



Cross Currents

October 2011

October Meeting at D Rowes October 6, 2011 7:00 pm

Leonard Keeney will be speaking on
"Nightfishing Taneycomo"

Leonard is a night guide on Lake Taneycomo. He also ties commercially and has developed several patterns for night fishing. One of these, the PMS, is now produced commercially by Rainy's Flies. Leonard will be talking about nightfishing Taney and demonstrating how to tie some of his patterns. He will have flies available for purchase.

October Meeting Change

In order to accommodate our October speaker, Leonard Keeney, the October meeting will be held on **Thursday** night (the 6th) instead of Tuesday (the 4th). It will still take place at 7:00 at D'Rowes. Leonard is an accomplished nightfishing guide on Taneycomo and should have lots of insight that makes the one-time change worthwhile.

Upcoming Programs and Events

October 6, 2011 (Thursday): Leonard Keeney- Nightfishing Taneycomo

October 8, 2011: Stream Team Level 1 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop on Saturday October 8th in Columbia. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 5th.

October 11, 2011: Fly tying materials for sale: Capital City Fly Fishers is sponsoring an auction of Terry Finger's collection at 7:00pm on Tuesday Oct 11, 2011 at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

October 15, 2011: Free Bob White Seminar sponsored by CCFF on Saturday October 15, from 9 - 12 AM at the Runge Center Auditorium in Jefferson City. Bob will discuss 3 topics 1. Around the World (guiding and fishing the Seychelles Islands and Australia and New Zealand) 2. Smallmouth and Musky Fishing the Midwest 3. Alaska . The seminar is free of charge and open to the public. He is a great guy and is an artist by trade. Bob has illustrated books for Orvis, John Gierach and is a regular contributor to many magazines. (See www.bobwhitestudio.com)

November 1, 2011: Jeff Briggler- Hellbender Studies

December 6, 2011: Christmas Dinner and 2011 MMTU Photo Contest

Nominees for MMTU Officers are being accepted now. We vote in December.

Nominees for 2011 Donati Award and Conservation Award are being accepted now.

CASTING CORNER

by Gary Eaton, FFF Master Casting Instructor

Number Ones – Answers to *Most Common* student questions

MOST COMMON CASTING ERROR -

Excessive rod arc. Either starting too low in back or stopping too low in front remains tell-tale signs. Try to stop with rod tip higher than the height of the caster's head for overhead forward casts. Loop width indicates rod tip arc and this is most evident when roll casting.

MOST COMMON REASON FOR SHORT ROLL CASTS – *too short length of line*

“head” or “belly”. Line *head* is the thick part of a weight forward line leading to the tapered tip where the leader attaches. *Belly* of a line includes the head and both front and rear tapers. Throughout the Ozarks, indicator and nymph fishing dominates most moving water. A couple of weighted flies and an indicator almost require roll casts to prevent tangles. The physics of fly casting make roll-casts in excess of the length of the line belly pretty close to impossible. Look at profiles of fly lines before you buy. SA™ Expert Distance© is the king of belly length, even exceeding most double tapers. Cortland™ revealed a new 65-ft head line at the New Orleans tackle show that will be released under the name “Trout Boss©” in 2012. SA will release a “Trout Stalker” fly line with textured surface and long belly designed on the lines of the Expert Distance model. Long-belly lines provide unrivalled versatility across most angling situations.

MOST COMMON LEADER ERROR – using tapered leader for nymphing. Taper occurs in leader to gradually dissipate energy for delicate *dry fly* presentation. Taper provides no real benefit for any part of the system that delivers deep. I see potential benefits in tapering leader for emergers in the film, soft-hackles, or for the part of the leader leading to the *hopper* in a hopper-dropper presentation. Below the surface, use as small diameter a filament as you see fit, but tapered leader

generates expense and serves no essential purpose.

MOST COMMON INDICATOR ERROR – using too massive an indicator for the weight of the sinking fly.

The less massive indicator allows for greater sensitivity to subsurface takes in all water conditions. Recently I fished with someone who used a large popper to suspend a smallish Pheasant Tail nymph. I began to catch fish in the same area using a small size-14 Club Sandwich as my indicator fly. After fending off accusations of using bait or scent, I suggested a smaller indicator fly. Reducing floating fly mass by two-thirds, he soon caught several fish without changing anything else. Use the smallest indicator that will get the job done.

MOST COMMON WEIGHTED NYMPHING ERROR – fishing too shallow.

If you do not catch on the bottom once in a while, add more weight. If the float sinks with the weight, lengthen tippet. If the leader gets too long (about two rod lengths becomes pretty unmanageable with floating line), then switch to a sinking line or sink tip. Sometimes you have to let that run remain un-fished due to gear or angler limitations. It's OKAY, there's more water.

MOST COMMON OVERESTIMATION BY ANGLERS – Casting ability!

Even more common than the size of the *gigantic* fish that got away or that was released after a heroic fight, is the angler's self-assessment of casting skill. Most of this comes from not practicing before fishing and not gleaning information from *qualified* resources. Believe it or not, Left Kreh is not the greatest caster, but his *fishing ability* is top-of-the-line. Steve Rajeff, MCI holds the fly distance record, but was beaten by Hardy's Howard Croston at the 2010 AFTM competition when Howard hit moving targets relentlessly. In my first thirty-five years as a fly angler in the Rockies and West Coast, I learned a multitude of terrible casting habits. I still caught fish despite working much too hard at it and limiting myself only to methods that did not frustrate me. Only in the past decade have I developed new enlightenment and become a

Casting Geek- it was an awfully large amount of hard work and improved my enjoyment and success as a fly angler immensely. I continue to learn and study.

Casting 70-feet of line is not the same as casting a fly to 70-feet. I once assessed someone trying to cast the 75-feet needed for the FFF Certified Casting Instructor distance portion. They dutifully marked the fly line at 68-feet and could cast so that the mark was out of their reel. With a 7.5-ft leader, they surmised the cast went 75-feet. When the tape measure laid on the ground showed the fly at 52-feet, their understanding that the *complete straightening* of the line failed to occur led to some specific instruction.

I gave a demonstration of the FFF Master Certified Instructor performance tasks to a student in Colorado this summer. I passed the test in 2008 and had not practiced some items in recent months to focus on fishing. When I gave the demo, it took several tries to place aerial mends perfectly. Keeping sharp as a caster requires you participate in *more* than fishing.

MOST COMMON DISTANCE CASTING DEFICIENCY – Faulty hauling. I regularly see students who hold the line in their line hand and pull the rod away from this grip on their back cast while insisting this is a *haul* — nothing could be more false. Hauls are specific movements of the line hand away from the rod, and timed to coincide with an optimal effect on the rod and line during a cast. Adding a haul to an inefficient one-hand stroke multiplies errors and confusion. Left Kreh describes these motions as “like a monkey hoeing cabbage.”

Double-hauls require returning the line hand to the rod butt as the line shoots forward. This movement also positions the hands for subsequent hauling. My *instructor's nightmare* scenario is the *experienced* angler who knows everything else, but needs to learn to double-haul. Invariably they appear like I did a decade ago — full of awful habits that need to be unwound to re-build a sound casting stroke *with one hand!*

My experience suggests —

A) Video may demonstrate but that is different than teaching.

B) Lots of people will *give you a lesson*, but specific training as in the FFF Casting Instructor Certification Program reduces the potential for being fed wrong information.

C) Years of experience and participation in angling activities that have no teaching standards provide neither indication of ability nor success.

D) Lessons without diligent practice provide poor progress.

E) Practicing errors ingrains them, practicing perfection requires knowing what to assess as one trains. As Lefty Kreh says, “Most guys use the double-haul to throw their mistakes further.” ><))))))’≥ _____.

Expert fly-casting instruction, alone, will not improve your fly casting; ***practicing well & often***, that which you have learned, is required. - **Gary Eaton, MCCI** - contact me at doubledok@gmail.com

Didymo Alert

Missouri Department of Conservation has issued a Didymo alert. Didymo, short for *Didymosphenia geminata*, is an invasive alga, often referred to as “rock snot” for its ability to form thick mats on the bottom of streams. It smothers aquatic life vital to food chain that supports fish.

Didymo has been found just south of Missouri border in portions of the White River in Arkansas and North Fork of White River. Help prevent the spread by checking all equipment that comes into contact with water, especially felt soled wading boots, and cleaning them by one of the following methods. Completely soak soft gear, like felt-sole wader boots, for 20 minutes in a 2% solution of bleach (1/3 cup per gallon water), or with 5% saltwater solution (1 cup per gallon of water), or with dishwashing detergent. Scrub hard items thoroughly. Alternatively, completely dry the item by exposing to sunlight and leaving to dry for at least 48 hours. For more information see mdc.mo.gov

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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 to make the switch.