



Kansas City
Chapter

May 2020



Club Meeting Date:
May 26, 2020
(Cancelled)
7:00 pm

Executive Board Meeting
May Meeting
(Cancelled)
7:00 pm

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

Next Club Meeting Date
June 23, 2020
(To Be Determined)

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Presidents Message

News from the MDC is that regular trout fishing at the state's trout parks will begin May 16th. This means you will need a daily tag starting on that date. The MDC will stock trout the night before that date in the three state parks, Montauk, Roaring River and Bennett Spring. Maramec Spring park is run by the James Foundation. Starting May 4th, they are allowing 250 people a day into the park and then on May 16th they will have trout fishing just like the three state parks. The MDC webpage <https://mdc.mo.gov/about-us/mdc-covid-19-response> has the latest news on this.

We have an article this month about rigging and fly fishing with a float and fly. I used to fish heavy jigs (1/32 oz.) on my fly rod in deep or swift water at Montauk and on the Current River. My first lunker trout was on a black and yellow jig.

In the early 70's I went to the KC Sportsman's Show and there was Harold Ensley at the fish tank demonstrating how to catch crappie on a jig and cork (or bobber). The tank was stocked with bass, crappie and trout. He would cast out and catch a trout. Apologize for not catching a crappie and then he would do it again. So after watching him catch 3 trout in a row instead of a crappie, I saw all I needed to know. I bought some little styro-foam bobbers and some size 1/80 oz. Betts' jigs at Bargain Barn in Columbia. I didn't fish them all the time but they did come in handy when I fished the slower stretches at Montauk like the hole above the mill dam.

Well now most of my trout park fishing is at Bennett Spring and the average water there is deeper and well suited for the jig and cork. I still buy the floats but I make all my own jigs now. And my favorite color of jig hasn't changed in nearly 50 years, it's still olive.



Oh yeah, one more thing, Harold Ensley was right, a jig and cork is a killer way to catch crappie.

- David

For More Information

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

Upcoming Events

May activities cancelled

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

White River Fishing - April 2020



Bull Shoals Dam

Being on lock down, doing all the honey do's, keeping up with the yard work, working from home, tying flies, fishing the ponds close to home, I felt the need to get away. We had this trip scheduled a long time ago. My buddy Barry and I decided to go ahead and make the trip. My son indicated he needed to get away also and if he and my grandson could work it out, would join us. Thank goodness my guide has a guest house that we could stay in because all the motels and B&B's were shut down. They were running 4 generators and had 4 gates open. Lot's of water! The one thing I have learned is when the water is high and flowing you can catch some really nice fish. Greg and Hunter were able to make the trip and joined us late Sunday evening. We had awesome weather, great fishing, and a whole lot of fun.

Get out and enjoy the outdoors and go fishing! *Gary*



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Greg with a nice Brown - Guide Andrew



Barry with a nice Bow - Guide Ron



Hunter with a nice Bow - Guide Andrew

Have you been on a fishing trip? Send me a report and your photo's. Gary

Float n' Fly Rig for the Fly Rod by *Kent Klewein*

How a Float N' Fly Rig (*basically a nymphing rig on my fly rod*) can be for catching good numbers of bass during the late fall and winter months. From late fall through winter, when water temperatures begin dipping into the mid-50s and lower, catching bass on deep reservoirs with traditional fly fishing setups can become extremely difficult for two reasons. The first reason is because bass start becoming sluggish as their metabolisms plummet from cooling lake water temperatures. With lower metabolisms, bass feed less frequently and they also move shorter distances to forage on food (*in an effort to conserve energy*). This is bad news for fly anglers because it drastically shrinks the size of the strike zone (*the hot zone around a bass that a fly or lure needs to enter, to consistently trigger bites*) and it makes it much harder for fly anglers to find, present, and retrieve fly patterns through these small strike zones. The second reason the bass fishing is tough this time of year is because a good portion of the bass on the lakes will move out of the shallow water feeding grounds of the fall and back out into the main lake deep water areas, where they'll often suspend in the water column in 10-25' of water.

The main problem with cold water suspended bass is that it's really hard for fly anglers to keep their fly patterns in the strike zone throughout the entire retrieve. It's really only in front of the bass for a small percentage of the retrieve. The first half of the retrieve an angler struggles to get the fly down to the level of the bass, and the last half of the retrieve, the fly is coming up and out of the strike zone as it gets closer to the angler and the boat on the surface. With a Float N' Fly Rig, the suspension/floating device (*strike indicator set to a preferred depth*) allows you to maintain a consistent depth with your fly pattern during the entire retrieve, even when you're working it extremely slow to entice cold water bass. That's critical for triggering lethargic bass that often need to be coaxed into feeding. What you're trying to do with your float n' fly rig is make that baitfish jig pattern look injured or dying. It needs to look like an easy meal and the bass will suck it in if you get it close enough to them. The best technique is to make a cast to the bank, let your fly sink, and then slowly bring the entire rig back to you with very subtle rod tip bounces or jiggling. All you want is the strike indicator to barely be moving as you're bringing the rig back to you. I usually stop the twitching and pause for 20-30 seconds a couple of times during each retrieve. The more windy the day is or the more chop there is on the water, the less you have to twitch the rod tip, because you'll naturally get action on your jig from the choppy or wavy water on the surface.

Four or five years ago, I spent quite a bit of time bass fishing with my head bass guide (*who uses conventional bass tackle*) during the fall and winter, and that's when I first saw how he located and caught good numbers of suspended bass with his float n' fly rig on our deep mountain lakes. He used a long spinning rod (8-10') spooled with 4-6lb. test. Tied a three-way swivel onto his main running line, attached a small bobber to the second tie off area of the three-way swivel, and then tied on a long section of fluorocarbon tippet (8-14'), from which he tied on a small hand tied jig. Year after year, we caught huge sacks of suspended bass with the float n' fly rig on his hand tied 1/8 -1/32 oz. jigs. One day, I told him, "Man, all we're really doing is nymphing for bass, and there's no reason I can't do this with my fly rod." The next trip, I did just that, tying on a 12' 3x leader, attached a strike indicator at the far end of the butt section of the leader and tied on 1/16 oz. jig with a non-slip loop knot. That day, I held my own, catching just as many bass with my fly rod as my buddy did with his spinning outfit. I've modified the rig a little over the years, but it still largely remains the same as that first standard trout nymph rig, only with a longer leader and a baitfish fly pattern tied on a jig hook, not a trout nymph.

As for where to fish the float n' fly rig, the best place to start is on rocky bluff banks (*steep 45 degree banks*) or main lake points. Every day is different though and you need to listen to the fish and try to locate the bait. Sometimes deep water humps, secondary points or big coves will be the ticket. Use your electronics to find

Float n' Fly Rig for the Fly Rod Cont'd

the bass and the bait and set your strike indicator so that your jig fly will be at or slightly above the depth of the fish. This will keep it in view of the most fish. Don't position your boat too close to the bank so you don't run the risk of sitting on top of the bass. Pay attention to where your bites are coming during the retrieve so you can dial your boat position in. I've found it best to cast to bank and work the rig back to the boat in deep water.

Below are some hand tied float n' fly jigs that work really well for me and my bass guide. Most of the flies are tied from craft fur. We do use some Krystal Flash and mallard flank at times. One thing I found is that contrasting colors in the patterns seem to work much better than all natural realistic looking patterns. I think a lot of that has to do with the flies being fished over ten feet deep where many colors turn grey. Lastly, don't tie your jigs too big. I rarely fish jigs over 3 inches. Most of the baitfish this time of year will be three inches or smaller.



Get out there and try this fun Float N' Fly Rig out on your fly rod during the late fall and winter months this year. If you stick with it and use the tips I've suggested, I'm confident you'll catch good numbers of bass and have most of the lake to yourself. Just dress extra warm, because the lake can be brutally cold this time of year.

Keep it Reel,
Kent Klewein
www.ginkandgasoline.com

Re-printed from the Gink & Gasoline Blog

K&K May - Fly Fishing Tuesday Clinic's (Live)



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May 2020**

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