



Cross Currents

Dec 2008

December 2 Meeting

Chapter Dinner
Rock Quarry House
2002 Grindstone Parkway

**Join us for dinner catered by
Buckingham's, and bring a friend!**

**Bring a bottle of Shiraz or your favorite
beer and enjoy an evening of pleasant
conversation and good food. The winner of
the photo contest will also be announced.**

\$15.00 at the door

February 20
MMTU Conservation Banquet
Stoney Creek Inn

**A big thanks to Brian Sloss and
Ryan Griffin of Eleven Point
River Canoe Rental for their
continued support of MMTU.
They contributed \$250 raised at
the annual Fly Flingers
Weekend to our chapter.**

Curt's Colorado Trip Packing List

1. Rods; 2 – favorite 4-weight and back-up 5-weight
2. Reels; 2 – see "Rods"
3. Vest
4. Waders & boots
5. Pants; 2 pair (waders leak)
6. Hat
7. Sunglasses
8. Fleece jacket

The rest of the stuff not on the list didn't matter a whole lot. I was already wearing a shirt and even if I forgot my wallet I could bum cash off Bill (come to think of it, I did that, anyway.) I could get a toothbrush and toothpaste in most convenience stores if I forgot and, shoot, this is vacation, who wears underwear? My fly vest contains a lot of impromptu items, so if I needed something I should look in their first before I went to the store, it might save a trip.

The one thing not in the vest was a four-weight fly line. Nor was their one on my CFO reel. There wasn't any fly line on the reel – or even backing. It looked like a used piece of equipment I brought along to sell if I needed cash. I discovered this in Gunnison, CO as we rigged up to fish Tomichi Creek. Of course, this was the trip I bought at the banquet last spring, and now Bill Lamberson and I were being guided around by Ken Neubecker, President of Colorado Trout Unlimited, western water expert, land surveyor and fly fishing sensei.
(continued on page 2)

Colorado *continued*

Tomichi Creek is a lovely little creek that flows west off Monarch Pass into the Gunnison River. There are miles of meadow fishing, including the stretch we were on, and it is home to a bunch of brown trout. Ken took us to his secret spot, which, by written agreement along with a substantial financial deposit, we agreed not to disclose. Sometimes you have to love the one you're with, so I strung up the four-weight rod with the five-weight line and called it peachy.

Ken's assignment, which he agreed to last year in exchange for one of Bill's rods to auction at the CTU banquet, was to tote us around to some fun places to fish. Coincidentally, we scheduled the trip the last weekend of September and, to get where we were going, Ken had to drive us through hundreds of square miles of golden, light-shot aspen trees. If you have to drive over Kevler Pass to get to your fishing spot on the weekend of peak fall color you're doing something right with your life.

Leaving Gunnison the next day, we drove the North Rim road around the Black Canyon of the Gunnison on our way to Pleasure Park on the lower Gunnison. (No, I don't know why they named it that but it was strictly fishing.) There we met Mac Cunningham, president of the Grand Valley Anglers TU, where all four of us piled into his drift boat for a float trip down the river and a delightful discussion of how many times water is recycled in the Colorado River, how much water tamarisk trees suck up (20% of the flow), and minimum flow rates out of dams. A lot of Colorado Trout Unlimited members do very important work so us Midwestern folks can come out and fish dry flies occasionally.

From Columbia Parks and Rec

The Winter Trout Fishing Program has been RESTORED!! We are pleased to announce that the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited has agreed to sponsor the 2008-2009 Winter Trout Fishing Program at Cosmo-Bethel Lake and pick-up the City's portion of the Columbia/MDC partnership through the use of Chapter funds and private donations.



Ken and Bill prepare to launch (CM photo)

We finished the day by driving back to Carbondale for dinner with Ken and Paula, then took off the next morning for the Eagle River where fished behind good friend Joe Macy's house. I met Joe years ago after Mike Kruse fished with him on a hosted trip during the National TU meeting at Copper Mountain, CO. I try to at least have lunch with him every year and we get out and fish some, too. Since Joe retired a few years ago, I think his full-time job is serving in what seems like a dozen capacities for local land trusts. In his spare time, he guides mostly from a drift boat or raft on the Colorado River. In this case, he just sat on the bank near Bill providing an endless stream of "constructive criticism." Before we left for home, Joe and Kathy accompanied us to a late lunch. You know you've made good friends when they can call you an "a**h--" with smiles on their faces. I'll be back next year if no one outbids me at the banquet.

Dec 11 - Branson Chapter TU
Clint Hale (Shepherd of the Hills
Hatchery Manager) and Shane Bush
(Fisheries Management Biologist for
Taneycomo and Table Rock) will
address conditions on Lake
Taneycomo.

Place: Shepherd of the Hills
Hatchery Visitor's Center at 7 p.m.

National Leadership Council – News

Curt Morgret, Missouri NLC representative

50th Anniversary – Sometime in January Trout Unlimited will be unveiling its 50th anniversary logo to promote the semi centenary celebration. Of course, the national meeting in 2009 will be in Michigan, where the organization was conceived, and it will be a great celebration. Save some vacation and cash and make plans to travel to Traverse City.

Access – It's OK to say that word again (it's OK if you aren't familiar with the "Battle of Access", it was not waged in Missouri.) And with the new Farm Bill, there is federal money available in the CRP program to pay for public access and Trout Unlimited is working on fishing applications of the rule. This has potential in the states with CRP acreage and has potential to include riparian corridor improvement and conservancy efforts. Just thought you might want to know . . .

Conservancy – the committee has a new chairman, me. This is a relatively new committee that was formed two years ago by Duke Welter, who is now chairman of the NLC. Believe it or not, conservancy has been a controversial topic within our organization and the Board of Trustees is being asked to consider a second resolution that will give conservancy a stouter role within Trout Unlimited. So far, we've completed a pilot project in Connecticut and Wisconsin. This is something the Missouri Council and Mid Mo TU have been participating in very successfully for fifteen years, more or less without any participation from the national level. Right now, the national organization is looking for more pilot projects to partner with land trusts. Keep your ears and eyes open, this could be a good opportunity for both Missouri and National TU.

Regional Organization – There has been an informal gathering of regional councils in the last year; however, Missouri is not geographically tied into any of them. I have been lobbying to be included with the Upper Midwest group. This would give us the opportunity to be a part of a

larger group and, as I understand, if you make friends where there is good fishing you can get invited to go along. As part of this effort, I have proposed to the Minnesota and Wisconsin councils that we have a "conservation tour" sometime in the next year of what they've done with the Driftless Region Initiative. Let me know what you think.

Board of Trustees Meeting – I know, more meetings, but I wanted to let folks know the Board of Trustees for Trout Unlimited meets again in February for a regularly scheduled meeting and that will be followed by an NLC meeting. I will try to keep you up to date on any important initiatives or changes.

Mitchell Slough Case Decided

The Montana Supreme Court found that Mitchell Slough was in fact a natural perennial stream and is subject to the 310 law and that Mitchell Slough is a 'natural water body' and is subject to the stream access law. Section 310 is that part of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975 which requires a permit be obtained before any work is done which alters the bed and/or banks of a natural perennial stream. This law is one of the most important environmental laws protecting the integrity of streams and rivers in the state. The District Court had determined that the 310 law did not apply to Mitchell Slough. The basis for the lower court's decision was that there were so many man-made alterations to Mitchell Slough that it no longer was natural.

We are very pleased with the result on the 310 determination. If the lower court's decision had been upheld, it would have been used as precedent to attempt to have numerous similarly situated side channels and sloughs designated as no longer being natural perennial streams. This is a banner day for trout conservation in Montana.

Regards,

Tom Anacker, Montana Council Chair

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Mid-Missouri TU Chapter Officers for 2008 - 2009

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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 D Rowe's, located off Forum, just north the intersection with Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time 7:00 p.m.

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