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# MO Fishing

**December 2010**

**Volume 3 No. 12**

The meeting will take place at the Heritage Cafeteria on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. See pages 4 & 5 for the details. It's all about ....

*Christmas!!!*



## **Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Activities for November 2010**

December 2

Annual Meeting to elect officers and Christmas banquet

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My Last Newsletter Article As Your President By Charlie Erickson:

The first thing I want to say is a huge thank you to all members of our super MTFA Springfield Chapter. As a result of the dedication of all of you, it is no wonder that our club is the number one club in SW Missouri. We are having close to 40 members present at each meeting as well as guests and new members joining weekly.

Let's keep up this good work under Ralph's presidency next year.

I also want to thank a number of special members who have made my presidency a really easy job. It is not the club president that makes the club work efficiently but it is the members who take on specific jobs that do the work.

Thank you **Ralph Eichholz**- You not only ran the meetings during my absence but you did a great job at taking over the MSU class coordinator role. You deserve a double thank you.

Thank you **Kim Schultz**- What would we have done without you? We had excellent programs every meeting. You took over the membership chair and got it back on track. If that wasn't enough, you also got our materials organized by taking over the coordinator's role.

Thank you **Dorothy Prugger**- The club has had good secretaries in the past but your detailed records of every meeting have been excellent. When I have needed something from the past meetings, it has always been at your fingertips.

Thank you **Eve Krit-Anderson**- I know that it is very difficult to get people to get information to you in a timely manner, but even in difficult situations, you always get the newsletter out on time.

Thank you **Rod Pennington**- Your accurate financial report kept all members up to date as to our income and expenditures. You have been our chief financial officer for several years.

Thank you **John Prugger**- Your ability to keep our rods and reels in the best condition possible is appreciated by our entire club. You are "MR Fix-it".

Thank you **Kevin Smith**- Our library is of great help and a wonderful resource for our club. You have it organized like it has never been before. Thank you from myself as well as all our members.

Thank you **John Richardson**- The Healing Waters project is a wonderful service to our veterans who have served this country. You have done a great job including our members with this endeavor. Also, thank you for the new members of our club as a result of Project Healing Waters.

Thank you **Herb Knight** – You are the glue that holds our club together. You have tried to keep me in line for which I am greatly appreciative. You are always present at our projects and a stalwart supporter of our club.

Thank you **Connie Erickson**- Our socials have been a great success due to your leadership. You have kept them in line with the budget and the members as well as I appreciate your organizational skills.

I am honored to have been elected President of this wonderful club and plan to be active in years to come. In conclusion, I am sure that I have forgotten someone and for that I apologize. You're all appreciated and thanks for making our club what it is and what it represents.

President Charles Erickson

## Flying Ties!

So you've decided to start tying your own flies or maybe you're still just considering it, not sure if you have the skills required to create those wonderful imitations or maybe it's the time you're concerned with. First and foremost I want to assure you that with a little practice and patience you'll develop those skills. Second, it doesn't take nearly as much time as most people think. I tie pretty much every day but not because I have to, I just enjoy doing it.

Fact is, I consider tying to be just another step in the evolution of the fly fisher. I know many fishers and of them all, only one does not tie his own flies. He just doesn't enjoy it. That's fine but he's by far the exception not the rule. For most of us who have become addicted to the fly rod, we eventually start tying our own flies. Most likely, expense will be the overwhelming deciding factor used to convince us that we need to start tying our own. It's only later that we can actually acknowledge the cost of that first fly, mine being around a hundred dollars. That expense, anticipated savings really, was greatly overestimated as a viable consideration to start tying. So if cost is your only justification you may want to rethink your reasoning. Just wanting to should be good enough! You have to enjoy tying and or creating your own flies. The real justification comes in knowing that the big Brown you just released was fooled by one of your own creations and that's a very addictive justification. It does require some level of investment and that you have some control over. I know one fisher who tied for years using a small pair of vise grips welded to a heavy plate. Feathers, dubbing, etc. do not have to all be purchased at your local fly shop. Check out fabric and craft stores for inexpensive materials. House hold items like old paint brushes make great Mayfly tails. Give your pet a little attention with a grooming comb, they'll enjoy it and you'd be surprised at the amount of dubbing you'll acquire. Another friend of mine ties a pattern he calls, "Honey Do" it's tied using hair from his wife's brush.

Still think you're ready? You should also know that once you start, your tying will evolve. First we tie the patterns we've purchased. But slowly over time we begin to incorporate a few alterations to those patterns which leads us to designing our own unique patterns. This is a somewhat dangerous phase for us as new young tiers, one which I have come to describe as, "Tier's Rut". During this time we can get a little crazy and unpredictable. Fly shop owners must love this stage. It starts out with a slow burning, overwhelming desire to tie every pattern we come in contact with. We never seem to have the materials we think we need, so we buy more. In extreme cases some tiers end up buying the same materials again and again forgetting that they just bought that pack of olive wood duck flank feathers just last week. We buy more and more materials that in most cases, will eventually wind up in a shoe box or pushed to the back of the drawer, never to be seen again. The funny part to this is, that just as I am warning you now, just as I was warned years ago... you'll most likely follow in all the fishers foot steps before you and wind up with that same shoe box or draw full of baggies forgotten, but never discarded cause you may just need some, "Pink halo dyed Ring Neck Pheasant marabou infused with real silver dust" someday. For the couple of you wondering, where can I get that, I just made it up. There is no such of a thing... I don't think?

Once Tier's Rut is over we enter stage two. You'll most likely start to look a little closer at the bugs in and around your local waters. Maybe join or start up a Stream Team or buy a few books on Entomology. Possibly even convince yourself that you need to learn some Latin. "You wouldn't be the first to reach such conclusions", or should I say, "vos would non exsisto prothoplastus ut pervenio talis conclusions". Did I impress you? Exactly, me neither! Skip the Latin and study the bugs. After all the fish don't speak Latin either, if it looks like food they'll bite. But don't forget the attractor patterns. Those patterns may look like nothing, but they can catch fish like metal to a magnet when the conditions are right.

The third stage of a tier's development is, Perfection. How that word is applied varies from Tyer to Tier. It may be that you want each fly to be a perfect reflection of the previous and all those tied after. Maybe it's limiting the number of patterns you tie to the one's that work for the water you're fishing, a perfect assortment. Maybe it's perfecting a pattern to it's highest level of potential by making changes to it over the years, the perfect pattern. Maybe it's all of the above or maybe it means something to you that I'm totally oblivious too, wouldn't be the first time. The point is it's totally up to you. There is after all only two critics to the flies you tie, you and the fish. Everything else is pure opinion. For me I try to have no discernible difference between flies of the same batch. If I tie up a dozen Clown Cars, I should not be able to tell the first from the last. Consistency is perfection. I'll let you know if I ever actually achieve that. I can get pretty close... but I'm not perfect. Over the years I've wanted to perfect twelve patterns.

Three dry, three nymphs, three streams and 3 attractors. Ten years later I'm no closer to achieving that goal that the day it occurred to me and I'm perfectly happy with that. It's the chase that makes most things exciting. That's why they call it fishing... not catching!

So go get a vise! Figure out a pattern you want to start with and dive in. My first fly I ever tied actually looked pretty good and a few days later I actually managed to fool a small Rainbow with it. It totally fell apart over the next few casts but that was okay I had others. They didn't look as good as that first one though. Oh well no matter, I can always tie up some more and they don't randomly fall apart anymore.

Besides the real question isn't, do you tie? The real question is; "Will you be a Fly Tyer or a Fly Tier?"

Fair Winds and Following Seas!  
Kevin Smith



This Certificate of Merit certifies that Gene Collins caught this 27 inch Rainbow trout on August 28, 2010. This 27" rainbow may be the largest trout caught in stream waters for 2010. Gene will be awarded the trophy at the Christmas Party. Gene caught this fish in Lake Taneycomo.

*Come one! Come All!*

*We will gather together and celebrate the Season Together.*

*Here are the details for our Christmas Party.*

A  
Christmas Party  
at the Heritage Cafeteria  
on the corner of Battlefield and  
National. The date is December 2, at  
6:00 pm. We will be selling raffle tickets  
which you can place in cans to try for a chance to  
win a prize. The money collected will go to help a family  
or two at Christmas. We will also have door prizes that anyone  
can win. After dinner, Caitlin Kissee will sing for us. She performed  
for a convention I attended this summer. A short meeting will follow with  
the fish awards presented, the winners of the raffles, the door prizes and passing  
of the gavel to Ralph  
Bring your family for  
some fun and fellowship.

Connie Erickson  
Social Chairman



**Proposed Club Officers - To be Voted on at December Meeting at the Heritage Cafeteria**

**President**

Ralph Eichholz  
343-2591  
[mathman3@aol.com](mailto:mathman3@aol.com)

**President Elect**

Bill Huyett  
887-3254  
[Bill.huyett@prodigy.net](mailto:Bill.huyett@prodigy.net)

**Secretary**

Dorothy Prugger  
862-9972  
[JandDprugger@aol.com](mailto:JandDprugger@aol.com)

**Treasurer**

Connie Erickson  
890-7243  
[CSErickson1231@att.net](mailto:CSErickson1231@att.net)

**Past President**

Charlie Erickson  
890-7243

**3 Year Executive Committee Members**

Lezley Chastain & Dick Deerfield

**2 Year Executive Committee**

Russ Doughty, Kevin Smith

**1 Year Executive Committee Members**

Warren Wilkerson & Joe Simecek

We will also need to vote on someone to take Kevin Smith's spot on the 2 year committee.  
The club is looking for Chairs for both the Library and Social Committees.

Ralph will ask for volunteers at the December meeting.

*The web sites:*  
**MTFA-Springfield.org**  
*E-mail:*  
[MTFA\\_Springfield@yahoo.com](mailto:MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com)  
**Send Articles to:**  
[ekanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:ekanderson@hotmail.com)

**If you would like to submit for the newsletter  
Please put MTFA in the email subject line and send an email to Eve**

## 2010 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	Charles Erickson	890-7243
<b>President Elect</b>	Ralph Eichholz	343-2591
<b>Secretary</b>	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rod Pennington	883-1789
<b>3 Year Executive Committee Member</b>	Russ Doughty, Kevin Smith	
<b>2 Year Executive Committee Member</b>	Bill Huyett, Kim Schultz	
<b>1 Year Executive Committee Member</b>	Crete Deerfield & Connie Erickson	

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

### Committee Chairs

**Program/Materials Chair** – Kim Schultz  
**Education Chair** – Ralph Eichholz  
**Social Chair** - Connie Erickson  
**Newsletter Editor** – Eve Krit-Anderson,  
**Newsletter Advisory Editor** - Kim Schultz  
**Librarian** – Kevin Smith  
**Equipment/Supplies** - John Prugger  
**Web Page** - Brent Simmons  
**Membership Chair** – Kim Schultz  
**Liaison Natl./State FFA** – Rod Pennington  
**Public Relations** – Kevin Smith

