



# Cross Currents

MAY - JUNE 2010

**June Meeting at Bethel-Cosmo Park  
June 1, 2010  
5:30 pm  
Ficklin Shelter  
Annual Hotdog Burn  
Bring a side Dish**

## Bob Suits (1942-2010)

It is with great sadness that we learned that Bob Suits passed away last week. See the [obituary in the Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> Columbia Tribune](#) for details. Bob touched the lives of many students over his years as a Hickman chemistry teacher. In retirement he remained active in service.

## Angling guru, Gary Borger, shares trout tactics in Columbia

Master fly fisher and pioneering film maker, Dr. Gary Borger, presents a full day seminar on June 12, 2010 from 8:30 AM until 5 PM. Hosted by Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited, Gary Borger focuses on detailed skills for taking trout. The Columbia event at RADIL Auditorium at Discovery Ridge offers insightful expertise for a mere fifteen dollars. Space is limited and tickets may be purchased from TU program director, Scott Gerlt, **via e-mail [GerltS@missouri.edu](mailto:GerltS@missouri.edu) or 573-256-9521**. Borger teamed with his son, Jason, as technical experts on Robert Redford's 1992 film, A River Runs Through It on the heels of Borger's fly fishing video

Fishing the Bighorn. Gary Borger is noted as a fly-tying innovator, gear designer, conservationist, Master fly caster, and international angling expert. Gary Borger's initial book, Nymphing, arrived in 1979 and started a string of seven early books and seventeen video titles. Pioneering how-to travelogue films in the mid-1970's, many of his original angling videos remain unsurpassed and still sell profitably. Gary and Jason recently completed the first two of a twenty title fly angling series. Their initial offering, Fishing The Film, details surface presentation looking at technique, water knowledge, and how fish perceive the environment.

Professor Borger served on the Federation of Fly Fishers inaugural Casting Board of Governors from 1992 through last year. As a Master Fly Casting Instructor, Gary Borger expanded the ultimate standards of fly casting skill. Weather permitting; his June 12th course includes casting skills as well as "Reading the Water", "Sight Fishing with Nymphs from Top to Bottom", "Really Matching the Hatch" & "Presentation"

Lunch can be purchased on site. Dr. Borger will be available to sign books from noon to 1 PM. Sponsorship opportunities expanding the seminar experience may be purchased at four levels from fifty dollars to four-hundred dollars. Details available from [GerltS@missouri.edu](mailto:GerltS@missouri.edu) or 573-256-9521).

## FLY BOXES

I have a couple of fly boxes I use for fishing and I've got another fifteen or twenty for storing flies I will never use. My favorites are the dry fly boxes with the little doors. I own several plastic ones and a metal one that I can't find anymore but I still count it because it will be like the psycho guy in the movie who just got killed – wait, he's not dead yet! The doors make them seem like miniature cabinets and give me the feeling of being a bit more upscale for having them. This style box runs against my

usual organizing system of one big pile for everything.

I've a wooden fly box with several flies tied by A.K. Best in it. Neither will be used for fishing, so sometimes I wonder if I should give it away as a gift to someone. (Look under your Christmas tree this year.) That's probably the nicest fly box I own. On the other end of the scale are several that were found in parking lots or along the stream. These are usually little foam deals with maybe a magnet to keep them closed. The flies in them are typically tied using bright, fluorescent thread and lots of marabou.

Then there are the boxes for the specialty flies; varying in size and style depending on what was on sale. There's one with the tiny, tiny flies that may or may not be in the box – it might just be some dirt -- it's really hard to tell. And a box with flies only fished on one tailwater in a western state I've been to once. And a couple of boxes with flies I thought were cool and I thought I would need, but, as it turned out, my wife was right; I don't really need a lot of this stuff.

The boxes I use are easy to tell from the others. For starters, the one with the big, heavy flies has chewed up foam that barely keeps the flies in place any longer and has several round indicator balls bouncing around loose inside, so you have to open it carefully or you'll wind up chasing them down the stream. The little sticks for the indicators are all missing so I have to improvise with a feral twig from somewhere along the bank.

Most of my dry flies are in a long, shallow box with separate compartments without doors so the wind can easily blow them out. The flies are casually separated left to right in descending order of size and row-by-row with Royall Wulffs in various colors at the top, then a row of Adams, then a row with two compartments of Parachute Adams, followed by some little olive flies then a few orange ones and a lone, cream-colored fly. If you look around the bottom of the compartments I'm sure you will find several nymphs dislocated during the exchange from nymphing to dry fly fishing, and probably back again a little bit later, because, truthfully, I have no idea what's working most of the time.

Lastly, pragmatically but reluctantly, is the nymph box with Hare's Ears, Pheasant Tails, Prince Nymphs, soft hackles, some other flies tied with leftover material on the table, and a row of Griffiths Gnats for the times I really have no idea what

they're rising to but I saw Mike make this work in a situation exactly like this. There are a couple of boxes that are not never used but aren't regulars, either, that have some dry flies that come in handy or that I would really hope to use some day. Of course I didn't mention the warm water boxes . . .

-- Curt Morgret

## Notice:

On a few occasions MMTU finds it beneficial to release our mailing list to one of our conservation or angling supply partners. No names or emails will be released. If you do not wish to have your name and address release, please contact Michael Riley by June 1, 2010 at [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu), (573)882-6475 wk or 4625 E Raccoon Ridge, Columbia, MO 65201

## From the Ozark Council

It is going pretty good for the trout in Missouri. Across the state projects to protect and restore cold water resources are underway. I recently attended a meeting at the River of Life Farm to help in the discussion on ways to protect the watersheds for the North Fork of the White River and Bryant Creek. The group brainstormed and identified the most important threats to be development and specifically septic runoff along both waters and along Bryant Creek, an excellent cool water small mouth bass stream, runoff from cattle ranching and destruction caused by feral hogs.

Lake Taneycomo, home for the Branson Chapter, is getting some needed habitat improvement to the upper Trophy Trout area paid for by the Corps of Engineers. This work is badly needed after heavy flows the last two years having moved out structure and moved gravel all around filling up deep holes and the old river channel. This work will include placing large boulders for structure and building structures to try and help deepen the channel. And just a couple weeks ago TU was invited to sit in on a meeting held at Dr. Bohegians on Mill Creek in Phelps county to discuss the resources in that watershed along with the new Bohegian Wildlife area and the habitat on the mile of public water there.

Lastly, I just received Ozark Council TU's distributions of workplace contributions for 2009 from Earthshare. We received \$3200 this cycle (1/2 year) which will be put into the coldwater fund of the Conservation Heritage Foundation to help procure more frontage on wild trout streams as

they become available, like the recent Bohegion Area on Mill Creek, and provide more public access for fisherman.

Driftless Area Stream Restoration Workshop  
Mid-Missouri Chapter President, Michael Riley and I attended a workshop in Whetby, Wisconsin on March 20 & 21. The driftless area is a region at the corners where Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa come together. It was left intact when the glaciers which scoured out the areas to the north stopped. It left the area in its natural state of rolling hills, karst areas and springs. There was a great turnout, about 30 folks from all these states except Iowa who didn't make it this year, and two brave souls from Missouri. This is the fifth year that Jeff Hastings, Project Manager – T.U. Driftless Area Effort, has held this workshop. On Saturday there were good presentations on how to find grant opportunities to fund habitat projects, what Farm Bill dollars are available and even some pointers on how to write the grant applications. Saturday afternoon we observed stream restoration in progress: how a shallow wide stream with high steep drop off banks is transformed into a narrower deeper stream with gentle sloping banks, thereby providing cooler temperatures and better habitat for trout. We also observed the addition of structure in the form of anchored root wads. We had a barbecue dinner Saturday night at the local Rod & Gun Club next to the Ski Jump and the Timber Coulee River. They also had their 2nd annual Tall Tale contest for the biggest fishing stories that. Things started off a little slow with only one. Nobody came forward to tell the next story, so I asked if an Ozark's story would qualify, was assured it would, and proceeded to tell a story I had heard from Mark VanPatten about a certain big brown trout on the Meramec River. This loosened things up a bit and 3 more folks got up to tell some pretty good lies (I mean tales). I was stunned however that when the voting was over I won and got the traveling trophy, a Pinocchio plaque with about a 6" long wooden nose. Also got a choice of a prize and picked a Redington large arbor reel. I have already displayed my trophy at a Mid-Mo TU meeting and hope to at a Branson outing before I ship it back to Wisconsin. On Sunday we listened to a talk by the local DNR guy about the species of fish in the area, the bugs in the stream and even what flies to fish. Because of all the travel time we didn't get a chance to fish but plan on coming back to the area as soon as we can.

-- John Wenzlick

## Upcoming Programs and Events:

No Newsletter in June or July. Please have your submissions for August in by July 18.

July: No meeting

August: Mark van Patten - "Streamside Entomology"

September 11, 2010: Stream Team survey of Little Piney. (Rain date September 18<sup>th</sup>). Contact Michael Riley at (573)817-0631 or [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) if interested.

Upcoming Conservation Banquet: Friday, Feb 18th, 2011 at Stoney Creek Inn. If you would like to help, contact Michael Riley at [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu)

## Back Casts Are Key

Good forward casts begin with perfect back cast loops. I advocate watching every back cast loop until it achieves the perfect "candy-cane" shape before allowing any forward move of the rod tip. What? You're back cast loops NEVER look like candy-canes. Maybe that's a problem.

Often the back cast loop has a non-smooth or squared-off shape that remains entirely *non-loop like*. This morphology usually arises from a failure to raise the elbow as the initial movement into the back cast. Note that this movement happens with **ABSOLUTELY NO BENDING OF THE ELBOW**. Although this phase is brief and small in amplitude, it sets the stage for symmetrical back cast loops with nicely parallel loop legs.

There is also a safety factor as a fly that is lifted from the surface absent this initial raise of the straight elbow usually results in the fly speeding right toward the caster's face. Often you see people develop complex slack with loop legs out of parallel in a bizarre, and weak, partial sidearm or under slung back cast trajectory. Of course this beats plucking flies from one's eyebrows, but it never addresses the fundamental **casting flaw** of initiating a back cast using elbow BEND without initial *raising* of the *unbent elbow*.

**WATCH YOUR BACK CASTS - YOU CAN LEARN FROM IT.**

-- Gary Eaton, MCCI [doubledok@gmail.com](mailto:doubledok@gmail.com)

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

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

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**One of our significant costs is printing and mailing this newsletter. If you are willing to accept it by email, more of MMTU monies can be spent on conservation. Just send your email to [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) to make the switch.**