



Cross Currents

May 2012

No Regular Meeting for May

Instead, please attend the
Fly Fishing Film Tour
At the Ragtag Cinema
Saturday May 19th
1-4 PM

Tickets \$10 if purchased in advance
<http://flyfilmtour.com>
\$12 at the door if available

Jerry Case (1949-2012)

We learned that Jerry Case, long-time member of MMTU passed away Saturday, April 14, 2012. His obituary can be found at <http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2012/apr/18/jerry-case-1949-2012/>.

Upcoming Programs and Events:

NOTE: As of January 3, 2012 we will be meeting at the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. Dinner and conversation are at 6:00pm, followed by the meeting at 7:00pm. Jack's Gourmet Restaurant is on East Business Loop I-70 (across from east side Westlake's Hardware)

June 1-3 Club outing to Driftless Area. If interested contact Michael Riley at 573-817-0631 or rileym@missouri.edu to arrange details.

Tuesday June 5th meeting: Annual Hot Dog Burn at Gordon Shelter, Stephens Lake Shelter, 5:30.

Saturday-Sunday June 16th, 17th: Jakes event by Randolph Co Long Beards. Teach youth to fly cast and

fly tie. Contact Dean Rapp at 573-268-5050 if you can help.

Tuesday September 4th meeting: Ryan Vercamp will talk about rainbow experiences as an Alaskan Guide.

Since our March meeting on the Hinkson Creek TMDL, I have learned the City is participating in an EPA 319 grant to reduce the impact of storm water. I encourage you to view the city's video at the following link: <http://gocomostormwater.blogspot.com/2012/03/319-grant-improving-stormwater-on-city.html>

Newsletter on Vacation -- Cross Currents will be on summer hiatus with the next issue coming out in late August, 2012. Please have your submissions in by August 15, 2012.

Java Nice Day Curt Morgret

Not seeing anything, hearing only the usual ringing in his ears and rustle of the sleeping bag, he feels around the tent for the headlamp. It's cold and dark and the down bag is comfortable, secure warmth, wrapping his legs and torso in a way that invites the return to deep, peaceful sleep. But he didn't walk this far into the wilderness to sleep. The trick, he thought, was to get the process going and then momentum would carry him the rest of the way.

The first step: find the damn headlamp, supposedly stuffed into the side pocket. But the headlamp obviously made a midnight run for it and is now somewhere beneath all the clutter in the tent. He tried not to clutter, but digging stuff out of the backpack to make camp and only having the small space available in the lightweight tent made organizing difficult. There it is. Now, turn it on, pull it on over the fleece hat, roll over, unzip the door, then the fly and, as the crisp pre-dawn air flows in, stick his arms out into the vestibule and start pumping the cold fuel bottle.

Momentum must be maintained. The leather pump cup squeaks inside the plastic pump building up pressure, then the valve is turned to release a small amount of fuel into the stove and quickly turned back off. Crap -- where are the matches? Oh, here; he carefully opens the waterproof canister so as not to spill all the matches and

takes one Strike Anywhere match and strikes anywhere three times before ignition is achieved. The sulfurous odor released by the match head sneaks into the tent while he lights the stove, then he carefully snubs out the match, making sure the orange flame is ok, then gets the cooking pot out and fills it with water, setting it where it won't turn over (an artistic piece of coordination and judgment) He turns attention back to the stove and twists the valve open bringing it to a blue-flame roar and sets the pot of water on the stove to boil.

Now, pulling open the Swiss Army knife's little blade he slices open the packet and pours the redolent coffee into the French press then sets it aside. As the water begins to heat, the warmth of the air and water vapor waft from the vestibule into the tent making the sleeping bag now seem a little stuffy. Gradatim ferociter.

The stove continues its jet engine roar and the water rolls in the pot. He twists the valve tightly to "off" and finds the handle on the pot, slowly lifting, then pouring, the scorching hot water into the press, and lastly pushing the timer button on his watch. A leisurely four minutes pass while he tidies things up a bit, puts some sugar cubes and creamer into the double-walled steel mug (his friend describes this as "hoosiering up your coffee") and unzips the bag a little more because it's a bit uncomfortable now.

He squints at his watch, trying to see through the glare created by the head lamp, to see if it's been four minutes. Screw it, close enough. With gentle force he pushes the press down slowly to achieve coffee sans grounds, and when the bottom is reached, he turns the lid so the arrow is lined up with the lip and pours the reward into the mug, watching the creamer mix with the brown liquid and releasing the aroma of early mornings.

The first sip scalds. That's ok, now he earnestly begins the process of changing clothes and stuffing unneeded stuff back into the backpack, stopping occasionally to test the coffee for a temperature that allows longer draws. As the coffee takes effect, his brain is released from the present and he can think about preparation for the day and the possibilities of caddis flies, ants, mayflies and trout. He finds the rolled up daypack and fills it with Clif bars, summer sausage and crackers, a small bag with a fly box, tippet, floatant and vital tools, then finds the water bottles and filter. The rod tube is leaning against a tree outside the tent and he can see it pretty well now in the grayish dawn light and he can see the night sky transcending to day revealing trees, rocks, adventure and fish.

Review: Fly Fishing On The Red

Author: Bill Willmert with John P Smith

(Published by Bill Willmert, 2010, 160 pages)

\$23.99 <http://www.stonepointflies.com/book.html>
(ISBN9781-452883465)

In Fly Fishing On The Red, Willmert & Smith reveal more guide secrets and insider advice per-page than any fly fishing book you may ever see. ***Fly Fishing On The Red*** encompasses 50-decades of fly fishing experience with over 320-of those combined years focused on the living experts below Arkansas' Greer's Ferry Dam. River-specific guidebooks seldom reach so far beyond self-serving rhetoric to enlighten the savvy reader. Author and guide, Bill Willmert, parlays his respectful relationships with 16-*superb* guides into extracting detailed how-to for anglers. Willmert has held dozens of IGFA class tippet world-records, so he knows plenty about technical fly angling as he filters juicy insider information into concise writing. His interview style reads differently than prose and requires some accommodation. Certain brand-specific gear selection and preferences for use of wading staffs might distract from the meaty insights shared about this world class fishery.

Bill's wife, Donna, relishes having displaced him from certain records. It seems a bit disappointing not to have Donna Willmert's sage advice included. Her input would travel well alongside the broad array of experts addressing the nuts and bolts of fly angling – artists, engineers, fisheries biologists, boat captains, champion competition anglers, inventors, educators, neurologists, soldiers and more — all pushing the limits to discover secrets of Arkansas' *Little Red River*. Contributors' comments and answers to questions provide centuries of accumulated expertise. Bill Willmert carefully selected responses to caption each profile picture — reading these wise excerpts easily serves as a solid fly angling foundation for anyone.

Willmert partnered with non-angling computer specialist, John P. Smith, to self-publish this brilliant gem. Smith comprehends fly fishermen as shown in his insightful forward. "***I now know it's an affliction, and an addiction and a predisposition to catch bigger and better fish. It's exactly the kind of sport that attracts hardcore individualists. . .***" – Clearly, a unique passion for excellence landed on the 160-pages of this homespun, first book.

Notably, *Fly Fishing On The Red* features detailed tying recipes and excellent color photographs of guides' 42-favorite flies. Willmert's passion for fly tying reflects his exacting standards, transferred to high-quality color images that honor his mentor, Royce Dam. Many of the patterns reflect traditional ties, but 19-*original* flies from these meticulous Little Red River experts debut here. Willmert's well-travelled *Deena* streamer graces the cover.

Visit the Stoney Point Flies website at

<http://www.stonepointflies.com/book.html> or E-mail Bill Willmert, bwillmert@suddnelink.net, to get your keys to the home waters of the previous world-record Brown Trout (40-pounds, 4-ounces) and a shot at fly fishing Nirvana. You will also know who to consult when you get there. – Reviewed by Gary Eaton, MCI



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PHOTO: DAVE MCCOY

Saturday, May 19, 2012

Doors open at noon, Show starts at 1:00 p.m.

RagTag Cinema
10 Hitt Street
Columbia, Missouri

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door (spots limited)

Brought to you by Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited, Capital City Fly Fishers and the Alpine Shop

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited
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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 the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located on East Business Loop I-70 across from the east side Westlakes Hardware 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.