



Cross Currents

Feb 2009

2009 Conservation Banquet **February 20** **Stony Creek Inn** **(for tickets call 573 881 3969)**

The annual MMTU conservation banquet will be held at Stony Creek Inn on February 20. Mark your calendars to hold the date for this important event. Mike Kruse is chairing the banquet committee. Contact Mike if you are interested in helping with the banquet. This year the chapter has sponsored scholarships for women to attend a Casting for Recovery Retreat in Missouri, helped kids learn to tie flies at the Boy Scout Ranch, and provided fly casting lessons through Bass Pro Shops. (continued on page 2)

February 3 Meeting: Jeff Trigg – Trout in Montana and Wyoming

Jeff will entertain and inform us about fishing Montana and Wyoming trout streams. Jeff had a great trip this summer to the Clarks Fork canyon and streams in the Yellowstone area as well as elsewhere in Montana. The February 3 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 a drink at this venue. Please join us.



2009 marks the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited. Founded 50 years ago in 1959, TU was created by a group of Michigan fishermen who wanted to protect their local waters. Throughout 2009, TU chapters and councils will commemorate the 50th anniversary with many celebrations around the country. From local stream clean-ups to banquets and other events, TU volunteers and staff will commemorate 50 years of protecting cold, clean, fishable water.



Wyoming's Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone

(banquet continued)

Among the items on the auction list this year are a great guided trip in Colorado, a graphite fly rod custom built by Dean Rapp on an Orvis blank, A Hardy graphite rod (this is a beautiful rod), St. Croix and Orvis fly rods, Lamson fly reels, guided trips on the White and Eleven Point Rivers, and a trout carving by Big Sky Carvers.

April 7 Meeting – Richard Mayden Conchos Trout in Mexico

Professor Richard Mayden from the Department of Biology at St. Louis University will describe work to characterize and conserve the recently discovered Mexican Conchos Trout (photo below). This should be a *very* interesting presentation, so be sure to put it on your calendar. Professor Mayden will also be presenting a seminar at the University of Missouri on April 7.



Reflections on a Winter Day

There is a light snow falling this morning as I put the finishing touches on this newsletter. It is a good morning to sit with a hot drink and warm cookie and think back over the past year. There were some memorable fishing trips, some good hunts, several bamboo rods emerged from the shop, and I read some good books. Except for losing our gathering spot at Clearwater Outfitters, it was not a bad year overall.

A trip to Colorado with Curt Morgret and hosted by Ken Neubecker was one to remember. The fishing wasn't spectacular, but the aspen certainly were, and the companionship couldn't be beat.

One of my brothers turned 60 and needed some adventure so we went off for

several days backpacking in Yellowstone. We explored the area south of Yellowstone Lake and checked a number of tributary streams for signs of successful reproduction of cutthroats from the Lake. We found young of one or two years in some streams, and none at all in others, but did hear of some fishing success for the cutts in the Lake, so perhaps the lake trout/cutthroat trout situation is improving. The species do coexist in some lakes in that area, and there will be strong selection pressure for the cutthroats to modify their behavior to reduce predation from the lake trout, so I expect equilibrium will come over time if the fisheries managers are patient enough to not stick their fingers in the lake and stir things up.

On a more successful fishing note, Dave Megahan took me to a local bass pond for a couple hours of fishing early one Sunday morning. I doubt that I have ever caught so many 3+ pound largemouths in such a short time. It was memorable, and that memory is physically captured in the set in the eight weight bamboo that I used that morning.

Deer and turkey hunting were excellent this fall, the freezer is full. There was a deer under every bush on opening weekend, and a long careful stalk on a flock of turkeys yielded the first bird of the year. Quail hunting was mixed; my best day came on my last hunt of the season. I've never seen so many birds on this particular property, but other, usually reliable, spots were devoid of birds this fall.

While I have done a lot of reading this year, I've not found many new books of high merit, although my friend Kathy Scott has a keeper in *Changing Planes*. Some of the old favorites can't be beat, Tom McGuane's *The Longest Silence*, John Gierach's *Even Brook Trout Get the Blues*, Dave Hughes' *Indian Creek Chronicles*, Chris Camuto's *A Fly Fisherman's Blue Ridge*, and Ted Kerasote's *Out There* are all great reads. You could build a fire, pour a Scotch, and sit with any of these for a pleasant afternoon (but just don't expect them to help you catch a fish).

Bill Lamberson

Casting Corner

by Gary Eaton

Practice Leader and Yarn Fly - Leaders for practice casting suggestions follow. Tapered leaders commercially available tend to perform less well than certain competition-style, leaders tied by the caster. In tests, a leader can help overcome wind and sharpen accuracy. I suggest you experiment to get the results you want with your outfit. Be careful to use all the same type of material and low-profile blood knots in making this practice leader.

For 7-weight, I use a leader tapering from 40# to 15# with longest sections being the butt and the tippet. For lighter rods, or if this is too stiff for your casting style, one might start with 35 or 30 pound butt section and proceed to 12 pound tippet. I found darker mono more easily seen during casting compared to clear material. Smoother transitions result from minimal diameter change from section-to-section. Here is a starting point for you-

Butt - 40 inches of 40 pound
then, 15 inches of 30 pound
then, 10 inches of 25 pound
then, 10 inches of 20 pound
then, 18 inches of 15 pound as tippet.

Lengths are distance between the knots. Don't expect to be accurate to the inch. Once you settle on a formula you like - please write it down so you can remember it. Then tie up several of them so when one wears out, you can quickly get back to casting practice.

YARN FLY sounds so simple. Tie a chunk of wool on the end of the tippet, *right?*
Not so fast there practice-caster.

1. What material? - Using hydrophobic polypropylene may allow your fly to avoid soaking up water that changes its weight and casting characteristics. Hydrophilic material may enhance the mass of the fly in wind. Therefore, water-absorbing yarn held in your mouth may give you an edge on curves, distance, and accuracy.

2. What size? - The bigger it is, the easier it

is to see. However, larger flies are more subject to being buffeted by the wind. Generally, start with a larger yarn fly and snip it shorter to suit conditions. Smaller flies are good until you lose the ability to see them as you cast.

3. What color? - It is hard to go wrong with white but, it is not best for everyone or each venue. The color should contrast with the background. Ground background may be light colored autumn vegetation, pale casting pool at a show, thick green grass, or dark water surface. Air background could be azure mountain sky, deep evergreens, or the metal web-joists of a warehouse ceiling. My default is to tie on a bi-visible with a strand of white and a strand of fluorescent orange together. I can always trim one out.

4. What knot? - A clinch knot is fine. Any knot that works is acceptable. To add mass without increasing the profile, I sometimes tie a couple of knots in the yarn right where the tippet wraps around it. It is very important that you are well practiced with whatever yarn fly you choose to take a test with. Moreover, you **must** PRACTICE!

In the L.L. Bean Fly Casting Handbook Macauley Lord, MCCI, describes the yarn fly succinctly.

Default material - Synthetic yarn like polypropylene, about 1/8" diameter.

Default size - Small but clearly visible. Lord says, "Trim to the size of a pea."

Default color - Bright Yellow unless on summer grass. Safest is *bivisible*.

Default knot- Improved clinch knot

Gary Eaton is a Master Certified Casting Instructor (MCCI), and along with Jeff Trigg, CCI, conducts casting clinics for all abilities. Submit "Casting Corner" ideas to Jeff triggfly@gmail.com or Gary geaton@pol.net

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited
4625 N. Raccoon Ridge Dr.
Columbia, MO 65201

Mid-Missouri TU Chapter Officers for 2008 - 2009

President	Dean Rapp	573-268-5050
Past President	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776
Vice-president	Lynn Kleopfer	573-447-1168
Secretary	Jon Deal	573-819-3682
Treasurer	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Membership Web Editor Resources	Jim Washabaugh	573-893-3807
Member-at-large	Scott Rubinstein	573-446-8325
Banquet	Mike Kruse Lynn Kleopfer	573-875-2033 573-447-1168
Program	Mike Kruse	573-875-2033
Conservancy	Richard Mendenhall	573-449-7566
Newsletter Editors	Bill Lamberson Curt Morgret	573-356-4366 573-446-4776

***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.*

Internet: www.tu.org
www.midmotu.org
Email: rileym@missouri.edu
Newsletter: lambersonw@missouri.edu