



Cross Currents

September, 2002

M i d - M i s s o u r i C h a p t e r , T r o u t U n l i m i t e d



MISSOURI'S STREAMS NEED YOUR HELP NOW

The US Army Corps of Engineers has relinquished regulatory control of streambeds, and gravel mining in Missouri streams is now being regulated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources-Land Reclamation Commission. Gravel mining can have a devastating impact the aquatic ecosystems found in Missouri's clear Ozark streams, and can severely damage the recreational value of these streams for public use – particularly for fishing. The vast majority of Missouri anglers are therefore in favor of strict regulations pertaining to gravel mining. However, the gravel mining industry and county road commissioners view Missouri's streams as a source of cheap gravel. They would like to see gravel mining regulations relaxed or done away with altogether. While the public at large is unaware of the change of regulatory control over Missouri's streambeds, the gravel mining industry is keenly aware

of it and is currently involved in an all-out lobbying effort aimed at easing the regulatory standards they must comply with. Unless the public gets involved in the regulatory process right away, the gravel mining industry's efforts may result in the Land Reclamation Commission adopting regulations that provide inadequate protection for Missouri's streams.

As anglers and conservationists, what can we do? The first thing is to become better informed about the regulations that the Commission is currently considering adopting. They are available for viewing online at www.mostreamteam.org/flash/gravelmn.htm. The next thing to do is to write letters to the Land Reclamation Commission, the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, and the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. Let them know that you are in favor of conserving the quality of Missouri's streams and support strict regulations pertaining to the mining of gravel in Missouri.

Here are the addresses to write to:

Larry Coen, Staff Director
DNR – Land Reclamation Commission
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

John Hoskins, Director
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

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Steven M. Mahfood, Director
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Norm Stucky, Chief Of Fisheries
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Please share this with others who care about the quality of Missouri's streams - our fish populations depend on it.

Kent Campbell

MISSOURI TRICOS

My first real success in fly-fishing for trout involved a Trico spinner. I had recently moved to Oregon and trout were a bit mysterious to this Nebraska farm boy. While I had caught a few on wet flies and attractor patterns, there seemed to be little rhyme or reason to getting a fish to hit. Then one Saturday morning the Willamette was alive with rising fish and the air filled with mating mayflies. It was apparent that the fish were gobbling the tiny dead and dying spent flies, but nothing that I had in my fly boxes was similar. There was no fly shop in Corvallis at the time so I went to my vise and did my best to recreate the little black and white spinner. The best I could do with the few materials that I had on hand was an oversized T-shaped fly with black dubbed body and wings and tail from white bucktail. Crude as it was, the next morning it worked on three nice Willamette cutthroats.

The Trico is an insect of major importance on many western rivers. The number of insects in the air and on the water is incredible, and large fish come up to feed. It is considered by many to be the best opportunity for western fly fisherman to join the 20/20 club. Although familiar with fishing the Trico spinner falls from trips to the North Platte in Wyoming and other western rivers, I was surprised in late July to observe the familiar cloud of mating insects above the Current. The insects are listed in Chuck Tryon's book, but I had not been aware

that they were of real importance for Missouri fishermen. The number of fish rising to the spinners suggested otherwise. I did have a few spinners in my fly boxes, remnants from trips to the Rockies, but the fish mostly spurned them, these insects were much smaller than my 20's and 22's, and the wings more gray than white. That evening my bamboo rod attracted the attention of a fellow angler and our conversation came around to the spinners. He had previously shared my frustration and offered a #30 Trico spinner that he assured me that would do the trick for the following morning's spinner fall. He was right. Although the Trico spinner fall is never easy to fish because of the number of naturals on the water, as well as difficulty in seeing the fly, the fish didn't reject the new fly as often as they had my patterns from the previous day. I also discovered that late during the spinner fall duns began to emerge and were readily taken by some fish. A small (#26) dun midge served well and was easier to see than the spinner.

A couple of weeks later I returned to the Tan Vat access better prepared. I had more #28 and #30 spinners and 8X tippet. This time the number of insects and fish rising to them was even greater than before. Literally, there was a spinner every 2-3 inches on the water. The number of insects made it very difficult to keep track of my fly and to detect rises to the fly versus rises to naturals. I regularly set the hook when the fish had risen to a natural and sometimes failed to observe rises to the fly and the fish hooked itself anyway. Success improved when the duns began to emerge and I was able to switch to the dun midge. When the emergence dropped off, I was somewhat surprised to see rises continue. It turned out that a few spinners were still on the water and some fish continued to take them. This fishing was a different story, the number of fish rising was smaller and there was much less competition from naturals. The average size of the fish was also larger than during the heaviest part of the spinner fall. The tactic changed to stalking individual fish. They would readily rise to a well-presented fly, and I caught more during this after-hatch than I had earlier in the morning. The biggest fish was a rainbow a bit over 14 inches and several browns ran from 10 – 13 inches along with many smaller fish. Surprisingly, despite using 8X tippet on a relatively stout five weight, I didn't break off a single fish during the morning. I used Seaguar Grand Max

Fluorocarbon tippet material and was impressed with its knot strength and flexibility. It is rather expensive, but may be the best that I've used. Clearwater Fly Shop in Columbia carries it.

The successful fly was tied on a Tiemco 518 #28 or #30. These hooks are a fine wire, straight eye, and wide gap hook. They seemed to hook extremely well, even better than the standard #22 that I had used on the first trip. Thread was black Benecchi 12/0 ultra-fine thread from Feather Craft. The tail was two light tan Micro-Fibbets, tied very long (about 5/8" or five times as long as the body of the fly) and separated. The wing was light dun Z-LON; one-third of a strand of yarn was about right for the wings of a fly. The abdomen was very lightly dubbed with fine black poly and the thorax dubbed a little heavier with the same black poly. The tying procedure was 1) wrap the hook shank with thread with a small bump at the bend to separate the tail fibers; 2) tie in the pair of tail fibers mid-shank and wrap back to the bend and separate the fibers; 3) use figure-8 wraps to bind the Z-LON perpendicular to the hook shank, leaving a distinct gap between the wing and eye; 4) dub the abdomen or just leave it wrapped with a couple layers of thread and dub the thorax; and 5) tie off the thread.

This year's Trico spinner falls are likely to soon be coming to an end. The opportunity to fish to large numbers of rising trout give good incentive for gearing up for next year's action.

Bill Lamberson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time Flies

Every time a "life event" passes I am again reminded how quickly time passes. This season's "event" is school. School is open, less traffic at my house more downtown. That is also when I reminded how quickly kids grow up, how quickly we get old and how little fishing we do.

Did you see the Columbia Business Times picture and article about a wood drift boat built by Brian Sloss and Drew Lemberger? The article said Sloss spent part of the summer in a Montana guide school; Lemberger had experience with boat building. They have been invited to do a "show and tell" at an upcoming meeting.

The North Fork trip has been scheduled for the weekend of September 14. The original spring date was canceled because of high water. I know we need more rain but we need to get this trip in too. If you are interested, be at our Tuesday, September 3 meeting.

A steering committee has established goals for the growth of our chapter. Under the capable the capable hands of John Meyer I already know we will have a successful banquet. The goals are: 1) "...to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds" 2) increase our chapter membership from 250 to 325, 3) support the initiation of an affiliated club at MU, 4) increase banquet attendance from 150 to 225, 5) increase banquet net revenue from \$6,500 to \$10,000, and 6) increase female members from "negligible to measurable."

Your input, comments and questions are appreciated. Email me at **MOtrout@aol.com**.

Banquet plans are under way and John will soon be establishing committee teams and looking for help. Ask what YOU can do for your chapter! The Banquet will be Thursday, February 27 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

Come to our next chapter meeting and enjoy seeing some antique-or-classic fishing equipment. Everyone can bring show and tell per our host Ethan Wright. In October, Del Lobb, a MDC Fisheries Research Biologist will give a presentation on his Lake Taneycomo minimum flow studies. The November meeting will have a presentation by Bob Hook, Jim Bridges and Jon Deal making us drool over their recent trip to Alaska, come hear "Alaska: A Tale of Two Trips" See time flies!

Jeff B. Witten

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**Mid-Missouri Chapter
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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

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