



Mid-Missouri Chapter Trout Unlimited



August 1997

President's Message

by Curt Morgret

I gripped the steering wheel tightly and stared through the windshield with bloodshot eyes. I hate driving the section of Highway 63 from the Osage River to Rolla – it's a gauntlet of bad road and bad drivers. There hasn't been a more dangerous travel route since the Pirates of the Caribbean sailed the Spanish Main. Any number of threats await the unaware driver: Cars passing on double yellow lines, hills hiding slow-moving farm implements and weekend Lake traffic heading back to St. Louis.

Meanwhile, oblivious to the drama happening on the driver's side of the truck, Charlie fumbled with his old Brownie Automatic camera.

"You know how to load film into one of these things?" he finally asked. "I forgot how to open it."

I glanced sideways at him and read the peaking frustration level in his face. "Charlie, you know you can buy a decent camera for less than a hundred dollars? Why're you screwing around with that old thing?"

"Cause that's a hundred dollars I could put towards a travel rod. I'd love to have a Winston. Eight foot, five weight, three pieces. Besides, I can use this camera real good. You ever see my vacation pictures from Florida?" Charlie's brow relaxed and I could tell he was starting to reminisce about the time he went to Florida and caught a tarpon. I quickly tried to think of

something to say or risk getting flogged by his vacation stories again.

"You haven't used that camera in years. Why'd you bring it this time?" I asked. We had just begun one of our standard "half-day" trips to Mill Creek. You know the kind: leave at noon and return at midnight. Charlie never brought a camera. It was bad karma. You don't catch big fish when you bring a camera. Moreover, he always asked if you were there to fish or take pictures?

"Didn't you see the sign in the fly shop?" Charlie asked. "Our T.U. chapter's got a photo contest and I'm planning on winning. First place is a Ross reel and I need it for my Winston travel rod." He continued to turn the camera over and over looking for some secret latch. From my side of the truck, it looked like someone wiped the camera lens with sandpaper.

"Yeah, I saw the sign." I replied. "Only, I'm not much of a photographer. Most of my pictures it's hard to tell who's in 'em. My camera only works from the neck down."

"That's no reason. Ain't no entry fee. It won't cost anything except for film and developing. And there's always an outside chance you could come in second or third." Said Charlie, thinking the judges already picked one of his entries for first place. About that time the film door on the Brownie flopped open and he clumsily stuffed a role of film in the camera.

Charlie sat quietly for a moment studying the camera then slowly turned and asked, "You got any extra batteries?"

Newsletter Editorship Changes Hands

With this issue, there is a change in editors. Jim Auckley has retired from editing the newsletter after many years of dedicated service. I want to express my thanks and the thanks of the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited to Jim for a job well done. I only hope I can do as well as I begin my tenure as chapter newsletter editor.

For those who don't know me, I am Denis Hancock and my day job is that of a senior scientific programmer-analyst for the Maize Genome Database Project. I also do a little fishing on the side, tie a few flies, and host the Missouri Fly Fishing Web Page, which contains the MMTU chapter web page. Articles from the chapter newsletter will appear from time to time on the MMTU page, although an "on-line newsletter" is not yet in the plans.

I want to take this opportunity to ask any and all of you to feel free to contribute your prose, poetry, announcements, and so on to the newsletter. If you have any ideas for features that should be in the newsletter, I will appreciate hearing from you as well. You can reach me at the phone number listed below. This newsletter is intended to serve your needs, so your input is important.

August Meeting

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited will meet August 5th at the Missouri Department of Conservation facility at Stadium and College. The Board Meeting is at 6:30 pm followed by a general business meeting and program at 7:30 pm. The August program will be presented by Tammy Atkins, a professional wildlife photographer and artist. As we approach the First Annual MMTU Photo Contest (see details in this issue), Tammy will give us some ideas for making the most of our photographs.

1st ANNUAL MID-MISSOURI TROUT UNLIMITED PHOTO CONTEST

Need a reason to take pictures of all those great places/fish/friends this summer? Enter the Mid Mo TU photo contest and take a shot at winning BIG prizes. There's no entry fee, but you gotta be a MID MISSOURI TROUT UNLIMITED member. So, join up if you haven't already, and enter. It's fun and the chances of winning are pretty good (I've seen the photos these folks take -- anyone can win this).

OK, we know what the prizes are now: 1st -- Ross Colorado C0-1 Reel; 2nd -- Promaster 6400 Camera Tripod; 3rd -- Wheatley fly box; 3rd (Yes, two 3rd places) -- \$25 of film from Columbia Photo.

Entries have to be postmarked by September 30, and:

- 1. Entries must be positive image slides.
- 2. You can enter five (5) photographs. (You have to take them yourself -- We're on the HONOR system, which is a stretch for this group of folks).
- 3. Must be related to Trout Fishing -- As Spencer Turner said, "That's a license to steal."
- 4. Do not place your name or any other information on the slide. In a cover letter identify the slide with a brief description. The contest captain will numerically mark each slide for judging purposes.

- 5. Each photo will be judged blind. (No, the judges aren't blind. It means they won't know who the contestants are.) Later, in a hermetically sealed room, the contest captain will match the numbers of the winning photos to the contestants.
- 6. Contest is open only to Mid-Missouri Chapter members of Trout Unlimited. In the case of family memberships, only one set of photos may be entered.
- 7. Send entries to: Curt Morgret (Contest Captain), 3900 Cromwell Court, Columbia, MO 65203. Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your entries returned. Winners will be announced at the November TU meeting.
- 8. All judging is final. The judges tell me any complaints are to be regarded as automatic volunteers to run next year's contest.

CONSERVATIONISTS WIN FIRST MAJOR BATTLE IN 105TH CONGRESS

TU Activists Play Important Role in Safeguarding the Endangered Species Act

From July 1997 *Lines to Leaders*

In May Trout Unlimited and other conservationists won a key legislative victory on

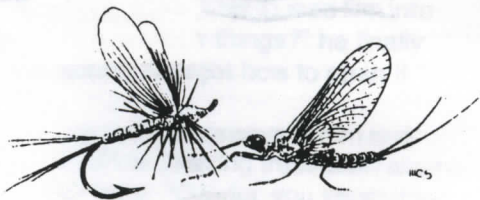
behalf of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Representatives Richard Pombo (R-CA) and Wally Herger (R-CA) pushed H.R. 478, the misnamed "Flood Prevention and Family Protection Act of 1997," to the House floor on May 7. Under the guise of expediting flood remediation measures, the bill would have permanently exempted from ESA protections the reconstruction, operation, maintenance, and repair of all facilities and actions that have flood control as a purpose. The measure would have applied to hundreds of dams across the nation, including the Columbia, Snake and Sacramento River dams that have driven several salmon species to be listed on the endangered species list. Fisheries and conservation groups of many stripes rallied against the bill.

H.R. 478 was defeated when Representatives Boehlert (R-NY) and Fazio (D-CA) offered an amendment that substantially narrowed its scope. This offer of a relatively benign alternative, combined with the conservation community-led backlash to H.R. 478, resulted in the House's adoption of the Boehlert amendment by a vote of 227-196. Upon losing the vote, champions of H.R. 478 pulled the bill from the floor, essentially killing it.

The vote was especially important because it may well set the tone for the 105th Congress: TU hopes that its opponents will be more cautious in bringing bad bills to the floor, and that potentially useful, moderate conservation measures have a greater opportunity to flourish.

The debate on the bill was vigorous and lengthy, lasting more than four hours. TU opposition was cited four times by members on the floor, including a reading of TU's letter in opposition to the bill by Representative Forbes (R-NY). Representatives Boehlert, Saxton (R-NJ), Miller (D-CA), Dicks (D-WA), and Furse (D-OR) were especially strong in leading the charge against the bill. In the end, 54 Republicans joined 173 Democrats to support the Boehlert/Fazio amendment and defeat H.R. 478. Their efforts are very worthy of our thanks. (To find out how your Representative voted, contact Amanda Nielsen at TU's national office at 703-284-9425 or anielsen@tu.org).



In the Senate, Senator Craig (R-ID) succeeded in placing a measure similar to H.R. 478 on the Supplemental Appropriations bill as it moved to the Senate floor; however, before the bill came to the floor, and behind another strong wave of opposition from conservationists, Senators Chafee (R-RI), Reid (D-NV), Baucus (D-MT), and Kempthorne (R-ID) negotiated a far less damaging alternative (similar to the Boehlert/Fazio measure) that was substituted for the Craig measure during Senate debate. At press time, it appeared that the Senate compromise would be included in the final Supplemental Appropriations bill that will go to the President's desk.

TU played a big part in the favorable outcome of this vote. TU's successful advocacy was based in part on timely calls and letters from TU activists to members of Congress, particularly from Washington State TU members, but also on the years of successful grassroots work and credibility developed by our members, which gives increasing weight to our views.

For a copy of the transcript of the debate on H.R. 478, please contact Steve Moyer at 703-284-9406 or smoyer@tu.org.

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

TU's 1997 National Convention
July 31 - August 3, 1997
Knoxville, Tennessee

Featuring:

- Free, Guided Fishing Trips
- Women's Fly-fishing Workshop
- TU Awards Luncheon & Annual Meeting
- Clinch River "Barbecue & Bluegrass"
- Conservation Panel Discussions
- "S.E. Tailwater Trout" by Noted Author Carl Richards

See "Trout" Magazine for registration forms.
Questions? Call (423) 971-2601



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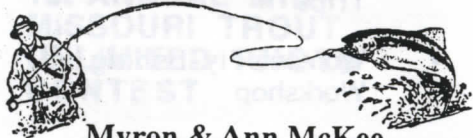


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