



Cross Currents

November 2012

Special Meeting for November 10th

Bill Lamberson and Ron Barch present "Modern bamboo – your granddad's fly rod" at Rock Quarry House, Rock Quarry Park off Grindstone, 12 - 5pm. They will go through the basic steps of building a bamboo rod blank from cane selection, splitting, planning and binding. They will also have some interesting rods for people to cast.

Upcoming Programs and Events:

NOTE: As of January 3, 2012 we will be meeting at the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. Dinner and conversation are 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)

Saturday Nov 3rd Catch a Trout: teach a novice some of the fly fishing basics:
10:00 am to noon: casting instruction at Bass Pro
Noon to 1:00 pm: break for lunch
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm: tie flies at Bass Pro
2:30 pm to 3 pm: travel to Bethel Park
3:00 pm to 5 pm: fish for trout at Bethel
More volunteers needed. Contact Scott Gerlt at [573-256-9521](tel:573-256-9521) or gerlts@missouri.edu

Tuesday Nov 6th, no regular meeting

Tuesday Dec 4th 7pm, regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet, Photo Contest. Photo must be taken by or include a MMTU member, promote trout fishing

or conservation, and taken in 2012. Submit up to three digital photographs to rileym@missouri.edu by Dec 2nd. Photo's will be judged by those in attendance at the Dec 4th dinner/meeting.

Friday Dec 14, 2012 Newsletter deadline. Please email submissions to hancock.denis@gmail.com. Microsoft Word format is preferred.

Tuesday Jan 8th 7pm, regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Ryan Verkcamp, guide, Fishing in Alaska.

Tuesday Feb 5th 7pm, regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Jeff Witten and Michael Riley on Fishing Opportunities at Goodnews Alaska.

Friday, Feb 8th 5:30. Conservation Banquet at Stoney Creek Inn.

Feb. 15-17, 2013: Mid South Regional Meeting in Sattler, Texas

Saturday, March 9, 2012 special meeting national speaker George Daniel

Dean Rapp is taking donations for the **Jerry L Case Memorial**. Make checks payable to: **MCHF** with Case Memorial in the Memo Field. Contact Dean at 573-268-5050 or Dean.Rapp@gmail.com.

President's Corner

By Michael Riley

I attended my first TU National meeting in NC this fall. Western NC has numerous small streams coming out of the Smoky Mountains that support trout, including several native brookies. TU is involved in numerous activities, so I will limit my comments, starting with the top three critical focus areas. 1)

Along with many other conservation groups, TU has been successful, thus far, in preventing the development of the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay Area of Alaska. 2) TU has led the way in reducing the number of Lake Trout from Yellowstone National Park. Although eradication may be impossible to achieve, restoration of native cutthroats is going well. 3) TU is educating members on gas and oil horizontal fracking practices so that production can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible matter. TU is also involved in the removal of dams which impede salmonid migrations. This promotes spawning habitat for native brook trout and Atlantic Salmon in the east and steelhead and Pacific Salmon in the west. On the conservation tour in NC, I saw how a local chapter is restoring riparian habitat in a heavily used park area through an Embrace-A-Stream grant. Many chapters sponsor Trout in the Classroom programs. All in all, it's impressive to see all the things TU is involved in.

Here at home our Stream Team survey in September of the Little Piney indicates the macroinvertebrate populations survived the drought. We'll be going again in the spring. This is a marvelous opportunity to learn your bugs. On Sat. Nov 3rd we are putting on a "Catch A Trout" clinic at Bass Pro and Bethel, to teach any novice some of the fly fishing basics. I encourage you to participate and bring a friend. On Saturday afternoon, Nov 10th you can learn about building your own bamboo rod at Rock Quarry House, with instructor Bill Lamberson and Rod Barch. Want to cast interesting rods?

Say Where?

By Richard Mendenhall

Where can you float in a drift boat for eight hours, and never see another single human being or even evidence of any human structure and catch wild trout?

Hey, I am not talking small wild trout. I am talking a 20" broad backed beautifully colored rainbow, a 16" bow and a dozen and a half other bows

averaging about 12" to 13". If you haven't caught wild trout that size before - they fight considerably harder and leap considerably higher than the "put and take" hatchery raised trout. Catching wild trout is high quality fishing and it's a thrill.

The river I am talking about is loaded with riffles, rocks, back eddies, and all kinds of excellent structure and deep pools. It even has plenty of places to get out of the boat and stalk fish.

The "rap" on this place is, "You won't catch a lot of trout but you'll catch quality trout".

I have spent over 15 years out west floating and chasing fish on the famous Madison, Yellowstone, Missouri, and Henry's Fork and rarely do I catch more than dozen to two dozen fish in a drift boat. OK, so maybe you catch more and I am not that good but I love every minute I am on the river!

So what is the big deal! Say where? The river I am talking about was right here in Missouri! It was my first time to fish the blue ribbon section of the Eleven Points River! Holy molly we were even catching these fish on stone flies. I have to honestly say I never expected that in my own back yard in our state!

Our guide was Brian Sloss. He owns Eleven Point canoe rental and he knows every inch of that river and where the fish are hanging out! He even has cool little houses in the city of Alton that he rents at a very affordable great price.

I just could not help myself. I was like a kid who had found a special secret hide out. Will I go back? Oh yeah! In the fall after school starts again and the people in canoes who float are gone. I will be there! They say it's the absolute most beautiful season to be on the river and you'll catch even more fish. Who cares about more fish? I just want to float and cast a fly into that gorgeous river again!

Oh, and when you are there take the hike down to view Greer Springs. The walk down the trail and seeing the spring soar out of the cave is pure rapture. It is zen like!

Many thanks to our MMTU president Michael Riley for introducing me to that river and who by the way caught that beautiful 20" rainbow! And it is safely back in the river waiting for you.

Greer Springs and the Eleven Point River are a very special place in Missouri where life is good!

On The Water, Again

by Denis Hancock

As many of you are aware, my health has been tenuous over the past several years, making it difficult for me to get out and hunt and fish. I have been able to get my health under adequate control over the past year or so, and my wife and I decided to take a real vacation, and spent a week in Montauk State Park. I have been buying my combination license every year along with trout permit and migratory bird permit whether I used it or not (and mostly not), but this year I waited until mid-August when I qualified for a low-coast Lifetime Conservation Partner permit.

I packed a 3wt and 5wt rod, the appropriate reels, tippets, and other accoutrements along with the fly boxes and vest, clothing and medical supplies, and we drove down to Montauk Sunday afternoon. We stayed in the lodge and got things organized for the week. Tuesday and Thursday were designated fishing days while Monday and Wednesday were hiking and sightseeing in the park and the local area.

We had some nice walks around Montauk Spring and Tan Vat and did a lot of bird watching and plant and wildlife photography. Behind the lodge was a mostly dead tree which seemed to attract Pileated Woodpeckers. I saw as many as three at one time in that tree. We spent a few hours watching a Belted Kingfisher working Montauk Lake, and watched a variety of different birds flying overhead.

I chose to fish the catch-and-release section of the spring branch above the stone bridge, since I am not comfortable yet with the idea of standing in the water. It was a really pleasant surprise to see what has been done with habitat improvement for this short section of stream. The last time I was there, the spring branch was much wider, the current slower, and the far bank was pretty bare of shrubbery. The most obvious improvement to the stream bed was narrowing of the stream which served to enhance the current and create some deeper holes. The far bank was planted in willow which provided good shade over the water. The current patterns in the deeper, slower sections were such that the portion adjacent to the near bank (where anglers are allowed) was flowing opposite to the rest of the stream, thus resulting in trout facing upstream in the middle and trout facing

downstream in the part closest to the anglers. This also made for a little more challenge in managing drift.

The trout were a little more wary than I remembered, but I suspect they have seen a lot of flies over the intervening years. Nevertheless, I managed to interest a number of trout in at least following my drifting fly, and four of them were fooled enough to take the fly. One spit the hook before I could see how big it was, but three 10-12 inch trout came close enough to release. I was getting a little tired of standing, so we called it a morning.

My Thursday outing started as early as we could get out there, and I decided that the 3wt would be more appropriate considering the trout caught two days previously. It was not long before I hooked a large fish, and when I got it to the bank (for the first time) I began to regret not having the 5wt. I tried to give it enough slack to spit the hook, but no luck. It ran again and I brought it in again as fast as I could, and got it on the bank where my wife was poised with the camera. After two or three quick photos, I released it. After a few seconds facing downstream (remember the current was actually moving upstream at that point), it gave a powerful flip of its tail and that was the last I saw of it. In retrospect, a 5wt would have allowed me to play it faster, and reduce the potential stress, but it worked out fine in the end.

After we dumped the images to the hard drive, I measured the rod to where the snout reached and this trout was an honest 18 inches in length. The tail extended about ½ inch beyond the butt, and the lobes were not pressed together as specified in the fishing regulations, so I decided to go for an "I Released A Lunker" patch. Unfortunately, when I told the hatchery guy where I released it, he informed me that fish caught and released in the catch-and-release areas do not qualify for that award – only fish released voluntarily where one COULD have kept it qualify. Oh well – I have the experience and the image to prove it and that is quite enough.

All-in-all I was quite pleased that I remembered how to tie a Pitzen knot to attach the fly to the tippet, and my casting was actually pretty good for being so far out of practice. Now that I have gotten my feet wet again, so to speak, I look forward to resuming the outdoor sports as quickly as I can do so safely.

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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 tide 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.