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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

December 2020

Volume 14 No.12

## The December Meeting and Fishing Event Are Cancelled

As you are aware, Covid-19 is still with us. We had hoped to hold a December meeting and combine it with an outdoor fishing social event, but we now feel we should err on the side of caution. Therefore, the December 5 meeting at Mountain Springs Trout Park is cancelled.

The meeting was supposed to be the annual meeting when we vote to approve the Officer nominations for the 2021 year. We will have to do this by mail. A stamped return postcard ballot has been sent to you with two items of business. Please, complete and return. The first business item is the officer slate.

**The 2021 Officer Nominee Slate (voting approval required) is**

President: Dan Ditzler

President Elect: Joe Winget

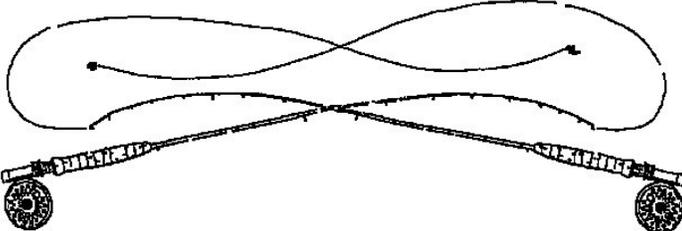
Secretary: Bruce Hinkston

Treasurer: Dennis Stead

3-year Executive Committee: Regina Leitle and Nelson Morrison

Second, vote yes or no on the return ballot card to the following question:

**Should the 2020 chapter membership dues be carried over into the 2021 membership year?**    If you have not received a letter with the card, contact Dennis Stead 417-380-3687



**2021 Officer Nominee Slate (voting approval required)**

**President: Dan Ditzler**

**President Elect: Joe Winget**

**Secretary: Bruce Hinkston**

**Treasurer: Dennis Stead**

**3 year Executive Committee:**

**Regina Leitle and Nelson Morrison**

**1 year Executive Committee replacement for Fred Brown: Vacant**

**Committee Chairs (no vote needed):**

**Program: Rick Headlee**

**Education: Bob Randall**

**Social: Jarred Mathena**

**Newsletter Editor: Bob Randall**

**Librarian: Wayne Frizzell**

**Equipment & Supplies:**

**Web Page: Brent Simmons**

**Membership: Bob Randall**

**Liaison to National/State Affiliate Fly Fishing Assns: Bob Randall**

**Springfield Chapter Officers**

**President: Dennis Stead**

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**Vice-President: Dan Ditzler**

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**Secretary: Bruce Hinkston**

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**Treasurer: Dennis Stead**

**417-380-3687**

**[dmstead@aol.com](mailto:dmstead@aol.com)**

***Chapter News:***

Dan Ditzler, next year's Chapter President (assuming we vote him in), hopes to be able to get back to some sense of normalcy early next year.

One item of future business is to replace Fred Brown in the 1 year Executive Committee position

### ***Fishing Reports:***

**Bob Randall, Rockbridge, 11/4/2020, 6 to the net, one more self released just shy of the net, several more missed the set or lost during the fight, all lunkers, all caught on dry flies, size 12 parachute brown Klinkhammer fly, size 20 black parachute Adams, size 18 or 20 crackleback.**

**Paul Sheppard, Rockbridge, 11/4/2020, Rockbridge report:**

**“Fish census in the catch and release area was down. Confirmed by conversation with Rockbridge guide who said that all the rain the previous week had caused flooding and a lot of fish went down stream out of the area. It was to be restocked soon.**

**I fished a half day of C & R and wandered the stream looking for fish. Most areas that normally hold fish were devoid of fish. There was the guide with two clients in the only pool that was holding fish in the upper C & R area at the bend. I walked the stream all the way down to the low water dam and fished in the pool below that where a lot of BIG dark shadows were seen. I caught a number of fish. Some were smaller (9 to 11 inches) and the result of natural reproduction. I also released four fish that weighed between 4 and 8 lbs.**

**About noon, I ventured back up to the bend in the stream area and the guide and his clients were gone. I fished there and released a number of fish. I would say that I have released about 20 fish during my half day, which is a low total for me when I fish C & R.**

**It would have been really frustrating if there had been more fishermen. A few showed up and were casting downstream but I had already checked out that area and knew that they were taking casting practice because there were no fish in that area.”**

**Opening day of C&R season, Bennett Spring State Park, 11/13/2020. Mike Kidd, Matthew Peet, Dick Solomon, Keith Coffey, John Dozier, Howard Hawkins, Larry Olson, and Bob Randall. Everybody caught fish. Mike fished the outflow stream at the outflow closest to the Gut Hole. He said, “I caught 100 trout before lunch today ... This puts me over 1,080 trout for 2020.” Dick Solomon said, “By lunch time I had caught 69 with one 20 incher at the Gut Hole. After a safe spacing lunch it was back in the water. At 3:00 the whistle blew and I left the water with 125 as my final count. When I got home my left wrist hurt so much from stripping and netting I had to wrap it with an Ace Bandage all night.” Bob fished mostly the upper area of the outflow stream. Fish were stacked in by the hundreds. He caught over 80 fish before noon and at times didn’t set his landing net down. Almost all of his fish were caught on dry flies, including the Klinkhammer parachute, the Adams parachute, and a modified Adams. Three of his flies were so worked over by the fish that they couldn’t be fished anymore and had to be replaced. Larry and Keith mostly fished the stream below the Gut Hole stripping woolies and tiger tails.**

**Fishing Pics**

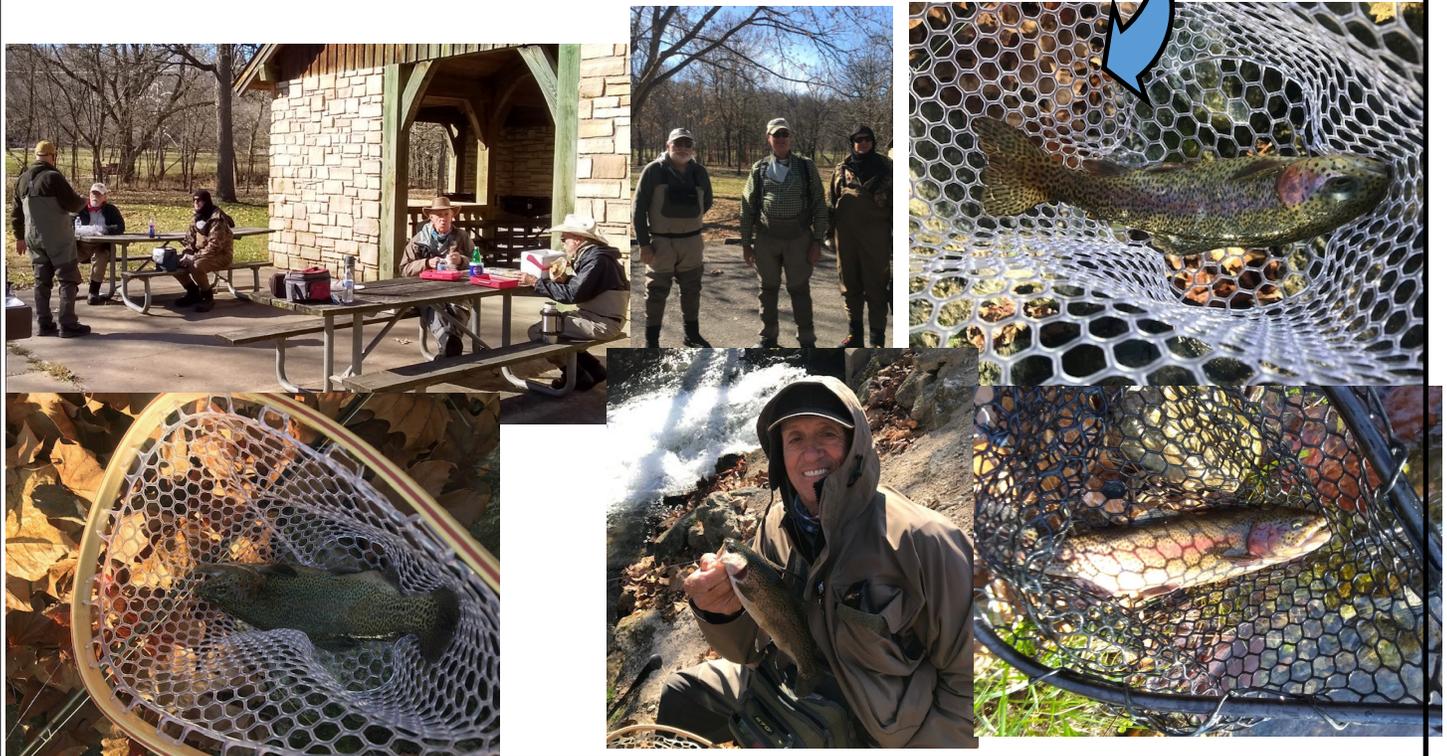
**Bob Randall, Rockbridge, 11/4/2020, smallest one. Shoulda taken more pics but I've already ruined two cameras by water submer-sion.**



**Pics from John Bush's Trout Slam article  
Opening day of Catch and Release at  
Bennett Spring State  
Park, Friday the 13th**



**Opening day of Catch and Release Friday the 13th**



**And the fishing reports continue to come in.**

**Bob Randall and Larry Olson, 11/20/2020, Bennett Spring: We showed up early and there was almost no one there. I had no competition to claim the upper end of the outflow stream where I slayed them. Didn't really count but must have been well over 50 in two hours. All caught on dry flies. Larry fished the main creek between the gut hole and the whistle bridge using tigertails and griffith's gnats. We ran into Keith Coffey, John Dozier, and Dick Solomon also just below the gut hole. Everybody did well. We ate lunch. Larry and I went home while the others went back to fishing. Haven't heard their totals. I should note that by the time I emerged from the outflow stream for a cup of coffee, the stream was well populated with fishermen. Bob Randall**

**Additional report, Dick Solomon: John, Keith and I fished until 3 we all caught several more fish. I learned something from a guy who was catching several and he was using a little Red Midge with a Copper wire ribbing. It looked to be a size 18/20 I was fishing a version of my John Deer, so I added a foot of dropper tippet and Wham . The odd thing was we were fishing the deep water down below the Gut hole. My fly was a Red Zebra if that's what it is what ever it worked. Now for the second chapter of this book. We ran into the same guy up in zone one by the handicap pier and he was fishing with the Red Midge in the deep hole and he caught TWO Browns in that hole, I have fished that hole for 40 years and have never seen a Brown up that close to the spring.**

**Stockton Reservoir: Harry Morgan met some family members at Stockton Lake and did very well catching white bass. Different trip, different day: Dennis Stead and Nellie Morrison also did well at Stockton with the white bass.**

**Mike Kidd, 11/23/2020, Montauk, Caught 32 trout at Montauk today on size 14 green wispy stripped on sinking line.**

**Bob Randall, Larry Olson, Keith Coffey, 11/ 26/2020, Bennett Spring:.Bob started at the very top of the outflow stream. Didn't count but caught many on dry flies. Moved down below the Whistle Bridge and fished the tail-out of the riffles. Did well but had to change flies as they would hit for a while and then quit. Did well on Dennis' yellow blanket flies, a grey scud, a bead head soft hackle. Absolutely, no hits on a pink blanket fly, a small white mega worm, and a black bitch creek nymph. Yep, that's its name. Larry and Keith fished between the Gut Hole and the Whistle Bridge using mostly woolies, tigertails.**

**Mike Kidd, Montauk, 11/262020, "I fished Montauk today for 3 hours and caught 21 nice rainbows stripping size 14 green wispys on sinking line"**

## **Missouri Blue Ribbon Trout Slam by John Bush First installment of three.**

A couple of months back, Mike Kidd from the MTFA Branson chapter sent out a message about the Missouri Blue Ribbon Trout Slam. I'm always interested in finding new places to fish, and especially those that are a little less crowded so this sounded like something that would be enjoyable to do.

A blue ribbon trout area is defined as an area with habitat that supports naturally reproducing trout. According to the MDC website, there are 9 Blue Ribbon Trout areas in the state of Missouri. I say "according" because one of them listed is the Current River, and many would argue that these fish are hatchery fish from Montauk State Park. Below is the info from the MDC.

**HERE'S HOW THE TROUT SLAM WORKS:** Missouri's Blue Ribbon Trout Slam has been divided into three levels of accomplishment.

### **Bronze**

- Catch a trout from 5 of the 9 Blue Ribbon Trout Areas.
- Award – certificate and bronze pin.

### **Silver**

- Catch a trout from 7 of the 9 Blue Ribbon Trout Areas.
- Award – certificate and silver pin.

### **Gold**

- Catch a trout from all 9 Blue Ribbon Trout Areas.
- Award – certificate, gold pin, and medallion.

Trout of any size caught after January 1, 2020 will qualify for a Blue Ribbon Trout Slam, but trout under 18 inches must be released.

First, let me say that if you don't like a challenge and you're bothered by walking, then this may not be for you. On the other hand, if seeing some of the most gorgeous little gems in the state, with trout that are relatively small, but probably 3 times more difficult than most hatchery fish then this is something that will test your mettle as an angler and you'll most likely enjoy.

I started working on the trout slam on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, kind of as a last minute decision. I had gone to the fly tying rendezvous in Branson Friday and Saturday, and decided Saturday to tie flies in the morning and go fish Crane Creek with Mike Kidd in the afternoon. Crane Creek is one that I've fished several times before, so I was confident that I'd at least get a few there. Mike and I drove to the conservation entrance south of Crane and proceeded to get our gear on and walk probably a couple of hundred yards to the creek.

Crane creek is small in most places, and without a lot of room for a back cast in many of them. Like most trout streams, the water is crystal clear. My rod of choice for these tight situations has been my 7 ½ foot 3 weight as you don't typically need a long cast and the shorter rod helps in keeping out of the trees to some extent. We started fishing downstream

Continued from previous page

and found several nice pools along with noticing some trout that were very deep and obviously spooked in some of the deeper, slower pools. I've found that in most of these smaller streams, the trout are not generally super picky about pattern and for me at least; standard nymph patterns work pretty well. I used a guide's choice hare's ear, with a pheasant tail dropper and Mike was using a fox squirrel nymph. We worked downstream, and the first section was fairly slow with Mike picking up a few fish here and there, but nothing consistent. Eventually, further downstream we found a couple of nice riffles and Mike picked up 10 overall. I ended up with 13, but mainly because we found a trough feeding in under a tree that they seemed to be stacked up in and I was getting hits almost every cast, and lots of hookups. The majority were from this one hole. Most of the fish were roughly 6 inches, which is pretty normal for Crane Creek. After this, I had to take a couple of weeks break due to family obligations and on-call from work.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, I headed over to Little Piney Creek south of Rolla. The temperatures were a little cool that morning and I arrived around 8:30 AM. Again, I got out my 3 weight and started with my standard nymph rig of the guide's choice hare's ear and pheasant tail nymph. Little Piney, despite its name is actually a fairly decent sized stream and one of the few I've hit so far with plenty of room for a back cast in most places. When I walked to the stream, I emerged on a fairly flat, slow pool with a couple of logs on the far side and a small bluff behind it. I was surprised to see several fish hitting the surface fairly regularly and a nice hatch of tiny cream colored mayflies going on. I found several that had drifted to the shore and were either stuck in the water crippled or perched on small sticks waiting for their wings to dry and the temperature to warm up. I estimated that they were a size 22 or 24. Being a little lazy, I decided to go ahead and drift my nymphs through despite the hatch, but after a few minutes of them being completely ignored, I sat down on a log and took the nymphs off to replace with the smallest Adam's dry I had in my box. It wasn't the right color, but was the closest I had in size that I could find. Unfortunately, in the time it took me to re-rig, the hatch ended and the fish had pretty much stopped hitting the surface. I made several casts hoping there would still be one or 2 fish looking up without success. I sat back down and put my nymph rig back on and tried again since the hatch had stopped. Still no success, so I walked back to my car and got my 7 weight rod out and tied on one of Mike Kidd's wispy's. I normally don't use my 7 weight on small streams, but this one was wide enough with plenty of room for a back cast and my 7 weight is the only one I have sinking lines for. I went back to the same area and started stripping the wispy, and in a few minutes hooked and landed my first fish for the day. Having now landed the fish needed for the trout slam, I fished the wispy probably another 30 minutes but with no more success. I had noticed further upstream what appeared to be several nice riffles and holes, so I went back to the car again and swapped back out for my 3 weight nymph rig. Next, I came back and started walking upstream from where I had originally entered. For the next couple of hours, I managed to catch about 8 fish drifting the guide's choice hare's ear and pheasant tail through the riffles. I probably would have caught more, but I had planned the day to try and check 2 streams off my list if possible so around 2:30 PM, I went back to the car and headed to the Bohigian Conservation area of Mill Creek.

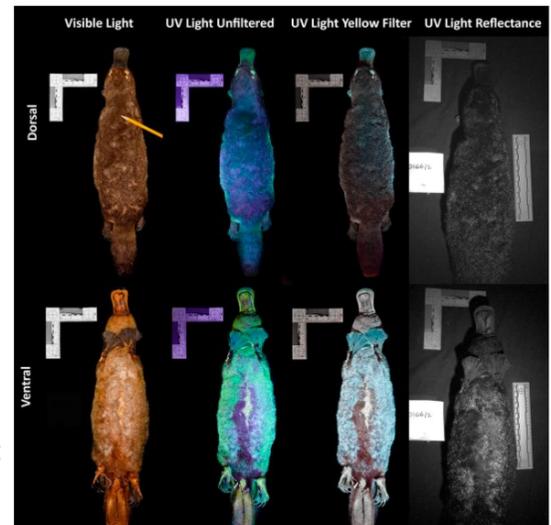
John's Trout Slam Adventure will be continued in next month's newsletter.

## Fly Talk

I, for one, don't get giddy when I hear of a new fly pattern. However, I find the following idea to be intriguing. It's a new twist on dubbing: Biofluorescence. You've heard about UV dubbing which reflects ultraviolet light. UV light has such a short wave length that you and I can't see it. Biofluorescence relies on a protein that, at the molecular level, reflects the light back at a longer wavelength that you and I can see. That brings me to the fur of a very exotic critter.

[Scientists have discovered](#) that platypus fur fluoresces under ultraviolet light. You remember hearing about the platypus in grade school. You probably called it the duck-billed platypus. The unusual appearance of this egg-laying, duck-billed, beaver-tailed, otter-footed mammal baffled European naturalists when they first encountered it, and the first scientists to examine a preserved platypus body (in 1799), judged it a fake, made of several animals sewn together. Even though it is endemic to Australia and Tasmania, it is not a marsupial. As a mammal, it nurses its young with milk. So the point here is that when the fur, under UV light, reflects a longer, visible wave length light back (purple-ish on the back and turquoise-ish [scientists describe this color as cyan] on the belly). Now wouldn't that make for an interesting dubbing material? Well, you can forget about buying a bag of platypus fur dubbing at the local fly shop and you can't go to the pet store and buy a live platypus. It's illegal. However, opossums in North America, also fluoresce. Now that is available in your local fly shop. Maybe this is why 'possum is so awesome. I must point out some things here. Many animals and plants exhibit fluorescence, including flying squirrels. UV light is required for fluorescence but UV light reflectance is not the same as fluorescence. [UV light penetrates water poorly. 1% of UV light will be visible at an approximate depth of 3 feet in our stillwaters in midday sunlight in mid-summer.](#) Flies tied with fluorescence in mind will probably work better in shallow water or on the surface. It is believed that the ability to see UV light in some trout species may dwindle with age but they can see fluorescence. That said, a new book, "The New Scientific Angling – Trout and Ultraviolet Vision" discusses UV reflectance as the best thing since sliced baloney. You can buy fluorescent dubbing. Try it and report back.

I'll write next month about the basic list of flies that all local fly fishers should have. If you have a candidate for this list, send it to me at [bobbyleensandy@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyleensandy@gmail.com). Bob Randall



You can open and print a 2021 MTFA-Springfield Membership application [Click here](#)

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](mailto:bobbyleensandy@gmail.com)

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