



Cross Currents

October 2013

Regular Meeting for October

John Meyer will present on "Coldwater Fisheries: Other Aspects."

Upcoming Programs and Events:

Tuesday October 8th 7:00. Regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. John Meyer will present on Other Aspects of Coldwater Fisheries.

Sunday November 3rd 1:00-3:00. Trout Outing at Bethel with Scout Troop 13 (tentatively, stay tuned).

Tuesday November 5th 7:00. Regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Jen Gironde, MDC Fisheries Biologist, presents on Meramec Coldwater Smallmouth Fishery.

Tuesday December 3 7:00. Regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Picture Contest and Social. Please send this years digital pictures to Michael Riley at rileym@missouri.edu by November 29th.

Tuesday January 7th 7:00. Regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Jeff Witten presents on Fishing Colorado Headwater Fishery.

Nominations are being taken for 2014-2015 elected officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasure. We are also looking to fill Newsletter Editor and Web Master positions, so please volunteer for these duties. Please contact Michael Riley (rileym@missouri.edu) or Scott Gerlt (gerlts@missouri.edu).

Nominations are being taken for the Donati Award (chapter's most valued person) and Conservationists of the Year Award. Please contact Michael Riley (rileym@missouri.edu) or Scott Gerlt (gerlts@missouri.edu).

TU National is changing its website to include local chapter information. If you are willing to be part of a team that helps MMTU add content to it, please contact Michael Riley (rileym@missouri.edu) or Scott Gerlt (gerlts@missouri.edu).

Our conservation banquet is Friday Feb 21, 2014. If you have prizes or items you would like to contribute the banquet, please contact Tony Warren at tony.warren@dcinc.org or Dean Rapp at dean.rapp@gmail.com.

"I can fish all day long, every day, by myself. But it's nice to have someone to talk to when I come back to camp." An Old Friend of Mine.

My wife (wait, don't run away -- I'm not going to say anything bad about wives, spouses, marriage or anything like that) anyway, my wife said some time ago she didn't understand how guys fished together. She said, "You guys ride down in the car together, you get to the stream and then you don't see each other until the end of the day when you get back in the car."

Well, yeah. I can appreciate a lot of deep, substantial conversation on the car ride. The comparative virtues of waxy, chocolate donuts

versus beef stixs, the diameter of lead wire used on leeches, why there seem to be fewer browns and more rainbows in the Meramec these days and its always nice for someone to bring the coffee – and not that cheap stuff but the Kenyan AA brewed in the French Press. When I get to the river I want to fish not necessarily alone, but free. I'm not sure I want someone to provide any observations about my poor back cast when I'm fishing a heavy nymph with a beadhead dropper and extra split shot. Or comment when I wrap the beadhead dropper into an infinity of loops and twists around the leader and fly rod resulting in an hour of fly-fishing's version of a Rubik's Cube. Sometimes it's a relief to miss the third or fourth take in a row without commentary about age, eyesight or lack of coordination. Sometimes, not often, I hang my fly in a tree. And sometimes I go to lengths to get it back. Once on an unnamed spring creek in Missouri I climbed up the bank, then the tree, then hand-over-hand out onto the branch to pull a fly out. I'm not sure I want to explain to someone else that I did that to save a \$0.25 hook.

I get a certain peace of mind from sitting down in the gravel late in the morning with the sun beating on my back as I slide out of the vest, retrieve a bottle of water and attempt to unwrap a melted Kit Kat bar. Instead of conversation I can enjoy the electric blue damsel fly making its way along the dog bane and multiflora rose on the banks. Or watch a Kingfisher swoop down the river. Sometimes that's more why I went fishing than to catch a fish anyway. Well, maybe just as much reason.

But Paula has a point. It's good to have someone alongside occasionally. If you've just buried a Stimulator in your little finger while stringing up your rod it can be an advantage to give someone else the forceps while you gaze down the Frying Pan trying not to think about the pain to come. I've had friends loan me flies when my last Prince Nymph just broke off in the mouth of a 25" rainbow. And when the occasional 19" rainbow gets landed in the Eagle River you like to holler over at Jon Deal to brag a little.

Just don't expect him to come over later on and help when you bury a barbed Prince Nymph into your right thumb while the dropper is still hooked to a 10" brown trout.

In the end, the convenience of a good story is much better if there were no witnesses to the actual events because sometimes, just sometimes, the facts get in the way. Friendships are made for fishing trips, but friends don't necessarily fish together.

Curt Morgret

Getting Organized by Dean Rapp

I have finally accumulated more fly rods than a person with my mediocre fly casting skills should have. My collection is large enough that the closet door was difficult to open and close without a rod case or two falling on the floor. The solution I settled on was rather simple to create. In this month's tip I plan to provide you with enough information to obtain the idea of what I have created as well as a general idea of how you could build one yourself.

The contraption I built mounts to any flat, vertical surface. I have mine mounted to the side of my fly tying desk but it could have as easily been mounted to a wall or in a closet. In fact you could even make the unit free standing if you so desired.

I created two flat panels which you can think of as walls inside a closet. Between those walls I placed 3/4" dowel rods, two at the top of the panel and two at the bottom of the panel. You might picture a closet with 4 clothes rods, two at the top and two at the bottom. Of course there is no ceiling or floor in my unit, just side walls.

The panel (side walls) is approximately 8" wide by 15" tall and the horizontal distance between the dowel rods at both the top and bottom is approximately 3'. When mounted to a wall you can place a rod case behind the back dowel rod as well as one behind the front doll rod. I have my two piece rods at the back and my 4 piece rods in front. The length of the

dowels rods is the only limitation to the number of rods it will hold.



To keep the rod cases from moving from side to side I created dividers out of strips of wood which wrap around the dowel rods and are secured by a bolt on each side. I used wing nuts so the distance between dividers is easily adjustable. These strips were created by centering a hole in the middle of a strip of wood and a hole at each end for the bolts before ripping it in half so as to be able to place them around the doll rod.

I hope this gives you a general idea of how I've created this contraption. If you want more details or would like to see the unit in person you would always be welcome to stop by my house. With any luck the pictures will be worth the proverbial....1000 words.

Stream Team Survey of Little Piney report

by Brian Paige and Michael Riley

Michael Riley organized our trip down the Little Piney for Friday Sept 6th, 2013. The supporting

cast included Milt Barr, John Wenzlick and Brian Page. We observed debris way up on the fence wire along the stream, probably from the major flash flood in early August. Water flow was back to normal and water clarity was good, but considerably more silt and sand was captured in the sampling net than in prior surveys. The aquatic insects tallied considerably fewer species and fewer in count, less than two dozen, than previous surveys tallying well over hundred. I imaged no *Isonychia*, typically the most abundant mayfly observed on the Little Piney. There also appeared to be numerous decomposing aquatic insect bodies that disintegrated upon touch. The 4 crayfish observed seemed healthy and well fed. Overall, the experience left our group feeling a little flat.

Mark Van Patten indicated that a deep scouring flood can indeed disrupt the benthic community. It will likely repopulate the same area by late spring by a phenomena known as "drift" (bugs fly back upstream to lay eggs) provided substrate remains suitable habitat. One is also likely scenario is to see a shift in abundance of mayflies from flatheads to burrowers due to change in habitat. The decomposing insects we observed were probably nymphal shucks, which fall apart when one tries to pick them up. Late summer is also the time of year when most insects have hatch and the early stage instars are so small one is likely to miss them in the net.

Despite our initial dismay the Little Piney still score well (23 or excellent) and everything should be improving by late fall.



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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.