

MID MISSOURI chapter

Trout Unlimited



April 89

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The past month has been a very busy month for most of us and looks kind of like this busy streak will continue for a while. We have completed three days and two nights at the Sports Show, our annual banquet, and a first clean up of the highway. We were saved from being totally overcome by the fact that the tree planting was postponed indefinitely but also I feel sad that this has created a delay in the restoration program. There will be several chances to work on the stream this summer with the installation of in stream habitat structures and surely the weather will not stop this work.

I was very disappointed with the turn out at the banquet. It was a very difficult task to plan and implement the banquet and it was to be our major fund raiser for the year. With a turn out of only 21 we suffered a loss on the banquet which will be hard to overcome. If we pull together and can establish a good raffle at each meeting and a few donations, we should manage to survive the year.

Garry Teeple

MONTHLY MEETING--TUESDAY, APRIL 4

This months meeting will be a continuation of last months fly tying instructions and practice. All members are encouraged to bring their tying materials and tools. If you have a favorite pattern that you tie well, would like to learn how to tie a specific pattern or learn any special techniques, this is the time to be there.

DAY WITH WILDLIFE

Again this year, the Missouri Department of Conservation is sponsoring the Day with Wildlife program at the Columbia American Legion Post 202 on Route WW. Last year over 1500 people attended this event and it is expected to do at least as well if not better this year. The Department of Conservation has requested that we again have a booth which we have agreed to. It is scheduled for April 9, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Mark your April calendar now and plan to help.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

The stretch of Highway 63 between I-70 and Rt. WW is now clean enough to dine from thanks to some dedicated trout trashmen. On Sunday March 19th, our first trash pickup was made on our newly adopted highway. Thanks to everyone for their time and energy on our first cleanup endeavor.

A plaque was presented to Trout Unlimited on March 8th from the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department for our agreeing to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

SPORTS SHOW UPDATE

The Bass Anglers Sports Show was a great success for our club and a great opportunity for us to meet new people and show the community that we exist and are trying to make a difference not only in stream restoration but through our Adopt-a-highway we are also doing something for the local community. A big thanks to those who gave their time to work those three days and make it a success. For those who could not make it, our booth consisted of a slide show on Spring Creek featuring local members involved in hard labor and beauty of Spring Creek, fly tying instructions, fishing information, a newspaper clipping from the recent Tribune featuring Ed Sullivan, and the plaque honoring Ed as Trout Conservationist of the Year. There was quite a bit of interest in our organization and hopefully there will be several new members.

TROUT UNLIMITED PHILOSOPHY

We believe that trout and salmon fishing isn't just fishing for trout and salmon. It's fishing for sport rather than for food, where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the lure, and the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel. It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit. It's communing with nature, where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use-not abuse, to enjoy-not destroy, our coldwater fishery. It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout and salmon is good for fishermen and that managing trout and salmon for themselves rather than for the fishermen is fundamental to the solution of our trout and salmon problems. It's appreciating our fishery resource, respecting fellow anglers, and giving serious thought to tomorrow.

FLY TYING

Art Flick's Gray Fox Variant

Art Flick was one of the Catskill giants of fly fishing, and the Gray Fox Variant was his favorite fly. Although a fly of this name was originally listed in Preston Jennings' A Book of Trout Flies, Art's improvements really changed the fly to a completely different pattern. In his Streamside Guide, Art lists the pattern as an imitation of the eastern green drake, but I really think this was just an excuse to list the fly in a book devoted to classic eastern mayflies and their imitations. In nearly all Catskill waters the green drake is not an important hatch, and Art was more prone to use the fly as a general searching, attractor pattern, the way many anglers use Wulffs, Irresistibles, Humpies, and the like. Properly tied, the Gray Fox Variant floats as well as any of these hair flies, is much easier to tie, and really catches fish, from coast to coast.

Variant flies are simply wingless dry flies with oversize hackles several fly sizes larger than standard (e.g., a size 14 variant would have about size 10 hackles). The key points to properly tying these flies are to use good stiff hackles and to keep the hackles back a little from the hook eye to prevent the fly from landing on its head. The dressing for Art Flick's Gray Fox Variant is:

hook: standard length dry fly
tying silk: primrose (light yellow)
tail: ginger hackle fibers
body: stripped ginger hackle quill
hackle: three hackles mixed: dark
ginger, grizzly, ginger



The hackle color terms "ginger" and "dark ginger" are used here in their classic Catskill sense. Ginger is a golden color with no hint of reddish brown, essentially what Metz sells as "light ginger"; dark ginger is a light reddish brown, close to what is typically classified as "sandy brown" by Metz. To tie the fly, first tie in the stiff tail fibers, longer than standard to match the oversize hackle. To make the body, select a long hackle from the top of a ginger neck, strip off all fibers, and soak the quill well in water, overnight if possible. Tie the quill in by the tip and wind forward about halfway up the hook shank; the quill should create its own naturally tapered body. Next, tie in the three hackles and wind them forward in standard dry fly style, one at a time, bunching and intermixing the three colors as much as possible. Art always insisted the fly worked best when he wound the dark ginger first, the grizzly second, and the ginger last. The hackles should be set back a little from the hook eye. Whip finish, and after the quill body is thoroughly dry, apply lacquer not only to the fly head, but to the body as well. Illustrations of this fly can be found in Art Flick's Streamside Guide and his Master Fly Tying Guide. The Streamside Guide also contains dressings for the Cream Variant and Dun Variant, productive flies in their own right.

Good tying,
Terry Finger

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1989 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

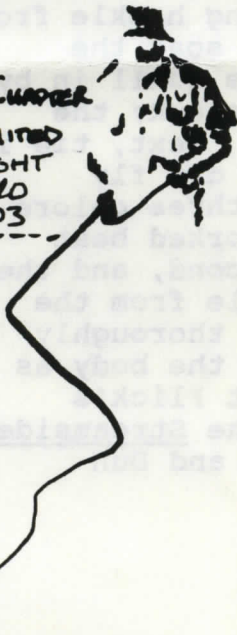
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