



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

MO Fishing

November 2007

Volume 9 No. 11

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 1st at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. We will start fly tying at 6 PM with the business meeting beginning at 7 PM.

The November program will be presented by John Ackerson with the MDC. He is the fisheries management biologist for the Eleven Point River, living in West Plains. Kim Schultz met him at the Greer access in July and he offered to do a program on the Eleven Point River. John finished an electro fishing sample in September and he will provide us with information on the river and the trout. The Eleven Point River is a true gem; with abundant wildlife, a pristine stream that has had minimal impact since the nineteen-thirties. This is an outstanding stream to fish and catch trout. Hope you will be able to come out and sit in on this outstanding program.

Hope to see you on Thursday

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

November 1..... Regular Meeting 6:00 PM, Springfield Nature Center

Regular meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, unless indicated differently on the activity calendar.

Health Update on Charles Gregory

Charles Gregory is an active member serving as club librarian and 1st Vice President. He had surgery this summer and has been undergoing treatments. The treatments have been hard with weekends recovering from the side effects. John Dozier reported after talking with Charles this week; he is feeling better and may attend the club meeting next week. We want to thank Charles for his active role in the club and wish him a speedy recovery.

The October issue for FFF is now available on the following web page link:

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/ClubWireArchives/CWArchiveMain.htm>

Baby, it is cold outside...

...and if it's not right now, well just give it five minutes.

Like it or not the colder months of Missouri are upon us. Soon the leaves will be turning as sure as my thoughts have turned to big browns running up Taneycomo and warm camp fires on the gravel bars of the James. Now that the summer crowds have faded away with the warm temperatures, I'll start fishing the parks again. Catch and release season starts November nine. October, November, December and January are some of my favorite times of the year. These are wonderful times to be outside as long as you're prepared. I'm pretty cautious when it comes to weather and any time I'm out I try to be prepared for all possible conditions. During the winter months especially, I pay close attention.

Rain gear is essential. Even a plastic garbage bag with a hole cut out for your head is far better than nothing. An Emergency Rain poncho, (not much larger than a five by seven index card) can be purchased at almost any sporting good store for a few bucks. Chemical Heaters, (Hot Hands) can again be purchased almost anywhere. Slow to heat up, but if you have never used them you may be amazed at the difference they can make. Keep these items with you they do nothing for your car or truck but clutter the glove box.

A thermos of hot liquid, (beef bullion works for me) is a sure cure for cold chills. No caffeine or alcohol they only succeed in lowering you core temperature. Layer your clothing and don't forget head gear, ninety five percent of you body heat is lost through your head. Your mama told you to put on a hat, you should listen.

Why is cold weather preparation so important? Because according to the Missouri Department of Health,

Hypothermia killed one hundred and twenty three hikers, campers, fishers and everyday citizens over the past ten winters: an average of twelve people every year. They weren't stupid, they didn't lack common sense. Most if not all wound up in a bad situation due to a series of unfortunate events and poor preparation. Single catastrophic events are seldom responsible for most hypothermia incidents. One small detail added to another detail and another, begins to add up to real trouble. Cold weather compounds those details ten fold.

Here's a test to see if you're a possible candidate for hypothermia.

Ever go out in conditions when you kind of new that you shouldn't?

Ever forgotten a seemingly minor piece of equipment like gloves or a warm hat?

Stayed longer than you planned?

How about lost or misplaced the keys to a vehicle?

Ever get wet when you didn't plan to?

Are you male?

Are you female?

Are you breathing?

If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, you're a possible candidate for hypothermia.

Two things to remember about hypothermia are that you don't need to be in sub zero temperatures to become hypothermic. In fact water temperatures as high as sixty degrees are dangerous with prolonged exposure. Wet cold climates like Missouri are the most dangerous.

Number two, and this is a big one, is that your judgment can be impaired making you much less aware of some details that could have a direct impact on your life.

A core temperature drop of as little as two degrees can cause uncontrollable Shivering. Shivering is your body's attempt to warm up and an early warning sign of danger. A drop of only three degrees can put you in a very dangerous hypothermic state.

A point at which hospital attention should be sought immediately

Signs to look for

- Uncontrollable Shivering (shivering may stop in severe cases)
- Weakness and loss of coordination
- Confusion (you may not realize it but hopefully your partner will)
- Pale and cold skin
- Slowed breathing or heart rate

What to do in the field

- Remove any wet clothing
- Warm your core by drinking warm (not HOT) sweet liquids or eating high Calorie foods (Granola Bars)
- Avoid external direct heat sources (like fires) in severe cases, you may not be aware as to how hot your outside is getting
- Seek medical attention

We all love the outdoors and all MTFA members enjoy trout fishing. Even in the summer most trout waters are at a temperature where hypothermia can occur with prolonged exposure. You may only fish the trout parks; but, what if you couldn't get out of the park? Imagine, waking up at your camp site to another little ice storm like the one last year. Would you be prepared?

Winter time is some of my favorite time spent outdoors and Missouri offers up some wonderful outdoor winter activities. Many are as close as your local city parks and green ways and with a little planning and preparations you'll enjoy them as much as I do.

Fare Winds and Following Seas Kevin Smith



Excerpted from the MDC Newsletter... Jim Low

Winter season approaches at Missouri's four trout parks

No need to pine for fishing season. You can wet a line throughout the winter at Missouri's four trout parks.

JEFFERSON CITY-For devoted anglers, November's chilly winds bring the winter of their discontent. But Missouri's four trout parks remain refuges for angling addicts long after other fishing holes ice over.

The Missouri Department of Conservation provides fish for three trout parks operated by the Department of Natural Resources and for the James Foundation's Maramec Spring Park near St. James. All four parks are open for catch-and-keep fishing from March 1 through Oct. 31.

In 1976, Bennett Spring State Park (SP) launched an experiment in year-round fishing, letting anglers catch trout during the winter as long as they released them unharmed. The state's other three trout parks adopted the "no-creel" season four years later, allowing hard-core trout anglers to pursue their passion all year.

Winter fishing opportunities at state-owned trout parks have expanded in recent years and now include no-creel fishing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Fridays through Mondays, starting the second Friday in November and continuing through the second Monday in February. Maramec Spring Park opens its gates to anglers from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily throughout the winter season. This year's winter no-creel season begins Nov. 9 and runs through Feb. 11.

Anglers can get park-specific regulation pamphlets at each trout park. The pamphlets explain where fishing is allowed. Some facilities that are open during the regular fishing season may be closed during the catch-and-release season.

The only permits required for catch-and-release fishing at trout parks are a fishing permit and a statewide trout permit. The trout permit is valid throughout the winter season. These two permits also allow anglers to catch and keep trout all year in many public trout streams outside the parks.

Trout fanatics also can pursue their favorite fish at Stone Mill Spring Branch on the Big Piney River near St. Robert. The area is open to catch-and-release fishing from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Nov. 1 through Feb. 28. Like Maramec Spring Park, Stone Mill is open to fishing every day of the week.

Stone Mill Spring Branch is on the Mark Twain National Forest. The only practical access to the area is through Fort Leonard Wood. Use the visitor's lane at the main gate and be ready to show your driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. Once through the main gate, go southeast on Missouri Avenue approximately 2 miles. Turn left on First Street and go 3.5 miles to Route 25. Take Route 25 3.5 miles and turn left onto Route 26. Go across the Big Piney River and travel approximately 2 miles farther before turning right onto a gravel road. Another mile on this road will get you to the parking lot. From here, follow the foot path .3 miles to the spring branch.

Information about Missouri's diverse trout fishing opportunities is found in "Missouri Trout Fishing," which is available from MDC, Missouri Trout Fishing, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or by e-mailing pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov.

By Jim Low

Further information is available by calling:

- Bennett Spring Fish Hatchery, (417) 532-4418
- Maramec Spring Fish Hatchery, (573) 265-7801
- Montauk Fish Hatchery, (573) 548-2585
- Roaring River Fish Hatchery, (417) 847-2430.

Eleven Point River



Eleven Point River

By Kim Schultz

I am sitting with a cup of coffee in hand reflecting on a dozen days and four trips to a river. There is a river in Missouri that has captured my imagination with its beauty, serene gentle flow and trout. The stream actually begins in Willow Springs, with signs on Hwy 60 marking a depression or ditch without water most of the year with the name Eleven Point River. The Eleven Point River continues to Arkansas where it merges into the Spring River and Black River. Thomasville and Cane Bluff in Missouri is where the river flow increases with a few springs providing a typical warm water stream with good small-mouth fishing, according to Jerry Richard, owner of Richard's canoe rental. It is near Greer that a spring provides 122 million gallons of water a day; the Eleven Point River cools and doubles its water volume. It is Greer access 120 miles east of Springfield and 20 miles south of Winona on Hwy 19, where my adventures begin. The river between Greer and Riverton flows through the Irish Wilderness with steep bluffs, and limited accessibility. Through its history, the river had several mills along its banks and on the springs that feed this river, I am sure during the period between the 1850's to 1900's the river was abused, with lumber razed from the river riparian. Communities developed near the mills serving as a source of pollution to the river. Since the 1930's, the mills went out of service, the river has been allowed to return to a recovered state. In the 1960's a Federal law selected eight rivers to be part of the National Wild and Scenic River-ways System, of which the Eleven Point is one of the original eight. Much of the land between Greer Spring and Riverton is leased or owned by the federal government.

I first floated and camped on this stream with Jenn, my daughter four years ago. I have returned every year since. The stream is an easy float with a variety of fishing situations. After Greer access, there are a series of islands that provide cover and deep holes for rainbow trout. The area between Little Hurricane creek and Hurricane Creek is an excellent place to fish with cascading water and large boulders sheltering many trout. Between the two creeks is Mary Decker shoal, which local lore named after a small girl who was drowned in the rapid waters; this area is scenic and a good area to catch trout.

The area has abundant wildlife with mink, otter, and beaver commonly seen in the water. On one trip, Jim Scheve saw a squirrel jump from a tree and fall into the water to swim to the opposite bank. The next day near Mary Decker shoal, I saw an animal near the top of a tree that was bent 45 degrees over the river. It fell 30 feet into the stream and swam to the opposite bank; to my surprise it was a fox squirrel shaking the water out of his fur. My guess is, falling and swimming half the river is better than swimming the entire distance.

On each trip, we catch a trout smolt or two, which indicate some natural reproduction. John Ackerson with the MDC will be our guest speaker in November and hopefully will provide some details to the success of trout populating the river naturally. All four trips this year provided some excellent fishing with the rainbows between 12 and 18 inches. Some caught on woolly buggers and sculpin patterns, the secret is having enough weight to get the fly near the bottom of the stream.

Once you float the Eleven Point River and experience the remoteness, natural sounds of water, wind and feel the coolness of the water, it will leave an imprint on your mind wanting to return again and again. It is a stream that belongs to all of us and hopefully will continue to be protected for future generations. Even as I finish this article, I'm trying to figure out how I may find time to return to this river in November.

Tight lines, Kim

Below are two web sites with more information on the Eleven Point River:

<http://www.elevenpointriver.org/>

<http://usparcs.about.com/library/weekly/aa051198.htm>

Greer Spring



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 – Kim Schultz
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

The web site:
MTFA-Springfield.org

E-mail:
MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com
Send Articles to:
Ekanderson@hotmail.com