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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**

September 2020

Volume 14 No.9

The September Meeting is Cancelled

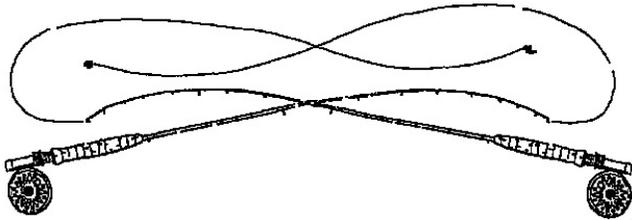
The Springfield Nature Conservation Center will be closed for the remainder of the year due to the Coronavirus.

Chapter News:

Larry Wegmann passed away August 21, 2020, after a long battle with lung cancer. Larry was a long time member of MTFA-Springfield serving as chapter president in 2008 and 2009. He was also the instructor for the MSU Beginning Fly Fishing Class. Larry also served in several positions with FFI and was a valuable member of the Stream Team.

There will be a Ceremony of Praise for Larry on September 19, 2020 at the Prince of Peace Church, 815 E Co Road 183 (Plainview Road), Springfield, MO 65810 at 1:00 pm. Space is limited and if you would like to attend, you will have text Linda Wegmann at 314-210-9337.





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Hungry Fish? Declining Aquatic Insect Populations

A Trout Unlimited Open Forum thread discussed anecdotal observations of declining aquatic insect populations. Some scientific research has documented those same observations. ["A team of researchers from the University of Oklahoma, Virginia Tech and the University of Notre Dame has found that populations of mayflies in parts of North America have fallen dramatically in recent years."](#)

During the "Catch and Keep" trout season in our state trout parks, many of the fish we catch never live long enough after stocking to ever learn to take the aquatic insect food sources either on the surface or subsurface as they know nothing but trout food pellets. Maybe you prefer to strip wooly buggers and don't think much about insects. Insects do matter.

Here are a couple of links.

<https://phys.org/news/2020-01-mayfly-populations-falling-fast-north.html>

<https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/caddisflies-mayflies-and-stoneflies-amongst-most-threatened/7714777>

Bob Randall used an insect seine to test for aquatic insects in a riffle next to the Rebar Hole at Lake Taneycomo while fishing on August 17. Very little was found in free flowing water. However, when the seine was set down on the stream bottom and rocks were kicked up in front of the seine, many sowbugs and a few scuds were captured. They varied in hook size from size 30ish to size 12. They were mostly grey, ranging from pretty dark grey to light grey.

Fishing Reports:

August 4 - Bennett Spring, Dick Solomon and Keith Coffey, very crowded couldn't get into the Gut Hole, lawn chairs all along the bank from Gut Hole to Whistle Bridge. Fished Zone 1 in morning. Caught fish on hot pink mega worm. Afternoon they were able to get into Zone 2. All total caught about 50 fish between them.

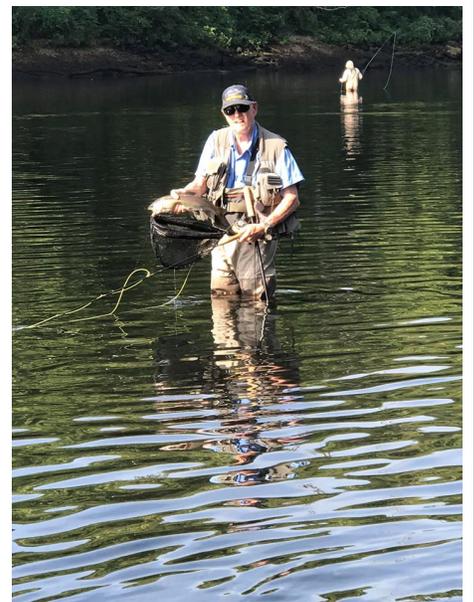
August 12 - Taneycomo, Dick Solomon, Fishing at Taney was fairly decent all of the fish were sizeable ran into Russell Doughty and we fished until 9:30 all in all any day fishing is fun .

August 14 - Taneycomo, Larry Olson, Went to Taneycomo this morning. Got there at 7:30 fished till 10. Caught 1 nice fish. Russ Daughty caught a dozen on his sculpin. Didn't see a lot of fish caught. Caught mine on a tiger tail.

August 15—Bennett Spring, a Facebook post in "Friends of Bennett Spring" reported that agents did a daily tag and license check in zone 1 above the dam as well as on both sides of the Whistle Bridge.

August 17, Taneycomo, Russ Doughty, Larry Olson, Bob Randall. For about a week now, they have shut off the generation through Table Rock Dam at 8 pm and left it off most of the morning. Today, it was very low water and slow fishing for most. Russ caught four, one was 19 inches, on a Taneycomo sculpin fly, Larry caught one on a tigertail, Bob got skunked. One unknown angler fished on the south side casting toward the center. He caught nothing until he turned around and cast toward the shore. He caught fish after fish. Reports are that the oxygen level is low on Taneycomo below the dam. Studies have shown that the best way to increase dissolved oxygen levels is by running the generators. Also that the fishing picks up when they run water.

Fishing Pics Russell Doughty This is a 19 " rainbow caught on a sculpin. Taneycomo



Fly of the Month: Bream Killer



Materials:

Hook: TMC 3762 or TMC5212BL

Hook size: 10

Thread: UNI-Tread 8/0 Black

Body: Black Chenille

Leg: White rubber

Wing: Gray squirrel tail

The Fly tied by Mack Wilson, Fort Smith, AR. Mack said it is an old pattern a friend showed him 25 years ago. Very simple and very productive. Use as a dropper under a hopper/popper or indicator or just straight and watch you line.

Tiger Trout: a hybrid between the brown trout and the brook trout. This is not a hybrid that normally occurs in nature (wild hybridizations have been reported) but instead eggs of one of the species can be fertilized with the milt of the other species. It is sterile so it will not reproduce in the wild if introduced into a population of any wild reproducing trout species, displacing the wild population. Since the brown and the brook trout are so distantly related that they occupy different genera, let alone other hybrids which are different species of the same genus. The brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). The name derives from the pronounced vermiculations, which evoke the stripes of a tiger. The fish is an anomaly in the wild, with the brook trout having 84 chromosomes and the brown trout 80. The Arkansas Game and Fish plan an experimental stocking below the Bull Shoals Dam in the C&R area.



Keith Coffey caught a trout with rainbow coloration but with the vermiculations diagnostic of the tiger trout at Bennett Spring State Park. Keith asked me to contact the hatchery manager at Bennett Spring hatchery. See the email below with Ben's answers in red. In short, there have been no stockings of tiger trout by MDC and none are planned.

Ben, one of our members of the Springfield MTFA caught a trout at Bennett Spring recently that had the coloration of a rainbow and the vermiculation markings of a tiger trout. Unfortunately, he didn't take a photo before he released it. I know that the tiger trout is a hybrid between the brown and the brook trout, not the brown and the rainbow. I also know that it was the AGFD that released the tigers below Bull Shoals dam, not the MDC. Nevertheless, he asked me to contact you about the fish.

Has MDC released any tiger trout anywhere? No, MDC has not and currently has no plans to release any tiger trout anywhere in Missouri. But it would be awesome if we did!

Is it possible for a natural hybrid to occur between the brown and the rainbow? No. Browns and Rainbows are from the same Family (Salmonidae) but are different in that they have different Genus's. Browns are from *Salmo* genus and rainbows from *Oncorhynchus* genus. Sort of a West coast/ East coast thing... Therefore, due to natural history it is very hard for everything to align just right and a cross to be made naturally. So, in the wild, they can't mix and produce offspring. I believe it has been done in fish farms in the past, but it's not a good cross and I honestly have never heard or seen it.

Another possibility, I suppose, would be an unusual variation within the rainbow species. Very possible. We have many different strains of Rainbows that have been raised in the hatchery system over the years. It is very possible to have very unique patterns and colors between fish. I have at least 3 different strains on inventory right now here at Bennett. Also, the longer the fish has been free and out of the hatchery runs, the better the colors get.

Bacterial Outbreak Forces Euthanization of 3.2 million Fish at Three Southern California Hatcheries July 20, 2020 by [kmacinty](#)

[HTTPS://CDFGNEWS.WORDPRESS.COM/2020/07/20/BACTERIAL-OUTBREAK-FORCES-EUTHANIZATION-OF-FISH-AT-THREE-SOUTHERN-CALIFORNIA-HATCHERIES/](https://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2020/07/20/bacterial-outbreak-forces-euthanization-of-fish-at-three-southern-california-hatcheries/)

Three California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) fish hatchery facilities in the eastern Sierra and Southern California have been battling ***a bacterial outbreak that has affected 3.2 million fish***. This week, after consultation with fish pathology experts and exhausting all avenues of treatment, CDFW announced that the fish, which are all trout, at the affected facilities must be euthanized in order to stop the spread of the outbreak.

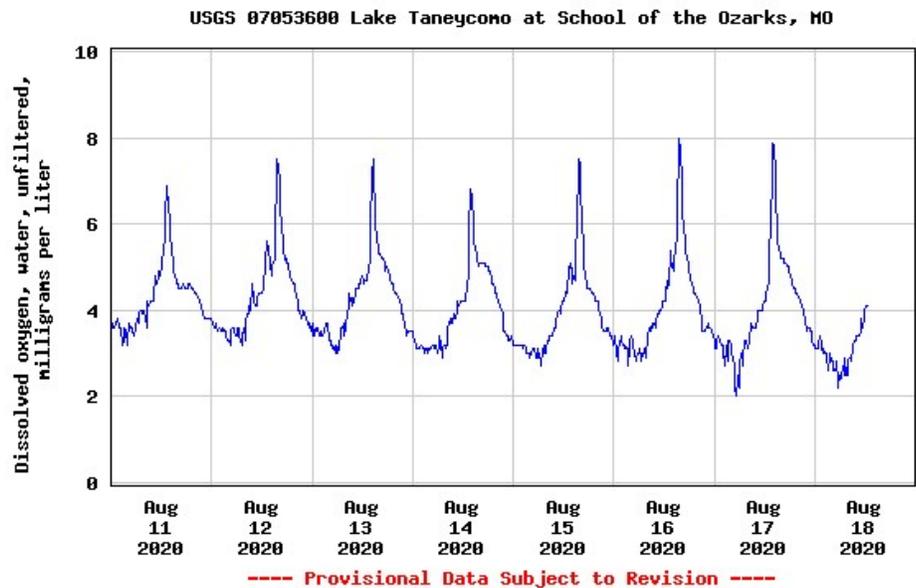
The affected facilities – Mojave River Hatchery, Black Rock Hatchery and Fish Springs Hatchery – usually provide fish for stocking waterways in CDFW’s South Coast Region and Inland Deserts Region. The euthanization of all the fish at these facilities will have a profound effect on CDFW’s ability to stock fish for anglers in those regions in the near future.

“Euthanizing our hatchery stocks was not a decision we came to lightly, but it had to be done,” said Jay Rowan environmental program manager for CDFW hatcheries. “This bacterium is resistant to all the treatment options we have available for fish. The fish losses were getting worse despite our treatments. The best option we have available that will get us back to planting fish from these hatcheries in the shortest timeline is to clear the raceways, thoroughly disinfect the facilities, and start over.”

Bristol Bay in Alaska is America's largest wild salmon fishery. It is downstream of the proposed Pebble Mine, a very large copper, gold, and molybdenum mineral deposit. Conservation groups, fishing interests, local native tribes, and others have opposed the mine for years due to anticipated environmental damage to the fishery. Approval for the mine has been an off-again, on-again for a long time. Recently, the Army Corps of Engineers has said that the project, as currently proposed, cannot be permitted. That doesn’t mean that it won’t be allowed to proceed at some future time. It’s just off-again.

Dissolved Oxygen levels at Lake Taneycomo

Check out the dissolved oxygen levels in the graph to the left. These readings are at the School of the Ozarks station. During the time these readings took place, the generators were shut off at about 8pm and stayed off until 11am or 1pm depending on the day. Notice how it spikes during electrical generation and then plummets as soon as the gens are shut off.



The peaks on the graph go up to 8 milligrams per liter and the lows go down to almost 2 mg/l. [By the way, six mg/l is the minimum water quality criterion required to maintain a cold-water fishery in Lake Taneycomo.](#) In a study [published in 1986, Weithman and Haas](#) documented that when dissolved oxygen levels in Lake Taneycomo dropped below 6 mg/L, trout fishing success declined. “In addition to the direct negative impacts low DO levels have on trout in Lake Taneycomo, there is documentation of negative impacts on the trout population’s food base in the lake.”

Are we seeing a 16-18 hour delay between the generation schedule and the dissolved O₂ peaks downstream? An interesting side fact is that [all of the water in Lake T-como could be replaced in 24 hours when the Table Rock Dam generators were operating at full capacity.](#)

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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