

President's Message

by Mark Borserine

Education Conservation Restoration

It has been brought to my attention that our FFF Membership has slipped in recent months. I'm referring to the number of Club Members that are also FFF Members. In our club, membership in FFF is separate from club membership but our club is an affiliate club of the FFF. The FFF is therefore, our "parent" organization from which we receive a lot of support and good information.

Our club motto "Education – Conservation – Restoration" is the FFF motto; the FFF does a lot of good work in all three areas, but especially in the area

of Education. The FFF is the only organization dedicated to the Education of the Fly Fisher and an enormous amount of work is done through numerous programs not only to increase the knowledge and skills of those who already fly fish but to bring newcomers into the sport. The very future of our sport and the waters we treasure is in the hands of organizations like the FFF!

I ask you to renew your membership to the FFF if it has lapsed and I ask you to join if you have not yet done so. The small amount you spend will go

HOAFF Meeting

Monday, May 21 - 7:00pm

Norm Crisp

**Stream Side Adventures
Traveling & Trout Fishing**

to do enormous good work and you will receive rewards in the form of discounts at Conclaves the Federation's wonderful magazine "FlyFisher" and access to the members area of the website which is full of valuable information about our sport!

We do have membership forms available at the meetings, also you can sign up on line.

Trout Habitat Improvements on Mill Creek

by Nick Girondo, Fisheries Management Biologist, Rolla

The wild rainbow trout population of Mill Creek in Phelps County is about to get a home makeover. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), with help from many private funding sources, recently purchased a 432 acre tract of

land containing 1 ¼ miles of stream frontage on Mill Creek. This new property is called the "Bohigian Conservation Area", in honor of Dr. Bohigian who made a significant contribution of this property. This area is located just

outside of Rolla. With this acquisition, the public has access to fish the upper 2/3 of this coldwater stream within MDC and U.S. Forest Service ownership.

Starting in the summer of 2007, structures will be placed in the stream to create new habitat that will help adult trout survive. This small, clear, spring-fed stream is very shallow with extensive amounts of

gravel and watercress vegetation. This type of habitat is great for young-of-year and one year old trout; however, older fish have a hard time surviving without deep pools and overhead cover that are currently lacking in the stream. The new structures are designed to create these habitats within the stream. These structures include skyhooks, boulders, anchored root-wads, half logs, hard points and some other innovative techniques.

Skyhooks will be the main structures installed on
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One Fly Tournament
June 9th, 2007
9:00am - 2:00pm

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Lake of the Forest is a private lake, known for great bass and crappie fishing. Bring your float tube / drift boat. We will have a contest with prizes for the total length and the number of fish caught using just one fly. Lunch will be provided if you RSVP by e-mail to dwatson@lawingfinancial.com before June 6th.

Directions – Exit going west on Kansas 32 from 435. (Bonner Springs exit). Go 2.2 miles. The entrance is on the right side of the road. The entrance is easy to miss, so look closely. Follow the signs.

Trout Habitat Improvements on Mill Creek

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the Bohigian CA portion of Mill Creek. Skyhooks are structures designed to increase the amount of overhead bank cover for trout. They are assembled out of rough cut green oak on the stream site and then set into the bank. Large rock is then installed to armor the structures and stabilize the bank. This creates a 22-inch overhang submerged just below the waterline, an ideal hiding place for trout. When placed at the tail of the riffle, skyhooks provide a protected home close to a food source. These structures have been successfully installed in Barren Fork in Shannon Co, a stream similar to Mill Creek, and are being used by adult trout there.

Heavy equipment will be used to put

these structures in place. Although construction will create some unavoidable disturbance, precautions will be taken to ensure that no long-term damage occurs. Recovery from disturbance has been rapid and complete at enhanced sites on Barren Fork and careful use of equipment will ensure a similar quick recovery of the streamside vegetation on Mill Creek.

Many factors play a role in the size of a trout population, including habitat availability, food sources and water quality. By increasing the availability of adult trout habitat on Mill Creek, MDC is taking steps to provide anglers with a unique trout fishing opportunity in mid-Missouri.

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Hogback Cabin Special Raffle

by Mark Borslerine

Norm Crisp's friend, Duane Brandt won the Hogback Cabin Lottery. Duane has the cabin on the nights of August 27th, 28th, and 29th of this year. This is a restored homesteader's cabin on world famous Rock Creek near Missoula, Montana. The cabin sleeps eight. Duane is offering HOAFF three spaces in the cabin. All one has to do is get to Missoula. We will even do airport pick up. Meals are on Duane and Norm.

Duane Brandt has asked that the Hogback Cabin Auction be changed to a Raffle. The three spots available will be by Raffle at the May 21st meeting. In order that everyone have an opportunity to participate even if they can't be at the meeting, I will pre-sell tickets if you will send me a check or get me cash prior to the event. I will fill out your name on the tickets and guarantee that they will get in the drawing.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

My Address/Phone:

Mark Borslerine

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Duane has asked that all proceeds from the auction go toward the Mill Creek Purchase so make checks to: Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation with Mill Creek Purchase on the Memo line.

I can't take credit cards, only entries received by afternoon of the 21st will be entered and no IOUs, please.

Scandinavian honors Mike George's Freedom Fly

by Mike George

I am taking this opportunity to share with you that I have won the "Open Division" of the Mustad Scandinavian Open Fly Tying Competition for the fourth consecutive year. The MSO is considered to be the most prestigious fly tying competition in the world. The 2007 entry was a red white and blue deer hair bug entitled "FREEDOM".

To see the winners in all of the categories including "FREEDOM", Google or search <http://www.skogmus.com>.

for the 2007 winners.

You will get two options Norsk Skogmuseum and MSO resultatlist.

If you chose Norsk Skogmuseum you will have to then select the Mustad Scandinavian Open Icon, then choose the result list. FREEDOM is 1st in category 9.

If you choose MSO resultatlist it will take you directly to the result lists.

The previous years winners can be "Googled" with Mustad Scandinavian Open Fly Tying Competition.

One of the more gratifying aspects of the 2007 MSO is the promotional flyers that were distributed at the two biggest fly shops in Norway that have a picture of Mike's Bass. In Norway I am a "fluebinder".

There are three web sites that have a selection of my flies, and I appreciate the opportunity to display on each since I don't seem to have the time or opportunity or expertise to do my own.

1.) FlyfishersforChrist Just look for

Pictures.

2.) Theflyfishingbug Here you will have to go to the Central USA and select my business card.

3.) Warmwaterflytyer Go to Featured Tyers. Ward Bean did a nice write up that is really appreciated.



"FREEDOM" is not just hair on a hook. This is the document that accompanies each "FREEDOM" fly.

FREEDOM

In the Air Force I spent my overseas tour of duty in

Korat and Tahkli Thailand. I loaded weapons on the F105 Thunderchief. The 105 flew more missions over North Vietnam than any other American plane, and suffered more losses. The F105 was nick named, by the pilots, the "THUD" for the sound it made when it hit the ground. 108 Thunderchief pilots died flying missions over the North., most of the POW pilots were 105 drivers.

FREEDOM is a Salute to those who flew the gauntlet for 100 missions to earn their ticket home.

FREEDOM is a THANK-YOU to the 108 who lost the deadly game of tag with the SAMs.

FREEDOM is finally a THANK-YOU to all of the Veterans who never received a THANK-YOU for their sacrifice!

I do thank-you for taking the opportunity to read the e-mail. I hope you will also look at the web sites to see my work.

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Medicine Bow Grand Slam

by Paul Bennetts

At the time of this writing, I am sitting at my desk gazing out at the layer of ice and sleet that shrouds my front yard, and it does not take long for my thoughts to drift off to the friendlier (and warmer) days of summer. An icicle hangs from the thermometer on my front porch, which now reads a bone-chilling 4 degrees. How can it be this cold? Where is the global warming when I really need it? Why haven't I moved to Texas already? Why is even San Antonio getting snow today (really!)? I have lots of questions but no answers.

Maybe it is time to begin planning a fishing trip in anticipation of warmer times to come. Summer is around the corner and it will soon be time to dust off the fly fishing equipment and head outdoors. As you think about the possibilities for your own fishing trips this summer, let me offer this account of the highlight of my 2006 fishing season.

Local fishing guide and club member Norm Crisp (who does business as Stream Side Adventures) had been inviting me to come to fly fish with him near Encampment Wyoming for the past two summers. My vacation schedule was flexible enough last summer to go, so I asked

Norm to see if he could find a fishing partner for me to split the guide fee, and he was able to pair me up with club member Travis Knight. Travis had fished with Norm at Encampment before and highly recommended the trip to me.



The Encampment River traverses the Encampment River Wilderness area of the Medicine Bow National Forest in south central Wyoming and is easily reachable in a one day drive from Kansas City. Travis and I drove separately and met up at a campground on the banks of the Encampment River just outside the small town of Encampment. We chose a campsite and made ourselves comfortable for the

evening ahead. I remember that first night how good it felt to be away from the stress and strain of work and the daily demands of grinding out a living.

We prowled around the grounds until we found Norm's campsite, where he was comfortably settled in for the month or so that he spends every summer in this beautiful setting. After a short discussion, we determined that we would set out the next day to fish at Big Creek.

Big Creek is more of a river than a creek, and the next day when we arrived we found it quite swollen with the runoff from recent heavy rainfall. After attempting for a short while to wade



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in the "torrent" and finding it difficult to both fish and maintain our balance at the same time, Norm suggested we head back to camp and give the water time to recede a bit. Travis and I fished the Encampment River for awhile that afternoon, but it also was running high

different species of trout in one day on one fly. I had heard of fly-fishing "grand slams" before but never actually fished for one. In this case, the Medicine Bow Slam (my name for it) is accomplished by catching a Rainbow, a Brown, a Brookie and a Colorado

sounded pretty cool the way Norm described it.

Travis and I mustered our courage, accepted the challenge and the deal was sealed. The choice of a fly for the day was easy. These fish all like dry flies that look like a haystack with a hook in it, so a 12 or 14 elk haired caddis in tan or olive was the recommendation from Norm. With fly rods in hand, the brims of our hats pulled low and a determined look in our eyes, we set off for the first leg of the challenge.

A drive into a beautiful forested area brought us to a gorgeous pocket mountain stream, the North Fork of the Encampment. A short period of fishing the pools of this stream yielded both Brookies and more difficult to find wild Rainbows. Once Travis and I each had our fish, we were hastily off to the second stop in the marathon. A drive across the Continental Divide and a lengthy hike down a Forest Service access brought us to a secluded stream, the South Fork of the Little Snake River, filled with curious Colorado Cutthroat trout. The third species fell victim to our dry flies. At some point here I got careless and had a nasty encounter with a tree branch and suffered a gash in my right shin. I

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and fishing was a challenge there too. We crossed our fingers that conditions would be better the next day.

On the second day, Norm offered us the opportunity to have our names etched into the wall of fly fishing history (well, almost) and suggested we take the challenge to catch four

Cutthroat all in the same day, on the same fly pattern. We knew in our hearts we would be held in high esteem, as veritable "men among men", by our envious fly fishing buddies back in Kansas if we were to accomplish this Herculean feat of fly fishing skill. OK, I may be exaggerating a bit, but it still

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Medicine Bow Grand Slam

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was able to patch it up enough to keep fishing and later had to put in a few stitches when we got back to camp. Anything to save a trip to the E.R. and a ruined fishing trip!

The hike back up from this stream was tiring and I was glad when we got to the truck. I suggested to Norm at this point that he might want to market his guide service as a weight loss and fitness program. I felt I was getting both on this day! A drive to the next destination, a meadow stream, Hog Park Creek, gave us the opportunity to complete the slam with a Brown. Norm's knowledge of the prime lies made catching this final species a relatively easy task.

Back at camp, our day ended with a fine supper, and swapping tales of the day over a glass or two of wine, graciously provided by our guide Norm. It had been a workout, mostly in gaining access to three streams in one

day, but a very satisfying accomplishment having our names added to an elite group of fly fishers.

One of the remaining two days of our fishing with Norm was spent on the East Fork of the Encampment, an

absolutely beautiful meadow style stream filled with lots of Brown and Brook trout. This place has scenery I have heretofore only dreamed about or seen in pictures. The aesthetic beauty of the location made it difficult to keep my mind on fishing. As Norm says, "It may not be paradise, but you can sure see it from here." Choice of a fly here was no more difficult than the day before. Elk hair caddis or a yellow stimulator tied to a 5X tippet was all that was needed to get the attention of the local aquatic residents. The fishing was good, limited only by my frequent inability to properly set the hook into the mouths of the larger fish. One highlight of this day was our discovery of the fresh tracks of a mountain lion during our hike to the stream, a reminder that nature, while often beautiful, is not without the occasional bit of danger to ensure that our eyes were kept wide open.



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On my last day of fishing, Norm took Travis and me back to Big Creek for another shot at fishing there. The water levels were much more manageable for wading and we benefited from another picture perfect day of weather. Access to fishing at Big Creek requires four wheel drive and a vehicle with pretty good ground clearance. I was glad Norm was doing the driving and not me.

Big Creek was a bit more challenging for me to fish because there were more tree branches to contend with, and because I still had not quite found my best casting technique for fishing in this larger water. Fly selection was easy though, more big bushy dries. The fish are apparently not too picky as long as what is presented to them looks like a meal. Norm patiently guided us along Big Creek, giving us time to retrieve the occasional errant cast from a tree

branch and graciously not being too critical of my lack of fly fishing talent (I am not a "natural" at this sport, but determined to learn nonetheless). Actually by the end of the day my casting was getting better as it usually does at the end of a fishing trip.

Driving back to Kansas gave me plenty of opportunity to think about my fishing adventure in the Medicine Bow National Forest with my fishing partner Travis and our worthy guide Norm Crisp. The fishing was truly awesome as I expected it would be and I knew I had learned much more about this pastime I love but do not get to do often enough. Norm is a great teacher as well as guide, and part of the excitement of fly fishing is the opportunity to get better at it. Exposure to so many different kinds of water in the space of just a few days is but one of the real benefits of a visit to the Encampment area. The

Wyoming scenery had been nothing short of spectacular, doing for my soul all the things that beautiful places like this always do, reinforcing my amazement at how diverse and interesting a place this world can be.

Fishing with Norm and his associates at Stream Side Adventures, I have never found that I have simply entered into the contractual status that exists between customer and guide, but I feel totally welcomed into Norm's Stream Side Adventures world, a world where relationships matter and the experience doesn't end just because nightfall forces us to stow the fly rods. My time with Norm always evokes a sense of the goodness which is still to be found in the world, expressed through the special fellowship waiting to be discovered around evening campfires, in beautiful places where fishermen tell their tales and raise tin cups in a toast to the good life.



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Upcoming Events & Programs

- May 21, 2007 Norm Crisp: Traveling & Trout Fishing
- June 9, 2007 One Fly Tournament, Lake of the Forest, Bonner Springs, KS
- June 19, 2007 Mike Kruse - Missouri Trout
- July 16, 2007 Jeff Williams - Arkansas Trout
- Aug 20, 2007 Dennis Dunderdale - Arkansas Fly Fishing Guide
- Sept 13, 2007 Norm Crisp Nymphing Class - Discovery Center
- Sept 17, 2007 Annual Picnic - Shawnee Mission Park
- Oct 4-6, 2007 Southern Council Conclave - Mountain Home, AR
- Oct 15, 2007 Annual Auction & Raffle
- Nov 2-4, 2007 Fall Outing - Lake Taneycomo, Branson, Mo



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