



www.MTFE-Springfield.org

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MO Fishing

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The Thursday June 2nd meeting will be at the Nature Center with fly tying at 6:00 PM and the program and business portion of the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM

This month's program will be a review and discussion of "15 Most Common Casting Errors", a video by Gary Borger. The video has Jason Borger (Gary's son) demonstrating casting errors. This video allows one to recognize the faults of a caster and with discussion enabling us to help others with casting.

For members who have helped with the MSU classes, it will give an overview to several casting errors encountered with the students. We will discuss the errors and tips to correcting some of the flaws. This program will be open to discussion and learning.

The video is provided by the FFF in conjunction to the ongoing certified casting program.

Hope you will be able to attend and see you Thursday evening.

Kim Schultz

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Activities for June 2011

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| June 2 | Regular Meeting @ 6 PM Springfield Nature Center |
| June 11, 12 | Free Fishing Weekend |
| June 10, 11, 12 | MDC Discover Nature Women |
| June 26 | Fish fry at Living Memorial Park |

Greetings from Ralph:

I can't believe it's almost June. Do you think we'll ever dry out? The White River system is not fishable, at least for wading, until at least mid-June. With that in mind, the One Fly for Cancer contest that was scheduled for June 11 on the Beaver Tail waters has been postponed. They hope to reschedule it for later in the summer and I'll let everyone know when I hear a new date. We have our annual fish fry planned for June 25th at Living Memorial Park, that's where it's been for as long as I remember. I'm going to miss it this year, that's disappointing because I really enjoy the fish, fried chips and onions, not to mention the camaraderie. I'll be on my way to Kodiak, Alaska for a few days of fishing. I expect to have some fish and bear stories to share at the July meeting.

I'm expecting to have my grandson down this week and I plan to have him help me tie flies, it will be his first time, and then I want to take him to Mountain Spring for his first fly fishing. This time it will be catch and release. I took him there two years ago with their bait casting rods; left him catch two fish and it cost grandpa a lot. But we had trout for a couple of meals. Then I'm off to the Jacks Fork River over Memorial Day. We, a bunch of teachers with ties to Herculaneum, have been going over Memorial Day weekend every year since the mid 70's. We have had as many as 32 and as few as 8 going. Don't do too much fishing any more, but I always manage to get a line wet and usually get a small number of sunfish and an occasional smallie.

That's all for now, hope we all get some fishing in somewhere and to see you at the June meeting.

Ralph

Enjoy Free Fishing Days June 11-12

Don't miss this chance to rediscover a favorite pastime or share it with a friend.

Written by Rebecca Maples, MDC

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – “Gone fishing” signs will be posted on doors across the state June 11 and 12 as Missourians enjoy a favorite outdoor pastime at no cost. Each year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) designates the weekend after the first Monday in June as Free Fishing Days in Missouri. The idea is to encourage people to explore the state's fishing opportunities without having to purchase permits, trout stamps or trout park daily tags.

Fishing is a pastime suitable for all ages. Free Fishing Days encourages experienced anglers to practice a favorite hobby and lures new anglers to try something that could catch them hook, line and sinker. With more than 300 conservation-area fishing lakes or ponds, these opportunities are in no shortage. Missouri waters hold more than 200 fish species. Anglers target 40 of these as game fish, including crappie, catfish, walleye, Muskie, goggle-eye and bass.

Normal fishing regulations, such as limits on size and number of fish, remain in effect during Free Fishing Days. Regulations are outlined in the 2011 Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations, which is available wherever fishing permits are sold, or online at www.mdc.mo.gov/node/11414. Special permits may still be required at county, city and private fishing areas. Free Fishing Days exempts anglers from permit and tag fees only, not parking or other park fees.

Public fishing areas are available in every county in Missouri. Many offer disabled-accessible facilities. For more information about places to fish, visit www.mdc.mo.gov/node/2478 or contact the nearest MDC office.

Aquatic Entomology (Fish Food)

Shortly after I moved to Ozark about ten years ago, I started tying flies with the guidance of Steve and Terry at Bass Pro Shops. That's where I met several members of MTFA and let Robbie convince me to come to one of your meetings. It was also the start of my interest in aquatic insects and fish food in general. I bought a few books, took the water quality courses offered by the Department of Conservation and my interest took off. Over the course of the years, I've added a few entomology books to my library. Those I have are Aquatic Entomology by W. Patrick McCafferty (given to participants of Water Quality III), Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods by Dave Whitlock, An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and their Imitations by Hafele and Roederer, Trout and Their Food another by Whitlock, and my two favorites, Bug Water by Arlen Thomason and Fish Food by Ralph Cutter.

Bug Water is one of my most recent additions and I'm sorry to say that I've still not read it all. Here's the problem: the pictures are so amazing that I start to read and I end up looking at all of the pictures again and again and, well you get it. I'm not real thrilled with the organization of the book, but oh those pictures! Near the end of the book is a description of the tank used to take the photos so if you are really interested you can build one and try your own pictures. There is a lot of good information as well as those marvelous photos.

That brings me to my favorite, Fish Food by Ralph Cutter. If his name sounds familiar, Ralph and his wife, Lisa, are the ones that filmed the DVD Bugs of the Underworld that we use in the MSU classes. After reading his book I just had to have the DVD when it came out and I'm happy to say that most of you have enjoyed watching the video. What makes the book so good? It's packed full of interesting facts on entomology, he discusses flies to imitate the various insects and how to fish them. He also talks about scuds, snails, leeches, etc. But, when is the last time you read an informative book on entomology and laughed your way through it? Yes, laughed your way through. Cutter has a great sense of humor and is a good story teller.

One chapter begins with "If Martha Steward were an insect she'd be..." and he tells what kind and why. In the chapter on scuds he tells of a buddy and him ignoring official looking government signs warning they stop and immediately turn back. He talks of a black widow crawling out of his sleeping bag when he wakes up after being ill. Both he and his buddy were sick after drinking "cheap" beer. They then noticed that their "truck was sandwiched between heaps of what looked like rusted missiles with jagged holes blasted out of their sides. Between retches, John suggested that they were drones used for navy target practice. Pitched in the sand, skeletal railroad cars with "ANTHRAX" stenciled on their flanks hulked silently, as spindrifts of snow and alkaline dust swirled through the rotting carcasses." They still took time to fish the Green River they were camped nearby and he tells how they used scuds and what they learned about fishing scuds that day.

I truly enjoyed reading this book. One of the secrets I learned was fishing unweighted nymphs about 12 inches below split shot. If you shake the nymph in desiccant power, when you fish it this way, the fly will swim naturally in the current and the bubbles coming from the desiccant will imitate the gases given off by rising nymphs. It worked for me.

Now the best part, on the internet go to www.flyline.com the website of Ralph and Lisa Cutter. I went there looking for patterns. I found them, but across the top is a category labeled Entomology. Click on that and again across the top of the page you'll see Entomology I, II, III and several other topics. This is essentially the book. Not all of the chapters are there, some pictures are not present, but others are. The topics may have slightly different headings than the chapters in the book. It looks like this was either a draft of the book or, what I believe is true, an updating. As example, in the book he mentions the "perfect ant" and tells how to fish it. On the web page, he also has a picture of they fly.

Try the web page; if you have any interest in entomology, I think you will enjoy it.

Ralph

Subject: [Mdcnews] All Outdoors News Re: **Missouri "Staycations"**
Let MDC help you discover nature through a summer "staycation"
Online Conservation Atlas can help you plan Missouri outdoor adventures.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Birdwatching, hunting, angling, camping, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, nature photography – what more could an outdoor enthusiast want in a summer vacation? If you live in Missouri, these and other outdoor adventures are never far. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) can help you find them

More than 1,000 conservation areas (CAs) let Missourians discover nature on “staycations” without breaking the family budget. These include hundreds of undeveloped forest, prairie and wetland areas, dozens of lake and stream accesses and 18 nature and visitor centers. MDC also maintains 79 shooting ranges, five with full-time staff to teach shooting skills and ensure safe operation.

To help you explore this wealth of opportunity, MDC provides a searchable online Conservation Atlas database at <http://bit.ly/d41rtR>. You can even do a “Detailed Search” for CAs by available activities, from horseback riding to canoeing or goggle-eye fishing. Or, filter search results by disabled-accessible offerings, designated trails or shooting ranges.

A search for “horseback riding” turns up 45 results, from Lawrence County to St. Louis County. Searching for areas to go crappie fishing provides 18 options, from Buchanan County to Cape Girardeau County. Tailor trips to your time and budget by narrowing searches to a particular region or certain counties. Smart “staycationers” can see new sights every day while sleeping in their own beds every night.

You can also focus your search on available facilities and services, including visitor centers, picnic areas, pavilions, wildlife viewing blinds, boat rentals or primitive campsites. You might choose to spend your vacation visiting all 18 MDC nature and visitor centers around the state.

You could focus your search on specific natural features such as lakes, ponds, glades, forests, springs or streams. A “staycation” might focus on “hiking” in areas with “wildlife watering holes” in the “Central Region.” This search combination turns up three areas: Fiery Fork CA in Camden County, Scrivner Road CA in Cole County and Spring Creek Gap CA in Maries County.

Replace “wildlife watering hole” with “named prairies,” and the Conservation Atlas directs you to Hite Prairie CA in Morgan County or Sears Memorial Wildlife Area in Audrain County. Changing the search combination to “bird watching,” “springs” and “individual campsites” gets you 15 choices scattered throughout the St. Louis, Kansas City, Southeast, Southwest, Ozark and Central Missouri regions. Boaters and anglers can choose from hundreds of fishing accesses on major lakes and rivers, plus small community lakes. A search for fishing lakes and ponds in the Ozark Region finds 11 such areas.

With the online Conservation Atlas, you can plan an exciting summer “staycation” that fits your interests and budget perfectly. You might even find yourself taking mini-staycations throughout the year.

From Rod Pennington

The annual MTFA Trout Derby commemorating our 65th year was held on May 14-15 at Bennett Springs State Park. The St. Louis Chapter was this years host club.

The weather cooperated fully with only a few moments of sprinkles. The water was a little colored and a bit high but provided opportunity for many hook ups. 15 out of 100 tagged fish were reported, all by club members. The prizes included several nice fly rod's, spinning rods, reels, sleeping bags, and a tremendous assortment of additional fishing goods. Those prizes not claimed by the winning tags were raffled. Approximately 60 club members were in attendance throughout the weekend. Those from Springfield included Joe, Norm, Kim and Rod. Joe and Norm created many friendships as they visit-fished the better part of both days from the bridge. Officers for 2011-12 year were elected. Kevin Smith was selected as President and Kim Schultz as Secretary. Mark Van Patton presented the program on Didymo algae and the effect it has on the streams as well as a program on the life cycle of stream invertebras and how to best imitate them to catch more fish. An additional state meeting is to be held each year to conduct any new or old business. This meeting will be held at Montauk on December 3rd.

The State Council has authorized Commemorative 65th anniversary patches which are for purchase through the clubs or state council. The cost of the patch is \$5.00

The Springfield chapter will be the host club of the 66th annual Derby to be held May 12-13th, 2012. The pre-derby meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Bennett Springs on March 10, 2012.

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Joe and Norm photo by R. Pennington

2011 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	Ralph Eichholz	581-6456
President Elect	Bill Huyett	343-2591
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	Connie Erickson	890-7243
3 Year Executive Committee Member	Lezley Chastain, Dick Deerfield	
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1 Year Executive Committee Member	Warren Wilkerson Joe Simecek	

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 Chair – Kim Schultz
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