



Cross Currents

Jan 2009

Morgret's Musings

I have a good friend that listens to Bob Marley when the temperature drops below 20 degrees. On cold, short winter days you can find him standing outside staring at the sun if it's not overcast and he's probably wearing boxers printed with hibiscus flowers underneath his wool flannel pants. On overcast days he's a bit grouchy and you might want to keep your distance unless he's drinking rum mixed with pineapple juice or other tropical fruits. As far as I know, he's never been further south than 30 degrees North, but I don't begrudge his daydreams. If it gets him through the winter, and the only harm is his refusal to scoop snow, what should I care?

Winters here can be maddeningly inconsistent, sometimes brutally cold, although not for long, and never predictable for snow or other inclement weather. I've seen sleds go unused for two years in a row, and there have been Januarys that were perfect for golfing, if you like that sort of thing. Of course, fishing is our concern. Bird season has been put astern and spring weather is still below the horizon, so the question is: do you go winter fishing?

This is one of those questions you can head-fake yourself on; the answer seems to be "yes" but maybe it's "no" because "yes" is too obvious, but maybe that's just what they want us to think and the answer is really "yes." And maybe the household burnout during bird season was high and the answer had better be "no", because that's what familial survival requires. Sometimes you just put your head down and go.

But you never have high expectations. The water looks fine, the temperatures aren't bad, the waders aren't leaking, but you can spend a whole day

sliding a nymph through the runs and the action is so slow you have to remember the drifts where you think, maybe, there was a hit and it wasn't a rock or some odd stick under the water. So you try to duplicate the drift and if you get a "hit" in the same spot it was not a fish. But was it really the same drift as before? So you do it again and maybe fifteen or twenty more times just to be sure.
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January 6 Meeting

**Curt Morgret
Fishing Colorado with Ken Neubauer,
Mac Campbell, and Joe Macy**



The November meeting will be held 7 pm at D Rowe's, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong. We have a room to ourselves and a nice opportunity for dinner and at drink at this venue. Please join us.

(Morgret continues)

Then maybe on the drive back with the heater turned way up because the waders weren't totally leak proof you start thinking that "what if" type stuff, like what if you really lived in the islands, at least part of the year? All you would need are a couple of pair of khaki shorts, some t-shirts, sunglasses and flip flops. Surely you would already have a good nine-weight. You would rise in the morning to a warm sun, watching it glint off the sea and feel it soak into your skin for a long time before you start to move around a little. On the bike ride back from the flats at the end of the day, fully sun-soaked, you can hear distant reggae music from the band warming up at the beach bar. Is that "Redemption Songs" by Marley? That's when you feel the wet boxers start to ride up and you remember you haven't made it to Vichy yet, its only 4:45, it's dark outside and it will probably be 12 degrees outside tomorrow morning when you have to walk the dog.



**February 20
MMTU Conservation Banquet
Stoney Creek Inn
(for tickets call 573 881 3969)**

Fishing in the Czech Republic*

In mid-November I had the opportunity to be in the Czech Republic and took advantage of the chance to fish the Vltava River in mountains of South Bohemia, Czech Republic near Lenora. Before the trip I googled "Fly Fishing Czech Republic". One hit in particular caught my eye, the web site for Jan Siman's (<http://shop.siman.cz/>) on-line fly shop. Jan, a former member of Czech national team who lives in Plzen was a gold mine of information and assistance. Jan picked me up at the bus station, help me rent a car – I don't speak any Czech - obtained a permit for me, gave me directions to his special location and several of his nymphs and CDC dries. Three hours latter I was

having a typical Czech meal at the little pension that he had arranged for me.

The next morning was COLD and rainy as I set off just after 9:30 for a day on the river. Jan's suggested location required that I hick/slosh through a swampy meadow to get to the river. The Vltava is not the most beautiful river I have ever fished but it was my river to fish in the Czech Republic. It was

relatively straight with high grass and weed

covered banks. The few riffle areas were shallow with a small gravel substrate. The long pools were relatively uniform in cross-section with almost a parabolic shape. The best feature of the river was that the banks were primarily large rocks covered with a thin layer of soil. Enough rocks were in the river to provide good cover and habitat near the banks.

Being in the Czech Republic it was only appropriate that I would be nymph fishing. Nearly an hour and a half of nymphing my way up the river with a combination of one of Jan's nymphs and a dropper of a STREAM SIDE ADVENTURES generic nymph didn't produce a thing. About noon the rain stopped and I think - maybe just wanted it - it warmed a bit. For whatever reason a few fish started rising. Off went the nymphs and on when one of Jan's size 18 CDC BWO, a simple fly with micro fibbits for a tail, light olive thread and a CDC post wing

The Vltava is primarily a grayling river and according to Jan grayling are VERY leader



shy. He had told me that if I started seeing rises, turn around and start fishing with a downstream presentation. I soon learned that blind drifting was not effective. The method that was productive was to make a puddle cast that landed the fly about 3 feet above a rise and let the fly drift to the fish. Right at the end of the drift would be where you would get your rise. I also found that the biggest fish were at the tail of the pool along the deeper side but not necessarily along the banks. Grayling have a sub-terminal mouth so they roll up and over

your fly to take it. If you wait a fraction of a second to long you pull it up and out of their mouth. After a couple of misses I realized that a typical "up with the rod tip and down with the line hand" hook set would not work. Once I made the switch keeping my rod tip down and doing a "put the line in your pocket" hook set, I started catching fish. Not to long after 1 a light rain returned and the fishing slowed. By 1:30 the rain was back. By then I had landed 4 grayling in the 12 to 15 inch range and several smaller fish. I had another country to add to my life list of places I had caught fish. The warm fire, lunch and a good Czech beer at the pension sounded too good to linger any longer on the river.

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Congratulations to John Meyer, winner of the MMTU photo contest. Great photos of trout in the stream!

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***Cross Currents**, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is **D Rowe's**, located off Forum, just north the intersection with Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time 7:00 p.m.*

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