



Kansas City
Chapter



October 2020

Club Meeting Date:
Oct 27 (Cancelled)
7:00 pm

Executive Board Meeting
Oct 6
(Zoom Meeting)
7:00 pm

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

Next Club Meeting Date
Nov 24 (Cancelled)

Presidents Message



Put yourself in this picture ...

I did

With Bruce Storts.

Find time to go fishing, you won't regret it.

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A day trip to Bennett Spring is very doable. The more you do it, the easier the drive gets. Trout fishing will sooth your soul in a covid-19 world.

— David

Catch and Release Season Multiple Guess Test by Bob Randall Springfield Chapter

Which of the following is/are true of the Catch and Release Season in the MO Trout Parks:

- A) It runs from the third Friday in October to the second Monday in February
- B) It runs from the second Friday in November to the second Monday in February
- C) It runs from the second Friday in November to the first Monday in February
- D) It runs from the second Saturday in November to the second Sunday in February
- E) You may fish Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday only
- F) You do not need a Missouri Trout Permit while fishing
- G) All of the above
- H) None of the above
- I) B., E., and F are all correct

answers on page 6

For More Information

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

Upcoming Events

Oct 6,
E-Board Meeting
Zoom - 7:00pm

Oct 27,
Club Meeting (Cancelled)
Fleming Hall 7:00pm

Nov 3,
E-Board Meeting
Zoom - 7:00pm

Wading Safely

Wading safely is crucial to avoid dangerous situations. Fly fishing is not usually considered a dangerous sport. The truth is, however, that any activity that takes place in or around water automatically has the potential for inherently risky situations. Moving water only further complicates the setting. Common sense and a little caution go a long way towards preventing accidents. If you are in deep or fast enough water to make yourself uncomfortable, get out slowly and safely.



Wading is no time to take unnecessary risks and no trout is worth dying for. Many an overly aggressive angler has taken a serious unplanned dunking in cold water to remind them that the river is always the boss. Even on a hot summer afternoon, the chilly water of a trout stream can cause hypothermia.

There are ways to wade more safely and even become a stronger wader and reach more fish.

Here's a few tips to try the next time you step into the river.

1. **Polarized sunglasses** help anglers to see the bottom of the river and navigate while avoiding rocks, logs and other hazards.
2. The best drown-proofing is to be prepared. Carry a **wading staff**. A staff can be used as a probe to feel for ledges, drop-offs, or slick boulders. It is invaluable when used as a brace or third leg when crossing unstable terrain. One of the trickiest things to do while wading is turning around in heavy water in mid-stream. Allowing the current to pivot your upstream leg around a solidly placed staff makes doing a 180 a piece of cake. It's kind of fun and a move certainly worth practicing.
3. **Avoid** wading in water deeper than your knees if possible. Water deeper than this with even moderate current becomes very hard to wade in safely. If you can see your feet you are on the right track. Chances are if you are standing in water deeper than your knees you are spooking trout anyway.
4. **Expensive wading boots and waders** are nice, but it is the ten-dollar belt that will save your life. The only thing better than a wading belt is two wading belts. When you fall in the water without a belt, the waders fill up quickly. A wading belt can delay or even completely prevent water from filling the waders. The belt should be snug and preferably have a slight amount of stretch to follow your contours. A good belt should have a buckle that can be popped open even when under a load. The last thing you need is to take a swim, get your belt hung on a willow branch, and drown simply because you can't release the buckle. Contrary to popular myth, waders full of water do not pull you under. The water



MTFA Officers

President: David Cook
(816) 519-2531

V President: Gary Davisson
(816) 896-5221

Secretary: Ardith Haynes

Treasurer: Darrell Durst
(816) 833-3730

Troutline Editor: Gary Davisson
medman3@att.net

Members at Large:

Merril Miller
Roger Theroux
Marvin Allison
Ken Hicks

Wading Safely Cont'd



inside the waders weighs the same as the water outside the waders. Swimming in waders is about as difficult as swimming in wet Levi's.

Another widely held fallacy is that wading belts trap air in the waders and cause you to float upside down with legs in the air. The truth is, as you wade, water pressure squeezes the air out of the waders and past the belt. If for some reason you fall off a boat with air-filled waders, simply bring your knees up to your chest, wrap your arms around your legs and squish the air out.

Waders kill when they are worn with stretchy, loose belts or no belt at all. The typical position for swimming anglers to assume is on their back, head upstream and feet downstream. This is the position taught by the Boy Scouts, Red Cross, NOLS, and the military. Unfortunately for anglers, the defensive swimming technique is designed for someone wearing a life jacket and not a pair of waders.

Rivers move much quicker than a human drifting downstream. With your head upstream, the moving water quickly flushes in and fills the waders. The current can keep the mouth of the waders flared open and create, in effect, a sea anchor that will drive you wherever the prevailing force wants you to go. Michael Phelps would be no more able to fight these hydraulics than Rosie O'Donnell.

A proper wading belt worn at the waist makes the sea anchor effect highly unlikely, and the same belt brought up around the chest will make such an event virtually impossible. A belt around the waist and around the chest can turn a scary event into a fun ride because you are nearly bullet proof.

With or without a belt, do not passively float down a river feetfirst in your waders. Get on your stomach and swim aggressively down and across the current toward safety. In a bony rock garden you might fend off the boulders with your feet, but the bottom line is that the less time you spend in the water, the better the outcome. Swim all the way to shore, then crawl out of the water. Do not try to stand up. The water in the waders will either slap you back down to earth, or the waders themselves will blow up and fall down around your legs. Having water-filled waders pulled down over your knees while trying to get out of a river is a recipe for disaster. Once on shore, lie on your back and raise one leg at a time to dump out the water.

When swimming, stay low in the water. For most people the buoyancy in one arm will make the difference between floating and sinking. Toss your rod or wading staff toward shore and keep both hands under water. Don't needlessly raise your arms in the air in a panicked attempt to draw attention to yourself.

Consciously breathe and think about breathing. It is amazing how the simple act of concentrating on something like breathing will calm you. Don't gasp in huge gulps because right before the gasp you will forcefully exhale and sink. Don't breath in shallow rapid pants where most of the air in your lungs doesn't get recycled. Exhale about half your lung volume to retain buoyancy and inhale as controllably as you can.

Rivers are incredibly powerful. In water as shallow as knee deep you can get your feet trapped under a ledge or branch and be physically unable to pull your foot out. After a few minutes of entrapment, your knees begin to buckle under the relentless pressure, and you are forced into a kneeling position with your hands on the riverbed as you attempt to keep your head above water. In not much time your arms give out and you drown. I have gone through the foot entrapment drill under controlled environments (using rebar and webbing) a number of times and never get over how helpless you feel in such seemingly friendly water.

Project Healing Waters Report by Jim Kissane

Healing Saturday Takes on a Virtual Look

Fly fishers in the Kansas City Area will celebrate the eighth annual Healing Saturday, an all-day fly fishing festival to benefit the Greater Kansas City Program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, on Saturday, Nov. 7. The event is hosted by K&K Fly Fishers of Overland Park, KS.

This year's event will be unlike any of the previous seven Healing Saturdays, because of COVID-19 precautions. K&K owners Kevin and Kathy Kurtz will be putting together a virtual program.

"We're having to think outside the box," said Kevin Kurtz. "But kids are going to school online, and that's working, so we should be able to do something similar. We're still planning on having live speakers, and the raffles and drawings will be live, probably using Facebook Live. We're still working out the details, so stay tuned."

Information will be posted on their website (www.kkflyfisher.com) and on Facebook, (www.facebook.com/kkflyfisher) or visit the store at 8643 Grant in Overland Park.

Jim Weber 1946-2020

We are saddened by the passing of Jim Weber, of our Project Healing Waters participants, who died Sept. 11 at the age of 74. A U.S. Navy Veteran, Jim was a career firefighter with more than 30 years with the Liberty Fire Department, retiring as a Division Chief. He was extremely active in the community, serving as a leader in Boy Scout Troop 374, an Eagle Scout and Firebuilder with the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Clay County 4-H and hunting and fishing projects. He and his wife Edythe were also very active in square

dancing. Jim was a Past Commander of VFW Post 4043 in Liberty and a member of American Legion Post 95 in Liberty.

Following services at Park Lawn Northland Chapel and a procession with the Liberty Fire Department, Jim was buried in New Hope Cemetery in Liberty with military honors. https://www.mycouriertribune.com/obituaries/james-m-weber/article_a1014818-f68d-11ea-ac29-67ca99559572.html



Eagle Scout Project Promotes PHWFF

Earlier this year, we learned of an Eagle Scout Project developed by Cole Matthews, a member of Boy Scout Troop 1412 in Smithville, to build shadowboxes with a flyfishing theme to promote our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing - Greater Kansas City Program.

Cole has completed his project and is placing the shadowboxes in public areas where Veterans are likely to see them. The displays include information on our program and how to become involved with Project Healing Waters.

Shadowboxes have been placed at American Legion Post 58 in Smithville, at American Legion Post 327 in Shawnee, KS, at Courtney Brothers Barber and Shaving Parlor in Blue Springs, and at the Veterans Community Project (the tiny homes village) at 89th and Troost in Kansas City. Another will be placed at the Disabled American Veterans Hall in Independence.

Cole came up with the project as a tribute to his late grandfather, who was a lifelong fly fisher and fly tyer.

Congratulations to Cole on the completion of his project. We hope it has earned him the rank of Eagle Scout. And thank you, Cole, for your support of our program.



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

***Fly Tying Class - Free 1 Hour
2 Students (1 Instructor)
Call for your Appointment
1 Hour each - Saturdays
9am until 3pm***

***Learn How to Tie - Dries, Nymphs or
Streamers, Basic to Advanced -
You Choose***

***Healing Saturday
To Benefit Wounded
Vets through Fly Fishing
Live - On Line November 7th***



Great Fly Fishing Prizes

Get

Your Raffle Tickets Now!

Roaring River Report



A few of our members made the trip to Roaring River to fish and keep the MTF A annual derby tradition going. Roger Theroux, Diana James, Greg Davison, Ken Hicks, Merrill Miller, Eric Mitchel, Bob Barnett and Jerry Gaines (from Monet, Mo). Not sure how the others did but Greg reported that he landed 6 on Friday, 22 on Saturday and 8 Sunday morning. Hopefully next year we all will be able to attend our club derby and the virus will be in the past. Several people reported catching trout over 15 inches. It would have been a highly competitive derby.

Note: If you go fishing someplace please take some pictures, send them and a brief description about your experience, the lures used and any recommendations you would like to share. (Send to medman4503@gmail.com)

Wading Safely Cont'd

The USGS has developed a formula for determining safe wading conditions for government employees and civilian contractors. Multiply the depth (in feet) times the number of feet a stick drifts in a second. If the product is greater than 8, USGS warns people to stay out of the water.



5. Consider using **boots with studded soles** for better traction and stability while wading

6. Try to wade into the current or sideways to it. Wading with strong current at your back pushes you and can cause your knees to buckle leading to a loss of control, losing your footing and falling in

7. Whenever possible use **the buddy system** while crossing a river. Wade side by side (my buddies and I learned this down on the SanJuan and the guides called it the SanJuan shuffle) with arms linked around each other's waist or shoulders. More feet on the bottom amounts to more stability and should one angler slip, the other is there to lean on for help.

8. Believe it or not, lightly pressing your rod on the surface of the water gives you a little more balance.

9. Late spring in the Rockies is snowmelt runoff time when rivers swell with vastly increased and deadly flows. **Avoid wading at all during peak runoff.** Consequently, this is when lake fishing is at its best.

Tail waters below Table Rock, Bull Shoals and the Norfolk Dams where we fish can be extremely dangerous. They blow a siren before they start releasing water, but sometimes you may not be able to hear it especially down on the Norfolk. It's best to pick an object sticking out of the water and use that as a gage as to when you need to get out of the water as the water flow increases rapidly.

10. The **shallow tailouts** of long pools are the safest place to cross a river.

11. Stay away from river hazards like logjams and ice shelves. Take the time to walk safely around them on shore.

12. Finally, respect the river and use common sense. If it seems like wading doesn't feel safe it probably isn't. Fish from shore banks drop offs steeply and fast current is only a step away..

Final Thoughts:

Fly fishing and wading should be a fun outdoor activity and any safe day on the water is a good day on the water.

Answer from multiple choice test:

(B) is correct. It runs from the second Friday in November to the second Monday in February .

(E) and **(F)** are both incorrect. You can't fish on Thursday, it's Friday through Monday only. During the Catch and Release season you will need a trout permit in the trout parks. You won't need the daily tag.

More information and tips:

Furthermore, you don't need to check in at the store at all. Just go stand in the water until the whistle sounds at 8 am. Don't let your fly touch the water before the whistle.

Don't forget to pinch the barbs or use barbless hooks.
