

## Two Rivers Four Days

When Dave called me in June he said he had a deal for us in the fall. He asked me what my schedule was like, and at the time it was open for the week he had planned. It doesn't take much arm bending for me to go fishing so I marked my calendar for the 10th - 13th of November. We arrived at the North Fork on the afternoon of Sunday the 9th and planned our day on the water for a float from Patrick to the Taylor's. The temps were pretty low in the morning and I had to scrape frost off the windshield. It stayed cloudy all day and the rain set in that afternoon. It was slow fishing to say the least, but we had competition with another boat for the best runs and unfortunately we were beat to the best spots all day.

The next day we floated from McKee to Blair and had a very rewarding day with several nice streamborn rainbows in the net. The largest was a 16" male that jumped six times. The first two jumps must have been three feet out of the water. We had our rigs set up with stoneflies and eggs or woollies and eggs. All of the fish we caught were on eggs or woollies. The weather was ideal all day, cloudy and cool.





Wednesday morning we headed to the Eleven Point river in the heavy fog and rain. We didn't get started with our float until about 10:30 so I knew we were going to have to do some hit and miss fishing to get in before dark. The combination we used on the North Fork didn't work as well on the Eleven point with no fish taken on the egg pattern... all the fish we caught on Wednesday were on the woolly. The weather was rain all day and sometimes it came down pretty good, so we had to bail water quite a bit. We did see several eagles and two osprey, but probably the same birds over and over. There were at least two adult bald eagles and two juveniles and two osprey but there could have been others. We also witnessed a boulder break loose from a bluff and tumble down breaking smaller trees like toothpicks. It finally lodged up against a large tree, but a small boulder was knocked loose as the larger one tumbled down, and it made a nice splash as it ended its trip down the hill. The nice thing about our float on Wednesday was that we were the only fools on the river. It did clear off late in the day and provided some nice photos of the sun bouncing off the bluffs.



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Thursday as another perfect weather day cloudy and cool, and the fishing as pretty good all day. We were targeting the fast chutes and runs for streamborn rainbows instead of the slower water where we were finding stockers. We did catch our share of stockers, but after you catch streamborn rainbows, catching a stocker is a disappointment. We were rigged with stoneflies and woollies with the woolly taking 2 to 1 over the stone. Dave managed to pick up a nice 15 inch streamborn above Turner just before we

finished the float. It was an excellent way to finish a very good day on one of Missouri's great float streams and our four days of sharing stories, ideas and our great Ozarks.



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