



Kansas City
Chapter



June 2014

Next Club Meeting
June 24, 2014
7:00 pm

Executive Board Meeting
June 10, 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 begin 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



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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

For More Information

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

Upcoming Events

June 10, 2014
E-Board Meeting
Fleming Hall
7:00 pm

June 24, 2014
MTFA Club Meeting
Fleming Hall
7:00pm

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

(Note: All of the dates and future club activities are in the MTFAs Club Calendar on sale!)



MTFA Officers

President: Bill Beckman
(913) 341-3260

V President: Gary Davison
(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

Tandem Tactics for Trout - Below the Surface

Tandem nymph rigs are hands down the most effective way to catch trout. Let's leave behind the aesthetic arguments about dry fly fishing for the minute, there's a reason that all competitive trout fishing is done with teams of nymphs. It works, and it will increase your numbers. There are a host of ways you can choose to fish nymphs. I'm not going into the details of Czech Nymphing vs. French nymphing or Merican nymphing. For now I'm going to focus on choosing and rigging nymphs that work effectively as teams.

Rigging

There are two common ways to rig tandem nymphs. The simplest and most commonly used for indicator set ups is to tie the dropper off the bend of your lead fly's hook. Sixteen inches of tippet between the flies is a good average length. You might assume that the dropper would fish sixteen inches deeper than the lead, but that's not the case. It all depends on the distribution of weight. It is pretty common to fish a weighted lead fly with an un-weighted dropper. This team will fish at about the same depth. This tactic offers the fish two choices at the same depth. If your goal is to fish different levels of the water column, you must use a weighted dropper or a split shot four inches or so above the dropper. An un-weighted dropper with a split shot will have better action but is a little more maintenance and can compromise your tippet strength. The difference in depth between the two flies will only be about half the length of the tippet which separates them so you may want to go longer than sixteen inches, depending on conditions. This is the setup I use most commonly. I place a split shot above my last blood knot on the leader, ten inches above my lead fly. My lead fly is usually weighted and the dropper set up varies between un-weighted fly, un-weighted fly with split shot and weighted fly. It has been my experience that most anglers do not fish enough weight. If you're not finding the bottom once in a while, you aren't nymphing this rig effectively.

The other common method for teams of nymphs is to tie each fly from the tag end of a blood knot. This method is most often used for tight line methods like Czech nymphing, because it allows the flies to move naturally in the water while the leader itself remains under tension. Leave the tag end of your leader about eight inches long when tying on tippet and tie your fly to it. It's important that the fly is tied to the leader end of the knot rather than the tippet. This way the fish will pull the knot tighter and not apart. Repeat this procedure for the second and even third fly. Tie the entire leader before adding the flies.

The weight for this kind of rig is traditionally incorporated in the flies. The set up is challenging enough without split shot. There are many schools of thought but putting a very heavy fly in the middle of a three fly team with a smaller weighted fly in the lead and an un-weighted fly at the termination of the leader is a common and effective method. The flies fish in a kind of W formation. You can also attach the three flies by tags and terminate the set up with split shot. If you choose this type of rig, save yourself some grief, and minimize your casting. Lifting the flies to the surface and flipping them upstream is the best way to avoid making a mess of it. A classic dead drift with no indicator, or a tight line method yield best results.

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Tandem Tactics for Trout - Below the Surface Cont'd:

Selecting flies

Fly selection is a matter of psychology. Whether fish psychology or angler psychology is debatable. Effective anglers, sane or otherwise, employ some kind of strategy in selecting a team of flies. Often a given fly is only effective when paired with the right partner. Here are some strategies I commonly use.

Big / small

This is almost always at play in my nymph rigs, sometimes incorporating another strategy as well. The larger fly is always in the lead position and is generally weighted. On streams where stoneflies are present, those are my go-to patterns. I may select a natural dropper like a Hare's Ear, a Caddis pupa or midge larvae, or I may choose some type of attractor.

Attractor / natural

Hot Spot nymphs, flashy nymphs and bright colored patterns like San Juan Worms get fish's attention. They catch fish but they can also make your natural patterns more effective by drawing the fish's attention. I decide which is the dropper by weight and size.

Nymph / emerger

This is a great technique for taking advantage of pre-hatch insect activity. Target a species of insect you expect to be active and use a nymph and emerger that imitate that same species. There is no wrong way to set these flies up but I like to put the nymph in the lead and use un-weighted patterns for both. You can fish them in the film or add a split shot. CDC emergers are my favorite and will still ride higher in the water column than the nymph, especially with split shot.

Junk / subtle

I have found it very productive to pair subtle, natural patterns like RS2s or tiny Pheasant Tails with junk flies, especially egg patterns in the lead. Whether or not you like egg patterns they get the attention of fish. On highly pressured waters where fish will refuse eggs, they still look at them. You can use this to draw attention to a pattern they might eat, but might not see otherwise. This trick works well when water clarity is poor. In this case I keep the dropper no more than a foot from lead fly.

The hot ticket

When fish are keyed in on a particular pattern, there's no reason you can't fish two, or three of them. You can vary the size and color slightly to increase the attraction. Spreading the patterns out lets you cover the water more effectively and increase your odds of a hook up.

Built to swing

One of the most productive teams you can fish is a Woolly Bugger followed by a soft hackle. Both flies work as dead drifted nymphs but they are both super effective on the swing. I will typically cast this team upstream for a dead drift presentation, then swing and lift them at the end of the drift. You can cast them down and across for the swing or straight across and strip them back. You'll even catch fish casting upstream and retrieving. There's no wrong way to fish this team, which makes it a great choice for beginners.

Tandem Tactics for Trout - Below the Surface Cont'd:

Streamers

Yep, even streamers can be fished in teams. You can combine two flies of the same size or fish a small streamer behind a larger one. Flashy nymphs work extremely well dropped from streamers too. The fish who may not have the confidence to eat the streamer may eat the nymph. Larger patterns like size eight accommodate the heavier tippet needed for streamer fishing.

A word of caution

Fishing tandem set ups can sometimes end in foul-hooked fish, and anglers. Keeping your flies at least sixteen inches apart will help reduce this but foul hooking is usually a result of a slow hook set. If your timing is good, it shouldn't be much of an issue. It's a good idea to fish barbless hooks, especially on random set ups. This will reduce the chance of seriously injuring a fish or yourself. The worst hooking I ever got was from a dropper pulled into my hand by a fish. The hook went through my thumb and came out through the nail. I was never more thankful that I'd crushed the barb.

Tandem flies are a powerful tool for putting fish in the net. This should give you some ideas and get you catching more trout. Don't be afraid to experiment. Find what work for you on your water. There are no wrong answers.

Louis Cahill

Gink & Gasoline

www.ginkandgasoline.com



President's Message:

With 2014 almost half over, I hope everyone is getting in plenty of fishing time. During our May Meeting we were honored with a presentation by David Cook on fishing Taneycomo. David covered topics regarding night fishing, areas to fish, reading the water, generation and other techniques on fishing for trout at Taneycomo.

Our quest speaker for the MTFA Club Meeting on June 24 will be Nathan Diesel from Orvis. Nathan was previously a guide at Taneycomo. He will be sharing his fishing experience at Taneycomo and introducing 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.

"The finest gift you can give to any fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows if the fish that you caught isn't someone else's gift to you" Lee Wulff.

Bill Beckman