



Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited

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

Cross Currents

March 2015

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Monthly meeting of MMTU on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, Columbia, MO.

March 3- Fishing the Arkansas Headwaters in Central Colorado – Preston Larimer

March 7 - Trout Unlimited Mid-South Regional Meeting, Branson, MO.

Lodging: Chateau on the Lake – 888-333-5253. \$129/night. Ask for TU discount rate.

Registration: \$35 includes:

- .All seminars & workshops on Saturday
- .Breakfast & lunch on Saturday
- .Barbecue dinner Saturday night

Arrive March 6 for an optional day of fishing.

Saturday April 11th, Little Piney Stream Team Survey. 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Meet at the AC/Hwy 63 commuter lot. We will survey the biological health of the stream using macroinvertebrates, a real eye opener for beginners new to fly fishing. Bring drinks, sack lunch and rods for little bit of fishing. Contact Michael Riley at rileym@missouri.edu or 573-808-4828 so we know you are coming.

President's Corner by Scott Gerlt

Another banquet goes down in the history books. Despite dismal weather, we had an amazing turnout and had our highest gross in several years. There was some concern about

having enough seats even though freezing rain was coming down outside. Thank you to everyone involved, especially banquet committee chairman Curt Morgret.

On a related note, please be sure to support and thank the banquet sponsors. The banquet would not be possible without them. As a result, we wouldn't be able to financially support coldwater conservation. We are blessed to have many great supporters, but not everyone we ask for a donation says "yes". In fact, one of the largest names in fly fishing is reluctant to give to local groups. Please let our sponsors know that we appreciate their support.

The awards presented at our 30-year celebration were as follows:

Donati Award: Our Chapter's highest award is the Nello Donati Award, named in honor of a founding member of MMTU who strongly supported youth activities. The 2014 Donati Award went to Bill Lamberson. Bill was recognized for his long and generous contributions of time and resources to Trout Unlimited. In addition to serving at the National level as a reviewer of Embrace-A-Stream grants, Bill has served the local chapter in various capacities including being an active officer on the board of directors. Perhaps Bill's most notable contribution is the bamboo fly rods he builds and donates to the MMTU Chapter for auction at the annual banquet. Through the years Bill has contributed approximately 50 fly rods at an estimated value of \$70K. Clearly, Bill

is a very deserving recipient of the 2014 Donati Award.

Conservationist Award: This award recognizes an individual or organization for exceptional accomplishment towards the preservation of our natural resources. This year's recipient is Michael Riley. Michael has been leading stream monitoring trips to the Little Piney for many years. He has recruited many people to help and trained them on monitoring stream quality including aquatic entomology. Michel is also the recent past president, and banquet committee chairman. Michael has recently created a mentorship program to help inspire a new generation of conservationists.

Mentee Program: Matt Richard was the first Mentee to complete the six activities of MMTU's Mentee Program. He was the only mentee to participate in the Little Piney Stream Team Survey and trout fishing opportunity. Matt received a Sage combo at our recent banquet. Several others mentees are near completion.



Dean Rapp, Scott Gerlt, Matt Richard, Michael Riley

Missouri Legislature: There are a number of proposed bills in the Missouri Legislature which could have major impact on MDC and conservation in Missouri, including funding. A

good summary is found on the Conservation Federation of Missouri website:

<http://confedmo.org/programs/legislation/acton-center/>

Preston Larimer – Biography

Preston Larimer first picked up a fly rod in 1978, and has fished ever since. Experienced both in freshwater and tropical salt water, he is also skilled in fly tying. He is professionally trained as a Wildlife Biologist, and has taught natural resources, environmental education and biology on both the college and high school level. He is also a skilled naturalist and birder. After learning fly fishing on eastern and Midwestern trout and steelhead streams, he guided in the Ozarks and in the Medicine Bow Mountains in Wyoming with Streamside Adventures. He has fished the Arkansas Headwaters for the past 20 years and now guides for Arkanglers in Salida and Buena Vista, Colorado, where he spends over 125 days a year on the water.

Fishing the Arkansas Headwaters in Central Colorado by Preston Larimer

Flowing past the highest peaks in Colorado, few rivers in the country are as complex as the headwaters of the Arkansas. Starting in the mountains near Leadville, Colorado, it meanders through sub-alpine meadows at 10000' above sea level before it begins to cascade through pocket water above and below Buena Vista, including the famed whitewater of Brown's Canyon. The river flows through open ranchland above Salida before dropping into the high desert of Bighorn Sheep Canyon, dropping over 5000' of elevation before reaching Cañon City, 120 miles downstream. Recently, most of the headwaters above Royal Gorge, from Lake Fork below Leadville, to Parkdale, a distance of 102 miles, was designated Colorado Gold Medal Water, doubling the amount of Gold Medal water in the state.

In addition to the biological and elevation changes, a number of other factors affect this stretch of river. It is a freestone river, with no dams above Pueblo. However, inter-basin

transfers of water from Colorado's West Slope to the Front Range cities greatly influence the fishing. Along this stretch of river is the most popular whitewater in the country, rafted by over 100,000 people each summer. Despite these numbers, fishing the river can still be a solitary experience, as over 60% of the Gold Medal water is accessible to the wade fisherman and the entire length can be floated.

Newsletter To Go Electronic

Our monthly newsletter will transition to delivery via e-mail using the company Constant Contact. We hope to complete the process by June. You may need to adjust your email settings to accept these e-mails. Please make sure your preferred email address is current at TU National. You can update your profile and e-mail address at www.tu.org. You may receive both print and/or multiple email copies during the transition, inform us and bear with us. We realize some of our members don't have email capabilities so a print version will remain available by contacting Michael Riley at 573-808-4828.

Introductory Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop. Sunday, May 9th, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., MU Extension, 4H Center for Youth Development, 1110 S. College Avenue, Columbia, MO. **Register by Wed., April 22.** http://www.mostreamteam.org/Documents/VWQM/Intro_Schedule.pdf

Louisiana Red Fish Trip by Sam Potter

November and December is an excellent time to find large male Red Fish in Louisiana. A friend of mine, Brandon Keck, (www.Southernflyexpeditions) whom I taught to fly fish, is now guiding fly fishermen in Louisiana. He works out of New Orleans and concentrates on the marshes of the Mississippi delta. We took about an hour boat ride to get to where the fish were each day.

He has been inviting me down for a few days of fishing for the past couple of years. I finally caved in, he really had to twist hard, and started making my plans back in August.

This was my first fly fishing salt adventure so I didn't know what to expect. I didn't have a fly rod large enough for the fish we were after, but no worry Brandon would supply everything. The drive down took me about 11 hours, I think I can make it in 10 next time, since I know a lot more about the route and the places to stop for gas and a break.

The first day was the best day of the trip and the last day was the slowest. We decided to not fish the fourth day since the wind and tide were going to be all wrong. Yep the tide has more to do with fishing than I realized... so a lesson learned. Planning the exact dates too far in advance could mean the difference between fish and no fish. Just about the same thing happens with steelhead trips.... if you can get there when the fish are there you have a chance to haul some in, if not you just get to make a long road trip and see the sights



I put 14 of these guys in the boat in three days. The largest was 32 pounds and a half dozen were in the mid 20s. The rest were about 8 to 17 pounds.

I tied some flies for the trip, but they proved to be too bulky and were very difficult to cast, even with a 10 wt. rod. Casting a bulky fly in the wind is no joy. So it was necessary to use the flies that Brandon had. I only used two flies for three days of casting. The one fly I lost was hung up on a misplaced crab trap that was buried halfway in the sand.

The following link is to a YouTube video I made on the trip to give you an idea of what a day was like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-G7xLM-elk&feature=youtu.be>

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Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located at 1903 Bus. Loop 70 East in Columbia, MO. The June meeting is at Stephens Park, 2001 E. Broadway. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m., but come early to chat and eat. A short business meeting precedes the program. There are no meetings in July and August.

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.