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MO Fishing

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter of the
Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association
Formed in 1972 to serve all fishermen in the Springfield area

February 2020

Volume 14 No.2

Notes for the February Meeting Speaker is Terry Tanner

He will tie flies and show some tips and tricks. Over the years, Tanner has shared his fly tying skills with thousands of those interested in the art.

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Calendar of Events for February, 2020

- February 6 MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Nature Center @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- February 8-9 Fly Tying @ Hunt and Fish Outdoor Show– Spgfld Expo Center @ 8 am-5:00 pm
- February 10 Last Day of Catch and Release Season in Trout Parks
- February 25 Fly Tying at MSU Plaster Student Union @ 5 pm-8 pm
- February 28 Tomorrow, March 1, is First Day of Catch and Keep Trout Season in Parks

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From the President's Desk – Dennis Stead

Just a quick thanks for everyone tying at the Nature Center on Saturday. Those there were Larry Olson, Bob Randall, Marcus Schumacher, Larry Wegmann, Jerry Jester, Dan Ditzler, Patti Hayes, Harry Morgan, Les Wilson, Todd Christell and myself. See you at the meeting.

Chapter Business:

Budget: The MTFA-Springfield by-laws direct the Executive Committee to submit an annual budget to the membership at the January meeting and that proposal is to be voted on at that same meeting. [“The Executive Committee shall propose a budget to the membership at the January meeting. This budget will be accepted by a majority vote of the attending membership at the January meeting.”](#) A new budget was submitted but the vote was postponed until the February meeting due to a question concerning the benefits received from our Affiliated membership with Fly Fishers International. The list of benefits was compiled and forwarded by email to chapter members on January 9 to give members time to consider their value. The 2020 annual dues for our Affiliated membership will be \$337 if the budget is approved. Please attend the February 6 meeting to voice your opinion concerning FFI membership and the 2020 budget.

Membership: If your dues for 2020 are not current, you may pay them at the January meeting. If you have received notice by email along with a membership form, please print off the form, make any necessary corrections, and submit it along with your check to MTFA-Springfield for \$15. If you pay in cash, please bring correct amount. No change. A \$20 bill = dues + a \$5 donation. You may also mail your membership to me at 2239 W. Buena St., Springfield, MO 65810. If you need a membership form, you can find it online at <http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/about/membership/>

Thanks, Bob Randall

MSU Basic Fly Fishing Class: The Spring Semester class has, at the time of this writing, 13 students officially signed up. We will need to know who will participate as mentors, so contact me or sign up at the February meeting. As usual, we will not have free parking so the club will have to pay for permits. It will be helpful if you can arrange to ride-share. Permits will be handed out at the March meeting. We will also need some help bringing equipment to class each time. Let me know if you can help. There will be some other members who will sit in on the class (I need to know who you are). Classroom dates are: March 26*, April 2, April 16, April 23 (No class April 9. MSU Spring Holiday). Field trip dates are: April 30 (Mountain Springs Trout Park), May 2 (Roaring River State Park). *Note: March 26 is the first day of the Sowbug Roundup. It continues two more days, so please consider skipping that event on the 26th and going down to Mountain Home on Friday if possible. My contact info is bobbyleensandy@gmail.com or 417-224-1104. Fly tying plan: Bedsread nymph, Beaded leech, 56er, Bead head Woolly bugger, Chili pepper, Griffith's Gant, Crackleback (as a dry fly), Soft hackle, Scud, and Midge. Bob Randall

On February 25th we will hold a joint fly tying event with the MSU Fly Fishing Club at the Plaster Student Union from 5pm to 8pm. We will be promoting the MSU Basic Fly Fishing Class with hopes of getting student interest in the fall 2020 class. Please volunteer to help.

Fishing Reports: January 13 Bennett Spring. Larry Olson and Bob Randall, Water was very high. You could see flotsam hung up on one of the handicap fishing peninsulas. It was even barely running over the Whistle Bridge. The park employees were removing a tree that had wedged up against the bridge. The water was turbid and the visibility was very low. A few anglers were present, but most weren't doing that well. If you could get into slower water near shore or fish on the bottom, you could get some strikes. Brighter or lighter colors worked. I used Dennis' bedsread fly with some success until my tippet broke off. I didn't have any more BS flies so I tied on a light colored fly of a similar size. Not much luck until I added some split shot. My success was in slow water and depth. Larry had success in the slow water close to shore. Bob Randall

-January 20, Bennett Spring. Larry Olson and Bob Randall 20 degrees, ice on the line and rod, water still high, low visibility. We arrived late and left early. Each of us caught 6 or 7 fish. We each caught a nice one near the shore just below the Gut Hole. Larry's fish was 19 inches. I caught mine on a white mega worm. Larry caught his on a size 16 starling and herl. **Notice the cuts on the caudal tails of each fish.** When asked about it, Hatchery Manager Ben Havens says: "Honestly I don't know. We don't clip anything in the hatchery for ID purposes."

-January 27, Bennett Spring. Water down but still above normal. Less turbid. Fishing good.



-January 31, Bennett Spring. MTFA Day: Mike Kidd, Ron Ward, Keith Coffey, Harry Morgan, Larry Olson, Bob Randall. Water down, much clearer compared to mid-month. A rude fishing group from St. L. didn't mind crowding their way into the good spots.



**Harry Morgan: too many fish,
too little time.**

They fell for a green woolly bugger.



***Proposed Legislation as reported by the Conservation Federation of
Missouri Legislative Action Center***

“Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019”, H.R.3742

The bipartisan "Recovering America's Wildlife Act", or "RAWA", passed the House Natural Resources Committee with an overwhelming 26-6 vote in December 2019, and now must be approved by the House, the Senate, and signed by President Trump in order to be implemented.

This urgent conservation bill dedicates \$1.4 billion annually to state and tribal-led wildlife conservation — helping prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place. Details available at [nwf.org/recoverwildlife](https://www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife).

In Missouri: <https://www.confedmo.org/lac/#/bills>

HJR 59 - Proposes a constitutional amendment to assert the right of Missourians to hunt and fish. **The CFM opposes this bill.**

Summary: The CFM supports the notion that Missouri citizens have the right to hunt and fish. The problem with this bill is that it's language could have the unintended consequence of eroding the authority of the Missouri Conservation Commission.

Fly Tying Tip of the Month: Not exactly a new recipe.



“Using the hook itself as a relative measurement tool helps you size up and size down based on the hook size while keeping uniform portions to match the pattern imitation. A size #20 pheasant tail has the same relative tail length to a size #10 pheasant tail, because it’s based off hook size.

See the diagram here made by here made by Charlie Craven, fly tying legend

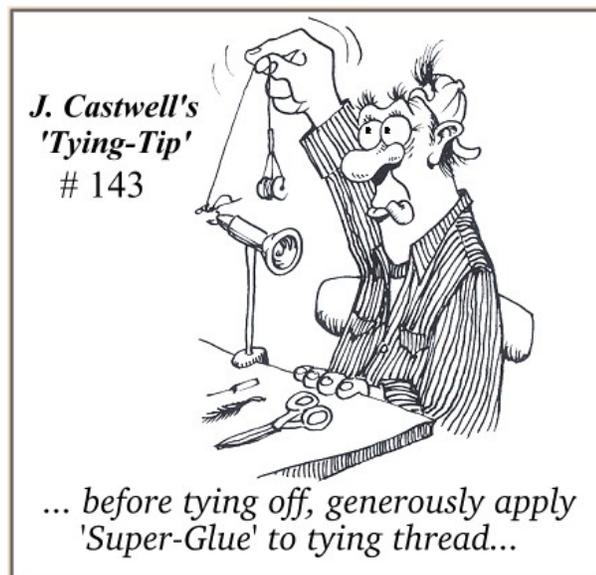
in Colorado on dry fly portions and notice how he uses the hook size as the guide to the measurements. All flies have their proper portions and the more you [know about your entomology](#), the better you’ll understand the right portions.” Quoted from

Allen Garder, Catch and the Hatch https://thecatchandthehatch.com/guide-tying-better-flies/?fbclid=IwAR0pIFhOwsv0snFHI-Ex9RBCwgQtYfDkSzgp4ZhNyJzX3Zad1_UiOmlAq3k

Another Tying Tip:

More New fishing humor here: <http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/media/fishin-funnies/>

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Water Quality and Connectivity: WOTUS: Acronym for Waters of the United States, also known as the Clean Water Act

There has been a controversy concerning the definitions of waters under federal jurisdiction for years. The EPA and COE now have a proposal for a new definition. The EPA's Science Advisory Board has issued a commentary on that proposed rule which is not flattering of the EPA/COE recommendation or of the process. I was going to cut and paste a summary of it for you, but I noticed the part that said that it was a draft and was not to be cited or "quoted". Oops! The short of it is that *the EPA and Corps are ignoring recognized hydrological science* and that the proposed rule falls short of the goal of restoring the Nation's waters. Specifically, the EPA and Corps ignore the connectivity of ground water to wetlands and adjacent major bodies of water (where you fish). Bob Randall

Between the time this article was started until it was published, the rule was finalized. [HERE.](#) Want more info about water quality? You can read the Science Advisory Board's comment on the proposed rule by clicking [HERE.](#) You can read a six point summary of WOTUS regulation changes [HERE.](#) You can read what Trout Unlimited has to say about it [HERE.](#) You can read about a local cattle operation and thoughts on connectivity near one of your favorite fishing spots [HERE.](#)

Related to Water Quality: Mayfly Population Decline [Research shows mayfly populations are declining](#) in parts of North America. "The number was down 84 percent in the Lake Erie area over the years 2015 to 2019, and down 52 percent in the Upper Mississippi area over the years 2012 to 2019. The researchers suggest that the population declines were likely due to deteriorating water quality."

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Catch, Release, Dead? (Hooking Mortality): "[Catch, photograph and release fishing has become so entrenched in our fishing psyche in recent years that it's almost hard to remember that keeping nearly every fish caught was once the norm in our father's and grandfather's days.](#) " "How and how long you handle fish determines their fate." Article from the Duluth News Tribune

I watched a fisherman land a nice rainbow, drag it up onto the shore, fumble around with his camera, take a pic, take another pic, fool around with his camera, put it away, pick up the fish, admire it, gently put it back into the water. The whole event seemed to take forever. My guess is that the fish was dead by morning. Johnny at Mountain Springs Trout Park reports that many dead fish are floating in the pool on the mornings after our catch and release fishing events.

Try running around your house, then hold your breath. How long can you do that? Then, once you start breathing again, walk around your house a second time. Lactic acid wastes build up in the fish's muscles. This in turn leads to blood acidification which can disrupt the metabolism of the fish. If a fish isn't able to get its blood chemistry balanced back to prestress levels, it may die, perhaps as long as 72 hours after the catch. Keep its head in the water. If water isn't flowing over the fish's gills, it isn't breathing. Bob Randall

Steelhead in Missouri: Kim Schultz recommended a program topic of “Best Steelhead Waters in Missouri”. I thought he was kidding or maybe testing me to see if I really read the program topic suggestions on the membership applications. I emailed him a message that was something like, “What are ya, nuts?” and “The closest place for steelhead to here is Michigan City, Indiana. The only place that you can find steelhead in Missouri, to my knowledge, is in the seafood display case at Sam's”. The back and forth conversation included the following from Kim: “Actually, they planted steelhead in Taneycomo the first years after Table Rock dam was finished. I heard stories but never saw one.... according to Paul Henry” and “The steelhead did not last long but Paul did mention you knew when one was on with excellent fighting and jumping.” I found a blog post on Ozark Anglers of another fisher talking about catching a steelhead many years back in Taneycomo. Doing a little more research I found from a report from MDC about the [White River Watershed](#) officially verifying the stocking, “Steelhead trout (migratory strains of rainbow trout) were stocked from 1971 to 1974, but stockings were discontinued because of the possibility of disease introductions (Kruse 1996).” Shane Bush, Fisheries Management Biologist at the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery says he does not know of any other instance where Steelhead have been stocked in Missouri.

Other interesting facts gleaned from this report are as follows: “The first documented release of non-native fishes into the [White River] watershed was during 1903-04, when brook trout and grayling were released into the White River.”, “Brown trout were first introduced to Lake Taneycomo in 1980.”, and “Kokanee salmon were stocked in Lake Taneycomo from 1963 to 1968. Survival and catch rates of kokanee were low, and the stocking was discontinued.” Of interest found in another document, in [“1880, rainbow trout](#) were released in rivers along the Frisco RR.” “Capp’s Creek, Little Piney, Meramec, Niangua, and Spring Rivers stocked in 1886.” First specific mention of Crane Creek is 1890, however, [“Missouri Fisheries Commission first stocked selected streams with McCloud Redband trout in 1880.](#) Eggs were transported from California’s McCloud River egg-taking station to the fish hatchery in St. Joseph, Missouri, where they duly hatched into fingerlings ready for release into selected streams, Crane Creek included. By 1882, the Commission reported trout spawning in Crane Creek”. *Read more about rainbows and steelheads [here](#).* Bob Randall

Fly Tying at the Nature Center: January 25 at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

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Les Wilson, Dennis Stead, Harry Morgan, Patti Hayes, Dan Ditzler, Jerry Jester, Larry Wegmann, Marcus Schumacher, Bob Randall, Larry Olson, and Todd Christell tied flies to help the MDC in their Outdoor Skills Program.



Pictures by Todd Christell

Video of the Month: Wading Safety (Humor but true) https://youtu.be/d_DgGfJqNZk

Older newsletters through 2007 are archived here: <http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/news-events/newsletter/newsletter-archive/>

If you would like to submit an article for the MTFA newsletter, please put MTFA NL in the email subject line and send to Bob Randall: bobbyleensandy@gmail.com

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