill's grad students was downstream just below the park and took 25-30! Sounds like another of those stories about those who can't do, teaching others to do! What about it Bill?

The trio reported a large hatch of yellow-tan mayflies on the water near Cedar Bluff, with most fish caught on caddis imitations skittered across the surface.

I managed to get to Montauk a week earlier, but the fishing was very slow all day. I took a few small, foolish trout on jigs of various colors in the morning. Later, I managed to raise several 15-16 inch specimens on a Red Quill. Still, it was better than being at work!

Is anyone doing any float fishing? How is the water and the fish catching now that the season on stream bass is open? If you have any news call me. My sources indicate that bass fishing on the reservoirs and lakes in the area has been pretty good, with the bass in various stages of spawn and post-spawn activity. Thomas Hill and Mark Twain both seem to be coming on now.

SECOND ANNUAL TU FAMILY PICNIC

On Saturday, May 30, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of TU will hold its annual Family Picnic at Bethel Park at 3 p.m. Activities will include family fishing, a casting contest, and hotdog eating contest. The Chapter will provide the dogs and drinks. Individual members need to remember to bring a covered dish and table service.

Remember too that the Chapter is planning a program for Kids for the July Chapter meeting. Please bring your ideas to the picnic.

RSVP to Bill Lamberson, 445-6224 by May 28, so he can get the dogs and drinks! See you there for fun, food and frolic!

A FLY FOR BIG FISH!

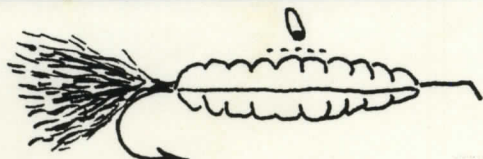
You've no doubt seen clouds of shad swimming close to the surface in the warmer months in larger rivers and Missouri reservoirs. If you're like me, you'd like to have patterns for flies that allow you to put down the spinning rod or casting rod once in awhile, and use the flyrod for some exciting action. About ten years ago, Dave Whitlock introduced a pattern that imitated a shad constructed of mallard wings tied back to back alongside the body of the fly to represent the flat appearance of the shad.

Unfortunately, this pattern cannot be tied in very large sizes, and the materials do not stand up to catching very many fish. Here's a pattern which you may wish to try that appears to be very durable, and can be tied in larger sizes.

Threadfin Shad (Crippled)

by Kent Bulfinch

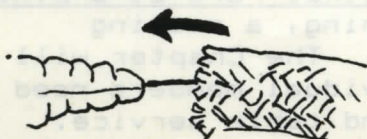
1. Place Perma Flote hook (size 6-2/0) in vise. Cut off small post on top of hook. Attach yellow thread at bend and tie on yellow marabou tail.



4. Attach 4 pearl Flashabou strands as throat, with 6 shorter strands as "bleeding gills" under hook. Attach 4 blue Flashabou strands on top of hood as wing.

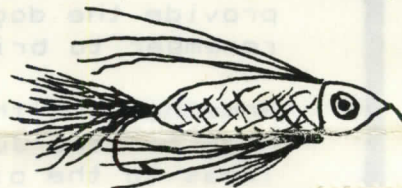


2. Prepare mylar tubing by cutting to body length plus tie down. Remove and discard core. Coat Perma Flote body with cement, slide tubing over from hook eye and wrap down at tail position. Whip finish and cut thread. Coat mylar with clear cement.



5. Build up tapered head with white floss. Whip finish and tie off. Paint head with white enamel and let dry.

6. Paint black stripe on top of head from wing to nose. Paint yellow eye with black pupil.



3. Attach white single strand floss near hook eye. Pull mylar tubing forward and tie down. Trim butts of tubing.

MISSOURI CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED
RT. 2,
COLUMBIA, MO
65201

