

## Rapp, Dean (ICA)

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**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 11:23 AM  
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# Cross Currents

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November 2015

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Norm Crisp guides Jeff Witten fishing for Cutts  
in Wyoming

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### Notice: eNewsletter Editor Wanted

**A volunteer to assemble our Newsletter on ConstantContact is needed. No special computer skills or article writing required.**

**If you can help, we can train.**

**Contact Michael Riley at [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) or 573-808-4828 or Scott Gerlt at [gerlts@missouri.edu](mailto:gerlts@missouri.edu) or 573-256-9521.**

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### Meetings and Events

**Tuesday November 3, 7:00pm MMTU Monthly Meeting at Jack's. Jeff Witten will talk about the National TU Meeting "State of Trout" held in September, his**

meeting with Congressmen, concerning the EPA [Clean Water Act](#), and his trip to Wyoming for a [Cuttslam](#) with guide Norm Crisp, who will be in attendance. We will also be voting on [Funding Conservation Projects \(see President's Corner\)](#) and hold elections of new officers.

**Tuesday December 1, 7:00pm MMTU Monthly Meeting at Jack's. Social and Photo Contest.** Submit up to a 3 digital photos by Nov 27 to [gerlts@missouri.edu](mailto:gerlts@missouri.edu). Photos must either be taken by MMTU member in 2015, or include a MMTU member, and promote trout fishing or conservation. Photos will be judged by those in attendance and may be used in the slideshow at the banquet.

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## President's Corner by Scott Gerlt

Several items have been brought to our club for funding. We plan to vote at our November meeting about what to fund and how much. Below is an outline of the proposals:

\* Horse Trail/ATV repair on Current River: Unfortunately this project is still on hold waiting for still more decisions from the National Park System to determine where horse trails are to be located. Sam Potter is being persistent .There is more evidence of bushwhacking horse trails even in the Blue Ribbon section near Baptist Camp.

\* Colorado stream fixture: When several days of heavy rain caused devastating flash floods between September 11 and 13, 2013, the town of Lyons, Colorado, suffered some of the worst damage. At the height of the floods, the town was completely cut off and largely evacuated. As of September 28, 2013, the community still did not have running water and vehicle access was limited. The town was hard hit: Lyons sits at the base of two canyons. Two creeks-South Saint Vrain Creek and North Saint Vrain Creek-flow down the canyons and meet in the center of the town to form Saint Vrain Creek. When the rains fell, the canyons funneled water into Lyons. Many of us have fished the Saint Vrain, or in Rocky Mtn National Park or want to in the future. Mike Clark, Rod Maker in Lyons, helps to host annual Conclaves to raise funds for TU. 100% of the funds the Conclave raise go to St. Vrain Anglers Trout Unlimited for the St. Vrain Creeks surrounding the Town of Lyons.

\* TU 1,000 Mile Campaign: Orvis is matching funds donated to this program to repair and replace poorly constructed culverts. From Orvis' website: "Help the Orvis-Trout Unlimited 1,000 Miles Campaign reach its goal to reconnect 1,000 miles of fishable streams by repairing or replacing poorly constructed culverts throughout the U.S. Culverts are significant impediments to fish passage and survival-just as significant as a major dam-but the solution is dramatically simpler. Many need to be removed or modified, the cost is minimal, and the overall impact to many watersheds is significant. Funds raised by the Orvis-TU 1,000 Miles Campaign will go toward the engineering and removing of culverts, with the goal of reconnecting over 1,000 miles of fishable habitat. Presently, there are projects that involve culvert improvement or removal on Indian Creek, WA, Otter Creek, UT and Moose Run, VT to name just a few." For more information, visit [http://www.orvis.com/s/commitment-tu-1-000-miles/11061?dir\\_id=31746&group\\_id=31748&cat\\_id=32140](http://www.orvis.com/s/commitment-tu-1-000-miles/11061?dir_id=31746&group_id=31748&cat_id=32140)

\* Embrace a Stream: Embrace a Stream is the oldest of the grass roots programs of Trout Unlimited. EAS provides up to \$10,000 in matching funding to chapters for stream improvement and chapter development projects. EAS awards about \$130,000 per year, funds provided nearly entirely by individuals and chapters. The funds awarded each year represent only about 30% of that requested. All contributions to EAS go to projects, overhead is covered by funds from other sources, so contributions benefit our peer chapters. Projects are funded in the driftless area, Colorado and Wyoming each year, so we all have probably fished on streams touched by EAS projects.

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### **TU Advocates for the Clean Water Act in DC by Jeff Witten, Ozark NLC Rep**

I had the opportunity to visit Washington DC with TU last week. The purpose was to advocate for the Clean Water Act with MO Senators and Representatives, the EPA and the White House's Council on Environmental Quality. The Act is 43 years old.

But our waters are not as well protected as they once were. A decade ago, two controversial Supreme Court decisions cast into doubt Clean Water Act protections for smaller streams and many wetlands associated with those streams.



Since that time, thousands of pollution incidents-from oil spills fouling creeks to manure leeching into lakes-have gone without adequate investigation or enforcement. In addition, the rate of wetlands destruction shot up immediately in the wake of these unfortunate court decisions.

The current state of affairs is a risk to our drinking water. Almost 40% of people in MO get drinking water from the types of streams that are now not clearly protected by the Clean Water Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers recently finalized a rule that did exactly what the Supreme Court justices had asked: The agencies looked carefully at the science, held hundreds of stakeholder meetings and ultimately drafted a clear and enforceable rule that would restore Clean Water Act protections to most of the streams and wetlands once protected by the landmark law.

Unfortunately, this commonsense rule has come under intense fire from industries that benefit from the current legal uncertainty: industrial agriculture, real estate development, mining, and oil and gas.

These industries have orchestrated a deceptive campaign to spread fear and confusion about the new rule-and they have had success at finding allies on Capitol Hill and in Jeff City.

But the American people are not confused. One recent poll found that 83 percent of hunters and anglers-one of the most conservative constituencies in the country-support applying the Clean Water Act protections to smaller streams and wetlands.

The general public is similarly supportive of the rule. But the rule is in a tough fight on Capitol Hill, where the House voted to nullify the rule before the public had even been given a chance to comment on it.

Groups like Trout Unlimited, the National Wildlife Federation and River Keepers are working overtime to educate Congress about the benefits of the rule. I recently had the opportunity to discuss the need for this rule with some of MO's representatives in D.C. I was proud to add my voice to the nearly 900,000 Americans who have spoken out in support of protecting these streams and wetlands.

This rule is a simple way to protect our drinking water and our rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. Those who oppose it-in the courts or on Capitol Hill-are essentially just hoping that the public is not paying close attention. Make sure Senators McCaskill and Blunt know where you stand by giving them a call today and telling them you support the clean water rule.

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## Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited Officers

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## Meeting Place

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, except for July and August. The regular meeting place, except June, is in the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located on East Business Loop I70, across from the east tide Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO.

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