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Formed in 1972 to Serve all Fishermen in the Springfield Area

April 2018

Volume 11 No.4

April 5th, Thursday will be the Fly Fishing Class at MSU. Volunteers are always needed. Details on the class are on pages 2 & 3 .

Enjoy the spring and any time you get on the water.



Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter

Calendar of Events for April 2018

April 4, 2018 Branson Chapter MTFA Monthly Meeting @ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

April 5, 2018 MSU Fly Fishing Class @ 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

April 7, 2018 Fishing event/picnic, Mountain Springs Trout Farm @5:30– 8:00 pm

April 12, 2018 MSU Fly Fishing Class @ 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

April 18, 2018 Branson Expo planning meeting, Springfield Library Center, Harrison Room @6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

April 19, 2018 MSU Fly Fishing Class @ 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

April 26, 2018 MSU Fly Fishing Class @ 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Helpers for MSU from Ralph Eicholz

Here is some information for those that want to help with the MSU Class this term. The classroom is Kemper Hall room 102. Kemper is on Grand, just west of the stadium. Turn right at the second stoplight. Kemper is on the west side of this road and the parking lot #4 is on the right. This lot has an ATM that is difficult to miss.

I've been told by Jerry Jester that the college decided not to give us free parking passes. The passes cost us \$10 each so I've asked Jerry to get 10 passes and we will have to carpool. Please try to find at least one other person to share a ride with. We will have the passes on lot #4 that evening. Lot #19 on the side of Kemper and the parking garage both have a limited number of meters that will take quarters.

The class meets from 6 until 9:50 each Thursday in April in the above classroom. The first part of each of these sessions we take the students outside and practice casting, so you may want to bring a jacket and hat with you.

The May Thursday meeting will be at Mountain Spring Trout Park. We will begin fishing at 6 and fish for about an hour and a half, then talk to the students about Roaring River and have hot dogs. We'll Usually on Saturday we meet at the lodge for breakfast then meet the students at 9 for a day of fishing. We are scheduled to fish from 9 until 4, but sometimes shorten that if weather and or fishing is really poor.

If I can answer any other questions email me mathman3@aol.com or call (417) 343-2591.

From John Dozier, President MTFA, Springfield, MO

Hello Members,

The Springfield Chapter will host the MTFA Derby at Bennett Springs May 19th-20th and we are needing many volunteers to bring food and supplies for the dinner on Saturday at 5pm at the Pavilion A.

Items listed below for the dinner is for approximately 50 people.

One person is needed per item and will be reimbursed up to allocated amount including tax. All receipts need to be turned in to Pat Collins for reimbursement.

- One person needed -8 bulk size tubs of potato salad/cole slaw in cooler with ice-(allocated amount is 40.00)
- One person-2 gallons green beans/with added bacon in pot/crock pot (allocated amount is 18.00)
- One person needed for paper plates, napkins, plastic forks and large aluminum foil pans. (allocated amount 25.00)
- One person needed for bottled water in cooler with ice (allocated amount 15.00)
- One person needed for can soda in cooler with ice (allocated amount 25.00)
- One person needed for non-refrigerated (homemade or pre-packaged) desserts (allocated amount 55.00)
- And finally, we are in need of 2 to 3 volunteers per day for help at sign in table in front of store both Friday at 5 pm and Saturday 8 am.

PLEASE email ASAP one of the following members to let us know how you are helping, John Dozier, Pat Collins, John Bush, or Lezley Chastain.

Remember a tagged fish can win a prize but you must sign up before 8 am Saturday, and Congratulations Branson for becoming a MTFA Chapter.

**Thank you and see you there,
John W Dozier**

A Full Charter for the Branson Chapter... by Bob Randall

We started talking about creating a Branson Chapter of MTFA at least two years ago. Howard Hawkins asked me how to start a chapter in Branson and I gave him a clear answer (LOL). I said, "I don't know." adding, "but I'll find out."

After talking, questioning, planning, rewriting the State Council By-laws, calling, emailing, recruiting, and holding meetings, we held our first chapter meeting in September of 2016. We kept at it until we could present a petition to the State Council at the 2017 Derby.

At that time, Branson was given a Provisional Charter to become an MTFA chapter. Fulfilling all of the obligations required since then, including gathering the required signatures on a petition for full

chapter status, we pitched our case to the State Council Board of Directors at the Pre-Derby meeting last month. Branson was represented by chapter president, Matthew Peet. I was technically representing the Springfield chapter but gave a strong recommendation in support of Branson.

We gave them a heads up notice that we would like for them to consider approving the petition at the Derby meeting in May. That weekend will mark the one-year anniversary of the Provisional Charter, which is required by the By-laws. The State Council did not hesitate. They said, "Why wait?" and right then and there they approved the petition and granted the Full Charter to MTFA-Branson to be effective on May 19 this year.

Hooray!

All the "i's" have been dotted and all the (t's) have been crossed. Branson will be the fourth full fledged MTFA chapter. There was talk of having a ceremony at the Derby to mark the occasion. Someone even mentioned Champaign.

Some Historical Notes on Trout in North America by Bob Randall

There is a good book that attempts to describe America as it was seen by natives and the first Europeans. It is [**AMERICA AS SEEN BY ITS FIRST EXPLORERS, THE EYES OF DISCOVERY**](#). Here's what it says about trout along with my attempt to make the narrative flow.

At the end of the last glacial period "(t)he melting snow and ice made not only rivers but lakes, larger than any that we know. Up the rushing rivers, into the still icy lakes came fish that had survived farther south. They did not all come at the same time. The immense lake trout of interior Canada and the northern states, for example, were early comers, pushing their way up great glacial rivers so deep that they drowned out what now are waterfalls. Swimming over them easily, the lake trout reached their present waters. But when the first ancestors of that angler's prize, the brook trout, began exploring for new homes, the glacial rivers had shrunk. The brook trout could not get over the big falls, and so are now found naturally, only in brooks below falls like St. Anthony's and Niagara. Artificial stocking alone has, in recent years brought them into the upper streams." (pg.17) Obviously, no early explorer witnessed this but it's a good introduction.

A couple of sources examining the Coronado's 1540 expedition into the American Southwest and Great Plains from Mexico report that "they had seen ... Gila River trout". (pg. 78) The Gila River headwaters are in New Mexico and the Gila trout are native to Gila River tributaries in New Mexico and Arizona.

During Champlain's 1603-4 expedition much further north, he canoed along the Richelieu River, "a no-man's land, a war road where no one dared to live..." or fish. The fish had plenty of opportunity to grow big. He did not describe any salmonids but "(e)ven in the eighteenth century, Charles Le Beau saw four foot lake trout in Lake Champlain, and elsewhere he caught twenty trout in a quarter of an hour. He does not say how big they were, but remarks that these were only the largest. He could have

taken sixty trout in the same time if he had condescended to small ones. ... The Indians told Le Beau that in Lake Superior the same species would be five and a half feet long and a foot through." (pg.123) I don't know if that's just a fisherman's bravado or not, but I like it.

And in early day Pennsylvania: "(b)rook trout, the finest of American game fish ... attracted no attention at all from the early eastern explorers ... but it is strange to find a careful geographer like Lewis Evans saying that in Pennsylvania 'there are scarce any Trout except in a few remote Runs.' The fact is, there was remarkably fine trout fishing in both eastern and middle western states. Pennsylvania streams are reported as late as 1809, 'full of fine trout' and John Josselyn wrote of early New England: 'Trouts there be good store in every brook, ordinarily two and twenty inches long.'" (pg. 244)

Lewis and Clark note of the Shoshone band from which Sacagawea hailed that 'their fishing equipment was so bad that it was almost impossible to catch the trout which swarmed in the mountain streams; yet the white men, with a "bush drag"—that is, an improvised net woven of willow withes (switches?) for lack of cord—took 528 "very good fish, most of them large trout, in two hours.' (pg.379) Nevertheless, without those same Shoshone, we would have never heard from Lewis and Clark again. Later, on the coast, "(t)he Lewis and Clark expedition thought pounded salmon only a little better than starvation." (pg. 405) Go figure! Could some of those salmon have been steelhead?

So where are the mentions of brownies? Remember that brown trout are not native to the Americas. Notice that some of the quotes are not from the very first European men to explore this continent. Many of them weren't interested in trout and had no reason to mention them. They were interested in gold, silver, furs, land, conquest and a route to the Pacific Ocean and on to Asia. Some of the original notes were lost and some of them didn't take notes at all.

Quotes are from: John Bakeless, **AMERICA AS SEEN BY ITS FIRST EXPLORERS, THE EYES OF DISCOVERY**, Dover Publications, Inc, NY, first copyright 1950 by John Bakeless, current book is Dover edition copyright 1961



MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	John Dozier	417-209-8041 flytyer88@gmail.com
President Elect	Dennis Stead	417-889-2776 dmstead@aol.com
Secretary	Fred Brown	417-693-2942 runfreddiek@gmail.com
Treasurer	Pat Collins	417-655-0746 pcollns5@aol.com
Past President	Harry Morgan	417-890-1727 h.topwater@gmail.com
3 Year Executive Committee Member	Larry Wegmann and Dick Solomon	
2 Year Executive Committee Member	John Bush and Charlie Stewart	
1 Year Executive Committee Member	Russ Doughty and Jerry Jester	
Monthly meetings at the Springfield Nature Center are the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM for Fly tying and 7:00 PM for programs and business meeting.		
Committee Chairs		
Program Chair –		
Education Chair – Ralph Eichholz		
Social Chair – Lezlie Chastain and John Bush		
Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson		
Librarian – Dennis Stead		
Equipment & Supplies – Wayne Frizzell		
Web Page – Brent Simmons		
Membership Chair – Bob Randall		
Liaison to National and State Affiliate fly fishing Association –		
Public Relations –		

If you would like to submit an article for the MTFA newsletter, please put MTFA in the email subject line and send to Eve. **Send Articles to:** ekanderson@hotmail.com

The web sites:

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