

Fly Line

A Monthly Newsletter

November 2009

Club Officers and Directors

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	Lary Smith	
	Lents Prendergast	336-4334
	Ed Hinton	336-6456
	Shawn Childress	333-3894
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Meetings at East Side Arvest Bank at 7 P.M.
First Tuesday of the Month

Board Member Election

There are two board members that are finishing their three year term. Both have agreed to serve again if nominated and elected. Lents Prendergast and Ed Hinton have served the club very well over the last three years and they will be placed in nomination by the nominating committee.

Next meetings;

The regular meeting of the GCF will be on November 3rd, at East Side Arvest Bank, Community room. Doors will open at 6:30PM for a fellowship time with the business meeting starting at 7:00PM.

After the business meeting Gregg Dodds will talk about fishing the Upper and Lower Illinois. Gregg is the owner of checkurfly guide service. WWW.checkurfly.com

Fly tying will be on Nov, 19th in the break room at East Side Arvest Bank.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Indicates Drawing Event

- * Nov. 3-Reg meeting 7 PM East Side
- * Nov.19-Fly Tying 7 PM East Side Bank
- * Dec. 4-Xmas Party Tulsa Friday night
- * Dec.17-Fly Tying 7 PM East Side Bank
- * Jan, 5- Reg. meeting 7 PM East Side Bank-Speaker: Toby Vaughan "The History of the wet Fly"

PRESIDENT'S CONNER



Message from President
Riley Osborn

Presidents Ramblings

We have had two great outings since the last newsletter. Twelve members attended the Elk River outing close to Tiff City, MO and nine members met in Kansas at Idle Hour lake close to Altamont, KS. Both groups fished hard and had a wonderful time. Thanks to Dean Reed and Charlie from Altamont for coordinating that trip. Our next outing will be in Oklahoma, either at Kaw Lake of Lake Pawhuska early in November. We need to encourage all of our members to attend these club outings. There is a lot a fly fishing knowledge sharing that occurs on the water and around the campsite during these outings. Two of the purposes of our club as listed in our bylaws are:

- To promote, cultivate, and advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as the most sportsmanship-like and enjoyable form of fishing and the method most consistent with the preservation of and sound use of our game fish resource - To promote and enhance the philosophy of fly fishing, and the techniques of fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and related subjects through teaching, programs, and seminars especially including the youth. Club outings are one of the ways we support these two purposes. If you are interested in helping plan next year's outings let one of the officers know and we will include you in the committee for that purpose.

Elk River Outing Oct 3-4
A lively group made it to the banks of the Elk River where MO Highway 43 crosses the Elk just east of Tiff City, MO. Larry Johnson, Dean Reed, Richard Johnson, Billy Johnson, Paul Keeler, and Dick Leonard were there on Friday and Lary Smith, Ed Hinton, Ivan Winger, Gary Kilpatrick, Dean Holland, and Riley Osborn joined them on Saturday morning. Cowskin Canoe Outfitters maintains the camping site, rents the canoes and furnishes the transportation upstream to the starting point for the ten mile fishing expedition. There were some issues about electricity for the campers but that was soon solved with the use of a very long electrical cord. When we started loading up to go the starting point we had to find a way to haul our boats. The outfitters only took care of the canoes we were going to rent and use. Larry Johnson was very generous and offered the use of his truck to haul the boats. Four fully inflated pontoon boats are a real truck load (see photos). Most of us took advantage of the converted school bus for the trip upriver. Once we were all on the river the problems getting there seemed to be forgotten. The scenery around the river is great and the water in the river is clear enough to see the bottom four to six feet deep. The fish were abundant but in most cases did not care for our fly presentations. There were a few small mouth bass caught but there were more large mouth and blue gill landed than the elusive small mouth. It was not for a lack of effort. Everyone worked fished hard, sometimes in the boats and sometimes wading. The trek lasted about six hours 10:00AM to 4:00PM. There must have been a church camp in the cliffs above the river and their camp included a tour of the river via wagons pulled by tractors. One of our fishermen became a feature of the tour and he had to take time out from fishing to wave at the passing tourists. We all plan to return the next time this river is on the outing list.

Idle Hour Lake at Altamont, KS

Dean Reed, Alice Reed, Larry Johnson, Richard Johnson, Billy Johnson, Dennis Kidd, Greg McWilliams, Bruce Keen, and Ivan Winger made it to Idle Hour Lake, east of Coffeyville, KS. The fishing was good with many blue

gill, large mouth, and a few catfish. caught. The group had enough fish for a Saturday night fish fry. It was a little chilly in the mornings but warmer in the afternoon. We should include this lake in our plans for next year but maybe during the summer.



Field Notes by Sean Lynott is a district fisheries biologist for the state of Kansas and an avid angler. Questions or subject ideas can be directed to seanl@wp.state.ks.us.

Too Many Fish

A common problem for Kansas pond owners "stunting", as it's often called, is not truly known. It might be true stunting -- slow growth because of intense competition for food and an abundance of young fish. Stunting might be caused by an abundance of excellent spawning in conjunction with poor growing conditions, such as a lack of forage. Moreover, thick weed growth -- escape cover -- allows sunfish to escape predators and thus survive in greater numbers.

Another cause might be a lack of large game fish. Without a suitable predator to thin the ranks of small sunfish, the population remains too high for any individual fish to grow very fast. Or it may simply be a result of overfishing; that is, anglers simply remove most of the "keepers," leaving behind many small fish that further proliferate in the absence of larger sunfish.

These may be the causes of stunting. But how do fish managers correct it?

One approach is to remove small bluegill; but this sounds easier than it is. During the 1940s and '50s, fish managers tried seining bluegill to reduce their numbers but couldn't remove enough fish to make a difference. Trapnets are easier but are still labor intensive.

In a more successful attempt to reduce the number of bluegill and increase their size, the Fish managers treated a lake with a toxicant in such a way to kill most small bluegill while sparing the larger fish. The experiment worked, but chemical treatment was expensive, and one of the chemicals used in the treatments is no longer made.

Largemouth bass appear to be the best tool in a manager's bag of tricks. They feed heavily on bluegill and seem adept at ambushing sunfish in heavy weeds. Largemouth will feed on bluegill up to one-quarter their own length. Consequently, a promising way of controlling bluegill numbers is by maintaining great numbers of medium-sized bass. Bass appear to have two effects on bluegill. First, bass simply eat a lot of sunfish helps control their numbers. Second, bass force small, vulnerable sunfish into thick weeds; but the big sunfish -- too large to be eaten by the bass -- are free to forage wherever food is most plentiful. So the presence of bass reduces the competition between small sunfish and large, thus allowing the large sunfish to grow even larger and faster.

Sustaining a type of fishing and harvest for preferred sizes and kinds of fishes is easiest by selectively harvesting the catch. Pond owners can use the chart below to see what management actions should be taken, if quality bluegill are the goal. Harvest numbers suggested in the table below are per surface acre of water.

“Is too many tiny bluegill and an absence of large sunfish. The cause of this ”

If Bass Are	If Bluegill are	Then
Mostly less than 12 inches	Mostly more than 5 inches in length	Enjoy your pond and harvest 50-75 8-9” Bluegill without worry. Harvest 10 Bass 10-12”.
Mostly 12 to 15 inches	Mostly 3 to 6 inches in length with some larger than 6 inches	Harvest all bluegills less than 6 inches, harvest 20-25 bluegills 6-8 inches, harvest no largemouth bass
Few caught, most over 15 inches	Mostly less than 5 inches in length	Harvest all bluegills less than 6 inches, do not harvest bass, stock 50 4-6 inch bass
Mostly less than 12 inches in length	Mostly less than 5 inches in length	Harvest all bluegills less than 6 inches, do not harvest bass, treat vegetation if overabundant

A properly, maintained, and managed bluegill pond will be an asset rather than a liability, and can enhance your quality of life through the years of recreation and enjoyment it provides. I hope that the information presented here will contribute significantly to the understanding and enjoyment of your pond.



Bartlesville Green Country Flyfishers dues are \$16, and most of our members pay in December and January. You can pay at the meeting or mail to Gary Kilpatrick, 1230 Dogwood Court, Bartlesville, OK. 74006.

**The Flyline
Newsletter of the GREEN COUNTRY
FLYFISHERS
P. O. Box 1053
Bartlesville, OK 74005**

GCF supports Catch and Release



Time spent fishing is time well spent