



Kansas City Chapter



July - August 2014

Next Club Meeting
September 23, 2014
7:00 pm

Executive Board Meeting
July 8, 2014
7:00 pm
August 12, 2014
7:00 pm

Location
Fleming Hall
21906 SW Woods Chapel Road
Lee's Summit, Missouri

Next Club Meeting Date
Family Fun Day
July 19, 2014

Family Fun Day - July 19th - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The club's annual Family Fun Day will be on Saturday July 19th starting at 10:00am and ending around 2:00pm at Fleming Hall. Meat and Drinks will be furnished by the club. There will be games and fly fishing challenges during the day. Bring your own lawn chair and one of the following:

- Last names ending in A-K: desert to serve several people
 - Last names ending in L-Z: side dish to serve several people
- Look forward to seeing you there.

4th Annual KC Chapter Derby at Bennett Springs State Park - August 9th, 2014

Our chapter will once again host a tagged fish derby at Bennett Spring State Park. This year's derby will be held on Saturday, August 9th. Rules will be provided at the derby registration table. Registration will begin on Friday evening from 8:00 - 10:00 pm and again on Saturday morning from 6:00 - 7:00 am. This club derby is smaller than the state derby that was held last month, but is every bit as much fun.



Catch a tagged fish and have the opportunity to win a prize. Lodging in the area fills up quickly, so make your reservations as soon as possible. We will see you at the registration table or out on the stream.

Bill

MTFA Fly Fishing / Casting Class - Sign Up

Our last class was well attended and some people asked about when we are going to do it again. As soon as we have 7 to 8 people sign up we will schedule a class. To put your name on the list, contact Sharon Beckman at:

913-341-3260 or e-mail to: ewbeckman@kc.rr.com

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Family Fun Day, MTFA Chapter Derby, Fly Fishing Class | 1 |
| Building Your Own Leader | 2 |
| 14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality, | 3 |
| K&K Summer Sale, President's Message | 4 |
| 14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality Cont'd, | 5 |
| 14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality Cont'd, 3 Fundamentals for Casting Down Wind | 6 |
| Building Your Own Leader Cont'd | 7 |

For More Information

Visit the website for the latest News and updates
www.mtfa-kansascity.org

Upcoming Events

July 8, 2014
E-Board Meeting
Fleming Hall
7:00 pm

July 19, 2014
MTFA Family Fun Day
Fleming Hall
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

July 22, 2014
No Club Meeting

August 9, 2014
MTFA KC Chapter Derby
Bennett Springs State Park
(See front page)

August 12, 2014
E-Board Meeting
Fleming Hall
7:00 pm

August 26, 2014
No Club Meeting



MTFA Officers

President: Bill Beckman
(913) 341-3260

V President: Gary Davisson
(816) 896-5221

Secretary: Carol Cook
(816) 272-5194

Treasurer: Kent Inman
(816) 682-4924

Members at Large:

Merril Miller
Roger Theroux
David Cook
Marvin Allison

Building Your own Leaders

I was asked at the last meeting about building a leader instead of buying one. What are the advantages and can I save money if I build my own? Interesting questions. I will be honest with you and say up front that I purchase my leaders for my fishing around here.

On many of my guided fishing trips the guides always provided leaders they had put together, built exactly for what we would be fishing for and the type of fishing we would be doing. A guide told me once that a well-designed fly fishing leader can take a mediocre cast and turn it into a cast that delivers the fly to the fish instead of falling short in a pile, on the other hand and a poorly designed leader can exaggerate the effects of a faulty cast.

I am assuming you understand what a leader is so I will skip a big explanation except to say that a leader is made up of three sections. The (Butt Section) which attaches to the fly line, the (Taper Section) or mid-section and last a (Tippet Section). Proportions will vary depending on the length of the leader, presentation style and fishing conditions. The old hard and fast rule is 60%/20%/20%. This means 60% butt section, 20% taper section and 20% tippet. If you want a more delicate presentation, shorten the butt section and add to the taper section and tippet section.

Leader length. The hard and fast rule is to start with the rod length. A 9'-0" or 8'-6" length leader would be the standard for a 9'-0" rod.

Tapered leaders are sold at your local fly shop/Bass Pro or over the internet. They cost anywhere from approximately \$12.00 for a three pack to \$10.00 for one fluorocarbon leader. For the masses these work just fine but having cast a homemade leader versus the store bought leader, the packaged leaders do not turn over like the homemade ones. The leader that you build yourself is perfectly balanced and through experience an angler that hand ties and builds his/her own leader will produce a more refined casting system, tailor made for their own style and their fly rod.

Let's get started and build a leader, remember the 60/20/20 rule. We start with the butt section that is about 2/3 the diameter of the tip of the fly line. Typically, this will be approximately .019-.021" in diameter. The guides I know prefer to use Maxima Chameleon for this section. The knot used to join the butt section to the fly line is either a nail knot or needle knot. A fly line that you purchase today are manufactured with a welded loop so use a perfection loop at the butt end of your leader and run the loop through the welded loop on the fly line, creating a loop to loop connection. Approximately 60% of the leaders length is composed of large diameter (Maxima Ultra Green), 20% of the length is made up of short

14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality BY LOUIS CAHILL

The years we spend learning to cast and drift a fly or the thousands of dollars we spend on gear and travel are all wasted if we don't have fish.

With more anglers entering the sport every day, sport fish are heavily pressured and in grave danger. There are a lot of common mistakes that anglers make which contribute to fish mortality. Most are innocent and many don't show an immediate risk. With that in mind here are fourteen tips to help keep our little friends happy and healthy.

THE 10 SECOND RULE

A fish's gills are remarkably efficient at collecting oxygen but the delicate membranes that extract the oxygen molecules rely on their buoyancy to keep the collecting surfaces exposed. Out of the water they collapse and are useless. This is to say the obvious, fish can't breathe out of water. It's easy to over estimate how long a fish can hold its breath. The fact is, a fish can't hold its breath at all because it doesn't have lungs. He is out of air as soon as you lift him from the water. Add to this that his metabolism is raging because he's been fighting for his life and you have a pretty desperate situation. While you are trying to get that hero shot, he's dying. Use the 10 second rule and never keep his head out of the water for more than 10 seconds and give him a good 30 seconds before you lift him again.

HOLD ON LOOSELY

I can't tell you how many times I've seen guys squeeze a fish until its eyes pop out. Some guys just get so rattled holding a fish you'd think they never saw one. This death grip can cause serious internal injury especially to the heart. The trick is a nice loose grip. The tighter you hold a fish the more he will struggle. To control one, properly grip him just in front of his tail where there's nothing but muscle and let him just rest on a loose hand under the boney part of his pec fins and gill plates. He will relax and the whole vibe will be nicer.

BARBLESS HOOKS

Once in a while a fish will unbutton due to a barbless hook. That's just a fact of life but most anglers understand that they will hold hundreds, if not thousands, of fish in their life. Decreasing that number by a few is not a crisis. The fact is that barbless hooks go a long way to reducing fish mortality from hook injuries. If you are fighting fish properly you will not lose many and if you aren't, fishing barbless hooks will teach you to fight fish smarter and you'll be a better angler for it.

FIGHT WITH AUTHORITY

The biggest mistake I see anglers make is not fighting fish with authority. Most of us are taught to play fish too long, exhausting them before they are landed. A fish that is fought with authority is landed fresher and released fresher. Keep a good angle on the fish and use good side pressure and you can put a lot more pressure on that fish than you think and you will reduce the chances of an LDR.

USE A NET

I should say that the most fish friendly landing method is to not touch the fish at all. When possible instead of landing the fish I will bring him in and grab the fly rather than the fish, easing it out of his mouth and sending him on his way immediately. That's a great method but it doesn't always work. Sometimes the fly isn't where you can get at it, or the fish is too green, or too big, or you just want a photo. The next best thing is a net. A good quality catch and release net, (I like the rubber ones) is very friendly to the fish and a good long handle lets you seal the deal quicker. A healthy basket is nice too. No need to fold him double.

Continued on Page 5

K&K Summer Sale

K&K FlyFishers is have a summer sale on reels and fly lines.

Lamson Konic Fly Reels:

| Size | Reg. | Sale |
|------|-------|--------------|
| #1.5 | \$139 | \$105 |
| #2 | \$149 | \$112 |
| #3.5 | \$159 | \$119 |
| #4 | \$169 | \$126 |

SharkWave Fly Line

| Reg. | Sale |
|------|-------------|
| \$99 | \$79 |

Airflo Fly Lines:

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| \$75/79 | \$56 |
|---------|-------------|

Hardy Prince Reel:

\$299 **\$249**

Naulitus NV 8-9 Reel

\$625 **\$495**



President's Message:

During our June meeting Nathan Diesel from Orvis was the quest speaker. Nathan, shared his fishing experience at Taneycomo and introduced new products, boots, etc.

Don't forget to attend Family Fun Day at Fleming Hall July 19, 2014 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Come join us at the 4th Annual MTFA KC Chapter Derby at Bennett Springs August 9, 2014. This will be a one day event with a great selection of prizes. We will need volunteers to help with registering the derby contestants Friday night, Saturday morning and also on Saturday for fish check in. A sign up sheet will be available at Family Fun Day.

On Thursday July 24, 2014 the club will be putting on a fly fishing class at Lake Doniphan in Excelsior Springs. The class is for children 7-16 with spinal problems. Thanks to those who have volunteered to help.

The Family Fun Day and our annual Derby at Bennett will be in place of regular club meeting, therefore we will not have a club meeting for the months of July and August.

Fly Tying Class Starts September 8, 2014 and runs for 7 weeks, September 8th thru October 20th. Contact Merrill Miller @ 816-673-9863 or email merrilgofish@aol.com

Don't forget to add the KC Derby at Roaring River State Park September 27, 2014 to your agenda.

"It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year"

Theodore Gordon

Bill Beckman

14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality Cont'd

PROTECT THEIR HEADS

Believe it or not, head injuries are the leading cause of fish mortality, even if you don't count the ones that get bonked. Fish's heads are not designed for hard surfaces. A seemingly benign blow to the head can end in a fish going belly up after 20 minutes or so. There is hard data on this. That's why it's a bad idea to beach a fish when landing it. If the bank is rocky a flopping fish is in mortal danger.

NEVER BEACH FISH

Dry land is no place for a fish and they face several dangers. It is impossible to beach a fish without disturbing his protective slime. That slime keeps out a host of dangerous bacteria and parasites. The slime will regenerate but in the meantime the fish is vulnerable. Being on the bank also dramatically increases the risk of head injury, eye injury and oxygen deprivation. If you are by yourself and want to get a photo, find a sandy spot in the margin of the water where the fish can lie with one side submerged. Cover his face with a wet hand to settle him down. Lift your hand and shoot quick.

WET YOUR HANDS

Dry hands remove slime too. Many times I've caught fish with fungus in the shape of a careless angler's hand. It's a simple thing to do. I dip my hands as a reflex action, almost as soon as I hook up.

DON'T DIG AROUND IN THERE

Once in a while a fish takes a fly deep. The best way to avoid this is not to dally on your hook-set. Still, it's unavoidable and when it happens don't try to be Dr. McCoy. Start digging around in there and you'll end up saying, "he's dead Jim." Cut the line and turn him loose, he'll spit it out. Flies are cheap.

HAVE A COKE ON HAND

There's nothing like it! If a fish is bleeding pour a Coke down his throat and the bleeding stops instantly.

REVIVE BEFORE RELEASE

You should always revive a fish before releasing it, especially after a long fight. Hold him in medium fast current where there is plenty of oxygen. Most fish are able to pump water across their gills without the aid of current but slack water has less oxygen than current. Just hold him gently under the pectoral fins and he'll go when he's ready. If he swims a few yards rolls on his side, go get him. He needs more time.

LOOK FOR PREDATORS

An exhausted fish is easy prey. Before you turn the little guy loose have a quick look around. No need in feeding the otters, herons or sharks, they do fine on their own. Chase those munchers off. That's a little tougher with the sharks but you can tow a fish to safer water, just watch your hands.

DON'T FREEZE 'EM

I love winter fishing and in general it's better on the fish since the water holds more oxygen when it's cold but there is an added danger. Fish have no body heat and when it's below freezing the delicate membranes in their

14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality Cont'd

gills can freeze surprisingly quick. The colder it is the shorter the time you can safely keep them out of the water. Once it's below zero don't lift them at all and never, ever, put them on the snow.

DON'T BEAT 'UM UP IN THE HEAT

As water warms up it holds less oxygen. Trout can get highly stressed as water temperatures approach seventy degrees. The stress of a fight can raise their metabolism to the point that they just can't get enough oxygen. The effects can be lethal. When water temps are high head for high elevation streams or tailwaters. You'll be cooler and the fish will stay healthy.

Keep these tips in mind and your catch and release technique will be golden. Teach your friends and your kids these valuable practices and we will all reap the reward of a healthy and prolific fishery.

3 Fundamentals for Casting Down Wind

1. Widen Your Loops.

I was always taught that you wanted to always have tight loops when casting? More often than not, sharp loops are what you are looking for when fly casting. However, when casting downwind, a strong wind from behind can cause the legs of a tight loop to crash into each other. Therefore, it is important to cast slightly wider loops than normal on the forward cast in order to maintain a consistent loop of line all the way to the fish.

2. Higher Trajectory.

Stop the rod high to allow the fly line to straighten above the surface of the water. With the added energy of the wind working in your favor, casting at an angle directed toward the surface of the water will often cause the line to slap the water, or land in a heap when presenting the fly downwind. Adjust the trajectory of your cast to allow the line to straighten above the water before settling softly onto the surface.

3. Better Back Casts.

For obvious reasons, most of us would agree we can reach greater distances when casting with the wind. However, a common problem we see when casting downwind are tailing loops on the forward cast. Although the wind might provide the extra power needed to throw a long line, if it tangles up in the process, it's probably not a great 'fishing cast' anyhow. Most often, the cause for a tailing loop when casting downwind is a poor back cast. Therefore it is important to concentrate on throwing a nice loop that has enough energy for the fly line to straighten into the wind on the back cast. Without getting too 'technical,' this allows for less 'slack' in the system before starting the forward cast and will help to reduce tailing loops.

Gary

Building Your own Leaders Cont'd

pieces of Maxima Ultra Green or Climax Fluorocarbon. The last 20% is the tippet section using smaller diameters of Monofilament or Fluorocarbon. There are a larger number of manufactures that make tippet material. Orvis/Rio/Maxima just to name a few. The successive pieces of monofilament or fluorocarbon material which are joined together should vary from one another by no more than .002". This is important to maintain proper transmission of energy and knot strength.

Here is a formula from Joan Wulff's book using a store bought tapered leader, then adding to it and a chart I found on the internet.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|
| #6 fly line | .023 | .021 knotless tapered | 0x | 1x | 3x | 5x | 6 or 7x |
| | Butt | leader | .011 | .010 | .008 | .006 | .005 - .004 |
| | 12-15" | 7' - 9' | | 8-12" | 8-12" | 8-12" | 4' -6' |
| | if this is final tippet | | | 12-15" | 2'-3' | 3'-4' | |

| Leader Formulas | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Leader | Monofilament Diameter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | .021 | .019 | .017 | .015 | .013 | .011 | .010 | .009 | .008 | .007 | .006 | .005 | .004 |
| 7.5' 0X | 24" | 16" | 14" | 9" | 9" | 18" | | | | | | | |
| 7.5' 1X | 24" | 16" | 14" | | 9" | 9" | 18" | | | | | | |
| 7.5' 2X | 24" | 16" | 14" | | 9" | 9" | | 18" | | | | | |
| 7.5' 3X | 24" | 16" | 14" | | 6" | 6" | | 6" | 18" | | | | |
| 7.5' 4X | 24" | 16" | 14" | | 6" | 6" | | 6" | | 18" | | | |
| 9' 0X | 36" | 16" | 12" | 12" | 12" | 20" | | | | | | | |
| 9' 1X | 36" | 16" | 12" | 8" | 8" | 8" | 20" | | | | | | |
| 9' 2X | 36" | 16" | 12" | 8" | 8" | 8" | | 20" | | | | | |
| 9' 3X | 36" | 16" | 12" | 6" | 6" | 6" | | 6" | 20" | | | | |
| 9' 4X | 36" | 16" | 12" | 6" | 6" | 6" | | 6" | | 20" | | | |
| 9' 5X | 28" | 14" | 12" | 10" | 6" | 6" | | 6" | | 6" | 20" | | |
| 9' 6X | 28" | 14" | 12" | 10" | 6" | 6" | | 6" | | 6" | | 20" | |
| 12' 5X | 36" | 24" | 16" | 12" | 7" | 7" | | 7" | 7" | | 28" | | |
| 12' 6X | 36" | 24" | 16" | 12" | 7" | 7" | | 7" | | 7" | | 28" | |
| 12' 7X | 28" | 18" | 16" | 14" | 12" | 7" | | 7" | | 7" | | 7" | 28" |
| These leader formulas are for 2,3,and 4-weight lines | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9' 4X | | 36" | 16" | 12" | 6" | 6" | | 6" | | 26" | | | |
| 9' 5X | | 28" | 14" | 12" | 10" | 6" | | 6" | | 6" | 26" | | |
| 9' 6X | | 28" | 14" | 12" | 10" | 6" | | 6" | | 6" | | 26" | |
| 12' 5X | | 36" | 24" | 16" | 12" | 8" | | 8" | | 8" | 32" | | |
| 12' 6X | | 36" | 24" | 16" | 12" | | 8" | | 8" | | 8" | 32" | |
| 12' 7X | | 36" | 24" | 16" | 12" | 6" | | 6" | | 6" | | 6" | 32" |

Give this a try and let me know what you have learned from building your own leaders.

Gary