

## OUTDOORS

# Talk about a guy who loves to talk about bugs

As a child, I was fascinated with bugs, snakes and other things that creep and crawl. As an adult, I despise them.

Well, sort of. Since taking up my beloved sport of fly fishing over 20 years ago, I do have some interest in the bugs that trout eat.

However, that interest pales in comparison to the gentleman I heard speak last night at our monthly meeting of

the Upper Bear River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Chapter president Paul

Gustafson invited Mark Vinson, a renowned entomologist at Utah State University, to give our group a presentation on the bugs of the Green River found below Flaming Gorge Reservoir in northeastern Utah.

Wow. Impressive. This guy knows bugs. And he knows how to tie flies that fish

will eat. I have to admit that, with my love for the Green River, Mark

sucked me into his world of heteroptera, homoptera and hemiptera in a matter of mere seconds. Those are big words for me. But not for Vinson. He rattled off the scientific names of bugs like it was matter-of-fact. Which of course, for him, it was and is.

My co-members of the club and I were drawn to his slide presentation and display of hand-crafted fishing flies, like kids in a candy store.

His slide presentation included many photos of Vinson and his colleagues, along with members of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, examining the stomach contents of rainbow and brown trout on the Green River.

Mice, other fish and a plethora of bug varieties were found in trout, both large and small. Vinson's job is

to take a scientific approach to see what fish like to eat.

It was quite impressive to see a photo of him holding a large, eight-and-a-half pound brown trout that he had just removed another fish from.

Impressive indeed.

Equally impressive were the assortment of his tied flies he had on hand. As he passed the flies

around the room, all of us oohed and awed and admired the handiwork and craftsmanship of each fly.

I'll go out on a limb here, but I think it's safe to say that Vinson not only knows his bugs, he knows how to fly fish, too.

In fact, I just need to figure out how to get Mr. Vinson in my drift boat for a day on the Green River.

Can you imagine the possibilities of watching and learning from a bug guy with his credentials and experience?



Utah State University entomologist Mark Vinson.



## FROM THE FLY BOX

Mike Jensen

