



RiverRap

December 27, 2014

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

January 03rd Fishing Outing
January 06th Fly Tying
January 18th Fishing Outing
January 20th Club meeting

January Happenings in the RFFA

Saturday January 3rd Fishing Outing at Bennett Spring Park 8:00 AM. Contact club member if you want to car pool.

Tuesday January 6th– Tyn' & Lyr' in the Rolla Public Library in the New extension building on the north side of the main library.– bring your favorite fly to tie; fill up some empty slots in your boxes; or just tell a few lies!- 6:30 P.M. or so– we usually come early and leave when they kick us out.

Sunday January 18th Fishing Outing to Montauk State Park. This is a nother trip to car pool if you need a ride or just want to save a little petro. 8:00 AM

Tuesday January 20 Regular meeting at Towne Suits in St Robert. Starts at 6:30

A Few notes from the Last Club meeting:

It's that time of year again when we begin planning the club outings for the new year. The main topic of conversation at the meeting was outings. Where do we want to go? Suggestions were made to some far flung places such as Wyoming; Houma, LA and anywhere on the Texas coast south of Rockport. Closer to home a few ideas that came up were both MDC areas that are known to hold chain pickerel– Blackwell Lake and Sims Valley; a float or two on the Big Piney; swapping still water with moving water; doing a few repeats we haven't been to in a while such as the Huzzah, Osage Fork of the Gasconade; Lake Scioto. Also brought up was a possible overnigher on the Buffalo River in Arkansas. No real gravel bar camping involved – we'd find a campground to stay in with a nice float above and below our central location

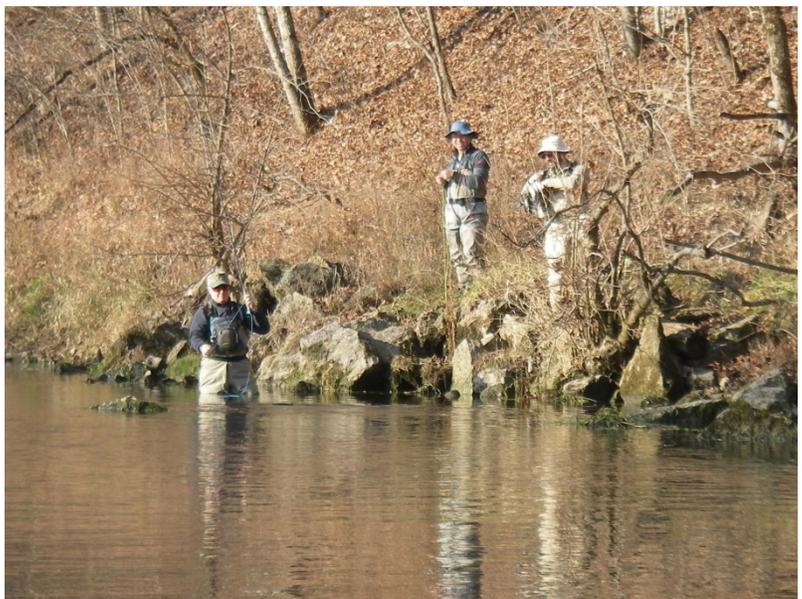
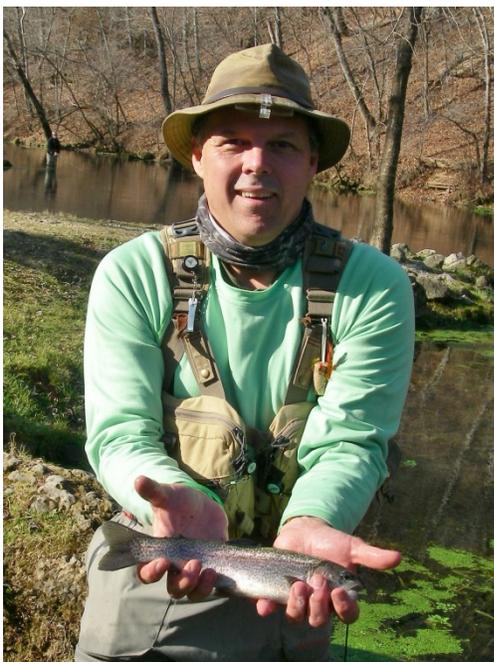
Fishing Reports:

Club Outing to Maramec Spring Park

The club outing to Meramec Spring Park on 14 December was well attended with Boot, Todd, Todd's dad Mike, Jerry, Dave Earl, a new guy Dave was teaching and Lou all giving the fish what for. Most of us went just outside the park in the morning to try our luck at the browns. We split up and Mike, Jerry & Todd took the high side while Boot and myself took the low side. Mike scored first fish but it was slim pickin's for sure. I caught a rainbow and a gorgeous longear sunfish.



Maybe the word had gotten out or since it was the first nice day in a long time everyone seemed to be out and about fishing. We even had a small flotilla of a couple canoes and kayaks go past it was so nice!!! Boot and I headed back up into the park while the other three continued downstream. Boot targeted risers with a Griffith's Gnat and brought a few to hand.





This Northern Striped Bass got a little too close to this jig. He wasn't try to eat the jig, they feed on aquatic insect larva and snails. Males have beautiful electric blue color during spawning season.

Lunch was welcome break cause breakfast came awful early that morning. We caught up talking and then began to fish the park in earnest. A few long distance releases, a few more rainbows brought to hand, and even a few longear sunfishes came to say hello. The smallies were way too tight lipped. And so it went throughout the day. It was good seeing everyone again.



Report submitted by Lou

Louisiana Red Fish Trip by Sam

November and December is an excellent time to find large male Red Fish in Louisiana. A friend of mine, Brandon Keck, ([Southernflyexpeditions](#)) whom I taught to fly fish, is now guiding fly fishermen in Louisiana. He works out of New Orleans and concentrates on the marshes of the Mississippi delta. We took about an hour boat ride to get to where the fish were each day.

He has been inviting me down for a few days of fishing for the past couple of years. I finally caved in, he really had to twist hard, and started making my plans back in August. This was my first fly fishing salt adventure so I didn't know what to expect. I didn't have a fly rod large enough for the fish we were after, but no worry Brandon would supply everything. The drive down took me about 11 hours, I think I can make it in 10 next time, since I know a lot more about the route and the places to stop for gas and a break. The first day was the best day of the trip and the last day was the slowest. We decided to not fish the fourth day since the wind and tide were going to be all wrong. Yep the tide has more to do with fishing than I realized... so a lesson learned. Planning the exact dates too far in advance could mean the difference between fish and no fish. Just about the same thing happens with steelhead trips.... if you can get there when the fish are there you have a chance to haul some in, if not you just get to make a long road trip and see the sights.



I put 14 of these guys in the boat in three days. The largest was 32 pounds and a half dozen were in the mid 20s. The rest were about 8 to 17 pounds.

I had tied up some flies for the trip, but they proved to be too bulky and were very difficult to cast, even with a 10wt rod. Casting a bulky fly in the wind is no joy. So it was necessary to use the flies that Brandon had. I only used two flies for three days of casting. The one fly I lost was hung up on a misplaced crab trap that was buried halfway in the sand.

I used a streamer pattern that was about 6 inches long. No blind casting here, all the fish I cast to were sight fished. Blind casting a 10wt rod all day is not advised. You need to be ready to make your cast because most of the time you only get one or two casts to a fish, and it had to be accurate. The water was not clear so seeing them early enough to set up on was the key to success.

The following link is to a **YouTube** video that I made on the trip to give you an idea of what a day was like. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-G7xLM-elk&feature=youtu.be>

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Outings

Remaining Club outings until February 2015

3 Jan 2015 Sat	Bennett Springs State Park
18 Jan 2015 Sun	Montauk State Park
1 Feb 2015 Sun	Maramec Spring Park
14 Feb 2015 Sat	Bennett Springs State Park

River Conditions Area streams are low and clear and if you are not in a spring run, the water is going to be cold, so dress appropriately. Remember cotton kills, and blue jeans are not good to wear under your waders. Besides not venting they absorb water and water on your skin in the winter is not a good idea.





RiverRap

January 31, 2014

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

February 01st Fishing Outing
February 03rd Fly Tying
February 14th Fishing Outing
February 17^h Club meeting

February Happenings in the RFFA

Hello Everyone!

I sincerely hope you all are taking advantage of some of our “spring” weather and getting outside while the getting is good.

For those of you who would enjoy a nice leisurely walk with your fishing they seem to have snuck in a stocking at Stone Mill Spring. The spring right now is full of fish and there is a wonderful midday hatch of cream colored mayflies. Remember it’s fishing for fun so please don’t take any home for supper. A warning though – the kids fishing derby will be held on the 28th of February – imagine if you will our trout opener only with most the folks under 3’ tall. (I personally will be nowhere near ANY of that madness, LOL!)

February has snuck up on me so this reminder is late. Here are our happenings:

Sunday 1 February Meramec Spring Park meet up in the parking lot around 8:00. This will be our last gathering there till catch and keep starts and regretfully I won’t be able to make it. Here is wishing those that do catch many large and handsome fish!

Tuesday 3 February Tyin’ & Lyin’ at the Rolla Public Library – starts around 6 or 6:30 and goes till they throw us out. Hint – warm water season is just around the corner!

Saturday 14 February Bennett Springs meet up at the store around 8:00. This is the last weekend of Catch & Release. It could be crowded it could not. It’s also the last opportunity to explore those areas we can’t during the regular season and possible chase smallies that have come up into the warmer water from the Niangua. Bring your lunch and bring a friend!

Tuesday 17 February Regular meeting 6:30 P.M. Towne Suits. We’ll be finalizing the outing “schedule” and working out the calendar for the rest of the year.

DUES ARE DUE!!! Paid so far are Brett, Todd, Max and myself. You can mail your \$20 to RFFA PO Box 76, Ft Leonard Wood, MO 65473 or come to a meeting and I will collect it there!! IF you don't get a membership card I didn't get your dues!!!

Upcoming outings in March – think Chain Pickerel – Sims Valley Lake & Blackwell (in Indian Valley CA).

NOTE If you would like to see a bunch of information on the elusive Chain Pickerel check your email [Lou emailed members with a ton of info from her friend Paul Goodwin.](#)

Fishing Reports:

Fishing Report from Lou

Some friends and I always try to fish in the New Year and this year the weather although chilly – cooperated and we were able to get on the water. Lake Taneycomo was our water of choice this year. We always try and catch a few fish to start the year out right. Well, for me it was touch and go whether I was going to bring one to hand or not. It seemed like everyone around me was catching fish right and left and I was getting zip, nada, nothin', until almost the end when I finally brought one to hand. It will be a great fishing year



Club Outing to Montauk Park

Out club outing on the 18th was to Montauk. Such nice weather brought out a LOT of people and they seemed to be everywhere! Jerry and Todd managed to squeeze into a few spots and catch a few but it was pretty cutthroat to say the least.



Eye tags by Sam



If you catch a brown trout on the Meramec river, take a moment to see if there is a tag next to the eye. I have found three different colors: blue ones, red ones and gold ones. Our fisheries biologist for the Meramec River, Jen Gironde, has been trying to figure out the survival of the brown trout she has been stocking.

In a recent email I received from her she had this to say:

“The tags really are there to identify when the fish were released and which hatchery raised them. Any fish with an eye tag was raised at Maramec, and they have been released at 3 general stocking dates in 2014. The Shepherd of the Hills-reared fish do not have eye tags. In 2014, Maramec raised fish from a different source than the typical fish from Shepherd, but that will not always be the case depending on what is available in the hatchery system – so the strains (a total of 2 used) don’t have a lot to do with the assessment since that will likely change though the coming years, but it is another

variable for us to keep track of in evaluating performance. The eye marking is really just to help us assess survival and longevity in the river since we should be able to tell when fish were stocked and therefore how long they've survived (and how well they've grown or not) during our normal fall surveys."

Fishing Taneycomo with no water running by Sam Potter

One thing you can count on when you fish Taneycomo, there are no shortages of fish. I think I read somewhere that they stock over 100,000 a year. OH, and another thing Taney is not short of is fishermen. I refuse to do combat fishing, so standing in line with about 20 other guys at the hatchery outlets is not my idea of fly fishing. If you watch them, half of the fish they pull in are foul hooked. I like to have some elbow room to cast and actually use my fly rod for casting a line.

Wednesday I met my son at Branson for some father son time on the water. There were zero units running all day, so the flow was slow and low. In that type of water I prefer to sight fish, but Wednesday the wind put a lot of chop on the water and it made sight fishing difficult, and the low January sun didn't help matters either. In this situation there are usually two options, drift a scud or midge below an indicator or swing midges. We started with "trout crack" and switched over to the soft-hackle midge I use down there, "starling and grey". I believe the size and type of indicator makes a huge difference in the take when fishing ultra-small flies. I use 20s to 16s at taney most of the time, with an 18 my preferred size. All the fish we caught were small, with nothing over 16 inches. We have hooked our share (20+ inch trout) on tiny flies at Taney in the past. I guess we probably caught about 30+ rainbows in 5 hours on Wednesday.



Size 18 brown & Tan trout crack



Size 19 Starling and Grey

I use different colors with my scuds and crack, but Brown and Tan was the best combo on Wed. For Midges I always prefer grey at Taneycomo. (sorry it's a bad photo)

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Outings

Remaining Club outings until March 2015

1 Feb 2015 Sun Maramec Spring Park

14 Feb 2015 Sat Bennett Springs State Park

River Conditions Area streams are still low and clear and if you are not in a spring run, the water is going to be cold, so dress appropriately. Remember cotton kills, and blue jeans are not good to wear under your waders. Besides not venting they absorb water and water on your skin in the winter is not a good idea.





RiverRap

March 03, 2014

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

March 03rd Fly Tying
March 15th Fishing Outing
March 17th Club Meeting
March 21st Fishing Outing

March Happenings in the RFFA

Hello All!

I have a question for you - why should we let all the basketball teams have all the fun during March Madness? We are going to have some fun AND March Madness too! How so you may ask? Let's chase chain pickerel!!!

Bring your old streamer type flies or just some wooly buggers; heavy tippet (10 lb or so will do –nothing fancy); a rubber net if you have one, your lunch and a sense of adventure! Our first try will be to ***Sims Valley Conservation Area on Sunday the 15th of March***. Although there is some bank fishing (especially along the dam) – a floaty (canoe, kayak, float tube) to get out on the lake would be better and increase your chances! We'll meet up around 8:00 A.M. in the parking lot by the boat ramp. Here is a link to the MDC Area Summary -

<http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Applications/MOATLAS/AreaSummaryPage.aspx?txtAreaID=6213>

Our second attempt will be to ***Blackwell Lake in Indian Trails Conservation Area on the 21st of March***. Same thing with gear, etc., as Simms Valley. For those who can go how about you meet up at the boat ramp around 8:00 A.M. again? (Regretfully I have a commitment that A.M. here in St Robert and won't make it that Saturday.) Here is a link to the MDC Area Summary for that one -

[http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Applications/MOATLAS/AreaSummaryPage.aspx?txtAreaID=6201&txtAreaNm=Indian Trail&txtCounty=&txtRegion=&txtUserID=&txtDivision=](http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Applications/MOATLAS/AreaSummaryPage.aspx?txtAreaID=6201&txtAreaNm=Indian%20Trail&txtCounty=&txtRegion=&txtUserID=&txtDivision=)

Make sure you take a good look at the area map for that one – it can be a doozy finding the lake if they have closed off some roads!

Back at the beginning of the month we'll have our Tyin' & Lyin' at the Rolla Public Library on the 3rd. We are upstairs in the annex or little kids library with a LOT better lighting! Come for some tall tales or tie flies or both! We usual meet around 6:30 or so – after supper – and go till they kick us out.

And our meeting will be on St Patrick's Day this year (March 17th) here in St Robert thank goodness – I'm sure Rolla will be full to overflowing with both real and pretend Irish students having a pint or two. The meeting will start at 6:30 P.M. We'll have a short discussing on where we want to go next month, doing a stream sample if Ken is ready for it; and then have a program on 'Sun, Sand and San Pedro" or something like that there.

Hope to see you all on the water or at the meeting or Tyin' & Lyin' or.....!!!

ONE MORE THING THEN I WILL LET YOU ALL GO – Dues are DUE!! Please give them to me at the meeting, Tyin' & Lyin' or you can mail them in to RFFA, PO Box 76, Ft Leonard Wood, MO 65473. We won't drag this out much – 1st April will be our deadline. If you want to keep receiving reminders, newsletters, updates, etc., etc. pay your dues!

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Reports:

Fishing Report from Lou

NO fishing reports this month, however when Lou gives us a report on her trip to Belize I will pass it along.

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Outings

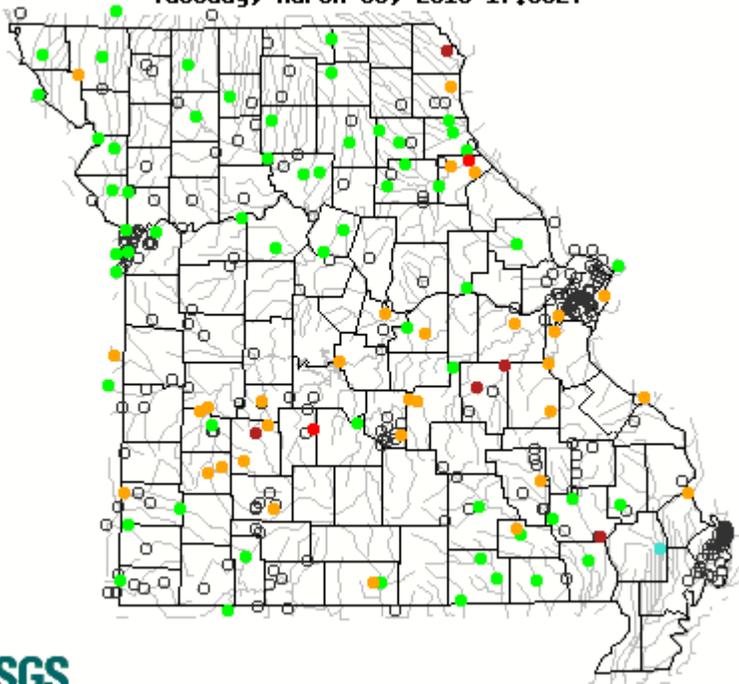
Club outings in March 2015

March 15th Simms Valley Conservation Area

March 21st Blackwell Lake in Indian Hills Conservation Area

River Conditions Area streams are very low and clear. If you are not in a spring run, the water is going to be very cold, so dress appropriately. Remember cotton kills, and blue jeans are not good to wear under your waders. Besides not venting they absorb water and water on your skin in the winter is not a good idea. IF we get some rain on top of this snow AND it warms up a bit the streams should have a good flow and good color. Below map and table were borrowed from the USGS stream flow on Tuesday, the 3rd of March.

Tuesday, March 03, 2015 17:00ET



Explanation

- High
- > 90th percentile
- 76th - 90th percentile
- 25th - 75th percentile
- 10th - 24th percentile
- < 10th percentile
- Low
- Not ranked

The colored dots on this map depict streamflow conditions as a [percentile](#), which is computed from the period of record for the current day of the year. Only stations with at least 30 years of record are used.

The **gray circles** indicate other stations that were not ranked in percentiles either because they have fewer than 30 years of record or because they report parameters other than streamflow. Some stations, for example, measure stage only.





RiverRap

April 13, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

April 15th Fishing Outing

April 17th Fishing Outing

April 21st Club Meeting

March Happenings in the RFFA

Hello All!!!

Hope everyone is getting out and about in some of this fine Missouri spring weather – I myself have already begun looking for elephant tracks in the shallows!!

Sorry this is a little late – Tyin & Lyin was at the Rolla Public Library Tuesday. Todd showed off some more of those tube flies he is tying up for musky.

The rest of the month looks like this

Wednesday 15 April from about noon till our arms fall off – Lake Scioto in St James. Bring bug spray (as in ticks & chiggers) because this is a walk around lake. If you haven't sent off your taxes – this day would be a fine day to do it.

Sunday 19 April Lake Rinquelin north of Dixon around 8ish. Here is the link - <http://fishing.mdc.mo.gov/reports/rinquelin-trail-community-lake> Although the bass and bluegill may not live up to the expectations of MDC – lets give it a shot for mean greens, redear and heck – who wouldn't want to try for some crappie and catfish?

Tuesday 21 April – regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. Town Suites here in St Robert. We'll discuss future fishing outings, programs, etc., etc., etc. PLUS I'll demonstrate how to make mayflies with a portable drill

Other activities in the near future

25 April Water Quality Monitoring Workshop

1 & 2 May Smallmouth Rendezvous, Tahlequah, OK

Memorial Day – Not sure which days but usually Charlie Reading has a one day or day and a half show at his place.

If you hear or know of any other shows, classes, events, etc., that may be of interest to your fellow fly flingers – drop Sam a line so he can add it to our newsletter.

Hope to see you all on the water or at the meeting.

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Reports:

Fishing Report from Lou

What: Chain Pickerel Fest 2015

Location: Sims Valley Lake

Attendies: Brett, Dave, Todd, Lou

Catches: Chain Pickerel; crappie; bluegill; and one lone largemouth bass

It's a good thing to have at least one person stay focused during outings and this trip it was Brett. He successfully chased chain pickerel all day long. The rest of us – Todd, Dave and myself – were too easily distracted by the large and numerous crappie and bluegill.



Sims Valley Lake is about 2 hours from anywhere and was a stretch for a club outing. We were all glad we went because the catching was worth it. The lake temperature was pretty chilly, plus it was up and slightly off color. The crappie didn't seem to mind. They and the bluegill seemed to prefer the timber and when possible an adjacent weed bed.



On the other hand the chain pickerel seemed to prefer the far corner of the dam from the boat launch and olive over white Clousers stripped out from the weed beds on the bank. Brett could see them wake after the first fly he chose to throw – a white one he figured had just a little too much sparkle in it. Then he switched to the afore mentioned color combo and slammed them.



After I finally quit messing with the crappie and bluegill I had to bum a fly since they wouldn't touch a thing I threw at them. SCORE!! AND a couple too many misses.



All too soon – actually about 4:00 P.M. (we were there almost all day) - it was time to get out, load up and get home. We all agreed that lake was a do over. Preferably in the spring. Maybe even this year.

Fishing Report from Todd

I was out at the cabin planting trees today. The water was high and wasn't clear at all, but I had some time to fish while the fire burned down a bit before cooking some brats for supper. I chucked a 2/0 purple and red pike bunny out into the current and swung it down under a root wad and *BAM*. As per family tradition, I had to send somebody running back for the net. I'm not allow to hook big fish when a net is present.



I'm going back as soon as the water gets back down after the rain we're about to get.
Todd

River Conditions Area streams are very low and clear. If you are not in a spring run, the water is going to be very cold, so dress appropriately. Remember cotton kills, and blue jeans are not good to wear under your waders. Besides not venting they absorb water and water on your skin in the winter is not a good idea. IF we get some rain on top of this snow AND it warms up a bit the streams should have a good flow and good color. Below map and table were borrowed from the USGS stream flow on Tuesday, the 3rd of March.





RiverRap

May 2, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

May 05th Fly Tying and Club Outing

May 19th Club meeting

May 30th Club Outing

June 2nd Fly Tying

June 16th Club Meeting (picnic in the park)

May Happenings

Hello All!!

Seems this weather is just as fickle as always – rain predicted and predicted and predicted then a window opens up and we can go fishing!! In other words typical Missouri spring weather.

Here are our happenings in May -

5 May Tyin' & Lyin at the Rolla Public Library starting around 6:00 P.M. or so and going till they throw us out at closing. Come show off your latest and greatest or come to watch.

19 May Regular meeting at Town Suites, St Robert starting at 6:30 and going till we are done. I will be out of state this month (Oklahoma at a Bluegill Binge) so can someone else take the meeting? Bring a movie to show or a new technique for tying a fly, or It would be greatly appreciated!!

As for outings -

5 May before Tyin' & Lyin' at the Center in Rolla. Noon till dinner time.

30 May Lake Rinqualin – let's see if those pesky mean greens up by the dam are ready to bite yet! Meet up around 8:30 A.M.. Bring something to float in –boat (trolling motor only) canoe, kayak, float tube, etc., etc.

2 June Tyin' & Lyin at the Rolla Public Library starting around 6:00 P.M. or so and going till they throw us out at closing. Come show off your latest and greatest or come to watch.

16 June – We'll hold our yearly picnic in the park – I'll need an RSVP on who is going and if they are bringing family or friends. Club will provide burgers and buns and the regular fixin's. Club members are asked to sign up to bring a side. Thanks!!

Outings for June –TBA!!

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Reports:

Dad and I spent some time fishing out by the cabin yesterday (4/18).

The water was still up and off-color, but the day was too nice to not try anyway. The structure has all moved since the big rain we had a few weeks back, so it was time to find new fishing holes. Dad added another nice fish onto the black and chartreuse secret fly's scoreboard (pictured).



I had another tussle with what I believe was the same fish I showed off last month. It was behind the same root wad, anyway. I didn't manage to get it close enough to see for sure.

Next time!

Todd

River Conditions Some area streams are a little below normal and clear depending on the stream. Insect activity is picking up, especially this week with the warmer temperatures. Crane flies, may flies, midges, caddis flies and stoneflies were coming off in April and most of them will continue into May. Prior to stringing your rod and tying on your fly, walk to the stream and stand there for a while observing insect and fish activity. Let the fish tell you what fly to use.





RiverRap

May 28, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

June 2nd Fly Tying

June 16th Outing on the Doux before the meeting

June 16st Club Meeting Picnic in the PARK

June 21st Outing to Simms Valley or Towel Lake

June Happenings in the RFFA

Hello All!!!

Tuesday 16 June fishing the 'Doux before the meeting! Meet up in Waynesville City park around oneish (weather and river depth dependent) and fish before the meeting.

Our regular outdoor meeting will be on Tuesday 16 June and we'll eat around the usual meeting time of 6:30 P.M. If your brining something that needs to be cooked plan accordingly!

RSVP NLT 10 June if your going to come to the eatin' meetin' on June 16th and how many your bringing and what your going to bring. Club will provide hamburgers and buns. I will be bringing lettuce, tomato, cheese, catsup, mustard, onion, pickle.

Sunday 21 June Bring your floaties cause we're going to Sims Valley!! We will check up on those pesky chain pickerel and also some of those fine bass Brett caught last time. OR we'll head over to Towel Lake – where a certain someone seems to be catching some REALLY BIG carp!! Those at the meeting on 16 June will vote on which one we go to.

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Reports:

Fishing Report from Lou

So let me tell you a funny story about crappie. Some friends from Oklahoma and I get together once a year for what we call a Bluegill Binge. One solid week of bluegill fishing on the local ponds and lakes in Oklahoma. Anything else caught is a bonus fish. This year (I will blame it on the weather) we should have called it Anything But Bluegill Binge. We caught cookie cutter 12-14" catfish from Pretty Water; huge longear from the stream flowing into Beggs; ginormous redear from everywhere we fished; and crappie on poppers at Sand Springs. That's right – crappie. The fish I usually equate to minnows and thus use fly patterns to simulate them, was catching crappie on top with poppers. That wasn't the only fish either – over on Lake Sahoma a nice bass (of many) was brought to hand along with a 9" redear – all on poppers. When that redear hit we thought it was a small bass the way it exploded out of the water!





I am still smiling from catching so many fish!!

See you all on the 16th!!

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Report from Max

Past RFFA-er Doug Goodman ("Little Doug") and I recently tried six days in the Smokies-- four of the days in a cold rain--and darn near struck out! All five of the streams we fished were running about one to one-and-a-half feet high, and although clear, they were rolling pretty fast. So, what is normally a delightful pocket water dry fly fishery had all the fish hunkered down, not looking up to feed, and tucked in with lockjaw against any nymph action. Doug pulled about four baby fish total all on a 16 parachute Adams (his go-to fly) and I almost got skunked for the first time for an entire trip. I salvaged the last day with a single parr rainbow on a 16 Thunderhead. Of course this doesn't count the refusals and missed strikes we both had over the course of events. And by the way, hiking those bloody mountains in the rain and mud has

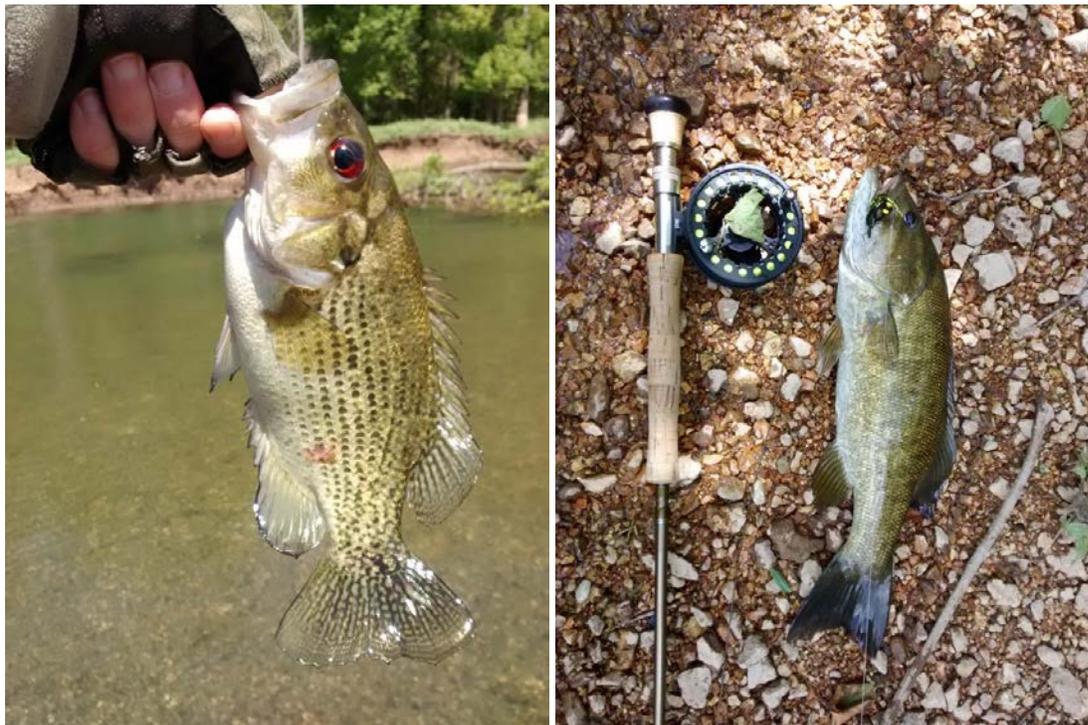
somehow lost its charm.... My 72 year old body detested every move my 24 year old brain tried to force upon it. Doug's 45 years shouldn't have slowed him down but carrying the equivalent of a full rucksack over his belt line (retirement can do that to you) DID get his attention. Bottom line: damn but we had fun! That being said, my recommendation is to fish the Smokies in the Fall when stream conditions are more predictable.

My next trip is to the Gulf again, doing my annual late May pilgrimage to East Ship Island off Gulfport, MS. Can you say redfish, jacks, sharks, and almost too many ladyfish hookups?

Max

Fishing Report from Todd

I landed one nice smallie and several ozark bass yesterday. After dinner I switched over to a secret fly on my tenkara rod to pick on the longear a bit. I spotted the huge smallie that had refused every fly under the sun over the past month. Only when I had a rod with no hope of landing it did it take my fly. The fight lasted precisely long enough for me to inhale deeply in preparation for screaming for Jamie to go get the big net. Oh well, I'll get it next time.



Fishing Report from Sam



This was the second carp I hooked the first day I tried fishing for carp. I lost one that was a little smaller. This one measured 42 x 28 which figures out to be a little over 35lb. If you are wondering I used an 8wt rod and 10 pound tippet.

This one wasn't as big as the one I caught on the first trip and there was no one around to help with the photo. It's Hard to get a good photo of a fish this size when you are by yourself. This one was 36 long 24 girth which comes out to a little over 22 pounds. I had about a dozen opportunities, but the visibility wasn't good with the chop on the water and the reflection of the white clouds on the water.



River Conditions Area streams are very good right now. The recent rains have really helped the flow of the springs. There is good flow and good color on all the streams I have fished this month. Bluegill are spawning right now. The smallmouth spawn is coming to an end and the Largemouth should get going pretty soon.





RiverRap

June 29, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

July 7th Outing Towel Lake

July 7th Fly Tying

July 21st Outing Roubidoux

July 21st Club Meeting

July Happenings in the RFFA

Hello All!!

Hope you're getting out and about fishing. Now is the time to take plenty of water or go during the cooler parts of the day – o-dark-30 in the A.M. or catch the evening bite. Some friends and I hit Sims Valley Tuesday and the fish were very scattered. When I caught a bluegill his buddies were nowhere to be found. (I'll send you a report under separate cover Sam!) I drank three big jugs of water and was still thirsty at the end of the day.

Inquiring minds want to know if we are doing a stream clean-up this year. Well, I am inclined to say we aren't. My reasons are simple –

- 1) We did a real good one last year during the 25th Anniversary of Stream Teams;
- 2) If it hadn't been for the extra help we got from MDC and other teams we wouldn't have pulled it off.

Yes – it was a bigger event being the 25th Anniversary and this year it won't be as involved - we wouldn't need a cake., etc., etc.. We have talked in the past about going to every other year and if no one has any huge objections I think that is the way we'll go for clean-ups. (Plus a few of us are taking trips in Aug/Sep/Oct time frame so we wouldn't have all hands on deck for that.)

Now having said all that I think we still need to be doing something on the Roubidoux Stream Team wise thus I have retaken the Intro to Water Quality course and we will be doing a stream sample in Sept on the 'Doux. If memory serves me Ken, Todd, Sam and Boot have all taken the course so we should be able to get a great survey!

Here are our happenings in July -

Tuesday 7 July – Towel Lake in Little Praire CA – Sam has been catching some whopping big carp in there so let's give it a go. Meet up around 10:00 or so by the boat ramp. OR this may be earlier depending on the heat that day – I will watch the weather reports and shoot out an email the day prior if there is a time change! (We'll be tying flies that evening so let's not exert ourselves too much!)

Tuesday 7 July Tyin' & Lyin' at the Rolla Public Library starting around 6:30-ish and going till they throw us out. This is over in the children's wing. Even if you don't tie or don't feel like tying that night – come and have a sit and tell a few lies.

Tuesday 21 July Roubidoux Creek – Waynesville City Park. We may move either up or down stream depending on what has been washed out from this recent flooding. Let's meet up around 9:00 in the park.

Tuesday 21 July – Our regular meeting in Town Suits at 6:30 P.M. I'll be back from the Driftless in WI by then and will hopefully have something ready to show you all. It might be the fly de jour – it might be a bunch of fish porn – who knows. Come and see.

Fishing Reports:

Todd's trip to Saskatchewan for monster Pike



Sportsman's Lodge
2015.pdf

Presented in PDF :

River Conditions Area streams are very good right now. The recent rains have really helped the flow of the springs. There is good flow and good color on all the streams I have fished this month. Bluegill are spawning right now. The smallmouth spawn is coming to an end and the Largemouth should get going pretty soon.





RiverRap

August 1, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

August 4th Fly Tying

August 18th Club Meeting

July Happenings in the RFFA

Hello All!

Hope your drinking enough water these days. I have had to work outside the last week and even though I have been trying to keep it to mornings it has still been a scorcher!

Anywhozit – I will be unable to attend our usual Tying and Lying or meeting in August. I have been invited to tie at the IFFF in Bend, OR and have taken them up on their invitation. It just so happens it is also their 50th anniversary and my first time in that part of the country. Hopefully I will bring back enough high adventure to do a program or two when I return.

See you all in September!

Tightlines!

Fishing Reports:

Report from Lou

A Fishing Report from The Driftless -

Some gal pals and I headed for the Driftless region near Viroqua, WI in mid July. Man was THAT a mistake! Can you spell H – O – T!!! The great folks at the fly shop, the Driftless Angler, kept telling us “in July it’s a 5-9 fishery” which translated meant five in the A.M. till nine in the A.M. and then five in the P.M. to nine in the P.M. The hours between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. could be well spent in other pursuits – tying flies and telling lies; chasing down some good cheese; taking a nap, reading a good book, etc., etc., etc.. We did catch some fish from 9 to 5 but oh they were hard won, let me tell you.



“Pinky” the pink Squirrel

Driftless Angler Fly Shop

We arrived on Sunday and made it to the fly shop before they closed. They gave us a map or two and some great ideas on where to start and we were off like a herd of turtles. We figured we had a handle on things since we had all caught our fair share of trout. HA! Have you ever seen a coulee? Think small as in oh about half the size of Crane Creek small. And throw out that book about fishing downstream or high sticking nymphs, etc., etc. Fishing was upstream no matter what we tied on. And no sidearm casts because there wasn't any room for a side arm cast without getting caught in the vegetation on the river bank.



Driftless Dames - L to R Sharon Yoker, Gina Leitle, Valley Branscum and Louisa Runnalls

We finally got a lesson on how to fish the Driftless on Tuesday evening when Geri, co-owner and guide for the Driftless Angler took us to a little stream and showed us the ropes. Micro currents; small back eddies the size of a saucer right next to the bank; changing flies till we got keyed in on what they wanted; etc.. It was tough but we learned so much!



Lou's Brook Trout from the West Fork of the Kickapoo

Two of our gals – Valley and Gina had hired Geri for Wednesday A.M. She showed them even more refinements for the game and they were gracious enough to share them with Sharon and myself. I must confess – Tuesday night and Wednesday morning were both game changers for all of us. We were able to apply the lessons learned and the whole lot of us got into some fish – some nicer than others of course but still in all a great way to end a great week!!



Lou's 14 inch Brown from the Spring Coulee

This trip is definitely a repeat but not in July. Maybe April, or June, or September. Not July. Or August. Maybe October before the season closes.

But not July.

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls



Gina's 16 inch Brown from the West Fork of the Kickapoo

Report from Sam

One, maybe two times a year I meet friends of mine from the KC area at Bennett Springs for some "fellowship" time. Bennett is the closest trout water for them and it seems like the best place to meet. One hour for me and two and half for them...sounds about fair...

Last week was the annual/semiannual gathering. All of us are former coaches so you can imagine the competitiveness of this event. Bennett is a great place for such a competitive bunch of old gym rats. Lots and I mean Lots of fish are available to be caught, so as you guess there were bets laid out as to numbers and size. I know I have an unfair advantage since I am on the water year around and for the others they get to fish maybe four times a year. I don't have to tell you who caught the most and

the largest, but the second day there I caught over 80 that included the two largest fish caught in three days. My numbers for the three days was something close to 140. It was utterly ridiculous how many fish were in the stream. Unfortunately almost all of them were about 10 inches maybe some pushing 11. You have heard the term “like shooting fish in a barrel” it was just like going up to the raceways and fishing. They were thick “In Places”. I was bored with the “fish barrel” on Tuesday so Wednesday I fished from the Stone Bridge down to the first turn. AND I had it all to myself. I have never fished at Bennett when I had that much water to myself. It may have had to do with the volume of water going through there and people were uncomfortable to get in water moving that fast. Anyway, the last day I ended up with about 25 and enjoyed it so much more than the previous. The fly that worked the best was “Sam’s SanJuan” I figured with all the high water they must have been eating a lot of those little wigglers.



Two of my buddies Charlie and Jerry rigging up and comparing indicator set depth.



Nematomorpha “horse hair worm” I snagged this somehow and didn’t realize it was alive until it started moving. You can see where the poor guy was cut nearly into two pieces. Last month a lamprey and this month a Nematomorpha.

River Conditions Area streams are still very good right now. There is good flow and good color on all the streams I have fished this month.





RiverRap

Sept 04, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Sept 1st Fly Tying

Sept 15th Club Meeting

September Happenings in the RFFA

We still need to be doing something on the Roubidoux Stream Team wise thus I have retaken the Intro to Water Quality course and we will be doing a stream sample in Sept on the 'Doux. If memory serves me Ken, Todd, Sam and Boot have all taken the course so we should be able to get a great survey!

Tuesday 15 September – Our regular meeting in Town Suits at 6:30 P.M

Fishing Reports:

Presented by Sam

Brett and I floated the Big Piney recently and had a very good day. Nothing big, but several fish to keep the rods bent. Brett put 4 largemouth in the boat and stated he had never caught a largemouth on the Piney. The largest one was about 14 or 15 inches. Not big compared to what he had been catching in his “secret lake”, but for the river it was a nice bass.



Brett working the boulders. Biggest Largemouth of the day
His deer & bunny diver did the trick. The smallmouth didn't seem to take to it, but the Largemouth did.

Brett got an opportunity to test his skills rowing my drift boat in the afternoon and I got an opportunity to do a little fishing of my own.

The sunny sky in the afternoon was better suited to going deeper than top water action and 98% of all the fish we hooked in the afternoon were taken below surface.

Presented by Max

The Fort's Warrior Transition Unit is beginning to stand down. That's a good thing since it means far fewer Soldiers are coming home in less than one piece. In fact, our program is only one of ten throughout the country that are being mothballed. I have gone to an appointment system for tying or FF-101 since there are less than 25 left in the unit and demand has dropped off to next to nothing.

Rivers have been up and running almost the whole summer which has made kayak fishing on flowing water somewhat (chose all that apply) difficult, unsafe, unwise, futile, unproductive and downright annoying. Finally got out about two weeks ago on the Big Piney on the Fort and wonder of wonders, took the second largest smallie I've ever had. Cussed myself for not having my camera with me--then double-cussed after I let the fish go and realized that there's a camera in my phone! Hey, I'm a grumpy old man and cameras in phones "just don't come natcheral."

Spent a weekend on the Current with Mark van Patten and the Department's Stream Team Staff. It's always a good float from Akers down to Pulltite even in a cool light rain. Despite the rain the usual bunch of drunks manned the rubber and aluminum hatches, coolers full and radios cranked up. Ah well, just because WE know better doesn't mean we are authorized sole use....

Fishing reports: twice so far I've been beaten by high water (not even counting our local waters!). The first was in the Smokies early in the season with Doug Goodman. Streams were running clear and cold but about 12"-18" high and swift. The second time was on the upper Arkansas in north central Colorado with Doug again and Randy Zelenka. We caught fish but really had to adjust tactics and it was spotty at best due to late runoff.

Heading out to the Kenai with Randy for three day's guided drifts and three more days on our own for the rumored early to mid September 'bows, Dollies and silvers. Then we're gonna try a late October long weekend on the Conejos in southern Colorado with Randy again, and I have already dropped off the deposit for a week in Belize again in February.

Here's a glass raised high to Lou who got invited to tie at the FFF national fair out in Bend, Oregon. That's impressive--you go, girl!!!

That's all the news from Flyrod Six.

Tight lines,
Max

River Conditions Area streams are still in good flow right now, which is very unusual for this time of year. There is good flow and good color on all the streams I fished this month. The streams look great for fishing with a slight color in the water.





RiverRap

October 05, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Oct 5th MDC Smallmouth & Goggle Eye Regulations

Oct 6th Fly Tying

Oct 20th Club Meeting

October Happenings in the RFFA

Monday October 5th is a meeting at the St. Robert community building concerning new regulation proposals for Smallmouth and Goggle Eye next year. If you want to voice your opinion this is an opportunity for input. Meeting is from 6:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday October 6th is our monthly fly tying gathering that starts at 6:00 and usually ends about 8:00.

Tuesday 20 October – Our regular meeting in Town Suits at 6:30 P.M

Fishing Reports:

Presented by Sam

I had a couple of hours after a client finished fishing and wanted to take a shot at a very large brown trout we had seen earlier in the day. The only rod I had with me was my 3wt dry fly rod. I found the fish in the exact same place we had seen it earlier. It was in about 2 foot of water and it was glassy so I knew I had to keep my distance and a very low profile.

Casting from my knees for about 2 hours was trying to say the least. I had to slowly stretch out my legs every now and then to keep the cramps out. It only took me a couple dozen different flies before the take. I know that I made at least 15 or 20 good drifts with each fly with little or no interest. I made one drift with the largest fly I had in the only box I had with me, a size 12 leech and she took it. There was one log I needed to keep her out of and fortunately she turned and went down stream before she got there. After a long tug of war I held her by the tail, measured her and took a quick photo and let her go. She was 24" long and 16" around. A very fat girl full of eggs.



A Shocking Event

I have helped the Current River fisheries biologist with their shock surveys for several years. It is always interesting to see how fishermen on the stream react to the event. Sometimes they don't even stop fishing, why I can't tell you, because common sense would dictate that the disturbance is more than distracting to the everyday events in a fish's life. If the fishermen are around when the fish are transferred from the collection bucket to the holding net the response is always the same. "I didn't know there were that many fish in here" or "wow look at the size of that one".



I didn't take photos of the actual measuring, and marking process, as I was helping with that procedure. The generator on the boat transfers the electricity to the probes

hanging from the boom in the front. The amount of voltage knocks the hell out of the suckers and minnows, but only stuns the trout. The trout are dipped and put into an aerated bucket then transferred to the holding nets for measuring later. After the fish are measured they are returned to the hole where they were gathered.

This process is continued from hole to hole downstream throughout the designated sample area that may be a mile or more long.

Presented by Lou

Brown trout can still be caught on the White River running 7-8 generators with Fat Albert flies.



Lou with an 18 incher.

The club did the “short” float on the Big Piney at Fort Leonard Wood on Sunday the 27th. Todd, Jerry Dave and Lou made the trip. What is usually a 2

hour float took us eight hours. We left no fish lips unpierced as we pursued our favorite Ozark quarry, hefty fall bronze. With a few Rock Bass, those other bass and long ears thrown in it was a wonderful day. At the end of the day Todd caught the 2nd largest smally of his life. The 1st being from the Mineral Fork of course. We will mention that he hooked but lost a bigger one about 5 minutes prior to that.



Todd with a nice smallmouth.

River Conditions Area streams are getting low right now and the water is beginning to get extremely clear. I'm afraid it will be like last year's fall fishing when it was low and clear and the "catching" became very difficult.





RiverRap

November 02, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Nov 3rd Fly Tying

Nov 21st Club Meeting / Fishing Trip

November Happenings in the RFFA

3 November Tyin' & Lyin' at the Rolla Public Library – we usually start around 6:00 P.M. or so and go till they kick us out. Even if you don't tie flies come on by and visit!

21 November Freeze Your Trout Off at Bennett Springs! This is our annual fishing, fellowship and chili feed. I will cook the chili and everyone else is asked to bring a side/condiments to share – Todd has already called debs on bringing cornbread! Come fish the morning – look for our banner at lunch and then fish some more in the afternoon! (When I send out the reminder email I'll ask for RSVPs at that time!)

Hope to see you there!!

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Reports:

Report Presented by Boot

Colorado/Wyoming trip 2015

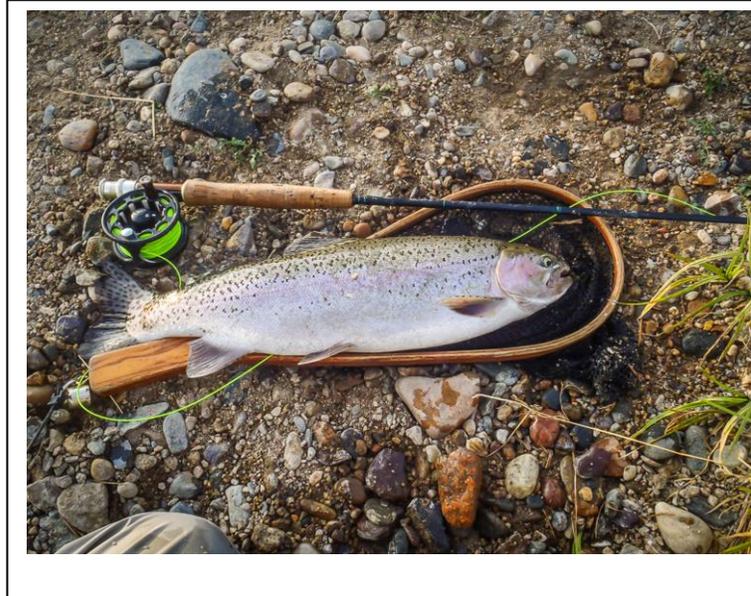
By Boot Pierce

In late August and early September I got to explore two new areas that I had never fished before. I took off to Loveland Colorado and picked up a buddy of mine then headed to Alcova, Wyoming to fish three sections of the North Fork of the Platte River. On the first afternoon we rented a drift boat and fished the Grey Reef section below Alcova. It was a typical 92 degree afternoon and the trout seemed to be biting really slow to bit so we drifted nymphs. Close to dark when a caddis hatch started the fish

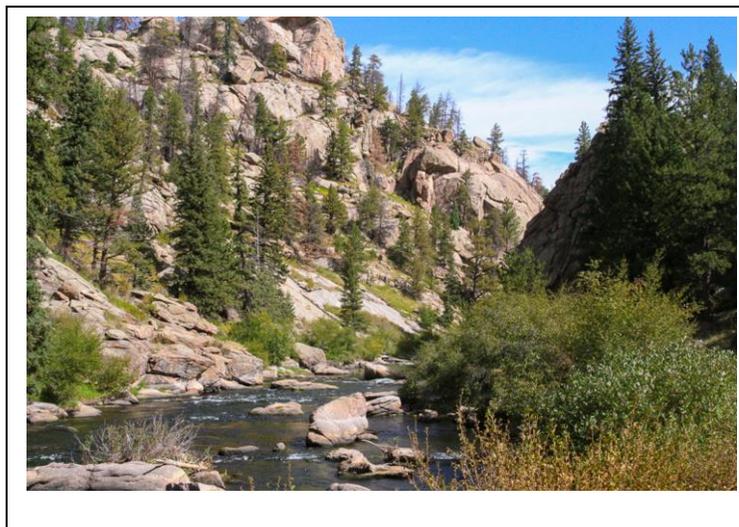


began to rise and we were able to start hooking a few fish. See photo below.

For the next couple days we hit the sections called the Miracle Mile and Fremont Canyon. The Miracle mile was okay, but the wading was a bit more difficult and I didn't have a wading staff. I hooked a few fish, but never landed anything. My buddy who had yet to land a fish was getting antsy so we decided to explore Fremont Canyon. We found that Fremont Canyon was much nicer for fishing and the crowds of the Miracle Mile were not around. We ended up getting in to some really nice rainbows. After that we returned to Loveland so my buddy could go back to work. The next day ended up fishing



the Big Thompson River out of Estes Park. It was a high gradient mountain stream with lots of brown trout, especially the upper end. The floods of two years ago (remember all the deaths) had ravished the entire stream, but the lower end had received the worst of the flood. Many homes were missing and the stream had been completely re-engineered by humans. In the end it was a great place to fish and I would love to go back for a couple more days.



For the next few days I rambled around Colorado, spent some time up hanging out in in elk camp with dad and fishing the stocked lakes of the Uncompadre National Forest. I then ended up the last couple

days on the South Fork of the Platte River at a place called Eleven-Mile Canyon. I started with nymphs, but had to switch fishing tactics at times to a dry fly since both a Trico and a BWO olive hatch were coming off. Over the next two days I was able to land several brown and a single cutthroat. Most of the fish I caught were on dry flies. I did learn however that I do not have enough BWO's in my fly box. Tie several of those up if plan to go to the South Platte in late August.

Report Presented by Max

Southern Colorado October 2015

Just got back from a favorite river recently-- the Conejos in southern Colorado. Fished it for three days at the end of October along with past RFFA-er Randy Zelenka and a friend from Fort Leonard Wood, Wing Commander Jason Simpson, Royal Air Force. Here are the "take-aways" from that trip:

1. Five hours drive time to Manhattan, KS; 10 hours drive time to Antonito, CO resulting in about 18 hours of fishing over three days. With the return trip that's 30 hours driving for 18 hours of fishing (including fishing in snow and sleet storms). Worth every minute!
2. Watching Jason learn to fish pocket water at 9400' elevation (which he says his fellow Britons can't even conceive of) and fish circles around Randy and me. Browns and rainbows up to 18" were the ticket, and this year they were fat and healthy. In many cases too healthy for a three weight in that fast water.
3. Three of us fishing exactly the same rig (16 Pheasant Tail followed by an 18 Green Copper John) resulted in an interesting contradiction in styles. Randy uses a Thing-a-ma-bobber, Jason doesn't, and I normally don't either. Randy fishes methodically upstream but below me, I take the middle section and work it to death, and Jason runs and guns upstream laying no more than two or three casts into each likely spot. He fishes so far and so fast he has a long walk back to the car each time! Scorecard: Jason Hammered 'em, Randy did pretty well, and on the last day in the last hour I managed to tag one fish, maybe 12-14 inches but with some shoulders anyway, and at that he broke off in fast water taking my Copper John as a keepsake. I hope he enjoys it....

Max

Report Presented by Sam

Michigan October 2015

I just returned from a Steelhead trip to Michigan last week. Had the gear ready and waiting on the call, "they are here". Well they were there, but the weather didn't pan out and they stayed low in the system all week. The river was low and clear and the chromes were reluctant to come up river. We were forced to fish the lower end where the water was slower and fewer ideal places for them to stay. The Salmon run wasn't very good this year and as a result there wasn't much of a steelhead run either. This condition concentrated too many fishermen in a smaller section. The first morning there were 9 drift boat trailers at the take out parking lot. Usually we don't see any or maybe one or two.

On Monday, my Michigan fishing partner, Barry, hooked 4 and landed 3. He lost a big one that he couldn't turn before it went into a downed tree. He also had two smaller ones and a nice hen that

probably would have gone about 6 or 7 pounds. I hooked 2 and landed 1 small one that would have gone about 4 pounds.

Tuesday Barry hooked 1 and lost it. I hooked 4 and landed 3. Largest one was about 7 pounds. We fished the same water we did on Monday. Four out of the five we hooked were in the same places we hooked up on Monday.



Wednesday was a cool rainy day, just a slow drizzle, not the hard rain we had hoped for. Barry hooked 2 and landed one. It was a long lean chrome. It may have been a summer run Skamania I hooked a large one but broke it off on an unexpected run. It was coming in fairly easily and just as I was getting ready to loosen the drag a little, it bolted and broke me off. We were using 8lb tippet, so the break off was unexpected and I was, to say the least, very upset because it was a big steelhead. I stopped off at Stealthcraft Boat Works and found out that no one was catching steelhead. The guides I talked to were catching trout and salmon. So we actually felt a lot better since we were actually hooking some steelhead and no one else was getting them.

On Thursday It was a cold windy day with slush on the ground. Temps about 30 and wind gusts in the 20s. There were limbs breaking and some trees falling all day. Barry hooked 6 and landed 4. The largest was a nice 9lb male. He also brought one to the boat that would have gone about 7 or so. The other two were smaller chromes in the 4-5lb range. I hooked two and put two in the boat. The largest was about 9 or 10 pounds and the other one was a small male. An unexpected fish landed was a Pike. We hardly ever fish the lower section where they live, so this was a first.



On Friday we had to pass up the first four holding holes we came to because there were already boats in them. We had taken fish in all of those holes that week and of course it limited the water we had to fish. Once you get downstream and you don't have a motor, there is no way to row back up to fish a spot after someone leaves. The average CFS is about 600. Barry didn't hookup at all on Friday and I brought two to the boat that probably went about 7 or 8 pounds each.

River Conditions Area streams are still low right now and the water is extremely clear. It is just like last year's fall fishing when it was low and clear and the "catching" became very difficult.





RiverRap

November 29, 2015

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Dec 1st Fly Tying

Dec 12th Freeze Your Trout Off

Dec 15th Club Meeting

December Happenings in the RFFA

Tuesday 1 Dec Tyin' & Lyin' at the Rolla Public Library – starting around 6:00 P.M. and going till they throw us out. Don't tie flies? It don't matter come and conversate!

Saturday 12 December – Freeze Your Trout Off – Horn goes off at 8:00 A.M. Look for the club banner around noon for chili. Please bring a side! More info email Lou.

Tuesday 15 December – Regular meeting at Towne Suites in St Robert. We start at 6:30 P.M.; we'll talk about our future endeavors; then will have a movie or two. Bring your own popcorn.

Dues are due!!!

Tightlines!

Louisa Runnalls

Fishing Reports:

Report Presented by Sam

Always keep an eye on water levels and try to plan your fishing trips according to the weather and water conditions. For some of us that is easier to do, for the rest of you keep your fingers crossed that it works out on weekends.

Winter fishing can be hit and miss and last week it was a hit for me. The river had been up high and rolling, but was on its way down and off color for sure. I had had a client fish the same water two days prior when the water was really off color and he had a very good day despite the water conditions. I figured that it would only get better as it cleared and I was right. I estimated that I ended up catching about 20 smallmouth and around 30 rock bass. Two of the smallmouth were right at 18 inches and I landed a half dozen more in the 15-16 inch range. The rest of them were all 12-14. None of the rock bass had any size, with the largest about 8 inches and only one of those.

I fish for winter smallmouth with the same rig I use for fall steelhead, except for the fly. When the bite is slow and soft the presentation also needs to slow down and don't rush the hook set.



photo of my landing net after a good day.

River Conditions Area streams are high right now and the water is off color. Fishing in off color water can be very good especially with larger flies and streamers. Dress for the weather and always have a dunk bag with you.

