



Cross Currents

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Mentees catch yearlings near Lane Springs.
Jared shows one of his prizes.

Notice: Mid-MO Newsletter to go Electronic

This is your last printed version of our monthly newsletter unless you contact Michael Riley at 573-808-4828 or at 4625 E Raccoon Ridge Dr., Columbia, MO 65201. MMTU is transitioning to email using ConstantContact. We hope to complete the process by June. Electronic Newsletter is also available at our web site, <http://midmissouri.tu.org/>

Meetings and Events

May 5. MMTU Monthly Meeting. Jeff Koppleman, MDC Fisheries Resource Scientist: Update on Trout Studies in Missouri.

June 2. MMTU Annual Hot Dog Burn. Stephens Park Lake, 5:30 p.m. Hot dogs provided. Please bring a side dish.

October 6. MMTU Monthly Meeting. MDC photographer **Nappadol Paothong** will discuss outdoor photography.

President's Corner by Scott Gerlt

June 6th and 7th are free fishing days in Missouri. The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) in cooperation with MDC and DNR is hosting Trout Fest at Bennett Spring State Park that weekend. Several MMTU members are on the committee for the event. Activities include: tagged trout that can be caught for prizes, a fly casting contest sponsored by 3 Creeks (Sage, Rio and Redington), bamboo rod building with Bill Lamberson, fly tying demonstrations, vendors, trout cleaning and cooking demonstrations, bluegrass music and much more. CFM affiliates are eligible to have a booth for free (tent rental is extra if desired), and this would be a good opportunity to help promote our club. Free fishing weekend usually brings about 1,300 people per day to the park. If you are available to help with a MMTU booth, please let me know. [Click here for Trout Fest Information](#)

The Cicadas Are Coming by Gene Kelly

The year was 1794: George Washington was President, Congress changed the U.S. flag to 15 stars and 15 stripes, Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin, Sylvester Graham developed the graham cracker, and the 17-year periodical cicadas and 13-year periodical cicadas both emerged the same year in Missouri.

Co-emergence of the two periodical cicada species only occurs every 221 years in Missouri - and 2015 is the year it will happen again.



Image used with permission of
www.circadamania.com

The periodical cicada is the longest-lived insect in North America. The genus *Magicicada* includes three species of 17-year periodical cicadas (Brood IV) and four species of the 13-year periodical cicadas (Brood XXIII). Although both Broods will emerge in Missouri this summer, the Broods are widely separated and their territories may not overlap. Brood IV will occur primarily along the western edge of Missouri while Brood XXIII will occur mostly

in southern Missouri including the Mississippi valley.

Genetic programming going back to the ice age determines what year the periodical cicadas emerge, however, the weather determines the time of year the emergence occurs. Since their last emergence the periodical cicada nymphs have been underground sucking sap from tree roots and quietly growing. When the soil reaches a sustained temperature of 65-degrees F. eight inches below the surface, they emerge in astonishing numbers, sing with great gusto, mate and die - all within the period of a month or so. In Missouri these emergences usually occur during late May and early June, depending on the weather. For example, a warm rain can warm their bodies causing them to emerge sooner.

To a naturalist this spectacular event is fascinating but to a fisherman it's a bonanza. A bait that will catch most Missouri fish will remain within easy reach for over a month. Trout fishermen are especially pleased. Trout quickly become aware of cicada nymphs falling into the stream before they are fully developed or adult cicadas splashing down because they are such poor fliers. To a trout fisherman casting a cicada pattern on a warm spring day, the possibilities are endless....



Little Piney Stream Team Report by Michael Riley

While Columbia experienced some muddy waters last week from recent rains, the Little Piney remained crystal clear. Saturday April 11th was the perfect day to gather data, with highs near 70F, light wind, and a high thin overlay of clouds. Four MMTU members participated: John Wenzlick, John Meyer, Jeff Holzem, and Michael Riley; as well as six mentees: Matt Rickard, Jared Crowder, Joe Kelley, Chris Kelley, Aidan Kelley, and Andrew

Kelley. We collected plenty of crane fly larvae and caddis nymphs, the occasional hellgrammite and stonefly nymph, and a good diversity of mayfly nymphs. The water quality remains excellent on the Little Piney. Lunch followed at the Vida low water bridge. The Kelley boys enjoyed wading in the stream. Next we headed up to Lane Spring for some fishing. New mentees worked on casting before heading to the water other mentees were instructed on reading the water, mending, and other aspects of flyfishing. All the mentees managed to catch a trout!

Short walk clean-up by Sam Potter

After I finished with my client today I had some time on my hands and decided to do a clean-up walk downstream from Baptist Camp access on the Current River. My intent was to remove all of the fishing line and other fishing items I could find from the trees and brush along the stream.

I walked down to the "S" curve and found 9 strike indicators, 6 jigs, 14 flies, 2 stick baits and 7 split shot hanging in the trees. No telling how much fishing line was attached to these items.

I know you don't want to mess up the hole you are fishing, but when you are finished fishing the hole, try to retrieve any line you may have lost in the trees. The critters that live there will appreciate it.



Mentee Update by Michael Riley

With his recent participation in the Little Piney Stream Survey and fishing for trout near Lane Spring on the Little Piney, Jared Crowder completed our mentoring program and is the second mentee to do so. He is seen here accepting his new rod/reel combo.



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Meeting Place

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 I70, across from the east tide Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO.

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