



## Cross Currents

**MMTU WEB** <http://midmissouri.tu.org>

**MMTU Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/MidMOTU>

May 2017

Tuesday May 2, 6-8pm  
regular meeting at  
Hy-Vee  
2nd Floor Meeting Room  
25 Conley  
Columbia MO.



*Investing In Your Conservation Legacy*

Individuals can purchase any food or beverage they want from the variety of Hy-Vee options including the Market Grille. Meeting at 7 PM with conversation starting at 6 PM.

### May Program

Tuesday May 2, 7 pm. Program: Kevin Roper, Executive Director of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, will discuss the past, present, and future stream stewardship projects. MMTU has been a long time partner funding several of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation's stream projects and Kevin will be present to describe how best MMTU can get involved from a financial standpoint along with people volunteering on these projects.

**Needed:** Newsletter Editor. Please email Ryan if interested.  
[ryan.verkamp@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.verkamp@gmail.com)

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

### President's Corner by Ryan Verkamp

The recent executive order by President Trump leaves public land protection in limbo. As a local and national organization, I would encourage all of our members to reach out to any and all local and national political elected officials to voice your opinion. If you are not sure what to say or write, please read the below piece written by Jeff Witten.

Trout Unlimited supports the Antiquities Act and the ability for presidents to use the act to designate national monuments. As national monuments, these places will be kept just the way they are today and provide world-class coldwater habitat and fishing opportunities for future generations. The Antiquities Act has historically been a bipartisan tool for conserving public lands that are part of our natural heritage and important for America's sportsmen and women. After signing the act into law, President Theodore Roosevelt designated over 1.5 million acres of public land as national monuments, both large and small. Since then, the act has been used to enable long-term conservation of some of the best fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and angling opportunities in the country.

If you have been holding back waiting to get involved in conservation efforts, this would be your opportunity. This land is our land and it is going to take a collective effort to voice our support of public land. TU makes it really easy to send direct communication to our leaders in Washington. Click [here](#) to send an email to the US House and Senate.

At a local level, MMTU has always been supporters of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation. During the May program, the Executive Director, Kevin Roper, is going to give MMTU some insights on what projects the Foundation have been working on and give MMTU an overview of where we can get involved.

Looking forward to seeing you all on May 2nd.

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### **Climate Change Survey and additional threatened USGS streamgages**

Members-Please fill out the climate change survey that went out in the national TU newsletter in April.

On April 4th, the USGS sent around an email to key stakeholders announcing a funding cut for 49 USGS gages in Missouri set to end June 30, 2017. Unless other funding sources are identified, the information from these gages will no longer be available. MMTU donated \$3,000 earlier this year to help fund a gauge on the Roubidoux Creek. Please let Ryan Verkamp know if you would like additional information.

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### **America's Public Lands-Communicate to ensure future public enjoyment**

The below letter was sent out to the Missouri and Kansas Senators and Reps in DC by Jeff Witten, our Council Chair representative. MMTU would encourage each of you to send the same type of letter to your individual state representatives. The letter urges them to oppose any effort to get rid of Public Lands.

*Dear Members of the Missouri and Kansas Congressional Delegation:*

*On behalf of the Missouri and Kansas Council of Trout Unlimited and our 3,000 members across the states, I urge you to oppose any policies or proposals that would divest America's public lands.*

*Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve trout and salmon fisheries and the watersheds on which they depend. America's Public lands contain some of the best remaining trout and salmon watersheds in the entire United States. These lands and waters are extremely valuable to us. We find the idea of divestiture to be shortsighted*

and a land grab at the expense of sportsmen and women.

*We call on you, as our representatives in Congress, to protect our public lands - and the sporting and fishing heritage supported by these lands - by strongly opposing any wholesale effort to sell or transfer ownership or management of our country's public lands.*

*Further, we ask that you work to address 21st century land management challenges in ways that protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat, ensure that Federal land management agencies have the tools and funding necessary to effectively manage our lands, and uphold America's public land hunting and fishing traditions.*

*These are America's lands and we must save them for future generations. Please consider this in your voting.*

**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 is Upstairs Meeting Room at Hy-Vee off Conley, Columbia MO. In June the meeting is held at Stephens Lake Park, Collins Shelter at 5:30 pm.

### Mid Missouri Trout Unlimited Officers

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