



## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- February 02 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area. Theme will be streamers and flies for Chain Pickerel; BRING YOUR OWN LIGHT!!
- February 07 Club Outing to Montauk
- February 16 Monthly Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area. Chain Pickerel Presentation by Todd & Lou

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 16 January 2021 at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM, quorum was not established (5 members present).

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

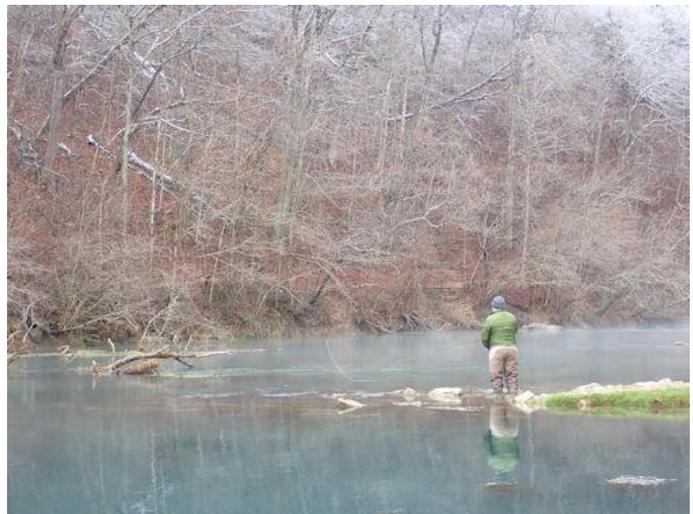
**Discussion: Calendar:**

## Fishing Report from Lou

Photos from a recent outing to Maramec Park



Todd with a rainbow at high bank pool #1



Todd fishing Jetty #2



unidentified gorgeous Mayfly



Karen with a bow at the Plunge Pool



I got this idea from Todd for curing UV if you aren't in a rush for a finished product. I sit them on a windowsill and "foget about it". Todd sits them on the dash of his car.

## **Fishing Report from Sam**

It's no secret that I like to fish for smallmouth. Last week I hit it just before the flood warnings came out and there wasn't another fisherman around all day. It was a little cold and spitting rain, but I like those conditions. Maybe its tempered from my love of steelhead where the bite always seems better for them in harsh conditions. Anyway, it was an excellent fishing day with some nice size and good numbers.

These two were my largest fish of the day. When taking photos of fish, make sure the surface is wet.



### **River Conditions:**

Report from Mark Van Patten

Sam, the Current is up slightly and off color a bit. This is a great time to fish a streamer like a Thunder Creek or a Clouser. My preferred streamer when the water is like this is a black #6 Woollybuggar. However we are going to get some rain today so there is a chance the river could close for a day or two within the boundaries of the ONSR. Be sure to check before venturing out.

Take care my friend. I hope to see you on the river this year.

Mark

Mark Van Patten  
Feather Cutter Farm LLC

Stream conditions in this area are high and some are very high (Gasconade) and will be difficult to fish for a week or so. Water is off color and should be good for streamer fishing. As the snow melts with this rain, runoff will cloudy the water a little more so expect another rise over the weekend.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- March 02 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area. Theme will be streamers and flies for Chain Pickerel; BRING YOUR OWN LIGHT!!
- March 16 Monthly Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area. Cleaning Gear Rods & Lines specifically. Some equipment will be provided - buckets with soapy water, wet rags, micro clothes, line winder (Thanks Herb!) Agent X line dressing. We will set up two stations - rod cleaning and line cleaning.

ALSO in March we will try to have an outing for Chain Pickerel to either Simms Valley or Blackwell Lakes - flotation is highly encouraged. Watch for emails. Todd has threatened to fish for toothy critters every weekend this month.

## Report from Sam

Things were so clod and bleak this past month that I was thinking of cutting a hole in the ice. I made some calls to find out if anyone was doing any ice fishing and received one positive reply. I was informed that the ice wasn't thick enough to be safe. The person that had actually cut a hole and caught some bluegill told me the ice was cracking under his weight, but he was only fishing in about 5 feet of water so wasn't concerned about drowning. He didn't mention anything about hypothermia or how he planned to escape the freezing hole. I decided it wasn't worth the risk. I have an ice auger that has sat in my shed for about 15 years without getting a single crank of the handle. I suppose my ice fishing days here in southcentral Missouri have come to an end if the extreme cold we had this month wasn't sufficient enough to create ice thick enough to be safe.

Does anyone want to buy an ice auger? I'll throw in the ice ladle for free.

Last week I had good luck fishing the tiny black caddis emerger in the evening. Prior to that I was fishing woollies and trying out various streamer patterns I had been working on. I don't have a reason for tying new patterns, I guess it's the same reason other fishermen do it. We convince ourselves that there must be a better fly that has yet to be made, or maybe we just like to experiment and have fun trying new things. I ty and use flies that I first started with when I was 17. They make up the majority of the trout flies I fish. I don't need any more flies I probably have two or three thousand. But I still sit at the tying table and ty more than my grandkids will ever be able to use.

Flies that have caught fish for a hundred years still fool them. Fish aren't smart, don't live long, a new batch of inexperienced ones come along every year and there are always those extremely naive stockers. You would think with better technology like thinner lines, chemically sharpened hooks and better rods we should be hauling them in left and right. In my experience it isn't the arrow and it definitely isn't the value of the arrow, or how pretty it is, it's the archer. The only way an archer improves his craft is with practice and we as fishermen need to practice as well if we expect to be proficient in the sport that we have chosen. Watching videos of how to doesn't replace actual time on the water with a rod in your hand.

I recently had an experienced client that was having a devil of a time getting his fly to go where he wanted it. I repeatedly reminded him of waiting for the load. Then I finally told him that the rod didn't suit his casting stroke and suggested he sell it or give it away. We fished the day out and eventually by days end he was making some decent casts. This wasn't a guy that just fished a few times a year. He has fished all of his adult life, takes several fishing trips a year including Alaska Rainbows and Bahama Bonefish. The next day I received an email from him asking me why it was easier for him to cast that rod on the lawn than it was at the stream. I told him it

was because there were fish present and it got in the way of his concentration for the presentation. Yes, the rod was softer than he is used to and yes, he is better suited to a fast stick, but experienced fly casters should be able to make the adjustment, even if they aren't comfortable with the feel of the rod. Take away the sighted fish we were after and he probably would have done better.

It happens all the time. I give casting lessons we go to the stream and the student forgets the skills we covered 30 minutes ago. The best way I have found for students to learn the art of casting is on the water without a hook at the end of the line and the impossibility of catching a fish relieves the self-induced pressure they put on themselves. The trick is to be able to have that self-control with the possibility of catching a fish and still be able to make the presentation required. It takes practice, lots of practice.

### **River Conditions:**

Streams are running a little over normal and have excellent color. Hatches to look for in early spring will be Olives, small black stoneflies and small black caddis. You also may see the giant black stonefly.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

April 06 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
April 20 Monthly Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.

## Roubidoux Fly Fishers Monthly Meeting Report

Meeting 16 March 2021 at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area 14220 Co Rd 7000, Rolla, MO.  
Meeting called to order at 6:55 PM, quorum was not established (5 members present).  
No business was acted upon or placed on the agenda for action.

**Discussion:** Current balance in checking \$1630.38. Program cleaning line and rods facilitated by Lou. Good information, explanations of materials to use, and practical activity.



Todd cleaning his fly line, "for the year".

## Calendar:

April activities -  
6 April Tyin' & Lyin' at Bray CA BRING YOUR OWN LIGHT!!  
20 April Regular Meeting at Bray CA - program to be announced

May  
4 May Tyin' & Lyin' at Bray CA  
18 May Annual Picnic in the Park in Waynesville on the banks of the Roubidoux

## Report from Todd

I have people who need practice on the SEM, so let's push that hook composition and sharpness study along. If we can get people to bring \*labeled\* samples of hooks they'd like to have examined, I can get that rolling. I think just sticking the hooks to a piece of paper via masking tape and labeling them with the model and manufacturer should be fine. It occurs to me that the hooks may be plated, so I'll try to get a cross section as well as the point. (i.e. this is a destructive test)

Donate some hooks for Todd's study. I'm giving him Dai-Riki, TMC, Partridge, TFS, vintage and new Mustad, Gamakatsu and Daiichi

## **Fishing Report from Sam**

I didn't realize that the lake would be as dingy as it was yesterday. It looked more like weak tea with a little bit of milk added. The Lake, owned by a long-time friend of mine, is about twelve acres with most of it being shallow. The dam is a long structure that backs up the drainage from hay fields and a patch of woods off to the side. When the dam was built large rocks were added the entire length to help prevent wave erosion and muskrat dens. So far it has worked extremely well. The deepest water is located near the dam and is probably 11-12 feet. The rocks along the dam with the help of the sun provides shallow warm water early in the spring when temperatures are still a little cool. The shallow warmer water attracts minnows, small bass and small bluegill which in turn attracts the larger predators. I have always fished along the dam in the springtime, and it has been an excellent location for Crappie to spawn. The males start taking up spawning locations first and when the water warms to those magical temperatures the ladies pay them a visit.

It was a bit windy for my FE Thomas yesterday, but then I didn't need to cast very far so it really wasn't that bad. I concentrated on water that was about 2-3 off the rocks and just about every large rock had a male crappie hiding there. It probably only took me about 30-40 minutes to catch ten males that were all about the same size, 10.5-11 inches. I stopped fishing for them when I reached ten. If they had been the larger 12-13 females, I would have stopped at 8, which is just the right amount for two meals. After the tenth Crappie I decided to fish for small bass and bluegill that usually hang out on the shallow North shore this time of year. About an hour later I drove home for the worst part of this type of fishing trip.



Crappie yesterday and wild trout today. Same outfit and the same flies. The creek was pushing hard and the water was perfect for streamers. I have two tip sections for my rod. The longer one is softer and great for laying

out line for dry flies. The shorter one isn't short on purpose. It had to have minor reconstructive surgery. At first I was a little disappointed when I discovered that one tip had been broken and mended, because it mismatched the twin tips that were born identical sometime prior to 1938. But it has actually worked out fine, because the shorter one is a little stiffer and works better for small streamers and when, like yesterday, it is a little windy. The trout were cooperative, which they usually are when the water is running like it was today. No big ones, but plenty of action from about 8 to 13 or 14 inches. All the trout I caught looked great and several had pot bellies. I took a photo of this one because it was the only trout I caught today, that was skinny. Usually when a fish is thin like this, it is because it hasn't been eating enough or there is something wrong like a digestive problem or a disease. I didn't see any injuries or scars so an attack from a critter wasn't the reason.



**River Conditions:**

Streams are running a above normal and have excellent color as of today. Streamer fishing has been very good. Lakes and ponds are still dingy to dirty but should start to clear this week if the rain stays away. The weekend weather looks good, so there should be a ton of people out and about. Try to do your fishing prior to or a couple of days after the weekend if you can. Don't forget to look for Morels while you are down along the streams. They should be popping next week after the warm up that's coming.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- May 04 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
May 18 May Meeting & Annual Picnic in the Park in Waynesville. Watch for an email from Lou for specifics.

## Report from Sam

Earlier this month the MidMOTU club did a stream clean & sign face lift at Spring Creek. The service project only took about a half day. If you remember I sent out an email letting our club members know that they were welcomed to help if they had the time. The sign is reference to a stream improvement project that was undertaken by several fishing clubs, MDC and the FS. Mark VanPatten is doing a write up about the project that he will share with the clubs and I will forward the story to the FS and MDC.

Lou sent club members an email asking for opinions about adding the RFFFA emblem to the sign. It's a part of our club history and a subject the Mark and Chuck discussed but never got around to doing because the club did not have an emblem of their own at the time. Chuck came up with the current emblem at a later date.



Before and After



## Fishing Report from Sam

Yesterday I was headed out to fish for smallmouth but stopped by a friend's house on the way because I saw him outside doing whatever it was, he was doing. I get scolded from my spouse for not keeping my eye on the road, which is true enough because I like to look for deer and turkey and any other critter because they are more interesting to me than a boring slab of blacktop. When she is finished with her lecture about how dangerous it is, I remind her that I have never had an accident nor a ticket. Facts she has no argument to defend since her driving record has a few scars. In my defense I only take my eyes off the road when no vehicles are coming or passing me. Anyway, I just glanced at the house as I drove by and happened to see him, so I pulled in. We jawed a bit and caught up on things as if we had been saving them up to share with each other. He invited me to fish his lake/pond depending on what size body of water an individual considers to be a lake. A lake is however big you think it should be to earn the title. I have found that it is a variable with individuals and regions. His lake/pond is about 5 acres and approximately ten feet deep. Usually, the first fly I ty on when I fish still water, if the water temp isn't too cold, is some sort of topwater fly. The fly box I had with me yesterday was for smallmouth and one of my favorite smallmouth flies is a Sneaky Pete. I made a few false casts and proceeded to work up along the dam figuring bass would be patrolling along the grass and rocks looking for frogs or fry. I was about 5 minutes into this when I saw a huge grass carp barely moving along with it's back almost breaking the surface. Off to the left of this big one and closer was a smaller one, about 15 pounds. I managed to get close but not close enough, but it didn't matter, the fish turned and headed my way.

I put the Pete out ahead of the cruiser about 8 feet and waited until it was within 3 feet of the fly and I gently moved it. Just like a trout that takes its time moving around in ponds/lakes it slowly swam over and sucked the fly down. The water exploded when I set the hook and it headed across to the far bank. I managed to turn it twice and gain some line, but when it twisted and turned to make a run the third time, the hook came out. Oh well I said to myself, that was fun anyway. Ten minutes later same scenario, but this was a single cruiser and well within range. Same presentation and same result but this time, after about 10 or 12 minutes and 8 or 10 runs, I had it posing for a photo. It was roughly the same size as the first one, so probably litter mates.



I worked around to the far side toward the outlet, changing flies and not connecting. I made a cast at the outlet and a huge bluegill, or so I thought, took off with the bunny fly. It turned out to be a large female Redear. I tossed in again and again, but they were too small to eat the fly or maybe the hook was too large for their mouth. I switched over to a beadhead leech, which I ty on a long shank hook, and started catching all sorts of fish. Bluegill, Redear, Bass, Crappie and surprisingly caught two channel cat that were each about three pounds and all on a size 10 brown beadhead leech. The Redear were thick bodied and about 11 inches. The outlet, on the warmer north bank, plus the water flowing out and the wind blowing in the same direction was the hot spot.

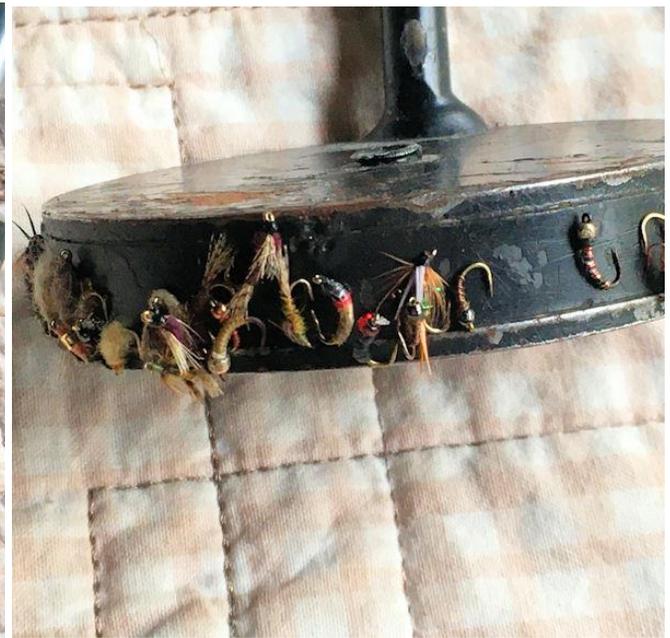


Today with the storm brewing down toward Springfield and headed this way I went to another friend's place, where he has a twelve-acre lake. I think of them as lakes when they get that big. I knew that the bass would be wired with the storm coming and I was not wrong. Guessing I would say I landed approximately 25 in a little over two hours. But all the fun started with yet another Grass Carp that took my Pete, the same way the two did yesterday. For some reason this one, weighing close to 25 pounds didn't fight near as hard as the fifteen pound fish. Who knows why? Sorry, no photos of this one. My phone and rain don't mix so I left it in the 4runner, which was back in the woods, but it would have been fun to get a photo.

### **Report from Sam**

I like these thin nymph boxes. You can store a couple of hundred flies in them or more if you have small nymphs like I do. You know, like those size 20- 24 midge patterns. Yep they are great, but they could use a stronger closing snap especially when the box is dropped on your low pile carpet from about a height of 4 feet. One of the tools that I keep at the tying bench is worth every penny by helping me pick up flies that I accidentally drop or accidentally knock off the tying table. I am talking about a shop magnet. I keep it propped up against the table next to my hook organizer. It keeps me from bending over trying to find flies especially the tiny ones that disappear into a multicolored carpet. It was especially handy when that nymph box fell, popped open and scattered all the contents. The flies were easy to gather up with the magnet, it just had to get within three or four inches and they were stuck for life. Gathering the escapees was the easy part, but then came the sorting of the herd and returning them to their original cubby holes. The entire process took about 30 minutes maybe longer, I didn't time it.

You can find these shop magnets at most hardware stores for a few bucks. You can also use those smaller telescopic magnets. I have a couple of those too. One I keep at the workbench in the garage and one I keep at my rod building table in the basement. I guess I could probably switch one of those with the shop magnet, but I want to make sure I have the strongest magnet to find flies in the carpet, seems more important.



**River Conditions:**

Streams are running above normal and off color. Just like the river conditions last month. A Great time to be out on the water throwing streamers.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

June 01 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
June 15 Meeting & Annual Picnic in the Park in Waynesville.

### Email from Todd:

I just wanted to send out a reminder that last month's picnic at Waynesville City Park was pushed back to this month's meeting. I'd like to get a head count and figure out who is bringing what. Please re:all to this email so we can get our heads on straight.

Oh yeah, and if conditions allow, I'd like to try to get a stream survey in that evening also.

Todd

### Report from Lou

Here's a report from the Eleven Point.

Did something new yesterday - went fishing on the Eleven Point River. What's so new about that you say? You always go fishing you say. Well - it was my first time on the 11 Point silly!!

Partner in flies for the day was Gina Leitle.

She called a couple weeks ago, and we hooked up for an epic adventure on a great river with a great guide Brian Sloss.

I scored a couple smallmouth bass close to the put in but after that it was all rainbows all day long!! And we got into some wild ones - you know - the ones that were born in the river!! From parr marked juniors to colored up big guys we had a great time catching and releasing (and missing, LOL!!) around 40 fish or so.

Although there was a smattering of flies hatching there wasn't enough to get a fish to hit the surface. We swung some streamers, stone flies and special jigs DEEP through some really nice spots and hooked up more often than not. How deep? About as tall as me - around 5', LOL!

All too soon the float was over but if anyone wants to go - I AM IN!!



Mayfly Clingers collected on the Eleven Point.



Gina with the Whopper of the Trip



Wild stream born. Compare the coloration to the stocked trout Gina is holding. Notice the difference in the size and spacing of the spots between the two trout and the lack of spots below the lateral line. The larger spotting and distance between the spots, and lack of spotting below the lateral line comes from DNA in the McCloud strain. This isn't a pure McCloud, but it definitely has a connection to its ancestors in California.



Lou and their guide, a friend of mine, Brian Sloss

### Report from Todd

The council of deer have convened and decided that fishing the mineral fork would be a mixed bag. (This is actually from dad's game camera near an orchard he planted.)



 GAMEKEEPER 21/04/2021 04:47:24 PIRT ●10 -3°C 26°F  8

We spent 2 weekends in May fishing the hole near the cabin. The first weekend was amazing. Aggressive fish everywhere. I got mom onto this specimen using one of those faux rabbit strip minnows:



We tried to repeat the magic last weekend and everything was quiet. I moved a few reluctant fish in the deepest holes. I think having some neighbors with a fondness for tannerite doesn't bode well for fishing on the days when they are making a ruckus.



We just tied flies on tenkara rods. I brought out my tenkara rods. Lou and I landed more bass on tenkara in one evening than I have seen before.

**River Conditions:**

Streams are running above normal with good color. Starting to see emptier smallmouth redds. There will still be a few trying to do their thing, but I believe most of the spawn is over.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

July 06 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
July 13 Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area

## Report from Herb

Bill Cooper and Herb Turner hosted two members of the Missouri Outdoor Writers group casting and fishing on the Roubidoux 3 June. The Writers group was in the Waynesville area from 2-5 June for workshops and had asked the local chamber if the Roubidoux Fly Fishers could assist the group on the Roubidoux. We met Thursday morning to go over some casting fundamentals and reviewed the basic equipment used in fly fishing. After about an hour we were on the water and it was a good day of practice casting and some fishing.



Bill Cooper and Herb



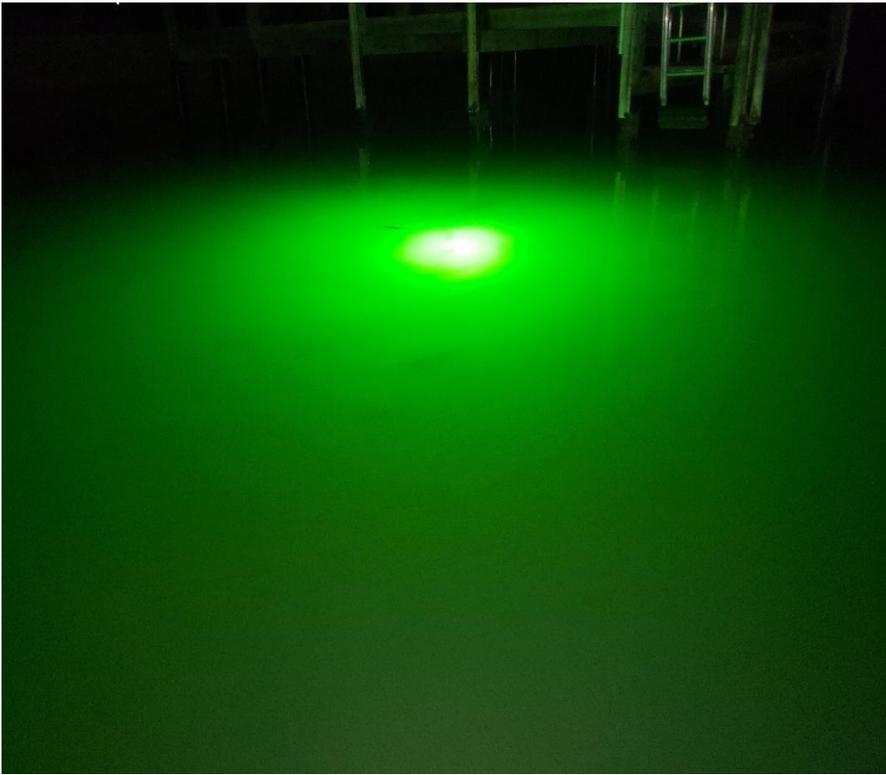
Student learning to cast a fly rod

## Report from Lou

### Report 1

Gal pals Sharon Yoker, Deb Hall, Peggy Carl and myself headed to Florida for a weeks worth of fishing the second week of May. We had started booking this trip in 2019 but 2020 happened. 2021 has become our year!! And this trip started it out on the best foot ever!!

Have you ever been night fishing? In my early years I have been catfishing and pulled a few all-nighters. Not so much now that I have taken up fly fishing. But here it was a whole other story. We had booked this trip 2 years ago for just 3 days of fishing but after having to cancel and change this and that in the end we got a week. AND it was supposed to be one night of fishing and then the rest during the day. Well, once we tried the night fishing we became like vampires avoiding the daylight, only coming out to eat lunch or dinner or whatever the appropriate meal was during the day. We went out at the dusk, we went out at midnight, we went out when the tide and wind said it would be best.



Thumbnail fish are the baitfish drawn to the light to feed on insects. Larger fish are attracted to the Thumbnail fish. As Lou described it to me, these were the spots they targeted at various docks so they could spot the fish they would cast to instead of blind casting to open water and hoping there were fish near their flies.



Lou's Tarpon



Lou's Snook

I must confess that week is very blurry and other than taking pictures I don't remember what day I/we caught what. We caught tarpon, and snook and mangrove snapper; redfish and seatrout; gafftopsail catfish, triple tail, pompano and a cute little fish that I will add to this dispatch. We rose late and fished long and hard into the night, returning at dawn most days. We slept till noon, ate brunch, and then formed a plan for that night. Dinner? Most definitely. Our guides took us to some of the best restaurants in Dunedin, "guiding" us to what they thought was the best of the best on the menu. We did VERY well indeed!! From a restaurant that cooked our catch for us to shrimps, shrimps and more shrimps to a lobster roll from heaven (in a place called Bar Fly), we ate really well!!



Peggy's Snapper

Lou's Red Drum

One of the big bonuses with this trip is Branden and Court had bought a house and that's where we stayed. The Guide House as it is called accommodated the four of us very well with room to spare. There is a large living room & kitchen combo, 2/3 bedrooms and a huge back yard with a granite slab table (seating for 6 easy peasy) and of course a Tiki Bar. Why 2/3 bedrooms? Well Brandon stays with you at the house (he is in the 3rd bedroom)!!! How cool is THAT?!?! A guide on call 24/7!!! And Court was just a phone call away!! They were at our beck and call to go fishing at the drop of a hat!!

And I will leave you with this – as in the days of old –

FOR A GOOD TIME CALL BRANDEN OR COURT AT <https://www.thesaltwaterspecialists.com/>

## Report 2

After the salt water trip in Duneden I headed for Naples, FL about 3 hours south. I had hired a guide for a 6 hour trip in the Golden Gate canal system to chase Peacock bass and invited Peggy along. She had made plans to visit friends but was able to juggle her schedule to stay an extra day. Every time I caught a peacock bass she would catch a regular largemouth bass. Or I would catch a Mayan cichlid and she would catch a Largemouth bass. The regular old Florida strain of largemouth bass wouldn't leave Peggy alone. Finally she caught one and then we had a double on Mayan cichlids. All too soon the trip was over and I headed back to mighty MO.

Next report – bluegill!!



Huge Mayan Cichlid



Butterfly Peacock Bass



Peacock Bass # 5



Deb and her Permit

### Report from Todd and Lou

Tuesday June 22<sup>nd</sup> Roubidoux Creek stream survey had a good variety of critters to count and identify. Todd Lou and Don counted bugs and came up with an excellent score of 27. The Dou is Douing Dandy



Stoneflies



Caddis



Mayfly swimmer

Caddis Pupa undeveloped



Crayfish

**River Conditions:**

Streams are above normal with good color. Fishing should be very good over the next couple of weeks.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

August 03 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
August 17 Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area

**NOTE:** I will send out a special edition River Rap later this month. Watch for it.

## Report from Lou

Here is a fishing report from Crooked Creek in AR.

Some gal pals and I decided to check out this year's F3T down in Cotter, AR on 19 Jun. Of course we made a weekend of it just so we could fish Crooked Creek, a well known smallmouth bass fishery. Well let me tell you it did not disappoint! I caught numerous smallies, too many longear sunfish to count and a few green sunfish to boot!

The F3T was rather unique because Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher was showing it on a pylon of the old Business 62 bridge in Big Spring Park in Cotter. Very open air and people friendly. We had a blast!! I ran into some folks I hadn't seen in a long time and had a great evening. I hope to go again next year!!





### **Report from Sam**

This past month has been a busy time for me on smallmouth water. The heat and sun has been terrible but the fishing has been pretty good. Top water on the edges has produced a good mixed bag and the streamer fishing along the first shelf has also produced. Occasionally a client will get their first Gar on a fly. If they want a shot at it, we will hunt for them in slack water. Nothing big so far but fun sight fishing and they usually get a jump or two adding to the excitement. As we get into the later part of summer large bugs become a good choice. I really like the Lou's Bug for subtle presentations in shallow water. This is the time of year for Cicadas and big hoppers and frogs that have grown over the summer. One of my favorites is the Dahlberg frog made with deer hair. But if you want to toss one, I recommend a 7wt to keep the task a bit easier. After it gets wet, like a double bunny, it can be a little tiring.



### **River Conditions:**

Streams continue to run above normal with good color.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

September 07 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
September 21 Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area

## Report from Karen

The first of the month I was down camping on the White. I'm in pursuit of a tiger trout! One member of my group caught one today. I am pumped. We did have some luck.



## Report from Lou

Gal pals Sharon, Peggy, Deb and myself plans for a trip to Canada were cancelled and we took the opportunity to fish some very new water to all of us – the Bighorn River in Ft Smith, Montana!! This is a tailwater in south central Montana on the Crow Indian Reservation. Full of big brown and rainbow trout it is a wonderful place for a Plan B fishing trip. The Bighorn Angler had 2 newish cabins and we got to

break in one of them. With plenty of room to spread out we actually spent most of our “not on the river” time out on the front porch.



The Bighorn River below the dam is not very wadeable river so we took turns fishing with different guides in different styles of boats. Our general consensus was the Adipose was the bomb!! With plenty of room for each angler and the guide with their gear we enjoyed being able to stretch out a bit – especially when we learned our “new” casting method. The basic rig was 5 or 6 wt. rods with floating lines. The leader set up was different than any of us had ever seen. To put it simply – the leader was 5-6’ of 10-15 lb. mono or fluorocarbon with a loop knot (to the fly line) on one end and a small barrel swivel on the other. Before tying on that barrel swivel another swivel was run up the leader (so it ran freely). Next the tippet was tied to the first swivel and a perdigon or nymph (or sometimes both) were tied on. A small balloon was inflated then tied off to the leader and then a 2” piece of scrap 20 lb. or so was tied off on the second barrel swivel, then a simple overhand knot was tied into the end of it. To this was rolled some soft tungsten putty for weight. The leader set up was a sight to behold; casting it was also a sight to behold! A very wide loop so as not to get that tungsten weight in the back of the head was a must.



But the FISH!! There are two subspecies of brown trout there – the shorter and chunkier German variety and the long skinnier Scottish kind. I did not know the difference unless the guide said it was one or the other. I think

Sharon caught a gorgeous Scottish one. We caught big and little and even bigger. I think we all scored at least one whitefish apiece – now it can be written to the life list then crossed off.

One day I talked my friend Peggy into going up to the lake after hearing of the smallmouth bass it contained. Well, we caught bunches and bunches – just not any bigger ones. The lake is 71 miles long and 600' deep in places. We could see the bigger smallies down there just couldn't get a fly to them.



It was another wonderful trip with fishing and friends. A definite do over!!

### Report from Sam

I'm still working on a Gar fly that isn't a chore to cast, but still gets good hook up ratios. This one did fine with takes, even a sunfish ate it, and it cast well, but it didn't keep them on long enough... back to the tying table.



Last week Brett and I took a trip to the north country for smallmouth. It is the only time that I have taken an extended fishing trip and didn't take my camera or GoPro. It was a big mistake. The scenery, especially the second day was excellent. It even included going through a gorge with class III water. The fishing was very good on the second day and excellent the third day. Brett and I both got into the 18-19 inch range and one of Brett's was a ¼ inch short from 20. We aren't talking about Ozark 18 inchers in the 3 pound class these fish were all pushing 4+ pounds. The biggest one Brett caught I'm sure was over 5lb. The best part about it was that all the fishing was on top water and every fish we caught was a smallmouth. We even fished some flying Ant patterns catching 12 to 15 inch sippers during a rare hatch on the second day.

**River Conditions:**

Streams are running about normal for this time of year. Ultra-clear water can make fishing tough, so keep a little more distance from your target and think about dropping a tippet size.





This is a Special Issue River Rap.

Mark Van Patten is one of the founding fathers of the Roubidoux Fly Fishers Association. I contacted him about providing some background information for the Spring Creek Restoration project. The project occurred prior to my membership so I was curious and wanted to preserve some club history. I also wanted to include the story with the posting of our club logo on the Spring Creek Restoration project sign. I attached the logo this morning.



## REPORT from Mark Van Patten

### RFFA Spring Creek Project

I can't recall specific dates, but sometime between late 1990 and 91 I believe, the RFFA entered into a habitat project agreement for Spring Creek. The section of the creek was just outside of the east entrance to Fort Leonard Wood off J highway. The Mid Missouri chapter of Trout unlimited, and Ozark Fly Fishers were also part of the project. The purpose of the project was to improve habitat for trout on a section of the stream with minimal suitable habitat and some serious bank erosion. Membership of the RFFA had increased to around 30 from the original five at this time. The RFFA donated \$300.00 to the project which was used to help pay for the large boulders.

The Forest Service along with the Missouri Department of Conservation had developed a plan to install a Gabion and some large boulders on a portion of one bank to stop continual erosion. This also included some additional activities such as water temperature monitoring at specific sites up and down the stream, and some tree planting.

The largest portions of the project were the gabion and large boulder placements. The boulders were brought in to help create scours pools below them. The Army Engineers from Fort Leonard wood agreed to provide a large track hoe and operator to move and place the boulders brought in from elsewhere. That part of the project was a dismal failure. The boulders are there. Good luck finding them. They sank out of site in the gravel. The boulders were exceptionally large. Some were nearly as big as a Volkswagen beetle.

The gabion however was where we literally invested our sweat and blood. The plan was for as many people as possible to show up at the site at 09:00 on a Saturday morning. Approximately 50 volunteers showed up. The morning air was still warm from summer heat the day before. Everyone gathered around as the Project Manager with the Forest Service Sybil Amelon (sp?) and Spencer Turner a Trout Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation began to discuss the plan.

We would form a bucket brigade formation and one at a time pass large 6 to 10 inch rocks down the line to fill the wire gabion baskets already in place. There were several baskets, each one approximately 6 foot long by 4 feet wide and three feet tall. After a basket was filled, the top was covered with the same woven style wire and secured to the four walls.

Volunteers passed rocks one after another filling the baskets. At one point the line came to a halt as everyone looked at Spencer. Blood was spilling down his face. He accidentally hit himself in the forehead with a shovel handle. He had been using the shovel handle as a lever while stretching the wire top to fit the bulging basket. He pried too hard, and the shovel handle broke hitting him between the eyes and splitting open a nasty gash in his forehead. Fortunately for Spencer, one the TU members present was a Surgeon. He sat Spencer Down on the tail gate of a pickup and after somebody showed up with a pint of whiskey, cleaned the wound, administered the amber anesthesia, and proceeded to stitch up the wound. Spencer donned a large white bandage around his head and we all went back to filling baskets. Occasionally, a rock would pass through the line with Spencer's blood on it. The deep pool adjacent to the gabion work was declared the Blood Hole from then on.

Once the gabions were filled in place, the Forest Service used a track hoe to back slope and cover the gabions with large rocks and then soil. We seeded the top of the gabions with native grass seed purchased by Chuck Tryon.

The RFFA spent a number of days planting a riparian corridor along the stream bank with over 100 native tree seedlings purchased from the George O. White nursery in Licking, MO. Later that year the RFFA spent time taking temperature readings at various points in the stream to establish data sets used to determine temperature barriers that would prohibit the movement of trout up and down the stream from the Highway J access to just above a privately owned section of the creek. It was determined there were two thermal barriers. I don't recall if anything was ever done with that data except to suggest the MDC fisheries biologist at the time may have used the data in the management of the fishery.

Attached PDF is from Friends of Ozark Riverways and links for you to make comments on the proposed National Scenic riverways roads and trails project. It is a long read but well done and worth the time.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

October 05 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.

October 19 Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area

## Report from Sam

Some of the best hatches of the year are coming up and some are going on now. This first photo is a Trico emergence on the Current River



The spinner fall that morning was one the best I have seen in a long time. We fished size 28s and had a ball with several small brown trout and a couple of rainbows.

There were fishermen everywhere. Saturdays are the absolute worst days to fish public water, but some people can only get off work on weekends, so it was what it was. We saw guys trying to fish the spinner fall, but none of them were having any luck so they moved on looking for an easier way to catch fish. With Trico spinners, it's all about the presentation and the size of the bug. I haven't had a client yet show up with Trico patterns small enough. They can buy them, but almost all of them are size 22 or 20. The body of the bug itself is smaller than a 32 so a size 22 looks huge.

When the spinner fall ended, we pounded the banks with hoppers and ant patterns. The picky ones ate the ant, and the aggressive ones ate the hopper. Could be the picky ones had been stung a few times with hoppers



This is a great time of the year to catch colorful male brown trout



The wild rainbows we have in our state are beautiful fish. This 17" was caught in Spring Creek. The key to catching large wild rainbows like this is stealth. If they know you are there they won't bite. Casting a shadow over them, moving too fast on the bank, making noise on the riverbank, and pushing water when you wade will greatly reduce your chances of getting anything except the smaller ones in fast water.



This was a first for me. The crawly is hooked in the left front of the shell of this small snapping turtle.



Tying flies on the deck, I dropped my scissors, and this is how they landed. What are the odds this could ever happen to me again?

I fished Bryant Creek with my son last week. They should call it a river especially after Hodgson spring enters it. If you have never fished it, I suggest you give it try. Beautiful water that has some pools that are 100 ft wide and deep. We caught smallmouth, spotted bass, green sunfish, bluegill and longear sunfish. I even had a 20+ rainbow chase my crawly. I suppose it washed down from Rockbridge or maybe it swam up from the North Fork of the White.



TightLine Photo ©



TightLine Photo ©

**River Conditions:**

Streams are Ultra-clear water so keep a little more distance from your target and think about dropping a tippet size.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

November 02 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.

November 20 Meeting / Freeze Your Trout Off at Bennett Spring 12:00 **Watch For Emails from Todd**  
**FYTO** If you plan to attend, check with Todd to see what you can bring to the feast.

## Report from Sam

Just returned from my annual Steelhead trip day before yesterday. I usually spend four days, but I have extended it an extra day when the fishing is great. Temps this year were not as cold as a few in the past, but still frosty in the mornings. Every morning it was 28 or 29 and warmed up into the 40s. Thursday it got all the way up to 50 for what seemed like about 15 minutes then the wind kicked up so 50 didn't feel like 50 anymore. The first day was a long float with very little to show for it. My buddy hooked three and I hooked a grand total of zero. We spent the next three days fishing in the swamp like section of the lower river. The steelhead were holding back in the timber apparently waiting for a rise in the stream before shooting up to the nice water about 20 miles upstream. Because of the small open areas where we were restricted to fish and the tremendous amount of fallen timber anything over 10 pounds was impossible to handle. Usually, we are more than tickled to catch double digit fish, but we were actually hoping to hook up with a 5-6 or even a first-year run. All in all, we hooked about 30 over the four days and only landed a third of them.



Fortunately, she was hooked in an open area that had a lot more room to play her, so she was one of the few we put in the boat. About 7-8 pounds. If you look to the right that type of water was more common than the open water behind me.

I have always remembered the first rule of fishing my father taught me:  
“There has to be fish to catch fish”  
Rule number two:  
“Don’t leave fish to find fish”

**River Conditions:**

Some streams in the area are up and running hard like the Gasconade and Big Piney. Some streams were not affected much by the recent rains.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

December 07 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.

December 19 Club Outing at Maramec Spring Park Meet at the Lower Parking Lot

December 21 Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area

## Report from Lou

Every October some friends and I gather in the little town of Junction in the Texas Hill Country to fish, visit and eat.



The North and South Llano Rivers meet up in Junction to form the Llano River. We got wading access to the North Llano River which this year seemed chocked full of Rio Grande cichlids and Guadalupe bass. The South Llano was no slouch this year either!

Our favorite float on the South Llano is from second crossing to first crossing which is simply the first time the highway crosses the river and the second time it crosses. It is a floaters delight with a few spots with some sporty water but most of it is an easy float with more fishing than paddling!!



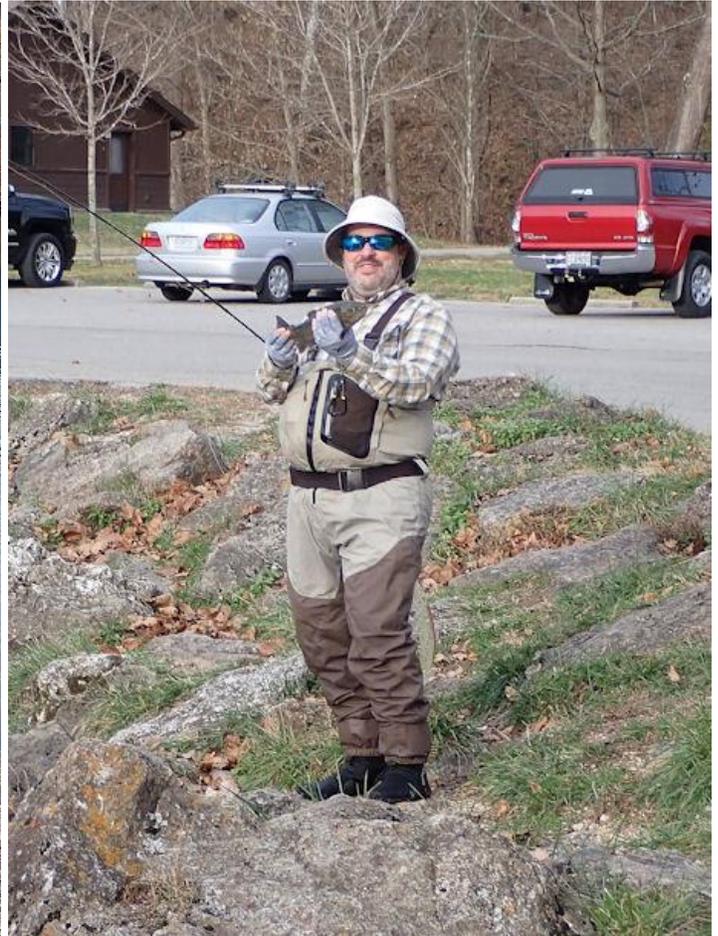


I always try for what I call a Texas Hill Country Grand Slam which is a Rio Grande cichlid, Guadalupe bass and a redbreasted sunfish. The Rio Grande cichlid happens to be the ONLY cichlid native to the United States. The Guadalupe bass is only found in Texas and is the state fish. And the redbreasted sunfish is just gorgeous in spawning colors.



It's just a good time with good friends and some great fishing & floating!!

Annual Freeze Your Trout Off was anything from freezing. One fisherman was seen in shorts. The morning started off cool but by lunch time and our gathering at the spring, the coats, jackets and insulation layers had been removed. As usual there was plenty of food to go around. Business discussed was centered around planned outings for the next three months and the possibility of an intro to fly tying class again at Maramec Park.



Todd with a couple of nice rainbows from the Spring Hole

**River Conditions:**

Local streams are clear and average to below average and dropping. Water temps remain higher than normal for this time of the year.





## Upcoming Events to Note on Your Calendar

- January 04 Fly Tying 6:30 Bray Conservation Area.  
January 09 Club Outing to Montauk Park 8:00 AM ( watch for Todd's email )  
January 18 Meeting 6:30 Bray Conservation Area

## Fishing Report by Sam

A mistake some fly fishermen make is not taking dry flies with them in the winter. The olives, known to some as BWOs (blue winged olives) will hatch sporadically on what is known as baetis type days. Snow, wind and rain or combinations of the three will be in the forecast. We also get some nice hatches of Slate winged Olives. Similar to the smaller blue winged olives, but the wing is definitely slate colored. You will recognize them as soon as you see one. The olives, blue or slate will be small, in a range of 20-28. I have been fortunate enough in the winters to hit these tiny mayfly hatches often. The hatch doesn't last long, usually an hour or two, but sometimes you will get two different sizes coming off at the same time. The tiny one will be a size 28 and the larger one will be a size 22-24. When this happens, the emergence can last up to 3 hours if you are lucky. Another tiny dry fly you can fish in the winter are midges. They will be much more prolific when the sun is on the water. On bright sunny days you can count on these coming off by the thousands. If you prefer to not fish with the tiny hooks that I use, you can always ty up a Griffith's gnat on a size 20 or even an 18. The Griffith's gnat is supposed to imitate a mating cluster.

## River Conditions:

Local streams south of here are high. The lower Current River was closed today and the lower Big Piney is over 2000 CFS. The Meramec river, and the creeks in the area are in good shape. The upper Current River is also in good shape.

