



MO Fishing

June 2007

Volume 8 No. 4

MTFA Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting on June 7th will be at the Springfield Nature Center. The event for the evening will be a Fisherman's Swap, an evening for you to bring in items to be sold or traded with other members. Several members inquired and asked that we have a night for this.

(Ed. Note: Could this be in response to requests at home to: "Do something about the clutter?")

So, clean up your tying area and bring in unused or surplus items.

John Dozier will use the extra time to discuss recent events and outline up coming events.

Hope you will be able to attend.

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Activities for 2007

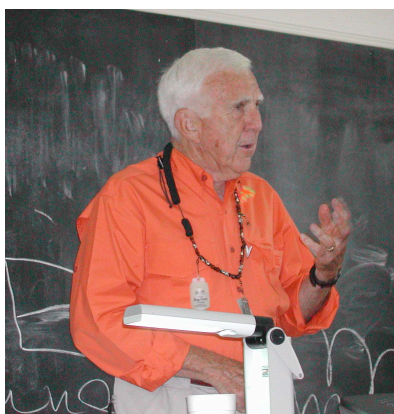
- June 7**..... Regular Meeting @ 6 PM Springfield Nature Center
- June 10**..... Hulston Cancer Center 2-4 PM Fly-Tying
- June 16**..... Fish Fry outing at Memorial Park @ (4PM - 8PM)
- June TBA** 11th Annual Trout Fishing Showcase Bennett Spring
- June 9-10**..... Free Fishing Weekend

Jolly Mill Mini Conclave With Dave and Emily Whitlock

After a wet beginning, the Mini Conclave turned out to be a wonderful experience for everyone who braved the elements to come out to Jolly Mill and meet and learn from Dave Whitlock and his wife, Emily.

Next month, we hope to print some of the member's experiences and opinions of this special event. So, please, put down your rods for a few minutes, jot some thoughts down and send them to Eve, your newsletter editor at ekanderson@hotmail.com.

In the meantime, a very special "THANK YOU" to Lee Price for all his hard work. It made this such a special event. To Piper Price, his wife and one of those wonderful Ozark cooks, who kept us all well filled so we had the energy to learn. To the Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers, what a great group to co-host with. Your energy and efforts really helped make this a highlight for all the attendees.



Wanted:

Fish tales, product reviews, and location tips...for fish or relaxation

Whatever you think would be a neat addition to our newsletter. Share what you know.

Ask for advice on a fishing problem, we'll print the question and the following month, we'll print the answer.

Tell the Editor where you found an error. There could be a cookie in it for you. They are there, see what you can find.

Send what you want to: Eve at ekanderson@hotmail.com

Please note that anything that is submitted is subject to my blue pencil. If it is too long it will be trimmed. If I think a comma is not the right place I may shift it. Commas are a matter of whim to many, not least to me. If I catch a misspelling, or grammatical error, I will take a crack at a different approach. Have some fun and send something for the newsletter.

Look forward to hearing from you.



A view from Jolly Mill

Summer Class at Pipkin Middle School Taught by Larry Wegman

Larry is teaching a summer class at Pipkin Middle School on Freshwater Ecology and Fly Fishing. It is from June 14th through June 29th from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The information about this class can be found at the following website: <http://springfieldpublicschools.org/ParentsTab/SummerSchool/Summer%20School%20Newspaper.pdf>

Any student that is a Missouri resident can attend. Springfield Schools will provide transportation within the Springfield District. Fly tying materials, rods and reels will be provided. There will be three field trips, Sequiota Park, Fellows Lake and Roaring River. I have the first pool at Roaring River reserved for this class.

FFF magazine had an article that states there is a national decline in young fly fishers due to video game and etc. Hope we start to reverse that trend here in Springfield.

Side Line: This summer school project is financially supported by Southwest Fly Fisherman. The Southern Council (FFF) is loaning the rod and reels. Several members of MTFA have expressed interest to Robby O'Neal about their grandchildren being involved. If some of the MTFA members would like to help, that would be great. I have "background check" forms that will need to be filled out and mailed to Springfield Public Schools. Anyone could contact me and I will mail them the form.

Thanks,

Larry Wegmann

lwegmann@sbcglobal.net

417 823-7027

Derby Day at Bennett Springs

By John and Dorothy Prugger

Saturday, May 19, Derby Day and what beautiful weather for a fishing trip to Bennett Springs. Ten members from the Springfield chapter went up for the Derby: Joe Simecek, Norm Collison, Kevin Smith, Rod Pennington, Connie and Charlie Erickson, Dena & Mike Porter and John & Dorothy Prugger. We enjoyed a good day of fishing, with many fish being caught, but no tagged fish were caught by our members, a very good lunch was provided by the Kansas City Chapter. A meeting was held with a change of Presidents and, a report was made by our chapter of all our activities for the past year. All in all, it was a good day. By the way, you might ask Charlie how his wife can catch more fish than he can, than, believe him or not.

How to Prevent Breaking a Rod

By Kim Schultz

Returning home after a day of fishing, a rod and reel were found on the road. Jim and I stopped, picked it up and figured it belonged to Ed Kosuth, who had left the Pot Hole a few minutes ahead of us. Earlier, I saw Ed placing the rod on top of his station wagon, as Jim and I left the water, calling it quits for the day. I should have said something at the time when I saw what Ed was doing. I knew from personal experience, a rod does not belong on top of a vehicle.

Twice, I have ruined my day by committing this same act. You're tired from a full day or night of fishing, searching pockets under your waders looking for keys, or the ground is covered in mud or snow. It is easy to set the rod on top of your car; a convenient place to stow it for a few minutes.

The problem is, leaving it on the roof for the drive home can ruin a great day of fishing. I did this several years ago at Montauk State Park. I concluded a full day of winter catch and release fishing with Dave Senderling, walked up to the van and placed my rod on top. I looked at the rod for a moment, thinking 'this is a bad idea'; then lost the thought talking with Dave before we departed. Dave left the park before me driving back to St. Louis. I had removed my waders, put away my gear, and looked around the van making sure nothing was left. Leaving the park, I drove half a mile before realizing, "Oh Sh#%, the ROD". I hit the brakes, jumped out of the van, ran to the back of the van looking for the rod; it was gone. I figured the rod must have fallen off while driving. So, I jumped back in the van, turned around in the road and retraced my path. I found nothing as I returned to the original place where the van sat all day. I could not believe it, how could I have lost the rod. Again, I drove every inch of the road to the point where I first realized the rod was missing. And there it was, on the edge of the road. I was relieved to have it back, picking it up to see the reel crumpled and the rod crushed. I did it when turning the van around, I drove over my own rod!! On the drive home, the radio stayed off, as I stared at the road in disbelief. I kept glancing at the destroyed reel. It was a feeling not to be repeated.

However, I did just that, night fishing on Taneycomo a few months later. Again, there was no better place to set the rod for a few minutes. I looked at it on top of the van and heard my inner voice shout, "BAD IDEA". I was tired, with my mind fogged from a full night of fishing. I removed my waders, threw the vest and other stuff in the back of the van, jumped in the drivers seat for the return to Springfield. I was traveling Hwy 165, almost to Fall Creek, when I heard an unexplained noise coming from the roof of the van. I realized it in that instant, "Oh Sh#%, the ROD". I pulled over along the shoulder, stopped and jumped out to retrieve the rod. This time the rod survived with a few scratches on the reel. I have since concluded the best way to approach the van; a rod in one hand, with the other digging for the keys, is this one.

Important, Hard Won, TIP

Open the door. Immediately, remove the reel, break down the rod, place the rod in a sock and store it in its tube. I share these experiences to save you, from the heart break of a broken rod from negligence and thoughtless acts.

Ed called later that night and talked with my wife (Ann). I was at a meeting. He didn't realize the rod was missing until he saw it on top of his fishing gear in the middle of the sidewalk where we placed it. (Since Ed was not home when we dropped it off) He was only gone for a few minutes. Seeing the rod on the sidewalk and not in his station wagon, he was able to piece together the story. He called to thank me for returning his rod and reel. We can never be too careful. But common sense can go a long way to preventing a lost or broken rod. Remember this, if you do break a rod the fly shop proprietor will become your new best friend; just show him the money.

Guess who?
By Kevin Smith

We've asked one of our MTFA members' ten questions. Judging from the answers can you guess who they are?

1. If you could fish with any one person for a day who would it be and where would you fish?
My cousin John, in any water he chooses.
2. You have the ultimate power to make one new regulation or Law. What would it be?
Haven't decided, but it would probably be a clean water act.
3. You have the opportunity to fish the ultimate water for any one species of fish, but you can use only one fly or lure. What would you fish for and what fly or lure would you use?
I would pick flats (poor cousin to the flounder), as they run under the Mason's Island, CT bridge, for the spring run. You only need a hook, or 3 hooks, they'll probably all catch a fish. I wouldn't release any. Best eating you'll ever get. No sport, just dinner.
4. Biggest fish ever caught? (No Fisherman tales please)
A two# 4oz Flat Fish. Not a challenge. That's how I caught one.
5. Favorite River, Lake or Stream ? (none or all is an acceptable answer)
Haven't found a favorite yet. They all look tempting, so far.
6. A book or Author you would recommend? (does not have to be related to fishing)
Real Age, Are You as Young as You Can Be? by Michael Roizen. An interesting book of guidance on living a healthier life, and why.
7. Oddest material you've used to tie a fly with or oddest lure you've ever fished with?
A wire coat hanger with three hooks on it.
8. Someone close to you would probably describe your fishing as?
At this point "Poking the water"
9. Best thing you like about being an MTFA member?
The members, the learning, the library, the meetings. No one thing stands out, it's all great. A really kind bunch of folks.
10. Fill in the blanks
I'm a learning Fisherman. Regardless of what *anyone* has to say. Some might say I'm not a fisherman at all, but I am getting there, in spirit, if not in action.

GUESS WHO ANSWER

This month's MTFA member is married to her best friend, they have no children but enjoy time spent with everyone else's and enjoy that they can give them back. Claims to work in the cold. I have to ask about this one. Joined MTFA to "learn about fishing, Missouri and Missourians. Could be a clue that she's not from here but we're glad she is now. Has been quoted as saying, "Be happy, it's in your hands to do so." Still wondering who? It's MTFA's newest newsletter Editor, Eve Kucharski. If you've not taken the time to say hello to Eve now would be a great opportunity. If you guessed Eve correctly, you've won a Fish Pond High Country Tech Pack with molded zip down fly bench with replaceable form inserts and 52 oz. Hydration bladder. Oh course I'm just kidding about the last part again.

Editor's note: There goes Kevin again. This newsletter can take NO responsibility for his prize offerings. But maybe the Editor can come up with some cookies for a meeting.

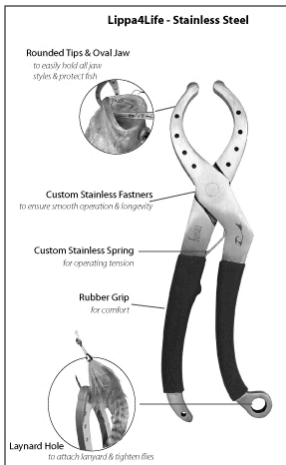
Gearing Up

By Kevin Smith

A review of the Lippa Rig by Rising retail \$57.00

www.risingfish.net/sslippa.html

A Lippa Rig consists of the Lippa Pliers, one of three utility pliers, carrying case and lanyard.



The Lippa Pliers are the main component of the rig. Designed to hold fish, (16 inches and larger) by the lower jaw, thus minimizing contact with the fish, reducing the potential for harm resulting from the fish coming in contact with nets or human hands. Rounded tips and a closed gap of an eighth of an inch between the tips also reduce the potential for harm. All stainless steel construction, so the Lippa is equally at home in salt water and in fresh. Non slip rubber grips on the handles, while a plain design, do exactly what they are intended to. The attached lanyard keeps the Pliers from becoming a shiny object at the bottom of the lake. Because the Lippa pliers only work on larger fish, you still end up netting or handling the small guys. I would like to see a model for smaller fish, or, even better, an adjustable gap setting so the pliers would accommodate all sizes of fish.

The Lippa rig also includes one of three utility pliers, Needle nose, Long needle nose or the Crocodile pliers. I have only seen Rigs available at our local retailers with the Crocodile pliers. A little odd looking at first, the design allows you to reach around a fly, grabbing at the bend of the hook and extract it from the fish, without damage to the fly or tippet. A little practice and they work great. The jaws are heavily serrated so a firm grip is created. It's a little more difficult extracting smaller hooks, but I find they still work better than my hemostats. The tips are also Magnetic, which comes in handy when retrieving small flies that fall between the foam insert and the side of the box. You know that spot that means you have to turn the box over and shake out the fly you dropped, along with two or three other flies you didn't realize were missing.

Even the cordura holster seems well constructed and has both a belt loop and belt clip. I no longer carry a net although I still have to handle smaller fish. A trade off I am willing to make over hooks snagged in the net or a net damaged by other objects. A more expensive Aluminum model is available with some improved features. If you're looking for an alternative to the net and the "Boga grip" is a little out your price range. The Lippa is a well designed, well made alternative.

Fair Winds and Following seas

Kevin Smith

2007 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	John Dozier	753-9118
1st Vice President	Charles Gregory	833-3169
2nd Vice President	David Duncan	833-3562
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	Rod Pennington	883-1789

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

Education Chair - Charlie Erickson
Social Chair - Simecek/Collison/Burkhart
Newsletter Editor - Eve Kucharski
Librarian - Charles Gregory
Equipment - John Prugger
Web Page - Brent Simmons
Membership Chair - Howard Hawkins
FFF Contact - Howard Hawkins
CFM/MTFA Contact - Rod Pennington
Public Relations - John and Dorothy Prugger

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