

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited  
<http://www.midmotu.org/>



# Cross Currents

November 2013

## Regular Meeting for November

Jen Girondo, MDC Fisheries Biologist, will present on "Meramec Coldwater Smallmouth Fishery"

## Upcoming Programs and Events:

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

**Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>** 7:00. Regular meeting at Jack's Gourmet. Jen Girondo, 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](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) by November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu)) or Scott Gerlt ([gerlts@missouri.edu](mailto: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](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu)) or Scott Gerlt ([gerlts@missouri.edu](mailto: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](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu)) or Scott Gerlt ([gerlts@missouri.edu](mailto: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](mailto:tony.warren@dcinc.org) or Dean Rapp at [dean.rapp@gmail.com](mailto:dean.rapp@gmail.com).

## Report from the TU Annual Meeting

Jeff Witten, National Leadership Council

TU National is in good shape, membership increased by 2,500 to 140,000. Gateway Chapter was an important part of that growth, this is good for MO. St. Louis now has almost 700 members. Good job!

MO needs a Chapter in KC. If you are interested in building a leadership team to charter a Chapter in KC, please contact our Council Chair, John Wenzlick at [jdwenzlick@embarqmail.com](mailto:jdwenzlick@embarqmail.com). There are 400 members in the area in need of Leadership.

TU's membership lags DU. National hired a Marketing Director from the Phil Eagles to improve our national presence. Check out National's new, interactive website.

I represented you at the meeting as your representative to the National Leadership Council. TU is a rare organization in that it is guided by us, the grass roots. The NLC has established eight Critical Focus Areas:

- Pebble Mine, Alaska
- Yellowstone National Park native fish
- Responsible Gas & Oil Development
- Upper CO River water withdrawal
- Hard rock mining issue
- State and Federal natural resource funding
- Good Samaritan protection for clean-up project
- Clean Water Act

To accomplish our Focus, the NLC has 13 Working Groups that meet monthly.

Contact me, Jeff Witten, for more info or interest at [MOtrout@aol.com](mailto:MOtrout@aol.com).

Also attending from MO were Warren Wallace, Conservation Chair from Gateway Chapter and Michel Riley, President of MID-MO Chapter.

Wisconsin impressed us with the restoration work of the Driftless Area that touches three states and puts opens many miles of stream access for us and improves farmers siltation problems. The area is within an easy day's drive.

My most notable takeaways were:

1. EPA is very likely to stop Pebble Mine, their new

Administrator was our keynote speaker.

2. Embrace-A-Stream revenues were down, MO now has a Representative to that Committee.
3. A new work group has been formed to address Climate Change.
4. National now provides grant writing support for our fund raising efforts.
5. MO needs a Conservation Project focus. Your State Council is addressing this.

## State of TU

Reported by Michael Riley

The first session at the National TU meeting is a business one, but the presentation from an energetic CEO Chris Woods on the State of TU was invigorating. Due to time restrictions Chris was only able to briefly describe about a third of the grassroots projects that are nearing completion. They involve diverse projects from mine mitigation and dam removal to riparian restoration and political involvement. I encourage all of you to watch Chris's address on a DVD I will make available.

One of TU's major goals is preventing the development of Pebble Mine near Bristol Bay because it is reasonable likelihood to contaminate the largest sockeye salmon run on the planet. Gina McCarthy, head of EPA, addressed this issue. She implied that it look unfavorable for development of Pebble but indicated that EPA's decisions will be science based (spoken like a true politician). The current partners for funding the Pebble Mine have currently

withdrawn, delaying its immediate development.

TU does not always take a strictly oppositional approach like some other conservation groups. One example is water rights. In one case TU members sat down at the table and respectfully listened to framers need for irrigation water. The landowners have the legal right to leave the headwaters of the Colorado River dry. The discussions lead to a creative solution, whereby TU provided a more efficient irrigation system that allowed two-thirds of the water to remain in the river. A win-win situation I would say.

## **Driftless Conservation Efforts**

Reported by Michael Riley

I attended the Conservation Tour at National meetings this fall in Madison. Once again I am impressed with all the restoration activity, this time in the Wisconsin Driftless area. The Driftless has experienced severe soil erosion due to previous farming and mining practices. Stream beds have become wider and shallower than typical natural streams. Banks are often steep with exposed dirt, ready to fall in with the next rain event.

Restoration typically involves bank stabilization, narrowing and deepening the stream bed for normal flow conditions and opening up the flood plain. Banks are pulled back in a V, the slope depending on soil conditions. We observed restoration in the southern portion. Box elders and willow trees with shallow roots system are

removed while indigenous prairies promoted. That seems counterintuitive since trees shade the stream and help keep water temperatures cool. This strategy can't be used further north in wooded areas, but works in the southern areas due to numerous springs along the stream, and the increased flows due to narrowing and deepening of repaired stream channels, both of which help keep water temperature cool. Overhead cover is provided in the form of lunger structures, which research shows increases the trout population by ten-fold per mile. We witness an electro-shocking of a small section on one stream; it's amazing how many fish these small streams hold. Grasslands are managed; including burning and managed grazing. Cattle crossing (riffles) are provided which effectively limit cattle intrusion into the stream. In one case where stream wandering had occurred, the natural stream path was restored using satellite imaging.

Funding is typically from multiple sources, and usually involves NRCS (Natural Restoration Conservation Services, part of the "Farm Bill") as a major component. Farmers and landowners in Wisconsin are progressively becoming earnest conservationists. When TU monies are leverage for restoration in Wisconsin, permanent easements for fishing access are required.

I attended a Driftless workshop two years back and observed some of the restoration efforts on Coon Creek then. This year I fished Coon and hooked some trout on that section. How sweet it is!

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited  
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## Mid-Missouri TU Chapter Officers for 2012-2014

President	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Past President	Dean Rapp	573-268-5050
Vice-president	Scott Gerlt	573-875-2033
Secretary	Tony Warren	573-433-1531ext2125
Treasurer	John Meyer	
Membership	Jim Washabaugh	573-893-3807
Web Editor		
Member-at-large	<b>open</b>	
Banquet	Tony Warren / Dean Rapp	
Resource	<b>Open</b>	
Program	Scott Gerlt	573-875-2033
Conservancy	Sam Potter	
	Bill Lamberson	
Newsletter Editor	Denis Hancock	573-442-3670 (home) 573-999-3848 (cell)

*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](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) to make the switch.**