

## Missouri Council Newsletter



# Currents

October 2009

### ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

(Or, Why Michigan is Nice In August)

The Big Birthday Party has come and gone and TU'ers from around the country got together in Traverse City, Michigan in August for **Trout Unlimited's 50<sup>th</sup>**

**Anniversary.** We threw down a few cold ones, fished some Michigan trout streams, ate a bunch of food and held some meetings.

**John Wenzlick, Missouri Council Chairman,** and I traveled together, burning down one gas station in our wake and making a few wrong turns but what road trip doesn't look like that?

When you hear about the grassroots initiatives around the country and the work the TU national staff does to keep cold water cold and make dirty water clean you have to be pleased to be a part of the organization, although we seem a bit removed from it sometimes here in Missouri. To support the cause, **Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri** have come together to form our own **Mid-South Region** of Trout Unlimited. It's a lot like the Great Lakes Region although we don't have any staff, or budget and we're not officially sanctioned. What could be more fun than that? We sail our own ship. I hope to be sharing more information and opportunities on our new region in the future.

From our opulent headquarters at Motel 6, John and I commuted to the Grand Traverse Lodge and Convention Center to participate

in our respective duties: State Council Chair meetings and National Leadership Council stuff. With any national organization, there's quite a bit of house cleaning and furniture arranging that goes on just to make the whole thing workable. Just so you know, we're getting some new bylaws and the budget is . . . zzz . . . hey! I think I dozed off there for a second.

There are exciting things going on out there with coldwater conservation and that's what we care about most. The closest to home is the tremendous work that has been and continues to be done on the **Driftless Area Restoration Effort** in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

*"In the early 1900s farming practices on the highly erosive soils resulted in devastating erosion. Hundreds of miles of once stable clean coldwater spring creeks were inundated with soils and fine sediments; in many areas 12-15 feet of soil accumulated in valley floors. (continued on Page 2)*

### October Meeting Notice for Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited

Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 p.m. we will be back at our usual hangout, D Rowe's. Ryan Mueller from DNR will discuss the dam issue at Crane Creek and his trip to Wyoming. D Rowe's is located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong.

**vivo est expiscor**

## Cont. from Page 1, Annual Meeting

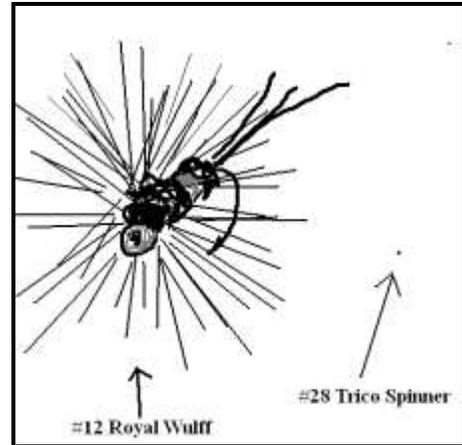
*Throughout the Driftless Area, water quality has been degraded, stream temperatures have increased, stream habitat has been lost, and the natural system's hydrologic cycle has been altered, with flooding becoming more frequent and severe.*

*The Trout Unlimited **Driftless Area Restoration Effort** (TUDARE) is founded on the good work of TU volunteers. There are more than 15 chapters within and around the region that have worked with agency partners to restore sections of approximately 60 streams in recent years. The rivers and fishery respond quickly and extraordinarily well to straightforward techniques to control erosion, reconnect the floodplain, and improve in-stream habitat. These efforts have only scratched the surface of the need and potential for the region, though, and demonstrated the potential positive impact from a regional restoration effort.*

*“TUDARE is helping TU advocate for strengthening national conservation programs such as the USDA Farm Bill Conservation programs and the National Fish Habitat Initiative.”*

As part of the **Mid-South Region** I want to tell you recently the good folks of the **Texas Guadalupe Chapter** of TU have supported this project financially, and that's an example of how we can be important for not only our local resources but be effective nationally as well. That's why we should be a part of Trout Unlimited in Missouri.

**Curt Morgret,  
Missouri National Leadership Council  
Representative**



### **Current River Trico Hatch**

There's still time to catch the trico hatch on the Current River. Make sure your flies are small and your tippet is thin. And, personally, after experiencing near hypothermia last weekend, I recommend not wet wading this time of year.

### **From Our Favorite Blog, [The Trout Underground](#):**

#### **Are Those Bamboo Tent Poles In Your Pocket, Or Are You Sustainable?**

by TOM CHANDLER

We're all about "green" here (our name probably should be the "The Extreme Sustainability Underground"), so when somebody comes up with a harebrained use for bamboo (which grows really, really fast), we're duty bound to report it.



That’s why these bamboo tent poles caught our eye – especially since they’re being aimed at the ultralight backpacking crowd, who – believe me – make fly fishermen look like dilettantes when it comes to gear.

From [the Gear Junkie](#): The plan is to bank on a bamboo variety called Tonkin cane, which is sometimes dubbed “steel bamboo” for its dense fibers and long sections between nodes. Working with an Alaskan fly rod maker, NEMO’s prototype poles — which I handled and flexed at a recent press meeting — click together like any typical tent pole and whisk into nylon sleeves to support a shelter that might be put to endure hurricane-force winds.

But initial tests at NEMO ([www.nemoequipment.com](http://www.nemoequipment.com)) give bamboo a green light for its strength and performance under pressure. “The benefits of bamboo are that it is lightweight, flexible and highly

elastic,” wrote Kate Ketschek, the company’s director of marketing, in an email interview. “Fishermen have been using bamboo for its strength and flexibility for over 100 years and NEMO believes that these benefits will correlate with the essential properties of tent poles.” Note the use of Tonkin Cane in the tent poles – the same bamboo used to make bamboo fly rods. Note also the fact that the bamboo pieces are hollow-built, though I don’t know if they’ve got dams in them or are hollow from tip to butt.

See you setting up the tent, **Tom Chandler**

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## Missouri TU Council Officers for 2008 – 2009

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Treasurer	Garry Teeple	
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