



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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MO Fishing

January 2009

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There will be no January MTFA meeting this month.

The January meeting conflicts with News Year Day and with the Nature Center closed; we will not have a meeting in January.

Have a Happy and Joyous New Year

**Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter
Activities for January 2009**

A Quiet Month

Message From President Larry Wegmann

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. The holiday season started with our great Christmas dinner held at the Nature Center. If you could not attend, you missed a rewarding experience.

Our entertainment for the evening was John Hernandez. John sang for us three Native Amerindian songs and told stories of growing up between his native culture and American educational standards. He complimented MTFA members on our priority of helping others and sharing our skills.

This year the membership decided we would donate to a needy family instead of exchanging gifts. A single father with three teenage boys was our chosen family. MTFA collected over \$400 in gift cards, clothing, towels, and canned goods.

The staff at Pipkin Middle School purchased kitchen utensils and food for the family.

Our daughter informed us that the father of the three boys arrived at Pipkin on December 23, to pick up his packages. He was surprised to see what his family received from MTFA. He said he had not worked for 15 weeks and had seen no reason to put up the Christmas tree. Now he has a reason to get the tree up because his boys have presents. Hearing that, really warmed up a cold and wet day.

A personal fishing note:

While I was at the conclave this past fall, I fell to the temptation of building a bamboo fly rod with top of the line components. Leo Eck is a master machinist and rod builder. He made a burl walnut and German silver reel seat that was staring me down. Next to it was a bamboo blank that Leo has had for many years. He said it was planed in England and was a traditional full flex 7 foot 4 wt. I looked it over, left his booth and returned twice that morning. I finally decided that rod and I needed to be together. I phoned home and congratulated my wife on her choice of my birthday present. She approved.

I turned my own walnut and burl cork handle on my drill press. As I started threading the blank with silk thread, I renewed my profane vocabulary. More than once the threads would "jump" and I would not catch the error until much later. I was determined to have a perfect rod and finally settled into a rhythm of keeping the right tension as I rolled the rod on my winding jig. I finished the rod with spar varnish to waterproof the windings.

I had to wait until the Saturday before Christmas to have a chance to try out the new rod. My neighbor and I went up to Bennett that morning before the cold front moved in. I had the run below the bridge to myself! The only disturbance was a hawk taking a trout out of the water and landing in a tree over my head. Nymphs and dry's were not working. I caught a few on an olive leech. As the front moved in, I started back to the car. On the way I changed to a sculpin pattern and started sight fishing from upstream. I was trying for a 2#er and caught at 18". The smaller fish charged over the more dominant trout and took off downstream. After releasing this fish, I moved on upstream and cast toward a dark form and my line stopped. I set the hook just to be safe and tried moving the rod. Nothing happened. I looked closer and realized that I did not have a rock, but a trout that did not want to move. I moved downstream to be even with it and pulled as much as I could with the 4wt rod and it finally moved out of position. We both took the current about 100' downstream and finally got out of the main flow. I took the new rod to Bennett thinking I would not get into a lunker situation and that's what I get for thinking! To make matters worse, the only 4 wt line I had was on a 60 year old reel with only a clicker. Did a lot of braking with my fingers against the handle. I finally had a good day of fishing and catching a four pounder. It has been a long dry spell! As we are always reminded, good things come to those that wait, especially around Christmas time.

Stay warm and we will all make the most of the New Year.

Larry Wegmann

2008MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

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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

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Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson,

Newsletter Advisory Editor - Kim Shultz

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