



# RiverRap

January 31, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Tuesday February 6th Fly Tying  
Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting  
Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> "Tie One On For Tryon"

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

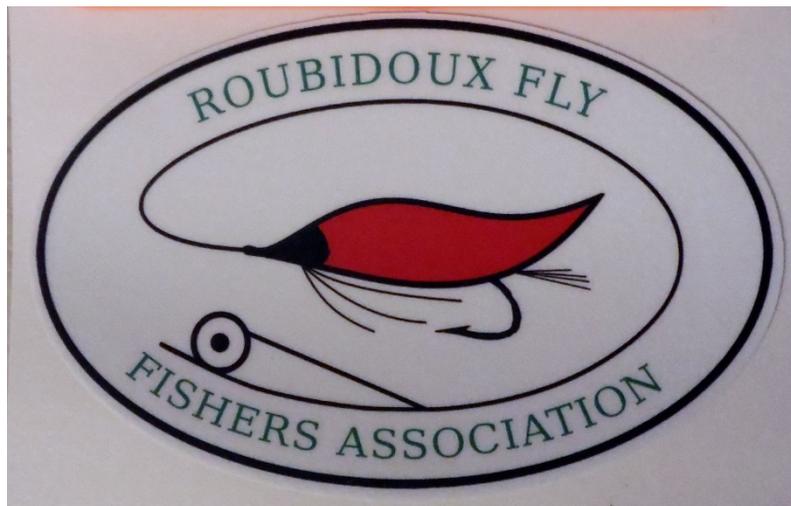


We have set March 10<sup>th</sup> for an MSA / Roubidoux Fly Fishers event at the Piney River Brewery in Bucyrus. **"Ty One On For Tryon"**

It is time again to pay annual dues, contact Lou.

**DUES ARE DUE!!** For a measly \$20 a year you not only get our wonderful monthly newsletter, but 12 club meetings and 12 tying session with the camaraderie of your fellow fly flingers!!! Please pay Lou at a tying session or club meeting - make sure she writes it down!! OR if you absolutely HAVE to - mail it to L Runnalls, PO 2404, Ft Leonard Wood, MO 65473. Make sure you tell Lou who it's for or it turns into a donation!!

Up for sale - some great stickers!! Rep your club by buying one or two or three or four for the car/truck, kayak, boat, iPad cover, lap top top, RV, gifts, and just general principle. \$2.00!!! Can't beat that price with a stick!!



Lou will have some at meetings and some at tying so get yours before their all gone!!!

**Fishing Reports**

## **Report by Sam**

We had a good gathering for some fly tying and fishing at West Over on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of socializing with great ideas shared about tying, photography and fishing. Todd tried fishing with a variety of flies including some Big stuff and had success with all of them. I stuck to my favorite few and also had lots of success. Not sure about the others that fished, no reports came to me for this writing.

I took a fly rod that was the very first fly rod I ever owned. A 6' 6" Garcia Conolan with a Ted Williams reel holding 6 wt line. I had not fished this rig for over 40 years and as you can imagine the line was a mess. I tossed the line in the trash when I got home. The rod and reel worked fine. It was much stiffer than I'm used to and I broke off three of the first 4 fish setting the hook using 7X tippet. Todd later told me he was using 4X or 5X, I don't remember exactly. And I was thinking they would be line shy from all the pressure, go figure. It was fun fishing with my old stuff and I'm glad I did it. The reel now has new 6wt level line on it.



**River Conditions** The local stream flows are very low and very clear.





# RiverRap

March 3, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Tuesday Mach 6th      Fly Tying  
Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>    "Tie One On For Tryon"  
Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>     Club Outing  
Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>    Club Meeting

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

*B*

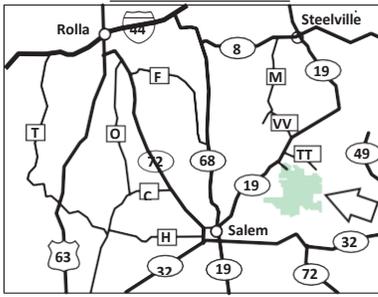
Discussions included fishing 10 March at the Narrows of the Big Piney then tying at Piney River Brewing Company 15194 Walnut Grove Dr, Bucyrus, MO 65444 with the Missouri Smallmouth Alliance. Key points were: from 2-6pm on Saturday, March 10th to talk smallmouth, smallmouth fishing, tie a few flies, swap stories about Chuck Tryon (one of the RFFA founders), and celebrate The Big Piney River.

Possibility of another activity of building a one piece, hand operated, and compact dubbing brush tables.

Swap of books and materials for new members and old with considerations of developing a lending library.

## Activities Planned and Schedules

- Meetings and Tying dates:
  - Tying 6 March @ J Cook's Fly Rod Shop, 803 W. Scenic Rivers Blvd, Salem MO
  - Meeting 20 March @ All Towne Suites, 250 Carmel Valley Way, Saint Robert MO
  
- Fishing Dates and Locations:
  - 10 March Fishing Narrows of the Big Piney tying at Piney River Brewing Company [15194 Walnut Grove Dr, Bucyrus, MO 65444](https://www.pineyriverbrewing.com/)
  - 18 March Indian Trail Conservation Area Blackwell Lake.



Blackwell Lake area map If you plan to attend this club fishing outing and you have never been to Blackwell make sure you respond to Todd's email that he will send out prior to the trip.. Indian Trails is a very large area and if you miss the right road you may spend a lot of time trying to find it.

- March Opportunities: March 22, 23rd, and 24<sup>th</sup> Mountain Home Arkansas hosted by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers (NAFF).

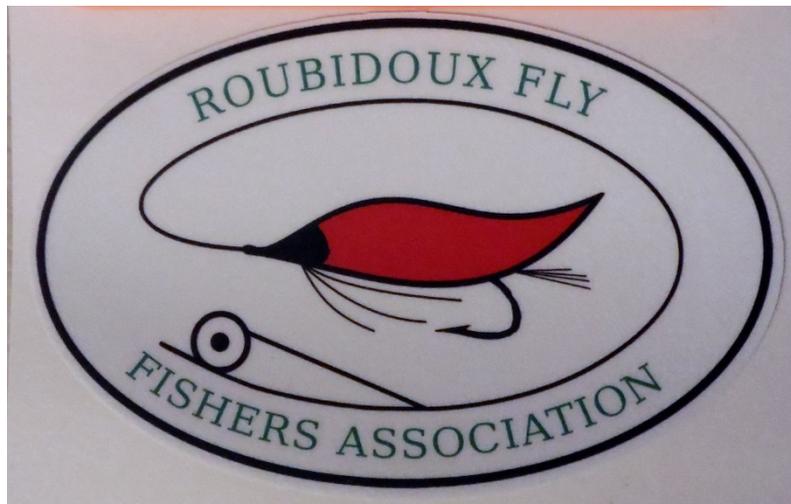
Submitted by Herbert Turner

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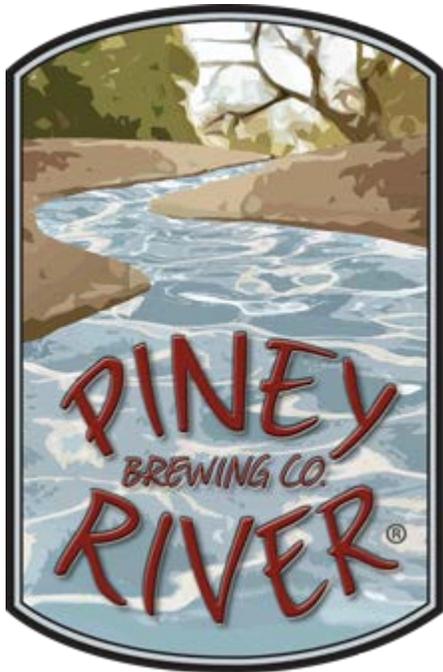
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Lou will have some at meetings and some at tying so get yours before their all gone!!!

The following information was sent to me, as a member of the MSA, about the March 10 social event with them. "Tie One On For Tryon"



Tie one on For Tryon : M SA & Roubidoux Fly Fishers Social  
Saturday, March 10, 2-6 pm @ the Piney River Brewing Co.

Thanks to the generous support of Joleen Senter Durham and Brian Durham (the nice couple in the photo above), the founders and owners of the Piney River Brewing Company,

I'm inviting you to join me, members of the Roubidoux Fly Fishers Association, Stream Teamers and other anglers and conservationists who love smallmouth fishing and the Big Piney on Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> at the barn at the Piney River Brewing Company in order to Tie One On for Tryon. We'll talk smallmouth fishing, tie flies, swap stories about Chuck, eat pizza enjoy some craft beer and talk about how we can help work together to conserve the wonderful Big Piney. We'll be stopping by accesses on the Big Piney on the way to check for our signs and pick up trash. This isn't a flyfishing event. It's simply another way to raise awareness and have a good time. Hopefully you see some old friends and make a few new ones. Joleen and Brian have support the MSA in the past with generous donations of beer and cash so let's replay the favor by sprinding some time and money at the BARN. If you don't like beer they make a dandy root beer as well.

Members of both The MSA and the Roubidoux Fly Fishers Association share some common passions: angling and working to help sustain the waters we love. Chuck Tryon and Mark Van Patten helped found the RFFA. The RFFA became Stream Team #1 almost 28 years ago and to say that Mark played a key role in helping turn the Stream Team program into the envy of the nation is an understatement. Chuck was a long time member of the MSA and when he finally left Rolla to go live with his daughter in California he generously donated his entire remaining supply of 200 Missouri Smallmouth Adventures to the MSA. While we're nearly out of the book, that gift has played a huge role in helping us attract new anglers who are excited about learning more about smallmouth fishing in the Missouri Ozarks. As great as the book is, its events like this where you get to meet other passionate anglers and conservationists and really learn more about the sport while having a good time. While I expect we're going to have some fly fisherman at this event this isn't a fly

fishing event. It's a smallmouth fishing event and open to anyone who loves fishing for our native smallmouth and wants to help play some part in helping conserve and improve our Missouri Ozark smallmouth fisheries. Here's all the details. Let us know you're coming by sending an email to missourismallmouthalliance@gmail.com

**When:** Saturday March 10, 2108 2-6 p.m.

**Where:** The BARN at Piney River Brewing Company 15194 Walnut Grove Drive.  
Bucyrus, MO 65444

**Directions:** Located off Hwy 17, just West of Houston, MO. From Hwy 17, take ZZ about three miles to

Walnut Grove Drive. Prior to reaching Walnut Grove Drive, you'll cross a small bridge and German Road will be to your right. You'll go up a steep hill, and as you descend, the pavement will curve sharply to the right. There's a gravel road to your left that is Walnut Grove Drive/Hightown Road. The gravel road immediately makes a Y. Stay left on Walnut Grove Drive. You'll be on Walnut Grove Drive for about 2 miles. You'll come to a sharp 90-degree turn where our farm begins here. Cross the cattle guard (watch out for cows that may be drunk on mash!) and take the drive down to the red roofed BARN.

**Cost:** The event is free but the beer and pizza cost so bring money.

Can I bring materials to tie?

Sure, bring what you want and tie your favorite fly for flies. Be prepared to share why and how you like to fish them!!

Can I bring someone who isn't a member?

Absolutely, we hope that they are ready to join both groups by the end of the event.

Why so many beer and fishing events lately Matt?

Folks like beer and fishing and I think there's a natural synergy between the two anyway.

Healthy watersheds and their fisheries require good land use practices and clean flowing waters.

Good beers require the same. Success in both fields requires attention to detail, good ingredients, and consistent application in order to achieve success.

Thanks,

Matt Wier

President

### **Fishing Reports**

President's Day 2018 on Roubidoux Creek...Sort of...

by Boot Pierce

For several years now I have always hit Roubidoux Creek on President's day. Working for the government I normally have the day off, so why not. Sadly, this year I was spending the day working in downtown Tulsa. I decided to swap days off work and go fishing on the Thursday after President's day. I started at the island and had no luck at all except for the lone chub minnow. Then I thought I might try up in the park. In a case of seriously dumb luck, must have

showed up the day after the MDC fish truck performed its monthly dump. I started at the bridge in town and caught my first fish in a deep hole about 30 feet below. After two or three fish there I worked my way down to the next deep hole about 20 feet away. Over the next hour or so, I stood in one spot stripping a brown sculpin leech and landed 30+ fish and probably stung another 30 more. There was no real great fishing talent here, like I said...seriously dumb luck.

About an hour after I got into that hole and had just about wore my fish fighting arm out I noticed this little old man's head pop over the creek bank on the other side. The old guy watched me land and release a couple fish. He then walked up closer and asked me why I wasn't keeping anything and proceeded to explained to me that I could keep up to four fish of any size if I wanted to. I grinned and told him I was just having fun, but if he wanted fish in the hole he was welcome to go ahead and join me if he wanted to. In about 2 minutes flat he had his stuff spread out on the bank and was chucking Powerbait right into the middle of my fishing hole. He landed and strung fish in about 10 minutes and was packing up. After he had his fish cleaned and was ready to go the old guy made three phone calls from the creek bank and in all three calls the his words were exactly the same..."You better get down here and get these fish before someone else catches 'em."

Of course I didn't have a camera with me to document any of this and my phone was as dead as a doornail sitting in my truck charging. While I have no proof of this fishing tale, I would probably pass a polygraph test if you pressed me. In the end, it was another successful President's day on Roubidoux Creek.

#### Photos at West Over on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> by Stacy.

At our fly tying/ fishing event at West Over the end of last month Stacy was busy with her new camera shooting anything that caught her eye. Unfortunately I didn't get to see any of them until after the posting of the last news letter...



Tying flies in the morning and of course some fish tales in the morning.

Lou was attempting to lure this rooster into her truck and take advantage of the generous plumage. But apparently this old bird wasn't going to let that happen to him again. He had been fooled before by seemingly friendly fly fishermen thinking they just wanted to feed him. He always knew he was good looking, he has told everyone every morning since he was big enough to cockadoodle. But what he didn't know, was that it is annoying, Maybe at a younger age the frying pan could have a good choice and that's what he thought was going to happen to him the last time a fly fisherman snatched him up. Lucky for him it was only a few tail feathers, or maybe lucky enough for the fisherman it was only a few tail feathers. Either way he wasn't going to go where Lou wanted him to go.





*Nice shot of Todd with a good one on at the casting pool*

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are excellent color and flow right now, except for the Gasconade. The Gasconade is still up a bit. Get out and enjoy the weather and the fishing to be had.





# RiverRap

April 1, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Tuesday April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fly Tying
Saturday April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Outing to Rinquelin Lake
Tuesday April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting
Sunday April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Outing to Blackwell Lake

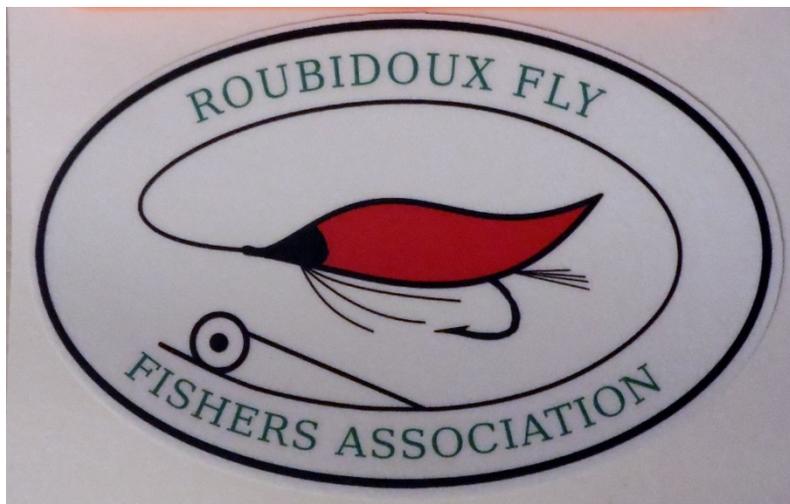
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## Gurgler Challenge

At our meeting with the Missouri Smallmouth Alliance on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, I gave the RFFA members that attended a plastic headed Diving/Gurgler type fly head and challenged them to create a fly out of it.

Todd, Boot and Herb sent me photos of what they came up with. Now the Challenge is to catch a fish with the fly they created... All three of these should haul in a Largemouth for sure.



Boot



Todd



Herb

## **Fishing Reports**

**Report by Lou**

How do we say it? Zip, nada, none, goose egg, big fat goose egg, skunked, it was a nice day to be out, it was a nice day to be on the river, and the list goes on and on. It's the word or words we use to say we didn't catch a dang thing. Herb, Todd and I made the club outing to the Narrows (then Mineral Springs) and even though the water was a very brisk 49, the guys scored! We all had hits, but only Herb & Todd, after tying on some miniscule trout flies, were able to seal the deal. I enjoyed being out on the river with two friends from my club.

And there you have it. I hope to catch a whopper down in Texas and get a pic or two for a report when I get back.



Tightlines!  
Lou

### **Report by Sam**

We fished for Pickerel at Blackwell a couple of weeks ago and had a pretty good day

considering the weather. It rained all day and sometimes very hard. I bailed out the boat twice. At one point I had to row quick and hard to get to the shore with lightning and a hard front blowing through. It turned out to be a good time to take a break and eat our lunch. We put 9 in the boat but none of them were big. The pattern that day was about 6 feet down and a slow short retrieve. Takes were not hard except for one that was hooked right on the bank in about a foot of water. But it was the only one hooked or fly taken in shallow water. The surface water was still in the mid 40s so a fast strip would not have been as effective. Plans are scheduled for a club outing back to Blackwell later this month. So if you have not caught a Pickerel on the fly, you may get your chance on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Report by Todd**

Todd fished Blackwell for those toothy critters last weekend, but found conditions “Cold and windy...white caps and all”.

He said he caught bass, but no pickerel. “I found a big pile of fish in the NE corner of the lake, but they turned out to be bluegill. I spoke with another fisherman who said the pickerel bite died a few hours before I showed up.”

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are high and vary from very cloudy to muddy. The middle and lower Current River has been closed since Wednesday. The upper Current River opened up on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Expect to find new log jams and holes that have changed after every flood. If the stream comes up a couple of feet or so, the holes, especially on the inside turns, begin to fill in with sand and tiny gravel. It is the extreme high water that really gouges out the bottom and cuts deep pools.





# RiverRap

April 30, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Tuesday May 1st	Fly Tying at J Cook's Fly Shop
Saturday May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Outing to Roby Lake
Tuesday May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Waynesville City Park
Sunday May 20th	Club Outing to Rinquelin Lake

NOTICE: Anyone on the mailing list that has not paid their dues will not receive the River Rap after this issue.

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

*B*

Meeting 17 April, Towne Suites St. Robert Missouri

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM, quorum was not established (3 members present).

No business conducted due to lack of a quorum. Items of discussion were: May meeting is the annual picnic in the Waynesville City Park, contact Lou she is organizing the menu; current bank balance for the club is \$1761.89; current membership stands at 22; Todd presented information on popper molds he had developed and provided some demonstration flies; Tri-Lakes and Sowbug tying was shared.

Water quality testing on the Roubidoux will be conducted 27 April starting at 7:00 AM in the City Park.

## Activities Planned and Schedules

- Meetings and Tying dates:
  - Tying 1 May J-Cook Fly Rods shop 803 West Scenic Rivers Blvd. Salem Missouri
  - Meeting 15 May annual cookout at the Waynesville City Park
- Fishing Dates and Locations:
  - 5 May Roby Lake (From Roby, MO take Hwy 17 one mile north. Turn east on Forest Road 274 to area)

- 2) May Rinquelin Trail Community Lake (Highway 42 west from Vienna, go south on Highway 133, then west on Route DD, then south on County Road 631, and east on County Road 630 to area entrance)

Submitted by  
Herbert Turner

**Gurgler Challenge:** No reports so far of fish caught with the Gurgler Challenge flies that were tyed last month, but I know something will be caught with each of these... just let me know and send a photo to share with your friends.





Stream bug count on Spring Creek Saturday was good. With a rating of 24... the current site we have been using for the past several years has started to fill in with small gravel and sand due to a log jam creating slack water below it. The log jam occurred in the early flood we had this spring. As a result we are moving the test site a little further upstream where there is a good riffle.

### **Fishing Reports**

#### **Report by Todd**

I had some time to fish on Saturday morning before helping to wire up the new bathroom at the upper cabin. There was not much activity to be seen in the shallows. The water was falling, a bit off color, and still pretty cool. There was one visible sunfish bed on the entire stretch of the river we fished. I saw no signs of smallmouth spawning yet.

Structurally, the river is in good shape. The late winter high-but-not-too-high water moved a lot of gravel around and dropped in some good structure in the holes the the cabin. It is going to be a good year out there.

The fish shown was caught in the river-left eddie at the head of deep hole up from the cabin. Jamie spotted it lurking under a tree. I flopped a 2/0 white murdich minnow and let it drift and flutter down out of sight. The fish also moved out of sight. I slowly stripped line in. When the line started to tighten a bit, I set the hook and the fight was on.



### **Report by Lou**

My thumb is just now healing up from some of the best fishing I have had since I got back to Missouri from my Annual Spring Southern Migration. Now I can really appreciate the obsession some folks have with chasing those dang white bass!!! Cast, catch, bring it to hand, lip it, let it go, repeat. Again & again & again & again. Between the three of us we caught over 100 fish in the couple hours we were there. AND that doesn't include those caught by some fellow fly flingers to our left & our right!

My shoulder was sore, my thumb was ripped to shreds and it was AWESOME!!!





## Report by Sam

The rivers are in good shape for fishing and fishing has been good when the water is at a decent height and color. We had several ups and downs this past month with water levels and temperatures and no surprise the fishing went accordingly.

I have had good days on the Current, the Meramec and actually fished one day on the

Roubidoux while my vehicle was in the shop for general maintenance. Yep, I had the courtesy car take me to the river and drop me off. I figured I might as well be doing something constructive with my time instead of sitting in the customer lounge watching the boob tube. It took me a little while to figure out where they were and once I found them the catching was good. Unfortunately a couple of guys were watching me catch fish and moved up to help themselves.. I left it to them... I don't like combat fishing.

About this time of year I take a couple of trips south to Lake Norfolk and fish for stripers and hybrids, but the cool spring we have had has kept them too deep for any top water action, so I have pushed my schedule trips back a week. I should have photos for you next time.

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are very good right now and you should be out there taking advantage of it, before it changes and you know it will change.





# RiverRap

May 31, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Tuesday June 4	Fly Tying
Saturday June 9	Club Outing to the Big Piney off of Highway J
Wednesday June 13	Stream Team gathering Piney River Brewery
Tuesday June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting
Sunday June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Club Outing to the Big Piney at the Narrows

*Invite sent to us from Susan Wrasmann* ST #3481 Big Piney Tie Rafters

Mark your calendar for a special event on Wednesday, June 13, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at the Piney River Brewing Company

Whether or not you are a member of a Stream Team, if you are a friend of the Big Piney River we encourage you to come and meet the new Executive Director of Stream Teams United/Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition, Mary Culler.

Terry Primas, who has lived in the Big Piney watershed near Ross Access for decades, will share his stories of the river's history.

Piney River Brewing Company has graciously agreed to open on an off-night just for this event and will have staff there serving their award-winning beer and pizza for purchase. They have asked us to provide an estimate for staffing purposes so please reply to this email with the numbers in your party as soon as possible.

## *Fishing Reports*

### **Report by Lou**

Bluegill Binge 2018

Another Bluegill Binge is in the books!!

What a great time flinging flies with a few of my fellow fly flingers! Imagine if you will a solid week or 9 days or so of fishing for nothing but bluegill & their cousins – redear, green sunfish, crappie and occasional bass and a lone catfish. Ninety plus fish days were the norm along with the Oklahoma 90° days.



Valley was our hostess with the mostess opening up her doors once again to a crazy group of gals that just wanted to fish, fish and fish some more. Deb came along this year and launched her kayak on its maiden voyage – she was a hoot going everywhere on the lake until we put a fly rod in her hand – then we couldn't get her to move she was catching so many fish in one spot! First fish was best though – a ginormous green sunfish that she ferried down the dam so we could 1) identify it and 2) get her picture with it.

And so the week went – catching 9-10+” bluegill and redear, along with crappie and the rest. The funny thing was it seemed the smaller the mean green the feistier they were. Even though all these guys are considered “panfish” after catching & releasing 30-40 a day they wore me out!!

I had a blast, LOL!!!

So you may ask how to get in on all this mayhem? Easy! One place to start and that is with the book “Lakes of Oklahoma” produced by the Oklahoma Water Resource board. You can order it by getting online here- <https://www.owrb.ok.gov/> Look for the tab Lakes of Oklahoma. The book will cost \$10. There is also – for you more tech savvy than me (not hard) to get the Interactive Maps & Data. Second thing to do is go pick a local's fisherman's brain. Back after the dust bowl days a LOT of municipalities in Oklahoma built dams to ensure they would never be out of drinking water again. Thus most towns have a pond or lake in the vicinity. You can find most via Google Maps but it always helps to get local knowledge first. Make a friend! Attend Smallmouth Rendezvous the first weekend in May in Tahlequah (4 hours from St Robert); reach out to one of the local fly fishing clubs – Oklahoma Fly Fishers, Northeastern Oklahoma Fly Fishing Club, etc., etc.



No Bad Days is the name of my friend's drift boat. If you look in the fine print in the palm trees it says Latitude 22+ Cabo San Lucas. There is a bar there that is called No Bad Days!!

### Report by Lou

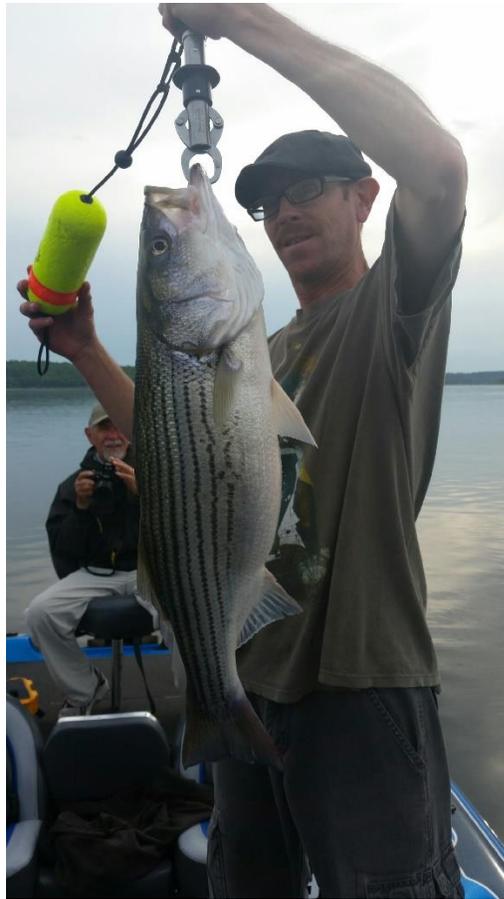
Todd and I hit Towel Lake last week. He to try out his new inflatable SUP and I to try out his "old" peddle craft. I think we had good results for both, however my learning curve was a lot steeper than his!



Is that a grass carp popper fly ?

## Report by Sam

Brett and I left at 2:30 AM for a trip down to Norfolk lake for some striper fishing but the stripers found out we were coming and decided to lay low till we left at least that's what it seemed like. One would come up and start feeding so we moved to were it was. When we got there one would come up where we has just been. It went on like this for two days. We didn't hook up with any stripers, but we did manage to come up with some smallmouth, largemouth and small hybrids. The striper season this year was crazy. First the water was too cold and that kept the shad deep along with their predators and then it jumped up into the mid 70s in a week. High sunny days are terrible for fishing especially for stripers. Peak time is 5:30 AM to 9 or 10:00 if your lucky. We saw zero schools of stripers only singles coming up every now and then. The week before my son and I fished there, with more success. Actually I sat in the back of the boat watching him catch fish with a spinning rod and top water lures he could throw 30 yards. I zeroed out that morning.



**River Conditions** The local stream flows are very good right now and you should be out there taking advantage of it, before it changes and you know it will change.





# RiverRap

June 30, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Saturday July 7            Club Outing Roubidoux Creek  
Tuesday July 10           Fly Tying  
Tuesday July 17           Monthly meeting Location to be Announced with email

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report



Meeting 19 June, Towne Suites St. Robert Missouri

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM, quorum was not established (4 members present).

No business conducted due to lack of a quorum. Items of discussion were: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Outdoor Adventure Day 30 June 1<sup>st</sup> Street Soccer Field Ft. Leonard Wood. Club will be conducting casting lessons at the event. Scouting trip on the Roubidoux for the stream clean-up will be 7 July and the actual clean-up will be 4 August. Members need to step up and assist on these two activities. New meeting site for monthly meeting will be worked on and should be selected before the July meeting.

## Activities Planned and Schedules

- Meetings and Tying dates:
  - Tying- Due to the holiday tying will be 10 July at the Rolla Public Library
  - Meeting -17 July; location will be announced through email.
  
- Fishing Dates and Locations:
  - 7 July Roubidoux Creek after the scouting trip.

Submitted by  
Herbert Turner

I received the following email this week and thought I would share it with everyone:



Pulaski County Tourism Bureau  
137 St Robert Blvd.  
Saint Robert, MO 65584  
573.336.6355  
PulaskiCountyUSA.com

### **FUNDamentals of Recreation in the Region 2018 Survey**

Community organizations are working to make Pulaski County stronger every day – we need your help and are interested in your thoughts on recreational opportunities in the region – what do we need and how do we make it more accessible to residents and visitors. Your input is needed and appreciated. Help us to make your life more fun. This survey will take approximately 3 minutes to take.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wsr2018>

You are welcome to share the link with your friends, family, employees and business associates. In fact we would like you to! The more input we receive, the more helpful it will be.

We thank you for your time and input,

*The Pulaski County Growth Alliance, Pulaski County Tourism Bureau, and  
Waynesville - St. Robert Chamber of Commerce*

## **Fishing Reports**

### **Report by Lou**

Here is a fishing report from the club outing 9 June.

Not sure what was off - the day, the location, or the weather but something sure was. Todd and I met at the access of the Big Piney just off Hwy J. We hauled his SUP over to use as a shuttle (which worked really well). Although there were some dark ominous clouds to our south we headed upstream, fishing till the rain came - with nary a bite. We retreated to the mouth of Spring Creek and waited to see if the weather was going to settle down, so we could head back up river or if we would have to call it a day at 10:00 A.M. The short squall came & went and meanwhile we fished where we were. Todd pulled in two nice trout and turned just as many smallies but didn't bring them to hand. I had a couple follows from as of yet unknown fish, but suspect longear sunfishes. Hmmm THAT is how off everything was - even they wouldn't bite a Secret Fly!!

A note about the pictures - Todd is holding up the first trout he caught (yes in the Big Piney). It puked up the minnow in the picture with the forceps - app. 4" long or so. There was a nice mayfly hatch coming off the Big Piney and here is a nymph I found on Todd's SUP.



### **Report by Lou**

Went fishing with friends to Bennett and you would not believe what I caught there!!

Sometimes it takes a village - Deb saw the fish and tried for him. He would come up for her flies but then would turn away. She got me to cast to him a few times but I couldn't see him and put him down. Then I got closer and made one more cast right where she said.

Then I saw the size of his head when he came up and took my indicator beetle.

AHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!

Valley came down the bank with her boat net and we got him into that.

It took a village!!



Todd sent me a text from a fishing trip he had yesterday. Apparently, we aren't fishing with large enough flies for smallmouth. He has found a smallmouth that is so large that it ate a 9" largemouth that he was reeling in. Unfortunately, Todd only ended up with the largemouth. BUT he knows where it lives and I'm sure Todd will come up with just the right thing to bring it to hand.

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are about average for this time of year.





# RiverRap

August 5, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Tuesday August 7 Fly Tying

Tuesday August 21 Monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 [484 Saint Robert Outer Rd](#)

## Stream Clean Up Report by Lou



Sometimes it takes a village - other times just a bunch of SeaBees!!

24 SeaBees met up with 7 RFFA members & family to knock out our bi-annual clean up, AND what a knock out it was!! 15 tires, about 20 bags of trash, an oil drum, tarp, various car parts, construction materials and of course some stuff we couldn't tell what it was, were collected in about 4 hours.

Nary a drum stick, nor chicken wing was left by the time the SeaBees were ready to roll back to Ft Leonard Wood.

## **Fishing Report**

By Sam

### Toothy Critters and Footballs

Brett and I took a trip north to tease up some toothy critters and footballs. We must have done it correctly because we were able to do just that on occasion. I'd like to tell you it was fast and furious and we were hooking them left and right, but it wasn't and we didn't. In fact there were hours of no activity at all. When we did get fish to chomp down they were good ones. Can you imagine fishing three days here in the Ozarks and only getting one bluegill or one Goggleye to eat your fly? Our guide, Chris, told us the Rockbass was only the second one he had ever seen caught. Maybe all the teeth swimming around keep the populations in check.

Not using wire leaders cost the guide a few flies and cost me one that took ½ hour to ty. But I was pleased that I only lost three flies in three long days on the water. One was lost to a toothy critter, one on a log and one was broke off on a fish. I thought I was hung up and when Chris started rowing over to get the fly my line starting moving up stream. It was assumed that I had accidently foul hooked a Sturgeon. The limit for Sturgeon is one a year and it has to be a minimum of 6 feet long.



I caught two smallmouth that were tagged for a research project. Chris texted in the location and the ID numbers. If I'm lucky I could collect cash rewards.

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are starting to drop to that late summer low level and building algae blooms.





# RiverRap

August 31, 2018

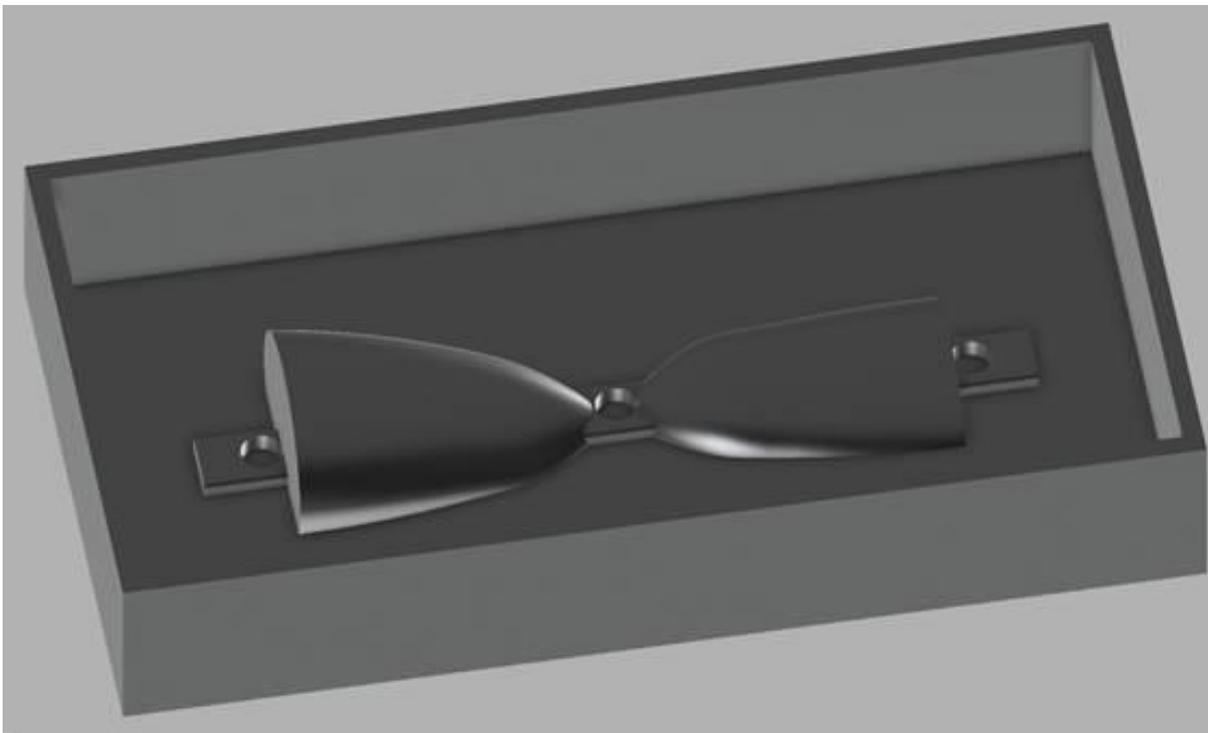
## **Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar**

Tuesday September 4 Fly Tying Rolla Public Library 6:30

Tuesday September 18 Monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 [484 Saint Robert Outer Rd](#)  
Meeting time is 6:30

## **Report from Todd**

I have not had much of a chance to fish this month, let alone anything story worthy. I fish vicariously via tying and 3d printing. By which I mean I made a new style of popper mold. The included image is a mold box and pattern for casting a silicone mold. The mold makes heads for a sneaky pete-style slider. The hook eye pokes through the circle between the two halves. The halves fold over the hook. Then the two tabs at the end are tied down to the hook shank also lets me attach rubber legs pre-fold. No more poking them through with needles! I kind of like this method and intend to play more with the cast-flat-and-fold type of construction.



## *Fishing Reports*

### *Report by Boot*

You know a story is going to be good when it starts with... "I got together with a couple friends from Arkansas." Next thing I know we I am on a road trip with Doc and Fuzzy to the Fly Fishers International annual Fly Fishing Fair in Boise, Idaho. As with any great road trip we decided we needed a detour, so along the way to Idaho we ended up on the San Juan River in New Mexico throwing size #26 midges at 22-inch brown trout and having a great time. There is nothing as cool as sitting in the middle of a desert on one of the greatest trout streams in America.



It is also amazing that there are so many fish per mile on the San Juan and so many fishermen. Some of the holes are just plume crowded. The photo below is the world famous, Texas Hole in the afternoon. You should see it in the morning. It is nothing, but guides and drift boats. My advice...either head upstream or downstream of this hole.



There is plenty of water so once you find a little space you can enjoy some peace and quiet. Not all the fish in New Mexico were browns. There were some really nice rainbows as well. For only the third time in my life, this rainbow placed me in the 20/20 club. This was a 20-inch fish on a size #26 midge



From there the road turned north to Idaho. We started towards the Animas River in Colorado, but the recent wild fires and mudslides had the river unfishable. So after a couple hours contemplating our situation in the local pubs of Durango, Colorado we decided... what the hell let's go to Oregon. After a day of travel we ended up on the Owyhee River in eastern Oregon. I would love to show you some great pictures of fish, but you know how the story goes. I didn't have my camera. I did however land several fish on a mid-day yellow PMD hatch and even hooked into one of those "fish of a lifetime" that just took off up stream and then proceeded to break my tippet. To compensate for a lack of fish photos below is one of the Owyhee River. My advice... if you head out in August, don't forget the PMD's



## Report by Lou

## Gone Fishin' Rocky Mountain National Park

Brookies, brookies and more brookies!! Oh and a brown, a cuttbow and one gorgeous Colorado River Cutthroat. No huge sizes – most about 10” give or take 2 or 3 inches. Mostly take off 2”! Gal pals Sharon, Deb and I traded the heat of Missouri for the elevation of the high Rockies and the ice cold streams. I think we fished at an average elevation of 8,500’ or so, but oh so worth it.



The first day we hired a guide out of Kirk's Fly Shop in Estes Park, Colorado. Kent Anderson was very accommodating and got us into some easy fishing as he explained what we were fishing (mostly Parachute Madam X's in size 14 to 16 with a tungsten bead midge size 18 or so, how to fish it (cast here, there and over there, then take a few steps and repeat), and what we were apt to catch. Needless to say Sharon scored first fish & most fish. We fished Glacier Creek, the Big Thompson and finished the day on the St Vrain. Well actually we finished the day at a picnic table picking Kent's brain for places to fish the rest of the week and going thru his boxes to see his flies. Very cool!



Tuesday, armed with our info we hit the Big Thompson. It was rough to say the least but we gave it the old college try! We got a couple fish to hand but after lunch went for easier pickings aka Lily Lake. It was gorgeous! No fish though but a nice stretch of the legs.



Wednesday and Thursday we took the plunge and went up over the divide to the upper Colorado River. Another gorgeous valley and some even gorgeouser fish! While Deb and I settled for some awesome brook trout Sharon caught a gorgeous Colorado River Cutthroat of about 14". All too soon we had to pack and leave, but as Arnold Schwarzenegger said "I'll be back."!!

## Report by Sam



Earlier this month I joined a couple of other members on a fish outing at a private lake. Many warm water fishes were boated by the time I got there. Using my version of the Gurgler we tyed up earlier this year I caught my first fish with it. An over eager Green Sunfish with a big appetite. How many of you have actually used the Gurgler that you tyed? This month I challenge everyone that tyed up a Gurgler to use it and send me photos of your fish.

## Silver Carp Have Arrived

Just in case you haven't heard, I would like to share the report that I have firsthand sightings of Silver Carp in the Big Piney river. Yes, those famous Silver Carp are here in the Ozarks. If you don't recognize the name, Silver Carp. Maybe you have seen videos of them jumping out of the water when a boat motor gets close. I hooked and landed one the first of the month that would probably have weighed 15-17 pounds. We were fishing for smallmouth with a 6wt and 7wt rod at the time. A 9wt would have been much better and easier on the knuckles. It took me way into the backing and entirely across a very wide pool twice. Then it went on a long run straight downstream. Fighting a large fish against the current and trying to avoid the logs was a good challenge. If you know anything about this species you will find out that they are filter feeders and catching one is almost impossible because all they eat is plankton. Since the day that I hooked this one, my son had two on and lost them both and I had clients that tried but didn't get any hook ups. I'm pretty sure I have only told a couple of other people about my secret way to hook them with a fly and no I am not snagging them. They can grow up to around 60 pounds. I haven't seen any close to that, however, I have seen several that were over 20 and a few that looked like they were close to 30. After hooking and getting this one to the boat I realized I didn't have a net large enough, so now I carry a Steelhead/Salmon net and a 9wt rod in the boat just in case.



Notice how the scales are small like a trout and not large half dollar size like a common Carp. This is my first and only one so far, but there will be others. They go on long runs like other carp and bone fish with no head shaking, just a lot of weight and pull.

### **Welcoming Reception**



This was our welcoming reception at the put in for a recent float trip. A big one, 3+ feet long, it was warming in the sun on the gravel bar. I encouraged it to leave with a stick and it crawled off unhappy that I had interrupted its morning snooze. Top water smallmouth fishing that day was very good. Some days it has been very good if the weather is just right, other days figuring out the pattern is a little tougher.

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are pretty good right now. Average for some and others are carrying above average water. The higher water has flushed out some of the algae and the color of the water has improved.





# RiverRap

October 3, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- Tuesday October 2 Fly Tying Rolla Public Library 6:30  
Saturday October 6 Club Outing to Little Piney Creek, Lane Spring Rec area.  
Tuesday October 16 Monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 [484 Saint Robert Outer Rd](#)  
Meeting time is 6:30

Fly Tying next month will be at J Cook's Fly Shop in Salem.

## Report from Sam



Have you ever seen these white splotches that look like bird droppings on leaves or the downstream side of rocks in the river? Do you know what they are? Are you familiar with the Dobson Fly? How about Hellgrammites? These white things are Dobson Fly egg masses. And of course you know that a Dobson Fly is the adult version of a Hellgrammite. I didn't know what these white things were until this past week. I have seen them here in the Ozarks and Brett and I saw them in Wisconsin. Good to know that there was an excellent amount of egg laying this past summer, because I saw a bunch of these all along the streams I fished. From what I can find out it is unclear why they are called Dobson Flies or why hellgrammites are called hellgrammites. Why the larva is called one thing and the adult another is not known to me.

## Report by Sam

October brings people by the hoards to Taneycomo for the Brown Trout fall spawn. It also brings unethical fishing methods by the hoards. If you watch the fishermen all lined-up at the outlets you will see several fish that are snagged in every conceivable part of their bodies. Some

of these fishermen actually take photos of the fish they “snag”. They usually let them go, but the guy or gal that hooked them isn’t going to tell his or her friends or family that the Big Brown that was photographed was actually snagged in the tail and wasn’t acquired in an ethical manner, that wouldn’t look good and they wouldn’t want that to happen to their reputation as a genuine by god fly fisherman. I personally stay away from those areas and prefer to fish the river at night.

October also brings cool nights and crawly things that like to keep warm on the roads, sidewalks driveways and rocks. The sun heats those large flat surfaces during the day and snakes like to crawl up on them to stay warm. So, it is always a good idea to be very careful walking around early in the evening with your head down on the look out for copperheads and seldom, but occasionally a rattlesnake. I once found a copperhead at my front door step on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. I have seen several over the years on the roads and other surfaces in the month of October.

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are very low and clear. Great for sight fishing, but it also makes it a little tough on catching fish.





# RiverRap

November 5, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- November 6 Fly Tying J Cook Fly Shop 6:30  
November 17 Freeze Your Trout Off Bennett Spring & Club Meeting  
December 5 Big Piney River Stream Team Watershed Association  
Hellbender presentation by state Herpetologist

November 6 is our monthly fly tying get together. This month we are meeting at J Cook's fly shop in Salem. We start tying about 6:30. Jerry usually has some cookies and coffee and we always have lots of things to share. Todd will be tying some of his favorite Pike flies, so bring your vise and join us.

November 17 is our annual Freeze Your Trout Off at Bennett Springs State Park. On a side note **FYI** I was informed today that the wooden bridge in zone 3 is closed. I assume it is closed to vehicle traffic only.

### Note from Todd:

Kick off the winter catch and release season with Freeze Your Trout Off on the 17th at Bennet Springs. We'll fish and have some chili around noon. The club will provide chili, bowls, spoons, and hot sauce. Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish (I generally bring some corn bread). I try to show up around 8 or so and throw a few flies in the spring before moving down stream. Please RSVP with your side dish if you want to attend. I'll follow up with another email closer to the date for those who RSVP.

December 5<sup>th</sup> BPRSTWA The Big Piney River Stream Team Watershed Association will have their fall meeting at the Rolla Public House Brewing company on 5<sup>th</sup> of December. After the short meeting the state Herpetologist, Jeff Briggler will make a presentation about his research and work with Hellbenders. See attached PDFs for more information. If you are planning to attend, please **RSVP to [swras@fidmail.com](mailto:swras@fidmail.com)**



BPRSTWA12-5-18Fly  
er.pdf



Rolla-Menu-update  
d-9.26.17-LR.pdf



Smithsonian1June2  
017Hellbenders.pdf



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## Hitch Hiker

This is the second time that this has happened to me. A few years back a Katydid was on my windshield when I left from the Tan Vat Parking lot on the Current River. It stayed there the entire trip home. This past week a Great Green Bush Cricket was on my hood and stayed there

the entire trip home... how in the world can they hold on to those surfaces with a 65 MPH wind is amazing.



### **Fishing Report From Lou**

I think my favorite fish to catch in saltwater is the puffer fish - it can make this old gal giggle like a school girl!! With its evil looking green eyes and swooped nose it has a face only a mother could love – but when it puffs up it can be hilarious. One I caught sucked in some air so there it was, floating upside down with its big white belly showing. Not a flattering picture to say the least. I finally remembered someone had showed me you can gently roll them over and pick them up like a basketball to get a picture. And I did!



Background - a week or so ago some some friends and myself went to Mexico Beach, FL for a week of sun & fly fishing - mostly fly fishing! The group caught 17 different varieties of fish. The fly de jour was a DH Clouser – pink on white but not quit tied like a Clouser (thus the name change). Here are pictures of some I caught plus!!



It was recommended to us to stay out a little late & try fishing a certain flat just as the sun was hitting the far horizon. The night we chose the flat was glass smooth and thus I tied on a popper. As I was slowly wading farther out - a little nervous due to the time of day - a tail pops up about 20 feet in front of me. Tail up nose down I figured my popper didn't stand a chance but cast and commenced to popping anyway. Low & behold the red chased it but missed! I popped a few more times, he got it and the rodeo was ON!!! He headed for the other side of the bay while I started moving towards him reeling when I could and letting him take line when he wanted. I saw my backing heading out and thought there was no way I was going to land this guy. But I

got him!! That red and the puffer fish oh and the speck made the trip for me!!!



## **Fishing Report From Sam**

Just got back from my annual Steelhead trip up in Michigan. It was a good trip again, but not as good as last year. Numbers were down and the Steelhead were definitely scattered around. If we could find Salmon spawning we could usually find steelhead, but they were mostly holding up in deeper pools waiting for some higher water so they could move up the river. We found them in a few tight brushy parts of the lower part of the river and particularly in the section we usually fish. The lower river was a huge challenge because the holes we fished had a lot of roots and logs for them to get to then they were hooked. There was very little to no chance of landing any double-digit fish down there. I was very fortunate to land a 12 pounder in that mess the last morning, but we had to row down to it and flush it out of a root wad to net it.



The bright chrome in the photo on the right was my last fish of the trip. She was a little over 13 pounds and fresh from the lake. The 12 ½ pounder on the left was caught the same morning. I finally broke the 15lb goal I had set for myself about 6 years ago. On the morning of the third day we had drifted about two miles when we found a nice deep run that was below a lot of gravel. The run had cedar trees hanging over, so the overhead cover and depth was providing a good holding location. The big male took on about the fifteenth presentation. It was all I could do to keep it away from the far bank and tree roots and some logs on the bottom. But with an excellent netting by my friend Barry I was able to finally reach my goal and more. The 8lb Maxima Fluorocarbon tippet was strained for sure and it did well holding up to the snags and teeth.



a long and deep 16 pound male

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are very good right now. Get out and enjoy the cool fall temps and fewer fishermen on the streams. Don't forget that the deer hunting season is in a couple of weeks, so if you are out there where there could be shooting wear hunter orange. The trout parks are much safer at that time of the year.





# RiverRap

November 30, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

December 4 Fly Tying 6:30

December 5 Big Piney River Stream Team Watershed Association  
Hellbender presentation by state Herpetologist

December 18 Monthly meetng

Boot sent this to me a couple of weeks ago, so I thought I should share it with everyone.

### Interactive Trout Story Map from MDC

<https://mdcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=a942f532bf0e46eb98c79c7b187a6ebe>

Control button + mouse click will take you to the map

December 4 is our monthly fly tying get together at Rolla Public Library

December 5<sup>th</sup> BPRSTWA The Big Piney River Stream Team Watershed Association will have their fall meeting at the Rolla Public House Brewing company on 5<sup>th</sup> of December. After the short meeting the state Herpetologist, Jeff Briggler will make a presentation about his research and work with Hellbenders. See attached PDFs for more information. If you are planning to attend, please **RSVP to** [swras@fidmail.com](mailto:swras@fidmail.com)



BPRSTWA12-5-18Fly  
er.pdf



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d-9.26.17-LR.pdf



Smithsonian1June2  
017Hellbenders.pdf



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December 18 is our monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 [484 Saint Robert Outer Rd](#)

Meeting time is 6:30

## Fishing Report by Sam

The last couple of weeks in November has been very good for smallmouth rockbass and crappie. Water conditions have been perfect, and the bite has been excellent. I fish it slow and watch for the slightest movement of the line or float. At times I will pick up the line to cast again and there is a fish on that I didn't know was there. Colder water requires slower presentations for the warmwater species.

River Conditions The local stream flows are very good right now Get out and enjoy the cool fall temps and fewer fishermen on the streams.





# RiverRap

December 31, 2018

## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club outing to Montauk Park
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Fly Tying Rolla Public Library 6:30
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Club outing to Maramec Park
January 14	Monthly meeting VFW

January 5<sup>th</sup> is a club outing to Montauk State Trout Park. Meet up at the Catch and Release Pool about 8:00

January 8<sup>th</sup> is our monthly gathering to ty flies and tell lies at the Rolla Public Library 6:30

January 12<sup>th</sup> is a club outing to Maramec Park. Meet up in the last parking lot about 8:00

January 14 is our monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 [484 Saint Robert Outer Rd](#)

Meeting time is 6:30

Tri Lakes FF Expo is scheduled for April 13 in Brighton Mo

### **Some Cold Wet Weather entertainment:**

Are you sitting at home waiting for the weather to improve so you can wet a line or go hiking or do any other outdoor activity you may enjoy? Todd Shared a link that will entertain you for about an hour. It is on YouTube. You can open the link with control and click.

Big Pike. Shallow water. Poppers! <https://youtu.be/ZfbhrQucU2I>

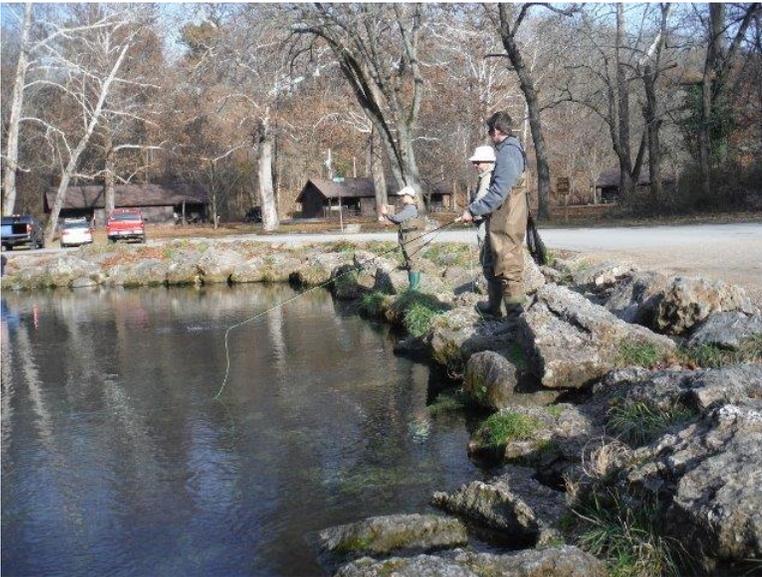
I accidentally found this set of films on Amazon one evening: **“Planet Fly Fish”**, so if you get Amazon check it out. It will get your juices flowing for sure.

### **December Club Meeting:**

At our last club meeting we discussed plans for up coming club outings. Lou shared a presentation of her trip to Florida back in September. Lou brought in several fly fishing and fly tying books from her library to share with club members and she also brought in a tote full of fly tying materials to give away to anyone that needed or wanted them.

### **Fishing Report by Lou**

**The following photos were taken by Lou at our annual Freeze Your Trout Off outing at Bennett Spring Trout Park.**



Ali Todd and Chris at the Spring



Herb and Karen tying on flies



Karen and Todd discussing flies



Karen landing a rainbow at Bennett



Lou didn't get skunked

## **A very COLD Club Outing at Maramec Trout Park by LOU**

Todd and I braved the chill temperatures Saturday for the chance at having Maramec all to our selves. Well, it almost worked. There were a few cars in the parking lot already when we arrived. Luckily they did not crowd us as we were on a mission - Todd to catch a behemeth trout below the foot bridge and I to catch a rock bass. Both the trout and the rockbass were safe from our efforts. First fish brought to hand was a smallie by Todd on his 2 handed rod. ALSO the only picture of the day because even the CAMERA said it was too cold!!! Second fish of the day was a nice brown below the falls. And so it went, fooling a few and missing a bunch we worked our way back up the creek. Finally just before we called it quits Todd caught a large mouth bass - thus finishing our quartet.



The temps were cold but not the fishing for Todd. Yep that's a smallmouth.

## **Fishing Report by Sam**

Fishing has been good for the past month and a half and a lot of that is because the water conditions have been very good. I was in the right place at the right time a couple of weeks ago

to catch the bite with some very nice smallmouth. However, it wasn't in weather conditions that were for most fishermen. Cloudy, freezing rain and windy. I like it like that because it means more water for me to fish without someone breathing down my neck and walking through water that I am fishing. Having the right clothing is very important in these conditions, so if you venture out make sure you dress for it. COTTON is POOR for cold weather and water

**River Conditions** The local stream flows are very good right now. Get out and enjoy fewer fishermen on the streams.

