

# Across the Stream

A Publication of the Heart of America Fly Fishers

[www.hoaff.org](http://www.hoaff.org)

September/October 2013

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

Greetings –

As I write this letter, I'm returning from our annual fly fishing trip to the Taylor River in south central Colorado. After thinking about the many fishing trips I've taken over the years, I'm struck by the number of friendships I've made as a result of my passion for fly fishing.

You've probably experienced something similar. Wherever you fish, you typically meet the nicest folks, some of whom become life-long friends. That's certainly the case with our annual Taylor River trip. We've become great friends with some folks who have been coming to the same fishing lodge...

the same week every year...for more than 10 years. We always look forward to seeing each other and swapping fishing tips and stories over the course of the week.

And the tips you learn as you visit with these friends can be invaluable. For instance, just this week I learned that stripping streamers on the Taylor would help me catch one of the biggest fish of my life.

On your next fishing trip, take a moment to think about the people you meet along the way. If they are into fly fishing, you'll have a lot in common, learn some new tips, and have a lot of fun.

Sincerely,  
-Peet Crissey

## HOAFF MEETINGS

### September 16 – Member Meeting

Annual Picnic at Franklin Park in  
Prairie Village

### October 21 – Member Meeting

Annual Auction at Community of  
Christ Church

### November 17 – Member Meeting

Shane Bush from the MDC on Crane Creek

### December 7 – Annual Banquet

Ollie's BBQ & Steakhouse – Lebanon, MO



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## HOAFF SPRING SEMINAR

SATURDAY FEB 22ND, 2014  
FEATURING KELLY GALLOUP



Celebrity fly tier, author, outdoor writer, fly shop owner, Slide Inn owner and Madison River trophy trout hunter:  
*Kelly Galloup*

## RIVERFEST JULY 4TH AT BERKLEY RIVER FRONT PARK

Annually, to celebrate July 4th, Riverfest is held at Berkley Park on the River Front. Again, HOAFF participated under the auspices of the Blue River Watershed Coalition and our good friend, Larry O'Donnell. This year, for the first time, I went down and joined Bill Brant. Bill did his "thing" with his watershed demonstrations and I tied flies.

There were an estimated 20,000 people! It was really a lot of fun to be there, as you can see in the photo, people were really interested. I had a wonderful time tying and sharing stories with them and, I got to stay for, honestly, the best fireworks display I have ever seen! Anywhere in the country, and I mean that. The scene with 20,000 people lined up on the South Shore of the River with the Bond Bridge to our Right

and the Burlington Bridge to our left and fireworks reflected in the River was simply magical. I never knew 20,000 people could be so orderly and respectful – it was simply great!

If you have the time on July 4th and want to really enjoy yourself, come join us and bring your family and friends! For only \$10 a carload (and I mean some cars were really loaded!) you can have the best '4th' ever! Reminds me of a verse from a Neil Diamond song – “pack up the babies and bring the old ladies, and everyone come”.



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## LAKESIDE NATURE CENTER AT SWOPE PARK

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An annual event for members of HOAFF is participating in an open house at Lakeside Nature Center each July. In the foreground of the accompanying photograph, to the right are Steve Hegstrom, Carol Falkner and Mark Borserine. In the background standing up at the far right is our club's good friend, Larry O'Donnell of the Blue River Watershed.

Carol “hatched” the idea of tying flies on safety pins that good be safely given to the children. We tied a simple foam body on with legs on each side. I found some glitter foam at JoAnn Craft store that was a huge hit! The “jewelry” was as big a hit with the adults as with the kids – the idea was a huge success.

The fellow in the foreground to the left was so taken with Steve Hegstrom's display of his flies and his talent that he's taking Steve's picture to show everyone!

It was really a great afternoon and to see the kids' and adults' smiles as they picked their bug jewelry was great fun!

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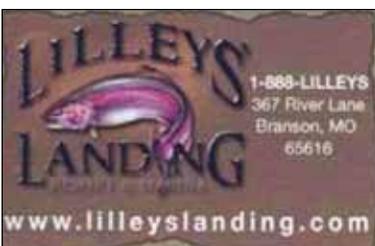
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# BROOK TROUT AS A “BIO-FILTER” FOR SALMINCOLA CALIFORNIENSIS COPEPODS

BY: WES SWEE: HATCHERY MANAGER @ MERAMEC SPRINGS,  
MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION



Since Brook Trout are actually a Char and need extremely cold water, I wondered why there would be an attempt to raise them in Missouri – what Wes presented I wasn't prepared for at all, but it not only is fascinating, it makes sense! Wes' presentation contained a lot more detail than the summary I am presenting here but I think this is a reasonable summary:

Salmincola Californiensis is a parasitic Copepod that “preys” on Rainbow Trout and Pacific Salmon

Meramec Spring got infected with this Copepod in the early 1990s because a private hatchery upstream of Meramec got a “bad” shipment of rainbows; they got into the River and the River flows up into Meramec Spring so the infected Trout got up into the Spring and “mixed” with the Hatchery Trout.

The Copepod attaches itself to a fish “on the drift”, colliding with the fish or getting close enough that it can “dart” at the fish. Once it attaches to the fish, preferred areas are the mouth and gills, it begins to feed on the fish's blood and tissue and when it matures, it can reproduce.

It causes low level mortality in the fish population by weakening

the fish. Looks like grains of rice in the fish's mouth.

There are approved chemicals and a special feed that is in the testing stage. Wes tested the feed at Meramec and it was very effective (90% reduction) but not yet approved and expensive.

Brook Trout are immune to this Copepod; they will attach to Brook Trout but cannot achieve adult stage. Wes “hatched” the idea of using Brook Trout as a bio-filter to protect the Rainbows. If he could force the copepods to “filter” through a run of Brookies before reaching the Rainbows, would it be effective? The State allowed Wes to acquire Brook Trout eggs for the experiment; he bought his first group from a hatchery on the Merced River in CA. He placed the Brook Trout in a Raceway between infected Rainbows and non-infected Rainbows but the initial experiment failed for two reasons: 1. Wes didn't have enough Brookies, 2. The ones he had came from a very wild strain and huddled in the corners of the race: the overall result was that there was not enough density of Brook Trout in the race so the Copepods passed through “unscathed” and got to the

uninfected Rainbows in Race 3. For the next trial, Wes got more Brook Trout eggs from a domesticated strain in Virginia which spread throughout the Race: he now has 22,000 good-sized Brook Trout in Race 2, very densely packed, and they have virtually eliminated the Copepods! However, the problem Wes has now is that he has too many good-sized Brookies and he is not allowed to stock them because it is felt they are a "non-native" species to Missouri:

of course, both Rainbow and Brown Trout are non-native to Missouri! Brown Trout are also immune to the Copepod so Wes has begun experimenting with those, so far with promising results: And, the Browns can be stocked! Wes is struggling with solutions for the 22,000 Brook Trout that he now has ranging from a large fish fry to stocking them in the Urban Trout program; he hinted he would like support from anglers in the stocking idea!

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## ENCAMPMENT FISHING TRIP 2013

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BY: ROD HITTLE

Sometimes odd things happen when you go fishing. This July I went to Encampment, Wyoming for my fishing vacation. And here comes the odd part. Many years ago I read an article 'Trout by a Hair' written by Norm Crisp. The story was about catching a trout using a horse hair as a tippet. It told about this river 'Encampment'. Now for me this was a straight shot across Nebraska into Wyoming. It could not be more perfect for me when I visited family in Wyoming. This year of 2013 I met Norm on the Encampment River. This is how it happened.

I was fishing up on Hog Creek, mountain tributary that is about as pretty a mountain meadow stream as one could ever dream up. At the time I was eating my lunch and watching these three fishers coming up stream to me fishing along the way. Now I was particularly interested as I had not caught any fish after fishing many hours. I wanted to see if anyone else was catching anything. Well, one of them caught two fish as I was watching. As they got closer I could see that one of the trio was a guide, then I could see the guide was a young woman. When they got close enough I came down and struck up a conversation, Sarah, the guide, mentioned that the guide service 'Stream Side Adventures' and it was led by a fellow named Norm Crip. The name sounded familiar. I asked had he written the 'Trout by a Hair'. She thought he might have and invited me down to their camp for a visit.

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The next morning when I got up there was frost on the windshield and the dew had turned to ice! After fishing all day and not catching anything I decided after that to camp the next night down by the town of Encampment and visit Norm and the crew. By the time I got there the Bear Claw restaurant was closed. So I went to camp not looking forward to setting up and cooking dinner at nine that evening. I found Norm and his crew and they were gracious to invite me over for dinner. A life saver and a tasty meal put on my Sarah's mother. That evening we talked and I decided to go ahead and take Norm up on an offer to guide me the next day for four hours.

During that time Norm corrected a number of my bad habits and some incorrect conceptions I had on fishing for trout. Before I got these corrected in my head I missed six fish. After that I landed two nice trout, a seventeen inch brown and a sixteen inch rainbow, Both put up an incredible fight! Later on after Norm left I caught another and another and did some exploring. It was lots of fun and a great time.

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## FISHING JOURNAL

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BY: ROD HITTLE

### Monday July 14

Tomahawk creek  
Fished starting at North Pond and up stream  
Fought 12 bass at 2nd hole upstream where big Sycamore tree is a bit over water. Near tail of pool. He threw the hook but if I had a net I might of netted him.

### Tuesday July 14

Went up to same hole but stayed back this time. Casted to area. First fish a green sun fish.  
Second cast I got the bass. Good fight and got to release him. It might have been Monday's fish.

### Saturday July 20

Fished with Alan early in morning

7:00. Went down stream from North pond to first good hole up stream from the foot bridge, No bass but very deep hole and lots of green fish.

I did see one bass in the long pool just above the deep pool. So the bass was near the tail of the pool.

### Sunday July 21

Went exploring Mill creek. At the park at the bridge on 87th Lane there is a very deep and big hole. The blind man's pet frog was croaking "you'll drown". I was one bass near the pillars on the west side and another on the more shallow area down stream on the east side. I walked down stream. This stream has about a third more water than Tomahawk

*continued on page 7*

but is far more open to the sun. It had some holes but hardly anything past Shawnee Mission parkway. Going downstream once you get past SMP and the bike trail bridge the trail follows the creek along ways on the East bank. The best way out to the trail is at the middle pillar on the west bank.

### **Wednesday, July 24**

Tomahawk: Went into creek south of the south pond. Fished down stream. There is a hole where the drainage from the south pond spills into the creek. Casted into the head of the pool. Caught a green sun fish but there was quite the commotion. Casted there again and had a great fight. This time I landed the bass on the gravel bank. Another twelve inch bass. I continued fishing down past the hole. Nothing much and the water gets chest deep. I am casting to the east bank. Down a ways where I do not expect to catch much of anything I hook up another bass. I did not know what it was as it pull hard and I was in deep water. Wow, another twelve inch bass. I fished a bit further down but just some good green sun fish and blue gill. And also some carp and Koi.

*Rod proves that there is some great fishing to be had right here in the City!*

- Mark Borserine

## **THE GRIFFITHS GNAT**

BY: STEVE HEGSTROM



**Hook:** Tiemco 101 size 14-26

**Thread:** Unithread black 8/0

**Hackle:** Grizzly Rooster Saddle

**Body:** Peacock Herl

The Griffiths Gnat is a simple fly to tie representing a small adult midge or a cluster of midges. This fly was originated by George Griffiths, one

of the founders of Trout Unlimited. The fly rests in the surface film, half in and half out, representing something trying to emerge. Use the Griffiths Gnat whenever there is an invisible hatch present or when you can't see or identify the insect causing a rise of trout.

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### **Step 1.**

Wrap your thread starting at the hook eye back to the bend of the hook for a thread base

### **Step 2.**

Size the hackle to the gap of the hook and tie in at the bend then advance the thread back to the eye of the hook.

### **Step 3.**

Obtain 8-10 fibers of peacock herl from the eye and tie in the tips of the herl (not by the butt ends) at the thread point at the eye of the hook.

### **Step 4.**

Now wrap the thread over the herl evenly back to the bend of the hook and back up to the eye of the hook.

### **Step 5.**

Now take the herls and wrap up to the index point of the eye and tie off.

### **Step 6.**

Lastly, you can wrap the grizzly hackle palmering evenly by the feather forward toward the hook eye then tie off and whip finish. You're done!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

### September 16 – Member Meeting

Annual Picnic at Franklin Park in Prairie Village

### October 21 – Member Meeting

Annual Auction at Community of Christ Church

### November 9 – Special Educational Outing

Mark Van Patten – Entomology on the Niangua River

### November 17 – Member Meeting

Shane Bush from the MDC on Crane Creek

### December 6-8 Winter Outing

Bennett Spring

### December 7 – Annual Banquet

Ollie's BBQ & Steakhouse – Lebanon, MO

