



Cross Currents

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February 2016

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An Ozark rainbow from the Eleven Point River

Notice: MMTU Newsletter will be going to a mobile format soon.

Meetings and Events

Tuesday Feb 2, 7:00pm MMTU Monthly Meeting at Jack's. A very knowledgeable **Bob Worley will present on **Fly Fishing Literature.****

Friday February 26, 2016: MMTU Conservation Banquet at Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO. Contact Ryan Vercamp at 573-201-7044 or ryan.vercamp@gmail.com for tickets. \$35 before Feb 12.

Call for flies. Flies to auction and give away to youth are needed for the upcoming conservation banquet. Contact Michael Riley at rileym@missouri.edu if you can tie flies. I can provide fly boxes

Sept 3rd George Daniel will be giving a special presentation on Streamer Fishing.

President's Corner by Ryan Verkamp

The 31st annual MMTU banquet is this month and we have many great items lined up for the auctions. One such item is a trip to Wyoming to take a cast at obtaining a "Cut Slam". The trip includes guided fishing and is nothing short of adventures. There are also guided fishing opportunities available in the Colorado Rockies and the Missouri Ozarks. Also on the list of items are gear such as the Sage Accel rod, a custom made bamboo rod, waders and boots, and casting lessons for those that feel a little rusty after a long winter. Items are also available for non-fishing attendees such as art, leather shoulder bag, and pies. Please come and support the chapter. The event is always a great time and we are pretty sure it won't be any colder, or icy, than last year's banquet. I hope to see everyone at the banquet!

Banquet Update by Curt Morgret, Banquet Chair (Don't forget, Friday, February 26 at Stoney Creek Inn)

Cozumel, Mexico - Well, part of my duty as banquet chair is to help find really class donations for the auction and I've been working to get an all-inclusive tropical vacation as a donation. As the saying goes, "It takes money to make money", so I've spared no expense on the chapter's behalf to solicit some of the nicest resorts down here against the ol' El Carib. I've passed on several places where the Pina Coladas seemed a little watered down but I think I'm onto something with the Occidental Grand Cozumel. I'm making my way up through the management staff, usually meeting them at the Beach Club Bar over fish dinners and cocktails. A few more days and I may have this secured (hey, has the snow melted up there yet?) Remember, Friday, February 26 at Stoney Creek Inn.

Anyway, until I find out for sure here's some things we know we have so far:

Turkey Hunting - Flint Hills Kansas, the fabulous Riley Farm
Bamboo fly rod - Bill Lamberson, Maker
Leather shoulder bag ("It's European"), by Dave Megahan
Pies & Whisky, Dr. & Margie Meyer
Colorado Fishing Trip with Ken Neubecker of American Rivers
Casting Lessons - Scott Gerlt
Smallmouth Fishing Trip - Jeff Trigg
Sonicdry Waders
Skagit wading boot (you buy the right one and we'll throw the left one in for free)
Sage Accel Fly Rod, 691-4
Night on the Town-Geisha Sushi-Wine -Stoney Creek provided by Scott Atkins,
Ginger Campbell and Stoney Creek Inn
FishPond Flyfishing Vest donated by our generous friends at Bass Pro
Douglas 8 1/2 ' 4 wt fly rod
Bob Hook Flies

Get your tickets now!



(Selfie from Cozumel)

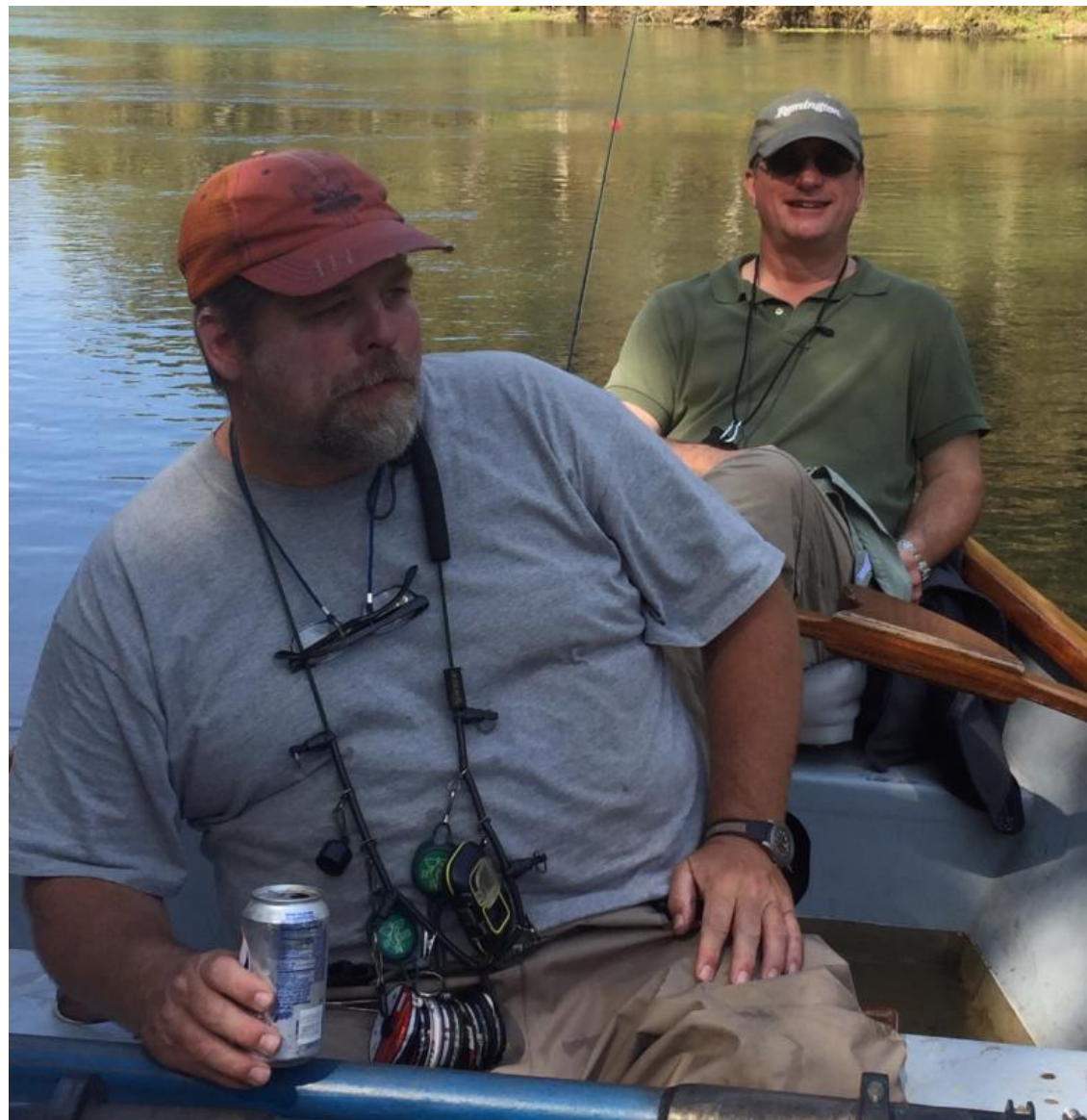
Missouri Ozark Trip by Randy Curry

Last winter we purchased a fly fishing trip from the 2015 Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited Banquet. It was a very memorable trip to the heart of the Ozarks. The trip was a trip donated Brian Sloss on the Eleven Point and Rusty Doughty on the North Fork of the White. A trip with two guides and two trips in two days during the Fall of October in the most neglected fly fishing region of Missouri.

David Keller and I drove to West Plains the most centrally located region of the South Central portion of the Ozarks. The fall colors were brilliant with the trees in full color. We arrive in West Plains Wednesday evening. We dined at a local restaurant and the next morning drove to Alton located about 40 minutes from West Plains MO., to meet Brian Sloss our guide on the first day of the trip. The morning was over cast but rapidly changed into a beautiful fall day with a temperature of 60-65 degrees as the sunshine appeared later in the morning.

For those of you that are not familiar with the Eleven Point it is fed by Greer Springs. It is a 138 mile long river that starts its cold water journey at Greer Springs and winds its way from Missouri into Arkansas. The trek through parts of Missouri is known as the Irish Wilderness for a very good reason. It reminds one of Ireland and the upper Highlands of Scotland. The area was designated the Irish Wilderness in 1984 and encompasses 16,227 acres. It also has 18.6 miles of hiking and Horseback trails. Attractions include White's Creek Cave, Fiddler and Bliss Springs, and traces of old tramway railroads. Black bear, mountain lions, whitetail deer, turkey and bald eagles are commonly seen in the area. The river from 5 1/2 miles below Greer Springs downstream to Turner Mill is designated as a Blue Ribbon Trout Area. In July of 2015 it was stocked with 6000 trout. With 80 percent of the trout between 11-15 inches and 10 percent are over 15 percent. And if you are one of the lucky anglers you may also land a 20 inch trout.

We launched close to Greer Springs in Brian Sloss's wooden Mckenzie boat around 8:30. The overcast skies rapidly cleared and the morning colors of the surrounding trees were impressive with the bright orange and red of fall. The morning fishing was overwhelming with David Keller and I landing 12-15 inch trout all morning.



Following a quite lunch with sandwiches we continued to land trout all afternoon, both floating and stopping to wade fish along riffles. During the late afternoon the trout did slow down, but the fall float trip compensated for the fishing with the quite beauty of the Irish Wilderness area during the fall trip.

That evening we drove to Dawt Mill which is on the lower end of the North Fork of the White (NFOR). The river is 109 miles long tributary of the White River, before being impounded by Norfolk Lake near Norfolk, AR. The NFOR has good flows

from several large springs along its banks. NFW encompasses some whitewater stretches.

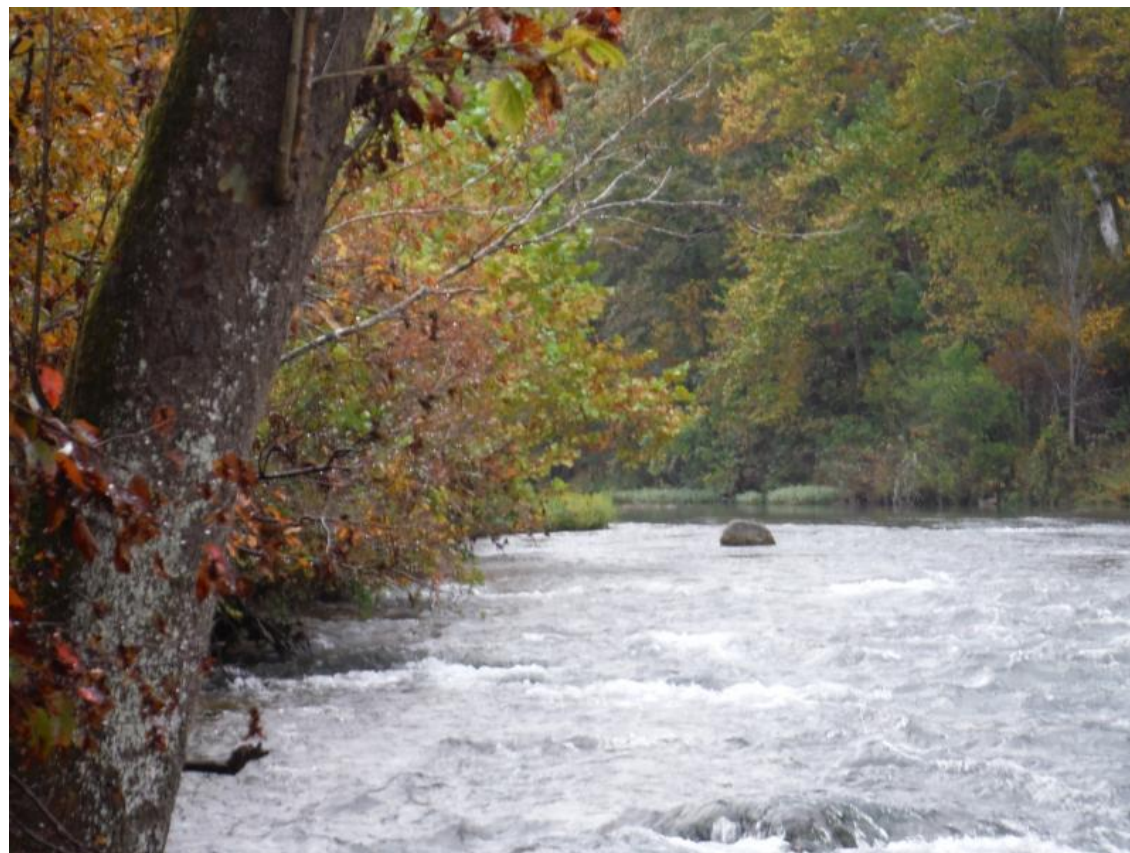
During the evening storms had arrived. On Friday we met Rusty Doughty for a float trip on the North Fork of the White. The rain started back up about 15 minutes after we started our float. We had anticipated this complication and dressed in waders and rain gear. Fishing with streamers and wet flies we landed a number of trout with the markings of wild trout. As the morning continued the rain became intermittent and the sun started to appear.



For lunch we beached the boat and waded ashore. Rusty surprised us with a warm shore lunch. Packed along with the guide gear was a propane stove and feast of the Ozarks. Homemade chicken dumplings and cheesecake. After an hour of a lunch fit for such a journey we continued our trip, fly fishing on one of the wild trout rivers in the Ozarks. The fishing was quite enjoyable and the wild trout as brilliant as the fall colors along the bank of the river. Also much to our surprise an artist painted our float trip as we approached him on the bank.

The West Plains area is a hidden gem. Within 45 minutes in three directions is fly fishing for trout, both stocked and wild. Small mouth bass are also abundant on the Eleven Point and pool near the spring in the late fall. South of White Plains is another spring that has a large small mouth population.

The Ozark fly fishing trip was frankly one of the best trips that I have had the opportunity to take in Missouri. Both Guides were very good and the trips were relaxing with a leisure that I would expect in southern Missouri. David Keller enjoyed the trip with pledges from both of us to return soon to the West Plains area for another fall trip along some of the most spectacular scenery in Missouri.



More pictures available on [Facebook MidMOTU](#) Ozark Trip

Notice: eNewsletter Editor Wanted

A volunteer to assemble our Newsletter on Constant Contact 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 Ryan Verkamp at ryan.verkamp@gmail.com or 573-201-7044.

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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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STAY CONNECTED



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