



**Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited**

<http://midmissouri.tu.org/>

# Cross Currents

2014

**Tuesday March 4th, 2014.**

Escapades of Gary Kula.

## **Meetings**

**Tuesday April 1st, 2014.** Jeff Witten on Fishing the Colorado River Headwaters.

**Tuesday May 6th, 2014.** TBA

**Tuesday June 3rd, 2014.** Hot Dog Burn at Gordon Shelter, Stephens Lake Park, 5:30. Hot dogs provided. Please bring a side dish.

**Tuesday September 2nd, 2014.** David Keller and Kent Campbell present on Alaska

## **Anouncements:**

**The Fly Fishing Film** tour will be coming to Rag Tag in Columbia **on March 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm.** Tickets \$15. Visit [www.thef3t.com](http://www.thef3t.com) for details about the tour.

**March 21-23, 2014.** Conservation Federation of Missouri Annual Convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

## **President's Corner by Scott Gerlt**

As this newsletter reaches your mailbox, we should have another successful banquet behind

us. Hopefully everyone had fun as they helped us raise money for coldwater conservation. I want to thank the entire committee for their work on this, especially Tony Warren, Dean Rapp and Michael Riley who put countless hours in.

The next upcoming event is the Fly Fishing Film Tour on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be our third year of cohosting this show. It has been a great time in the past with plenty of fellow fly fishers, good giveaways and great movies. Tickets can be purchased from Jeff Trigg, myself or at [TheF3T.com](http://TheF3T.com). I hope to see you there!

## **Local Angler -Milt Barr -Selected to start Bennett Springs Opening Day Ceremony**

Milt Barr of Jefferson City was notified last week by the Missouri Department of Conservation that he was selected to start the opening day ceremony for Trout Season on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Milt has been an avid trout fisherman and has been fishing at Bennett Springs since he was 12 years old. He has been fishing there for 50 years this year and has many fishing stories to tell about catching and almost catching lunkers and fun that he and his family have had fishing at the Springs and enjoying one of Missouri's most beautiful park settings. He is excited that he was selected for the honor of setting off the starting siren for opening day 2014 as it is a highly regarded annual event for anglers. Milt is a retired veteran of 30 years in the military service and 11 years with the State of Missouri

for a total of 41 years of public service. He is enjoying his retirement in the Jefferson City area with the “catch of his life”, his wife Cherie of 40 years, who is also retired from a teaching career.



Milt Barr shown at Bennett Springs MO with a lunker Trout during catch and release season in January 2014.

Part of the selection process by MDC was the candidates' individual and family involvement in trout fishing especially at Bennett Springs. Milt definitely qualified in this area as he has been active in the catch and release fishing at the Springs even this cold winter ( see picture inset) and usually takes his wife on the nice days so they can have picnic lunches together and to watch for Bald Eagles in the beautiful park areas. Milt's daughter Katherine Morrow who also enjoys fishing with her dad at the springs, was the one who submitted Milt's name and qualifications for MDC consideration for this honor. Milt is a MDC Master Angler, has several “Lunker Awards” at Bennett Springs.

He is a member of the local Capital City Fly-fishers organization and the Mid Missouri chapter of Trout Unlimited where he is a member of the Stream Team. He is also a life member of the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

When asked why he is so passionate about trout fishing Milt says... , “The sport of fishing is

a great teacher of life...as you grow and learn to persevere in your endeavors , there are ever increasing opportunities of hope that for the next “cast of your line” awaits excitement, adventure and accomplishment.” Milt admits that he is truly blessed with a lot of excitement, adventure and accomplishment in his life including this most recent honor. He also states that citizens of Missouri are also blessed with great Conservation and Parks services.

### **Chapter Know How - Leaders 101 by C. Dean Rapp**

I started fly fishing in 1991 or 1992 and I've wind knotted more tapered leaders than I care to imagine. Until recently, I really did not understand the physics behind a leader or the importance to understanding said physics. I hope this brief explanation provides you with some helpful insight.

When we think of leaders we often think in terms of the X factor, which is simply a measure of line diameter. The larger the X number the smaller the diameter of line so a 7X leader would have a smaller tippet end than a 6X leader. Conventional wisdom would conclude that 6X would naturally be stronger than 7X. However, I've learned that not all leader material has been created equally. One manufacturer 7X may be significantly stronger than another's.

For years I simply selected the smallest diameter leader (measured at the tippet end) I thought I could get by with using. Generally this was dictated by how picky I thought the fish might be or how much fight might be in them. It was not until recently I realized just how important the butt section of a leader was in propelling my flies to their intended destinations. In simple terms we need the butt section of the leader to have the strength to turn over the fly we are using. Choose a leader with too small a butt section and your fly will not land much past the end of your fly line.

The taper becomes important as you want just enough energy (strength) left in the leader so the fly continues to be propelled out in a nice straight line. Yet you want the tippet end to be small enough in diameter to fool the eyes of those fish.

All of this is why you'll see leaders packaged specifically for a specific species of fish. A 3x Bass Leader is likely to have a much stiffer butt and slower taper than a 3x Trout leader. The manufacturer is trying to guesstimate the size/style of fly you might be using and what stiffness and taper will propel that fly out in a nice straight line.

Over the years I had found one particular brand of leader that suited most my needs, unfortunately that leader was often hard to find at our local shops. That factor, along with the extremely high cost of leaders, led me to explore hand tied leaders. I must admit my first few attempts at hand tied leaders were colossal failures. I simply had no grasp on the concepts listed above. I now have a variety of leader formulas that will handle most any fishing conditions I'll ever uncover.

For a list of proven hand tied leader formulas, instructions on knots, how to convert the X system to inches and much more check out [KnowHow.MidMoTU.org](http://KnowHow.MidMoTU.org).

If you would like to try a hand tied leader or two, I have plenty of material to spare at the moment and would not mind helping you out as long as my supply lasts. Just drop me a request for such via e-mail.

Do you have a tip or technique you would like to share with others? If so, please drop me a line at [Dean.Rapp@gmail.com](mailto:Dean.Rapp@gmail.com).

## **Conservation Corner, Michael Riley reporting**

Public participation in the planning process for the *Draft General Management Plan for Ozark National Scenic Riverways* has ended. Superintendent Bill Black expressed appreciation for the tremendous level of public input. It will take several months to evaluate all the comments and incorporate the appropriate changes. The final General Management Plan is expected to be ready for release during the summer of 2014. But the controversy wages on as Missouri Congressman Jason Smith plans to file legislation to remove the Ozark National Scenic Riverways from federal control and give the park to the state of Missouri. His constituents are making an uproar over the proposed new conservation practices in the park.

In other news, there is a proposed constitutional amendment could change the way conservation is regulated in Missouri. The two proposals, HJR 57 and SJR 42, would create a permanent Joint Committee on Administrative Rules that supersede regulation made by Missouri Department of Conservation, as oppose to the current citizen-led Conservation Commission. That might allow the General Assembly to govern conservation, not biologists.

Learn more about these issues and voice your concern to your state representatives.

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*Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July and August. The regular meeting place is in the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located on East Business Loop 170, across from the east side Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO. June meeting is at 7p.m., but come early to chat and eat. Short business meeting before hand.*

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.