

Capital City Fly Fishers



10th Anniversary Newsletter

Piscator non solum piscatur



September 2005

From the President...

I began writing this article in my head long before I actually could get it to paper (ah, print media). If your schedule this fall has been anything like mine then it has been exceptionally full of work and effort in many areas. Too much has transpired between our last club meeting and this weekend to provide full details on everything. So I would like to give the feel and atmosphere that existed at our fall quarterly outing at Montauk State Park. I can only give you my perspective, others may have more to add or even a different viewpoint. There were eight other club members who participated in the quarterly event. Dan Bernskoetter, Jim Farthing, Randy Holliday, Jeff Holzem, Lee and Diana Kudrna, Bob Smerek, and Doug Schnell spent some or all of the extended weekend at Montauk. Dan and I drove down Friday morning leaving Jefferson City around 7:30 a.m. We stopped at Hardee's in Rolla for a little breakfast.



Montauk Mill, a distant view from the Lodge area.

We walked in not expecting to meet any one we knew but there sat my Uncle Herb. He was sipping coffee and chatting with his group of friends. We had a pleasant visit reminiscing about old acquaintances and then proceeded to head down the road traveling south. We arrived at Montauk around 10:00 a.m. We drove around and looked at

the park, its layout, camping facilities, the hatchery and of course, Montauk Mill. It was a peaceful, impressive site to behold. There were several people arriving all day in preparation for a fun-filled weekend. Although it was not as crowded as I might have anticipated. At 11:00 a.m. we were able to check into our cabin and unload our equipment, food and luggage. After settling in there we proceeded to the stream to try our hand at casting flies and tempting a few trout.

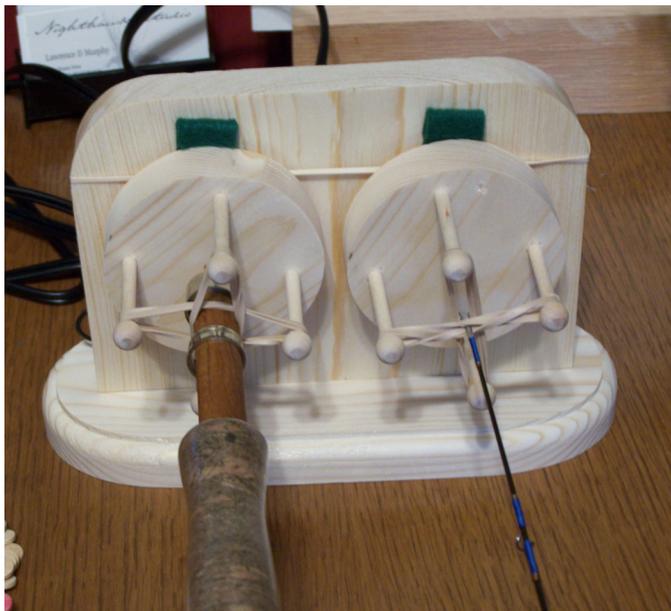
I was extremely anxious to get on the water because I had just finished my Pacific Bay 6'-6" 2 WT two-piece fly rod the week before. I had hoped to christen it on this trip. I rigged up and suited up in my (hot) neoprene waders. Dan had already gotten to the stream and was fishing when I got to the water's edge. This rod blank was one I purchased last spring from Rob Souden. For the remainder of the year traveling all over the country, I would stop in different fly shops and check out the various pieces and parts that I would need for completion of this little wonder. My good friend, Wayne Wheeler, and I had the fortune of going to Rim Shoal on the White River near Mountain Home, Arkansas to attend the Club President's meeting with the Southern Council Federation of Fly Fishers.



Rod wrapping bench with the ability to slide left or right to align with the leader guide or snake guide being wrapped. The red wrapping is underneath the reel seat and rod grip.

Well, you can guess that we stopped in several of the fly shops and visited with the owners about the fly patterns to use and the selection of their materials, rods, reels and accessories. I was particularly impressed with Blue Ribbon Fly Shop. I talked with the owner, Dale Fulton, about some tips for rod building and was not disappointed with the quality of advice received. I picked up a simple rod wrapping bench for under \$25.

While at the Reading's Fly Fishing Expo near Bennett Spring State Park, I visited with Ryan Mayberry about the techniques he used in working the snake guides into a tapered shape on top and flat on bottom. He was using a Dremel tool with 1/8" flat grinding wheel turning at a slow speed to work the metal into its final shape. He was cautious not to get the metal too hot and burn it. Then I visited with Charlie Reading and determined the size of leader guide, snake guides, and tip top that I would need. He recommended that the standard spacing be used but dropping the size down considerably rather than use what was recommended. So I purchased my guides and tip top from Readings.



Rod drying double motor with twin 6 RPM motors individually controlled.

While I was there I spotted the most gorgeous grip that I could imagine. It certainly was not like any I had seen before and was strikingly different. I purchased Royal Blue rod wrapping thread as my

primary color and used an accent of fine metallic copper thread.

An additional technique involved wrapping the reel seat and rod grip underneath areas with a little larger diameter thread wrap. In place of the common masking tape method, it was deemed a little better for transferring the feel of the rod through to the grip. The fit and finish of the sections were straight forward and relatively simple. After drying overnight, I proceeded to do a decorative two thread wrap on each guide, the joint section and tip top areas. If you are hesitant about trying to wrap a rod because you think the skills required are higher than average, don't wait any more. It is much easier than you can imagine.

Following successful wrapping, I was able to apply a couple coats of epoxy rod finish making use of my dual rod drying motors. To finish off the rod, I used a fine steel wool to smooth the inscribing area above the rod grip to accept the gold leaf I planned to use there. I used a No. 10 crow quill pen point to apply the inscription detailing creation date, rod specs and some minor graphics.. Then I put a couple coats of rod finish to seal it.

In the future, I plan to apply a coating of tung oil on the reel seat to seal it from water damage. A thumb's amount slowly rubbed into the grain of the wood should seal the seat nicely.

Once I was on the water for the first time in a new area with my virgin fly rod, I practiced casting to get a feel for the line movement through the guides. I was thrilled with the experience of casting my new, little wonder. The Current River inside the park is just the right spot to use such a short rod because of the overhanging limbs and brushy stream banks. It was shorter than I am accustomed to when trying to reach across the water keeping the line high while the leader works its way along my chosen path in the direction of a lying trout. The rod, reel and line worked very well. The other matter of concern would be choosing the right fly pattern to make the best presentation to the often finicky trout. Early in the morning we found that a pale morning dun was ideal. Followed up by a bead head pheasant tail nymph with a peacock herl body worked when the dry fly did not. Perseverance and concentration

helped my efforts pay off. I was able to land small 10-12" trout with considerable effort because of their struggle while the single larger 14" trout was much easier to land.



This 14" trout was the last fish I took on the trip.

All-in-all I was very pleased with the performance of my new little wonder. It was pure joy to experience the whole scope of using a new rod, reel and line on new waters and in a different environment. A return trip is warranted to Montauk because of this experience for me. The stream as a whole is more accessible across its span compared to others that I have been on. There is a wide variety of stream points that make it attractive to try different techniques. I had a good experience with most fishermen, not always diehard fly fishermen. However, Dan endured an episode of rude behavior by a streamside fisherman. This person walked up on his blind side and got in his way just as he was back casting. Unfortunately, the result required that he replace the leader. Enforcing the importance to being aware of others around you, especially if you are the one walking through an area where fly fishermen are back casting. It is better to slow your travel and offer them a little extra dose of courtesy than to hamper their casting efforts. Always remember to be use common old-fashioned courteous wherever you go, after all you are a representative of the Capital City Fly Fishers and your conduct impacts our club's influence.

Remember to not be afraid to let your line or your efforts go into the backing.

Larry Murphy, President

South Callaway's Hooked on Fly Fishing not Drugs Program

The South Callaway R-II Hooked on Fly Fishing not on Drugs program received a generous \$2,000.00 grant from the memorial of John G. Smerek administered through the Charitable Foundation USA in St. Louis. The grant was presented by Bob Smerek, brother to John, to the Principal of South Callaway R-II at Mokane in August.

The funds will be used to further the education of seventh and eighth grade students in the fine art of fly fishing as an alternative to activities such as drug and alcohol abuse.

This year HOFF plans at least two fishing trips with one to include an overnight camping trip. It is the hope of teacher/sponsor, Regina Van Patten that members of the Capital City Fly Fishers will be able to share their expertise with the students during the fishing trips and in the classroom at the regular meetings.

The regular meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month. The meetings start at 3:30 and end at 4:30. Any CCFF member interested in teaching fly tying, knot tying, casting or any other aspect of fly fishing for that hour please contact either Mark or Regina at: mark.vanpatten@ktis.net, or regina.vanpatten@ktis.net or call home at 573-295-4463 Your help is appreciated.

Club Calendar

September 2005

- 13 - **Club Mtg** 7pm @ Runge Nature Center
- 16-18 -- **Conservation Federation of Missouri Fall Conference**, Camp Cloverpoint, Osage Beach - Fly Fishing Clinic, 9:00 -11:30 a.m. Fly casting and fishing instruction. Larry Murphy and Lee Kudrna, instructors.
- 16-18 -- "**Becoming an Outdoors-Woman**", YMCA of the Ozarks, Potosi MO. Fly tying and casting instruction classes. Ginger Koziatek, Kent Campbell and Jerry Kemple, Instructors.
- 24-25 – **Fall Fly Flingers Gathering**, for those who love fly fishing. Intersection of US 160 and MO 19 in Alton, MO. Brian Sloss and Ryan Griffin would like to invite all fly fishers to come to the Eleven Point River and enjoy free BBQ on Saturday night. Reservations required, call (417) 778-6497. More information available at

www.11pointcanoe.com. Camping is free at their facility or they can direct you to the USFS campgrounds by the river. There are reasonably priced cottage rentals available in Alton and surrounding area for those who want a little more modern convenience. 15% of canoe rentals and a Temple Fork rod/reel raffle proceeds go toward Trout Unlimited.

October 2005

- 06-09 -- **Mountain Home Conclave**, Southern Council of Federation of Fly Fishers, Mountain Home, Arkansas
- 11 -- **Club Mtg** 7pm @ Runge Nature Center, Mark Van Patten, Fly Fishing the Missouri River (In Missouri!)

November 2005

- 08 -- **Club Mtg** 7pm @ Runge Nature Center, Stream Team Academy presentation (tentative).
- 4-6 -- **Club Quarterly Outing** - White River, Mountain Home, AR

December 2005

- 13 -- **Club Mtg** 7pm @ Runge Nature Center; No Speaker; Gift Exchange

Fly of the Month

Name: Green Wiry Caddis

Material

Hook: Mustad 9271 wet fly hook size 18-12

Thread: Black

Body: Green Ultra Wire

Thorax: Dark olive fur

Hackle: Dark speckled hen back with fibers about as long as hook shank.

Tying Instructions

1. Crimp barb and place hook in vise
2. Wrap the thread to the curve of the hook and tie in green wire
3. Wrap thread and then the wire to a point about 2/3 up the hook. Secure wire.
4. Dub in the thorax and secure.
5. Tie in the hackle feather and make about 2 wraps.
6. Secure feather, build head and whip finish. Cement head.

Matched fly rod/reel for sale!

Jim Kramel has a Cabela fly rod and reel that would like to sell. The fly rod is a Fish Gage 9' Graphite PT105 with progressive taper, moderate action, 5wt. 2-piece, uplocking reel seat and cloth sock. The fly reel is a Cabela HP-2 loaded with WF-5-F line and protective carrying case. Also included is a Cordura covered tube case. This is a real bargain for only \$200. Jim can be reached at (573) 635-1921.

Treasurer's Report: \$7,361.76

CCFF Address and Web Site...

Address

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Jefferson City MO 65110-5151

Web Site

www.capitalcityflyfishers.org