



Cross Currents

April 2010

April Meeting at D Rowes

April 6, 2010

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Regular Meeting

The program will be led by
Joel Vance

"The Perils of Trout Fishing: A humorous look at a trout angling career."

MARCH FISH

Slumped down in the passenger seat of Bill's smallish pickup I tried to expose maximum parts of my body to the sun coming through the windshield. The first Saturday of March offered up pretty much what you might expect for the time of year: off and on clouds with something that felt like warm weather when the sun was out and when it wasn't, chilly breezes that snaked down your neck reminding you spring is not official yet. We had to drive a bit, so I slouched in the seat soaking up warmth and UV rays while looking for the remaining patches of snow hidden in the gullies and shadows of the woodlots we passed on the interstate.

I promised to provide manual labor in return for the favor of an afternoon's fishing but I made no promises to quality or quantity of such labor. I don't think anyone had high expectations for me, anyway. Bill and Tim intended to burn off a field of cedars on their farm to create a small prairie that might provide home to a covey of quail and today was prep work for the burn. My job was to

squirt blue chemical on stumps of hardwood saplings that had been cut along a fire break so they wouldn't re-sprout after the fire.

The cedar stumps required no chemicals and they were easy to tell apart with reddish-purple heartwood and loose bark. The hardwood stumps had no heartwood, they were round and small and many hid under the slashed, fallen trees. I worked hard to get through the dense thicket of limbs and criss-crossed trunks where there was no wind and I got hot in my jacket and sweater. The chemical ran down the outside of the bottle turning my fingers blue and, when I wondered if it was a problem, I read the label, which suggested wearing "chemically-resistant gloves and eye protection." My enthusiasm waned.

On the way out to fish, we got stuck in the mud and Bill pushed while I drove (an arrangement agreeable to me) and with a little assistance from Tim's 4-wheel drive we unstuck the pickup and continued to Tim's house where there was a lake. Tim lives a bit off the main road in a two-story house flanked by a metal storage building. To the west is a structure that holds back a twenty- or thirty-acre lake and the dam continues to the northeast across a short gully creating a small pond between the lake and the house. The lake was still three-quarters ice covered but the south side was open out to the distance of a long cast.

Bill suggested I fish the pond with the warmer water and he fished the open water at the corner of the lake dam. Using a bright yellow, bead-head bluegill fly I fished off the pond dam and caught nothing for quite

awhile and then for a short time after that, too. Returning to where Bill fished I watched him hook something nice, which ended up being a good bass that flipped itself free about four feet from the bank. He suggested a white streamer, of which I had none, then gave me one, sent me back to the shallow end of the pond and said that would be best.

It was a bit like being guided and I didn't resist or feel proud. It was March and I was half-glad to be fishing but wondering if a nap would have been just as good. When I reached the shallow end, the water swirled and something left in a hurry relative to the coldness of the water. The sun came out and I stood in the shallow water in my rubber "barn" boots casting up the line of trees on the left bank. I worked to avoid the branches of a small tree hanging over the pond and I could see the house in the background, out of focus and immaterial. A deep retrieve stopped heavy and slow and when I set the hook it irritated a plodding, mulish fish, which finally came up and slopped around a bit until I could get my fingers on the lower jaw to lift it clear. A nice bass, maybe four pounds, fat with a slightly yellow color to the sides and bright red lines inside the mouth. The first fish of the year. The end of a long winter.

-- Curt Morgret

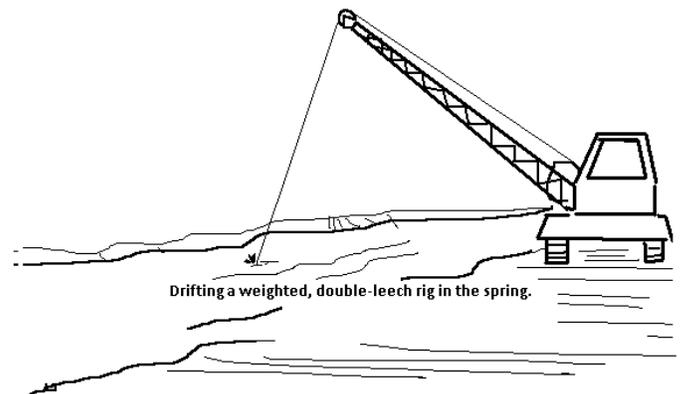
Our April Speaker

Joel Vance spent 22 years as an award-winning news and magazine writer for the Missouri Department of Conservation and has been fulltime freelance for 20 years, with two regular magazine columns as well as many articles. He has published seven print books, one book-on-tape.

He has been awarded all three of the top honors given by the Outdoor Writers Association of America—Excellence in Craft; its conservation writing honor, the Jade of Chiefs for conservation communication; and the J. Ham Brown

Award for service to the organization, the most prestigious OWAA honor. He is one of only three members in the history of the organization to be so honored. He also has been honored with the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Excellence in Craft award.

Vance is a past president, two time board member and board chairman of OWAA, and was the group's official historian for six years. He has won numerous writing contests over the years and has been featured in many magazines outside the outdoors field.



This charming little cartoon was slipped under my door by some guy who rang the bell and ran off. Any resemblance to any MMTU member is probably intentional...

Upcoming Programs:

April: "The Perils of Trout Fishing: A humorous look at a trout angling career."
- Joel Vance

May: Mike Siepker and Craig Fuller -
"Trout Habitat Survey and New Stocking Formula"

June: This is the annual "Hot Dog Burn" to be held at Bethel Park Ficklin Shelter on June 1 starting at 5:30pm.

July: No meeting

August: Mark van Patten - "Streamside Entomology"

International Master Angler, Gary Borger, Is Coming to Columbia

Purchase Tickets for Gary Borger Event

Renowned fly angler, Dr. Gary Borger, will be presenting to Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited June 12th. The presentations will be held at RADIL auditorium at Discovery Parkway.

Seating is limited to 75 people. After the April meeting, we will target sales to other clubs. To ensure a spot, order your tickets now by contacting Scott Gerlt (gerlts@missouri.edu or 573-256-9521).

Tickets are \$15 with Mid-MO TU members receiving a \$5 discount. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information on the event, please visit <http://www.midmotu.org/events/>. For more information about Gary Borger, visit www.garyborger.com.

Schedule

From 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Dr. Borger will present:

"Reading the Water" The tactics of finding, stalking, presenting the fly to, and hooking and playing trout in lakes and streams.

and

"Sight Fishing with Nymphs from Top to Bottom" Learn these amazingly easy and highly successful new tactics for nymph fishing that makes the process totally visual—just like fishing dry flies.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., lunch break.

Food can be purchased on site. From 12:00 to 1:00, Dr. Borger will be available for book signings.

From 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Dr. Borger will present:

Casting and Mending (weather permitting)

and

"Really Matching the Hatch" There's far more to matching the hatch than having the right fly; learn the underlying secrets for consistent success on big, selective trout during heavy hatches.

and

"Presentation" The many arts and sciences of fly fishing integrated into one cohesive strategy for consistent angling success; the tricks for finding and taking big trout.

5:00 p.m., dismiss.

May Meeting at D Rowes

May 4, 2010

6:00pm Dinner,

7:00pm regular meeting

Mike Siepker and Craig Fuller - "Trout Habitat Survey and New Stocking Formula"

Mid-Missouri 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 held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is **D Rowe's**, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m.

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