



Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited

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

Cross Currents

November 2014

Future Meetings

Tuesday, November 4th, 7:00 P.M John Walther will talk about the use of “trash” flies at Bennett Spring.

Tuesday, December 2nd, 7:00 P.M. Photo Contest. Photo must be taken by or include a MMTU member, promote trout fishing or conservation, and taken in 2014. Submit up to three digital photographs to: gerlts@missouri.edu by November 30th. Photos will be judged by those in attendance at the Dec. meeting. Submitted photos may be used in a slideshow at the annual banquet.

President's Corner: Sculpture for Sale

A wonderful wooden steelhead sculpture by Franz Dutzler titled “Home Waters” was donated to our chapter.

It is three Steelhead Trout, one male 26" with open mouth, one male 24" and one female 21". The sculpture is mounted on driftwood with crawdad, reeds and rocks that portrays the natural wild habitat. A Plexiglas Case. 45" L x 22" H x 18" D is included.

The sculpture originally sold for \$9,300. We are offering members and friends of the club a chance to purchase it for \$5,000 through December 1st. If more than one person would like to purchase it, we will have each person submit a bid. If no one offers to buy it, we will post it on eBay. It can be viewed in person by contacting me at 573-256-9521 or

gerlts@missouri.edu.

The original posting, with a picture, can be viewed at:

<http://www.thetroutmaster.com/Sculpture-Item-Info.asp?PID=33>. This is a beautiful piece full of vivid detail and we would love to see it go to a member or a friend.

Brown Trout Climb the Ladder

(Published with permission from MDC)

Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery (SOH) is responsible for spawning, rearing and supplying all of Missouri's trout regulated streams and lakes with brown trout.

The addition of a new photoelectric egg sorter at Shepherd has been a huge asset to the overall production process involving brown trout (and rainbow trout, too). This machine sorts over 100,000 eggs per hour, separating the dead and good eggs. In turn, this process saves time, effort and contributes to the overall success of each spawn. Other hatcheries also benefit from the egg sorter due to their dependence on Shepherd eggs.

Brown trout broodstock are not held on site, but rather collected from Lake Taneycomo every fall during the brown trout spawning migration. To make this process more efficient, the hatchery completed a brown trout “ladder” in 2007. The ladder allows brown trout to swim into holding pools where they can be easily sorted and spawned when the time is right. It is comprised of concrete structures with weirs for a “stair-step” effect and a meandering man-made stream.

Due to extraordinarily rainy years and varying levels of water quality, the brown trout ladder has witnessed good years and bad years in terms of broodstock “turn out.” The limiting

water quality factors were closer to “normal” in 2013, which resulted in the hatchery receiving over 900 brown trout for spawning.

The majority of fish ascending the ladder were healthy, large and assumed to be four-year-olds based on yearly observations. The hatchery took two successful brown trout spawns in late October and early November, providing it with over 300,000 eggs. Water temperatures at SOH were warmer than ideal for brown trout egg incubation and the additional eggs were taken for insurance.



Stream Teams Celebrate 25 Years by Amy Meier

It’s hard to believe the Missouri Stream Team Program turned 25 years old this year. Thanks to the efforts of a few Roubidoux Fly Fishers in 1989 to clean up their beloved namesake creek. This grassroots citizen movement enlisted the sponsorship of the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Conservation Federation of Missouri and grew to over 5,000 Teams consisting of over 80,000 volunteers statewide. If not for the concerns and actions of vested citizens, many of whom are anglers that recognize the importance of protecting this valuable resource, it’s hard to imagine the condition our streams would be in today.

Cleaning up unsightly litter is the most popular activity for Stream Teamers and has yielded impressive results – over 23,000,000 pounds collected in the last 25 years! Water quality monitoring is also an important activity

that provides valuable data that couldn’t otherwise be collected by sponsoring agencies.

Missouri is home to over 110,000 miles of rivers and streams. Stream Team volunteers are the eyes and ears that help identify potential problems in streams all around the state, and the voices that stand up for their protection.

Water quality monitoring volunteers collect data that are used in a variety of ways by municipalities, agencies, and other organizations. Data collection ranges from backyard creek monitoring for educational purposes to long-term projects that support watershed management plans. Anglers have a unique perspective in knowing why the streams they fish must be protected, and harbor a deeper understanding of the relationships among aquatic organisms than those who may not use the resource directly. And, by collecting biological data using benthic macroinvertebrates, anglers can get the edge on what their favorite fish is hungry for; it’s a win-win situation.

Aquatic macroinvertebrates are not only the preferred dietary choice of trout and other bottom-dwelling fishes, but also tell us much more about the health of the stream itself. By having different tolerances to water pollution, the structure of the benthic macroinvertebrate community can tell us the condition of the stream and, in turn, help to identify the health of the fish community. Stream Teams play an important role in providing that information to sponsoring agencies, which can potentially result in greater protection levels for those streams. In the last 25 years, over 128,000 participants statewide conducted 25, 850 water quality monitoring trips, totaling over 316,000 hours dedicated to monitoring the health of their adopted streams.

In addition, Stream Teams have planted over 285,000 streamside trees, written nearly 10,000 letters on behalf of their beloved streams, given over 2,900 presentations about clean water, and stenciled over 16,370 storm drains in the last 25 years! With numbers like these, it is clear that the Missouri Stream Team Program is a national leader in citizen stewardship and

conservation. Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited has been Stream Team 327 since 1993, and Missouri streams thank you for your 21 years of contributions to cleaner, healthier waters!

MMTU Supports MOAFS

The MMTU Chapter has voted to purchase a raffle ticket for entry into the fund raising project being conducted by the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. A total of 23 Sage fly rods and 8 guided fishing trips will be awarded. Only 620 tickets will be sold. A winner will be drawn each day in December. If MMTU is drawn, the prize will be made available for bid or auction at the annual MMTU banquet in March, 2014.

Raffle tickets will be available through **November 15**. Go to www.moafs.org for entry ticket information or contact Andy Turner, 1886 Luna, West Plains, MO 65775. Do it now!

Recycle Your Split Shot by Sam Potter

What do you do with your split shot when you change your tippet rig or you're finished fishing for the day?

I save all of mine...You say I'm just cheap or Frugal? I like to think of it as recycling. Yes it is a little time consuming and yes it can be a strain on the ole eyeballs, especially those size 8 and 9 guys. I can usually get buy for about a year on one small plastic container of recycled various sizes, and I fish a lot. A casual fisherman could probably get by a lot longer, but that may depend on how often he gets hung up and how well he casts.

After I use them I drop them in a tiny plastic bag I keep in a pouch on my hip pack. When I get home I take them out of the pouch and store them in a small plastic container, about the size of a small pill tube. Sometime around the middle of January, I sit down at the tying table and start in on the recycling

I use an old pocket knife with a dull, but strong blade. It is always better if you leave a little tag end of line in the shot to help you find the crease. After you find the crease, press the blade into the crease to open the shot. I use a foam pad to help protect the table.

Sometimes the crease is difficult to see so I use my fly tying magnifying glass. Sometimes I can't get the shot open, so it goes into a container I give to my wife's cousin. He works in metals and melts them down to pour into molds.

The Learning Curve by Gene Kelly

Most of my knowledge of the "great outdoors" is self-inflicted. Often in life we must learn new things simply by trial and error; that's the way life is, the way it has always been. We usually refer to this sometimes painful process as the "learning curve." To help soften the impact of the learning curve manufactures nowadays may include labels that define the limitations of their product, but not so in the old days.

I remember the day I got my first pair of chest waders. And what a glorious day it was. With great glee I pulled on the new waders and, in no time at all, was face down in Bennett Spring gasping for breath as the icy water slushed into my waders. I was humiliated for sure, but at least I provided a leg-slapping laugh for a few fishermen in the area. I would like to believe they were laughing in empathy because they, too, had been-there-and-done-that. There's that learning curve again.

For a time I blamed the manufacturer for my mishap. The whole thing could have been avoided with a simple label that read: CAUTION – WHILE WEARING THESE WADERS, DO NOT CROSS YOUR LEGS TO MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION IF STANDING WAIST DEEP IN A FAST-FLOWING STREAM WITH A MOSS-COVERED, RUBBLE-STREWED SUBSTRATE. Who would have thought.....

A mink foraged along the opposite side of the stream as I sat on the ground pulling off the soggy waders and shivering in the July sun. The words of Ernest Hemingway in *The Old Man and the Sea* came to mind, "Perhaps I should not have been a fisherman, he thought. But that was the thing I was born for."

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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 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 to make the switch.