



Cross Currents

September, 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



DAVE MURPHY CHOSEN AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CFM

A little over a year ago, we were heartened to learn that fellow MMTU member John Hoskins had become the director of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Now comes word that Dave Murphy has become the executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. This is terrific news for those of us who care deeply about conservation and our state's precious coldwater resources.

As many of you remember, Dave was president of our T.U. chapter in 1992 and 1993. In the late 1980s, he served as our first banquet chairman and was very active in the banquet committee up until September, 1993, at which time he went to work for the National Wild Turkey Federation as a regional director.

Dave worked on several volunteer projects with us, including Mill Creek and Spring Creek (where a large sign still commemorates our work). He and Mike Kruse received regional FFF recognition for their successful efforts to rally the clubs and obtain funds for key acquisitions on Mill Creek, Barren Fork, and elsewhere. In 1994, the Conservation Federation of Missouri bestowed its prestigious "Conservation Organization of the Year" award on our T.U. chapter. When we won that important award, it was the first time a fishing organization had ever received it. The efforts of Dave and Mike greatly helped to make that possible.

Dave was originally from Lewis and Clark counties in northeastern Missouri, and graduated from Canton High School in 1972. That same year he came to Mizzou, and in 1976 he earned a BS in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife. He earned an MS in 1983.

Dave worked for five years doing wildlife research for the Missouri Department of Conservation. From 1989 to 1993, Dave worked for the Columbia Public Schools in the central science office and taught at the Center for Gifted Education.

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During his ten years with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Dave's main responsibilities were building local chapters and conducting fund-raising banquets. Here in Missouri, NWTF grew from 12 local chapters to 72 under Dave's guiding hand.

In his new position, there will be many demands on Dave's time. Hopefully, he will still find time to fish.

Dave fishes primarily with a fly rod, but admits to being a "social spin fisher" upon occasion, like recently when floating the Niangua with family members from Sweden (his wife, Gunilla, is from Malmo on the south coast of Sweden, and both of their daughters were born there). Dave's favorite fly rod is a beautiful custom 8-ft. 4-wt. built from a Sage blank by a friend. He still ties flies on the same Regal vise he won after a memorable bidding battle with Ken Foster in the grand ballroom of the Tiger Kensington at a TU banquet many years ago.

Dave loves every bit of trout water in our state. His special favorites are Mill Creek, the upper Current River, and the North Fork of the White. Bennett Spring will always be special to him, as that is where his daughters learned to fish.

If you'd like to wish Dave well in his new job, he will be speaking at our next monthly meeting on September 2nd in Columbia. It will be a great time to reminisce about some of our big projects in the past, and to learn more about what we can hope to accomplish in the future by working with the Conservation Federation of Missouri.



NORTH FORK OF THE WHITE RIVER FEATURED IN VIDEO

Autumn is ideal for trout fishing, and about this time every year many members of our T.U. chapter start planning a trip to the North Fork of the White. The North Fork is one of the top 100 trout streams in the nation, and has the largest population of wild trout anywhere in the Midwest.

The North Fork is the subject of an excellent video that was released by Black Dog Sports in 2002 as part of its "Fly Fishing the Ozarks" series. *North Fork of the White River* features our chapter's own Tom James and Spence Turner, and is "must" viewing for every serious Missouri trout angler.

The quality of this professionally-produced video is excellent, and the scenic beauty of the river and the surrounding area is presented to the viewer exceedingly well. Unlike some videos on the market, nothing in this video ever comes across as being phoney or staged. The overall feeling of the video perfectly reflects the "what you see is what you get" attitude of many people in the Ozark region. Its genuineness stands in stark contrast to some videos I've seen from other companies, and is one of the things I really admire about this video.

As every Missouri angler knows, the fishing on the North Fork is some of our state's most exciting and most challenging. As everyone also knows, Spence Turner is one of our state's most experienced and highly-skilled fly fishers. Watching Spence in action with his fly rod on the North Fork is both entertaining and highly educational for anglers of all skill levels.

Like Spence, the other anglers in this video are top-rate, and several of them are professional guides. All are worth watching as they fish the North Fork.

Just as Trout Unlimited emphasizes that it is “more than a fishing club,” *North Fork of the White River* is more than just a fishing video. In one of its more reflective moments, Spence Turner is shown having an on-stream conversation with guide Shawn Taylor. In the conversation, Spence mentions that when he first came to the North Fork thirty years ago, there were trout in the river but those trout had no friends. He then goes on to note that things have changed dramatically, and the trout in the North Fork today do indeed have many friends. What Spence doesn't mention is that he himself is largely responsible for much of the progress that has been made in this area. We all owe Spence a big “thank you” for all he has done over the years. By appearing in this excellent video, Spence will continue to help win friends for these fish in the years to come.

When fishing the North Fork, many MMTU members enjoy staying at Myron McKee's River of Life Farm. Located at The Falls, R.O.L.F. has earned an excellent reputation over the years. Much to its credit, *North Fork of the White River* introduces the viewer to the River of Life Farm in a very nice way. Myron McKee is a great guy with some terrific stories, and people looking for a place to “get away from it all” will be hard pressed to ever find a better place than the River of Life Farm.

For more information about the products of Black Dog Sports, you can visit their Web site at www.blackdogsports.com. For more information about the River of Life Farm, you can find their Web site online at www.riveroflifefarm.com.



Myron McKee at The Falls

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

School

If your first thought is that this word is a reference to something fish do, then you have had a good summer. I hope you have a good Fall too.

We are closer to a stocking of trout in Columbia, plans are moving forward.

Something else we are moving closer to is the bi-annual election. All offices will be balloted by year-end. Now is the time to think of nominations and volunteering. Will you agree to run if nominated? I can tell you that being involved is fun and rewarding. You get to know other people a lot better and you'll find that to be special. Enough said.

Interesting programs are planned for upcoming meetings. See you there.

- JEFF WITTEN



MMTU CALENDAR

September 2, 2003, 7:30 p.m. Dave Murphy will be giving a presentation on the Conservation Federation of Missouri. (See article about Dave on page 1 of this newsletter.)

October 7, 2003, 7:30 p.m. Kent Campbell of Clearwater Fly Shop will give a presentation on the latest developments in fly fishing tackle.

November 4, 2003 (Election Day), 7:30 p.m. Election of new officers, directors, and newsletter editor. It's not too early to start thinking about ways you can help make this T.U. chapter even better. Terms are for two years.

**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 10025
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**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
Officers and Directors - 2003**

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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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