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MO Fishing

July 2011

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The Thursday July 7th meeting will be at the Nature Center with fly tying at 6:00 PM and the program and business portion of the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM

Have you thought about a fishing trip to Chile? Our guest speaker for July did such a trip. Greg "Max" Maxwell is a long time member of the Rubidoux Club near fort Leonard Wood. Max is very active with the solders and activities with the fort. He will provide us with details of his trip and how you can set such a trip in motion.

Chile is rugged with terrain similar to western Canada and southern Alaska near the named area of Patagonia Argentina, the southern tip of South America. The European influence brought in the rainbow trout, brown trout where they flourished in cold mountain stream and lakes.

Max will provide a Power Point presentation and stories of the area. Hope you will be able to attend.

Kim Schultz

Greetings from Ralph:

Hope your June has been going as well as mine. I've been to Crane Creek and Russ showed me his Czech nymphing techniques. Russ caught a couple more than I did, but we both caught some. Then I went to spend a weekend with my son and his family. While there I managed to visit my sister's farm pond a few times. Lots of small bass, nice blue gills were caught and my largest fish so far on a fly rod. Just under twenty-six inches long...a catfish! I know that's not considered a game fish, but he took line a few times and I thought my rod was bent double.

I'm writing this early, but I'm getting ready to head up to Saltery Lake Lodge on Kodiak Island. Really looking forward to it

I know that we haven't even started fall MSU classes yet, but we just scheduled the spring classes. We'll start the last week in March, skip the first week in April for the "Easter" break and then go the next four weeks. Our fishing day will be the first Saturday in May.

I believe our July program will be "Fishing Chile on the Cheap" by "Max" Maxwell. It's an interesting program. I'm busy planning for my upcoming trip, so I'll cut this short. See you at the July meeting on the 7th, hopefully with some fish tales from Alaska.

Ralph

Lost & Found: Connie Erickson lost a knife and spatula that was left at the fish fry. If you managed to salvage these items maybe you can bring them to the next meeting.

Thanks for the help.



Chris Jackson
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Southern Council Communications **Important Breakthrough in Didymo Algae Study**

River Mystery Solved: Scientists Discover How 'Didymo' Algae Bloom in Pristine Waters with Few Nutrients
Science Daily (June 3, 2011) - The pristine state of unpolluted waterways may be their downfall, according to research results published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. Didymo for *Didymosphenia geminata*, is able to colonize and dominate the bottoms of some of the world's cleanest waterways--precisely because they are so clear.

Didymo does so with a little help from its friends--in this case, bacteria--which allow it to make use of nutrients like phosphorus. Blooms of Didymo, also known as "rock snot," says scientist P.V. Sundareshwar of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, are made up of stalks that form thick mats on the beds of oligotrophic, or low-nutrient, streams and rivers.

Sundareshwar is the paper's lead author. "In recent decades, human activities have led to many uncommon environmental phenomena," he says. "Now we have Didymo." The freshwater diatom has become notorious. Didymo has taken over low-nutrient Rivers in North America and Europe. It has also invaded water bodies in the Southern Hemisphere, including those in New Zealand and Chile. Because its blooms alter food webs and have the potential to impact fisheries, "Didymo presents a threat to the ecosystem and economic health of these watercourses," says Sundareshwar. Algae blooms are usually linked with the input of nutrients that fuel the growth of microscopic aquatic plants. Didymo ability to grow prolifically in waters where nutrients such as phosphorus are in short supply puzzled scientists. Environmental managers tried to mitigate Didymo blooms and predict their spread. But how the diatoms sustained such high growth in oligotrophic systems was unknown.

In a study funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the State of South Dakota Carbon Scientist fund, Sundareshwar and colleagues revealed that Didymo is able to concentrate phosphorus from the water. The scientists conducted their research in Rapid Creek, an unpolluted mountain stream in western South Dakota where Didymo was first observed in 2002. The creek regularly has Didymo blooms, with 30 to 100 percent of the streambed covered with Didymo over an area up to ten kilometers (6 miles) long. Didymo thrives in Rapid Creek through biogeochemical processes in biofilms in the mats. As Didymo mats form, new stalks develop at the surface and older stalks--which have already bound phosphorus--are displaced to the mats' inner regions.

Phosphorus is available to Didymo thanks to the activity of the bacteria that live inside these mats.

"This study solves the puzzle of how Didymo can produce such large blooms in low-nutrient rivers and streams," says Tim Kratz, program director in NSF's Division of Environmental Biology. "It has uncovered the fascinating mechanism by which Didymo 'scrubs' phosphorus from a stream or river," says Kratz, "then creates a microenvironment that allows microbes to make this nutrient available for Didymo growth." The concentration of phosphorus on Didymo mats far exceeds the level expected based on the nutrient content of surface waters, says Sundareshwar. "The ability of the mats to store phosphorus is tied to the availability of iron in the water." Didymo cells adsorb, or condense on their surfaces, both iron and phosphorus. Then bacterial processes in the mat interact with iron to increase the biological availability of phosphorus.

The process results in abundant phosphorus for cell division, "and hence," says Sundareshwar, "a resolution to the paradox of Didymo blooms in oligotrophic streams and rivers." The result will help scientists and managers identify water bodies susceptible to Didymo blooms. It also has the potential to lead to discoveries that may stem this organism's prolific growth in rivers around the world," says Sundareshwar.

"This is how science is supposed to work--research conducted at one small creek in South Dakota can be translated to places across the globe."

Co-authors of the paper are S. Upadhyay, M. Abessa, S. Honomichl, C. Sandvik, and A. Trennepohl of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; B. Berdanier of South Dakota State University and A. Spaulding of the U.S. Geological Survey in Boulder, Colo.



Hatchery Budget Cuts Update

Excerpt from a letter sent to Ralph Eichholz - Editor's Note: This is a very important issue. The article that was attached to the letter is also of great interest. We don't have room to publish it here, but I am going to ask Kim Schultz to add it to our website so all can have access to it.

In the continuing effort to apply pressure to those who can positively impact the current Federal Budget Proposal that severely threatens the federal trout hatcheries involved in mitigation fisheries, several members of the Southern Council contributed information to Etta Petitjohn for her article that was submitted to news wires around the country. Several types of news media picked up the story.

Are you doing your part? Please take a moment to mail a hand written note to your elected leaders. You can find that information below.

Who are the US Senators and Representatives living in the Southern Council?

In order to contact these US Senators or Representatives, review the following documents. Please note that not all listed Senators or Representatives may be within the actual boundaries of the Southern Council but are from the states that comprise the Southern Council. Become familiar with your own state's districts in order to determine who your representative in the Senate or House is.

[US Senators](#) [MS Word] or visit: [US Senate Contact Information](#)

[US Representatives](#) [MS Word] or visit: [US House of Representatives Contact Information](#)

To write an online message to your US Representatives directly, visit <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

Now please do your part and contact your elected representative or senator.

Below is the base of the issue:

Proposed budget decreases at nine federal fish hatcheries could have a devastating effect on already fragile economies in states where these facilities are located.

Missouri Department of Conservation NEWS: June 13, 2011

Be Bear Aware In the Missouri Outdoors Campers and Landowners Should Prepare For Black-Bear Encounters

Written by Rebecca Maples, MDC JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. –

He's a heavyweight from northern Arkansas. He's dark and mysterious. He'll eat just about anything, and he's being seen more and more around the Show-Me State.

His name is *Ursus americanus*, but you probably know him better as the black bear. One of the state's largest wild mammals, black bears have been seen in more than half of Missouri's counties, though most are south of the Missouri River. According to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), black-bear sightings and numbers are growing in Missouri.

Black bears are native to Missouri, but the species was nearly eliminated from the state by 1940 due to unregulated hunting and habitat changes. Recent data indicate that a few of Missouri's native bears might have survived. However, the growth of Missouri's bear population in recent years probably is largely a result of a successful black-bear restoration effort by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in the 1960s. According to MDC Resource Scientist Jeff Beringer, black bears are a significant part of the native ecosystem and are an indicator of the state's wilderness habitat quality.

A fed bear is a dead bear: A growing bear population calls for caution from campers and landowners, who are most likely to encounter bears. Black bears generally are dangerous only when they lose their natural fear of people. This usually results from access to human food. A bear that associates people with food is at risk for aggressive behavior, which could result in euthanasia. "The most important thing is that landowners and campers don't give bears access to food or garbage," Beringer said. "If you never let a bear get started, you won't have a problem with them." Campers can avoid problems with bears by keeping a clean camp, avoiding food scents, and never feeding or approaching bears. If you encounter a bear while camping, you should try to scare the bear away by banging pots and pans or making other noise and waving your arms. If you see a bear while hiking or fishing, you should back away slowly, speaking in a normal voice and making no sudden movements. Although bear attacks are extremely rare, if you find yourself in this situation you should fight back with any available weapons – sticks, stones, knives or even fists – striking the bear especially around the face. "Bears are generally afraid of people. If you do have an encounter with a bear, you want to make it a negative experience for that animal," Beringer recommended.

Black Bear Research

In fall 2010, MDC began a cooperative study with the University of Missouri and the University of Mississippi to learn more about black bears in the state and how to manage them. The project involves trapping and radio-collaring bears and gathering hair samples for DNA testing. Information gathered in this will allow researchers to determine individual animals' size and growth rates, population size, sex ratio, genetic diversity, habitat preferences, daily and seasonal movement patterns, denning dates, reproduction and survival rates. Trapping and radio-collaring will continue through this fall.

Beringer said citizens can play an important role in the ongoing bear research project by immediately reporting all bear sightings. Such reports enable researchers to focus their efforts on areas of known bear activity. If you see a black bear, report it by visiting www.MissouriConservation.org and searching "Report a Bear Sighting."

MEDIA NOTE: PHOTOS, VIDEO & AUDIO available at <http://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom>
Joe Jerek, News Services Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation
Joe.Jerek@mdc.mo.gov -- 573-522-4115 x3362



By: MDC Staff

This is what you do not feed, ever. It's the way to help keep a state treasure safe.

The Editor

**If you would like to submit for the NL,
Please put MTFA in the email subject line.**

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Monthly meetings at the Springfield Nature Center are the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM for Fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting.

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