



Cross Currents

May/June 2009

May 5 Meeting:

Mark Van Patten will be the May speaker. He will give a presentation on the history and current status of the Stream Team Program and, provide details of an upcoming event on June 13-14. The Missouri Stream Team's 20th anniversary celebration will take place on the Roubidoux Creek in Waynesville. Mark will discuss the plans for the celebration and hopes to engage the Mid Mo TU in a worthwhile celebration that will benefit both organizations.

You can contact Mark at:
573-522-4115 ext. 3892
mark.vanpatten@mdc.mo.gov

The May 5th meeting will be held 7 pm at D Rowe's, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong.

Help – a – Trout, Another Chance

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited, on June 13th there will be a nationwide day of volunteering on local rivers, streams and watersheds. In a joint celebration, the Mid-Missouri Chapter will join the Roubidoux Fly Fishers in cleaning Roubidoux Creek near its confluence with the Gasconade River. This year is also the 20th anniversary of the Missouri Stream Team program. The Roubidoux Fly Fishers are the 1st Stream team out of 4,000 across the state and MMTU is Stream Team #327. Mark your calendar, and further details will be posted at: <http://www.mostreamteam.org/STbday.asp>

Mill Creek Tree Plant

Rain or shine was the situation on Sunday, April 19 when members of the Mid-Missouri chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Roubidoux Fly Fishers and the Ozark Fly Fishers gathered at the Bohigian Conservation Area to plant trees and shrubs. It was a soggy day, thus great for the trees. Nick Girondo led the small group in planting about 4000 trees. Mike Kruse, Sam Potter, and Bill Lamberson represented MMTU.



Mill Creek Tree Planters

June 2 - Hot dog burn and bluegill fishing at Bethel Park. MMTU will provide hot dogs, buns and condiments, chips, cookies, soda and table service, please bring a side dish to share. We'll begin to gather about 5:30 and eat sometime thereafter. Bethel Park is just west of Rock Bridge High School, or two blocks west and one south of the intersection of Providence and Nifong.

Morgret's Madness

I was excited to see the photo of a friend of mine on a fly fishing calendar the other day and I thought that it was pretty cool I knew somebody on one of these things and I ought to drop her a note. There's nothing like a little recognition to give you a short-term, feel good buzz; sort of like a couple of beers on a Friday afternoon before you've had anything to eat. It's that interlude between a ground out work week and the point where you either drink yourself into something more serious or you go home and have dinner.

Fly fishing is one of those lives that invites beautiful photos on calendars and in magazines with lustful backgrounds and graceful arcs of streams and fly lines. Just looking at the pictures provides a relief from real life and pulls your mind into the scene and you feel the thigh-deep cold water pushing and nudging your legs downstream and the wind-like riffle quietly overtaking your sense of hearing and then becoming a part of you, washing out all other sound, distortion and interruptions. The cool breeze snakes down your collar making you want to shiver a bit and you realize this is how brainwashing works and you don't care.

If the photo is really good, you probably start calculating how much you can sell your house and extra stuff for and if that's enough to make it through the first season before you have to get some non-career, utility-type job that will feed you through the winter and provide enough savings to make it through the second season before you wash, rinse, repeat. Or maybe, if there's enough equity you can make it to South America for awhile. The idea of "eating bad food and sleeping on the ground" as my friend's wife put it seems more like a life than the real one, which was only appealing for about thirty days after

graduation when the money seemed like a fair trade-off.

Somebody may come along and say something like "F-stop" and ruin the experience of being immersed in the scene, making you a technical analytic of the graininess, depth of field or composition, but that's just Everyday Life talking to you in attempt to keep its grasp on your attention to things like bills, money, lawn care and other tasks that chain you to the galley of the real world. If you keep gazing at the photo long enough you can make the voice go away and step back into the river, being careful not slip on the bit of mud there at the bank, and feel your way across the slippery stones you see distorted under the pane of clear water.

So you work out the fly line, measuring the distance of the first cast in your mind, feeling nothing and concentrating your focus down to the one place it needs to be. You imagine yourself looking like a heron, frozen until the exact moment you aren't frozen, now feeling lethal and predatory but not evil. The fly floats past and the pull of the current provides the tension needed as you pick up the fly, working it back and forth to dry it out, position the line and make yourself one with the seam again. This time the fish will be there . . .

Curt Morgret

See MMTU in the Spring issue of *TROUT*, page 48. Thanks go to Sam Potter for submitting the material.

There will not be a newsletter published in June, the newsletter editor is away on his honeymoon.

July: NO MEETING. Everyone with any sense has left Missouri and is casting flies in a cool western climate somewhere.

From the Trout Underground (troutunderground.com):

Grazed: Lake Creek East Fork
Salmon River Watershed Idaho state
department of land

(July 24, 1994) Photos : Idaho Watersheds Project
(now WWP) click to enlarge



Riparian habitat deprived organic matter like grass dries more quickly, erodes more easily, weeds replaces beneficial vegetation, and the water level lowers, dropping below the roots of willows and other riparian vegetation.

Recovering: Lake Creek East
Fork Salmon River Watershed
Idaho state department of land

(July 18, 2007) Photos : Idaho Department of
Lands click to enlarge



Beavers return and their dams restore the floodplain, cool water and filter sediment for fish, store water recharging the aquifer, and promote general stream-bank (riparian) health



Lush stream-side vegetation stabilizes stream-banks

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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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