



Cross Currents

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December 2015

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At our mentee outing to Bethel Lake on Sunday Nov 1, Bo catches a nice trout.

Notice: eNewsletter Editor Wanted

A volunteer to assemble our Newsletter on ConstantContact is needed. No special computer skills or article writing required. If you can help, we can train. Contact Michael Riley at rileym@missouri.edu or 573-808-4828 or Scott Gerlt at gerlts@missouri.edu or 573-256-9521.

Meetings and Events

Tuesday December 1, 7:00pm MMTU Monthly Meeting at Jack's. Social and Photo Contest. Submit up to a 3 digital photos by Nov 27 to gerlts@missouri.edu. Photos must either be taken by MMTU member in 2015, or include a MMTU member, and promote trout fishing or conservation. Photos will

be judged by those in attendance and may be used in the slideshow at the banquet.

Friday February 26, 2016: MMTU Conservation Banquet at Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO. Contact Ryan Vercamp at 573-777-4216 or ryan.vercamp@gmail.com for tickets. \$35 before Feb 12.

TU's Eastern Shale Gas Monitoring Program was selected to be a feature in the PBS documentary, the [Crowd and the Cloud](#), coming in 2017! Check out Mark Taylor's great [blog post](#) for details about the filming and interviews that took place in October in Pennsylvania. Hats off to Mark and Jake Lemon for planning it and leading the film crew, along with a host of TU volunteers, on a 3-day tour and demonstration of methods and protocols for one of TU's flagship angler science programs, which monitors water quality for impacts surrounding shale gas development. Nice work gang! - I wish we didn't have to wait until 2017 to see the result!

Several members who fished Taney at the Ozark Council meeting this fall, found the fishing slow and the trout uninvigorated. Water quality seems to be the issue and the following article helps explain: **Natural factors causing trout dieoff at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery** [MDC Bulletin](#)
<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODC/bulletins/125c103?reqfrom=share>

President's Corner by Scott Gerlt

This article marks my last president's corner. A new slate of officers will take effect at the beginning of the year. Ryan Verkamp will assume the presidency, Jeff Whitten the vice-presidency, Mike Kruse the treasury and Curt Morgret the scribal duties of secretary. Maybe Ryan will have more luck getting Curt to take minutes than I was able to. Some of these people are assuming new positions while others are continuing. It should be a great group.

One thing that I learned in the past two years is how dependable our members are. Other responsibilities in life sometimes kept me from some of the chapter responsibilities, but others would step up so that a beat was never missed. We truly have a great group dedicated to seeing the chapter succeed.

The highlight of my time as president came last meeting when we voted to fund various projects with a total amount of \$19,000. It was very rewarding to see our fundraising efforts pay off by enabling us to support cold-water conservation. We are very fortunate to be in a position where we can fund needs at this level. Thank you everyone for the help I received the past two years! I know our future is in good hands.

Editor's addition: Response regarding Buttonrock Preserve donation (St. Vrain

Anglers Trout Unlimited):

Your donation arrived today...very generous indeed! Thanks again for your support and please give us a line if you or any of your members are out this way so we can show you around. Please pass this along to your Treasurer so he knows the check made it safely.

Cheers,

Erik Wilkinson

President, SVATU

Cast and Blast by Bill Lamberson

Over the past few years, Ron Barch of the Schrems Western Michigan chapter of Trout Unlimited generously arranged several trips for our chapter to auction at our annual fundraising auction. Personally, I enjoyed the opportunity for a couple of the steelhead trips myself, in one case thanks to Michael Riley's generosity, and have always caught fish. On one weekend trip my brother and I had more than 50 hookups, including landing fish on three consecutive casts. I never expect to see that again. Sleet fell so hard on that trip we had to stop and scoop several inches out of the boat in order to keep our footing!

This past year Ron suggested a fall cast and blast trip combining salmon fishing in the Muskegon with grouse and woodcock hunting. Scott Atkins won the bid at the banquet, but his group only wanted to fish (and I understand that they were quite successful), so Ron asked if I wanted to come up for the "blast". He didn't have to twist my arm! Tom McFadden, a Michigan native now transplanted to Columbia and coincidentally my boss, agreed to come along.

Ron's arrangements included use of a friend's cabin. The first day, friends of Ron hosted us for grouse and woodcock hunting although only the woodcock showed themselves during the morning hunt. Our shooting was nothing to brag about, but, through the struggles of the thick brush, each of us put at least one in the bag. Glen Blackwood, owner of Great Lakes Flyfishing Company (a great source of sporting books) and his pair of Springers took us out for the afternoon. We flushed 14 grouse and Ron bagged a pair. For the rest of us, the struggles continued.



On Day Two, Captain Tom Kuick of Riverquest Charters guided our fishing. Capt. Tom has guided a day on each of my trips to MI, and typical of our past

experiences, he put us into fish. Tom and Ron worked salmon with Tom landed a pair including the beauty shown above. I fished bamboo and focused on steelhead managing to hook a nice chinook that was a bit more than I had bargained for. The chinook eventually came to the net and somewhat to my surprise, the bamboo eight-weight still stood straight. We completed our day with Tom, and, with time on our hands . . . we decided to go fishing! Earlier in our day we had fished a stretch of shallow water next to the public park in a small town and, since it was wadeable and loaded with fish, we headed there. We were equipped only with my cane rod, an old Hardy spring and pawl reel, a box of trout flies and a pinch of very small split-shot, which we rigged it as close as we could to what Captain Tom used. To the tippet, we tied on a Kruse olive mohair leech (of course!) and waded out to try our luck with Ron spotting from the bank. I spooked the first fish, giving Tom the next turn. As the fly drifted toward the top of a redd, a nice male chinook charged up from below, grabbed the fly, and the reel and the rod told the story that a fight was on! Tom played it masterfully, giving line, taking line and not giving any quarter. He brought it to the bank, but we hadn't an adequate net, so he successfully released it from a distance.

Day Three held our return trip, but, first, we stopped by a cover Glen recommended on our route. We flushed a trio of grouse with one bird curling tree-top high over us chased by everything that our shotguns held. The last shot, at the last bird on the last day and the bird surrendered and wheeling into the woods 50 yards away. We heard the bird in the leaves, the dried fallen remains of the summer amplifying the struggle and giving away the location and were able to locate and run the bird down.

We made our last stop at Glen's shop (necessary for stocking my shelf with books for the winter), said our thank you's and goodbyes to our hosts, and then slugged through the drive back to Columbia, more silent than the trip up. Next time a trip from Michigan comes up at the annual banquet, I encourage you to try to outbid me; it's all money for a good cause.

Congressional Update on Clean Water Act by Jeff Witten, Ozark Council NLC Rep

Thank you to those who voiced your opinion on this issue!

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers recently finalized a federal rule **restoring Clean Water Act protections to smaller streams and wetlands**--waters that provide drinking water for 117 million Americans. The rule would be particularly beneficial for the nearly 2.5 million in Missouri who get drinking water from streams covered by the rule. These streams and wetlands are also important for fish and wildlife--and therefore for the \$2.7 Billion spent in Missouri each year on wildlife recreation.

Recent movement in Congress occurred that jeopardized portions of the Clean Water Act.

Congressional Review Act Clean Water Rule-Passed

This "disapproval" of the Clean Water Rule passed by getting the simple majority it needed to move forward in the Senate. However, **Senator McCaskill (MO)** and **Senator Collins (ME)** voted against the Act despite their support of the Barrasso Bill. Because of this outcome there is hope to sustain a Presidential Veto that will give the White House and the EPA the backing they need as Congress moves into appropriations.

Barrasso Bill S. 1140 "Federal Water Quality Protection Act"-Did Not Pass

This bill attacked not only the Clean Water Rule, but threatened the Clean Water Act. It was defeated with exactly the 41 votes needed to avoid this piece of legislation moving forward.

We encourage you to stay educated on this issue and continue to voice your opinion to our U.S. Representatives.

Mentee Update by Michael Riley

Kent Pierce completed our Mentee Program and was awarded a rod and reel.



Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited Officers

President	Scott Gerlt	573-265-9521	GerltS@missouri.edu
Vice President	Ryan Verkamp	573-201-7044	ryan.verkamp@gmail.com
Secretary	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776	cmorgret@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mike Kruse	573-875-2033	motrout@socket.net
Banquet	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776	cmorgret@gmail.com
Education	Michael Riley	573-808-4828	rileym@missouri.edu
Membership	Curt Morgret	573-446-4776	cmorgret@gmail.com
Conservancy	Bill Lamberson	573-356-4366	lambersonw@missouri.edu
	Sam Potter	573 465 3556	Sam@TightLine.biz
Newsletter	Michael Riley	573-817-0631	rileym@missouri.edu
	Bill Lamberson	573-356-4366	lambersonw@missouri.edu

Meeting Place

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, except for July and August. The regular meeting place, except June, 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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