



## Kansas City Chapter

MAY - AUGUST 2007



### Club Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Each Month

#### Next Event

Family Fun Day  
July 7, 2007  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

#### Location:

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

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#### For More Information:

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[www.geocities.com/kcmtfa/](http://www.geocities.com/kcmtfa/)  
email: [kcmtfa@yahoo.com](mailto:kcmtfa@yahoo.com)

### President's Message by David Cook

I hope everyone is well and has had a chance to enjoy the fishing this spring and summer. Carol and I missed the MTFA Spring derby at Bennett Spring in May because of my son's wedding in Topeka. It was a wonderful event and lots of family had gathered. I would like to thank Roger Theroux and Charles and Debbie Jacques for making the Spring MTFA Derby and raffle a fun and well organized event. Word has it that at the state business meeting on Saturday, the BBQ lunch was a hit. Kent Inman and Tom Criswell also help with the preparations before the derby. Speaking of Kent, he was the only one from the KC chapter to catch a tagged fish. I heard Joe and Mary Fusco were the big winners of "pillows" of marabou feathers, which they donated to Springfield's fly tying, and Gary and Debbie Rose were winners of fly rods in the raffle.

Tom Criswell &  
Roger Theroux



But since the derby we have been fishing every weekend at Bennett Spring from Memorial Day thru June. The fishing has been great. The average sized trout is over 12" and many are caught over 14". That part of the Ozarks has continued to receive bountiful rain. The pastures are green and the stream is higher than normal with some color. I usually dread the summertime crowds but we have been lucky in picking our time of day and locations that haven't been too crowded.

#### Dylan Cook – Lake Jacomo



Also, on May 5<sup>th</sup> there were the Kid's derby at Lake Jacomo and the Kids' derby at Bennett Spring. It looks like both will continue to occur on the first Saturday in May.

I had the pleasure of helping my five year old grandson, Dylan, fish at the Lake Jacomo derby. So I would like to thank all the other club members that volunteered that day for taking up the slack while I was out fishing with my grandson. He caught a 7" crappie and was able to pick a prize.

Our summer activity this year is the Family Fun Day, Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at Fleming Hall. We have the building all day from 10:00 – 4:00. We will have BBQ pork and brisket, drinks and a cake for Clarence Peaslee's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please bring a side dish or something to share.

## **Upcoming Events 2007**

### **September 11**

Start of Fly Tying/Rod  
Building Classes

### **September 29 - 30**

Fall Derby - Roaring River

Quotes "My biggest worry is that my wife (when I die) will sell my fly fishing gear for what I said I paid for it." -- Koos Brandt

"SOME OF THE BEST FISHING IS DONE NOT IN WATER BUT IN PRINT." - SPARSE

GREY HACKLE "I fish because I love to, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of man are equally unimportant; and not nearly so much fun." -- Robert Traver, Anatomy Of A Fisherman

"Fly fishing is solitary, contemplative, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, poetic in others, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It is not even clear if catching fish is actually the point." - John Gierach, Dances with Trout, 1994; quoted in The Quotable Fisherman, Nick Lyons, ed

"I have enough trouble remembering common English, much less learning Latin names for bugs. My hero in trout fishing still is John Voelker, alias Robert Traver, the famed author and trout fisherman who, when asked the name of his favorite fly, replied that it was 'some damn little brown thing.' " - Joel M. Vance, Field & Stream, July 1985

## **Kids Day at Jacomo Lake**

The Kids day at Jacomo Lake was a great success. There were approximately 167 kids registered for the derby. The club had about 9 members present working the event along with staff from the Jackson County Parks Department. The fishing action started a little slow but the fish started to cooperate and there were a lot of happy little fisher persons. We weighed everything from about 1 ½ oz to 2 ½ lb's. The kids caught everything, bluegill, crappie, bass, walleye, catfish and carp. If you missed this event be sure and plan on helping out next year. It was a great time for the club and for all the future fisher persons.

*Registration*



*Let the fishing begin . . .*

*Awards Ceremony*



## Why Wear a Wading Belt?

Bob Tabbert,

*Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette*

A friend of mine sent me the attached narrative which I think is very informative. As promised, today I tested (intentionally) the effect of swimming in chest high breathable waders while wearing a wading belt or not wearing a wading belt. Here is my experiment, my results and my conclusions..... It may be surprising...

### THE TEST:

I have a pair of Orvis breathable waders and a wide Orvis belt. The waders fit comfortably; they are snug enough to not be baggy in the knees or butt, but loose enough so that I can normally step up onto a height similar to a kitchen chair, or squat down without the legs binding up. I think anyone who owns waders that they would qualify as 'a good fit' have approximately the same type of fit as these. The belt I wear has a very wide back (similar to a weight belt) as I have a stiff back and this belt provides good support. It closes by passing through a plastic loop in front, then doubling back on itself where it seals with a 10 inch strip of Velcro. The belt does not stretch or slip, and I normally wear it above my hipbones, over my belly button. I usually wear it quite snugly; it would be difficult to insert a finger between the belt and wader, but it does not impede the ability to take a deep breath. Until now, I felt that the prime purpose of the belt was to support my back, and even considered not using it occasionally. The waders have an additional water seal at the top, with an elastic string that is sewn into the seam. This can be pulled tight once the waders are on, and I usually do this, only loosening it to retrieve or store items (like a camera) in the chest pocket which is in the interior of the waders. I put the waders over dry swimming trunks, dry socks (red, of course, and a dry t-shirt. I put on my wading boots (without gravel guards), squatted down to press the air out of the legs, tightened the belt, stood up and tightened the top elastic cord. This is exactly how I gear up when I go fishing. I then lowered myself into the pool by climbing down the ladder into the shallow end, facing toward the pool. As I lowered myself, the water pressure squeezed the air out of the legs, which 'burped' up past the waist belt. Once I reached crotch-deep. Then, once I was standing in the water (about mid-chest deep), I started walking towards the deep end of the pool. I waded in until the water was at the very top of my waders, then proceeded until the water was at my chin at which time I dropped down underwater and held my breath to see what happened. Initially, I was expecting to find my legs buoyant and floating upwards, as has been stated so many times. I can definitively say that this is NOT TRUE with breathable. When I entered the water

down the ladder, the water pressure squeezed all the excess air out of the legs, and there was no air trapped in the legs or chest whatsoever. When I lay on my back with my legs extended I floated very comfortably with absolutely no feeling of having to compensate for buoyant legs, and could easily keep my face and mouth above the water. When I brought my knees up to my chest, my lower body sank and I took a position with the top of my head just at the surface of the water, but I remained in the upright position. When I re-extended my legs, I again floated shallow enough to breathe. I could easily move with a back paddling stroke, and I even rolled onto my chest and dove downwards and was able to swim as if I was wearing just a swimsuit. The waders were tightly pressed against my body, so I was able to move my legs and kick very easily and without any constriction, without any interference of motion, and without any complications from excess buoyancy. Then I stood up in the neck deep water and removed the wading belt and loosened the top elastic cord. Initially, the water trickled down the waders along my back, but within seconds, I could feel the water in my legs and socks. Again, I ducked down underwater and floated up motionlessly to see what happened. There was absolutely no difference in buoyancy, and again I was able to float easily keeping my face and mouth above water. I was also able to back paddle easily and move towards the side of the pool. However, once I started moving backwards, the water filled my waders completely and the legs 'billowed' slightly away from my skin. It was not a full 'ballooning' effect: it was more like suddenly wearing extra large, loose pants. Whereas before, the waders were pressed tightly to my legs, now they were loose and billowy. This looseness made a very noticeable difference in my ability to kick my legs, although it did not affect how I floated in a 'dead float'. Again, I rolled over and dove underwater, and found that my ability to swim was impeded a bit. I could still move, but when I kicked my legs, the waders shifted around and got slightly tangled in my legs. It did not prohibit me from swimming, as they did not 'parachute' open and slow me down, but I absolutely preferred the earlier effect with the belt, where the waders were unnoticeable. Imagine trying to run in extra baggy jeans, and you can understand what I'm talking about. Then I back stroked to the side of the deep end of the pool and tried climbing out. Here is where the difference was most noticeable. I was absolutely and completely unable to pull myself up at the side of the pool. When I was immersed, the waders were weightless, but once I got myself up to where my arms were holding me out of the water, the legs and body of the waders were so full of water (probably in excess of 150 pounds...) that I could not pull my body out of the pool. Kicking did not help, as the legs were so full of water that I

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could not bend them. The harder I tried to pull/kick myself out, with every little gain of an inch out the pool, the heavier the waders got and the more impossible it was to climb out. I swam over to the ladder, and tried to climb out from the shallow end. Again, once I got up so that my crotch was out of the water, the weight of the trapped water combined with the full legs made it impossible to lift my legs to the next rung. It was completely impossible to climb out: if I had to urgently get out, I could not have done it! I was not in a position to flop forward onto my belly to drain the legs, so I climbed back down and swam to the very shallow end of the pool. I stood facing the pool and managed to hoist myself up until my butt was on the ledge with my legs still in the water. Then I tried to swing my legs out of the water, one leg at a time. Even that proved impossible!! The weight in one lower leg alone was probably in excess of 50 pounds, and I could not even raise one leg up to the ledge beside me. I could have asked for assistance from a friend there, having her lift my foot, but I also was afraid of the waders 'blowing out' if I removed my leg entirely from the water. I lay on my back hoping to drain the water out of the upper part of my waders, but this had no effect at all on the amount of water in the lower legs. So I hopped back into the water, removed my boots and took off my waders before I climbed out.

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

A fisherman might find themselves in a similar situation as I was in if they were fishing a calm pool and the bank collapsed under their feet. My experiment did not take the effects of falling into moving current into account, other than the current differential when back paddling. Nonetheless, I did discover that some 'myths' about wearing wading belts seem patently untrue. In my test, there was absolutely NO BUOYANT EFFECT from air trapped in the legs, as it was squeezed out when I entered the water. I would maintain that any fisherman who was standing in water deeper than their waist would have the same thing happen as they entered the water. Therefore, there is no trapped air to float up your legs. Also, the effect of the current on waders full of water is not pronounced, but it is enough to impede your agility. Images of getting 'dragged down' by waders full of water are ungrounded, as I was able to float at exactly the same level of buoyancy without the wading belt as with it. While swimming underwater, the effect of the belt was very pronounced. The waders with the belt, contrary to common belief were more snug and provided no interference at all. The waders without the belt were baggy, billowy, and were not easy to swim in. The most huge effect, and a "tremendously important" one, IMO, is the difficulty of getting out of the water. Although I did not try

to get out of the pool with the belt on (an large oversight, I think), I believe it would have been quite manageable, as anyone who has ever fished with waders on can attest. However (and this is a BIG 'however'), once the waders were filled with water, I was completely unable to get out of the pool!! I could not pull myself up and flop onto the shore, as my legs remained lower than my body and full of water. I could not climb a ladder, nor could I even raise my legs out of the pool once I was sitting on the edge. I think if a fisherman fell into a steep-sided pool or stream while wearing waders without a belt, they would quickly be in a very serious life-threatening situation. The only way I can imagine getting out would be to slice the waders open, or to somehow get them off. It would be impossible to grab a branch and haul yourself out, impossible to stand and step up over a bank more than 12 or 14 inches tall, and impossible for friends on shore to pull you up unless they were able to drag 300-400 pounds (your body weight plus the water in the waders) up an incline. Even if you managed to get out, your waders would likely split open from the pressure or else get torn to shreds in the panic. If the river was the right type, then another egress option would be to find a shallow bank and slither onto it on your belly until you were able to raise your legs and drain them. However, I would certainly not want to hope to find a spot exactly like that if I fell in the water.

## **FINAL ANALYSIS:**

Until about an hour ago, I was one of those who theorized that there really wasn't much difference between wearing a belt or not. I am now a complete convert: I am even going to retrofit the belt I have so that it has a backup buckle in addition to the Velcro. I will "never, ever" wade without a wading belt! Although swimming is not greatly affected, I now know first-hand that it would indeed be a life threatening situation trying to get out of a steep-sided river with waders full of water. Please, everybody, WEAR A WADING BELT!! If you think somehow its not as graphic as I just wrote about, go to the neighborhood pool and jump in. Hell, I dare you to lay down in your bathtub, then try to get out!

Its frightening!