



RiverRap

January 31, 2019

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

February 5th Fly Tying J Cook Fly Shop St. James 6:30
February 9th Club outing to Westover Farms
February 16th Club outing to Big Piney
February 19 Monthly meeting VFW

February 5th Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30
February 9th Club outing to Westover Farms. Meet up at the lodge, end of the road 8:00
February 16th Club outing to Big Piney. Meet up at Spring Creek Access 8:00
February 19th 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

January Club Meeting:

Fishing Report by Lou

Herb, Todd & Lou met up by the hatchery at Montauk to fish on Saturday. There was already an almost full parking lot at 8:00 AM!! Needless to say the weather man didn't lie and the bluebird skies brought out everybody and their dog. Fishing was a tad slow but the tag team of H & T brought a dozen (more or less) to hand while Lou caught a couple trout, a shiner and the-no-fishing-trip-is-complete-with-out-it Bluegill!!!





Herb fishing the Spring lake overflow and Todd fishing the Spring lake





Herb with a rainbow and a shiner that took a fly



Herb and Todd fishing the catch and release area at Montauk

Fishing Report by Sam

I enjoy winter fishing because there aren't as many people on the water, and it is a lot quieter.

Conditions can be brutal, but fishing can be excellent. It's a trade off but one that I am accustomed to. With proper clothing I can fish in some extreme conditions. It wasn't that so this past weekend when I fished with my youngest son. If it had been, he wouldn't have gone with me. With temps in the upper 40s and low 50s in the afternoon, it was very pleasant and surprisingly very few fishermen. We saw two other boats the first day, and none of them were within sight of us,

The second day we only saw one driftboat and there was plenty of water for both boats. We only managed about a dozen smallmouth the first day and over 40 smallmouth and trout combined the second day.



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





RiverRap

March 4, 2019

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- March 5th Fly Tying J Cook Fly Shop St. James 6:30
March 16th Club Outing to Blackwell
March 19th Monthly meeting VFW
March 23rd Club Outing to Sims

March 5th Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30

March 16th Club Outing to Blackwell Lake for some Pickerel fishing. Boat is not mandatory but highly advised. Follow the map precisely is highly advised <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/conservation-areas/6201map.pdf> Main Road 1014 then turn east on road 1030.

March 19th Monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 [484 Saint Robert Outer Rd](#)
Meeting time is 6:30

March 23rd Club Outing to Sims Valley Lake for some more Pickerel fishing. Sims Valley Lake is located 2.5 miles on RA highway off highway 60 between Willow Springs and Mountain View in Howell County. Watch for signs.



Herb helping a first time fly tyer at our last fly tying session at J Cook's Fly Shop.

DON'T FORGET Tri Lakes FF Expo is scheduled for April 13 in Brighton MO. Herb and Boot will be tying there.

Fishing Report by Sam

On our February 9th club fishing outing, a few of us tied flies at Westover in the morning and fished that afternoon. I believe there would have been more members there, but with the temps in the teens that morning, it wasn't hospitable for most of the membership, or maybe most of the membership had better sense... a matter to be pondered, depending on interpretation of what is fun and enjoyable.



After we tied flies and had a bit to eat, we gathered our gear and traded fly tying tools for fishing tools. Boot and Herb went down the creek to the honey hole, while Todd and Chris and Chris's girl friend fished the chalk stream. I, as I do most of the time, ventured out on my own on the creek. The creek was up and flowing pretty good, so I tied on what I usually fish with in heavy water, streamers. I prefer the sack of wet kittens over just about any of my other streamers because of the natural action the fly presents. The fish I catch are not numerous, but the quality I catch are worth the trade-off. That fly took four 17-18 inchers and a few 15-16s by days end.

I fished all the way down the creek to the high bluff hole river left. On my way I ran into Boot and Herb and we talked a bit and I went on downstream past them. Herb was having a grand afternoon and I didn't want to intrude.



On my return up the creek Boot and Herb had left the honey hole, so I decided to give it go. I switched my rig over to what I usually throw for winter smallmouth with the intension of finding a few in the slow water. I didn't find any smallmouth, but I did have several trout interested in the rig and managed to catch at least a dozen in 30 minutes and two of them were 17+ inches. I had to fast hoof it as the light was fading and Todd was waiting for me because I was his ride home. It was an excellent day with friends and fishing was great.

River Conditions The local stream flows are excellent right now, with lots of nice off-color water. If you want to get out and enjoy fewer fishermen on the streams stay away from the trout parks or wait until the weather gets nasty, like blowing rain or sleet.

The fish don't mind
but most people do

AND that means a lot more fish for you.





RiverRap

March 31, 2019

Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

March 31 st	Big Piney River STWA
April 2 nd	Fly Tying J Cook Fly Shop
April 6 th	Club Outing to Blackwell
April 12 th	Stream Survey
April 13 th	Tri Lakes FF Fly Tying Expo
April 13 th	Mill Creek Watershed Clean Up
April 16 th	Monthly meeting VFW
April 27 th	Club Outing Lake Scioto

March 31st Big Piney River STWA 1:00 Public House Brewery Rolla

We are going back to Piney River Brewing Company on March 31 to learn about Missouri water issues from the expert who's working on a book on the subject, Dr. Dick Elgin.

The brewery is making Stream Teams United the Charity of the Month in March and every brew or root beer you purchase on March 31 will raise money to fund Stream Team projects!

<u>April 2nd</u>	Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30
<u>April 6th</u>	Club outing to Blackwell Lake for another try for Pickerel
<u>April 12th</u>	Stream Survey on Roubidoux Creek watch for email with more info.
<u>April 13th</u>	Tri Lakes FF Fly Tying Expo in Brighton MO.
<u>April 13th</u>	Mill Creek Watershed Clean Up from 10 am to noon contact Mark Dean 573.433.5719 Facebook: Friends of Mill Creek



Mill Creek
Watershed Clean19.

<u>April 16th</u>	Monthly meeting at American Legion Post 331 484 Saint Robert Outer Rd Meeting time is 6:30
<u>April 27th</u>	Club Outing to Lake Scioto in St. James

Fishing Report by Sam

I probably spent 4 or 5 hours tying flies for our vacation trip to St. George Island in Florida in the hopes of getting away for 4 or 5 hours each day to throw some line. BUT it was not to be.

First of all the areas I had scouted out on Google Map that had lots of promise were not accessible or they were gone after the hurricane came through last October. I checked with a shop in Apalachicola, but there wasn't anyone there that could help me. So I was on my own to find a spot to fish. I figured the state park at the end of the island would be my best bet. The first day that I had enough time to fish was great. It took me some time to find what I was looking for because wading isn't a fast way to cover water. A little point that poked it's nose out from the weed line was my target because it was probably hard enough to have an oyster bed, plus I could wade out and fish both sides of the point. When I finally got to the point there was an excellent oyster bed and fish were all over it. I couldn't see them because I was low in the water and they weren't tailing, but I could see the swirls made by their tails. The problem was knowing where to throw the fly. If you don't get the fly in front of a Red Drum you spook them. I managed to spook a lot of whatever they were on that oyster point. I finally hooked up and landed a nice 4-5 pound Red. I had 4 other takes but didn't get a hook in them. They could have been smaller fish or Sheepshead that have small mouths. I managed to get in about two hours of casting and that was it. The next few days the wind was blowing too hard to cast, so I spent my fishing time with my camera. The nice thing about staying at St. George was having the ocean on one side and Apalachicola bay on the other side. So unless the wind is blowing up or down the island, like it was for me, you can get out of the wind by fishing one side or the other. Beautiful white sand beaches, no crowds, lots of birds.



We had a great house to stay in and reasonable price, compared to everything else we looked at. It was a three bedroom that would sleep 6 full kitchen two bath washer dryer 750 6 nights.



TightLine Photo ©

Turkey Vulture eating a Red Drum



TightLine Photo ©

Adult Brown Pelican



TightLine Photo ©

Egret with a strong wind blowing



TightLine Photo ©

Gator bay side - water was too cold for them to be active.

River Conditions The local stream flows are very high now. The next couple of weeks should be very good fishing.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- May 5th Club Outing to Blackwell
May 7th Fly Tying J Cook Fly Shop
May 21st Monthly meeting will be at Waynesville City Park

March 5th Club Outing to Blackwell Lake for some Pickerel fishing. Boat is not mandatory but highly advised. Follow the map precisely is highly advised <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/conservation-areas/6201map.pdf> Main Road 1014 then turn east on road 1030.

May 7th Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30

May 21st Monthly meeting will be at Waynesville City Park Meeting time is 6:30

Tri Lakes Fly Tying Expo

Four members of the club participated in the 2019 Tri-Lakes Fly Fishers Expo on April 13th at Brighton, MO. Dual-hatted Lou was working with all the tiers, as the tying chair for the Tri-Lakes club. She was busy as a one-armed paper hanger right off the bat. Boot, Karen, and Herb spent the day tying flies and making contacts with other tiers. There were twenty-nine tiers at this year's expo. Some great items were up for auction.





Bill's First Trout On A Fly



Caught my First trout fly fishing on 2/17/19 at the mouth of Maramec springs and the Maramec river on a black Woolley booger. 2lbs and 2.3 lbs

Water Quality Test On The Roubidoux

On April 12th Lou, Todd, Herb and Khan (a volunteer with the current Master Naturalist Class) trekked out to the Roubidoux Creek for our spring water quality monitoring. It was a cool, crisp (49 degree) spring morning and the water temperature was 51 degrees. Lou had all the equipment ready and had us all organized at our favorite spot. We took measurements for stream capacity calculations, completed the stream and riparian corridor survey, and finished up with the macro-invertebrate count. The Roubidoux was running a little fast and the creek was a little up making for a few challenges but all in all a good spring survey event.





A little friend and some buddies for size comparison. All organisms were released according to Missouri Stream Team protocol

Fishing Report by Karen

Fished Montauk state park on Monday and Tuesday. Caught lots of nice fish. Good size. Used a white woolie bugger and a green mop fly mostly. Water was moving pretty good and was up but clear. Beautiful days spent with good friends.

Fishing Report by Sam

Caught several nice Crappie about two weeks ago on a Woolly bugger tied on a jig hook that I use for smallmouth winter fishing. I was tossing back 10 inch crappie because the crappie I was keeping were all 12-13 inches. Sandra and I like to eat Crappie and Walleye so those are the only fish we keep for a meal. A couple of 12 inch Crappie makes enough for the two of us and cleaning a 12 inch Crappie takes the same amount of time as an 8 so I don't fool with the little ones. I probably caught and released 20 and ended up keeping 8 of the 12-13s.

The Trout have been off and on with the weather and water conditions, but fishing over all has been good to very good.



Not exactly fly fishing. My niece's husband has been after me for several years to do this with him, so this was my first experience and probably a last for me. Left Rolla at 3:30 AM, started fishing about 7 and limited out by 9. 10/0 treble hooks are scary and dangerous. Rods are like pool cues and reels are deep sea monsters.

River Conditions: The local stream flows are high now. Expecting lots of rain and possible thunder storms this week, so look for higher water for the next couple of weeks and opportunities to get out the 7wt rods and 5 inch streamers.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- July 2nd Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30
- July 16th Monthly meeting
- July 20th Club Outing to Rinquelin Conservation Area

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 18 June 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO

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

No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

Reports:

- We have a display at J Cooks but we need some flies for the display. At tying on Tuesday 2 July bring your favorite fly to be put on the display.
- We will also try to have a Fly of the Month featured on Facebook and all other media outlets.

Next 2 months Programs:

- 16 July - Todd Sparks on his recent trip to Fireside Lodge, Ontario, Canada for North Pike, Smallmouth bass and the water wolf of the north Tiger Muskie.
- 20 August - Karen May on Dying Your Hare (no we didn't misspell it - we have a couple white hare hides to dye).

August - Stream Clean-up

- **Date:** 24 August
- **Time:** 0900 or so
- **Who:** About 10 Seabees plus cadre; all RFFA members & family
- **Where;** Waynesville City Park. We'll announce which pavilion
- **Area we'll cover:** If the creek is low - in the creek from the spring in Roy Laughlin Park to an area designated in Waynesville City Park. If the river is flooded - we'll pick up trash along the footpath from Roy Laughlin to the outflow pipe by the water treatment plant.
- **RECON** will be done on 17 August.
-

Outings:

- **20 July 830ish, Rinquelin Trail Conservation Area.**

This conservation area does have three fishing jetties but if you have some way to float and fish

(kayak, canoe, SUP, jon boat) that is best. Here is a link to the MDC website -

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/>

- **17 August - Roubidoux Creek Recon and fly fishing.**

We'll do our recon of the water for the clean-up plus go fishing!! Time & which park we'll start/park in is TBA!!

Fishing Report by Sam

Beetles have been my fly of choice for the past month when water conditions allow enough visibility. Usually we are fishing with ants as well, but the fish find the beetles better than they do the ants because the water hasn't been clear yet. When the water has been high, we have been throwing a sack of wet kittens.

Lost a nice brown last week that was probably close to 25 or 26 inches. I was using a 5wt and 5X tippet and I couldn't stop it from going under a log. The tippet frayed and it was gone. But now I know where it lives. Oh, and by the way it was on a beetle. As a matter of fact, I fished top water all day with beetles hooking and releasing about 15 browns. I'm going to put a client from Houston Texas on that fish Monday and hopefully get the fly and 18 inches of tippet out of it's mouth.

River Conditions: Water conditions this summer, so far, have been outstanding. Most of the streams are up a bit, but the flow and color are some of the best for this time of year that I can remember.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- August 3rd^d Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30
- August 17th Roubidoux Creek Recon for stream clean
- August 20th Monthly meeting
- August 24th Stream Clean up

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 16 July 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO

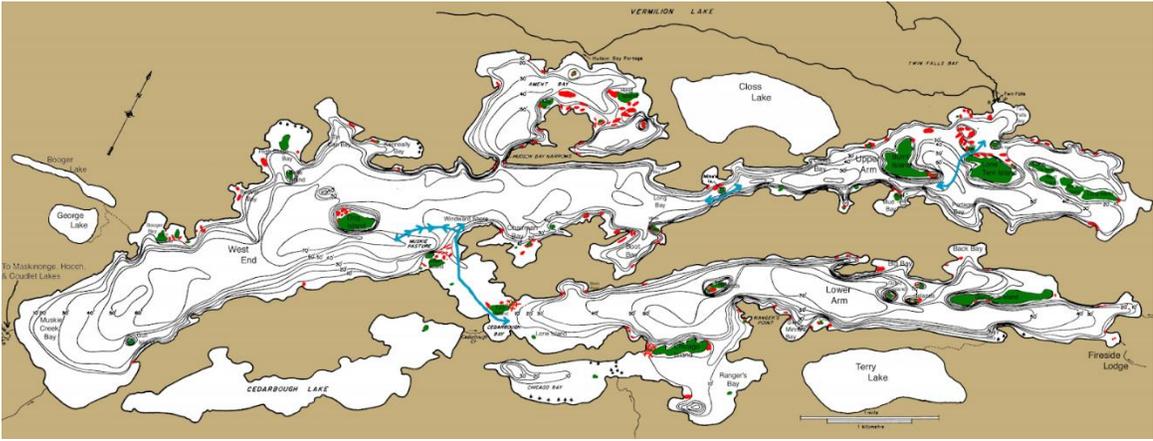
Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM, quorum was not established (2 members present).
No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

Reports:

- We have a display at J Cooks but we need some flies for the display. At tying on Tuesday 6 August bring your favorite fly to be put on the display.
- We will also try to have a Fly of the Month featured on Facebook and all other media outlets.
- E-mail list need to be updated please provide Lou with updates.

Todd presented on his recent trip to Fireside Lodge, Ontario, Canada for North Pike, Smallmouth bass and the water wolf of the north Tiger Muskie. It was a great outing by the Sparks family.





Little Vermillion Lake System ...lots of fish!





August Program:

- 20 August - Karen May on Dying Your Hare (no we didn't misspell it - we have a couple white hare hides to dye).

August - Stream Clean-up

- **Date:** 24 August
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- **Where;** Waynesville City Park. We'll announce which pavilion
- **Area we'll cover:** If the creek is low - in the creek from the spring in Roy Laughlin Park to an area designated in Waynesville City Park. If the river is flooded - we'll pick up trash along the footpath from Roy Laughlin to the outflow pipe by the water treatment plant.
- **RECON** will be done on **17 August - Roubidoux Creek Recon and fly fishing.** We'll do our recon of the water for the clean-up plus go fishing!! Time & which park we'll

start/park in is TBA!!

Todd and the NED Rig

On my family vacation to Fireside Lodge this past June (slides here for those who didn't make it to my presentation:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zIn0CqJw8BTxssV8e9Qy2KPOGBn05AJsy1JggwSfChM/edit?usp=sharing>), we ran into another group of Missouri folks from the Joplin area who introduced Dad and Jamie to the "ned rig" (<https://zmanfishing.com/cms/nedrig>). It is basically a 3" soft plastic stick on a flattened jig head. The plastic itself is very stretchy and quite buoyant. This causes the bait to just sit on its head and waggle around with the slightest current. They didn't need to retrieve it. They would merely get it to where the smallmouth could see it and it would eventually get picked up. The fish would chew on the tail for a bit, then eventually slurp it down.

I'll admit that it was very difficult to compete with from the fly setup I brought with me. I could target a fish with my murdich minnow, make the cast, and then watch Jamie catch it while waiting for my fly to sink the 15 feet or so to the fish. While he would do that occasionally on purpose to irk me (he **is** my little brother, after all), it was mostly a function of the clear water and the ned rig being visible from a long way. Luckily there were plenty of fish up shallower for me to target, so it wasn't a disaster. I just don't like getting out fished by a bit of injection molded plastic.

Upon returning to MO, I began a research project to develop a setup to perform the same functions as the ned rig from a fly platform. Initially, I tried variations on the bottoms up (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeKyw1NUaU0>), but I still couldn't get the sink rates I needed. I switched from a floating line, to a sink tip, to a full sink. The denser the fly line got, the less sensitivity I had. I missed a comical amount of fish trying to use a full sinking line on mineral fork! However, I did decide that the particular form of the ned rig wasn't really something I needed to worry about. The fish were never going to chew on my fly like the ned rig because it won't be flavored/scented/salty like the soft plastic stuff. That shouldn't matter if I can stick them on the first try. Thus, my objective became: 1. maximize sink rate; 2. maintain sensitivity; 3. maintain contact for a quick hook set.

Inspiration struck, as it often does, while watching some Youtube. The euro nymphing guys achieve my goals, but at a smaller scale. I started looking around at what it would look like to euro nymph (euro streamer?) for smallmouth. Sure enough, Domenick Swentosky of TroutBitten beat me to the punch. He presents a leader setup for streamers in the euro nymphing style (<https://troutbitten.com/2017/03/01/bill-dance-and-jimmy-houston-go-fly-fishing-the-mono-rig-for-streamers/>). Domenick's setup eschews fly line entirely, his arguments for which are mostly about drag and sink rate. However, fly line is getting to be

expensive, so a viable setup without it would be welcome in my mind.

The mono rig setup I have fished my last 3 times out is a much-simplified version of the one from TroutBitten. I am using 20lb Trilene XL as my main line, which I drop to 15lb and then 10lb fluorocarbon in ~8 foot sections each. I tried the multicolored sighter thing, but didn't see much of a benefit to it. I did see a detriment to so many knots, so I reduced the complexity of the setup. I use it on a 4wt to throw streamers that I would not have though I could throw on a 4wt. Mending is basically unnecessary since the line is easy to keep off the water with a little high stick action. It feels somewhat like overhead casting one of the OPST micro Skagit heads or some really aggressive shooting head due to the choice of fly, which tends towards the heavy stuff. Barbell eye buggers are good. I have had a lot of luck using various hidden bead flies from the Fly Fish Food guys out of Utah, such as the Baby Fat Minnow (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnJV61fXQ6U>), Low Fat Minnow (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWY-mPepM9k>), and Belly Scratcher Minnow (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfg_TVy4-Og).

Its definitely a fun way to fish. its different. I won't claim to be an expert in it yet, but I see potential. Give it a shot!

Todd

In the article that Todd wrote he mentions competing with the spin fishermen. If Todd was only interested in catching fish he would have put down that fly rod and used a spinning rod and may have caught several more fish than he did, but he didn't, why?

To quote a friend of mine and fishing guide: "spin to win" is what he says, and he is correct.

If we, as fly fishers, were just interested in catching lots of fish we wouldn't use flies and fly rods. Bait and scented baits are always going to out produce flies, And using two or three sets of treble hooks will out hook a fly. Been there done that. It is the challenge that drives me now with the feel of the rod as it works with the line and my hand and eye coordination and the pleasure of making that precise cast and presentation and getting the fish to take a fly that I made. It is a coincidence that today when I read this month's Trout magazine that a quote from Zane Grey reads: "If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago."

What drives you as a fly fisher?

Sam

Fishing Report by Lou

I GOT TO GO FISHING!!!

I would not wish a 6 month hiatus from fishing on my worst enemy!! Broken rod maybe but not a hiatus!!

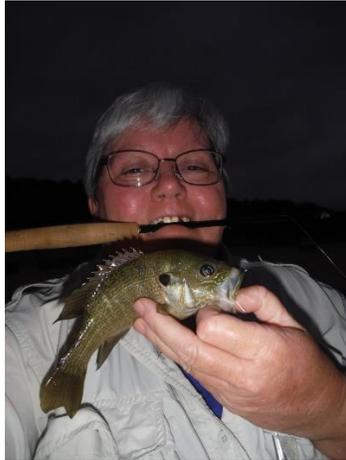
I survived and left the Dr office & broke land speed records getting to TA 250 for a little rod therapy.

Circumstances prevented me from fishing again till the 28th. A friend in need is a friend indeed! Back to TA 250 again for the evening bite. I saw but did not attempt a cast to a rather large carp feeding at the surface.

On the 29th I wet waded part of the Osage Fork of the Gasconade with a friend from Texas. They caught smallies while I caught what they call orange thangs - long ear sunfish. The water was off color to say the least



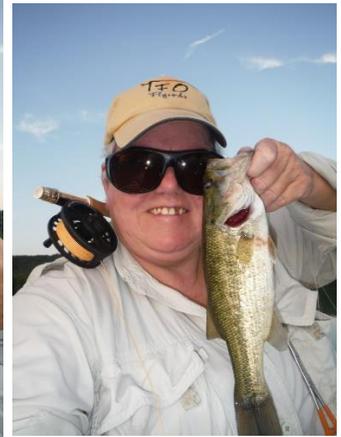
1st fish in 6 months



worth the wait



Mean Green #2



Nice bass



One of them Orange Thangs

Fishing Report by Sam

Beetles continue to produce nice fish and the hoppers are getting large enough and plentiful enough along the grassy banks to make the fish aware of them.

No large fish to report the past few weeks, but plenty of fish have been put in the net. A recent trip to the Eleven Point river was a mixed bag of rainbows and smallmouth all on stonefly patterns fished deep.

River Conditions: Water conditions this summer continue to be excellent. The flow and color are some of the best for this time of year that I can remember.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

September 3rd Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30

September 14th Women's Fishing Day Maramec Park

September 17th Monthly meeting

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

There was a small turn out at tying on the 6th of August. However, Todd did an excellent job of leading all in attendance through the steps of tying "The Baby Fat Minnow". Rachele Kirkwood (Fisheries Specialist from Meramac Spring Fish Hatchery) stopped by to invite the club to help with Women's Fishing Day 14 September.

Dying Materials with Karen May

Karen May came all the way back from Montauk for her presentation on dying fly tying materials 20 August. She provided the club with some great information on how to and what not to do when dying rabbit fur using Koo-Aide, Easter Egg dyes, and Rite dye. The big take away was avoid heat. The color of the hair was great but the leather has problems when exposed to heat. The real show was the feathers; beautiful rich colors, nice tones in the feather edges, and very usable as tying materials. In this case heat was a positive factor in creating the feather color. If you missed it you missed an opportunity to actually see experimentation at work and get some nice hackle, dubbing, and some beautiful baby blue zonkers. Thanks Karen for taking the time.





Roubidoux Clean Up scouting report

On August 17th club members with a staff member from the Ft. Leonard Wood SEABEE detachment scouted the Roubidoux in preparation for the clean up on the 24th. The water level was good, color great, and the riffles and pool areas were as expected. The main access to the creek for the Waynesville City park has become wider and the main flow of the creek at that point has done some cutting. Todd and Herb fished after the scouting for about an hour with some hits but no real luck (it was the middle of the day).



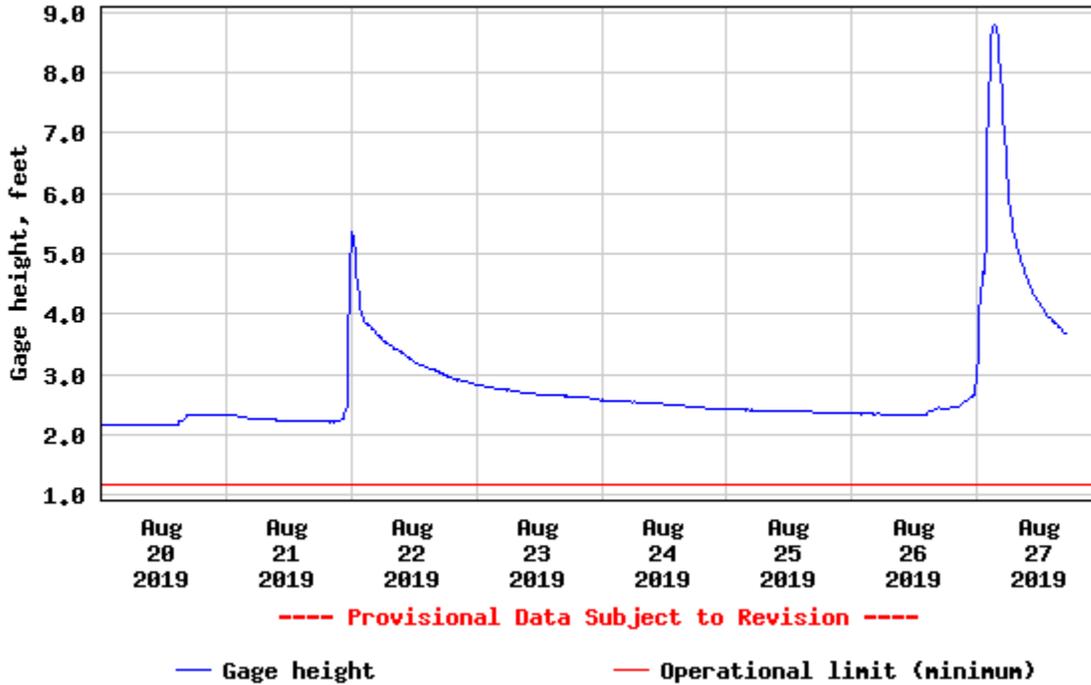
River Clean Up

August 24th clean up of the Roubidoux creek did not turn out exactly as planned. Lou put it best “Funny thing about the Roubidoux - we checked it Thursday and it was up a smidgen and clear. Friday I checked it again - seemed like it dropped and the clarity was about the same. This morning OH HECK NO!! It was a raging torrent!!” After a quick assessment we decided to work the the riparian corridor and had an effective clean up. There was a surprising amount of trash in some of the back water areas and lots of plastic water bottles in the tree line. With the five (5) SEEBEES from the Center for SEABEES and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) Detachment Fort Leonard and Todd, Lou, and Herb the two hours of work made an impact. Thanks to all that supported this effort.

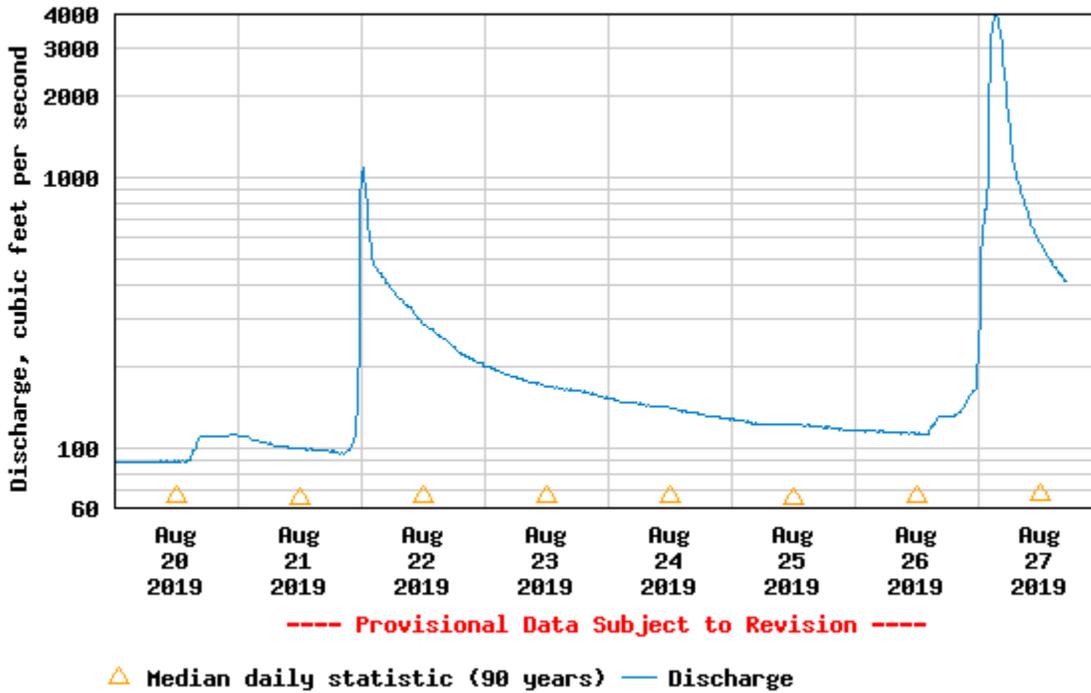


Flash Flooding occurs in this part of the state several times a year. It is always a good idea to check water levels with the USGS stream flows prior to heading out to your planned destination and keep an eye on the weather with your phone especially if you plan to be out with a watercraft.

USGS 06932000 Little Piney Creek at Newburg, MO



USGS 06932000 Little Piney Creek at Newburg, MO



Fish Navigate Dams in seconds instead of hours or days. You may have already seen this, but I just came across it yesterday. This company has developed a way for fish to get past dams in a matter of seconds.

Fish Kill Bennett Springs Report by Sam

Yesterday I met my youngest son for a day on the water with his old man. I stopped by “Larry’s” just to say hi to Kelly and see what was going on in the park and find out how his mother Kay was doing after his father passed away earlier this year. We chit chatted a bit and that was when I found out that there was a fish kill earlier in the week.

I met my son down in zone 2 at the hatchery outlet and sure enough there were several dead trout laying on the bottom. In one eddy pool there were probably 30-40 of them. Fishing by the way was great, but it was like fishing in the hatchery. No challenge and easy as pie. We figured that we probably landed 60 between us in six hours.

Below is the info I found on line:

Bennett Spring Hatchery Manager Ben Havens said Wednesday that overnight Monday the spring experienced, with out any warning, a warm water flash flood. The water temperature at Bennett Spring is normally around 57 degrees, however with the flash flood the spring branch (I added the word branch to the sentence) temperature rose to 71 degrees for several hours. According to Havens, trout in the spring are not very tolerant of temperatures over 65 degrees and above 70 can be deadly. The rise in temperatures resulted in the death of several fish in the stream. Havens credits the quick work of the hatchery staff in averting a major disaster and minimizing damage to the hatchery stock. Havens said that by daybreak on Tuesday, except for some off color water, and several dead fish, no one would of noticed it happened.

Fishing Report by Herb

On August 10 Herb was at Meramac Springs to check out the room in the The Maramec Museum. He also wanted to check in with Rachelle Kirkwood (Fisheries Specialist) about helping with Womens Fishing Day 14 September in the Park. He just had to wet a line while in the park and from 7:50 until 9:15 he had caught eight (8) Rainbows. He was using a mop ‘n glo fly for the first 5 until it got taken by a tree and the last 3 were taken on by a white glo ball. Not a real challenge with the flies used but good for the spirit to have fish on.

Fishing Report by Sam

Fly fishing for carp on the Gasconade produced a first for me. I didn’t realize it at the time, but I should have guessed that the fish on the end of my line was not a carp. It looked like a carp, but it wasn’t fighting like a carp. Mostly very short runs and just dead weight. After netting the fish I recognized it as a Carpsucker /Quillback. It was a fish I have never caught before, much less on a fly. I guessed the weight at 8-9 pounds compared to carp I have caught in the same size range. 25X20. It was the largest fish of the day. Not sure what was going on with the black eye on one side of its face. The other side was normal. I looked up black eye on fish and didn’t find anything about Quillbacks, but I did find info about goldfish. Apparently, the black eye in goldfish and other aquarium fishes can be from stress, anger or just coloration. The four common carp I caught that day were about 4-5 pounds and a couple of Smallmouth that ate the same fly.

I saw some huge carp, but I couldn’t get any of them to take. I also saw several silver (Asian) carp. I didn’t cast to them, knowing that I was wasting my time. Silver carp are supposed to be filter feeders, but I did force feed a fly to one last year if you remember. Two weeks ago, we had one come up and open its mouth on a sneaky pete. But the client pulled it out before the fish closed its mouth. He said he didn’t want that thing on the end of his rod. Probably a good idea, since a 20lb+ fish on a five weight in a river near a strong current is not a good match up.



River Conditions: Water conditions this summer continue to be excellent. The flow and color are some of the best for this time of year that I can remember. The Gasconade and Big Piney are currently muddy, The Little Piney is still up but clearing slowly. The Current River is in Great Shape





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- Oct. 1 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30
- Oct. 4-5 Redington at Hidden Valley
- Oct. 15 Monthly meeting

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 17 September 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM, quorum was not established (3 members present and 1 new member (Sue Marie Thomas)).

No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

Reports:

- E-mail list need to be updated please provide Lou with updates.
- Current balance in our treasury is \$1645.37.
- The club's new sign was set out for the meeting.
- Summery of Women's Free Fishing Day and reflection by club members. This is a project we would like to continue.
- Discussion of Freeze Your Trout Off and preliminary planning.

Program : Todd Sparks presented methodology on setting up several different Mono Rigs for Euro-Nymphing. Todd also demonstrated a prototype dubbing loop table he has been working on.

Calendar:

- 1 Oct Tying & Lying at J Cooks
- 4-5 Oct Redington on the Water, Hidden Valley Outfitters outside Bennett Springs
- 15 Oct Regular Meeting
- 5 Nov Tie One On at J Cooks
- 16 Nov Freeze Your Trout Off, Bennett Springs our annual chili feed. Replaces meeting. We'll be calling for an RSVP in November
- 23 Nov Missouri Stream Teams 30th Anniversary celebration is in Echo Bluff State Park. (We should go in our RFFA regalia!!)

Watch for announcements about meeting location

Licking Middle School Conservation Day Field Trip

On 17 September Herb was at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area near Rolla assisting 6th grade students from Licking Middle School on their Conservation Day field trip. 60 students 3 faculty members and 5 high school volunteers were at Bray CA for a day of water quality exploration, nature walks with journaling, and fishing. Herb was the leader for the fishing part of their day. Many Bluegill were caught, and one very nice largemouth bass rounded out the day of fishing. The real treat at the end of the day was one of the high school volunteers requested some time learning to cast a fly rod. Her new found skill was unbelievable. She had a natural touch for the casting. Three fish on in 30 minutes. Herb encouraged her to keep up with the sport sense she works as a waitress at Montauk.

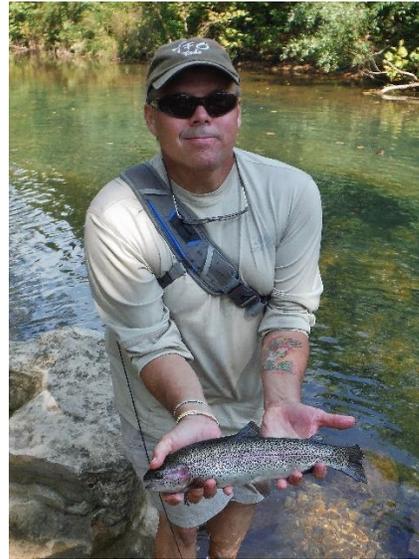
Fishing Report from Lou

We split up at the office after lunch – Deb & Boot entering Dry Creek while I chose to move up stream to try my luck. By the pictures and Deb's excitement I should have stayed with them!

The weekend started simple enough Todd & I tying flies and Herb handling some casting and on the water tips and trick For the Woman's Free Fishing Day at Maramac Spring Park. Boot joined us in the afternoon – helping with casting and the telling of tall tales.

My friend Deb had decided to make it a full weekend first fishing the park on Saturday and then Westover on Sunday. On Saturday she alternated between kibitzing a chair in the fly tying area and hitting the stream. At one point she even tried Todd's Euro nymphing set up and almost took out three squirrels and two little dogs in the process. Sans any fish on Saturday brought to hand she was all fired up to fish Sunday at Westover. Thank goodness Boot came too because he put her on fish after fish after fish after fish. At one time he even had me on a fish or two but I was messing with some longear sunfish and wasn't really paying enough attention.





MY first fish of the day was a sculpin! I was messing around with a fly called a “bedspread jig” when I left it lay on the bottom for a moment. The aforementioned sculpin was nose to nose with a longear sunfish and it seemed to be a great debate on who was going to get it. The sculpin won!!

Overall another great weekend of fishing and friends in our wonderful Ozarks!!

Women’s fishing day

Lou, Todd, and Herb started out the 14th of September assisting with Women’s Free Fishing Day. Lou and Todd were involved in some Lyn’ and Tyn’ at the pavilion in the lower parking lot. 36 women visited the tying station during the day and some stuck with us and were even successful fishing with some of those flies. Boot showed up later in the day and helped Herb with some basic casting instruction. There were a total of 9 women that took part in this activity. Herb took them down after the lesson to try their luck on the water. Three were successful in this endeavor. MDC Assistant Hatchery Manager Rachelle Kirkwood stated that the fly tying and casting demonstrations were well received and hopes we will make this an annual affair for the club.

Rachelle reported that the results of the day were:

- The total Women tags: 309
- They had 47/100 tagged prize fish turned in and 22 prizes were handed out for the tag number drawing.
- 7 lunkers were caught that we know of. The largest was 5.20lbs!



River Conditions: Water conditions this are still very good for this time of the year. However the lack of rain has allowed the streams to settle and become very clear requiring longer leaders and thinner tippetts.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Nov. 5 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30

Nov. 16 Monthly meeting at Bennett Springs

Nov. 23 Stream Team 30th Anniversary at Echo Bluff

Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 15 October 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO

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

No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

Reports:

- E-mail list need to be updated please provide Lou with updates.
- Discussion of Freeze Your Trout Off and preliminary planning.

Discussion:

- Club information is not getting out to a wide audience. Herb had talked with Nick Gironde (MDCs Fisheries Manager for our area) on the 9th and he had been given the impression the clubs activity has dropped off considerably.
- Dwight Warnke (new MDC Educator for our area) has been in touch and we are planning a three weekend activity in February on fly fishing. We are still in the beginning planning phase. If you would like to know more or help contact Herb.
- John Brent is the new contractor on FLW for fisheries. He is developing a plan for improvements, but we may be called upon to make some calls of concern in his support.
- We have opened some discussion about an additional tying night during the winter. Please let Todd or Herb know what you think.

Program : Herb Turner brought his fall-in bag as an example for the time that one my fall into the river during fishing.

Calendar:

- 5 Nov Tyn' and Lyn' One On at J Cooks
- 16 Nov Freeze Your Trout Off, Bennett Springs our annual chili feed. Replaces meeting. We'll be calling for an RSVP in November
- 23 Nov Missouri Stream Teams 30th Anniversary celebration is in Echo Bluff State Park. (We should go in our RFFA regalia!!)

Watch for announcements about meeting locations

Two issues to consider for future discussion and action.

1) Tree Planting on NFOW

The worst flooding anyone can ever remember occurred in the spring of 2017. Several watersheds were decimated. The North Fork of the White River (NFOW) was hit exceptionally hard and the fishery is in poor

condition. The stream bed and the banks were scoured and invertebrates destroyed. The fish are slowly making a recovery.

The Mid-Mo TU club with the help of MDC has taken on a project of planting trees along the banks of the river in predetermined locations. There are other fishing clubs in the state coming forward to assist their help as well. We, as a conservation minded organization could offer help with this project, just as we did several years ago on Mill Creek.

This is the information I have received:

“Here is an update on tree planting that you may want to discuss at the next meeting and put in the newsletter. Unfortunately, I will be out of town and miss the meeting.

Thanks,

Jeff

After talking with Brian Bade, Sunburst Ranch, and Nathan Recktenwald, the area MDC agent, the best option for planting is at Patrick Bridge. Natural reproduction is occurring. Some areas have 5 -10 foot sycamores, but some private land owners do not want trees to obstruct their view of the river. However, MDC will rebuild the access and probably remove some trees with the construction. Nathan offered to order trees and bring planting tools. From the show of hands it appeared we would have 4 -5 from our club and possibly another couple from the Capital City club. Mogan is also interested in helping. Construction is scheduled to start in October ,and Nathan will survey the site afterwards to determine how many trees will be required. He will order plenty and identify another area to plant if there are extra trees. “

2) Repair or Replace RFFA/OFF/TU project Habitat Improvement Sign on Spring Creek



This project was before my time so I reached out to Mark VanPatten for some background info and he assured me that he would provide the information when he had the time. The sign, as you can see, is not in good condition and requires attention. I cleared a lot of brush around it so it could at least be seen.

Fishing Report Sam

Fishing has been excellent this past month despite some tough water conditions. Low clear water requires more stealth, longer leaders and finer tippets.



18inch female brown in pre spawn colors.



Wild Stream born 18inch rainbow



17inch wild stream born with Heron puncture wound.

It is unusual to find wild rainbows with heron injuries especially when they have grown to this size. Stocked trout are much easier prey for Herons because they have no clue about natural dangers.

Stocked rainbow numbers will begin to decline as we head into the winter months if you are fishing outside of the parks. Those fish can have a difficult time surviving natural predators and human predators. For many of them that cannot develop an adequate predatory skill will die.

River Conditions: Water conditions are clear and running normal to just a bit over normal.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Dec. 3 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30

Dec. 7 Club Outing to Montauk Meet at Catch and Release Pool parking lot 8:00

Dec. 17 Monthly meeting 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO 6:30

Reports:

Presented by Herb

Charlene and Herb spent the evening of 23 November representing the club at the 30th Anniversary celebration of Missouri Stream Team. Mark Van Patten had some great remarks about the start of the program and how the Roubidoux Fly Fishers became Stream Team #1. Sherry Dawdy Fisher shared her experience of coming up through the program as an MDC Fisheries Biologist. We had a great time visiting with old friends and catching up on some fun times.



- E-mail list needs to be updated please provide Lou with updates.

Presented by Sam

Two issues to consider for future discussion and action.

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Fishing Report Sam

Fishing has been excellent this past month on some of our streams. Water conditions on a few of them has been excellent. Some of the other streams have been extremely clear and fishing has been tough. Brett and I had an excellent day fishing for smallmouth and I had excellent days prior to our trip.



These three ranged from 3.5 to 4.5 weighed on my Boga Grip

River Conditions: Water conditions are high and very cloudy to muddy.





Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

Jan. 4 Club Outing to Montauk Meet at Catch and Release Pool parking lot 8:00

Jan. 7 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30

Jan.21 Monthly meeting 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO 6:30

Reports:

Presented by Sam

Three issues to consider for future discussion and action.

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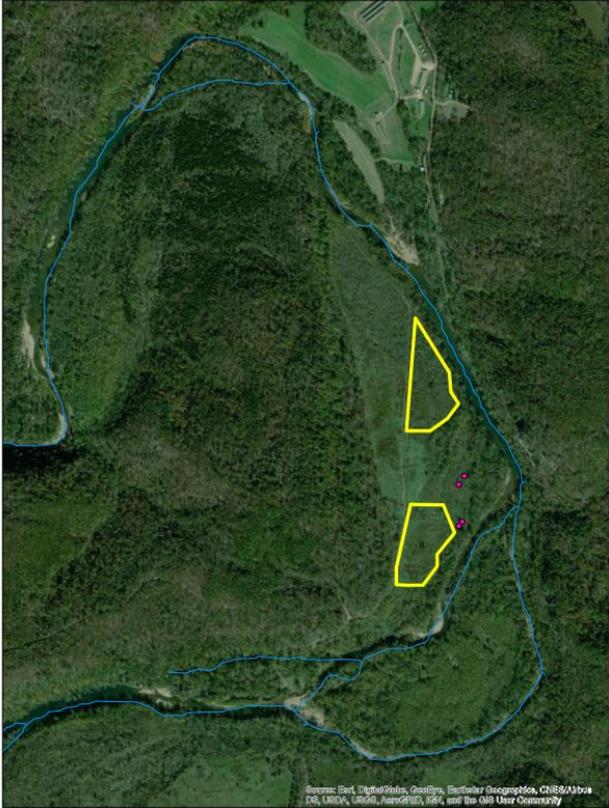
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3) Tree planting project with BPRSTWA.

Help plant riparian trees along the Big Piney River!



Area marked is up stream & across from 6 Crossings

Our BPRSTWA tree planting project in the Elder Piney area at the end of Wyoming Road will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2020. The U.S. Forest Service identified and mapped two areas of about eight acres each. We selected one of the areas on the above map. Prep work has already begun. A tree plow will be used to plant the seedlings and 3-foot squares of weed barrier will be stapled around each tree. A small army of volunteers will be needed to plant and mulch the 1550 tree seedlings. Are you in? [Email](#) if you are willing to help. More details will be sent early in January but mark your 2020 calendars and plan for a warm-up at Barnabee's after we finish!

Fishing Report

RFFA Outing to Montauk Park.



Instructors and a Student



Netted and a Happy Fisher

Fly Tying Night at J Cook



River Conditions: Water conditions are high and off color north & East of Rolla, normal and clearing to the south.

