



Cross Currents

May 2007

President's Message

Curt Morgret

A friend of mine recently lost a box of flies on a stream here in Missouri. He told me he was fishing by himself on *&^%\$%&* Creek/River and the sky was clear blue and the watercress looked beautiful in the spring creek but then he lost a big box of newly tied flies somewhere along the bank. While looking for his lost fly box he found another one with a bunch of western flies, which he left on a post in the parking lot in case someone came back looking for them. I could have been touched by his selfless regard for others but all I really wanted to know was why he didn't call me to go with him. If I had found his fly box I would probably have given it back to him. The difference is that's only because he has access to a good bluegill pond.

I've been fishing for bluegill once this year. It was a cool day made cold by a stiff wind from the northwest. I caught a twelve inch crappie and we argued over whether it was a white crappie or a black crappie and how you could tell the difference. I thought it was obvious from the descriptive names and, knowing a fish biologist or two, I considered making a call to settle the dispute but interrupting fishing, even bad fishing, to make a cell call seemed to violate a lot of protocols. We eventually moved to a smaller pond more protected from the wind and caught enough bluegill to convince ourselves we could have put dinner on the table if we

had to but there wasn't anything big enough that would have made it a very efficient dinner.

And I took a day to fish for trout this last month when I told my wife I would work on tiling the dining room. It seems foolish to rush the dining room project when last year I was able to stretch the half-bath tiling job out to seven months. With any luck, she'll want another room or two tiled, which I anticipate turning into at least two more all-day fishing trips. Don't try to follow the logic in that statement; there isn't any, I work mostly off of correlations. Eventually we will run out of rooms to remodel (well, at this pace it may be quite a few years) and I'll have to develop another technique; hopefully, one that doesn't require as much physical labor.

continued on page 2

Upcoming meetings:

May 1: Rick Clawson speaking on the remote fishing around Cold Bay, Alaska, located on the far western tip of the Alaskan peninsula.

June 5: Hot dog burn and bluegill fishing at Bethel Park.

July: NO MEETING Everyone with any sense has left Missouri and is casting flies in a cool western climate somewhere.

August 7. Dr. Bob Sites, Professor of Entomology, University of Missouri. Results of the Little Piney insect sampling project.

During one of my trips this spring I got to meet Dr. George Bohigian. You might recall that George sold his farm on Mill Creek to the Department of Conservation and Trout Unlimited donated money toward the acquisition. George gave us a tour of the house which is partly a log cabin that was built in 1867 by the Yeltin family. Hanging in the cabin was a photograph of the house from around 1900, I think, and the whole history of the house and property seemed to add depth to the value.

George showed us rooms that were more modern additions that held mementos from past fishing and hunting trips and photos of his farm from over the years. He told us Spence Turner, former trout biologist extraordinaire for the Department of Conservation, provided fish stocking advice for his spring-fed ponds and how the bass ate all the trout fingerlings. In one corner stood a stuffed otter, which we thought would have looked more appropriate if it had a trout hanging from its mouth.

We gave George an inscribed fly box from the Mid MO TU chapter thanking him for making his farm available for public purchase and, therefore, to the people of the state and he seemed truly touched by the gratitude. George could have made a lot more money with a lot less aggravation selling to a private buyer and, thankfully, he decided the pleasure of the general public was more important. I enjoyed meeting him and listening to his thoughts and memories on several subjects but I really thought a couple of rooms in the house could use some tile.

April Meeting



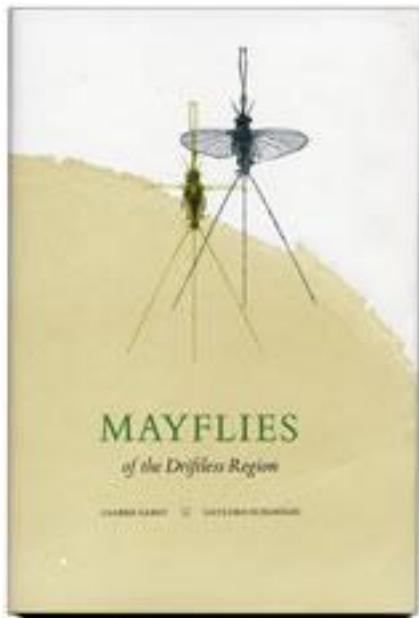
Clint Wilkinson and client with a White River Rainbow

Clint Wilkinson, a guide on the White and North Fork Rivers in Arkansas, presented a program on his “guide flies” simple, durable and effective patterns for low, slow water fishing. The six patterns were a scud, a sowbug, a caddis pupa, a midge larva, an annelid (San Juan worm), and Clint’s Emerger. The first four listed are weighted and fished suspended on a slack line drift under a small indicator. For success with the first four patterns Clint prescribed fishing these on a light tippet with a very small indicator with an absolutely drag free drift. The latter two are best fished unweighted behind a weighted fly in riffles. Clint has fishing reports and information at:

<http://www.whiteriver-flyfishing.com>

Gaylord Schanilec is an artist. He works in wood block engraving. A recent project of interest to eccentric fly and trout fishermen is his book *Mayflies of the Driftless Region*. The book contains a series of hand printed color wood engraved mayflies. The insects are hand pressed from the original engraved maple blocks. The printing is also hand pressed. The insects are scaled to size, with the Tricorythodes having a wingspread of about an inch and a half, while the Hexagenia requires a folded page for a wingspread of nearly eight inches.

The insects are described by University of Wisconsin – River Falls Biology Professor Clarke Garry. The book can't be considered a field guide, but rather is a description of insects by an avid fisherman and artist. It is a beautiful piece of work.



MARCH BROWN *S. vicarium* (male)

Several editions of the book are available, a special edition is printed on hand made paper, and accompanied by a set of flies and a portfolio of extra prints at \$1500, a less costly limited edition also printed on hand made paper is available for \$530, and a trade edition with cloth binding and dust jacket, still hand printed with the images printed from the original maple blocks, is \$85. My dear wife Mary bought a copy of the trade edition for me this past Christmas.

This book, other books by Schanilec, and prints of the mayflies are available from Midnight Paper Sales.
<http://www.midnightpapersales.com/>

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 7302
Columbia, MO 65205

Mid-Missouri TU Chapter Officers for 2006 - 2007

President	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776
Past President	Jon Deal	573-442-0931
Vice-president	Bryan Chilcutt	573-875-4644
Secretary	Lynn Kleopfer	573-447-1168
Treasurer	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Membership	Jim Washabaugh	573-898-3807
Web Editor		
Resources	Jim Auckley	573-634-4505
Member-at-large	Scott Rubinstein	573-446-8325
Banquet	John Meyer	573-442-0436
	Lynn Kleopfer	573-447-1168
Program	Mike Kruse	573-875-2033
Conservancy	Richard Mendenhall	573-449-7566
Newsletter Editor	Bill Lamberson	573-445-6224

***Cross Currents**, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is the Missouri Department of Conservation, Resource Science Center at Stadium Blvd. and College Ave. in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m.*

Internet: www.tu.org
www.midmotu.org
Email: rileym@missouri.edu