



Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited

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

Cross Currents

January 2015

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Jan. 6- Bob Worley –“Bamboo, Books & Tackle.”

Feb. 3 –Greg Hatten - Wooden Boats.

Feb. 20 – MMTU Annual Banquet

President’s Corner by Scott Gerlt

Looking back, 2014 has been a great year for MMTU. We’ve started a mentoring program, checked stream health, co-hosted the Fly Fishing Film Tour and demonstrated fly tying, among many other things. Of these activities, my most memorable is helping the mentees catch their first trout on fly rods at Bethel Park. Such an event is very rewarding for everyone and helps secure a future for our organization. These successes are only possible through the dedicated volunteers and sponsors. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this club. May we continue on this path in 2015!

Attention Fly Tyers

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The banquet committee is assembling a collection of 30 classic Missouri flies to commemorate this milestone. The flies will be mounted in a shadow box with a list of the contributors affixed to the back of the box. This one-of-a-kind item will then be auctioned at this year’s banquet on **February 20, 2015**.

The banquet committee is asking you to contribute to this project. Simply tie a fly, of your usual museum quality, and send it to the address below by **January 15, 2015**. Maybe you would like to contribute a favorite dry fly,

nymph or streamer you have found productive on Missouri trout waters, or, perhaps you have a creation of your own you are willing to share.

Time is short so you must move right along on this project. Please send your fly to: Mike Kruse, 3590 Country Woods Road, Columbia, MO 65203. If you are thinking of submitting a standard pattern, it would be good to contact Mike ahead of time at motrout@socket.net to make sure there are no duplications. We hope you participate in this fun and productive project.

Tip of the Month by Dean Rapp

Re-purposing is a catch phrase these days that I've taken it to a new level with my Fly Tying storage units. I had a couple of old dressers that that were of no use to me anymore. Now they are the organization savior to my fly tying material. I set each drawer of the dresser up with adjustable dividers so that material could be kept together and well organized. I'll explain about how I modified the drawers to meet my needs.

I replaced the bottom of the dresser drawers with 1/4" brown peg board; the color is not important so use whatever you have available. This was the trickiest part of the project as it required me to disassemble each drawer, insert the peg board cut to the appropriate depth and width before re-assembling the sides of each drawer. If the bottoms of your dresser drawers are solid you could simple place a piece of peg board down inside each drawer

I then ripped 1/2" medium density fiberboard (MDF) the height equivalent to that

from the top of the peg board to the top of the dresser drawer sides. I cut them to match the length and depth of the drawer. These pieces became the dividers for the drawer.

Using a dowel center set I marked the location for the 1/4" dowels to be placed into the dividers. I set the dowel centers into the peg board, lined up the divider, pressed down and when I lifted up the divider I knew exactly where to drill holes. A 1/4" brad point drill bit will help ensure you get the holes exactly where they need to be.

Insert the dowels into the divider and then set the divider down into the peg board. You might want to use a little wood glue to keep the dolls in place but it not to be necessary.

You can come up with all kinds of configurations using the above basic techniques. My only suggestions is DO NOT try this with your wife's favorite dresser...you know...the one with all her clothes!



Finished product

About Ben by Gene Kelly

The ability to remain focused in the face of calamity is an admirable trait. Some people can do it – most cannot. Take, for example, my dear friend Ben Neumann - God rest his soul. Ben was a very enthusiastic fly angler who could shut out the rest of the world and stay zeroed in when he was trout fishing.

Ben liked to fish the upper reaches of Bennett Spring, up near the water gauge in zone #1. That wide part of the stream provided him with room to unleash the silky power of his Winston fly rod fed line by a Galvan reel. Did I mention that Ben always went first class?

Ben and his buddy, Dave Welsh, were having one of those rare days fishing at Bennett Spring - the wind was low, the sun was warm and the trout were active. All was well with Ben's world, at least until he slipped and fell into the swift flow, and his rod was disappearing downstream. Always nearby and attentive, Dave rushed over and grabbed Ben under one arm to keep him from drifting away, or worse, going sub-surface. The two anglers appeared to be doing a ritualistic dance while they clung to each other and struggled for footing on the slick bottom. Ben's lips were turning blue from the cold water flooding his waders, but he shouted in a clear voice, "Never mind me – get my #%* rod!"

The upshot is that Dave retrieved both Ben and his fly rod and dragged them to safety onshore. It took Ben a little time to get reorganized but eventually he put on dry clothes, pulled on his wet waders, and went back to fishing. Not even an icy soaking could discourage the 82-year old trout fisherman when he was hell-bent on catch and release at Bennett Spring.

Not Your Ordinary Float Trip by Bill Lamberson

At 4 a.m. on August 5, Tom McFadden and I left for Kansas City, the start of a long journey to the Arctic Ocean. The steps were first a flight to Denver; change planes and take another flight to Edmonton, where we met our companions, my brother, Rod and his college roommate, Scott. We stayed overnight in Edmonton, then caught a Canada North flight to Yellowknife and on to Normal Wells. That was flying like the good old days with leg room, hot food and other amenities. The only exception was that the front half of the cabin was blocked off to carry cargo. Happily, all our luggage arrived in Norman Wells, as it contained our trip food and nearly all the gear.

Normal Wells is an oil town of 538 residents with daily jet service by two airlines, but without any access road. The co-owner of North-Wright Air met us at the gate. She recognized us right off, although she had never seen us before, saying, "that we looked the

type.” She took us to her office to sign waivers and once she had extracted several thousand dollars from our credit cards, she took us to the general store to buy white gas and matches and then on to the float plane base to pick up our rental canoes and await the float plane that would haul us a couple hundred miles further north to the confluence of the Whaleman and Horton Rivers. We set down about 9 p.m. on a small lake just a short portage from the river, our gear was unloaded, we refueled the plane from Jerry cans that we had carried in the cabin from Norman Wells, and sent our pilot back toward home.

While moving the gear from canoes to the bank for the portage, Tom showed us his best gunnel dance moves, and then took a quick, fully-clothed dip in the lake, which he noted was “refreshing after the long flight!” The terrain was endless rolling hills with stunted spruce in low spots. Blackflies were a nuisance, but unbearable only when we ventured into the brush. Once camp was set up and dinner consumed it was time to hit the sack. Although the sun was still up at 11 p.m., fishing could wait until tomorrow.

We began a series of alternating a day of fishing with 2 -3 days of paddling. Grayling fishing was terrific almost anywhere a side stream entered, and particularly so at the confluence with the Whaleman. The grayling were the largest I had seen, averaging 17.” John Gierach in his latest book mentions visiting the Horton headwaters for grayling. We didn’t catch any of the 20” fish he reported, but came close, and fishing is described as better nearer the river’s source at Horton Lake.

Paddling was uneventful for the first few days, but the environment was spectacular: rock formations, fossils, birds (especially eagles, gyrfalcons and merlins) and animals (endless caribou, and later muskoxen, grizzlies, a lynx and Arctic Fox). There are three canyon sections on the Horton and shelves of rock make the paddling interesting. Extra caution was necessary because of the extreme remoteness of the area. Lost gear or an injury could be quite serious because much of the river is inaccessible

even by float plane. Our first wrinkle came when we missed a slot through some rapids and added six inches of water to the canoe. Running whitewater was a learning experience, because a canoe with two big guys and 250 pounds of gear doesn’t maneuver very easily. After that event we attached spray skirts for the rest of the trip.



Typical catch

The next hiccup was a little more serious. The old guys (Rod and Scott are 67 and 65) got through a rapid but the eddy below flipped them over. Canoeing with a spray skirt can be a mixed blessing; it keeps water out, but if the canoe overturns the gear drops against it and it can be hard to right, and it is difficult to get out when you are upside-down in a rapid. In this case Scott stepped out and was able to hang onto the canoe, but Rod was underneath. We saw what was happening and pulled out and started back toward them. Meanwhile, Rod was able to extricate himself and headed to the bank. The canoe dragged Scott off his feet and down through the lower rapid. I waded into the rapid and caught him by the shoulder and dragged him out, but he was too exhausted to actually get out of the water for some time. In the end all was fine, but we were careful to line most of the rapids after that with the exception of one drop that snuck up on us. We managed to pass through that one with nothing worse than a few inches of water in the boats.

(To be continued)

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Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except 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 Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO. Short business meeting at 7 P.M. followed by a program. Come early to chat and eat. The June meeting is at Stephens Lake Park. No meeting in July and August.

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.