



**Kansas City  
Chapter**



July - August 2010

**Next Club Meeting**  
September 21, 2010  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**Executive Board Meeting**  
August 10, 2010  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**Executive Board Planning  
Session**  
August 24, 2010  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

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

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**For More Information**

Visit the website for the latest  
News and updates  
[www.mtfa-kansascity.org](http://www.mtfa-kansascity.org)  
Email: [kdinman@yahoo.com](mailto:kdinman@yahoo.com)

## No Club meeting July 27th - August 24

The club meeting for July was our Family Fun Day. No regular meeting in August. The E-Board will hold a planning session for the coming year. If you have any ideas/suggestions of any kind that you would like to see at our meetings in the next year, please contact Kent or Bill with your thoughts. Gene Fox will be our guest speaker at the September meeting.

## Annual MTFA Family Fun Day

The annual family fun day was a wonderful event with great food and fellowship. Thanks to all the members that provided a side dish or dessert that made our meal a feast to behold. After lunch we headed outside in the sweltering heat to try our casting skills. There were four different casting stations set up. One where you had to cast into different circles set on the ground at different distances to help on accuracy, one to help develop tight loops, one to test your tight loop casting through a hoola-hoop, and the last one, again to test the casters accuracy by casting to set off a mouse trap. After about 45 minutes we all melted and headed inside for some cold ice tea and games. The Family Fun Day has been a long standing tradition in the MTFA. Again, we want to thank all the members who made this club activity a great success.

## September Fly Tying Classes - September 13, 2010



Fly Tying instructor - Daniel

Our fly tying classes will be starting on September 13th at 7:00 pm at Fleming Hall. Be sure to put the dates on your home calendar. Daniel will be our lead instructor for this series of classes. If you are interested in learning to tie trout flies, the different tools that are used and how to use them, be sure to contact Kent to get your name on the list. Daniel has also been working on an intermediate and advanced fly tying class

manual. Come and join in on the fun and fellowship.

**Upcoming Events**

**September 13, 2010**

Fly Tying Classes Begin  
First Class  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**September 20, 2010**

Fly Tying Class  
Second Class  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**September 25, 2010**

Fall Club Derby  
Roaring River

**September 27, 2010**

Fly Tying Class  
Third Class  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**October 2, 2010**

FFF Southern Council  
Conclave  
Mountain Home Arkansas

**October 4, 2010**

Fly Tying Class  
Fourth Class  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**October 11, 2010**

Fly Tying Class  
Fifth Class  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**October 18, 2010**

Fly Tying Class  
Final Class  
Fleming Hall  
7:00 pm

**MTFA Officers**

President: Kent Inman  
(816) 682-4924

V President: Bill Beckman  
(913) 341-3260

Secretary: Gary Davisson  
(816) 896-5221

Treasurer: Sandy Theroux  
(816) 523-5119

**Members at Large:**

Merril Miller  
Roger Theroux  
Bill Otis

Past President: David Cook

**Casting Tip**

By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

Your leader should transfer energy smoothly from the tip of your fly line to the fly. A good general rule for leader construction is 40% butt section, 20% middle or taper section, and 20% tippet, where the fly is tied. To select the proper material for the butt, start with a monofilament whose diameter is 2/3 the diameter of your fly line's tip. Hold the fly line tip next to the butt selection and bend them together in a "U;" they should flex similarly. Use the same brand of monofilament for each section. For saltwater I use Ande. Put a two turn surgeon's loop at the butt section to connect to your fly line tip. A three turn surgeon's knot will connect each section of the leader.

When practicing casting on grass, you can make a grass leader by not trimming the tag ends where sections are tied together. This is especially useful when doing a roll cast because the tag ends will grasp the grass and offer resistance similar to the water. The longer the grass, the more length is needed for the ends. Practice makes perfect only when it is perfect practice.

**Alpaca Show Report**

Daniel our fly tying instructor with Kent, Bill B, Marvin A, and Bill Otis helping out, taught three fly tying classes using only alpaca fur. Daniel stated that they had around 27 people take the fly tying classes and that everyone seemed to really enjoy what could be done with the alpaca fur. Kent said it was a great event and wonderful exposure for the club in the Lebanon area. The event promoters were so happy with the classes and the response given back to them that we have already been invited to next years event. Daniel had made a fly tying desk and tools for each fly tying station. Daniel went above and beyond the call of duty here and it showed by the students statements and appreciation given after the classes. Be sure and say Thank You to Daniel for representing our MTFA chapter.



Desk made by Daniel for each student



Daniel, Bill Otis and Marvin at one of the class sessions

## DVD Review

### Double Haul by Rhea Topping

DVD, 55 minutes, suggested price \$24.95

Order through [www.thebookmailer.com](http://www.thebookmailer.com)

This is the FIRST time EVER that the double haul technique has been addressed specifically, and, the first time an instructional DVD has been offered to both students and instructors!!!

The DVD was shot in Montana, both on grass and in the waters of Armstrong and DePuys' spring creeks, with beautiful scenery and music. Additionally, there is a chapter on analysis for instructors, which was filmed at a double haul clinic in Patagonia Argentina.

The content is simple, direct, and easy to understand, with intentional repetition, lots of slow motion (also a first), and excellent graphics.

Beside a brief intro, there are chapters on:

1. Why We Use the Double Haul - with personal explanations and/or casting footage of Mel Krieger, Bob Jacklin, Dave Whitlock, Bruce Richards, John Bailey, and more.
2. Exercises - a series of 11 progressive exercises, with an explanation and hauling footage of Joan Wulff, and a guest appearance by Brian O'Keefe.
3. Water Applications shot on location in Montana.
4. Tips for Instructors - using a legit student, PK Kempf, who learns to double haul on the video.
5. Analysis - with before and after footage of a variety of students in Argentina, and variations on casting styles.

Whether one is a novice, an intermediate, a hotshot, an established instructor, or an about-to-be instructor - there is something for everyone!!!!



### Fish Facts – How do fish breathe?

Taken from the Long Island Flyrodders Newsletter

As people take a breath, they take in air through their bronchial tubes and into their lungs. Inside our lungs, oxygen is taken out of the air and transferred into our blood by little sacs called alveoli. By breathing out we remove carbon dioxide from our blood in the reverse order. Because fish live under water, they get their oxygen in a different way. Most fish breathe by opening and closing their mouths, which fills their mouths with water. When the mouth is closed (and filled with water), a fish opens its opercula (gill covers) and forces the water over the gills and out the fish's body. As water passes over the gills, they exchange carbon dioxide for fresh oxygen. As with the human lung, there are many different parts to a fish's gill. The part that takes oxygen in and removes carbon dioxide is called the lamellae. The gills of a fish are very delicate, so you never want to touch the gills of a fish you plan to release.

The above mechanism describes the way MOST fish breathe. There are, however, several types of fish that can breathe air. Walking catfishes, European eel, electric eel, tropical catfishes and the African and South American lungfishes all have adaptations that allow them to breathe air. These fish use their ability to breathe air to make short over land travels. If the pond they live in dries up. No problem! They just walk or (slither/slide) to the next pond they find. This is just one example of the many special adaptations fish have made to help them survive.

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## Fish Facts Cont'd:

One last thing to think about. The minimum amount of oxygen needed by different kinds of fish varies. Carp, for instance, can survive in water with almost no oxygen while trout need water with a lot of oxygen in order to survive.

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## Who Needs Fly Casting Lessons?

Reprinted from the CapMel.com Website

When I reminisce with fellow guides about recent trips, the subject of the client's ability to cast well always leads the discussion. Captain Bryon Chamberlain, an excellent caster with either hand, was telling Dan Lagace and me about a trip last June where they had pods of tarpon coming at his boat in a steady stream for a good part of the morning.

Dan had just given a casting seminar at a Federation of Fly Fishers conclave in Dania, Florida, demonstrating some advanced casting techniques, and we were having dinner together. Bryon's client could not make a single decent presentation during a session that we all pray for because it doesn't occur as frequently as we would like. Many hours spent on the poling platform can be unproductive, as well as hard work.

When opportunity presents itself, we all want the results to look like Saturday morning TV where Flip or Lefty drops a precise cast exactly on the money and a classic take, hookup and jump follow. Bryon said, "If I had Leigh West along, we would have had a blast." Leigh is another friend who can cast exceptionally well with either hand.

When that client arrived home and relived the charter with his buddies what did he say? First question, "Did you catch anything?" No! What? You paid all that money and didn't catch a single fish? What kind of a guide did you have? The discussion can now take several directions. The guide was great! He had me on fish that were happy and undisturbed, but I screwed up! I was so excited, my knees were knocking! My casting was atrocious. He positioned the boat properly and all I could do was flub every attempt to make a decent cast. Not only could I not reach the fish most of the time, when I did get close I slapped the fly on the water. Several times I picked up the line with a rip that sent them scurrying. I scared fish by false casting over them when they were very close. The wind, although relatively mild, caused me to hit his hat and back a couple times with the fly because I didn't know how to deal with windy conditions. I was embarrassed because I was so unprepared. Between now and next year I will get someone to help me improve so that I never have this happen again.

Or another answer to the question could be, "The guide was OK, he couldn't get me very close to any fish. It was just one of those days when they weren't hitting. We saw some fish, but conditions weren't very good. Next year I'm going to the Keys!"

I realize everyone will not be standing on the casting platform of a flats boat facing one hundred pound tarpon with a twelve weight fly rod. Can you think of any situations that you have faced with a fly rod in your hand where some additional skill would have improved your day? Other than just beginning fly fishing, there are many reasons to improve your casting performance. On a river, the biggest fish rising are always ten feet further than you can cast, same for tailing redfish, or bonefish. When stream fishing, are you able to deal with drag in different currents? Are a lot of fish missed because you can't set the hook properly? Large fish are often under some obstruction or overhang where your fly can't get to them. Can you execute a good roll cast because your favorite stream has a lot of casting obstructions behind you? Any type of wind is impossible for you to deal with. By the time you have the fly anywhere near where the fish were they have left. It's necessary to false cast at least five times to load your rod. If you take your eyes off the fish to watch your back cast, or untangle line wrapped around the rod or reel, do you have trouble finding them again? Bad habits and muscle memory are pronounced in your casting style. Do you have any idea what you're doing wrong? [Continued on Page 5](#)

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## Who Needs Fly Casting Lessons? Cont'd

My fly fishing began at the age of ten and was self taught. Poor equipment and lack of direction gave me a lot of things to overcome later. I also wasted time trying to improve without knowing what my faults were. When I tried to get some help at a local fly shop I was told, "There's something going on in your back cast." Reading the prolific literature, watching videos by the experts, and listening to casting seminars is a good start but can be very confusing. Is the expert trying to make you a mirror image of him or her? Can you separate substance, what is really necessary, from style, the individual technique characteristic of the caster? Should a couple of your fishing buddies help you? If we were talking about golf or playing a musical instrument, how would you get the most help? Is it necessary to identify your strengths as well as weaknesses? Would going to a professional be the solution? How do you choose someone?

Most fly shops have one or more staff members who will offer assistance. This person may be an excellent caster, and a good, or poor teacher. Is this only for you, or your wife, girlfriend, daughter, etc? Fly clubs also have more experienced members who are available to assist you. Our Tampa Bay Fly Fishing club has the hour before our monthly meeting available to help with casting problems. Another member, Steve Parker, has given a casting clinic for members scheduled once or twice during the year that is excellent. The names I mentioned in the first paragraph, as well as others from our club, have spent many hours helping fellow members define and improve casting techniques. There isn't a single downside to belonging to a local fly fishing club. Fly fishing schools, some that have been around for awhile, offer weekend programs in most parts of the country. What will work best for you? This is a decision you will have to make.

There is a certification process that the Federation of Fly Fishers began some years ago. Certification is given at two levels, a Certified Casting Instructor, and a Master Certified Casting Instructor. Someone who successfully completes this process has performed written, oral, and performance tests carefully administered by only the most qualified individuals. The FFF website has a list of certified instructors in your area. This is a good place to begin your journey. This program has everyone that is certified working on the same page. The substance of your development will be consistent. Rarely will it be a one shot deal. Think of your fly rod as an instrument. Improvement will come only with practice. One of the greatest thrills in fly fishing is to see an improvement in your casting skills. Casting well will become the cornerstone of your fly fishing success and you will reap the benefits.

