



## Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited

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

# Cross Currents

October 2014

### Future meetings:

**Tuesday, October 7th**, 7:00 pm at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, Columbia, MO. Dick Sellers from the North Carolina Tuskaseegee Chapter will talk about fishing the Smokey Mountains.

**Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 pm at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. John Walther will talk about the use of trash flies at Bennett Spring.

### President's Corner by Scott Gerit

Have you been to one of our meetings lately? We'd love to see you, and even appreciate you bringing a friend. We always have great conversations and presentations. If you're new to the sport or area, you can learn much from our local members. Participation is the key to any club's success. If you have a suggestion for a different format for the meetings, feel free to let me know at [gerlts@missouri.edu](mailto:gerlts@missouri.edu). I hope to see you next time!

### Stream Team Survey by John Meyer

Saturday, Sept. 13 was a beautiful day for football, as it also was for a Stream Team Survey on the Little Piney River. Michael Riley, Tony Warren and I were joined by Matt, a high school freshman at Hallsville and one of the apprentices in our mentoring program. This was Matt's fourth of the six required sessions. We found the water to be in very good shape, with little turbidity and nitrites and an abundance of aquatic larvae. Michael assisted in helping us identify the different bugs. We not only enjoyed participating in the survey, but also found it

very educational. After the survey we stopped for lunch supplied by Tony, and traveled to Lane Spring on the Little Piney to do a little fishing. Matt was assisted by Michael in gearing up, casting, and fishing. He managed to land 8 native rainbows, all with parr marks. Tony landed one trout and I couldn't interest anything in my yellow stimulator. In spite of being skunked, I had a great day and will look forward to participating in the next Stream Team outing as a novice. I think we hooked Matt on fly fishing, an improvement over hooking him with a fly. I would recommend this adventure to those of you who have not yet participated. It is educational regarding stream conditions and habitat, and gives one a little more respect for the cold water fishing that we all support by being a part of Trout Unlimited.

### Little Piney Bug Pickers



### **We Would Like to Hear From You by Gene Kelly**

To paraphrase Lewis Carroll in Through the Looking Glass:

The time has come, the fisherman said, to write of many things:

Of rods – and reels – and leaky boots

And Sharkskin line that sings

Of why the stream is bitter cold

And whether trout have wings

We all have something of interest to share with our fellow readers. Perhaps it is about a recent vacation or a child's first fish. Maybe you have some helpful tip you would like to share.

Items do not have to be long - three paragraphs are enough. Proper grammar and punctuation are not important. I have seen plenty worse grammar and more bad punctuation than you are likely to submit.

Writing is a simple 3-step process – the first step being the most difficult:

Step 1 – Apply the seat of the pants to the chair

Step 2 – Write down your thoughts

Step 3 – Send to: MM-TU, 500 Overland Ct.

Columbia, MO 65203 or [gkflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:gkflyfishing@gmail.com)

### **TU Annual Meeting Summary by Jeff Witten**

TU's Annual Meeting was attended by 214 like-minded members in Santa Fe, NM. Matt Tucker, John Wenzlick and I attended representing MO. Meeting presentations can be seen at <http://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/State%20of%20TU.pdf>

Once again, membership had another year of growth reaching 155,000. A big part of the growth came from the Gateway Chapter. Matt Tucker, Chapter President, was present to receive a Distinguished Service Award (see next article). Gateway Chapter was responsible for about 15% of National's growth in the last year. TU is financially sound which is impressive given the economic woes since 2007. TU revenue grew 77% while our 6 peer organizations were flat to negative.

We all owe a huge thank's to John Wenzlick and Mike Riley for their work helping the Gateway Chapter reach their success and starting the MoKan Chapter in Kansas City.

Recognition and updates on projects led by TU across the nation to Protect-Reconnect-Restore were shared. The projects ranged from the well-known like Bristol Bay, Yellowstone Lake and Kids in the Classroom to others such as storm/flood recovery, multiple dam removals and stream route improvements. The major success TU had in preventing significant draining of the Colorado River Headwaters was celebrated

All twelve Workgroups met. I am proud to chair TU's Climate Change Workgroup. Our Workgroup was successful getting Climate Change awareness included as one of eight Critical Focus Areas. TU realizes that Climate Change is a divisive issue and recognizes that national awareness is growing. We produced a new TU brochure discussing Climate Change impacts on trout. For a copy contact me at [MOtrout@aol.com](mailto:MOtrout@aol.com).

### **Distinguished Service Award by Jeff Witten**

Matt Tucker doesn't say no to a challenge very often. When he learned of TU's focus to grow membership, and realized there hadn't been a TU presence in the St. Louis region for many years, he decided he could change that. With some friends, a passion for coldwater conservation and a love of fly fishing, Matt and his team accomplished the remarkable. They worked together to recruit and build a leadership team and launched the Gateway Chapter, one of TU's newest chapters. In less than 18 months, this small band of volunteers has built a chapter with nearly 800 members and a very active volunteer presence.

The Gateway Chapter's launch was an event to behold. At the Fly Fishing Film tour with more than 400 anglers in attendance, they quickly made it known that Gateway was a chapter on the rise and a community any area angler would want to join. Matt used a personal approach to grow the Gateway Chapter, hosting several small gatherings of up to 15 potential volunteers from which he built his board of directors and committees. A web site was launched, email lists were built and social media

became a powerful tool for getting the word out.

Now, less than two years later, the chapter's membership is still growing and its activities are drawing more anglers and conservationist each day. Trout in the Classroom is one of the chapter's anchor programs and they have many youth-focused events. Matt and his board created the Missouri Stream Team and already have accomplished much in the way of conservation. From surveying habitat on the Meramec River to planting over 700 saplings in the Blue Spring Creek Watershed, Gateway TU has built strong relationships with the Missouri Department of Conservation and its fisheries biologist.

More projects are in the pipeline and it's clear that Matt's efforts and the Gateway Chapter's presence in St. Louis is making an impact in the region and far beyond.

#### **Win a Fly Rod or Fishing Trip**

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is conducting a raffle to raise funds. By donating \$50 you will be entered to win one of 23 Sage Fly Rods or 8 guided fishing trips. Go to [www.moafs.org](http://www.moafs.org) for tickets

#### **Climate Change Work Group by Jeff Witten**

Climate Change is one of the National Leadership Council's 12 Work Groups (WG), it is one year old. We meet monthly by conference call and at the TU Annual Meeting. We just met in person at TU's Annual Meeting in Santa Fe. Work Group participation is open to all TU members.

The objective of the WG is to increase awareness of rising water temperatures and the effect of storms, fires, droughts and floods on our country's cold water resources. TU realizes Climate Change is a divisive subject and recognizes awareness is growing.

At the recent Annual Meeting the National Leadership Council (NLC) voted to include Climate Change awareness as one of TU's 8 Critical Focus areas. The WG, which includes

three National staff professionals, has produced a new brochure asking "What does it mean to our angling future?" Look for the brochure soon.

TU's new (Feb 2014) Policy on Promoting Responsible Energy Development to Protect Coldwater Fisheries has a paragraph discussing Climate Change. The WG will consider suggesting a stand-alone policy statement to the Board of Trustees for their consideration.

The current paragraph relating to Climate Change in TU's "Responsible Energy Development Policy" follows:

TU recognizes the powerful connections between our Nation's energy choices and climate change. Climate change poses a significant long-term threat to North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, both by increasing water temperatures in critical habitat areas and by contributing to the frequency and severity of adverse weather events. TU understands that avoiding the severe harmful effects that climate change will have on coldwater fisheries and their watersheds requires both a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from existing energy production as well as a fundamental shift in energy sources from fossil fuels to low-carbon technologies and conservation. Accordingly, TU supports policies and comprehensive systems mechanisms that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and hasten the shift to low-carbon energy sources and conservation. However, the harmful effects of climate change on coldwater fisheries and their watersheds are already present. Because of this, and the deleterious impacts to coldwater fisheries that are expected as a result, TU's primary focus will be to advocate policies and approaches that make communities and landscapes more resilient to the effects of climate change and to do so in a way that benefits wild and native coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

The WG will submit an article to Trout Magazine, and develop other awareness materials for use at Chapter meetings and elsewhere.

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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 tide Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO. June meeting is at Stephens Park. Meeting time 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](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) to make the switch.