



# Cross Currents

February 2010

## February Meeting at D Rowes

February 2, 2010

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Regular Meeting

The program will be led by John Meyer on  
"Fishing the Great Smokies National Park"

## Monthly Column

The New Year started out as a bloody mess. Oh, sure, this is a fishing column and, as trout fishermen, we rarely see blood, well, maybe our own, but not lots. And if you stick hooks where I do you mostly need a mirror to see the blood and by then it's dried and crusty and just doesn't say "gore" like the free-flowing, oxygen-rich, hemoglobin loaded stuff that runs and puddles and is slick and slippery.

Fish blood feels distant and detached, too. I mean, it comes from fish and they're cold, their eyes aren't terribly expressive and they have the personality of a fish. You can appreciate them in a lot of ways, say when you're long into your backing and stuck on the bank between two trees with deep water in front of you and you can't follow the fish. Or when they're frying deeply in peanut oil, covered in cornmeal that was blended with a bit of flour, home-brewed ale, salt and pepper waiting to be placed on a plate full of deep-fried potatoes, a couple of wedges of lemon and a bottle of hot sauce. Yeah, I can feel warm and fuzzy about fish then.

So, the New Year started as a bloody mess but it wasn't fish blood. Somewhere, back in the briars and locusts of a snow-covered North Missouri farm, following the hot scent of quail on the loose, Penny the dog opened a wound; a horrific, gaping slash soaking her neck in blood, running down her leg and painting her ribs. The bright blooded dripped into the white snow. At this point, I knew I would carry her back to the truck and rush her to the Emergency Vet in town for a zipper-like run of stitches and maybe even an IV. New Year, Bad Luck.

Sometimes blood, like an oil leak in your old truck, can seem to be a lot more than it really is. When Bill and I finally got her to slow down from hunting to come over for inspection, we searched all over her neck and side and couldn't find any kind of wound causing the catastrophic loss of blood. Finally, Bill found a ragged but small cut on the tip of her ear that was bleeding like a drippy faucet although certainly not a serious laceration. And the dog happily jumped right back into the brush to find the pesky singles that were still hiding out there.

The real bloody mess happened at home. You see, Penny is mostly a house dog, so when you return from a field trip a bath is required in order to keep Paula's sofas and chairs somewhat free of mud, cockleburrs, beggar's lice and other dirty, sticky reminders of a beautiful day of bird hunting. But when you put a dog with a leaky-faucet ear in warm bath water, the blood flows freely. When a dog is wet it shakes itself. When a big-eared dog with a leaky wound on the tip of its ear shakes, it sprays blood on the shower walls, the bathroom walls, all over the vanity, the

mirror, the backside of the door, the tile floor and the toilet. And when you politely scream at your wife to come downstairs and bring some gosh-darn tape for the dog's ear, she may be surprised when she opens the bathroom door and finds a murder scene probably committed with a large, dull knife.

So the dog spent a couple of hours coagulating in her kennel and I spent a good portion of that time mopping, wiping and wringing out. But once again, with the help of friends, we completed another adventure enduring uncommon risk, blood, tribulation, weather and toil. The horizon of the New Year holds promise of more summits to be conquered and vast open stretches to push across, in search of fish, fowl and the clean air of freedom. See you in the New Year.

-- Curt Morgret

**Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited  
Annual Conservation Banquet is  
Friday February 12, 2010 at  
Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia MO  
beginning at 5:30.**

Banquet time is approaching and you should be very excited about this year's prospects! See why you need to buy your tickets, NOW.

Enjoy great western-style fly fishing right here in the Missouri. Choose from several guided trips, all from modern drift boats! Fish premium water not accessible by wading, difficult or impossible to cover in a canoe. Novice anglers thrill at casting to eager trout in each of these fisheries. Fishing Taneycomo offers one of the most prolific trout fisheries in the Ozarks and entertainment in nearby Branson. The Eleven Point River is designated part of the Ozark National Scenic River Ways for unencumbered pristine beauty. Nearby the North Fork of the White River also offers quality waters. Two years of rainfall returned these Ozark rivers to world-class fisheries for 2010.

In search of premier angling equipment? We have that too! Winston, Sage and other rods, Lamson and Orvis reels, Scientific Anglers Sharkskin lines, Bob Hook's flies and other great flies from skilled craftsmen in our area. Browse notable angling literature, bronze sculpture, and framed art work from local and national artists including Crane Creek McCloud Trout by Joe Tomelleri. Outdoor items display among assorted packages geared for women and non-anglers. Purchases centerpieces with proceeds designated for Casting for Recovery and just have fun catching up with Mid-MO TU regulars.

Off-the-stream items like coffee and wine baskets contrast our new feature of a YOUTH ONLY SILENT AUCTION for kids under sixteen. For hunters, we offer a turkey hunt hosted by premier hunter and conservationist Dave Murphy! Prairie Grove Shooting Sports provides a family membership and clay target options. We will draw door prizes from fully completed ticket stubs while you enjoy prime rib or chicken Cordon Bleu entrees. A few surprise card raffles and novelty premiums should liven-up the evening as we raise funds in the name of coldwater watershed conservation.

Tickets are available from Jeff Witten, e-mail [motrout@aol.com](mailto:motrout@aol.com) or call (573) 442-1516

Contributed by Gary Eaton and Michael Riley, co-chairmen

**Casting Corner** - One of the best things to help you cast better is professional lessons from certified instructors. One of the most affordable ways to do this is come to the banquet and bid on casting lessons. -- Gary Eaton, FFF Certified Master Fly Casting Instructor

## Ozark TU Council News

This past year was TU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a big celebration in Traverse City, Michigan. One of the most memorable moments I had was meeting Art Nuemann one of TU's founding fathers who penned the TU Philosophy. I have a framed copy of it hanging over my tying bench. One of the lines reads, "It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout is good for trout fisherman and that managing the trout rather than the trout fisherman is fundamental to the solution of our trout problems." Ozark Council has been around by my best reckoning for at least 30 years. Some of the Council and Chapters accomplishments range from restoration and conservancy work on Spring Creek, Mill Creek, the Little Piney River, Barren Fork Creek, Capps Creek and Lake Taneycomo. To kid's fishing days and promoting Catch and Release. We also raise money every year at our Banquets to support such groups as Casting for Recovery and to raise money for the Coldwater Fund of the Conservation Heritage Foundation. This fund helps MDC to purchase cold water resources as they become available, and with the tight budgets in the coming year this could be very important. In the New Year we will be carrying on this work as well as new initiatives to get more kids involved in fishing and conservation. We hope to do this through education, instructional classes and maybe in the future even a summer fishing camp. The number of kids fishing and hunting is declining each year as evidenced by fewer permits issued and they are the future stewards of the outdoors. So make a resolution in 2010 to participate in TU in Missouri by going to our fundraisers like the Mid-Mo TU Banquet coming up February 12<sup>th</sup> in Columbia, by participating in your local chapter more, or if you don't have a chapter near you, transfer to Mid- Missouri or Branson Chapter or think about starting a TU chapter in your area. Remember, "What's

good for the trout is good for the trout fisherman."

### Banquet Report

DATE - Friday February 12, 2010  
WHERE Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO  
TIME - Doors open 5:30 meal about 7 pm.

Tickets available from Jeff Witten \$35 each or 8 for \$240 CONTACT Jeff Witten <[motrout@aol.com](mailto:motrout@aol.com)>

### PREMIUMS INCLUDE:

At least three guided trips,  
Several fly rods,  
Kids (under 16) *only* silent auction  
Reels, line, & other gear  
Flat art  
Sculpture  
Oak fly tying station  
Fly collections  
Water craft  
Door prizes for those who submit fully completed ticket stubs

Next banquet Committee meeting just before the club meeting about 6pm, February 2 at D. Rowe's

### **March Meeting at D Rowes**

**March 2, 2010**

**6:00pm Dinner,**

**7:00pm regular meeting**

Montana & Missouri River Headwaters-  
Richard Mendenhall

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

## Mid-Missouri TU Chapter Officers for 2010-2012

President	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Past President	Dean Rapp	573-268-5050
Vice-president	Lynn Kleopfer	573-447-1168
Secretary	John Wenzlick	
Treasurer	Bob Suits	
Membership	Jim Washabaugh	573-893-3807
Web Editor		
Member-at-large	<b>open</b>	
Banquet	Gary Eaton	
	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Resource	<b>open</b>	
Program	Scott Gerlt	573-875-2033
Conservancy	Sam Potter	
	Bill Lamberson	
Newsletter Editor	Denis Hancock	573-442-3670 (home) 573-999-3848 (cell)

***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 of the intersection with Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m.

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