



Kansas City Chapter



July/August 2020

Club Meeting Date:
July 28, 2020
(Cancelled)
7:00 pm

Executive Board Meeting
July 14, 2020
(Zoom Meeting if Req'd)
7:00 pm

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

Next Club Meeting Date
August 25, 2020
(To Be Determined)

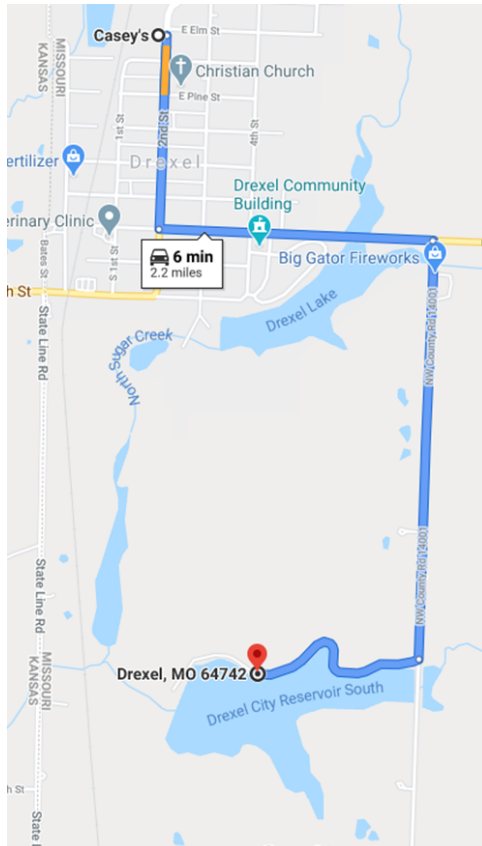
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Presidents Message

I wanted to let you know that we have no indoor meetings for MTFA in the foreseeable future. But we are going to start this month planning outdoor activities (outings). Besides this one scheduled for July 23rd, I will let you know by email an outing for August some time in the future.

For September, we will have a "Derby Lite" on Sept. 26th at Roaring River. No group meetings, no group meals, no derby registration. What's left? Fishing and bragging. We'll get more details out in the next Troutline, but I wanted to let you know that if Roaring River in September is on your calendar, don't scratch it off.



I've scheduled an MTFA fishing outing at Drexel City Reservoir South on Thursday July 23 from 8 - 10 am. This is a fishing event for warm water species, not a trout event. Participants must furnish themselves with whatever equipment, food, snacks, etc. and fishing tackle they may need. If you wish to start earlier in the day, feel free to do so. Fly fishing from shore is quite successful at this lake but if you have a watercraft you wish to use, it is allowed but I don't think gas motors can be used.

Most people will travel south on I-49 to Archie, Mo, then travel west on Hi-way A to the town of Drexel. I've attached a Google map that takes you from the Casey's convenience store on Hi-way A in Drexel, Mo to the lake. If you have questions or plan to go but need more detailed directions from your location, you can contact me by email or home phone # 816-272-5194.

For More Information

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

David Cook

Upcoming Events

July/August monthly meetings cancelled

Note: Hoping and praying that we are back to normal by September. Stay safe!!!!

Who Needs Fly Casting Lessons?

Reprinted from the CapMel.com Website



When I reminisced 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

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Who Needs Fly Casting Lessons - Cont'd

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?



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.

I would like to add that there are a lot of people that say I don't need a guide and they are two expensive. Guides not only put you on fish but observe your casting ability and teach techniques of casting that will help you along with line management, fighting and landing fish. They want to help you become a better fisherman. But I can't express enough how important fly casting lessons are. It is really difficult to break bad habits. There is a lot of casting videos on *YouTube* to watch and learn from but I would like to suggest that you get someone to video you casting. It is a great way to see what you are doing wrong. I hope this encourages you

Project Healing Waters Report by Jim Kissane

Healing Waters, MTFA Participants Keep Active With Online Fly Tying Sessions

Ongoing concern about the COVID-19 virus continues to make a serious tangle of everyone's fishing plans. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing's national headquarters has announced that all local and national program meetings, activities and outings will remain suspended through Aug. 31. In addition, the National Destinations Program, National Competitions Program and National Training Program have been suspended for the remainder of 2020, as have all overnight outings.

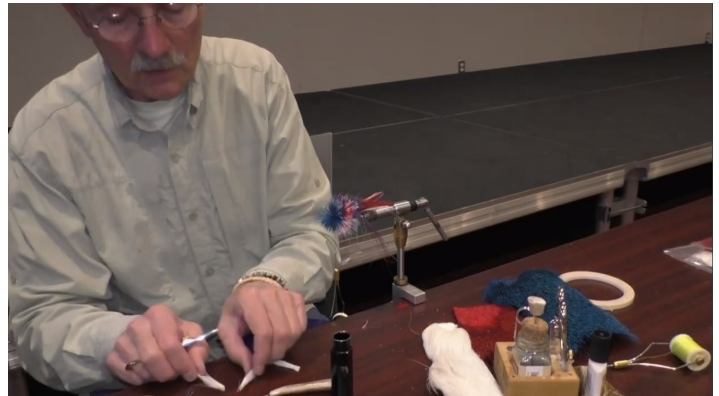
Fortunately, creative minds in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and the Missouri Trout Fishers Association have come up with some activities to keep us in touch with our favorite pastime until program curtailments are lifted. Our Greater Kansas City Program of PHWFF has been posting fly tying videos on our Facebook page. Search on Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Greater Kansas City Area and click on the video link to see them. We plan to continue posting videos throughout the meeting hiatus. Thanks to our video crew and tyers!

Other Project Healing Waters programs also are holding online events. Check out the virtual events calendar at <https://projecthealingwaters.org/announcements/join-us-online-the-phwff-virtual-events-calendar/>.

Bob Woodruff Foundation Grant Supports Virtual Fly Tying Workshops for Veterans

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing has received a grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation (BWF) to support their therapeutic fly tying program. This NFL-BWF Healthy Lifestyles and Creating Community grant will provide 1,300 disabled veterans across 130 program locations with tools and materials to participate in virtual fly-tying workshops alongside veterans in their community maintaining social connections while being physically distanced during COVID-19 conditions.

PHWFF provides support, socialization, and camaraderie to wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans. Activities such as fly-tying help participants improve their hand-eye coordination, adaptive muscle memory, and balance, all while improving



Visit our Facebook page for fly tying videos such as this one featuring Mike George and one of his deer hair creations.

Our MTFA Sponsor is also helping out with a Fly Pattern of the Week, which will be posted on our Facebook page and distributed to our mailing list.

“We encourage our programs to remain engaged through virtual program activities and ‘buddy-check’ sessions using approved social media and other authorized virtual applications,” said Todd Desgrosseilliers, PHWFF President and CEO.

cognitive focus and helping participants cope with stress-related issues brought on by wounds of war. PHWFF offers a community where individuals with similar experiences and disabilities can engage with one another, building lifelong relationships and learning a new sport that encourages healthy outdoor activities.

The BWF grants invest in improving veteran and caregiver health and wellness, supporting veteran and military family transition into civilian communities, and addressing the acute and critical needs of veterans impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.



8643 Grant St, Overland Park, Ks.
913-341-8118.

Fly Fishing Clinics

July 2020

Saturdays

Fly Casting Class - Free 1 Hour

2 Students (1 Instructor - Call for your Appointment

1 Hour each - Saturdays - 9am until 3pm

***Basic to Advanced Casting— Roll, Overhead, Spey,
Double Haul.....You Choose***

Live - Streaming Fly Fishing

***Join us Live every Tuesday at 5pm (cst)
facebook.com kkflyfisher***

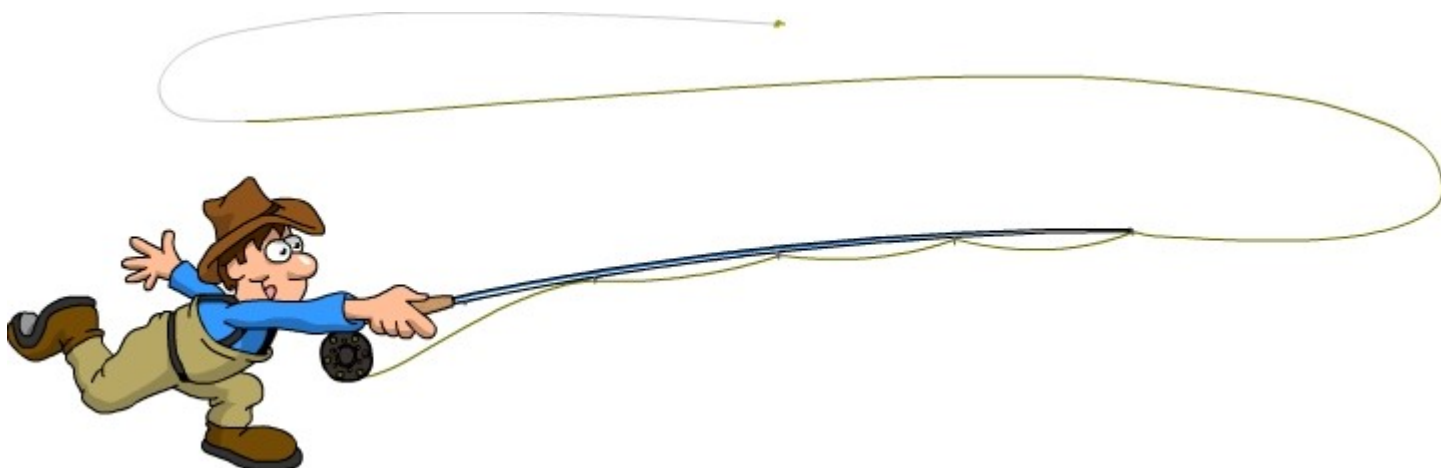
📺 Fly Tying

📺 Fishing Report

📺 Fly Casting

Call ahead for drive by pickup. It's important to support your local fly shop. Gary

Who Needs Fly Casting Lessons - Cont'd



to take some lessons.

Here are some exercises you can do at home to help you become a better fly caster.

1.) Wrap a hair tie or a Velcro strip around your casting wrist and the butt of the fly rod to secure the fly rod when you are practicing casting. This keeps your wrist in a straight position during the cast and does not allow for much movement.

2.) Target practice. Put some targets I like to use 4 Hula Hoops out on a field downwind from you from 20 feet to 60 feet, and if this gets too easy for you go to some Frisbees. You need to cast to them both forward casting and back casting. Move the targets so you are casting across the wind and then move them so you are casting into the wind. You need to keep repeating this until you have worked your way in a full circle, casting to each target to each target both with a forward cast and a back cast.

3.) Moving Target. This drill requires a friend or family member to help. To start this drill, hold your fly as if you are wading or on a boat. With all your line at your feet, and 9 or so feet of fly line out of your rod tip. Then have your helper throw a hula hoop out on the field. In three back casts or less, hit the hula hoop. If you want to go the extra mile, tie an old fly line to the hula hoop and have your friend retrieve it after they throw it. Forcing you to cast to a moving target just like on the flats. Just like the Target Practice drill, don't forget to do this drill in harder conditions. Cast upwind and across the wind to the moving hula hoop.

4.) Cast with your opposite hand. If you are right handed put the rod in your left hand and if your left handed put the rod in your right hand and go back through exercises #2 and #3.

Gary

