



# MID MISSOURI CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED



November 1992

## President's Message Native Americans

Redheads and other Irishmen like my ancestors arrived in Missouri at about the same time as the first salmonids. Nobody on my side of the family can lay claim to having been the "Johnny-trout-seed" who stocked the Ozark streams, but maybe my children will someday cash in on the efforts we make today to give trout a future in our state.

There are still those who speak of trout, starlings and smallpox in the same sentence, and with the same regard. I disagree. Who among us native Missourians know another homeland? I, for one, am not ready to leave simply because my species did not evolve here. Rainbows are self-sustaining in many streams across the Ozarks. For generations, these fish have known no other home.

A home for trout is really what I'm talking about. It is their home which is at risk to development, habitat destruction, etc. It is their home which I feel must be protected. Without a home there can be no trout.

Speaking of Native Americans, check out page 48 of

the Autumn 1992 issue of *Trout* magazine. Milton Born-with-a-Tooth says a lot, and with great eloquence and brevity, "... It is a home for the fish. It is a home for wildlife. It is a home for us ...," Ditto, Milton.

Dave

## "A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT"

Columbia Pictures  
Presents  
A Film by Robert Redford  
Starring  
Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt,  
Tom Skerritt,  
Brenda Blethyn  
and Emily Lloyd

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops ..."

— Norman Maclean

"While a deeply loving family was the heart of Norman Maclean's world, the river was the heart of his memory. It was along the river that Norman, his father and brother became irrevocably linked to nature, beauty, art — and each other.

"Sadly, the Big Blackfoot River doesn't exist in the

form he so exquisitely conveyed, and it is today one of America's most threatened rivers. On film we had to piece together, from other rivers, what was once whole in Montana ..."

— Robert Redford.

Our chapter of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce that this fine movie will be showing in Columbia. The premiere will be at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 30, 1992 at the Forum 8 Theater.

Sportsmen's Outfitter (downstream from Puckett's) has graciously funded this showing, thereby taking the lead in corporate sponsorship of our Watershed Conservancy Project.

After the premiere, your ticket will entitle you to join us at Heritage House for a reception. On this particular evening, \$10 will buy each of you good food, drinks, live music and a great movie.

Tickets will be available from Mike Kruse, at the Sportsmen's Outfitter, or at the Heritage House. Only 345 tickets will be printed

(Regular daily show times at the Forum 8 are 2 p.m., 4:35 p.m., 7:10 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.)



**Streams Less Traveled:  
Mill Creek  
by Mike Kruse**

There are many small streams named "Mill Creek" scattered across Missouri and at least two of them are trout streams. From a trout fishing perspective, the most important one is found in Phelps County.

It flows through two parcels of Mark Twain National Forest near Rolla, providing about two miles of public fishing for wild rainbow trout. Fishing is restricted to artificials only and all trout less than 18 inches must be released.

Mill Creek is a small, forested stream. The larger fish (over 11 inches) are fond of the deeper water near bluffs, bends and root wads. Your cast must be accurate — a challenge made tougher by the surrounding trees and vegetation.

The lower piece of public water is near the Mill Creek campground, and most of the upper stretch is below Wilkins Spring. There are trout in Wilkins Spring branch itself, but the water is even more enclosed by vegetation than Mill Creek. During wet weather, it's possible to fish on up to Yelton Spring, but during hot, dry summer weather Yelton Spring nearly dries up, leaving upper Mill Creek nearly dry and its trout stranded.

To find the lower stretch of Mill Creek, follow Highway "P" southwest from

Newburg and look for the National Forest Recreation Area sign (i.e. campground and picnic area). You can stay on the gravel road past the campground to the upper stretch of stream (also known as the old trout refuge) or stay on Highway "P" past the turn-off for the campground and then take Highway "AA" south.

Depending on how thoroughly you fish the water, a whole day could be spent on Mill Creek. If you've got some time left, Spring Creek, Roubidoux Creek, the Little Piney River and Stone Mill Branch are all within a 30-minute drive.

**Mid-Missouri's  
Watershed  
Conservancy Program**

There are fewer than 200 miles of streams that maintain suitable temperatures for trout in the summer in Missouri. There will never be any more. Our efforts are to acquire the most secure future possible for these precious streams.

Rainbow trout have established self-sustaining populations in streams that are protected from riparian land abuse and excessive harvest by anglers. Unfortunately, such treatment has been rare in the Ozarks, and wild trout are therefore scarce.

When given protection, rainbow trout have maintained viable populations and provided fishing benefits, even in relatively

abused habitats. In some cases, such populations have managed to survive for over 100 years. These wild trout, adapted to the Ozarks, are what we are working for.

Through a cooperative effort between the Mid-Missouri Chapter and National Trout Unlimited, negotiations are underway to buy approximately two miles, or one percent, of Missouri's coldwater habitat. To date, we know, of no better steward of such a property than the Missouri Conservation Department. Our intentions are to purchase properties, as they become available, and put them into public ownership.

Why not just lobby public agencies to purchase these lands outright? We are the only organization in Missouri with the preservation, protection and enhancement of trout habitat as our number one priority. Thus, we are in a better position than anyone to keep the ball rolling. We hope to compliment, not compete with, existing acquisition efforts of public agencies.

The job of acquiring an entire watershed is, of course, not inexpensive. The money will have to come from a variety of sources, including federal and state funds, grants from foundations, corporations, private business and individuals like you.

We hope you share some of our excitement for this program. We feel it is particularly well-suited to Missouri, given the scarcity of our trout streams.



## Trout Fly Pattern of the Month by Jerry Case

This month's fly was brought to my attention only recently. Fellow mid-Missouri T.U. member Dick Vaught learned of this pattern through Charlie Reading and unselfishly passed it along to me. It has become a standard with Dick and after several fine performances for me, I wouldn't want to be without it as well.

Charlie calls this fly "the snail," and it does seem to be taken by trout for this important food source. I suspect that trout may also find this pattern a good representation of caddis larva and other good things to eat. Whatever, it's a great fly that works well on Ozark streams (probably anywhere), especially on bright, sunny days.

### The Snail

Hook: Curved scud type,  
TMC 2487 or Dai-  
Riki 135, #14 - 18  
Thread: Black 6/0 - 8/0  
Weight: Fine lead wire  
Body: One herl from the

"metallic" blue  
portion of the  
peacock eye.

Secure the thread to the hook and tie in the herl way down on the bend of the hook by the butt end. Cover the hook shank length with the lead wire. Bring the thread to behind the hook eye. Coat the lead underbody with head cement.

While the cement is still tacky, wrap the herl forward to form the body. You will notice that the light stem of the peacock eye will produce a segmented effect. You should strive for a fly with a fat curved body. Finish the head and go fishing.

Toss this fly upstream and fish dead-drift with an indicator. Mend a lot to keep a good drag-free float. The Snail is lethal at Bennett, the Current River and nearly everywhere else I've fished it when the conditions are right.

### Conservation Federation

The Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited has joined the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The

Federation is an umbrella-group for all of the individual conservation organizations in the state. The Federation lobbies and keeps track of bills of interest to conservationists in the Legislature in Jefferson City. They have an annual meeting, and proposals approved by their various committees are presented to the Conservation Commission. The Federation has already helped Mid-Missouri T.U. in its conservancy project.

### Conservancy Project

The Mid-Missouri Chapter's Conservancy Project, an effort to increase the amount of coldwater streams in public ownership in Missouri, is one of five approved by national T.U. The other four are Falling Spring, Pennsylvania; Salt River, Cranney Spring Creek, Stump Creek, Wyoming; Red River, Idaho and Upper Middle Branch Whitewater River, Minnesota. The Missouri project is in negotiations and may be lengthy before resulting in an acquisition.

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## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 3 at the Conservation Department's Fish and Wildlife Research Center, 1110 College Avenue (at the intersection of Stadium and College).

The program for the meeting is called "Etched in Stone." Three people will talk about stoneflies. Dr. Barry Poulton is an aquatic entomologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He will talk about stonefly ecology and distribution in the Missouri Ozarks.

Don Niccum of Roubidoux Fly Fishers will show us how he ties exact, lifelike imitations of stoneflies, while Mark Van Pat-

ten, also a Roubidoux member, will show how he ties impressionistic patterns made for fishing.

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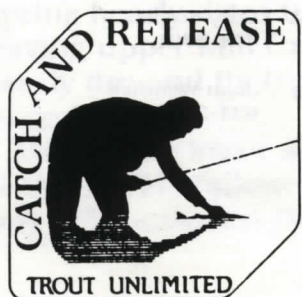
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