



Cross Currents

February 2013

Regular Meeting Tuesday, Feb 5th 7pm
At Jack's Gourmet
Jeff Witten and Michael Riley on "Fishing Opportunities at Goodnews, Alaska"

Upcoming Programs and Events:

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

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

Feb 22nd-24th. Conservation Federation of Missouri Annual Convention, Jefferson City, MO.

Saturday, March 9th, 9am to noon. Special meeting with national speaker **George Daniel**, head coach for Fly Fishing Team USA, fly fishing master and author, at the new Conservation Research Center on 3500 E Gans Road, Columbia, MO. Open to the public.

Tuesday April 2nd, 7pm. Regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Bob Sappington on "West Slope Cutthroats, Cheap and Easy"; the Couer D'Alene River in Idaho

Saturday April 20th. Introductory Level Water Quality Monitoring Workshop in Columbia (Stream Team), register by April 3rd. Find out about Missouri bugs that trout eat.

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

So, there it is, February 8, 2013, the 202nd annual Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited banquet. Well, it's been quite a few if not 202 – and all for good causes if you like to fish for trout in cold water with good habitat in Missouri and other places in the United States and support Casting For Recovery. This last year we gave money to National Trout Unlimited for Embrace-A-Stream, the national effort to support habitat recovery. In past years

we've provided money to places like the Three Dollar Bridge project in Montana and partnered with chapters in Colorado, Minnesota and Michigan on trips that also helped them raise money (with a little help from Bill Lamberson and his fine bamboo rods.) And you can't forget the way good conservancy projects in Missouri like the Bohigian Conservation Area and the Gable Tract on Mill Creek and the Goodman tract on Capps Creek and numerous habitat projects on our spring creeks including Spring Creek.

We've made a few friends along the way as well, and that's another good reason to come out and have dinner, warm up your bidding arm and have at it. Some folks come and go but I would place a small bet you'll see Spence Turner there, Dean Rapp, Michael Riley and maybe catch a glimpse of John Wenzlick. Have a beer, bid up a trip and go home happy and contented – I'll see you at the banquet. Curt Morgret

I often get ask what is MMTU about and what do you support? Here is a synopsis.

There are more than 1,600 TU members in Ozark Council in Missouri who work to enhance trout fishing opportunities and cold-water habitat. The largest active chapter is Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited (MMTU) in Columbia, Mo, which was founded in 1984. MMTU has worked with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) on both habitat improvement and purchases of land in critical cold water watersheds. Perhaps our most prized efforts have led to nationally recognized awards: In 1994 MMTU won the Silver Trout Award from TU National for habitat improvement on Spring Creek. In 1995 MMTU received a second Silver Trout Award for work to increase public ownership on Mill Creek. In 1996 the Mill Creek Management Partnership with Mark Twain National Forrest, MMTU was given an award for "Excellence in Riparian Management."

MMTU has made multiple contributions to Casting for Recovery and Operation Healing Waters which facilitate trout fishing for cancer survivors and military veterans respectively. MMTU has an ongoing effort to introduce trout fishing to youth through Kids Fishing Day, fly fishing and fly tying programs with Boy Scouts, presentations at "A Day with Wildlife," and events at Bass Pro Shop.

MMTU also has adult educational program by sponsoring open seminars of nationally renowned fly fisherman like Gary Borger and George Daniel (upcoming on March 9th don't miss it), and workshops, for example the recent workshop by Ron Barch and Bill Lamberson on bamboo rod building.

This past year we have partnered with MDC for the construction wader stations to disinfect the invasive species didymo on the Eleven Point River, and we are committed to several more on the North Fork of the White in the upcoming year or two. We have also contributed towards a handicap access station being built at Bennett Springs in honor of Jerry Case. MMTU has also contributed to TU's Embrace-A-Stream, a grant program funding grassroots conservation efforts of restoring coldwater habitat. We continue to donate rod/reel combo's to youth with follow up instruction and outings. And the list goes on. Michael Riley

There might be a few items at the banquet you can't be without. Here are some of them:

Panfish flies (144) tier Bob Hook
Colorado trip 3 days guided fishing trip for two rods hosted by Ken Neubecker
Dickerson 6611 bamboo rod built by Bill Lamberson
Bronze Sculpture "Generations"
Limited Edition MDC logo-75th Year TFO Lefty Kreh Professional Series-II rod 9' 4 piece, 5 wt
Lamson LS3 Reel (7wt)
Framed Picture "Until Tomorrow" Ed Totten
Jerry Case Dry Trout Flies (156) tier Bob Hook
Keys trip with Mike Gorton, two days guided fishing for two persons
VIP Tour and Wine Tasting for 10 persons at Les Bourgeois
Casting Lessons with Scott Gerlt
Renzetti Fly Tying Vise, gently used
Grasshopper & Irish Whiskey Pies by Margie Meyer
ScottA² 9' 8 wt. 4 piece with cordura tube, gently used
Big Nasty Streamers tier Brian Wise
Alaska trip at King Salmon - Four days guided fishing trip with Jim Young and four nights bed and breakfast at Blue Fly hosted by Patricia Edel. Minimum Bid \$2000

And more. Does it get any better? Come help us out.
Michael Riley

George Daniel presents seminars on his book **Dynamic Nymphing on Saturday, March 9th, 2013**, a **special meeting from 9 to noon** at the new Conservation Research Center on 3500 E Gans Road, Columbia, MO. Here's his bio.

George Daniel began fly fishing at age 6 while growing up in Potter County, PA and credits Joe Humphreys for the bulk of his knowledge along with many national and international fly fishing professionals.

George is a two-time US National Fly Fishing Champion and a former member of Fly Fishing Team USA.

Currently, he is the head coach for the NC Fly Fishing Team and is employed by the TCO State College Fly Shop.



George's passion is in fly fishing education, where he conducts lectures/seminars throughout the country. He logs over 200 days a year on trout waters near and far. George is the author of the best selling book, "Dynamic Nymphing" along with being published in Fly Fisherman and Fly Tyer magazines. George currently resides in Lamar, PA with his wife, Amidea and their two children along with their two golden retrievers that answer to the names Helios and Madison.

The State of Ozark Council TU

First of all I want to start saying that "The Ozark Council TU encourages any of its 1600+ members to come and support the Mid-Mo TU Conservation Banquet. This is the biggest fundraiser we have and the only Conservation Banquet held by a Trout Unlimited Chapter in 2013 to benefit Missouri's coldwater streams."

The state of Ozark (Missouri) Council, as you will now see it listed in Trout magazine, is better than it was last year. Thanks to the continued commitment of Phil Lilley the Branson Chapter is still alive and looking to continue to be a presence in protecting Lake Taneycomo, our only tailwater fishery. The Council met in December in Branson and the Chapter has a new set of By-laws streamlining operations with a fewer number of officers and is now officially re-chartered with National TU. If you are one of the 300+ members and have ideas of projects or programs you would like to help get done this year please contact Phil or one of the Ozark Council Board members (see contacts list in this newsletter). Also please contact Phil if you are willing to be a Branson Chapter officer; it is a two year commitment to being a champion of trout conservation in SW Missouri. I know some of you are helping local streams as Stream Team members; an active TU Chapter would add so much impact for the trout at the expense of only a small amount of your fishing time. Branson Chapter has focused on improvements to Lake Taneycomo and encouraging release of trophy trout (legal to keep over 20") in the C&R area.

Ozark Council TU goals for 2013 is to keep our state council alive by meeting TU By-laws requirement of two active chapters in the state. This allows us to keep funding the Coldwater Fund of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation set up to facilitate purchasing land on Missouri's only 200 miles of coldwater streams and enable them to become public trout waters. Thanks for your renewed support, commit to help out your local streams, and have a great New Year!

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CASTING CORNER ©2013 by Gary Eaton, FFF Master Casting Instructor

Watching Fly Fishing on Cable TV

Boy did disappointment rule my December survey across several outdoor sports channels! DVR capability put deeper analysis of fly-fishing shows in reach. Remaining rational about hundreds of hours of unique fly-fishing programming gains credibility when employing slow-motion, zoom, high-definition, stop-action, and zapping commercials.

First, the airtime ratio of "buy-this" messages to useful fly angling action remains 2-to-1, even on nationally syndicated "educational" program offered by a leading tackle seller. The presence of top fly-tackle advertisers outside of this single series continually underwhelms compared to non-fly equipment and destinations. Point - fly anglers represent an extremely small part of the fishing market.

Second, the actual skill demonstrated by show-hosts, guides and guests rises to mediocre, at best. In analysis of 500-casts and false casts in slow-motion I found a mere six loops formed with delivery of fly-lands-first presentations. The ubiquitous over-rotation permeated poor loop formation. Application of aerial mends to prolong drift in moving water or adapting to boat motion appears three times. Putting sizeable fish onto the reel instead of creating tangle-potential at the anglers feet, eight-times – including multiple saltwater angling situations where this becomes a safety issue. Missed takes by inattentive anglers occurred so often as to make me wonder why they escaped editing.

Third, casting instruction errors displayed by employed instructors represented a significant set of disinformation. Guides may not represent disciplined casters and self-appointed instructors may hold very flawed casting concepts.

A couple of pet-peeves I noted include: "... lower your cast so as to get under the wind." – Larry Pratt busted this myth more than a decade ago. One needs to place their entire casting loop within six-inches of the surface to experience any benefit as regards wind. I teach that loops must unroll just above the water to reduce the amount of *time* that wind may affect the cast. There simply is no such thing as "beneath the wind". AND - Double haul instruction that does not include significant "up-recovery" of the haul. The variability in loop shape and size during these instructional false casts should embarrass the sponsors, instructors & editors. Apparently they failed to notice. Also common seems careless shooting line without using the line hand as an "O-ring" to control length & prevent tangling. Please note that hauls must occur smoothly across the entire rotational portion of the cast. Delayed-rotation casting concepts suggest that this occupies a very small portion of the entire tip movement up to the all-important firm stop.

Finally, if you study the issues related to catch-and-release mortality, firm comprehension of time of air exposure, duration of play or fight, and futility of judging survival by strength of departure - should be at the forefront of your conservation brain. (See Mid-Mo TU March 2012 newsletter). Even allowing for the need to present catches for the camera, my DVR timer shows that fewer than twenty-percent of the landed fish re-entered the water in less than 30-seconds – the critical time of 36% mortality. Bonefish decline at 15-seconds exposure.

<http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/species/conservation/releasing-fish-right>

The countless times a guide approved of a "strong take-off" upon release indicating survival after these prolonged out-of-water examinations demonstrate the relative ignorance being promulgated in this venue. In fairness, a few programs used a good freeze-frame, fish picture to compensate for faster releases or unflattering camera positions. Very rarely did a truly large fish enjoy release under the thirty-seconds of gills-exposed-to-air. In fact, the habit appears larger fish, despite being most vulnerable to air-exposure, spent more timeout of the water - this duration correlated directly to the size of the fish. Long fights seem to be the rule for videographers. The number of prolonged after hook-set, playing times hovers in the 75% of televised catches. These anglers employed extreme tippet strength & large line weight, yet played fish to exhaustion absent rationale beyond more airtime to inflate their on-screen presence.

Sadly, this 31- day sample included dozens of nationally-recognized fly fishing authors & personalities. Sponsors included tackle brands we all recognize. So, I unsubscribed from the outdoor packages. My time may be better spent tying flies in February. The money saved goes to barbless hooks.

My instruction, alone, will not improve your fly casting; practicing well & often, that which you have learned, is required. - Gary Eaton, FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor - doubledok@gmail.com

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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.