



# Cross Currents

August, 2002

M i d - M i s s o u r i C h a p t e r , T r o u t U n l i m i t e d



## JOHN HOSKINS TAKES HELM AT DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

You will be heartened to hear that fellow MMTU member John Hoskins is now the director of the Missouri Department of Conservation. He and his wife Janet have two sons who are recent graduates of the University of Missouri - Rolla and both are also avid anglers who prowled Mill Creek while going to school.

Hoskins has been with the Conservation Department since 1977, serving as conservation agent, regional protection supervisor, chief of General Services and as Protection Division Administrator. He holds a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a master's from the University of Missouri.

"I'm a fly rodder," Hoskins says. "I'm not a purist, though. I nymph fish more than anything else. Some of

the flies I use are a little gaudy or wild looking ... but they are flies," he adds. Hoskins traces his interest in trout fishing to his father-in-law, an avid outdoorsman who had worked in some western states and learned to love stream fishing.

"For me, trout fishing is a kind of soulful experience. I don't care anymore how many fish I've caught. I've had great days and I've had poor days ... but never had a bad day trout fishing.

"I'd rather wade a small stream than do just about anything else. I'll barely go to the trouble to get in a canoe anymore ... I feel like I see more and experience more by taking a long walk in my waders. I can stand there, fish a riffle and lose track of time and not move ... and I don't care."

One of Hoskins' sons is a rod builder and an exceptional fly tier. "He made most of the good flies in my boxes," Hoskins says. "The junk is mine! He is an artist with a fly rod, and I always enjoy watching him fish. He can manage his presentation as well as anyone I've ever seen. He's a great dry fly fisherman. I'm a klutz by comparison."

Hoskins says he likes to fish the Eleven Point River. "It's close to where I grew up," he adds. He also fishes the North Fork, the upper Current, the Niangua and Bennett Spring and Montauk state parks. He also enjoys fishing trips to the western U.S. He's looking forward to a September trip to Big Sky, Montana.

*Jim Auckley*



## JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting was held at Bethel Park in Columbia, where we barbequed hot dogs, told tall tales, and fished for bluegills. Be sure to join us for this event next year. If you do, maybe you'll be able to talk Garry Teeple out of one of the panfish flies he originated. The Bethel Park bluegills love them!



## A VISIT TO JIM ROGERS' FLY FISHING SCHOOL

In July, a friend of mine, Jim Rogers, invited me to attend his fly fishing school at Bennett Spring State Park near Lebanon, Missouri. Jim is the concessionaire at Bennett and has over 45 years experience in fishing for trout here in Missouri, as well as for other species around the world. He is a highly accomplished fly caster and teacher, and is one of only 67 people certified

worldwide by the Federation of Fly Fishers as a Master fly fisher. I eagerly accepted his offer and found his school to be extremely worthwhile.

Jim Rogers' School of Fly Fishing is very complete and includes both classroom instruction in the Dining Lodge as well as hands-on casting instruction in the field directly behind the lodge.

Jim uses videos as a teaching aid, and I was glad that Trout Unlimited's classic "The Way of A Trout" is one of the videos he shares with his students. If you have never seen this video, I highly recommend it to you.

Diane Tucker is the naturalist at Bennett Spring, and the class joined her at the Interpretative Center for a presentation on the aquatic insects living in the spring branch. It was very interesting, and it was nice to receive a copy of the hatch chart Diane prepared. Unfortunately, until either DNR or MDC installs fish cleaning stations at Bennett like the excellent ones they have at Roaring River and Maramec Spring, the number one food item for Bennett's trout will continue to be what it has been for years – fish entrails. Since only a small increase in the price of a daily tag will cover the added expense involved in installing and maintaining fish cleaning stations at Bennett and Montauk, maybe one of these days we will be seeing them at these parks, too.

Knot tying is an area of difficulty for many fly fishermen, and Jim did a good job of helping everyone become proficient knot tiers. Attaching the leader to the fly line is a task that is particularly problematic for many people. Jim offered his students a simple and effective way to solve this problem, much to their delight.

Jim has spent time in the past teaching at Joan Wulff's fly fishing school in New York, where they take an ultra-serious approach to the sport. To his credit, Jim adds an additional element to his own school - humor! This made Jim's classroom discussions a joy for everyone attending. He has an excellent sense of humor and some of his remarks were hilarious! This greatly helped many of the students get through some of the more complicated, technical topics that were necessary for them to learn.

Jim is on the Web at [www.jimrogersflyschool.com](http://www.jimrogersflyschool.com), and his telephone number is (417) 532-4307. If you can find the time and have some extra money to spend (there is a charge for the school, of course), I would recommend you attend the Jim Rogers' School of Fly Fishing for three main reasons. First, it will help you brush up on some things you may be rusty on. Second, you will have a great time. Third, by seeing Jim in action first-hand, you will learn how to better teach others the sport we all love so much.

Educating the public can have some important long-term benefits, and is one of the goals shared by many members of Trout Unlimited. Without a doubt, Jim's methods of teaching work exceptionally well. One lady attending the school, a writer from St. Louis, had previously attended two other fly fishing schools elsewhere. She told several of us that she had learned more in the first hour of this school than she had learned in the other two schools combined!

Jim is clearly doing an excellent job of educating the public, and we can learn a lot from his example. Trout need friends, and helping people to become competent anglers with good ethics will help ensure better stewardship of Missouri's scarce coldwater resources in the future.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The 10 Best Reasons To Attend the August Meeting

10. There is air conditioning
9. Bob Hook will be in Alaska
8. We won't be electing anybody
7. You're broke; it's free
6. You missed the July meeting
5. The program is about Colorado
4. and Wyoming
3. A September trip to the North Fork is being planned
2. You can sign up for this September trip  
AND
1. You want Curt's hot dog recipe from the June picnic

The Northfork trip is filling up but more are welcome. Come to the August 6, 7:30 meeting to sign up and get more information on this great way to fish and meet others that like to as much as you do. Our December meeting will include a photo contest or show. Don't hold off contributing because you don't think you will win, this is for fun! Both slides and prints will be included.

See you Tuesday! Jeff B. Witten

## MMTU CALENDAR

**August 6, 7:30 p.m.** Mike Kruse and Curt Morgret will discuss their western vacations.

**September 3, 7:30 p.m.** Ethan Wright will speak on antique fishing equipment.

**October 1, 7:30 p.m.** Del Lobb will discuss Lake Taneycomo minimum flow.

**November 5, 7:30 p.m.** Chuck Tryon will give a presentation on smallmouth fishing.

**December 3, 7:30 p.m.** 7:30 Photo contest

**Mid-Missouri Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
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**Mid-Missouri Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
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*Cross Currents*, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is usually the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Research Facility at Stadium and College in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. See the newsletter for any changes.

Internet:  
[www.agron.missouri.edu/flyfishing/mmtu.html](http://www.agron.missouri.edu/flyfishing/mmtu.html)

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