



Cross Currents

January, 2003

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

NEW LOGO UNVEILED

To signal the progress we have made in promoting coldwater conservation in recent years, our chapter has adopted a new logo (shown above). Designed by M.M.T.U. member Tom James, the logo has a contemporary style that's very much in tune with national T.U.'s new logo. The logo does an excellent job of illustrating the fact that, while we are located in Columbia, the reach of our coldwater conservation efforts is statewide.

As many of you know, Tom James' love of trout fishing has led to his involvement in several special projects, including "Fly Fishing Missouri's Trout Streams." This 60-minute video serves as an excellent introduction to the fine trout fishing our state has to offer. While treating the viewer to some of Missouri's most beautiful scenery, the video presents important "where to go" information, and includes some very interesting interviews with Missouri Department of Conservation employees. Tom has also produced a nice streamside guide to accompany the video. Together, the guide and video are a valuable resource for those who want to enjoy Missouri trout fishing to the fullest. To help distribute "Fly Fishing Missouri's Trout Streams," Tom also has a Web site located online at www.blackdogsports.com.



Holiday Inn Executive Center, Garry Teeple photo

BANQUET PREPARATION WORK CONTINUES

The banquet committee is working long and hard to make our 2003 banquet the best one ever.

It takes a large number of people working diligently behind the scenes to make a banquet a success. When these people all do their jobs well, the banquet comes off without a hitch and everyone has a great time. It is no easy job, though, and our banquet committee deserves a lot of credit for their efforts. If you'd like to help, there's still time to volunteer by calling Curt Morgret at (573) 446-4776.

This year's banquet will be held Thursday, February 27th, at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia.

LAMBERSON KEEPING RODBUILDER'S ART ALIVE

M.M.T.U. member Bill Lamberson is a man of many talents. One of those talents is the time-honored art of bamboo rod building. Fortunately for our chapter, it is a talent that Bill is willing to share with others.

Every year at our annual conservation banquet, one of the most highly sought-after items is a bamboo fly rod custom-built and donated to the chapter by Bill. Considering the large number of hours of work it takes to build a rod, along with the high cost of the top-quality materials Bill uses, this is a truly generous gift. To give such a gift year after year is a testimony not only to Bill's generosity, but also to his dedication to the coldwater conservation work that our chapter does.

Each of Bill's fine bamboo fly rods is a work of art, and owning such a rod is something that nearly every fly fisher would like to do someday. Although only one person is fortunate enough to take Bill's creation home after the banquet each year, everyone attending can enjoy admiring it while it's on display prior to the bidding. One of the topics of conversation at the banquet every year is Bill's latest masterpiece and how it was made. Whether it's a custom double shotgun, an expensive Swiss watch, or a fine bamboo fly rod, people find the craftsmanship involved to be fascinating.

Bill has obtained his rare rodbuilding skills by attending gatherings of rodbuilders, reading rodbuilding books and magazines, and through hands-on experience spanning three decades. He is a friend of Harold Demarest of the Charles Demarest Company, which is one of the two major importers of high-quality tea stick bamboo from China.

The taper of a rod is very important and determines the critical characteristics of a rod's performance. Many were originated by legendary builders of days gone by. Some of the tapers Bill uses were developed by Lyle Dickerson, Everett Garrison, Pinky Gillum, Paul Young, and Jim Payne.



Culms that are in the process of aging. These are imported from China and each will make one or two rods. They are twelve feet long and about 2 1/2 inches in diameter. They age two to five years before Bill uses them.



The culm is being split into strips about 1/4 inch wide in preparation for planing.



Each strip is planed into a tapered triangular strip about four feet long, depending on rod length. A set of six matching strips is glued together to form the hexagonal rod section.



This device is used to bind together the six strips in the rod section after glue has been applied. It wraps the section with thread under high tension. Each section is wrapped going each direction to minimize twisting. The wraps are about 1/4 inch apart.



A satisfied client of Bill's. The rod is an eight-foot, six weight, and weighs about four ounces. The fish is an eighteen-inch cutthroat from Yellowstone Lake.

Bill is recognized today as one of our country's expert rodbuilders, and has written a number of articles that have been published in bamboo rodbuilding magazines. He serves on the board of directors of a group that sponsors an annual gathering of southern rodbuilders, and he sponsors an event which encourages the development of new tapers for bamboo rods.

The hey day of bamboo rods ended when the embargo of trade with China started in 1949. In 1973, the embargo was lifted, but by then bamboo rods had been replaced by rods made of fiberglass and graphite. There for a time it looked like the art of bamboo rod

building would be lost forever. However, a few dedicated individuals such as Bill have managed to keep the old tradition alive, and currently there is much renewed interest in this art.

Today, in addition to Bill, there are several other bamboo fly rod builders living in our area: Barry Kling and Terry Finger in Columbia; Brian Bowles in Ashland; David Dziadosz and Kurt Schenewerk in Jefferson City; Steve Trautwein in Independence; and Mike Biondo, Ken Grainger, Rick Funcik, Tom Peters and some others around the St. Louis area. At last year's banquet Brian Bowles followed Bill's lead and donated to our chapter one of his custom-built bamboo rods (the very proud and grateful owner of which is your newsletter editor).

At the conservation banquet next month, take advantage of the opportunity to see for yourself up close the rod Bill donated to the chapter this year. You will be thoroughly impressed by the fine workmanship and attention to detail that is the hallmark of Bill Lamberson's rods. Also, it would be nice if you'd let Bill know that you appreciate him generously donating a rod every year to our chapter's banquet.

MMTU CALENDAR

January 7, 2003, 7:30 p.m. Dean Anderson from the Columbia Community Stormwater Project (CSWP) will make a presentation on new EPA regulations. The CSWP hopes to increase understanding of the pressures that our streams currently face due to non-point source pollution and development. It also hopes to form a coalition of like-minded organizations to help identify viable strategies for reducing non-point source pollution in and around campus.

February 4, 2003 Gary Kula will present a program on fly tying. Gary is one of the most innovative tyers in the area.

February 27, 2003 (Thursday) Annual banquet. Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia.

**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
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**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
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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.

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