



# Cross Currents

March 2011

## November Meeting at D Rowes

March 1, 2011

7:00 pm

Diana Papoulias

“Intersex Bass”

Diana Papoulias is a Research Fish Biologist with 22 years at the US Geological Survey's Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC).

She began her career in fish biology working in fish culture in the United States and in Mexico. Dr. Papoulias later got a master's degree at Arizona State University and worked on native endangered Colorado River fishes, specifically larval fish ecology. She received her Ph.D in 2001 at MU for her research at CERC that focuses on the effects of environmental stressors, particularly endocrine disrupting chemicals, on fish reproduction.

Dr. Papoulias will be presenting about her research on the occurrence of intersex in fish populations and the potential causes.

## President's Corner

At banquet time we recognize people who have contributed to our club and conservation efforts. This year we

honored Paul Heine with the Nello Donati Award. Paul is a charter member of MMTU and he continues to contribute to our banquet with his great art work. Mike Siepker and Craig Fuller were recipients of our Conservation Award. They have determined natural trout habitat along various streams in Missouri and implemented a trout stocking program based on habitat.

This year I also want to recognize those who contribute to our fund raising efforts, something we neglected to do for more than a decade. The Banquet Service Awards were presented to those who served on this year's Banquet Committee, who have served on the Banquet Committee in prior years (at least those I can recall since being an activity member), or who regularly make significant contributions to the Banquet over the past decade. They were: John DeSpain, Gary Eaton, Scott Gerlt, Paul Heine, Bob Hook, Lynn Kleopfer, Mike Kruse, Bill Lamberson, John Meyer, Curt Morgret, Jackie O'Rourke, Dean Rapp, Michael Riley, Bob Sappington, Spencer Turner, John Wenzlick, Linda Wenzlick, and Jeff Witten. Please join me in thanking these folks for their generous giving of time and resources which makes MMTU's conservation efforts a reality.

Most of raised monies are spent locally for conservation and education. By far our greatest expenditure (more than \$12,000)

this decade has been toward the purchase of Bohigian property on Mill Creek, primarily through contributions to the Missouri Trout and Coldwater Fund. Second to that, MMTU conducted an in depth insect assessment on the Little Piney, above and below a gravel mining operation. In other projects we have provided educational resources to Stream Team and have sponsored Kids Trout Outing. We hosted top notch educational presentations with the Borger Event. We regularly contributed to local Casting for Recovery events. On occasions MMTU supports other regional TU chapters efforts, for example we assisted with Capps Creek water quality project here in Missouri and help Colorado Trout Unlimited with their Buffalo Peaks Ranch restoration project on the Middle Fork of the South Platte. MMTU has also support a few National TU projects with modest contributions; for example, Three Dollar Bridge and Missouri Head Projects in Montana, often leveraged with matching dollars from Orvis. All such expenditures are approved by our voting membership. It is our current goal to find a suitable Embrace-A-Stream project here in Missouri in cooperation with DNR and to provide volunteers and funding for it.

Our banquet is not only fun, its one way we get an important aspect of our job done.

Michael Riley

## Upcoming Programs and Events:

March 1, 2011: Diana Papoulias – “Intersex Bass”

March 5th 1:00-4:30 pm: Exhibition at Bass Pro Columbia for Kid’s day. We will tie flies and perhaps do some fly casting

weather permitting. Contact Michael Riley (rileym@missouri.edu or 817-0631) if interested.

March 18<sup>th</sup>: Stream Team survey (insects) on Little Piney. Meet at commuter parking lot at 7:30. Bring water and lunch, pack a rod if you want. Contact Michael Riley (rileym@missouri.edu or 817-0631) if interested.

April 5, 2011: Open

May 3, 2011: Mayor McDavid will speak to us about the Hinkson Creek and how the EPA mandate affects the City of Columbia

## Casting Corner

### WHY WATCHING YOUR BACK CAST IS IMPORTANT

When the fly-line has achieved that critical *Candy-Cane* shape, the caster should begin to initiate the gentle reversal of casting stroke. **NO ONE** can *feel* the important point of *Candy-Cane* shape of any terminal fly line loop. This may *only* be determined with certainty by *observing* it. The timing of this changes with 1) Loop Speed 2) Wind affecting loop progression 3) Distance of cast 4) Amount of *carry* 5) Consistency of *haul* 6) Casting stroke speed and STOP timing, etc.

When overhead casting with a following wind (from behind), the ability to feel *any* portion of the back cast becomes severely inhibited.

If a cast is repetitious, some casters *may* develop a sense of the timing of the duration of the back-cast loop. With ANY change of casting mechanics or environment, this timing inherently changes, requiring *visual observation of*

*the back cast for several cycles to learn the altered timing!*

One of the hallmarks of great overhead casters is steady observation of back cast loops as they assess new tackle or conditions. Most facilitate this by turning their rod-side foot outward and may move it rearward. Often the rod handle will pass as much in front of the caster's chest and belly as to their side, in this position. This adaptation may prevent shoulder-girdle movement to enhance retaining a **STRAIGHT-LINE PATH** of the rod tip while watching the *entire* cast.

### **EXCEPTIONS TO WATCHING THE BACK CAST**

Caveat is that sight fishing on the saltwater flats (OR Carp fishing), never lose sight of the fish as they are always moving - as rationale for application of the *Saltwater Quick Cast*. Other casts may dispense with rigid observation of back casts - namely the **Belgian Cast** and **Static Roll Casts**. Often in **ACCURACY DRILLS** the focus becomes so intent on the forward cast, and the critical alignment of the back cast to placement for accuracy allows the back cast observation to be suspended. The nearness of the back cast to perfectly opposite the direction of the forward cast is easily inferred by observing the alignment of the slowly unrolling forward cast and *hovering* the fly a few feet above the target. In MCI testing, other critical alignment tasks like placement of **aerial mends** or **Wiggle Mends** may challenge the candidate to move to a shoulders-square-to-target position. Often, shorter accuracy requires the rod-side foot to be moved *forward* to enhance alignment of the rod-target plane with the

eye-target plane as detailed in Joan Wulff's 97-Page, 1997, book *Fly Casting Accuracy*.

Generally, one only may ignore the watching of back casts after they have closely observed enough **thousands** of them so that their unobserved back casts routinely enjoy the same symmetry to their forward casts as when they watch them. The only casters I have observed pass their MCI exam have back casts that perfectly mirror their *perfectly shaped, parallel-legged, forward casts*. This symmetry arrives only from observation and careful attention to the detail of initiating back cast movement with *only* elbow elevation (rod tip lift) and adding elbow flexion (rotation) later.

My casting instruction, alone, will not improve your fly casting; ***practicing well & often***, that which you have learned, is required.

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

We received word recently that Chuck Tryon died February 7, 2011. He was a retired hydrologist with the US Forest Service and wrote extensively on the subject of flies and fishing in Missouri, including *Flyfishing for Trout In Missouri*. A more extensive tribute to Chuck Tryon may be found at <http://www.midcurrent.com/news/2011/02/chuck-tryon-dies.html>.

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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 and August. The regular meeting place is back room in D'Rowe's, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong, in Columbia, MO. June meeting is at Bethel Park. Meeting time is at 7p.m., but come early to chat and eat. Board meeting before hand.*

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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.**