



Streamline



November 2020

Oklahoma Chapter 420 of Trout Unlimited &
Tulsa Fly Fishers a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International

Event Calendar

November 7th - Women's Fly Fishing Workshop

November 9th - Illinois River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting on Zoom

November 12th - Skylar St. Yves - "Fishing for Trout in Oklahoma: Still Water vs Flowing Water"

November 14th - November Outing on the Blue River

If you have a friend who is not a member who might be interested in this information please feel free to forward this issue to your friend. [Forward this message to a friend.](#)

A Message from Your President



Heath Tiefenauer

Hello {FIRST_NAME|TU/TFFer's},

OWDC Specialist to Speak at November Meeting



Skylar St. Yves

Skylar St. Yves describes himself as goal oriented, results driven individual with an outdoor spirit. He

Welcome to the November edition of Streamline. Last month gave us some great weather early in the month but cooled with an unusual fall ice storm in parts of our area. I hope you and your family weren't severely impacted by this storm. With the cooler weather we also had plenty of rain. Local rivers aren't the clearest we've seen them but I still hope you had the chance to get out and wet a line during some of the better conditions mid-October offered. My opportunities weren't plentiful, but I'm thankful for them. The fishing was great, but the catching seemed to come in spurts. When the pockets of fish could be found they were eager to bite.

Unfortunately, just like last year, our October outing to the Upper Illinois had to be modified because of the weather and water conditions. Thankfully we were able to make a quick change to a Lower Illinois River clean up and fish day. Despite the last-minute change of plans we had a nice turnout and there wasn't much trash to be found, but we left it better than when we arrived. Thank you to everyone who came out, we appreciate your support. Our November outing will be a change of venue, a location I don't recall us visiting as a group during my time with Tulsa Fly Fishers. Join us November 14th at the Blue River. Details are included in the Outings section of this newsletter.

Our unusual meeting year continues in November. Weather permitting (cross your fingers!) November 12th we're planning for another outdoor event at Hunter Park. Pat's done a great job and we have a speaker discussing local trout fishing opportunities in Oklahoma. Also, on November 12th we'll hold our annual elections for Tulsa Fly Fishers and TU 420 officers and board members. I know everyone has a little election fatigue this year with the nationwide elections taking place in a just a few days, but please come lend your voice and cast your vote. You must be a registered member of Trout Unlimited to vote in this election. If you aren't already a member now is a great time to join the National organization. In addition to the benefits you receive by joining, your membership really helps us increase the size of our voice as we represent local and national conversation issues.

has spent the last decade serving communities across Oklahoma through outdoor outreach and charitable initiatives.

Skylar joined the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife in 2014 specializing in Graphic Design/Publications. He produced the annual hunting and fishing regulations guide. In addition, he created, produced and distributed many internal and external publications.

Beginning this year, Skylar became the Aquatic Education/R3 Fishing Specialist at ODWC. He forged local/state partnerships to provide free fishing opportunities for Oklahoma foster families, and created a web-based fishing resource site for anglers of all skill levels.

Skylar will be speaking about: **Fishing for Trout in Oklahoma: Still Water vs Flowing Water**

The state has eight designated trout areas and they all fish differently. Understanding the dynamics of each will put you on more fish more often.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to get the inside dope on catching Oklahoma trout.



November's meeting is subject to weather due to the open design of Hunter Park Pavilion. The meeting will NOT BE HELD if the weather is below 50 degrees, extremely windy or rain conditions prevail. Check weather, our home page, or our Facebook page 72 hours before the meeting. Trout Unlimited Chapter 420 and FFI Chapter will be meeting at the Hunter Park Pavilion. Hunter Park is located at: 5804 E 91st St, Tulsa, OK 74137. Open air and plenty of social distancing room.

Regarding conservation, I'd like to thank Pat Daly for his work these past many years leading the charge for TU420 and Tulsa Fly Fishers. Pat has been a steadfast champion who has put in many hours tracking legislation and keeping us all up to speed on the actions needed to continue protecting what we love. Pat will be stepping back and we have an opportunity for one of you to join our group and help us carry the banner. If you are conservation minded and want to engage with this role please reach out to the Volunteer Leader group, we'd be happy to have you join us. The fish and the water definitely need all the help we can muster.

Unfortunately, we won't be getting together for our annual Holiday party, at McNellie's this year. This unusual year we've all experiencing is continuing to pose challenges to larger indoors and in person events. We'll be working to put together an outdoor outing to provide an opportunity for us to safely get together as a group. Our Outing Poker has been well received and we want to make sure everyone gets the chance to collect their third card. Watch for an announcement on this event soon and please visit our website and Facebook page for more information as it becomes available. We hope you and your family are safe and well during this coming Holiday Season.

Tight Lines,

Heath Tiefenauer

President of Oklahoma Trout Unlimited & Tulsa Fly Fishers

Illinois River Watershed Steering Committee Virtual Meeting

The Illinois River Watershed Steering Committee (Steering Committee) will hold a virtual meeting on November 9, 2020 at 1:00 PM. The meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

To join the meeting on Zoom : <https://zoom.us/j/97192053070?pwd=ZWZiRWRPUVpXS1luNzRwTG1YUUF0Zz09>
Passcode: 059384

Note: Information on joining the meeting via phone

Door and raffle tickets will be available starting at 6:00 pm. The General meeting starts at 6:30 pm. The Board of Directors highly recommends adherence to the City, TU and FFI mandates of wearing masks and social distancing at this event. Disposable paper masks will be available, no charge, at the event.

Women's Fly Fishing Workshop

The first TU420 Women's Only Fly-Fishing Workshop will be held November 7th at the Chimney Rock Hollow Trout Farm.

The class is completely full, but if you would like to be put on the list for future events, please contact Kelly Brown at kellyfishes@msn.com.

Please give a big Thanks to Ed Jones and Don Moore for making this event possible.

Holiday Party Cancelled



Our annual Holiday Party has been cancelled due to Covid guidelines and out of respect for everyone's personal safety.

We look forward to being able to get together in the future to celebrate our great sport of fly fishing and to see so many of our fly fishing friends.

Until then, stay engaged with our chapter and local fly fishing via our Facebook group, monthly Streamline newsletter, and our home page www.TU420.com

November Raffle Prize

is provided below

Items on the agenda include updates from the Steering Committee on various topics relating to the Illinois River Watershed as well as presentations from environmental agencies in Oklahoma and Arkansas and the Cherokee Nation. The virtual meeting will be open to the public and public comments will be accepted. The order of comments will be determined by the order of notifying the meeting host. Please note that, due to time constraints, comments from the public will be limited to two minutes per person.

The Steering Committee was established through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment, the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment/Division of Environmental Quality, and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Division in November 2018 to further protect and improve water quality in the Illinois River Watershed. Members of the Steering Committee are the signatories to the MOA (or their successor agencies) as well as the Cherokee Nation. The US Environmental Protection Agency serves in an advisory role to the Steering Committee.

If you have any questions please contact: JanLee Rowlett, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, (405) 522-6105, janlee.rowlett@ag.ok.gov

To join the meeting via phone:

Webinar ID: 971 9205 3070

Passcode: 059384

With the pollution in our rivers from phosphorus(chicken excrement), we need our voice to be heard. Please attend the Zoom meeting , if you can.

Trout In The Classroom



The lucky winner of November's raffle prize will receive the TU420's selection of favorite flies used at the **Lower Illinois River**. This is your chance to have all the correct flies. You just have to figure out which one to use on a particular day. (No one ever said it would be easy).

This selection on the open market would cost well over \$100. Additional raffle prizes will also be available.

Give yourself a better chance of winning these prizes by buying extra tickets at the door.

Outings

Date: Nov. 14th

Location: Blue River near Tishomingo, OK

Start Time: 8:00AM

Our group outing in November will feature a visit to a seasonal Oklahoma Trout water. The Blue River near Tishomingo, OK on Nov. 14th.

Many of our group may not have visited this location before. To help with finding good water we'll be meeting at a local convenience store named **Scotty's Blue River One Stop** at 8AM. Scotty's is located at **4501 S Bullard Chapel Rd, Tishomingo, OK 73460**. From here we'll pass



Collinsville HS Students Counting Kamloop Eggs

By the time you are reading this OKTU420 chapter volunteers will have delivered over 3,000 Kamloops rainbow trout eggs to schools across the Tulsa region.

Once delivered, the students will be responsible for running a mini-fish hatchery. Each of the 55-gallon tanks is equipped with a chiller and a filter system. The filter pumps water out of the tank, filters out harmful nitrites and then blows the water back into the tank and across the chiller coils, circulating the tank water at all times. After the eggs hatch, usually in 5 to 10 days, the students will monitor the water quality and care after the fish.

The eggs are held in the tank in an incubator basket until the yoke sac that they are born with is gone. Once that is observed by the student, the trout are released into the tank where they will be feed and grow up to one to two inches in length. Sometime next spring field trips will be arranged to the Lower Illinois River where the trout fingerlings will be released.

If you wish to follow along please join the Facebook group **TULSA AREA TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM**. Also, as a reminder, these tanks cost about \$1,200 initially and about \$250 a year to maintain and update the equipment, if you'd like to contribute please go the www.tu420.com (STORE) and donate there. If you'd like to help as a tank leader or on a field trip in the spring please contact me at jscotthood@gmail.com

Scott Hood
Youth Education Co-ordinator for OKTU420

2020 Conservation Issues

Conservation Is Our Passion

out the Poker cards and caravan to the fishable water. Scotty's has a great lineup of fresh breakfast sandwiches and item as well, worth the visit.

For lunch we'll gather in the parking lot at the low water dam at 12:30 for individually packaged snacks and drinks. Don't forget your sandwich and a chair! If you aren't able to meet up at Scotty's in the morning, you'll have a 2nd chance to collect your outings card and as always, share your fish tales with the group. See you there!

Contact:

Heath Tiefenauer at TU420outings@gmail.com

Youth And Adult Education



THE TROUT POND FOR TULSA 2020-21

Some good news for getting out this winter, as we all continue to social distance; the TROUT POND is returning to **The Gardens Park Pond** at

Together, we make fishing better.

CONSERVATION **Chair Position Open**

Our key cold and warm water fisheries conservation focus items are:

-Gaining minimum water flow for the Lower Illinois river and other river systems in the state. Minimum flow is critical for healthy Oklahoma fisheries.

-Reducing water pollution that degrades our waters and harms our fisheries. There is particular focus on phosphorus run off from industrial scale agriculture, confined animal feeding operations, sewage plants and the explosive growth in hundreds of new, massive chicken feeding operations.

- Gaining critical water flow and fish passage as part of the new Zink dam project in the Arkansas river. Members of the TU/TFF board are meeting and maintaining ongoing communications and input with the City of Tulsa, River Parks Authority, and our great Gathering place to ensure a healthy, vibrant fishery right in downtown Tulsa.

-Supporting public fishing, new public fishing access and keeping our fishing and hunting license revenue within the award-winning Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Every year, certain legislators who do not understand how important fishing is to all of us, introduce bills in OKC to transfer our license fees to a non-fishing and hunting related "slush fund".

- Monitoring and providing input and education at the state capitol about fisheries conservation issues. This will be a particularly challenging year with over 100 bills introduced that may impact our fishing. There will be almost 2,000 total bills to track and sort through. Many of the bills and votes will happened very quickly with little chance for input before a "zoom" vote. Please stand by to make your voice heard. Fishing deserves an equal seat at the table generating some \$2 billion in Oklahoma revenue and it is our passion.

With this issue, I'm stepping down from the Conservation Chair position of Trout Unlimited and

LaFortune Park. (51st and Hudson, NE corner)

Stocking will be handled by our good friends at Crystal Lake Fisheries, Ava MO. Funding is once again being shared 50-50 with Tulsa's NatureWorks group. (Be sure to attend their famous Art Show and Sale when it happens next spring)

As is our usual, the pond will first be opened to Kids Only, from Christmas Day until New Years' Day. Adults may fish with the children as long as BOTH are fishing. Future Kids Only days will be January 18th and February 15th both are Monday holidays and the pond will be stocked before each of these special days.

Trout are expensive, especially live trout. The budget for these 3 stockings is \$2,000 each and that will deliver about 600 to 650 fish per. With that, and because the pond is more for the kids than for the adults, if you go there to fish, please practice catch and release with barbless hooks.

The limit is 4 trout per day per angler and culling is not allowed, if you put a fish on a stringer or in a fish basket it's caught and counts, don't decide later to "let them go", they will only die and be wasted.

If you wish to contribute to this program please go to www.tu420.com (STORE) and make a donation, they are tax deductible as OKTU420 is a 501c3 non-profit group. **More details in our December Streamline.**

Thank you.

Scott Hood
Youth and Education Co-ordinator

2021 GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

January 8 – Donovan Clary – Small mouth Fishing on the Illinois River

February 11 – Phil Curtis et al – Annual Evening of Fly Tying

March 11 – Bruce Burton - Catching OK's Warm

Tulsa Fly fishers having served you and TU/TFF for the last 7 years.

Working together, we've made great strides in educating legislators and the public about the importance of protecting our fisheries, the need to reduce pollution, gain minimum water flows in our rivers, and protect our great Oklahoma outdoor lifestyle. I'm proud of all of you, and I look forward to seeing even greater success, improved fisheries, and cleaner flowing water in the future.

Wishing you all tight lines and clean streams. See you on the river.

-View the Trout Unlimited national conservation page here <https://www.tu.org/conservation/>

Pat Daly
Retiring Conservation Officer

LIR Cleanup/Fishing



The week before our event the weather dipped and rose like a roller coaster. After hitting the eighties mid-week, the temperature dropped on Friday and Saturday. The TU420 board, because the cold front would spoil smallmouth fishing, switched the October Outing to the LIR.

Members arrived at the Tenkiller Powerhouse to receive their Poker Card and a plastic bag to pick up trash. Most of us filled our bag of trash within an hour and then fished until 11:30.

So as not to discourage those who attended or will plan to spend the day at the LIR, I will not mention that Scott Hood led the day with forty fish caught. The group fished below the powerhouse, lower parking lot area, and at Watts. Everyone had fun whether they landed any fish or not.

We gathered at Watts for lunch (Bring Your Own Sandwich). Fishing tales were exchanged. Here, also, is why you should attend our events. Experienced TUs shared some of their

Water Big Bass on the Fly

April 8 – Stephen Ruiz – Euro Nymphing Techniques for Big Trout

May 13 – Lt Gov. Matt Pennell – Oklahoma Fishing Trail & Importance of Fishing to the OK Economy

2021 Meeting location to be announced.

Please provide Pat Daly, pat@cimtel.net, with any recommendations you have for winter/spring fly fishing topics and guest speakers.

Kelly's Korner

Roll Your Own

Leaders and tippets are a mystery, when mastered, will make your fishing more effective and enjoyable. Leader for Strippers are easy, a short piece of 15 or 20 lb. test usually works directly knotted to the end of your sink tip. For bass, I add on 2 or 3 feet of 8 – 12 lb. test for a “bass” taper. The line is heavy enough to turn over a big fly, but still light enough to sink a fly well on a floating line. If you need to go deeper, extend the length of the tippet. Trout tapers are a different story all together. The leader tippet combination with trout fishing plays a big part in how well a fly moves in the water, and of course cold weather means cold fingers and foggy glasses help keep the knot challenge fresh.

Understanding the role of the leader and tippet will go a long way to reducing snafu's and improve catch rates with whatever fly you choose. You may be able to tie 3X rope to a size 20 Sapsucker Special Crippled Baetis Emerger, but don't expect the little bugger to coast like it was already half dead. Learning to fish with lighter tippets will go a long way to improving your hookup rate with finicky trout.

If you want to pick one skill to improve your hookup rate, learn to present the fly with the natural movement of the water. Judging from the flies I tie; trout are none too picky about what they put in their mouth. They can be frustratingly snarky about presentation. Understanding and mastering the

successful flies with those of us who did not have the go-to-fly. Please plan to be at our next event. You won't regret it.

Bruce Brewer
Editor

ANNUAL ELECTIONS/RAFFLE

At the November 12th General Meeting, we will be holding our Annual Elections. Our current Board has nominated all the 2019-2020 Officers for another two-year term. The following persons have been nominated for two-year term on the Board: Pat Daly, John Sellars, Scott Hood, Ed Wampler, A.P. Fletcher, Kelly Bostian, and Bruce Brewer.

We, also, seek to nominate and elect a Secretary, and a Conservation and Membership chairperson for the Board. If you would like to nominate yourself or know of someone who should, please contact Heath Tiefenauer(btiefenauer@gmail.com)

Our Club Officers are:

President – Heath Tiefenauer
Vice-President – Kelly Brown
Treasurer – Phil Curtis
Secretary – Open Position

Before the Meeting concludes, we will have the **Annual Raffle Prize**. You don't have to present to win, if you bought tickets at a previous meeting.

This year's prize is an Orvis Recon Fly Rod.



venerable dead drift is fundamental to trout fishing. If you want to achieve superstar status, master a long dead drift on a tight line 15 feet out. Trout are not safe when you learn how.

The cut and replace method will provide and effective taper and maximum line strength without trying to understand leader recipes and knot choices for different fishing situations. This involves trimming off the thinnest portion of a 9-foot knotless tapered leader (the 4X, 5X or 6X part) and tying fresh tippet in right where the taper begins to get thicker. Simply run your fingers up the end of the new leader and cut it off right where the line starts to get thicker. Replace the portion you have cut away with a fresh piece of the best quality tippet with a triple surgeon's knot. You will have a leader plenty good for 80% of all trout fishing opportunities.

Why bother? The machine process that pulls the taper produces a slightly weaker tippet section than the equivalent "X" straight material fresh off the spool. Knowing that you have the full strength of a high quality 5X tippet with break strength near 6 lbs. gives you plenty of fight potential for most trout situations. For the small stuff, 6X tippet near 4 lb. breaking strength is quite capable of landing fish in the 20 inch plus range. Take a close look for a manufactured date on 5X and 6X tippet and keep your supply no more than 1 or 2 years old, as age, sunlight and water exposure all weaken mono tippets.

My tippet recommendations are simple. The big deal for streamers is the ability to tie a knot that can withstand a shock of a big fish taking your fly and the fast train to Georgia. Use 3X or larger for streamers or maybe some of the 8 to 12 lb. tippet you have for bass.

For megaworms, eggs and other meaty trout flies, 4X is my favorite. The larger diameter line ties better to the wire gage of size 8 – 12 hooks. The flies are heavy enough the relatively stiff 4X does not much matter. Flies in the 14 – 18 range I generally use 5X tippet and 6X tippet for size 18 and higher. My observation is that the trout don't mind seeing the tippet but they very much disapprove of the tippet dragging the fly in the water.

This quality fly rod is valued at \$498. You will want to be present to see who wins this prize. It could be you!

A Few Words From Jake

Big Sky Fishing Part 2



It's 45 degrees this morning. I can tell that I'm not used to these cooler temperatures yet. I reach for a third layer on my way out of the cabin.

I'm driving to the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge today, a very secluded and mostly untouched area of Montana saturated with lakes and streams. The lakes and lands are protected as habitat for Sandhill Cranes, so it's illegal to fish in the lakes, but the streams are open to the public for fishing.

After 45 minutes of driving down a winding dirt road, we finally arrive at Red Rock Creek, a skinny, python looking stream that embodies every ideal I've ever had about Montana water. A man was mauled by a Grizzly just two weeks earlier, so we're packing bear spray in our bags today. The willows walk right down to the water's edge and provide perfect curtains for any predator. I piece together my 4 wt. and wonder if this is a good idea.

The guide that recommended this spot told me that it's all sight fishing. To not get distracted by the perfect, shadowed drifts and to only stop if I see fish. Within 50 feet of the car, I'm already

Keep in mind that Fluorocarbon tends to be stiffer and a little denser than Mono, making it superior for getting nymph patterns deep and staying "connected" by touch. Fluorocarbon does not deteriorate with age or sunshine, so be careful not to leave too much of it in the water. Apart from the price, Mono has the advantage of more robust knot strength and suppleness, making it a good match for dries, emergers and midge patterns.

Thanks to some advice from our local tight line masters, I have begun to "Roll My Own" leaders. I have started with a pretty simple recipe and use specific line technology that allows me to go back and forth between a mono-only tight line setup and a classic 9-foot taper. Here are the materials:

- 20 lb. Amnesia memory free Mono
- 12 lb. Maxima Chameleon Leader Material
- 8 lb. Cortland Indicator Mono (sighter)
- Rio Tippet Ring, Size Small (2 mm)
- Tippet of your choice

Start with a butt section of the Amnesia. If you are building a tight-line or Euro leader, this will be a little longer than your rod, such that when you are fishing, none of the fly line extends past your last eye. For a traditional leader, keep this section to about 3 feet. Using a double uni-knot, tie in a 3-foot section of the 12 lb. Maxima leader. The uni-knot provides a low profile so it slips through guides readily and works well when joining materials of different thicknesses.

Next tie in a 3-foot section of the Cortland sighter material, again with a double uni-knot. Tie in a tippet ring on the end of the sighter using an improved clinch knot. Hint, tie in the ring before you take it off the swivel as you won't find it if you drop it. A tippet ring is not strictly needed but it does make for a cleaner setup that is easy to make on-the-fly adjustments without slowly eating up the taper portion of the leader.

Depending on the initial length of Amnesia, you have either a 9- or 15-foot leader. The 9-footer turns over like a dream. The longer Euro style leader is not a caster, but if you are fishing tight-line lobbing would be a better description of the cast.

From here, tie your tippet directly to the tippet ring.

breaking his rules. I stop at least twice and throw flies at fish that don't exist. The guide also told me that there might not be fish in the stream at all.

I'm about a half mile in and start to feel the drag of fishing in a place that doesn't hold fish. Days on water in Montana are more valuable than gold, unless you pick the wrong water.

A shape. Several of them. Shadows clinging to the bottom. None of them under 20 inches. They're feeding too. Flashes revealing the telltale signs of hungry Cutthroats. I can tell that one of them is in the 24" range. I've never seen a Cutthroat that big in person. I make myself sit down. Angler hyperventilation is the #1 loss of all big trout. There is no chance I won't miss this fish if I don't calm down.

After 10 minutes, I step back down to the bank. They're still there. I count six of them. I throw a hopper/dropper upstream and it passes right over them. I make 3 more drifts directly above them. Nothing. I switch to a Pat's Rubber Legs and a midge. The larger trout takes it on the first pass. Line races out of my reel. I curse 6x as I try to cross the stream to gain some line. I can't even get to the other side of the small creek before the fish has rounded the next bend. It jumps maniacally throughout its run. Its red is just as vibrant as a spawning salmon. It jumps again and my line goes slack.

I'm not a good sport. I never have been. I don't laugh or smile about it. I drop my rod and let the willows and anyone within a mile know exactly how much I should've been allowed to hold that fish. I again must sit down.

By the time I rig back up, there are still two fish holding in that same water. I'm sure it's a waste of energy, but I decide to throw to them anyway. The first drift yields nothing, but the second drift pulls another solid fish. I wrestle this one and keep the upper hand. I need this fish.

This fish, even in the net, is one of the prettiest fish I've ever caught. Yellowstone Cutthroats always stand out, but this one will be the image I carry with me for the species. Wildfire red and Kerry gold browned butter.

Extend the length of the tippet if you come to deeper water or want to cast more slack in the line. If you want to fish dropper style, try using 3 feet of a heavier tippet for the point fly and a slightly shorter piece of lighter tippet for a small fly, both tied directly to the tippet ring.

I was able to get everything I needed to get started at the RiverRun Fly Shop in Branson Missouri. These materials are available from Amazon if you want to stay home to shop, as well as from a number of on-line fly shops. A big THANK YOU to the Gadget Company, Bass Pro, Gear Heads and Nabatak for carrying fly fishing equipment in their shops, and a reminder that they need our business to support our local fly fishing.

Kelly Brown
Vice-President TU420

Author Kelly Brown will be documenting his general thoughts in the coming months. If you see him at the next General Meeting, be sure to thank him for putting these projects together.

Fly Fishing Difficult?

I loved "A River Runs Through It." I had been fly fishing about 30 years before I saw the film, and appreciated the artistry in Jason Borger's casts — Borger was the "double" for Brad Pitt, and he's the one casting in the movie.

When I see new fly fishers getting started, it seems that they must have seen the movie, too, and believe that is what one must do to catch fish with a fly rod. After multiple false casts, and water slaps within a foot of the final target, they get frustrated when they don't catch any fish.

I love to cast a long line, but it doesn't happen often. If I do, it is ideally with no false casts. The longer my fly is in the air, the more likely it will be caught by a bush. Fewer false casts also means my fly is in or on the water in front of fish longer.

Many of my casts are less than 30 feet, and truth be told, most are less than 20 feet. Small-stream fishing is best accomplished with the roll cast or the slingshot or bow-and-arrow cast. I like to use a



As I release the fish, the sun sinks below the range and I'm reminded that I'm fishing in a valley. It's not even 6 PM. We walk back to the car not saying much. The energy provided from the fish caught and the one lost balancing the universe. And I'll wait until after a couple of beers back in town to upset it again by analyzing those small seconds like lifetimes of the one that got away.

Jake Miller
TU Board Member

We are blessed to have Jake's fishing adventures in our monthly STREAMLINE editions. If you would like to share any of your encounters with the elusive trout or other finned creatures, please contact the editor.

9-foot rod in small stream situations. This length rod allows me to turn over my roll casts effectively. It also is a big help in fishing the current along the opposite side of the bank that I could not reach with a smaller rod.

An aspect of fly fishing that I love is the ability to critique each cast and work on making the next one better. But instead of picking up a cast from the water that didn't land where you wanted it to, let it work through the pool as if it was placed exactly where you wanted it. I can't begin to count the number of fish that I have caught with a bad cast.

***Jim Strogon** is the youth education coordinator and conservation chair for the Gila Trout Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Payson, Ariz.*

Mark Your Calendar For These Coming Events

January 8th - TU420 General Meeting

January - Outing at Roaring River with the Vets

"Streamline" is published on the first of the month about a week before the next general meeting.

If you have content ideas, comments, complaints or suggestions please contact the Editor: Bruce Brewer, (951) 533-0026, rbbrewer1@live.com

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