



www.MTFA-Springfield.org facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/ MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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

January 2021

Volume 15 No.01

The January Meeting is Cancelled

Officer election and vote concerning 2021 membership dues:

We sent out 73 voting request. 54 have been returned which is 74% voting.

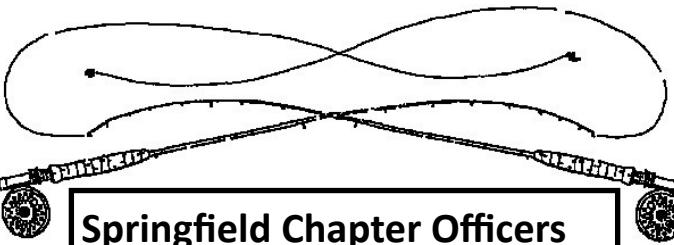
1. Elect new officers – 100% of the 54 returned said yes
2. Carry dues forward – 34 said yes (63%) and 20 said No (37%).

The 2021 officer slate is elected as presented. The dues initiative is passed.

Members in good standing in 2020 will be continued into 2021.

A reminder that we will need to fill Fred Brown's position on the Executive Committee. We also need someone to help with the Equipment and Supplies. Contact Dan Ditzler, 417-737-0885, desert8mule@gmail.com





Springfield Chapter Officers

President: Dan Ditzler

417-737-0885

desert8mule@gmail.com

President Elect: Joe Winget

417-224-1771

jwinget@pwplawfirm.com

Secretary: Bruce Hinkston

417 838-0713

BWHinkston@mchsi.com

Treasurer: Dennis Stead

417-380-3687

dmstead@aol.com

Letter from Past-President, Dennis Stead:

I want to thank everyone for their support for the two years that I was MTFA's President. I know everyone will get behind Dan Ditzler and support him in 2021. Many of you during the voting suggested that \$15 for membership was not a big amount to pay for membership and suggested that we not carry forward the membership dues from last year. Now that I am MTFA's Treasurer for 2021, I agree. So if the vote is in favor to carry 2020 dues forward to 2021 and you would like to make a donation of \$15.00, make out a check to MTFA and send it to me. This will help pay the storage bill and maybe something else.

Letter from 2021 President, Dan Ditzler:

Well, sports fans, the new year is upon us. Our leaders tell us the vaccine is being distributed and one of these days this pandemic will be under control. Life will be back to normal. If you believe that, I've got a bridge in Brooklyn. Just three more payments and I'll be ready to sell.

The truth is the new normal will be different than the old normal. I don't foresee an MTFA meeting at the Nature Center until June. The fall MSU class is questionable. Keep masking and social distancing and we will get through this. Just not sure when.

On the up side, it's a great time to get out to the parks and conservation areas. When the weather turns bad we can stay in and tie some flies. Replace some of that stuff we left hangin' in the trees.

Chapter News:

Long time trout fisherman and Springfield Chapter member, Dick Deerfield, passed away, Saturday, December 5. Dick's family chose the MTFA-Springfield chapter as a recipient for memorial donations. We should discuss a use for these funds and any future donations. [Richard Deerfield Obituary \(1932 - 2020\) - News-Leader \(legacy.com\)](#)

The State Council of the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association (our parent organization) maintains a memorial stone at Bennett Spring State Park, annually adding names of our fellow club members who have died. In December, we were notified that one of the plaques was missing. It had quite a few name on it. We are trying to figure out what happened and in case we need to replace it, which names were on the plaque. We have a photograph of the plate but many of the names are not legible. If any of you have a photograph with the names, please let us know.

Fishing Reports:

December 7, Bennett Spring, Bob Randall, Larry Olson, Dick Solomon, and Mike Kidd fished Bennett Spring today. Mike stopped fishing after catching 50 trout including the one pictured on pellet flies and wispy's. Dick did well in John Deere's under indicator. Not sure what Bob and Larry fished. Report by Mike Kidd

12.7.2020 continued: Larry and I arrived late. He fished above the dam stripping flies. I went to the riffles below the Whistle Bridge. Neither of us did well there. Last week I was doing well in the riffles but this time, I could see fish feeding but they had little interest in my offerings. I landed three, one on a yellow blanket fly, one on a pink hammerhead fly (Dennis Stead's creation), and one on something else. I changed flies more than usual, trying to figure out what they were after. All I did was practice tying knots. After lunch, I went to the top of the outflow stream and did well, probably 30-40 fish on dry flies, pellet flies, and a few on a grey scud. After lunch Larry moved to the stream above the Whistle Bridge. He caught a few, but was mostly interested in a couple of yellowish fish with big scales that took his flies. I thought they might be river chubs but I didn't see them and I got a D in ichthyology so what would I know. Report by Bob Randall

December 18, Bennett Spring, caught over 50 fish. I fished my John Deere, my Hares Ear Scud and Renegade dry flies. Met up with Larry and Bob for lunch. Fished after lunch and caught several more on a Shammy jig.. The water conditions are really good. I left for home about 1:30 after the wind kicked up. Report by Dick Solomon

And the fishing reports just keep coming in:

12.18.2020 continued: Bob Randall and Larry Olson. Arrived late again. Larry and I both fished from the riffles below the Whistle Bridge. I fished the riffle tail-outs while Larry fished the pools above the riffles. Each of us caught 8 fish. It was difficult to figure what they were taking. I could more easily name what they didn't hit than what they did. Larry switched to a bead head pheasant tail and caught four fish in four casts. Then they quit. After lunch we fished above the Whistle Bridge. I probably caught 20-30 in the outflows while Larry stripped streamers and a Griffith's gnat with success.

December 21, Roaring River, Bob Randall: I, for one, celebrate the winter solstice. I go fishing. To me, among other things, it reminds me how small we are compared to the universe. I'm comfortable with my insignificance. I celebrate nature. However, the fishing wasn't so hot. I went to Roaring River. Caught five. Had a few strikes. I saw few bent rods, but one guy was an exception. He nailed them on a size 20 soft hackle. I asked him about it and had a chance to see it. It was the sparsest fly I've ever seen. He cast almost perpendicular instead of quartering downstream. He jiggled the rod slightly. Boom. Time after time. I noticed that the fish I caught were lazy about taking the hook but they fought like tigers. Would that make them catfish?

December 21, Bennett Spring, report by Dick Solomon: Fishing at Bennet today was above average for C/R. Overall I caught 38 and quit after lunch. I met up with Mike Kidd, Ron Ward and his two grandsons, Keith Coffey, as usual I used my Hares Ear and a few drys witch did not catch any, as a special treat Mr. Wilson Winch was also there. He hails from KC. Mike Kidd: I got 40 on pellet and gray scuds with orange heads size 14 dead drifting on floating line.

December 24, Crane Creek, Bob Randall: I went fishing at Crane Creek today. I only caught one but, hey, it's Crane Creek. I was happy. Caught it on a pheasant tail nymph out of a pool below a riffle. There were a couple of guys there already. I managed to avoid one of them but the other guy came right up to me, bushwhacking his way right along the creek. He might have screwed up the fishing for a while, but not even he could ruin my birthday. My line kept freezing to the guides.

December 28, Roaring River, Larry Olson and Bob Randall: 7 fish each. Started at the lower end of the park with one fish and three strikes on a grey scud for Bob. Moved up to bottom of zone 1. Caught fish on cream colored mop fly and clown egg pattern.

December 30, Mike Kidd: 2020 figures are in the books. I caught 1,231 trout and salmon and 364 other fish. And fished 115 days. Total of 1,595 fish for the year even with taking off several months for covid.

Fishing Pics

Harry Morgan, Stockton Lake, November 2020

I don't know these guys.

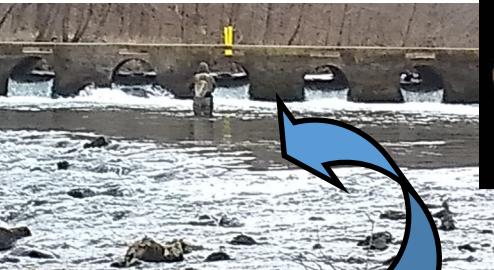


"To my right is my brother Mark Morgan from Pratt, Ks. Then to his right is Tim Morgan a cousin from Dallas TX"



Larry Olson has identified the two "yellowish fish" caught on 12/7 at Bennett Spring as the golden redhorse, a type of sucker.

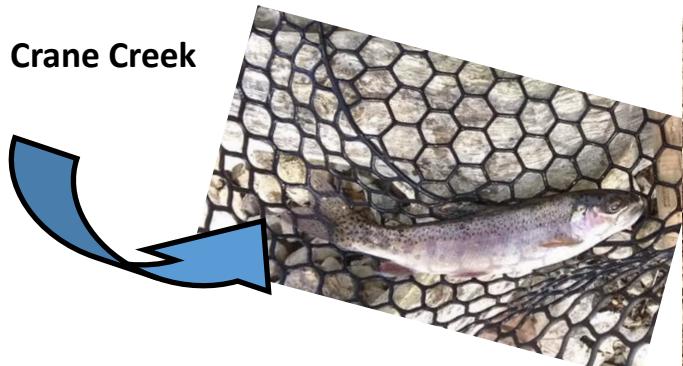
Whistle Bridge



Bennett Spring



Crane Creek



Bob Randall



Fly Talk

"... most guides, when you begin to inspect their boxes with detail you'll notice one similarity; it's a combination of 10-15 patterns. Sure they have every size, color and variation imaginable, but they rarely have more than 15 patterns to cover all the insects in the water. You can bet your fly box on the fact that those guides have tried hundreds of fly patterns over the years and they all end up with the same few patterns for their local waters." [The Catch and the Hatch Guide](#)

Must-have flies (pick one from each category. Pretend you only get four flies for the rest of your life):

- surface flies: Adams dry flies, elk hair caddis, crackle back, Griffith's gnat
- just below surface: soft hackle, crackle back, Griffith's gnat
- on the bottom or adrift in the current: midges (zebra, bead head, ruby red, blood, black beauty, harvester) scuds (yes, I know, scuds can swim), san juan worm, pheasant tail nymphs, crackle back, Griffith's gnat
- active swimmers:
woolly buggers, tigertails, leaches, bait mimicking streamers, cracklebacks and Griffith's gnats (yes, they can be productive when stripped)

I think I need to tie more Griffith's gnats. If you want to weigh in on this, contact me.

My picks: Adams, soft hackle, scuds (toss-up with midges), tigertails .

I was rummaging thru some fly tying supplies and found a package of white ostrich herl. I can't recall why I bought them. Scuds? Substitute for hackle in dry flies? A collar for nymphs/midges?

Next month: fly colors

2021 MDC Schedule for Bennett Spring State Park

Veterans' – April 17

Kid's – May 1st

Statewide Free Fishing – June 12/13

Ladies Free Fishing – Sept. 25

2021 MDC Schedule for Roaring River State Park

Spring Kids Fishing Day: May 15th

Free Fishing Days: June 5th and 6th

Fall Kids Fishing Day: August 21st

Veterans Free Fishing Day: September 18th

REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. CALL 1-800-392-1111.

John's Trout Slam Adventure continued from last month's newsletter. Of the five Blue Ribbon Trout Streams needed for the Bronze level of the Trout Slam, John at this point has two, Crane Creek, Little Piney River

Mill Creek is only about 40 minutes from Little Piney, and I probably would have got there a little fast if I'd been there before but as my luck was, the directions on Google maps indicated a road that I never found and so I ended up taking at least one wrong turn and getting a little turned around. Nevertheless, I finally found the parking area (or at least one parking area) and proceeded to make my way to the stream. There was a small path that had been brush hogged for some ways. I followed it quite a distance, but eventually it started to turn into heavy briars and brush, and I realized that if I kept going there was a high likelihood I was going to have problems finding my way back to my car. So I abandoned that plan, and went back to my car to find another place to gain access. After a few minutes, I found a small forest road with a bridge and a small place to park on just the other side. I pulled in and stepped out of the car to observe for a few minutes. From the bridge, I could see several fish swimming and it was essentially divided into 3 small sections with concrete dividers. This was an ideal situation for me, as the water was running across the first 2 and most of it getting diverted into the 2nd and 3rd sections. I went back and got my rod, and walked down to the creek staying far enough back for the first divider wall to mostly conceal me. I made a cast to just the edge of the first wall, and within my first or 2nd drift hooked the first fish from Mill Creek. A couple more casts to this section, and no hits so I figured the first one probably spooked any others so I moved up slightly and made another cast over the 2nd wall into the 3rd section, and again my indicator went under in short order. I set the hook and had my 2nd fish of the day and both of them in probably less than 10 minutes to boot. From there, I started walking upstream staying out of the water as much as I could and looking for deeper holes or riffles where the water dumped over a shelf. I found 3 or 4 such spots and hooked 2 more fish before it started to get dark and from looking at my maps earlier, I had realized there was another parking area that I had missed and I wanted to at least find it to check out for a later time. Once I located it, I found a similar situation to the first one in that there was a small trail brush hogged that you could walk fairly easily. So I grabbed my rod not knowing what to expect as darkness was approaching quickly. I followed the trail, and this time to my delight it took me all the way to the creek with only a small set of rocks to step down just off a little island. I looked upstream and down, and saw one small riffle that could have potentially held a fish, but by then it was getting dark enough that seeing my indicator wasn't going to be easy much longer. I made a few casts and went back to the car and marked the location on my GPS for future use. I then took my waders off and headed home.

John's Trout Slam Adventure will be continues on the next page

John Bush's Trout Slam Story continued from previous page:

On October 30th, I loaded my car up and headed to Mike Kidd's farm to try and get to at least bronze that weekend. Several of the streams in the trout slam are within an hour or 2 of there, so having a friend I could spend a day or 2 helped greatly. Ron Ward also went, and we got up Saturday morning and fished the Current River just below Montauk Park. The water was up higher than normal, and from talking with Mike this section normally does fairly well on streamers. So I decided to start with my 7 weight with a full sinking line and a black woolly bugger. We walked from the parking area in Montauk to the end of the park where the blue ribbon section starts. Ron had already caught his fish for the slam here, so was gracious enough to let me start. I hit a hole where they said Ron had hooked a larger fish a few days earlier, but didn't have any success there. So I started working downstream, and hadn't gone far before a nice rainbow smacked the woolly bugger and I had hooked up. I started calling for Ron to grab a picture thinking it was a done deal, and got the fish within a few feet of my net before he threw the hook. A little disappointed, but optimistic, I was thinking that it shouldn't be hard with no more time than it took to hook up with that one to catch another. Boy was I proved wrong. The rest of the morning I only had a few bumps on the woolly bugger, but not a single hookup. And to make it worse, my waders were leaking badly and I could feel water sloshing every time I took a step. Further down the river, there were some fish hitting the surface and a small caddis hatch going on. Ron managed to take several on the caddis, but since I had my sinking line on this wasn't an option for me. Ron mentioned he had a few on an egg pattern and a San Juan worm earlier as well, but both Ron and Mike said it was a lot slower than normal. Somewhat dejected, but also knowing that Ron wasn't going to get any benefit here and that he needed another creek on my list, we went back to the car and headed to Barren Fork Creek.

Ron had been doing some reconnaissance on some of Facebook pages, and trout slam boards and had an area mapped out that was supposed to be some of the better fishing in this stream. Sections of it are private, so we had to keep that in mind when fishing it. We drove to the lower end where it meets Sinking Creek and started working our way upstream. This one is by far the most difficult stream I've fished so far of the ones I've hit. Ron and I walked upstream taking turns and found several nice pools, but never spotted a single fish. Normally, even if we don't catch one I've at least been able to spot them when they dart from being spooked. That wasn't the case here. Neither of us caught a fish that day.

John's Trout Slam Adventure continues on the next page

Of the five Blue Ribbon Trout Streams needed for the Bronze level of the Trout Slam, John at this point has three: Crane Creek, Little Piney River, and Mill Creek

Dejected and somewhat questioning my ability as a trout fisherman, we headed back to Mike's farm with me being skunked for the day. We spent the night again and got up the next morning and drove to Blue Springs Creek south of Bourbon, Missouri. I had fished this one once before and had found some holes that I knew had fish in them, but hadn't been able to close the deal. I at least had confidence this time and a better game plan having fished it once and looking closer at my map. First, we stopped at a small bridge with 3 culverts where Mike Kidd had landed his fish out of this stream. We fished probably 20 or 30 minutes, and Ron managed to land one on a fox squirrel nymph. I had a couple of takes, but didn't get a fish there. So next we drove a little further downstream and I hit a small hole that was in easy walking distance that I knew for sure held a fish. I had seen him hit the surface on my prior trip, and got him to take my fly but I also knew that I was going to get one, or possibly 2 shots at the most and only because the water was up from the previous weeks rain. Once again, I made my cast with the Guide's Choice hare's ear and pheasant tail, and the fish took but I wasn't able to get the hook set. I made a 2nd cast and got the same result, but after that it started ignoring my fly. We got back in the car and drove to the final area that I had been looking at on my maps and pulled into a Conservation Parking Area. Since Ron had his fish, he decided to go about 200 yards upstream from me and I started fishing downstream planning to work my way to some bends I had seen on the map. I found several nice holes that looked like they should have held fish but with minimal bites before I finally came to a riffle and landed a 4 or 5 inch rainbow to mark this one off the list. Given that this was another more difficult stream, and the farthest for me as far as driving, I still wanted to try and reach bronze and I was one short. So I started back to the car and hadn't got far before Ron met back up.

We then drove back to the Current River so I could try it again. Fortunately, I had brought 2 pairs of waders and the 2nd pair wasn't leaking like the first. I decided to try the woolly bugger again, but with a sink tip line and a slower sink rate versus the full sinking line like the previous day. Once again, for whatever reason the streamers did not seem to work that day. I fished to the same place we had ended the day before with hardly a bite so I went back to the car and decided to try what Ron had some luck on the prior day, a weighted egg with a Cerise San Juan worm. I hit the same first hole with no success, and was having a little trouble seeing my indicator with glare on the water. Regardless, I hadn't gone too far before I drifted the egg and worm into a section where I had spotted some fish from the higher bank before one smacked the San Juan worm and I set the hook and managed to cross stream #5 off my list to put me at bronze.

Having caught the one needed fish, I knew I still had a 2 hour drive ahead of me from Mike's to get home. Given that the Current had been difficult, I decided to take it and be happy John's Trout Slam Adventure continues on the next page

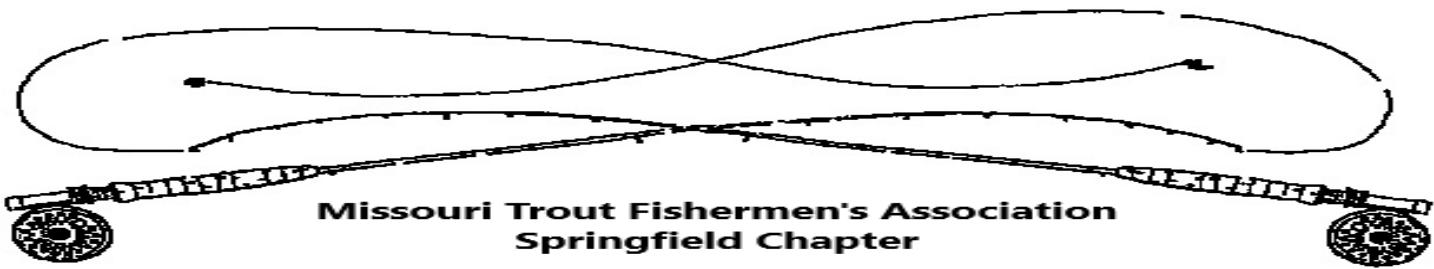
John Bush's Trout Slam Story continued from previous page:

since I had achieved bronze which was my goal for the weekend. We drove back to Mike's and I loaded my stuff up to go home. On the way, I drove to Spring Creek to mark the road I wanted to fish next Saturday on my GPS then headed home. On Saturday, November 7th, I drove to Spring Creek to try for stream #6. Spring Creek is just outside Ft. Leonard Wood, and there are sections that are private depending on how far you go up. Using the GPS location I had mapped the week prior, I pulled into an old forest service road and walked down a little ways to make sure I thought my car could make it. It was a little rough, but looked doable so I drove back in and was able to park maybe 50 yards from the stream. The water was shallow and pretty flat where I walked up, but I could see a nice looking riffle to my left downstream but had talked to Ron the week prior and knew he had caught his going upstream. Both directions looked nice, and I decided that I would start going upstream but definitely head back in time to try the other direction as well. Spring Creek is a nice little stream that's got a decent mixture of places where it's easy to get a good cast, but several tight spots as well. Again, I found several smaller riffles and bypassed most of the slower, smooth water where there wasn't much structure. It wasn't long again before I had hooked my first fish of the day, probably 4-5 inches from one of these smaller riffles. As I made my way upstream, I spotted several nice fish holding over some leaves at the bottom of a bluff just below the road. They were spooked and not feeding, but one of them holding on the bottom appeared to be about 14 inches from what I could tell. I made a few casts, but didn't manage to do anything more than loose a couple of flies to trees and spook them so I went up just a little further to the next riffle I had spotted not far from them. I had decided this was as far as I would go before heading back downstream to try the other direction and actually ran into another fisherman coming up from behind me. He went around and I fished the nice riffle I saw managing to pull out 3 or 4 more fish before heading back downstream. I had hoped that by resting the larger fish some, I would be able to have a shot at them but I made a few casts and they didn't seem interested so I went back to my starting point and worked down. I fished several more small riffles and pools, and managed to bring my total up to 12 before deciding I wanted to head back to the car and check out the other parking area I had found at Mill Creek a couple of weeks prior.

I drove there and saw one truck in the parking lot, but walked to the stream anyway. As luck would have it, I ran into the other fisherman almost immediately after entering the water. He was working upstream, which was what I'd hoped to do but since he had been there first we chatted for a few minutes and he said he wasn't going much further up before leaving. Regardless, I decided to go ahead and fish downstream knowing that he'd already fished it but preferring that over interfering with someone else. I found several nice pools and managed to land another 4 or 5 fish before it was starting to get dark and heading back to the car.

All total, I've completed 6 of the 9 trout streams now so I only need one more for Silver. I'm hoping to work on that soon, but will probably be a couple of weeks due to family visits and holidays.

The story will continue next month or [Click here for full story.](#)



**Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association
Springfield Chapter**

2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I have an interest to improve the grand sport of Trout and Game fishing in Missouri and desire to give support to activities directed towards this end.

Make Check Payable to: MTFA-Springfield

Dues are not deductible for income tax purposes

**If you were a member in good standing for 2020,
you are paid up for 2021**

Mail to:

Bob Randall, 2239 W. Buena Vista St., Springfield, MO 65810

Date _____

Your Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Home or cell Telephone:

e-mail address:

If applying for family membership, please list names spouse and children age 16 and under who should receive membership.

Spouse:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Please circle or list a response to the following questions:

Are you an individual member of FFI paying dues directly to this organization?... Yes or No

Are you an individual member of CFM paying dues directly to this organization?... Yes or No

Name a topic or program of interest. _____

What would you like more from the club? _____

Newsletter preference: electronic e-mail? _____ or hard copy by U. S. mail _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Family\$15.00 Individual\$15.00 Contributing\$25.00

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield through calendar year 2021

Conservation: I have discussed the Pebble Mine threat to one of the world's greatest salmon fisheries here before. Stopping the authorization of the gigantic mine at the head-waters of Bristol Bay was a conservation effort by Trout Unlimited and many other organizations for more than 15 years. In November 2020, the Corps of Engineers denied the permit. That will undoubtedly be appealed by the mining company. So for now, the Bristol Bay is safe. Bob Randall

"The difference between a poor angler and a great angler is one split shot." Allen, The Catch and The Hatch

Gear Reviews

<https://www.yellowstoneangler.com/gear-review/>

Videos of interest:

[Broken Thread - YouTube](#)

[The Pocket Guide to Basic Nymphing – The Catch and The Hatch](#)

Listen to Hank Patterson explain fly fishing to bait fishers.

[Hank And The Bait Fishers Part 1 - Bing video](#)

[Hank Patterson & The Bait Fishers Part 2 - Bing video](#) Some excerpts below

Hank: Lesson number one: Catch and Release. Now in fly fishing we catch the fish and then release the fish.

1st Bait Fisher: What the hell are you talking about?

Hank: We catch the fish, and then we let the fish go.

2nd Bait Fisher: Into a cooler? Hank: No. Back into the water.

1st Bait Fisher: Oh, on a stringer. Hank: No, we turn him loose.

3rd Bait Fisher: Then how the hell do you eat 'em?

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

More about us:

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