

Fly Fishing Travelogue
Windrush Creek Tributary to the Merramac River
Missouri

By Michael Schmidt

Mode of transportation: I drove 1.5 hours Southwest of Downtown St. Louis (7 hour ride from Columbus) on State Route 46 to Steelville and then drove backroads another 30 minutes or so.

Accommodations: I stayed in St. Louis. There are plenty of motels in Cuba and Steelville. The Windrush Farms has six lodges for rent.

Fishing experience: The creek is stocked with rainbows from one pound to 4 pounds. I used a 5 weight 8 foot fly rod with a 9 foot leader to be sure that I had enough to bring in the "big boys." I used size 18 Hendrickson nymphs, black and olive wooly buggers, and egg sacks. I had the best luck with either slow drifting egg sacks or ripping the buggers cross stream. It is a low flow section of the stream requiring only hip boots, but, waders are helpful if hanging up on the other side of a deep hole.

Outfitter: There are guides on the Merramac River, but, they are really not necessary as it is standard trout fishing. The only hazard would be cold in the Winter and the river hogs tearing your arm off at the shoulder.