



Cross Currents

January 2012

NOTE: As of January 3, 2012 we will be meeting at the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. Dinner is at 6:00pm followed by the meeting at 7:00pm.

Jack's Gourmet Restaurant is on East Business Loop I-70 (across from east side Westlake's Hardware)

Upcoming Programs and Events

January 3, 2012: Spence Turner on "To Flaming Gorge and Beyond."

February 7, 2012: Jeff Trigg on Streamer Fishing

February 17, 2012: MMTU Conservation Banquet is Friday February 17, 2012 at Stoney Creek Inn. If you would like to help contact Michael Riley or John DeSpain.

Banquet Meetings To plan for our **Friday February 17th Conservation Banquet**, please participate in final Monday evening meeting at Riley's on 4625 Raccoon Ridge at 7pm on Jan 23rd. The purpose of our Banquet is to promote Fellowship, Fun, and Fundraising.

Deadline for the February 2012 issue will be January 20, 2012.

Call for Old fly lines: If you have old fly lines you are going to discard, please donate them to Michael Riley for art craft. 573-817-0631 or rileym@missouri.edu

Call for Photos: We would like to display fishing or fishing related photos during the banquet this year during the silent auction and whenever there is not another program in session. If you have any that you would like displayed (in addition to those submitted to the December photo contest) please send them to Scott Gerlt at gerlts@missouri.edu. This is your chance to show off that lunker that you caught.

Call for banquet items: If wish to contribute a basket or some auction item to our banquet, please contact Michael Riley (rileym@missouri.edu or [573-817-0631](tel:573-817-0631)) and deliver them to him by **Feb 10th**

Non porous soles, including felt soles, will be banned in Missouri as of March 1st, 2012. In part this regulation is invoked to reduce the propagation of the invasive species Dydimo, already found in the White River system. Please take appropriate action to protect Missouri's streams. Boots can be re-soled with vibram locally at Dawson's Shoe Repair, 212 South 8th St., Columbia for about \$60.

Wading Station Update: Andy Turner, MDC Fisheries Management Biologist, recently indicated that placement of a wading station to reduce dydimo will be placed at Greer Spring Access on the Eleven Point River in partnership with MDC, National Forrest Service, and long term MMTU partner and Guide Brian Sloss of Eleven Point Canoe Rental. Now that's a team.

Banquet: Here's a brief list of items available at our **Friday Feb 17th Banquet at Stoney Creek Inn:**

One week guided Alaska fishing trip for one at Goodnews River Lodge Wednesday July 25 – Aug 1, 6.5 days fishing for salmon and trout, board and permant tent accommodations, transportation to and from Anchorage included. (SEE Goodnews article by Jeff Arnold). Michigan Steelhead trip, guide Ron Barch and the Schrems West Michigan Chapter of TU, 3 days for two on Muskegon River in

early April (SEE MI Steelhead article by Bill Lamberson)

Paul Heine original Art, Lamberson bamboo rod, Bronze Sculpture, Sage 590-4 TCX 9' 5wt, Sage 3850CF reel, 5/6wt lines with sealed graphite drag and etched TU logo, Hook's Flies, One Night fishing at Taney with guide Leonard Keeney, Turkey Hunt with Dean Rapp, Casting Lessons with Scott Gerlt, and of course famous Grasshopper & Irish Whiskey Pies from kitchen of Margi Meyer. Tickets available to sale and for sale from Michael Riley, 573-817-0631 or rileym@missour.edu.



Great News from Goodnews River reported by Guide Jeff Arnold

The 2011 fishing season at Goodnews River Lodge may be over, but the memories are not. The King salmon run was about the same as last year (good) in spite of the average decline across the state over the last few seasons. The Chum salmon came in early with the Kings and lasted longer than I have ever seen it. There were a few Pink salmon (more than enough to close out the most grand slams we've ever had in one year) even though this was an odd year. The Sockeye and Silver salmon both returned in huge numbers, with the silver run lasting longer than the camp was even opened. The Trout fishing was as great as ever, especially on mouse patterns. As a matter of fact, in my 7 years experience guiding the Goodnews I have never seen better mouse fishing for trout. This was due in part to lower/slightly warmer water than normal. Even though the trout will slam streamers almost anytime, the water temperature must be over 38 degrees for them to even consider the mouse. Couple that with a few more sunny days than normal (which always makes them frisky) and you have the perfect criteria for days that the mouse out fished everything, including egg patterns behind spawning salmon! These same conditions also made for the most epic Grayling fishing I have ever had the honor to witness. This was the year that you could fish for trophy sized Grayling (18" and up) all day long on dry flies. The Dolly Varden fishing was great too, with a few bruisers over 10 pounds.



Now doesn't that sound great? Well, Goodnews River Lodge is donating a trip for one lucky angler to be auctioned off at the upcoming T.U. Banquet. It will be for the week of July 25 through August 1st of the 2012 fishing season. This is one of the first weeks that the grand slam (all 5 of our salmon species caught in one day) will be possible. The King salmon harvest season ends on the 24th, but that doesn't mean they are not still coming. Matter of fact, the largest Kings of the season (50 lbs and better) tend to come at this time, you just have to practice catch and release. The camp is located only 11 river miles from the bearing sea, so these fish will be fresh from the ocean which means chrome bright, full of sea lice and ready to fight. Chum and Pink salmon will be in the middle of their run, and this being an even year means that the Pinks will show in astounding numbers (what's the most fish you've caught in one day? You will beat it in one hour of Pink fishing). Sockeye salmon will be in and fresh. The fishing technique for these is a bit different, but it's worth spending half a day targeting them since this is probably the best salmon for "export". There should also be a few Silver Salmon coming in (also delicious), that will be hanging out in the same areas that the Pinks and Chums are. What about the Trout fishing you ask? I am one of the guides whom specialize in Trout, and as far as I'm concerned these "early" weeks of season are the best. The water temperatures are warming, which means higher metabolism and more eating. These fish have had a harsh winter followed by their own spawn, which leaves them hungry and driven. You will be catching a true predator that is hiding out to ambush its prey. You fish the "trouty" places with streamers and mice to catch some of the best trout on the planet. Later in the season the Trout will fixate on the eggs of the spawners on giant flats, which while still fun is no match to pulling them out of root wads and cut banks. These warmer temperatures also trigger hatches as one might imagine. The funny thing is that the Trout here are usually looking for large meals and ignore a good deal of the insect activity, but the Grayling are truly silly for dries. Many people have caught Grayling

before, but they are not usually of our caliber. On the Goodnews you have a real opportunity to catch the largest Grayling of your fishing career on a dry fly (the biggest will even hit the mouse). The last species to round this week out is the Dollie Varden. This is a sea-run species that flood in with the salmon to feed on their eggs. Even when there are no spawners on the flats, the Dollies go ahead take up residence there. I've heard it said that a good day Dollie fishing will make up for every bad day of Trout fishing that you've ever had, and I agree. The tackle and tactics are similar to that of Trout, except that the Dollies will fight one another to jump on your fly. The question with Dollies, like Pink salmon, is: 'how many do you want to catch in a day?'

CASTING CORNER © 2011

by Gary Eaton, FFF Master Casting Instructor.

PRESENTATION - Lots of words address this topic and most focus on too few aspects. Presentation includes not making noise in the water, not being excessively visible, having the fly arrive at the fish absent any evidence of the tether that connects it to the angler, delivery with a cast that neither excessively ruffles the air nor agitates the water. Also, like a well-played billiard shot, the delivery and follow-through must put the angler in position to hook and land the quarry.

A few years ago I accepted the honor to teach a private group for a well-known MCI. A question from that group illustrates this last point — "What are you thinking about before you start your cast?"

My answer, "Where is my back-cast going to go and what else occupies that place."

This fits into presentation because one cannot make the forward cast if the back-cast sticks in the trees, drops so low that the forward cast arrives with excessive *line crash*, or must begin reversal prematurely causing a tailing loop. The back cast remains the final step in preparation for presentation.

I just thinned my collection of casting books. Almost twenty titles went to the trash. To this moment I remain mystified at the sheer volume of totally incorrect casting mechanics, bad advice, and faulty assessment of casting errors that I see in-print, on-line, and in video (You Tube© promulgates the most extreme variability). It frustrates me when questions come to me that reflect the student giving credence to unregulated forums, chat rooms, and other moronic "expertise". If the advisor presents no objective credentials beyond having published, being a member of a forum, selling gear, or describing themselves as an experienced angler; question that advice.

Expert Master Certified Instruction alone, will not improve your fly casting; **practicing well & often**, that which you have learned, is required. - **Gary Eaton, MCCI** - contact me at doubledok@gmail.com

Winner of 2011 Photo Contest is Norm Crisp for his picture of a Little Piney Creek trout taken by Ethan Crisp on a cicada this June. Congratulations Norm!



Michigan Steelhead Trip by Bill Lamberson: The Schrems – Western Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited is once again generously hosting a Three-day steelhead fishing adventure. The Trip includes "guides" who are Schrems members and experienced in fishing for steelhead in the area. It also includes lodging in a beautiful cabin overlooking the Muskegon River. Transportation and meals are on your own, but it is a very pleasant trip. Michael Riley and I enjoyed the trip last year and as you can see from the photo, we were successful in getting into fish.



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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 and August. The regular meeting place is the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located on East Business Loop I-70 across from the east side Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO. June meeting is at Bethel Park. Meeting time is at 7p.m., but come early to chat and eat. Board meeting before hand.

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One of our significant costs is printing and mailing this newsletter. If you are willing to accept it by email, more of MMTU monies can be spent on conservation. Just send your email to rileym@missouri.edu to make the switch.