



Cross Currents

May, 2002

Mid - Missouri Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Tom Ziegler Demonstrates Deer Hair Techniques

An old friend of ours returned to Columbia for the April meeting. Tom Ziegler drove in from St. Louis to share some of his expertise with us, and demonstrated at length how he ties the Dalhberg Diver. A large group turned out for his presentation, and we had a very informative and enjoyable evening.

If you fly fish for warmwater species in addition to trout, you know that the Dahlberg Diver is an extremely effective fly. You may also know that the “standard” method for tying the Dalhberg Diver is just wrapping the clump of deer hair three times with the thread, then slowly increasing pressure until the clump flares and spins around the hook shank. Tom prefers to use another method when tying this fly, however. The method he uses is the Lacey Gee Method, which can best be described as tying the deer hair to the hook via a half hitch.

Tom originally learned the method years ago when he saw Jerry Jarosik demonstrate it at an Ozark Fly Fishers meeting. At that meeting, Jerry mentioned a book that featured the technique, and Tom later obtained a copy from Tom Hargrove’s fly shop in St. Louis. The book, Practical Flies and Their Construction, was written by Lacey E. Gee and Erwin D. Sias, and was published in 1966. Lacey Gee owned Wapsi Fly at the time and later sold it to Tom Schmuecker. He also taught Tom Schmuecker his deer hair tying method. Tom Schmuecker later taught the procedure to Jerry Jarosik,



Tom Zeigler ties a frog-colored Dalhberg Diver, while Spencer Turner (left) and Jerry Case (center) look on

and it was Jerry who taught Tom Ziegler. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the book, it still can be ordered through the Clearwater Fly Shop in Columbia, or any authorized Wapsi distributor.

While demonstrating to us how he ties the Dalhberg Diver, Tom Ziegler was using a Renzetti Saltwater Traveler vise. “I have used many vises and prefer the Renzetti Saltwater Traveler,” Tom said. “It holds big hooks that don’t budge while doing such things as compressing deer hair while tying a bass bug. With its rotary ability, I can easily and quickly spin the vise to look at the other side of the fly, place materials on the bottom of flies, and so forth. In the end, though, vise selection is as subjective as other fly-fishing decisions. It always comes down to what you tie the most and how you like to tie.”

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Tom went on to explain that the Renzetti Saltwater Traveler also holds very small hooks, although not in “true rotary” fashion (that is, where the hook shank is in line with the arm of the vise). This is not a drawback to him, because Tom never ties in true rotary style anyway (i.e. he doesn’t tie by holding the material stationary and turning the fly).

It was good to have the opportunity to visit with Tom again at the April meeting. If you weren’t able to be there, you may be wondering what Tom has been doing since he left Columbia. Well, he’s been busy!

As you may remember, Tom got married in 1996, and then left his job as manager of Clearwater Fly Shop in 1998 to take a job in St. Louis with Boeing. A graduate of Mizzou, he completed his Master of Business Administration degree at Webster University in 2001. He and his wife are the proud parents of a 15-month old son.

Tom is now a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor. He has tied at three FFF Southern Council Conclaves, one Sowbug Roundup, and will tie this August at the FFF International Conclave in Livingston, Montana. He has had an article published in Warmwater Fly Fishing magazine, and not long ago he even found time in his busy schedule to build a drift boat with his father!

If you’ve ever considered building a drift boat, you may want to get Tom to tell you about his boat building project. He and his dad started building the boat in January, 2000 and finished the following April. It took a combined 225 man-hours of time, and they did the work in his dad’s garage. The drift boat they built is a 14-foot two-man craft which they named The Theodore Roosevelt. Tom plans to take it to Montana this summer. What about our annual fishing trip to the North Fork of the White May 17-19? Tom says he plans to go on the trip, but whether or not he brings the T.R. depends on the river’s water level that weekend. With all the rain that’s been falling in the Ozarks recently, hopefully we’ll get to see that handmade beauty in action later this month.

Be An Active Member of Mid-MO TU

When you pay your annual dues to TU, you are automatically a member of the Mid-MO TU chapter. But I am encouraging you to be an *active* member and being an *active* member is more than paying membership dues.

An active member attends the monthly meeting. Why? Well, the programs are worth hearing. We have had presentations by state fisheries biologists and programs on graphite and bamboo rod building, fly tying, fishing trips (the Yellowstone country, Rocky Mountain National Park, West Virginia, Idaho, etc.), what’s new in fly fishing gear, how to carve a trout (from wood), how to make a furled leader...

An active member participates in chapter functions. Why? It’s fun. We have an annual dinner in December, a blue gill fishing/picnic in June, an annual trip to the North Fork of the White River (Myron’s River of Life) in May, and an annual fund raising banquet in February.

An active member participates in chapter projects. Why? The chapter has accomplished a significant amount of work on Mill Creek. We’ve planted thousands of trees, worked to stabilize the stream bank, helped survey, participated in fish counts, and worked to improve trout habitat (those tree stumps weren’t deposited by the last flood). We help teach a fly fishing class at Rock Bridge High School. Funds raised at the annual banquet made it possible for the chapter to assist in the purchase of land and streamfront on Mill Creek and Capps Creek.

Those are good reasons to be an active member, but I’ll give you one more: You meet some really good fishermen and **maybe go fishing with them**. In my relatively short time as a Mid-MO member, I’ve had the opportunity to fish with, and learn from, guys like Bob Hook, Mike Kruse, Bill Lamberson, Curt Morgret, and Kent Campbell (to name a few in no particular order).

Here's what you get out of that: (1) good conversations in the car and not just about fishing, (2) fishing places you might not have fished otherwise, (3) tips on tackle, flies, reading water, techniques, and stream etiquette, (4) fun, like watching Mike Kruse catch a 17" rainbow out of water you just fished hard and futilely for 10 minutes (OK, maybe that isn't exactly *fun*, but it's definitely instructive), (5) fishing stories (some might even be true), and maybe (6) a good friend and fishing partner.

Support the TU mission by paying your dues, but be an *active* member of the chapter. Come to the meetings when you can. Participate in chapter functions. Get involved in the projects. Become an officer. Best of all: get to know a great bunch of men and women with whom you already share a common interest.

- by Jon L. Deal

NEW MDC DIRECTOR

On April 10th, Missouri Conservation Commission Chairman Anita Gorman announced the appointment of John D. Hoskins as the new director of the Department of Conservation. John has been an MDC employee since 1977 and will assume his duties July 1, following the retirement of Jerry Conley. For more information about this appointment, visit www.conservation.state.mo.us/news/2002/director.htm on the World Wide Web.

MMTU CALENDAR

May 5, 2002, 7:30 p.m. Kent Campbell will give a presentation on the new equipment now on the market. Meeting will be at MDC's Fisheries Research Facility located at Stadium and College, in Columbia.

May 17- 19, 2002 Annual fishing trip to the North Fork of the White. We will be staying at the River of Life Farm. (www.riveroflifefarm.com).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Flowers Blooming

They look great, especially reflected in the pool of a gentle trout stream, that's my favorite way to enjoy the colors of spring. I especially like the way the colors run and blur in the waves of a dimple, only to be exceeded by the momentary blending with colors on a trout.

Our April meeting had an interesting presentation on Bass Bug tying by Tom Ziegler. Everyone was impressed. At our May meeting we move from the hand-made to the store-bought, hey, everything in moderation. Kent Campbell will do a show and tell with new equipment the factory reps have for us. June's meeting will be the annual cookout at Bethel Park, bring your fishing rod and a side dish. Curt calls it the Hot Dog Burn, he should know, he cooks for us.

The Northfork trip (May 18 weekend) is filling up but more are welcome. Come to the May meeting to sign up and get more information on this great way to fish and meet others that like to as much as you do. Our December meeting will include a photo contest or show. Don't hold off contributing because you don't think you will win, this is for fun! Both slides and prints will be included.

Our 2003 Banquet is getting organized. We have the place and day, February 27 a Thursday night we will eat/auction/enjoy at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. John Meyer has volunteered to be chairman and is counting on your participation.

Some MU students are in the process of creating a trout club, they are searching for like-minded individuals and a MU sponsor so MU facilities can be utilized. Their leadership had been attending our Chapter's monthly meetings.

See you Tuesday!

- Jeff B. Witten

**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 10285
Columbia, MO 65205**

**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
Officers and Directors - 2002**

President:	Jeff Witten	573-442-1516
Past President:	Tammy Atkins	573-446-4499
Secretary:	Jon Deal	573-442-0931
Treasurer:	Mike Riley	573-817-0631
Membership:	John Wenzlick	573-634-3096
Resources:	Mike Kruse	573-875-2033
Conservancy:	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776
Member-at-large:	Spencer Turner	573-474-6477
Banquet:	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776
Newsletter editor:	Jim Washabaugh	573-893-3807

Cross Currents, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is usually the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Research Facility at Stadium and College in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. See the newsletter for any changes.

Internet:
www.agron.missouri.edu/flyfishing/mmtu.html
