



Cross Currents

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May 2016

Announcements

Tuesday May 3 monthly meeting at Jack's. Michael Riley is presenting on Fishing at the Goodnews River Lodge in Alaska. Silvers, grayling, tiger trout (on a mouse), and Dolly Vanden.

Tuesday June 14 Hot Dog Burn at Gordon Shelter, Stephens Lake Park, at 5:30. NOTE: DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED. This is the **second Tuesday** of the June, instead of normal first Tuesday. Please bring covered dish, MMTU will provide Hot Dogs. 3 Creeks Outdoor Group will have lots of equipment to try out

May 21 Veterans Fishing Day at Meramec Springs Free Fishing for all Vets and children of fallen veterans. Veterans are coming from STL, Springfield, KC, STJ. Sponsor by The James Foundation, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Local VFW Post.

Spring Kids Free fishing is May 7th at Bennett Springs and Montauk; and **May 14th** at Meramec Springs and Roaring River. Give a kid a good experience.

Upcoming in next month's newsletter we will have the complete story of a successful youth turkey hunt. The Turkey hunt was donated by the Riley family and guided by



Fishing Line is a Killer by Sam Potter

I saw some line hanging on Wednesday when I was with a client. I went back on Thursday to get it out, but I was too late, it already killed a Great Blue Heron. The crank bait was hooked on a limber limb with 8 feet of line hanging down, so it acted like a fishing rod bending but not breaking.

Dean Rapp. It helped raise close to \$1300 dollars for cold water conservation. Be sure to watch for this exciting story in next month's newsletter. Keep your message brief, friendly, and to the point. If readers need to know more than you can fit here, add a link to an outside resource that covers the rest.

President's Corner by Ryan Verkamp

As April comes to an end, a few of us are hanging up the camo and cleaning the 12 gauge in order to move on to May to start focusing on getting a jump start on a summer of fishing. One of the best places to start in May is one of the four Missouri trout parks that offers Spring kids fishing the first two Saturdays in May. If you have not ever experienced going to one of the parks during a free kids fishing day, either as a volunteer, kid, or guardian, it can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. I have had the pleasure of going to these events under all three circumstances, but will never forget the trophy I was awarded (a plastic trophy larger than any I won during youth basketball) and the trophy I caught (2.2 lbs brown trout on the upper Meramec spring branch which was not stocked in the park) when I was 11 years young. There all kinds of other things to do that day at these parks that compliment fishing and can be a great day for a whole family or someone single that just wants to help out. If you would like to volunteer I would suggest going to the individual parks website to see how you can help out. If kids are not your thing, maybe Veterans Fishing Day at Meramec Springs might interest you. This event is in its third year and is for veterans and children of fallen veterans. Lastly, if you are looking for fishing outside of these parks, I would suggest focusing fishing below Bennett Springs on the majestic Niangua River especially since many of the trout that were stocked in the park made a trip downstream in December (read below).

Think about the purpose of your email: You want readers to respond in a certain way, so use specific call-to-actions such as visit our website, shop the sale now, or sign up for specials.

State of Missouri Trout: Hatcheries, Rivers, Plan. Ryan Verkamp reporting

Hatcheries: At our last meeting Wesley Swee, MDC Trout Hatchery Manager, gave our chapter a great update on how the late December floods effected the trout that are raised in the four trout parks and the Shepard of the Hills hatchery. Wesley is in charge of the Meramec Springs hatchery and had his hands full when Mother Nature dumped 10

inches in three days in the Ozarks effecting all of Missouri's trout producing hatcheries. Wesley stated that all the hatcheries managed to keep all of their trout finger links and fry except the Bennett Springs hatchery which lost approximately 80,000 fish. The Hatchery building at Bennett Springs was well under water and was a complete lost after this December flood.



Each hatchery is set up a little differently and has separate protocols during floods. The Meramec Springs hatchery uses metal screens that cover each hatchery run which managed to keep the trout put while other hatcheries are offset from the



river using recirculating systems to circulate cold water to the trout. Wesley said if trout spend more than 30 minutes without cold water passing by them they die. Once Wesley and his team had their pools covered and started to relax, an alarm went off in one of their pools indicating the water level was going down. When they went to investigate, they noticed a breach in the dam. The flood water had caused the dam to breach, scoring a 12 foot hole below the damn.

The team had

to scramble by using water pumps to maintain water going to this pool for the trout.

See full article at:

<http://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-saves-thousands-trout-dam-repair-meramec-spring-hatchery>



Impact of Rivers: Wesley stated that the flood impact on the rivers trout is still unknown. The MDC biologist teams typically are out in the field shocking the trout streams during March and April and will have their data compiled in the near future. Wesley did discuss that the Niangua River was fishing very well due to Bennett Springs hatchery losing the majority of their trout.

Trout Plan: Wesley also gave a quick update on MDC's trout plan which is now roughly 13 years old. He said the plan is being reviewed by the Commission and will likely remain going down the same path as before with some minor adjustments. The Commission is in the initial stages of during some fact finding and thinking about ways

to survey the stakeholders of the streams to gather input.

Almost Fishing the Current in February (Historical Fictional) by Smash Thumb

I was in Sunday Church praying the usual prayers, when suddenly I was inspired to go fishing.

It took no persuasion when I talked to my native Indian Friend, Too Tall Tom or TTT, to tag along with me to the Current. The below normal temperature wave for January was ending, followed by a warm front. Perfect for TTT, after all, one can only do so much with your spouse in a tee pee, and I was reciting TV infomercials verbatim.

The weather man was right for once. By the time we got to the Current it was a 50 plus degree day and felt warm to what we had acclimated too. We started fishing below Montauk. It had been a productive dry fly adventure for TTT and I last fall. Indeed at least two different size caddis were coming off today, one very large, perhaps size 14, and another, the usual small, at best 18 size. Later in the day there were a sporadic midge or two. Up on the bank TTT spotted a trout for me to fish (nice guy, he can ride with me again!) Of course he was tucked up next the bank with overhanging limbs, a difficult place to place a fly. I managed to cast into brush twice, break off, and retie before I finally got a drift to that trout. I wish all trout were that patient with me.



There's always trout under this ledge

first warm days. Makes sense I thought. But wait a minute, Missouri gets an

Crash boom crash boom. The loud thunder on the otherwise quiet river had me ready to run. The hair stood up on my back of my neck. Wait, I don't have any hair left there, but wherever it was, I sensed it and it got my attention. I couldn't and shouldn't fight anything that made that much noise. What was it? Oh, as the crash boom continued, I dropped and lost the nymph I was retying. I glance up and saw a chunk of ice rolling down the steep Ozark bluff. It didn't quite make the river. Sigh. There was a lot more ice up there and this was one of the

occasional 8-12 inch Ozark snows. Does Missouri have avalanches too?

The rest of day remained quiet. I caught lots more brush. Guess the winter was longer than I thought. Rusty casting? I spent most of my precious fishing time retying. YUCK! You would have thought I was a novice fly caster that day. But I was feeling the warmth of the sun and breathing some fresh air that promised of spring. TTT had his share of problems too, although appreciably less than I. I won the contest on who could get hung up the most by a landside, even Trumpwouldn't dispute it. At least I didn't get skunked that day, I caught that fish TTT pointed out to me. The rest of the day was humbling enough. Oh wait, the restaurant we were going to eat at had already closed before 6pm. XXXX, now what? Liquid diet, surely the liquor store is open till eight.

Next day I changed my strategies. Nothing will be hatching in the freezing morning temperatures. I decided to streamer fish with sinking tip line and 15 lb test tippet, might even use some those Alaska flies. 15 lb test, won't have to retie today, yeah, yeah. We found some deep runs to try below Baptist Camp. There was penalty of flow and impossible to spot trout in these deep holes. It's crucial to cast within inches of shore or root wades to roust a reflux strike from those sleeping giants. But just like yesterday I was casting inches on wrong side of shore and inevitably I got snagged. That little twig can't be that strong. It was too deep to wade across the stream to retrieve by fly. So I pointed my rod straight at twig and began to apply tension, more tension, and then more tension. What's the deal with that little root. So more tension and even more tension until finally: SNAPPED FLOPPED. I had a big wade of more than 30 circles of fly line spiraling around my rod. That was a first. I still don't believe it.

I found a rock hangover where trout frequently lie. I've caught trout there before, just like the good book says. I made several passes, but nothing, no take or any sign that anybody was home. It was time for a break from fishing so I went exploring. I walked downstream further I had ever before and observed another magnificent bluff. We are so blessed here in the Ozarks with such stark beauty. I sat for a few minutes and admired from my private view. It had warmed considerable from mornings freeze. So I shed a couple of layers. Good time for a beer. So I started fishing my way back to the car. I observed



TTT fishing from a newly form gravel bar. We spoke briefly and I continue back to the car. Over the next hour I broke off several times. I know what you're thinking. The line was rotten. But no! This was good fluorocarbon from Seagar. From this spool I've caught penalty of salmon, and beside it always took quite a tugged to make it snap. Last winter's flood had brought in lots of debris/habitat for trout. I made it back to the car. Skunked so far today! But did catch that beer. TTT was back now. Thankfully, TTT didn't tell me how many he caught.

Before heading home I needed to catch a trout. We had one hour before heading back to Columbia. Perhaps we should try the park. There we could spot trout, but they could spot us too. The water reminded me of gin I drank the night before, NOT, the river was more clear than the cheap crap I had. I spotted some trout in the tail out, actually TTT pointed them out to me out again. I drugged my nymph over them repeatedly. Did I say repeatedly. I think there are sun bathing, not feeding. Surprisingly one had mercy on me. I managed to hook a sixteen incher. Poor skinny little thing. It didn't know it was hooked for a minute, then finally made a half ass jump before limping in. Oh, what joy. We can leave now.

Overall, I didn't drown or get hit by ice chunks, had great company, was joyous to be outside to see the sun in the middle of winter, and saw great Ozark water and scenery. Lessen learned: If you want to catch trout, keep your fly in the water, not in the trees. While a challenging trip for me, I sure there's nothing like more time on the water that will help solve the matter. So, see you out there. I'll be easy to spot; I be the one in the trees.

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 Hot Dog Burn, is in the Wine Room at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, located on East Business Loop I70, across from the east side Westlakes Hardware in Columbia, MO.

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