



Cross Currents

June, 2003

M i d - M i s s o u r i C h a p t e r , T r o u t U n l i m i t e d

TROUT STOCKING IN COLUMBIA

Please read and cast your vote.

A motion has been made by Bill Lamberson and seconded by Curt Morgret “to suggest trout be stocked during the fall under delayed harvest regulations in a lake in Columbia and that our chapter donate up to \$2,000 for the program”.

The proposal includes partnering with the City of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Partnering includes the City and MDC funding the vast majority of the program’s total cost.

St. Louis and Kansas City have similar programs where stocked trout provide seasonal catch-and-release fishery. Harvest is delayed until spring when the water starts to warm.

We have “tested the water” with the City and MDC and have received a favorable response from both. With quick action, we may be able to start this program in Fall, 2003.

Please vote yeh or ney on the motion via email to MoTrout@aol.com, or by phone at (573)442-1516. Our dual goals are to teach conservation in the community and increase our chapter identity. Increasing our exposure may lead to growing our membership and banquet attendance.

Please vote! Comments welcome.

- JEFF WITTEN

A PROPOSED DELAYED HARVEST TROUT FISHERY FOR COLUMBIA

Text of the proposal being voted on at our meeting June 3rd at Bethel Park in Columbia:

Winter trout fisheries have been established in St. Louis and Kansas City to provide winter and spring recreation for anglers. Sixteen lakes are currently stocked in the St. Louis area. In most, delayed harvest regulation allow catch and release angling from stocking in November until February 15, with anglers allowed to keep fish thereafter. An additional fishery is currently being established in Jackson through a partnership of Trout Unlimited, the city and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The success of these programs has led to their proposed expansion in the MDC proposed Trout Plan.

The Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) proposes development of a similar fishery for Columbia involving a partnership among TU, the City of Columbia, and the MDC. There are several suitable lakes or ponds in the city. Stephens Lake is a prime candidate, as a winter trout fishery would enhance use of this area during a season of normally low use.

The delayed harvest fishery involves stocking approximately 400 rainbow trout per acre at an expected cost of approximately \$2.75 per three-quarter pound fish. The estimated annual cost for stocking 4400 trout in Stephens Lake would be about \$12,000. We propose a sharing of costs of \$2000 for

TU, \$5000 for the City of Columbia and \$5000 for the MDC. Other potential sites for a fishery would be the lake at Cosmo-Bethel Park (six acres, 2400 trout, \$6600), or Antimi Lake (four acres, 1600 trout, \$4400). Since an effective program depends on enforcement of the catch and release regulations from stocking to February 15, regulations must be developed for specific lakes, i.e. a potential lake should be identified so that the MDC can propose delayed harvest regulations to allow enforcement. Due to the time required for regulation implementation, we are proposing initiation of a fishery for winter, 2004.

With successful implementation of the program, two or three captures from all the fish stocked would provide angling opportunity for many people. In small impoundments, with good rule compliance, these kinds of fisheries can create surprisingly high-quality fishing. With delayed harvest rules, everyone from the dry fly purist to the kid with a Snoopy pole will enjoy the fishing.

ARE YOU ONLINE?

We are constantly exploring ways to make more effective use of our chapter's resources. Since the cost of bringing you this newsletter would be considerably less if we sent you an electronic version by e-mail, we are considering "going digital" at some point in the future.

Our chapter's most active members currently have access to e-mail and could receive an e-newsletter if we were to switch over to an electronic format in the near future. However, some other members may not and we need to gather information on this subject.

If you are a member who currently cannot receive e-mail, we need you to notify us immediately. Our address is: Mid-Missouri T.U., P.O. Box 10285, Columbia, MO 65205.

No decision has yet been made regarding the future format of our chapter's newsletter. However, if you cannot receive e-mail, it is important for us to hear from you to ensure your continued receipt of newsletters in the future.

JASON BORGER TO SPEAK AT BENNETT SPRING

Bennett Spring State Park concessionaire Jim Rogers has reorganized the annual Bennett Spring Fly Fishing Conclave this year. He has rescheduled it to coincide with MDC's Free Fishing Weekend June 7-8, and renamed it the "Bennett Spring Trout Fishing Showcase." He has also expanded the scope of the event to include spin fishing in addition to fly fishing.

As in the past, Jim will be speaking this year and will have several other speakers at the event as well. One of the most well-known of these will be fly fishing expert Jason Borger. As you may remember, Jason was the fly fishing double for three actors in *A River Runs Through It*, and performed the now-famous "shadow cast" both in the movie and on its poster. Jason is the author of the book, *Jason Borger's Nature of Fly Casting: A Modular Approach*.

Last year's event featured Mel Krieger, whose "Essence of Fly Casting" remains one of the most successful fly fishing videos of all time.



Among the speakers last year at the 6th Annual Bennett Spring Fly Fishing Conclave was Mel Krieger, shown here conducting one of his fly casting classes at the park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Come Have Dinner at the Hot Dog Burn and Casting Clinic

Enjoy our last meeting of the season at Bethel Park in Columbia on Tuesday, June 3. Bring your family, a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, and your own plate, silverware and drink. We have a pavilion reserved from 4 – 10pm. Bethel Park is located on Bethel Road, just north of Southhampton in southwest Columbia, near Gentry Middle School and behind Rockbridge High School.

Hot dogs, brats, and chips will be provided by the Chapter. Flat Branch has donated a keg. Be sure to thank them during your next visit there.

Bring your fishing rod! Charlie Reading will be conducting a casting clinic. Many of us know of Charlie's exceptional certifications, credentials, and abilities. This is a special opportunity.

By the way..... your support helped defeat both the MDC tax invasion proposal and the proposed gravel mining legislative changes.

Also, be sure to read and vote on the trout stocking proposal on page one of this newsletter.

See you at the Hot Dog Burn and Casting Clinic.

- JEFF WITTEN



MMTU CALENDAR

June 3, 2003, Bethel Park, 5:30 p.m. - As we have done in recent years, we will be having our June meeting at Bethel Park. As in the past, this year's "Hot Dog Burn" will be showcasing the culinary talents of our master chef, Curt Morgret, and will be a great time to do some bluegill fishing. A special treat this year will be a fly casting clinic to be conducted by Charlie Reading. Charlie is an expert caster and instructor, and is the owner of Reading's Fly Shop near Bennett Spring State Park. He will bring graphite, fiberglass, and bamboo rods for demonstration. Also at this meeting, we will be voting on whether or not our chapter will be participating financially in a new proposed delayed harvest trout fishery in Columbia. (Jeff Witten will be accepting votes by e-mail through the night of the meeting for those who can't attend.)

Directions to Cosmo-Bethel Park:

From Jefferson City, proceed north on Hwy 63 to Columbia, take the AC exit west (left) to Bethel Church Rd. (first stop light beyond Providence Rd), turn south, the park is on the left, just beyond Gentry Middle School.

From I-70, take Hwy 63 south, take the AC exit west (left) to Bethel Church Rd. (first stop light beyond Providence Rd), turn south, the park is on the left, just beyond Gentry Middle School.

July - no meeting

August 5, 2003, 7:30 p.m. Jeff Bridges will present a program on first aid.

**Mid-Missouri Chapter
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**Mid-Missouri Chapter
Trout Unlimited
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Cross Currents, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is usually the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Research Facility at Stadium and College in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. See the newsletter for any changes.

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