



Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited

<http://midmissouri.tu.org/>

Cross Currents

MAY 2014

Tuesday May 8, 2014 Meeting
7:00pm at Jack's Gourmet

Mike Kruse, MDC Fisheries Biologist, retired,
speaking on "Fishing in New Zealand."

Mike Kruse will talk about his recent, month-long trip to New Zealand's North Island. He'll share some pictures of the scenery, the rivers, the big trout and stories of his adventure "down under." New Zealand is unequalled as a trout fishing destination with superb fly fishing, beautiful surroundings, and relaxed, English-speaking people. You'll also learn from Mike how to take your dream trip to New Zealand on a trout bum's budget. Don't miss this unique opportunity.



Tuesday June 3rd, 2014. Hot Dog Burn at Gordon Shelter, Stephens Lake Park, 5:30. Hot dogs provided. Please bring a side dish.

Tuesday October 7th, 2014. Dick Sellers of Tuckasegee Chapter out of North Carolina, on Fishing the Smoky Mountains.

New Newsletter Editor: Gene Kelly has agreed to become newsletter editor. As we transition, please send newsletter items to both Gene - gkflyfishing@gmail.com and Michael Riley - riley@missouri.edu.

President's Corner by Scott Gerlt

As I was out fishing for bass the other day, another angler came up to me interested in fly fishing. This often happens when fishing public areas. Many people are interested in fly fishing, but just don't have a connection to help show them the ropes. Fortunately, MMTU is implementing a program that will not only teach mentees how to fly fish, but set them up with their own starter outfit if they complete the program. This is a great way to create conservationists through angling education. June is our annual hot dog burn, assuming the snow is done by then. This is the first MMTU event I ever attended. This was a lucky happenstance as it is a meeting dedicated to socializing. The picnic tables are lined with great food as the conversation varies around fishing stories. Several rods are usually cast in the lawn and a lake is available to wet flies. If you have not made it to a MMTU event lately, I encourage you to come join us at Stephens Lake Park in June.

Mentoring Report by Tony Warren

“Let’s be clear----our ultimate objective here is to develop a next generation of conservationists.”

That philosophy statement was offered by MMTU Past President Michael Riley at the conclusion of a mid-March MMTU planning session that put the finishing touches on the new Mentoring program. With planning completed and the structure endorsed by the Board, MMTU’s Mentoring initiative moves from conceptual design to implementation. That means recruitment season is now open.

“Our mentoring program is fairly straightforward and has a lot of similarities to Trout Unlimited National’s youth program,” said Riley. “We’re looking to capitalize on an existing interest in fishing and the greater outdoors, and by connecting those prospects to and through MMTU, to help them develop not only skills to fish successfully, but also a passion for the conservation work that is the foundation of what TU stands for.”

Past President Riley will serve as the first Mentoring Coordinator and will be supported by a Mentoring Team, to be comprised of MMTU members who volunteer to support the effort. To date, the Mentoring Team slate includes Curt Morgret, John Wenzlick, Scott Gerlt, Tony Warren, Mike Kruse, and Dean Rapp. Coordinator Riley emphasizes that additional Mentoring Team members are needed, as the initial reception to the program is enthusiastic.

A unique twist to MMTU’s mentoring approach is that participation isn’t limited to the youth of the community. “I think it’s accurate to say that we’re targeting young people, but we’re open to having anyone of any age sign on as a mentee,” Riley said. “The scenario we expect is that a young person will have an interest, and that one or both of their parents would also have an interest in learning more, thus become mentees as well----and that’s fine with us.”

The essence of the mentoring experience is that mentees are asked to commit to participating in a minimum of six “experiences” in the course of a year. Options for those experiences include most of the activities that are already part of MMTU’s annual agenda, including

regular meetings, fishing outings, social functions, stream-side studies, fly-tying events, fly-casting lessons, the annual banquet, or special events. Of those six experiences, three are required to include fishing and at least one of those has to be in pursuit of trout.

After completion of the 2nd experience, MMTU will provide the mentee an annual membership in Trout Unlimited. After the completion of the sixth, the mentee will receive an introductory fly rod, reel, and line, compliments of MMTU.

With the Mentoring program now in the recruitment stage, Tony Warren made the first group presentation to the Hallsville Boy Scout Troop on April 14. “MMTU has enjoyed a long friendship with the Hallsville Scouts,” Warren said. “The troop has supplied the color guard for our last few banquets, and we’ve had some of our casting and fly-tying events in Hallsville and enjoyed strong participation from them.” As a result of the first offering, three scout s and four parents committed to the mentoring program, and others are reportedly giving it serious consideration. Warren stressed that there are several other youth-oriented groups targeted to hear about the mentoring opportunity, most of those being organizations that MMTU members have some association with. He added, however, that participation is open to the entire community, and it is hoped that all MMTU members will join in the recruitment effort.

“Our thought is that we’d like to have an annual mentoring class, with “graduation”, including awarding the fly rod and reel, happening at the annual banquet,” said Coordinator Riley. “But we’re not going to be so structured that a new mentee can’t join us in mid-year---new recruits will be welcome anytime.”

**To become a mentor or mentee please contact
Michael Riley 573-817-0631 or
rileym@missouri.edu**

A Gateway to Adventure by Curt Morgret

I looked at him and said 'What the hell is wrong with that?'" Jimmy Buffett
I remember as a kid chucking Jitterbugs into flooded timber with my spinning rod at North Sever Lake to catch bass, thinking there probably wasn't anything better I could do in my life at the time. I can still see the late evening solstice sun fingering between the trees and back-lighting the flying bugs. The light sparkled off the lake making my eyes water while I searched for an opening to cast between the bones of dead trees without hanging my \$1.99 lure -- knowing it was... so he just chose to live in a fantasy world and s the one and only and I was going swimming if it caught. I had no place else to be and the only time constraints came from darkness and hunger.

You gotta know this before I tell you about a conversation I had with Dean Rapp a couple of weeks ago. Mentioned only as a point of debate, I told Dean that when I hear people talk about fly fishing techniques, the more they sound like spin fishing for bass the less interesting they are to me.

Maybe you think I just said your girl (boy) friend is ugly. That may be true. But that's not the point. Dean's argument was at the other end of the "Dynamite ↔ Dry Fly" scale of fishing technique. Dean wants to catch fish. More. Bigger. Faster. That's ok and it fits in the realm of the blood sport debate. I think Jeff Bridges used to say he judged the success of the day by whether he caught enough for a dinner, even if he was releasing the fish. No doubt the origins of all fishing was to get dinner and if you aren't enjoying actually catching fish you might as well be taking photos or watching birds. Not that those are bad ideas, either, but while I'm ticking people off I like to reach beyond my usual circle of fishing friends.

There are a lot of weirdo's out there in the world and I may be one of them. The older I've become the more I've decided to fly my own flag rather than make excuses for it and my wife is here to back that up while she

pours herself another mother's helper to get her through this marriage. When I started fly fishing I may have been the only kid in my county using a fly rod, but it was fishing, so nobody called the authorities to have me tested for mental imbalance. I fished across the street in John Witte's pond catching a lot of stunted bluegill, crappie and some bass on hot, sweaty summer days using a level line and an old Medalist-look-alike reel.

The goal at the beginning was to get the line in the water without a bird's nest of leader and not snagging the barbed wire fence on the bank behind me. The dream, the ideal, the pinnacle, however, came from the pages of Sports Afield with photos of high mountain streams in cool, dry air with clear water, solitude and a sense of true adventure beyond the weedy, muddy ponds for watering cattle that I was more closely acquainted with.

Fly fishing, for me, has always been and remains a gateway to adventure. Let's throw in an old Defender 110, a Model 70 Winchester and a floatplane and the picture starts to complete itself leading to, quoting Robin Kruse, "sleeping on the ground and eating bad food." In my mind a fly rod, a beat up reel, a box of Royal Wulffs with various colors of floss (I like orange) take me somewhere that is wild, ungoverned and just a leetle dangerous even if the reality is mostly the danger of food poisoning from the suspicious deli meat in the cooler.

So, the thought of techniques and equipment more resembling a bass tournament go a different direction than where I'm headed. That's ok. Everybody gets their own choice and I don't pretend mine is any better. But when you look into the back of the room and my eyes are glazed over, don't nudge me awake because I'm probably setting the float plane up on final approach into the little puddle targeted as a landing area with cargo of a backpack, travel rod, leaky camp stove and uncounted energy bars containing enough calories to fuel a moon shot.

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited
500 Overland Ct.
Columbia, MO 65203

Mid-Missouri TU Officers				<i>Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July and August. The regular meeting place is in the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located on East Business Loop 170, across from the east side Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO. June meeting is at Stephens Park. Meeting time is at 7p.m., but come early to chat and eat. Short business meeting before hand.</i>
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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.