



## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- Feb. 1 Club Service Project helping MDC Fly Fishing 101 Meet at Marguerite Bray 12:30 PM
- Feb. 4 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:00 (short meeting prior to tying )
- Feb. 08 Club Service Project helping MDC Match The Hatch Meet at Maramec Park 9:30 AM
- Feb. 15 Club Service Project helping MDC Tie Your Own Fly Meet at Maramec Park 9:30 AM
- Feb. 18 Monthly meeting 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO 6:30 PM
- Feb. 26 Meet And Greet at Phelps Health private dining room 1 & 2 6:30 PM

## Reports by Herb

Lou and Herb were out at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area preparing fly rods for a series of fly fishing workshops in Phelps County this February in support of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Dwight Warnke, Conservation Educator South District, is the MDC representative for these workshops. Lou and Herb also checked out the site for casting areas and sites along the pond were attendees should have success at practice casting on water.



Below is the press release that covers some MDC events that the club will be partnering (doing most of the work) in February

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will host a series of fly fishing workshops in Phelps County this February. These FREE Discover Nature – Fishing (DNF) workshops will include Introduction to Fly Fishing, Match the Hatch, and Learning How to Tie Your Own Flies.

### Introduction to Fly Fishing

Saturday, Feb. 1, 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Bray Conservation Area, 14220 Bridge School Road, Rolla

Introductory workshop for those who wish to explore fly fishing, how to properly cast under various conditions, or simply improve their skills. Workshop will cover basic equipment and practice casting techniques on dry land and open pond water.

Registration required at: [mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/171396](https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/171396) .

### **Match the Hatch**

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Maramec Spring Hatchery, 21304 Maramec Spring Drive, St. James

Learn to understand what's going on in the water and match fly presentation to macroinvertebrates present in the environment. Participants should bring a packed lunch and prepare to spend the day outdoors.

Registration required at: [mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/171397](https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/171397) .

### **Learning How to Tie Your Own Flies**

Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Maramec Spring Hatchery, 21304 Maramec Spring Drive, St. James

This workshop will provide the tools and expert coaching to create up to three different types of flies and take home about nine total flies. Participants will have an opportunity to test their flies in a stream onsite at the end of the program. Participants should bring a packed lunch, knee/hip boots, and prepare to spend the afternoon outdoors.

Registration required at: [mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/171398](https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/171398) .

All courses are free and open to participants age 16 and older, and all equipment will be provided at no cost. Space is limited and online registration is required for each workshop. For more information about this series of workshops, contact MDC Conservation Educator Dwight Warnke at (573) 368-2225 or [Dwight.Warnke@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Dwight.Warnke@mdc.mo.gov) .

Fishing is a great way for everyone to have fun outdoors, learn about conservation, and make memories in nature. DNF programs help Missourians gain the skills and confidence to go fishing on their own. Find more information on DNF programs and other events near you at:

[huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/get-started-fishing/discover-nature-fishing](https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/get-started-fishing/discover-nature-fishing)

**January 7<sup>th</sup> tying** was an exceptional event at J Cook's in St. James; two new tiers, 3 new members, two new possible members, and an out of state visitor. Lots of flies tied and a great time to visit.



## Meet & Greet – Fly-Tying

*Phelps Health employees, physicians, volunteers and family members please join us for an introduction to the craft of fly-tying. The world of fly-tying can be a bit overwhelming at first with walls full of flash, feathers, and hooks.*



*The **Meet & Greet** will explore and offer demonstrations relating to everything fly-tying and fly fishing led by our local **Roubidoux Fly Fishers Association**.*



Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Location: Private Dining Room 1 & 2

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Refreshments will be served.

The program is FREE and open to anyone age 11 and above. We hope to initiate your interest in the art of fly-tying, while offering local resources to expand your creative side.



**Space is limited please call or email to reserve a spot today!**

Tracy Limmer  
(573) 458-7759  
[tlimmer@phelpshealth.org](mailto:tlimmer@phelpshealth.org)

Crystal Lorah  
(573) 458-7947  
[clorah@phelpshealth.org](mailto:clorah@phelpshealth.org)

## Report by Sam

### Issues to consider for future discussion and action.

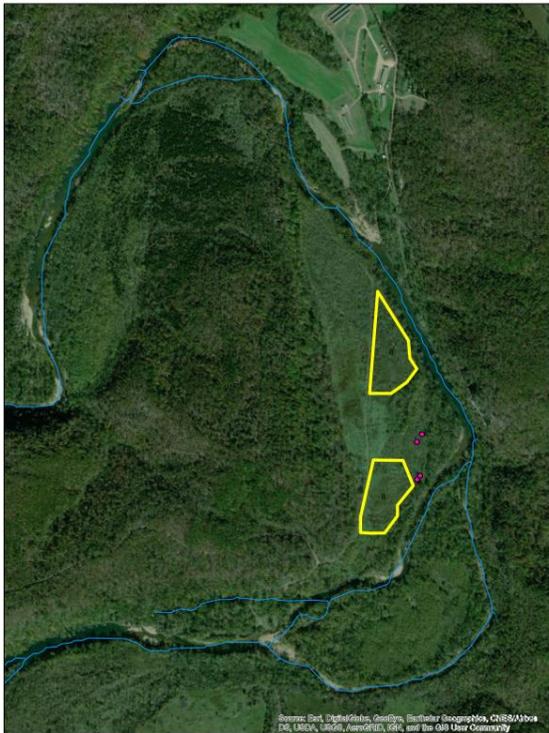
#### 1) Tree Planting on NFOW

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.

#### 2) 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 by Lou

Mexico Beach –

Gather 5 fly flinging friends together in one of many places on the Gulf Coast with a lot of wade fishing and what do you get? A great time! Rocco, Paul, Deb, Sharon & I met up in the waters off the Forgotten Coast of Florida. It was the first time any of us had been back since Hurricane Michael had devastated the area in 2018. Mexico Beach was still in recovery mode and probably will be for many years to come. We looked for some of our old restaurants we ate at – Toucan's with it's wonderful view of the beach and Killer Seafood with its HUGE shrimp Po' Boys are just gone – maybe they will come back maybe they won't, only time will tell. Luckily Port St Joe just down the road hadn't gotten the full brunt of the storm and although in recovery mode also, most of the basic necessities of gas, groceries and restaurants were up and running.

The fishing on the other hand – was pretty dang good! From Pinfish to Pompano we had shots at just about everything – to include sharks! Some of our old fishing haunts we couldn't get to without a 2-3 mile hike and some we would have needed our kayaks (none of the kayak rental places were up and running yet). But the fish were there and we caught and caught and caught!

I'll let the pictures tell the rest of the story!! Excellent Sea Trout and Red Fish (red drum)





Puffer and a Pinfish



Sharon caught a lot of these Lizard Fish and a Flounder that was caught at Windmark



Ladyfish - One of Several Species caught on this trip

## Fishing Report by Herb

Herb was at Maramec Spring Park January 2<sup>nd</sup> and had a good day. These were the first two species caught by a club member this decade



Roubidoux Fly Fishers first trip of the New Year 4 January 2020. Saturday at Montauk State Park started out a cold damp day but as it got closer to noon the day turned out to be pretty. Todd and Herb started the day at the horn. Todd had brought Connor along to get him into Tenkara. Lou and Don showed up by nine to round out the group for the day.

Todd caught some great fish he had this to say about one of them “This guy was almost purple in person...very odd coloration. The camera doesn't do it justice. It was like the pink of the lateral line was spread around the whole fish.” All the fish caught were extraordinary in color.



Todd with a colorful rainbow at Montauk



Lou and Don fishing at Montauk Park

### Fishing Report by Sam

With several streams still up and off color it is a great time to throw streamers for trout and smallmouth. Winter is also a time of the year when I like to finesse fish for smallmouth. I like to fish when most people are at home near a warm fire and out of the elements. Cloudy, cold days in the snow and rain gives me a lot more water to myself. Usually several species in the same day can be caught with the method I use, and I enjoy that too. I would venture to guess that I am probably catching 30-40 fish per trip. There are a few nice smallmouth and trout over 15 inches mixed in, but most of the fish are smaller. Last week in the snowstorm I caught 6 different species on the same fly and used that one fly all day to catch about 40 fish.



These guys are usually not larger than your hand

**River Conditions:** Water conditions are a little high and some of the streams are still off color but clearing.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

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

March 14 Club Outing Indian Trail Conservation Area Blackwell Lake Meet up about 9. Directions below

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

March 21 Club Outing Indian Trail Conservation Area Blackwell Lake Meet up about 9. Directions below

## Club Outing to Blackwell Lake in Indian Trail Conservation Area

We'll meet up around 9:00 at the boat ramp. If anyone wants to meet up at the Walmart parking lot in Salem around 8:30 to convoy in, let Todd know by Thursday the 12th. Here is a link to Indian Trail CA

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/indian-trail-ca> North of Salem off of Highway 19.

**Main Entrance, Stay on Indian Trail 1014 until you come to a Y in the road, stay left onto Indian Trail 1030.** Indian Trail CA is very large with lots of roads and not marked well. If you have never been there, it would be a good idea to meet up with Todd in Salem and follow him.

## MDC Fly Fishing Workshops

### Reports by Herb

On 1 February Lou, Sam, and Herb of the Roubidoux Fly Fishers helped in the instruction 12 participants in the skills of fly casting. The casting course is the first of three MDC Discover Nature workshops managed by Dwight Warnke the Conservation Educator South District. The workshop took place at Bray Conservation Area in Rolla.



Instructional techniques from the International Federation of Fly Fishers Casting Program and “Fly Fishing A-Z” by Mark Van Patten. By the end of the day all participants were making great progress with their overhead and roll casts.

Saturday 8 February Todd and Herb assisted with an MDC Discover Nature workshop called “Match the Hatch”. This workshop was managed by Dwight Warnke the South District, Conservation Educator. The workshop is the second of three workshops focusing on fly fishing. The goal of this workshop was to help beginning fly fishermen figure out flies to improve their success on the water.



Missouri Stream Team Biologist Jenna Stiek added details about macro-invertebrates which added depth to the participants knowledge of the actual organisms that various flies mimic. All participants received many stream team handouts and a copy of “Fly Fishing A-Z” by Mark Van Patten as future references to be used on their local waters. Also, all participants worked on their casting skills at Meramec Spring Park.

Lou, Todd, Sam, and Herb were at Maramec Spring Park Saturday (15 February) working as primary and assistant instructors of an MDC Discover Nature workshop. The workshop was managed by Dwight Warnke (Conservation Educator South District) and was a fly tying workshop. Basic tying tools, materials, and techniques were covered. The main reference was Mark Van Patten’s “Fly Fishing A-Z”.



There were eight participants so there was a lot of one-on-one assistance. The group started with a Woolly Buzzer, then the American Pheasant Tail Nymph (a little more challenging than expected), the EZY Pheasant Tail Nymph, and finished off with a Peacock Soft Hackle.

Nineteen Phelps Health staff and family members turned out for the “Meet and Greet” 26 February. The Roubidoux Fly Fishers support the event with tying stations, a casting station, Jerry Cook had information about his shop, Sam highlighted his guide service, Dwight provided information on MDC upcoming events. Lou, Karen, and Todd ran the tying stations while Herb and Charlene networked the crowd.

The “Meet and Greet” resulted in a sign up seven (7) individuals that are interested in starting tying at Phelps Health. This is a wonderful opportunity for club grow and an additional night of tying for the club.



**Reports:**

## Fishing Report by Lou

Oktoberfisch – My annual Southern Migration to the Texas Hill Country. This last year I went without a kayak so the game was afoot to find some water that was wadeable with fish that haven't seen every fly in the known universe. OR beat my buddies to the river first!! Either way I was not disappointed in the quality or quantity of fish. Except for that pesky Guadalupe Bass – I think my largest of the trip was all of an 8" whopper – whereas my friends were catching some solid 15 – 17" fish. We fished mainly the North Llano since it was new water to us having been dry most the years we have been going there. My other two favorite freshwater fish of Texas, the Rio Grande cichlid and Redbreasted Sunfish did not disappoint. Catching both in the 9-10" they gave me a tussle on my 4wt. rod. Friends & fishing – that's what it's all about!!



## Report by Lou

### Streamer Lovfest 2020

I didn't know what to expect when I headed down to Dally's Streamer Lovfest in Cotter. I had been told it was like no other fly tying show I had ever been to and boy were they right!! If you like to tie streamers – both articulated and not; talk about tying streamers; watch people tie streamers; talk about streamer fishing - both articulated and not; talk about fishing for big brown trout; OR talk about fishing for BIG TOOTHY FISH like muskie Streamer Lovfest is where you need to go.



The anticipation was palatable at 5 o'clock when Dally's tried to close their doors so they could set up for the evening because no one wanted to leave! As soon as they got everybody out a line formed on the outside of the building – swag bags would be handed out and of course everyone wanted one. A strange thing happened though - as the line grew so did the camaraderie. We were all there for the same purpose – a celebration of big honking streamers. When the doors finally opened just after 6:00 everything was moved off the main floor and four tables with 2 chairs apiece were arranged in a square. The first round of tiers grabbed a seat and started tying one fly. Yes – one fly per tier would be put in a box and raffled off at the end of the evening. Once each tier was done with their fly they got up to let the next tier sit down. There was no taking 2 hours to tie a fly here – most were done in 20 minutes or so and the only slowdown was tiers heckling each other or by questions from the crowd.



Those of us on the outside of the tables could stay and watch one tier or walk around and pick up tips from as many of the tiers as we chose. At the end of the evening after all the tiers were done the drawings were held – certificates for food, Yeti coolers, beer (I think) and of course the box of flies. It was one of those “leave no fly behind” suit case type boxes that was chock a block full of some streamers from the best in the country. Sad to say I didn't win it but it sure was cool to be there!



I think the greatest thing about the evening was who we were doing this for – all proceeds went to The Mayfly Project, a non for profit that takes children in foster care and teaches them how to fly fish. From putting the rods together to tying on a fly to identifying bugs to learning about conservation they get to do it all. AND they get to keep the rod and reel outfit they used during the classes. Check them out at - <https://themayflyproject.com/>

Will I go back next year – heck YES!!

**River Conditions:** Water conditions are high and off color. Steams should begin to be normal and clearing in the next couple of weeks, provided we don't get any more heavy rain or a large amount of snow.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

This is the complete list of up-coming events:

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BE SMART - STAY SAFE We will get through this eventually.

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 17 March 2020 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).

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

### Discussion:

- Problems that have arose in starting a tying group at Phelps Health.
- Cancellation of Sow-bug Round Up at Mountain Home Arkansas, and Tri-Lakes Expo Clinton, MO.
- Possible move Tying to Bray CA if we limit group to 8; concern of close quarters at Jerry's. (watch emails no posting on Facebook if Bray is available).
- Habitat work at Towell Lake by MDC Fisheries.

**Program :** Lou Runnalls fly fishing the Texas Hill Country (Llano River).

Watch for announcements about meeting locations. Club activities are fluid at the moment based on the Governor's guidance for COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) and flooding of local rivers and streams.

The James Foundation closed the gates on Sunday March 22, 2020. To help slow the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and encourage people to stay home. All activities at Maramec Spring Park including fishing will be suspended until further notice.

### Reports:

#### Fishing Report by Herb

With the Governor's guidance for COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Herb and Charlene took the opportunity to fish at a little farm pond in Jerome. They each caught a few bass and blue gill. Charlene has been working hard at the fly tying bench and has completed 11 woolly buggers independently.

Herb

## **Report by Todd**

Hi folks,

I tried pulling pickerel out of chocolate milk last week with no real success.

Stay safe!

Todd

## **Fishing Report by Sam**

I am attempting to catch a trout from all nine of the blue ribbon streams in the state with one fly. A couple of weeks ago I fished five streams in one day and caught a trout on all five streams with the same fly. The whip finish on the fly was starting to fray by the end of the day, so I had to redo that, but the fly is still useable and I hope will be able to sustain for the last four streams.

## **Fishing Report by Sam**

Todd, Lou and Sam fished Blackwell lake yesterday. Sam arrived early and got a good start in the creek channel where the water was a little clearer than it was at the outlet. Lou and Todd arrived late morning and we discussed our plan of attack among many of the other current news items. Lou came up with the only Bass of the day at the boat launch while Todd and Sam were slaying the Brasenia. With the right presentation and proper location, we could get a hit almost every time. There were the occasional ones that we didn't get a good solid hook set in and they came off. But sometimes we were rewarded with some impressive ones. Todd had the catch of the day with one that was about 4 foot long.

**River Conditions:** Water conditions are still high, but have good color. Steams should be back to normal and clear by the end of the week. If you hadn't noticed Greer Spring was gushing out some record flows this week





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- May 5 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30 (watch for emails and FB for updates)  
March 19 Monthly meeting 2019 American Legion Post 331, 484 St Robert Outer Rd, St Robert, MO 6:30

BE SMART - STAY SAFE We will get through this eventually.

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 21 April 2020 at Marguerite *Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.*

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM, quorum was established (6 members present).

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

### Discussion:

- Due to the COVID-19 orders by the Governor and national guidelines much of the RFFA activities will be modified until further notice. Bray Conservation area continues to be a site that supports the needs of the club and will be used as needed.
- Tying as a group activity has proved a challenge. If the Governor's changes on the 4<sup>th</sup> are less restrictive the club will be tying at J Cook's in St. James. However, if there are still distancing restrictions the club will forgo tying again in May. Continue to check Facebook and e-mails often for the latest updates.
- The May meeting is usually a cookout at the Waynesville City Park near the Roubidoux. This year the cookout will be at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area because of the high number of COVID-19 positives in Pulaski County and the unknown status of the city park. RFFA will be providing fried chicken. As always bring a covered side dish. We will eat at 6:30 PM but come early around 5:00 PM and fish. If you are attending the cookout please let Herb @573-774-1731 or Lou @ 573-855-3390 by 18 May so we have a good head count.

**Program :** Fishing at the Marguerite *Bray Conservation Area Pond and show and tell " Cyclone Dubbing Brush Tool"*

**Watch for announcements about meeting locations. Club activities are fluid at the moment based on the Governor's guidance for COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus).**

### Calendar

- **5 May Tying** @ J Cook's St. James unless conditions warrant then the RFFA will fish at Marguerite *Bray Conservation Area. Watch for updates.*
- **19 May RFFA Annual Cookout** @ Marguerite *Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO. RSVP Herb or Lou by 18 May.*

**Email addressed to RFFA:**

**Just a note before you read the email,** Fellow Fly Flingers, this is not a scam. The book is available at Amazon. I ordered my book the day I received the email and I also requested that it be available on kindle. Sam

**Name:**

Rik Hafer

**Email:**

[cgrhafer@aol.com](mailto:cgrhafer@aol.com)

**Message:**

April 26, 2020

I am writing to you with two questions. But first, some background.

I recently published a book titled "From Northern California to the Ozarks of Missouri: How Rainbow Trout Came to the Show-Me State." It is available at Amazon books.(The link is [https://www.amazon.com/Northern-California-Ozarks-Missouri-Rainbow/dp/B08762VLKV/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=rik+w+hafer&qid=1587915838&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Northern-California-Ozarks-Missouri-Rainbow/dp/B08762VLKV/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=rik+w+hafer&qid=1587915838&s=books&sr=1-1))

My book is not a "how to" nor a "where to find trout" kind of book. Instead, it covers the late 1800s when federal and state fish commissions were carrying out sometimes bizarre experiments to introduce, among others, cold-water fish—salmon and trout—across the country. This included Missouri: Yes, salmon were planted in Missouri streams. The book also provides detailed information—which stream and when—about stockings that were made in Missouri, at least up to 1900.

I do not have a publishing company behind me, so I am personally contacting interested parties.

My first question is whether we could arrange an opportunity for me to make a presentation to your group. Given current restrictions, perhaps you could keep me in mind for meetings later in the summer or fall?

My second question is to see if it would be possible for you to include a notice about my book in an upcoming newsletter. Like many other anglers, I am stuck at home and unable to go fishing as often as I would like. My book may be a welcome substitute for those unable to get on the water. Plus, with Mother's Day and Father's Day around the corner, my book would make a nice gift for the fly fisher in the family.

I'd appreciate hearing from you about either or both of the above. You can reach me by email at [cgrhafer@aol.com](mailto:cgrhafer@aol.com), or by phone at (314) 541-3959.

Regards,

Rik Hafer

**Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report****Report by Lou**

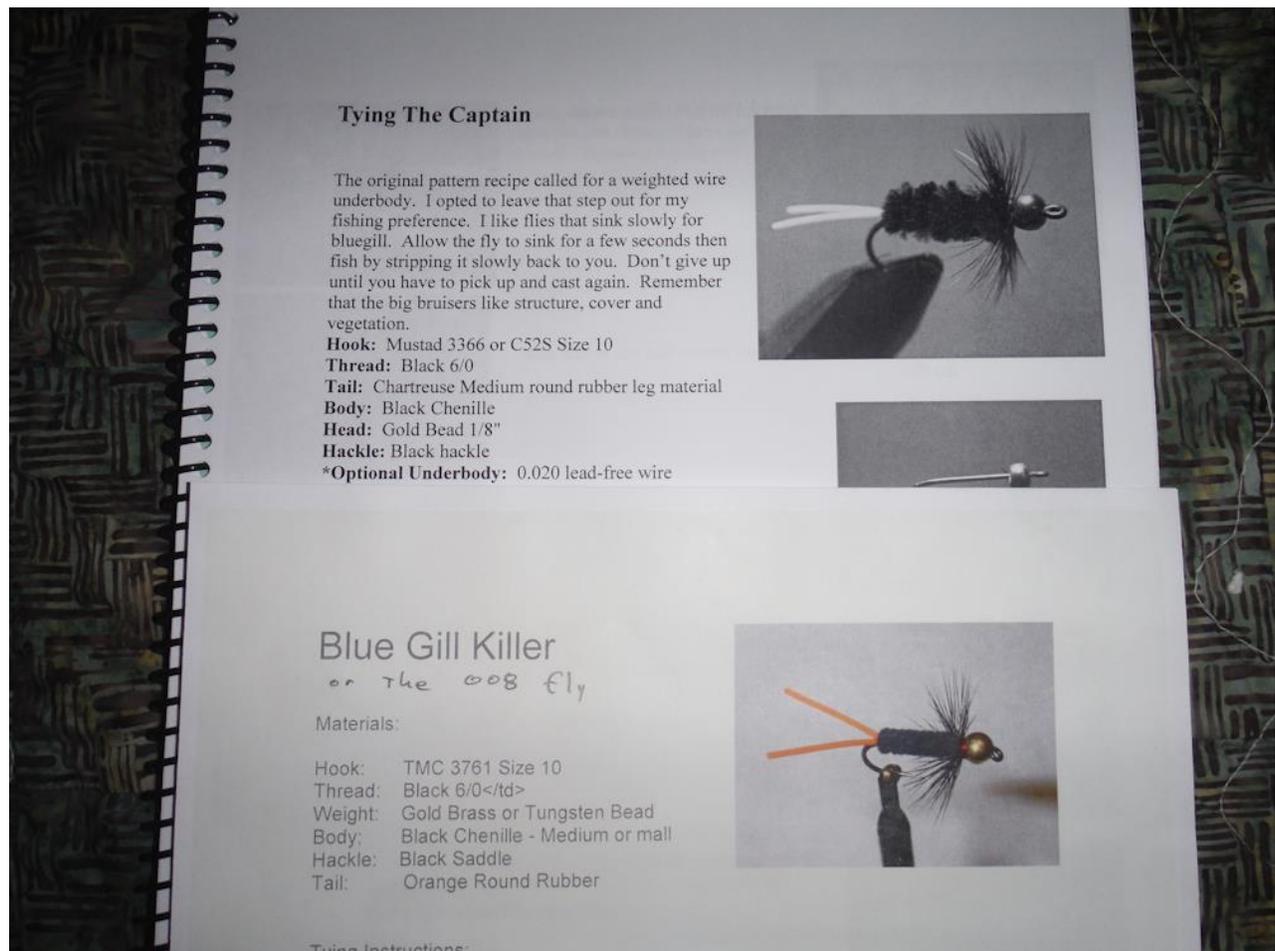
What's in the name of my Secret Fly? Let me tell you the story of this wonderful creation. Many moons ago I was fishing with Bill, a fellow RFFAer at Bennet Springs State Park. Bill was catching fish right and left while I was doing no more than on the water casting practice. I hollered over to Bill to find out the fly de jour. His reply was "The Secret Fly." I grumbled a little under my breath and changed flies.

As Bill continued to catch fish and I kept coming up with a large goose egg I inquired again what fly he was using. Again the answer "The Secret Fly" came back across the water. Grumbling even louder and longer, I changed flies for the umpteenth time.

Bill continued to catch fish and my goose egg had grown to the size of an ostrich egg. Once again I inquired about the name of the fly that I was sure would change my luck. Again the answer was "The Secret Fly". This time I did not grumble one bit, just began to reel up my fly line so I wouldn't get tangled in it as I headed over to push Bill in. Laughing Bill told me the story of this new to me fly. While down at T. Hargroves Fly Shop in St Louis the boys were sitting around tying this simple fly. They couldn't seem to remember the name of it so called it the Secret Fly.

Fast forward a few years to a MO Stream Team gathering at Meramec Park. Boot was telling Mark about this great fly for bluegill and trout. Well of course Mark needed to see one. Low and behold, he had copied that fly from a Captain out on Ft Leonard Wood. The Captain didn't want the fly named after him so it's original name was taken from his rank at the time, and thus was born The Captain (Mark of course had made a few modification from the original and gave it the name too.)

Fast forward many years to this past January at the Oklahoma Fly Fishers Fly Tying Extravaganza. Low and behold I was sitting there tying a few Secret Flies not 2 tables down was Larry's wife tying the same fly. Only she had some instructions printed off the T Hargrove website. They call their version the Blue Gill Killer, with but only a few differences between it and Mark's The Captain.



So will I change the name of the fly I have come to know and love and even teach to others? HELL NO!!  
After all a Secret Fly is a Secret Fly no matter what anyone else calls it!!!

**Lou:**

## Report by Lou:

Our meeting was called to order by Mr L. Bass around 4 o'clock. A motion was made to only bite flies of a certain size and color. Mz. Bluegill objected claiming the action or lack there of was more important than size and/or color. A fight ensued causing the larger bass to return to their beds on the north side of the lake while the smaller bass and bluegill chose to rove around trying to figure out the difference between a real bug and one of ours. Luckily everyone in attendance was able to fool at least a few of them.

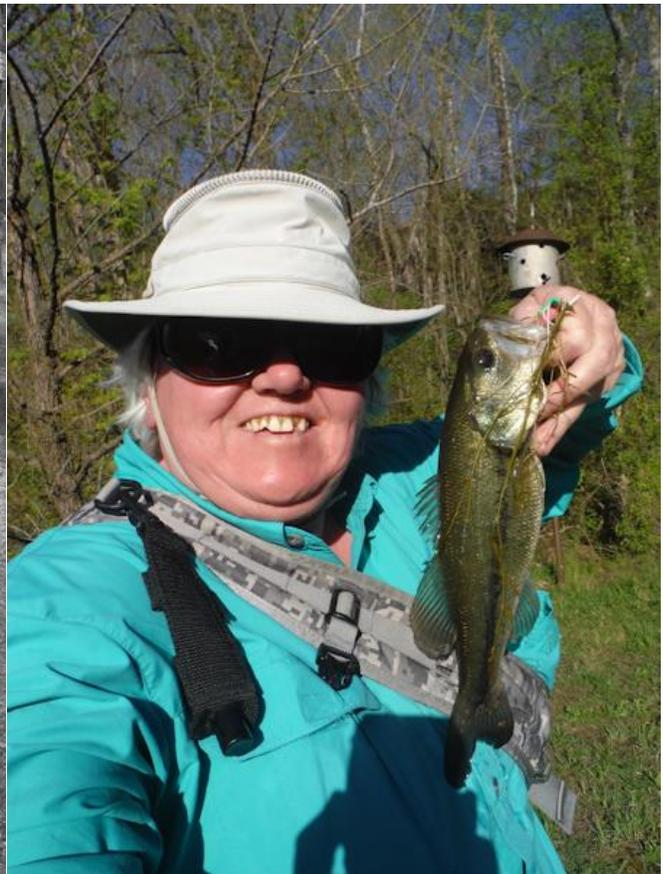
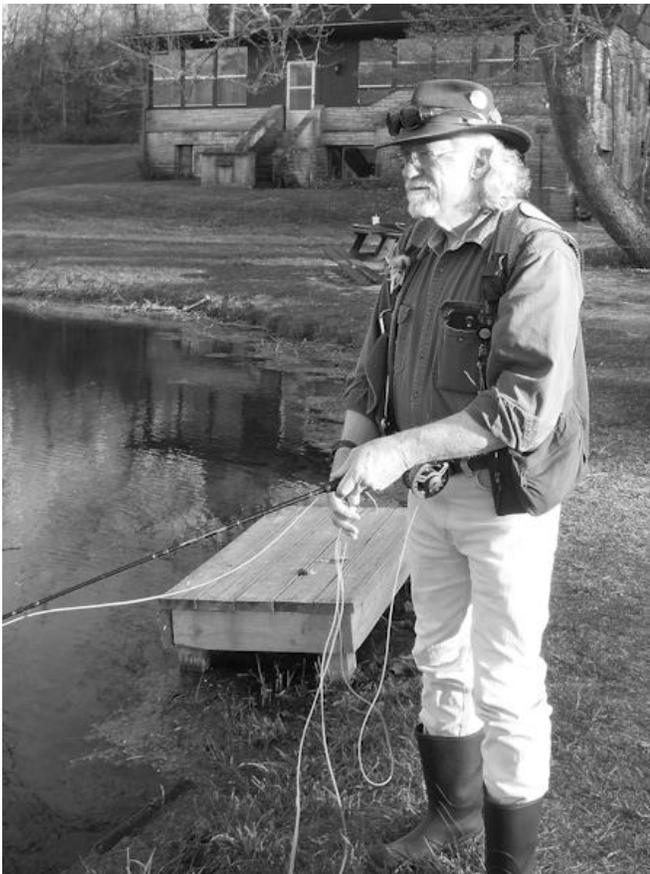
Chris, Todd, Don, Herb, Jerry and myself, arrived at various times and threw a plethora of flies. The fish were mostly cooperative, but a few would just look at the flies, follow them then turn away at the last minute. One bass would even let Herb drag his fly right through it's bed and nope nada nothing.

We did fuss and discuss on our tying night at J. Cook's on the 5th of May. We decided to hold it as usual but everyone needs to decide for themselves whether they want to attend since there is no way to practice social distancing across a 2' table. Also Herb found a dubbing table to make brushes we are going to give a test run.

Our meeting on May 19 is usually a picnic in Waynesville City Park. We have decided to move it to Bray CA and instead of cooking burgers and/or brats we'll have chicken from a local eatery (rumor says Cookin' from Scratch in Doolittle!!). All members wishing to attend need to RSVP to Lou no later than 12 May with how many your bringing and what your bringing. Herb has desert covered with a fruit pie. The club will provide plates, silverware, napkins, and hand sanitizer. Members need to bring a side dish and beverage.

Here are a few pictures from our April "meeting" at Bray. Todd, Herb, Don, Chris, Jerry and myself were there. Didn't get as many pictures as usual because I needed to fish first!!





### **Report by Herb**

On 7 April four members fished at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO. This was not our usual first Tuesday of the month event. Due to the COVID-19 situation and guidance by the Governor on social distancing the club requested through a special use permit the pond at Bray. The Rolla MDC office has been very supportive of the club during these difficult times. Todd, Lou, Don, and Herb had a great time pursuing bluegill and bass. The temperature had dropped on Tuesday after two very warm April days but that did not inhibit the groups luck. Everyone commented that this was a very needed break from being quarantined. Todd caught the first bass of the evening and bluegill were caught on anything that had legs. We may have not been able to tie flies as a group this month, but fishing always trumps other activities.





**River Conditions:** streams are high and some streams are closed this morning. Steams should be back to normal and clearing by the end of next week. This is a bad time for extremely high water during the smallmouth bass spawn. Trout numbers are down because MDC is not stocking the rivers or the parks. Any time you can go fishing is always a good day, but don't expect a lot of activity at the end of your line.



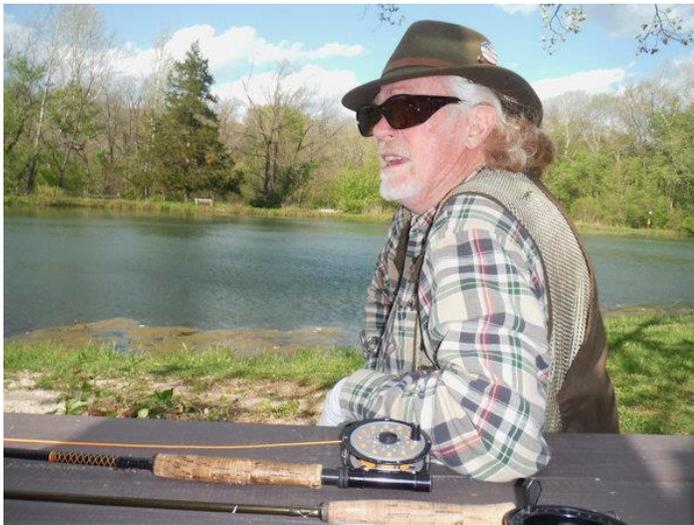


## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

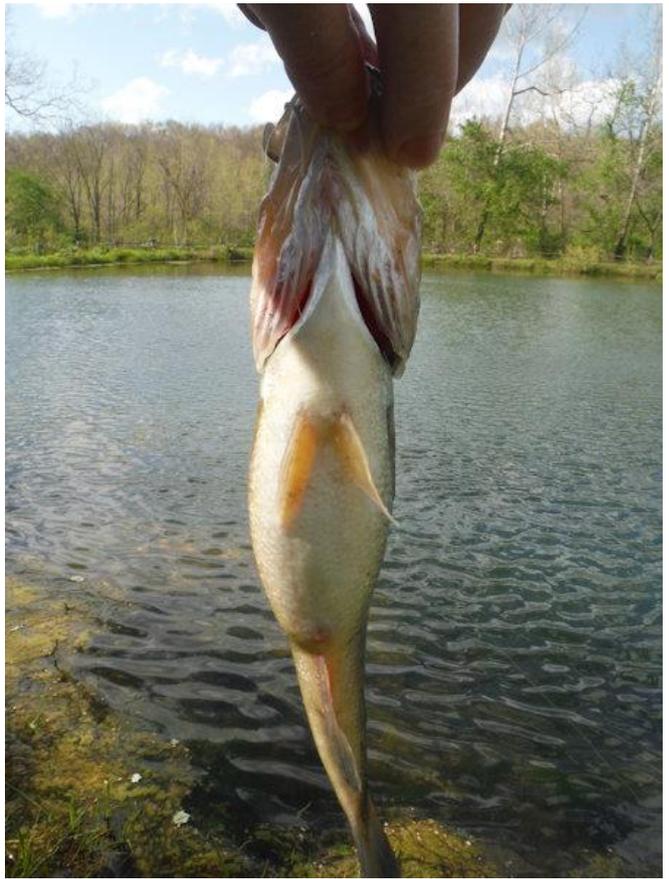
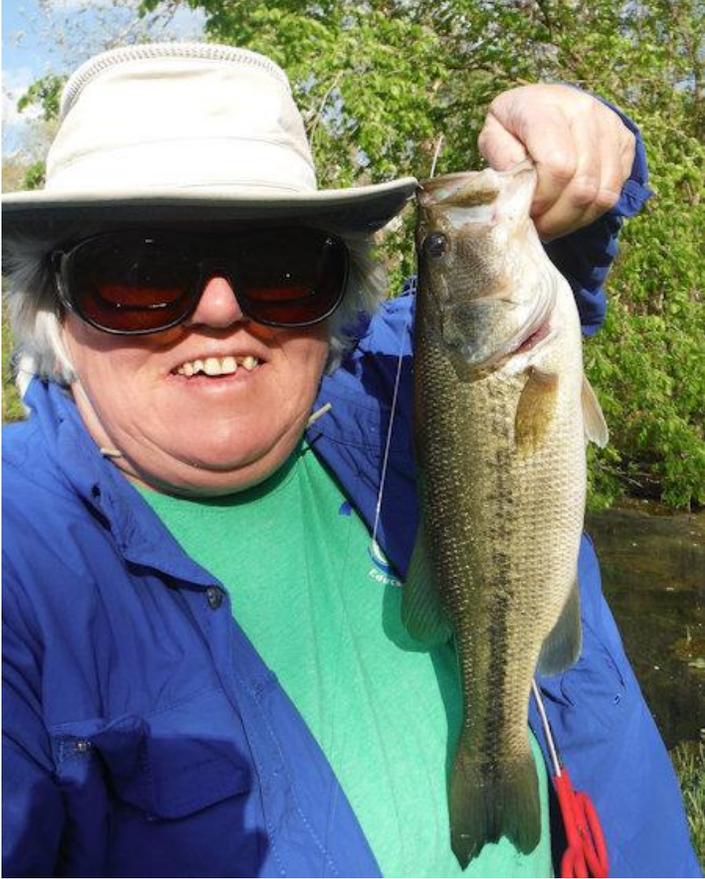
- June 2 Ty flies and tell lies at J Cook Fly Shop in St. James 6:30 (watch for emails and FB for updates)
- June 16 Monthly meeting Marguerite *Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO*

BE SMART - STAY SAFE We will get through this eventually.

Photos taken at the May meeting/ cookout









**River Conditions:** streams are very good now with excellent flows. Bug activity is very good now and terrestrial fishing will only get better. The streams that contained trout in the winter but get too warm in the summer will soon force the trout to find cooler water to survive. This includes springs and spring seeps and lots of shade with highly oxygenated water.





### Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- **7 July Tying @ J Cook's St. James** unless conditions warrant then the RFFA will fish at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area. **Watch for updates.**
- **21 July Monthly Meeting @ Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.**

### Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 16 June 2020 at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO. Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM, quorum was not established (4 members present) and 2 guest). No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

#### Discussion:

- Due to the COVID-19 orders by the Governor and national guidelines much of the RFFA activities will be modified until further notice. Bray Conservation area continues to be a site that supports the needs of the club and will be used as the regular business meeting site.
- Presently tying will continue at J Cook's in St. James. Continue to check Facebook and e-mails often for the latest updates.



**Program :** Fishing at the Marguerite Bray Conservation Area Pond and Todd present method of attachment when tying articulated streamers. Todd should various method and materials that are useful in building articulated flies. He demonstrated some handy tools that make the process easier. We then went out to the Bray pond to demonstrate casting the very light fly. Thanks Todd for a wonderful presentation.



Augy Knickmeyer visited with the membership and shared his guiding adventures in eastern Missouri. Great stuff.





## Calendar

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### Report from Sam

This is an excellent time for us to express our desire to suggest changes to regulations. I made a suggestion to change the Blue Ribbon Trout Areas into a single barbless hook to help reduce infectious mortality by barbed treble hooks and barbs on single hooks. Artificial lures can be used but the treble hooks need to be replaced by a single barbless hook.

**Subject:** MDC invites comments on Wildlife Code regulations

## MDC invites comments on Wildlife Code regulations

*Comment on MDC regulations during July and August online at [short.mdc.mo.gov/Zia](https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zia).*

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** -- The Missouri General Assembly requires each state agency to thoroughly review its rules and regulations every five years. In compliance with the Missouri General Assembly's ongoing review requirements, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites the public to comment on existing *Wildlife Code of Missouri* regulations during July and August online at [short.mdc.mo.gov/Zia](https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zia).

Learn more about the *Wildlife Code* and the MDC rule-making process at [mdc.mo.gov/about-us/about-regulations/wildlife-code-missouri](https://mdc.mo.gov/about-us/about-regulations/wildlife-code-missouri).

The Missouri Secretary of State publishes a list of agencies due to conduct their annual rule reviews in the July 1 edition of the *Missouri Register* each year. Learn more at [sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg/2020](https://sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg/2020).

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*MDC invites the public to comment on rules and regulations of the Wildlife Code of Missouri during July and August online at [short.mdc.mo.gov/Zia](https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zia).*

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***Find this and other MDC media releases in our [MDC online Newsroom](#).***

**River Conditions:** streams are very good now with excellent flows. Bug activity is very good now and terrestrial fishing will only get better. The streams that contained trout in the winter but get too warm in the summer will soon force the trout to find cooler water to survive. This includes springs and spring seeps and lots of shade with highly oxygenated water.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

### 4 August Tying

### 18 August Monthly Meeting

### Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 21 July 2020 at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.

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

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

#### Discussion:

- Freeze Your Trout OFF (FYTO). We will still be holding the annual FYTO event at Bennett Springs in November. Preliminary planning is for us to fish but lunch will mostly likely be bring your own instead of the Chili cooking and covered dish. Due to concerns and the COVID-19 orders that is the plan. However, keep up with our Facebook posts and email notices for this could all change by November.
- Lou will have the program in August.
- Due to the COVID-19 orders by the Governor and national guidelines much of the RFFA activities will be modified until further notice. Bray Conservation area continues to be a site that supports the needs of the club and will be used as the regular business meeting site.
- Presently tying will continue at J Cook's in St. James. Continue to check Facebook and e-mails often for the latest updates.
- Fishing before meetings will continue as long as we are meeting at Bray.

#### Calendar

- **4 August Tying** @ J Cook's St. James unless conditions warrant then the RFFA will fish at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area. **Watch for updates.**
- **18 August Monthly Meeting** @ Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.

#### Report from Sam

The smallmouth bite is very good right now. Early and Late and night fishing are the best times for top water. During the heat of the day we have been throwing streamers with sink tips. Look for structure and shade and there will usually be something to take your fly.

**River Conditions:** Streams are very good now with excellent flows. Bug activity is very good and terrestrial fishing is very good.





## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 18 August 2020 at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.  
Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM, quorum was established (5 members present and 1 guest).  
No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

### Discussion:

- Due to the COVID-19 orders by the Governor and national guidelines much of the RFFA activities will be modified until further notice. Bray Conservation area continues to be a site that supports the needs of the club and will be used as the regular business meeting site.
- Presently tying will continue at J Cook's in St. James. Continue to check Facebook and e-mails often for the latest updates.
- Freeze Your Trout Off (FYTO) is still in the works for November and at present should look like FYTO in the past. Members will bring cover dishes for lunch and we will be at Bennett Springs for fishing. The current plan is to meet near the spring.
- Karen May will be providing a pass around bamboo fly rod to all that want to participate in the pass around activity.
- Sam Potter is finishing up six (6) club rods and should be available soon.
- Discussion of possible partnership with MDC this winter for fly fishing and tying activities.

### Popper Time



Lou might have enough poppers to last a week or two. Prettiest fish in Missouri is very cooperative and often saves the day from getting skunked. Not sure if they are extremely brave, aggressive or lack discrimination.

**Program :** Fishing at the Marguerite Bray Conservation Area Pond and Lou presented construction methods of poppers. Lou showed the various materials and kits that she has used over time for the construction of poppers. She discussed some handy steps to improve the look and lengthen the life of poppers.



## Calendar

- **1 September Tying @ J Cook's St. James** unless conditions warrant then the RFFA will fish at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area. **Watch for updates.**
- **15 September Monthly Meeting @ Marguerite Bray Conservation Area** 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.
- **2-3 October Branson Tying Event @ Branson Lions Club Park**



Sam Completed the Missouri Blue Ribbon Trout Slam with one fly in five days. The last four days were separated by high water and too many client trips. The original quest was to complete the slam in three days. It's a good thing size wasn't a factor because five of them were dinks.

**River Conditions:** Streams conditions are getting lower but are still good now compared to years past.

Bug activity is very good and terrestrial fishing is very good.

The smallmouth bite is still good. Early and Late and night fishing are still the best times for top water. During the heat of the day get down with sink tips. Look for structure and shade and there will usually be something to take your fly.





## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 15 September 2020 at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.  
Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM, quorum was not established (3 members present).  
No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

### Discussion:

- Due to the COVID-19 orders by the Governor and national guidelines much of the RFFA activities will be modified until further notice. Bray Conservation area continues to be a site that supports the needs of the club and will be used as the regular business meeting site.
- Presently tying will continue at J Cook's in St. James. Continue to check Facebook and e-mails often for the latest updates.
- Freeze Your Trout Off (FYTO) is still in the works for November and at present should look like FYTO in the past. Members will bring cover dishes for lunch and we will be at Bennett Springs for fishing. The current plan is to meet near the spring.
- Discussion of possible partnership with MDC this winter for fly fishing and tying activities.
- Welcome new member Morgan Bearden.

### Calendar

- **6 October Tying @ J Cook's St. James** unless conditions warrant then the RFFA will fish at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area. **Watch for updates.**
- **20 October Monthly Meeting @ Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.**
- **2-3 October Branson Tying Event @ Branson Lions Club Park**

Lou and Sam fished the Roubidoux one afternoon earlier this month and actually caught a few trout. Sam showed Lou the extra fast 5 weight rod he had built and let her cast it a bit, then it was on to the fishing. There were goggle eye and sunfish cooperating and if I remember one smallmouth prior to finding the trout.



Lou on the Doux



Most colorful fish we have in Missouri

### **Fishing Report Sam**

You would think that after a few decades of throwing flies there wouldn't be any firsts that would happen. But there is always the potential no matter how many times we take to the water. That is one of the joys of flyfishing various waters for various species.

On a recent fishing trip to the Big Piney for smallmouth I added a First to my long list of species that I have caught. The take was solid and then I saw a silver flash as the fish turned and headed down stream. I immediately thought trout but convinced myself that it must be a shad. It fought harder than any shad I have ever caught but guessed it could just be one with a little more get up and go. As I slid the fish to me, I realized that if this was a Shad, I didn't recognize it. Walking it over to the gravel bar I took photos and measured it, and as I was reviving it decided that it must be in the shad family. Skipjack like minnows and fast water



Skipjack

### **Fishing Report Sam**

Fishing a local creek for smallmouth last week I was walking back after a successful afternoon and decided to cut through a little bottom land to shorten the walk. The trail ran parallel to a large pond/small lake depending on your interpretation of each. I noticed movement on the surface near the bank. I eased over quietly and saw that they were fish sucking on the surface. Having seen this before I knew they were carp. I changed my fly and with the brush and trees as thick as it was I was only able to poke my rod through an opening and dangle my fly about 3 feet off the end of my rod and wait. It only took a couple of minutes before one worked its way toward me. I dropped the fly inches in front of it and it turned and took immediately. It was the only fish I caught all day that actually pulled hard enough to take line and that included a couple of 16 inch smallies.



About a 2 pound Grass Carp.

With temperatures cooling off it is a good idea to remember that those crawly critters are looking for places to stay warm. Stones, roads that are paved or gravel, opened garages or anywhere they can take advantage of the sun warming the ground.



### **River Conditions:**

Streams conditions are getting a bit lower and clear but are still good now compared to years past. The flow this year has been excellent although in the past couple of weeks or so I have had to walk the drifter through the low spots a lot more often.

Terrestrial fishing is still good but winding down as the temps also begin to slide down. I had a Japanese Beetle land on me a couple of days ago while fishing a local stream, which is very strange. I have never seen them this late in the year.

The fall caddis hatches are in full swing if you are in the right place at the right time.

The smallmouth bite has been excellent this month, but they are beginning to transition to winter holes and will be scattered, so finding them can get a little tricky.





## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

First and foremost, I apologize for getting this newsletter out to you at this late date. I have been out of state on a fishing trip. This will be a short newsletter with little info to share as I have not received any information or stories from members to share with everyone else.

### Calendar

- **21 November Monthly Meeting** will be @ **Bennet Spring State Park**. We will meet at the spring around noon. Those of you planning to attend need to contact Herb to let him know what food items you are bringing to share.

### Fishing Report Sam

Fishing for migrating fish can be extremely rewarding and extremely frustrating. The key is to be on the water in the right location when there are good numbers to be caught. Get it right and the reward is tremendous get it wrong and it can lead to some long nonproductive days. A week and half ago the Steelhead and Coho Salmon were all over the river that I fish in Michigan. This past week the river dropped several hundred CFS and cleared. The migrators were gone. Yes a few remained, but the numbers were severely depleted.

Day One: Temperature 27 degrees in the morning the guides were freezing up, water temp was 41 color gin clear, skies were cloudy, which is a good thing, but it still didn't make a difference to our success. I had a total of 1 hook up from sunup to sundown. My partner had 0 hookups. Fish in the boat 0. Number of casts made, too many. Number of other boats fishing the same water we were fishing, way too many. We decided to finish the float early row it out and walk-in to another area in the afternoon. It didn't make any difference.



Day Two: Our day started out just like the first day 27 degrees but warming in the afternoon and turning into a blue bird day. The night before we decided to do a long float, 9 miles to be exact, to try to find fish. I suggested that we concentrate on deep north facing holes because of the clarity of the water. As my partner rowed the drifter I stood and watched for fish wherever I could see the bottom. Some holes were far too deep 8+ feet and

too fast to see the bottom clearly. Some holes were too deep and shaded to see the bottom. This system has worked in the past for us. When I would see Steelhead, we would pull over and fish them. Or we would find Coho salmon spawning and fish the holes downstream from them. Unfortunately, on this drift I was not seeing anything but small trout. We did find a few Coho spawning, but no Steelhead feeding below. As we came to north facing water with depth we pulled over and fished them. The result was better, but still not good. I hooked up 3 times and landed one nice hen. My partner hooked up 4 times and landed 2 of them. Not even close to the number of Steelhead we have found in past years.



This is about a nine pound female starting to color up so she had been in the river at least a couple weeks. All the steelhead we caught had color. We didn't hook any Chromed fish fresh out of the lake on this trip.

### Day Three:

Having limited success on day two, but success none the less we decided to do the long float again. Temps started out in the low 30s but warmed to 60 by 4 PM. Clear blue skies warranted fishing the deep shaded north facing holes once again. Our day was about the same as day two. I went 1 for 3 and my partner was 2-4 with another nice hen. I did however hook my first spawning colored male Coho on day three. I caught some Coho salmon several years ago on the Platte River in Northern Michigan, but they were not in spawning colors. They were all silver fresh out of the lake. I have always wanted a photo of a male Coho in spawning colors but until this day it has eluded me. They do not eat much when they enter the river to spawn, but they will on occasion hit a spoon or spinner or fly. I'm not sure why, but they do. Chinooks, (King Salmon) will hit if they are annoyed enough and usually if they are fresh out of the lake. I learned how to catch them a long time ago from a older gentleman that showed me how to tease a dominate male into striking.



Not as big as Kings, especially this little guy that I caught, but still colorful.

#### Day Four:

Still trying to find more Steelhead than we had found on day two and three, we decided to move further up the river in hopes of increasing our opportunities. I didn't happen. Very warm temps, extremely clear water and bright sunshine with lower water in the stretch we fished made conditions worse. My partner hooked and landed one really nice fish and my only fishing reward came at the very end of the day when I was winding in my line quickly with the rod tip pointed straight to the line when I was cut off by either a Steelhead or a Pike. That was it. I didn't have another fish on my line all day except for several rainbows and browns. Probably 20-30 of those little guys, but not much fun on a steelhead rod. It was new water for me to see and fish and for that I was thankful because it was beautiful water, but better suited for small trout than big steelhead.



**River Conditions:**

Stream conditions are, as far as I know, the same as they were when I left. Clear





## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

### Calendar

- **21 November Monthly Meeting** that was to be held @ **Bennet Spring State Park**. Has been moved to this Saturday, **DECEMBER 5**. We will meet at the spring around noon. Those of you planning to attend need to contact Herb to let him know what food items you are bringing to share.

We all lost a good friend this week in Jerry Cook.  
The following information was sent to us by Herb:

All,  
Here is the specifics on the arrangements. It is all private and family only.

Monday December 7 9-10 AM  
Private Visitation  
Newcomer Cremations, Funerals & Receptions  
837 Mid Rivers Mall Dr  
St Peters, MO 63376  
636-875-1200,

Private Service  
Jefferson Barracks

<https://www.newcomerstlouis.com/Obituary/192207/Gerald-Cook/St-Louis>

Herb

### **CAUTION**

Water temps in the rivers will begin to get down to the lower 40s in December, except for the spring creeks. Be careful wading in the winter. Getting wet can become dangerous. Stay away from cotton clothing, it soaks up water like a sponge.

### **Fishing Report Lou**

PC's Secret Spot

Sometimes it truly is who you know, not what you know. Take for interest the simple fact of secret fishing spots. Call them what you will – Stream X, Y or Z, Pond Notgoingtotellyouinamillionyears or whatever. They are held in deep reverence by the knower and it is both an honor and a privilege to be invited to one. Combine that with the exclusiveness of it being on private water and it can become a fly fishers Shangri-La (which has become synonymous with any earthly paradise, particularly a mythical Himalayan utopia – a permanently happy land, isolated from the world).



Notice anything different about Lou's hat?

PC has one of those. She can go anytime as long as well, sounds funny but as long as the owner's are not there. And sometimes she can invite others along.....when the owner's are not there. These ponds hold some mighty fine bass but more importantly copper nose bluegill. Of the gargantuan size. Sigh. When I grow up I want a pond just like that!!



Boy if these guys would get up to the 5lb range they would be a handful



Lou's copper nose Bluegill

### **Fishing Report Sam**

About the middle of November my clients for the day had to leave early so I decided to fish a couple more hours before heading home. (My clients and I are traveling in separate vehicles these days to our fishing destination) Anyway I went back to an area we had fished earlier in the day and caught a couple just before this one took my fly. It weighed 4 ½ pounds on the Boga Grip.



### **River Conditions:**

Stream conditions have dropped and are still a little off color in the creeks but cloudy in the rivers. Fishing continues to be good and will remain so as long as the streams stay at their current levels and color.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

I'm not sure if we will or if we won't have fly tying or a meeting, but if we do, they will occur on the following days in January: Watch for emails, phone calls, FB or smoke signals

January 05 Fly Tying 6:30 location TBA  
January 19 Monthly Meeting 6:30 location TBA

## Freeze Your Trout Off (November Meeting)

For the first time that I can remember we had to move our annual November meeting FYTO to December. It was a little cool in the morning but warmed up nicely and we had an excellent fall day for the event.



We had more than enough excellent food for our outing



Herb's Stew and or Karen's Chili combined with Todd's cornbread...hmmmmmm. A little slice of apple pie for desert and I was ready for a nap.



### Fishing Report from Lou

Todd and I went fishing at Montauk on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> and I was running late, as usual, when Todd texted there were a lot of people in the park. Well, the parking lot was almost full when I got there, and I got dressed with a bit of trepidation - I don't care for crowds while fishing. Something was afoot though because as I made my way down to the creek there were only a few fishermen. And the only one on the rearing pool branch was Todd. And then it became clear - the warm weather had brought people out to actually hike the trails and not just fish. And we saw the fattest corgi ever but that's another story!!



The fish seemed to like this crazy pink thing Todd tied. Part streamer, part jig, part who knows what else once it sunk to the bottom where the fish were hanging out it got a lot of hits, near misses and the worst - looky lou's.



Once the sun got up though - the fish moved higher up in the water column and something lighter was needed. I went to my favorite - a green Crackleback and did well - at least in stinging the fish. My timing was way off and I missed more than a brought to hand - best guess at least a 5 to one ratio!

Todd was doing much better Czech nymphing a wooly bugger that the trout wound up shredding.

Over all a very nice day chasing our finny friends!!

Todd added a note: "I had at least 3 takes on the swivel in my Czech nymph leader! Time for a swivel fly"

### **River Conditions:**

Stream conditions are clear with average flows for this time of the year. Some strains of rainbows we have in Missouri will spawn in December (notice the spawning redd photo above that Lou took) and some of them will spawn in late November. I have seen redds in January and as late as early February. In Montauk Park the area below the handicap ramp at the campground is closed during the winter catch and release season, that section has always been a spawning area.

