



# Cross Currents

November 2010

**November Meeting at D Rowes  
November 2, 2010  
7:00 pm  
Robert Bentsch  
“Flyfishing Zimbabwe”**

Ron Bentsch is a flyfisherman from Versailles. He spent many years in the mission field in South Africa where he became an avid fly angler. Now back in the States, Ron helps lead a fly fishing ministry in Eldon where he has introduced many people to the sport. At the request of a couple of African friends (one a professional angler), Mr. Bentsch recently travelled to Zimbabwe to pursue not only fish but also crocodiles with the fly rod.

## **Bernard E Neumann**

One of our chapter members, Bernard E. Neumann, *a.k.a.*, *BEN*, passed away recently. Ben was a fixture at the old Clearwater Fly Shop, arriving as it opened (and sometimes before) and leaving with a package or two of anything new or even newly mentioned as a tying material. Ben probably had one of the most extensive collections of fly tying materials around—he had skins of birds and animals whose names I can't even pronounce as well as tons of the 'regular' stuff. Ben would share his stories each day with us "regulars". He shared stories about hunting Chinese Pheasants in Korea in an unmarked minefield (surprise, surprise), the latest adventure of falling at Bennett and wallowing in the water like "a sow in slop", night-time parachute drops into unknown terrain, and many other stories. He was tough as a railroad spike and that toughness kept him involved in fly fishing for trout even though he suffered from chronic disease and balance problems (medication-induced) during his later

years. He was a friend and will be missed. --Bob Hook

## **Announcements**

There will be no December Newsletter

Nominations for the Donati Memorial Award and the Conservationist Award are now being accepted.

We need more volunteers to help out with our Annual Conservation Banquet Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. If you can help, please contact Michael Riley

Win \$50 in 2010 MMTU photo contest: Photo must be taken by (or include) a MMTU member, promote trout fishing or conservation, and taken in 2010. Submit up to three digital photographs to [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu) by Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. Photo's will be judged by those in attendance at the Dec 7<sup>th</sup> dinner/meeting.

## **Upcoming Programs and Events:**

December 7, 2010: Christmas Dinner and 2010 MMTU Photo Contest

January 4, 2011: John Meyer -- Fly Fishing Rock Mountain National Park

February 1, 2011: Diana Papoulias – “Intersex Bass”

Upcoming Conservation Banquet: Friday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Stoney Creek Inn. If you would like to help, contact Michael Riley at [rileym@missouri.edu](mailto:rileym@missouri.edu)

## Make An Angler --Lynn Kleopfer

Fishing and trout fishing in particular are in a long decline with fewer and fewer fishing licenses and trout permits sold each year. As the population of fishermen ages, there are not enough young fishermen or new fishermen to replace those of us who can no longer fish. Our own membership suffers from a dearth of younger members.

In the past, we have primarily done one time events such as, "Kid's Fishing Day," or presentations to groups such as Boy Scout Troops. These may have aroused some interest in fishing but the Education Committee believes more one on one time is necessary to produce the next generation of fishermen and fisherwomen who will fish on their own. Children in particular need to catch fish in order to develop an interest in fishing.

The Education Committee is developing the "**Make an Angler**" program. It is based on the adage "**It takes an angler to make an angler.**" The new program is simple. To participate, take one or two people of any age, fishing six times for at least one hour over the next two years. Small social groups such as a child and grandparent, son and mother, your kid's friend's work well.

The venue can be any cold or warm water fishing site anywhere, but we encourage you to use Bethel Lake for four of the outings. Any species of fish and any method of fishing qualifies. Fly rods can be provided upon request. We hope some of the fishing trips are trout trips but we realize the distance and time needed to get to trout water in the warm months may limit trout fishing.

Please send me an e-mail with [optional](mailto:optional) pictures to [llkleopfer@mchsi.com](mailto:llkleopfer@mchsi.com) after every outing so we can monitor the success of the program. We will announce outings and show pictures at our regular meetings.

## Casting Corner

This follow-up to the previous submission offers some continuity -

### Correcting Creep

Simple fixes for **Creep** include-

1) Watch the backcast loop unroll until a candy cane shape of line occurs

- 2) Hold the rod tip *still as a statue* while the loop evolves as in #1 above
- 3) Loosen the grip *slightly* after the stop and raise the elbow purposely during the loop evolution
- 4) **DRIFT**

### APPLYING DRIFT

Because **Drift** increases available casting delivery by lengthening the potential distance the tip may move in translation, it is a good tactic for error correction and essential to certain types of casting. **Drift** may also be applied to compensate for equipment poorly matched to the skill or technique of the underperforming caster. **Drift** probably causes no problem when applied unnecessarily. At no time does **drift** displace the essential need to delay rotation as long as possible in casting a fly.

### APPLICATIONS OF DRIFT

- 1) Too soft a rod leads to tailing loops
- 2) Caster creeps leading to tailing loops or abbreviating tip path causing tail
- 3) *Carrying* long line
- 4) Extending distance casts

From this list, one might *incorrectly* consider **Drift** to be a panacea for *all* tailing loops. Without clearly comprehending the casting flaw that produced the tail, applying a universal correction is merely a "band-aid" that covers-up the problem. The same is true of "dipping" the rod tip down at the end of the cast to move it out of the way of the line - merely a band-aid that never addresses the underlying cause.

More experienced *FFF certified* instructors or Master's probably offer enhanced observer skills in figuring out root casting flaws.

My casting instruction, alone, will not improve your fly casting; **practicing well & often**, that which you have learned, is required. - **Gary Eaton, MCCI**  
[doubledok@gmail.com](mailto:doubledok@gmail.com)

## Stream Teaming On The Little Piney – Jon Rapp

Can't get excited about another boring volunteer project? Forget that. If you missed our September 20<sup>th</sup> Stream Team survey on the Little Piney, let me tell you about it so you'll be there next time.

Mark Van Patten led the group, coordinated locally by our own fearless Michael Riley, attended by Sam Potter and Jon Rapp. To do our survey, we headed down to the Little Piney, where we found Sam was already in the

water, field testing a 13 foot fly rod that he uses on steelhead in Michigan. Now that's what you call an optimist!

Michael & Sam had participated in previous survey efforts, but having the chance to work with Mark was a real education. As a statewide coordinator of Stream Team surveys, it was clear that he's not spent all his time behind a desk. He knows of which he speaks, and he knows his bugs.

We know Mark as the host of television program that we all watch, The Tying Bench, [www.thetyingbench.com](http://www.thetyingbench.com), aired on PBS KMOS-TV6 Sundays 6 pm. So it's not news that he is Master Fly Tier and Fisherman. Perhaps not as well-known is how deep his commitment runs as a leading statewide advocate for clean streams. He and his wife also provide flyfishing classes to local youths, some of which is funded as a drug alternative activity, but the rest comes out of their own pocket. And, as we came to find out, he can entertain with the best of them, with fishy stories about life on & off the stream. Here's a scoop for you: Keep your eye out for novel he plans to publish, which will be a guaranteed worthwhile read from a fella whose character runs as deep as our best Blue Ribbon water.

I always carry a small aquarium net in the back of my vest, and use it to find out what kind of bugs are in a stream, especially if I'm new to the water. But there's a much larger world in the water than you can tell by looking, wading and fishing it, and there was much more to this stream than I expected. As we examined the net of each sample, we found an amazing number and diversity of caddis, large mayfly nymphs, and dozens of other creatures. We were able to examine them closeup, in much the same way a trout would. It's one thing to see pictures of these insects, but a completely different perspective to see them live in the water. We all came away with a much better fish "eye", and appreciation of one of our wonderful streams with an Excellent water quality rating.

Speaking of interesting stream creatures, let me tell you a bit more about Sam Potter, because you may not have heard as much about him as you might like to know. Sam lives nearby the Little Piney and guides on the Current, Gasconade and the waters of south central Missouri Ozarks region. He's not a real loud guy, (but he does carry a big stick!) and he thoroughly knows his waters. You cannot go wrong if you're looking for a guide in this area. Contact him at 573-364-7633 or [www.tightline.biz](http://www.tightline.biz).

So it's not just the size or the number of fish you catch on your trip, but the quality of the experience. This days activity was interesting and a lot of fun. We all enjoy fishing our streams, but when we take time to get involved in activities like Stream Team, we actually come out with even greater rewards. See ya there next time!

## TU's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

On September 16 & 17, 2010 my wife Linda and I sojourned to Waterville Valley, NH for the National Trout Unlimited meeting. It was a busy two days because I was representing Ozark (Missouri) Council as the Council Chairman and sitting in for our National Leadership Committee (NLC) member Curt Morgret.

I was very impressed with the new President and CEO of Trout Unlimited, Chris Woods, who conducted his first National Meeting. He gave a very good update on TU's business which grew in 2009 to \$26.4 million in revenue (an increase of 6%) and counted over 676,000 hours of volunteer work at the grassroots level (valued at an additional \$13mm). TU is doing much better than a lot of non-profits in this recession. If you haven't seen it already check out the 2009 Annual Report at [http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/2008-2009\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/2008-2009_Annual_Report.pdf), it's pretty impressive. Chris and all his staff were very approachable, as I found out personally when we met with him at the BBQ Thursday night. Three Council Chairs from Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma descended upon him, granted we all had a bottle of beer in hand as did Chris, about TU providing funds to staff a new Mid-South Regional TU office at the new Arkansas State University at Mountain Home Trout Center. He explained TU National staff had grown from 55 to 113 people since he came on board in 2001. He didn't have the money but vowed to help us find a donor if leads in Arkansas to endow the position didn't work out.

I also had two very successful meetings with the NLC for Curt. The first was the Conservancy Committee of which Curt is chairman. I attended as a visitor and found out I was leading the meeting. Luckily Curt has some very good members and a national staff person, Paul Doscher and Elizabeth Maclin, who really ran the meeting. Curt started this committee, due to his banking background and TU experience in Missouri. It is set up to partner, mostly with Land Trusts to build a fund for conserving land around coldwater streams. A fund has already been started by National TU. He did the same thing in Missouri, helping establish the Trout Fund in the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation which has helped acquire public areas on Mill Creek like the Bohagian Conservation Area. Curt Morgret has been our NLC Representative for four years now. The NLC runs the grass roots side of the organization and sets TU's National Conservation Agenda. He is stepping down as he is term limited out. I congratulate him on an outstanding job, really making a difference in protecting the cold water resources in Missouri and throughout the whole USA. The Ozark Council TU Board of Directors will be searching state wide for someone to try and fill his shoes.

--John Wenzlick

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## Mid-Missouri TU Chapter Officers for 2010-2012

President	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Past President	Dean Rapp	573-268-5050
Vice-president	Lynn Kleopfer	573-447-1168
Secretary	John Wenzlick	
Treasurer	Bob Sappington	573-808-2576
Membership	Jim Washabaugh	573-893-3807
Web Editor		
Member-at-large	<b>open</b>	
Banquet	Michael Riley	573-817-0631
Resource	<b>open</b>	
Program	Scott Gerlt	573-875-2033
Conservancy	Sam Potter	
	Bill Lamberson	
Newsletter Editor	Denis Hancock	573-442-3670 (home) 573-999-3848 (cell)

*Cross Currents, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July and August. The regular meeting place is back room in D'Rowe's, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong, in Columbia, MO. June meeting is at Bethel Park. Meeting time is at 7p.m., but come early to chat and eat. Board meeting before hand.*

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