



Cross Currents

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January 2017

Tuesday January 3, 6-8pm
regular meeting
at **Shakespeare's South**
Small Meeting Room,
3911 Peachtree Dr.,
Columbia MO.

Mike Kruse will talk about
Manitoba Trout Lakes.

Please bring cash to pay for pizza,
salad, and drinks.



Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited Annual Conservation Banquet **Friday February 24, 5:30**

Stoney Creek Inn, 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203
Contact **Curt Morgret** at cmorgret@gmail.com or 573-881-3969 for tickets.

Announcements

Wednesday, January 4th, 6:30pm Banquet Meeting # 1 at Dean's house: 4505 Nathaniel Drive, Columbia, MO 65202. Bring your ideas and lets get this thing put together

Youth and Family Trout Fishing at Bethel Lake, Columbia MO, Feb 4th, 9am until Noon. MDC will furnish the fishing equipment and if possible maybe have some fly casting demonstrations, fishing cleaning and information about fishing with fly's. Please let Ryan know if you would like to volunteer to help out at this event.

Potential trip on **Feb 11th-Bennett Spring Winter Trout Fishing Trip** and/or **Park Clean Up Project**

Friday, February 17, 6pm the Gateway Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting its 2017 Annual Fundraising Dinner on Friday, at Tapawingo National Golf Club in Sunset Hills, Missouri. Their special keynote speaker will be **Chris Wood**, President of Trout Unlimited. His vision for TU is infectious and when you will leave you will know you have drank the veritable TU Kool-Aid. Contact Matt Tucker, matt.tucker@gatewaytu.org, for tickets (\$30).

3Creeks has many new and lightly used Sage/Rio/Redington gear available at steeply discounted prices. Contact Scott Gerlt at gerlts@missouri.edu if interested.

Please post your fishing outings on
MMTU Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MidMOTU> or
MMTU WEB <http://midmissouri.tu.org>



Photo Contest Winner from Kent Campbell

President's Corner by Ryan Verkamp

Very excited to announce that during our last meeting we approved to help two conservation efforts going into 2017, one being the Missouri Smallmouth Alliance and the other being Embrace-A-Stream. The chapter also discussed funding several other efforts, but at this time wanted to do some more research prior to committing any funds. Right around the corner in February is our largest fundraiser, our dinner banquet. I would encourage all members to get involved in any way, shape, or form. If you can't make it to the banquet, you could always buy tickets as a donation, help with fundraising, donate auction items, etc. Please reach out to Curt Morgret

at cmorgret@gmail.com if you would like to help. I would also like to encourage our chapter to help support the Gateway Chapter of Trout Unlimited at their 2017 annual fundraising Dinner. The dinner is on Feb. 17th and will be very special this year as the keynote speaker will be Chris Wood, President of Trout Unlimited. Please let me know if you would like further details.

MidMOTU.org - "Chapter Know-How"

In case you didn't know the Chapter Web site has a section dedicated to sharing tips, tricks and techniques of other chapter members. We are looking for your contributions both big and small. So if you have any trick you would not mind sharing with others please contact our Web master, Dean Rapp. The latest tip [Hackle Tip](#) can be found at About / Chapter Know-How / Fly Tying / Hackle Tip or <http://midmissouri.tu.org/midmissouri/size-that-hackle>.

A Yakima Christmas Present by Tony Warren

It's a pleasant surprise for a trout-chasing father to plan a visit to an adult child and be told that a father-child fishing trip will be part of the visit itinerary. It's even more surprising when (a) that trip launches from Seattle, (b) it's the first week of December (and high temps near 40 degrees), and (c) that child is your oldest daughter.



Sarah with Yakima Rainbow

But such was the case on December 3rd, when Sarah & I departed North Seattle at 7 am with her friends Wally & Juaquin and drove 2 hours east on I-90 to Ellensburg and the north end of the Yakima Canyon. I was familiar with the town of Yakima, maybe I had heard of the Yakima River, but I had no basis for knowing that it's a blue-ribbon trout stream with a catch-and-release only population of naturally-reproducing rainbows. Our guides said the river contains a few brookies, browns, & cutthroat, but we saw no evidence of those strains in our 6-hour float.

Although we met our guides & boats at a flyshop in Ellensburg, Sarah's friends had actually booked the trip thru a shop near Seattle, and one of our guides was based there. It seems the nature of guiding in Western Washington is that most guides readily travel to multiple streams, and multi-hour drives are generally not a barrier. These particular guides were knowledgeable, courteous, and well-equipped, equally concerned about our comfort and our prospects of landing fish. The guides supplied all the needed equipment, including waders and rain pants to help ward off the chill (air temperature was in low 40's with a moderate breeze and partly cloudy sky)---it required all the keep-warm clothes I had taken but we managed to stay comfortable.



The Yakima River originates in the eastern slopes of the Cascade mountains and is fed by a number of tributary rivers and streams. The section we fished was 25-40 yards wide with an average depth of 4-5 ft.-lots of riffles with rocks to dodge but nothing to risk getting caught on. The flow was much more than adequate, although our guides pointed out that the current level was about 12" below what had been average for the year. (The current issue of The Drake magazine contains a lengthy article about the Yakima watershed, concerns about water rights and usage, and a new collaborative effort to negotiate an acceptable truce among competing interests). The water we floated contained a few spots that would have been wadeable (maybe in warmer weather), but wading is more practical upstream and there are several access points close to I-90 (which crosses the Yakima several times west of Ellensburg).

Our guides rigged us with mid-weight outfits, 6X tippets with dropper rigs-a woolly-bugger-like starter followed by #18 nymphs, pheasant tails, & beadheads below. All but one of the day's catch took the dropper. Between the 4 fishermen, about a dozen fish came to net, all rainbow trout except for one mountain whitefish. Most were in the range of 14"-15", with Juaquin's only catch being a fat 20" rainbow. Yours truly boated 6, but had the unusual distinction of being the most experienced flyfisherman in the group. Daughter Sarah was surprisingly proficient with a flyrod, seemingly having mastered mending from Dad's explanation during the drive from Seattle.



In addition to the fish caught, three highlights stand out from the trip: (1) the Yakima canyon, which lacks sheer rock walls but is loaded with wildlife, including elk, bighorn sheep, muledeer, etc., (2) the absolute best shorelunch I've had trout fishing (grilled steaks, asparagus, rice pilaf, etc), and (3) having a very promising fishing destination within a two-hour drive of Seattle (will definitely do this again).

A wee touch of Maker's Mark toasted the day's end and we were home by 7 pm---would heartily recommend the Yakima for anyone visiting Western Washington.

Fly Fishing Is A Pain In The Neck by Sam Potter

Long, long ago in a land far, far away I fished with a vest. But this was no ordinary vest. This vest had a bajillion pockets and I put something in every single one. I put all of my fly boxes, all of my tippets, all of my floats and every single handy, must have tool that I owned. The yoke probably weighed 6-7 pounds, but I was ready for anything that presented itself. When I showed my father my new vest all packed up and ready to go, he said "nice vest" and smiled saying "you'll learn" and walked away. Puzzled I had no clue what he meant. It didn't occur to me sometime later when I finally connected the pain in the back of my neck and my shoulders with the weight I was carrying around all day.

The first question is, how many fly boxes do you really need to carry with you to the stream? I suppose the simplest answer would be, it depends on what you think you will need. But let's give this a little more thought. Are you carrying hoppers with you in December? How about Light Cahill dry flies? I think you get the point. Carry the flies that you think you will need according to the season. Think about how many flies you actually use in a day or half day of fishing. Are you using less than twenty? I would bet \$100.00 you are. So why carry five or six fly boxes around all day with a few hundred flies that you won't use. What about all those flies in your boxes that you have never used or used once? Why carry them if you don't or won't use them? If you are thinking that they don't weigh that much, they don't singularly, but they take up space for flies that you actually use, so now you have to get another box just to make room for flies you may actually use. Odds are that you probably use about a dozen different types of

flies 90% of the time you fish. For those of you that predominately fish the trout parks, or tail-waters like Taney, I'm sure you can get away with a half dozen different types of flies.

Do you really need to carry every single fly that you have tied or purchased in the past ten years, even if it is the correct time of the season for that bug to hatch? The answer is no. Plan ahead and take one fly box and pack it with four or five of each size and color of the bugs hatching, and that should be all you need for the day or at least a half day. The odds are pretty good that the truck is probably parked less than ¼ mile away if you need to resupply out of your gear bag or you can resupply when you take a break for lunch. If you fish primarily with nymphs or scuds it becomes a lot easier. Pick up one of those ½ inch thin fly boxes that has six to twelve compartments. You can store a couple hundred flies in one box.

How many spools of tippet do you really need? Depends on how you are fishing, but I would think three would cover it if you know what you will be fishing with for the day. You don't need 7X or 6X for streamers and you don't need 2X or 1X for nymphing or dry flies, so why carry it?

When you fish, do you wear shirts that have pockets? Do your waders have zippered pockets, or a chest pouch or both? Does your rain jacket have pockets? Does your wading jacket have pockets? How about that huge pocket from the top of your waders down to your wading belt? Do you ever use any of the above pockets for storing gear? If not why not? Try fishing with less bulk and see if it isn't more comfortable and enjoyable with more freedom. See if you can make fly fishing less of a pain in the neck.

Meeting Place: Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm, except for July and August. The current meeting place, except June Hot Dog Burn, is in the Small Meeting Room at Shakespeare's South, located 3911 Peachtree Dr., Columbia, MO.

Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited Officers

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