



[www.MTFA-Springfield.org](http://www.MTFA-Springfield.org)

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[MTFA\\_Springfield@yahoo.com](mailto: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

April 2021

Volume 15 No.04

## April 15 Meeting

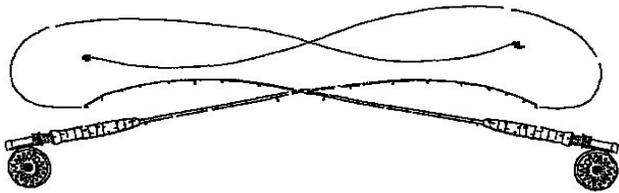
### President's Drift:

We will have a get-together/fishing excursion at Mountain Spring Trout Park in Highlandville on April 15 at 4:30 until dark. We will have a short meeting The chapter will pay for catch and release fishing. We won't be sharing a meal this time, but if you want to bring your own picnic, water, soda, or tea, feel free to do so. Bring you a lawn chair. Bring long handle net, if you have one.

Mountain Springs Trout Park is at 2549 State Hwy O, Highlandville, MO  
From Nixa at St Hwy 14, go south on Hwy 160 9 miles, turn right on St. Hwy O,  
go 2 1/2 miles. It will be on the right.

Single point barbless hooks only for a gentle, in-the-water release.

*Dan Ditzler*



### Springfield Chapter Officers

President: Dan Ditzler

417-737-0885

[desert8mule@gmail.com](mailto:desert8mule@gmail.com)

President Elect: Joe Winget

417-224-1771

[jwinget@pwplawfirm.com](mailto:jwinget@pwplawfirm.com)

Secretary: Bruce Hinkston

417 838-0713

[BWHinkston@mchsi.com](mailto:BWHinkston@mchsi.com)

Treasurer: Dennis Stead

417-380-3687

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

### Chapter News:



*The Pre-Derby meeting of the MTFA-State Council was held on 3/27/21 at Bennett*

Spring State Park. Representatives from Saint Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, and Branson were there to make plans for the upcoming Derby. Present from Springfield were Dennis Stead, Harry Morgan, Kim Schultz, and Bob Randall.



*The annual MTFA Derby will be held on the weekend of May 15 & 16. Registration will*

begin on Friday afternoon, May 14, and early morning of Saturday, May 15. Prizes will be distributed on Sunday, May 16. There will be a catered meal and a business meeting on Saturday evening. More details will follow.



*The Branson Fly Fishing Expo 2021 will be July 29, 30, and 31 (yes, three days) at the Branson*

Lions Community Building. Admission will be free. More details below.



*Interested in fishing? Wanna be notified when and where? I'll put together a "group list of email addresses" and send out an email when I become aware of a fishing trip. It will be up to you to arrange a ride ... or not. If you're going fishing and you want some company, let me know. If you don't communicate, this won't work. At the very least we can meet up for lunch. Let me know if you are interested: [bobbyleen-sandy@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyleen-sandy@gmail.com) . This will be for members only. If you bring a guest, bring \$15 and a completed membership form for your guest. **Bob Randall***



*Notice: The fishing zones have changed at Roaring River State Park. Zone 1 remains the same, but Zone 2 has lost space as the upper limit of Zone 3 has moved upstream 545 feet. They have also restricted the lower end of Zone 3 next to the park boundary.*

Thank you, John Bush, for your wonderful stories on your Trout Slam "Gold" journey.



# BRANSON FLY FISHING EXPO 2021

Sponsored by the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association

JULY 29-30, 2021

Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>  
Friday July 30<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>

Noon – 5 pm.  
9 am. – 5 pm.  
9 am. – 4 pm.



## Lions Community Building

1015 E State Highway 76, Branson, MO 65915



Food and Drinks served by the Branson/Hollister Lions Club



## Admission - Free



Fly Casting Demos - Fly Tying Demos - Classes

Raffles, Silent, and Live Auctions - Many Local Exhibitors



INFORMATION CALL: Ron Leggins, Expo Director (912) 980-0766 [ronleggins@gmail.com](mailto:ronleggins@gmail.com)

Howard Hawkins, Expo Treasure, (417) 234-6806 [pdgpc@yahoo.com](mailto:pdgpc@yahoo.com)



See our Website: [MTFA-Springfield.org](http://MTFA-Springfield.org) or [MTFA Branson Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/MTFA.Branson) Facebook page

## Branson Fly Fishing Expo Third Annual Fly-Tying Contest

The 2021 Branson Fly Fishing Expo is in the planning stages, and yes, once again we will be holding a fly-tying contest as part of our EXPO festivities. This competition is open to one and all, except for the expo committee and selected judges. To all interested tiers, remember you cannot win unless you enter! There are many incredibly talented tiers out there who often go unnoticed, do not let that be you. Winners from each category will receive a plaque to commemorate the event and have winning fly featured in the "fly plate" to be auctioned on Saturday, August 1, 2020, at the Branson Fly Fishing Expo.! Rules have been kept to a minimum. The entrant must tie the fly that is submitted for judging. Each entry must include the name, address, phone number and email address; along with two flies for each category entered (they must be the same size, color, etc.). You need to include the recipe for the fly including tying instructions, along with fishing instructions and the category that you wish to have it judged in. There will be nine categories: nymph, dry fly, wet fly, traditional streamer (single hook), articulated streamer, bass bug, salmon/steelhead, salt water and best in show. You may submit as many patterns as you wish. You can win a maximum of three categories. All flies submitted will become the property of the Branson Fly Fishing Expo committee and will not be returned. Any fly that contains real insect parts will be eliminated from the competition. The decision of the judges is final. Committee members and judges are not eligible to participate in the contest. To enter all you must do is send your flies, recipes and fishing instructions to Branson Expo Committee, P. O. Box 1962, Branson, MO 65615-1962 All entries must be received by May 14, 2021. Winners will be announced June 11, 2021 @ [www.mtfa-springfield.org](http://www.mtfa-springfield.org) and [www.facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/events/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/events/)

## Sign Up to Tie Flies at the 2021 Branson Fly Fishing Expo



Harry and I just want to let all of you know, that the M.T.F.A. of Springfield and M.T.F.A. of Branson Missouri will have their 4<sup>th</sup> annual fly fishing expo in Branson, Missouri. The dates are July 29, July 30 and July 31 2021.

Last year the Lions Club added WIFI. Last year they added Security cameras and the old lighting has been replaced with bright LED lighting.

We are inviting you to join us and demonstrate your fly tying skills. Harry Morgan and I will be managing the fly tiers this year. Below is a sign-up sheet for those of you how want to join us and tie. Please fill out the form completely. Though we might have your information in our data base, it is always good to verify and update it if there are changes. Make your reservations early at your hotel or motel as this may be a busy year.

You can print, fill out and mail it to the address below, or print, fill out, scan then E- Mail it to either Harry or me. Don't forget to check off the time slot that you would like to tie.

Harry Morgan  
2377 East Broadmoor  
Springfield, MO 65804  
[h.topwater@gmail.com](mailto:h.topwater@gmail.com)  
(417) 379-0545

Dennis Stead  
4027 S. Kentwood  
Springfield, MO 65804  
[dmstead@aol.com](mailto:dmstead@aol.com)  
(417) 380-3687

Fly Tier Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for commitment dates and times:  Thursday Noon to 5pm  Friday 9am to 1pm

Friday 1pm to 5pm  Saturday 9am to 1pm  Saturday 1pm to 4pm

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

**3/4/2021, Bennett Spring, Bob Randall and Larry Olson, very slow fishing, one fish each, wind was out of the east so that's what we're blaming it on. We only fished a couple of hours.**

**3/4/2021, Roaring River, Bob Randall, arrived about 8:30, water was very high and murky, according to the NWS gauge, it was one foot over the "low stage", according to my eye I could not see the bottom or very many fish. Caught about 10 or so on a cone head black grizzly wooly bugger before noon. Most were a decent size. After lunch, it was a little hard to get back on the stream as it was very crowded. Find a spot, cast out and the current would quickly take it downstream, the next time you look downstream someone had moved in right where your fly was going to go. Left about 1:30pm.**

**3/6/2021, John Bush, I went to Little Piney creek on March 6th and had 29 to the net, but nothing of any significant size. Flies were a size 14 Guide's Choice Hare's Ear with a size 18 hot spot pheasant tail dropper.**

**3/22/2021, Bennett Spring, John Dozier, Went last Monday. Not a lot of people. Water was up and dingy, but still got them to take scuds in gut whole. 18 for the day. I arrived at 9:30 and left at 2 when more people showed up.**

**3/24/2021, Todd Christell, Went to Roaring River on Wednesday but no real luck, and I think I threw everything I had at them. Water was up and pretty cloudy. One guy was catching pretty consistently on a white chenille jig but they were barely hitting the hook.**

**3/26/2021, Montauk, Mike Kidd, I used my Euronymphing rod at Montauk and caught a few but water was a coffee color due to heavy rains and fishing was slow.**

**3/27-3/28/2021, way up Beaver Creek from Bull Shoals, Keith Coffey, Saturday caught limit of big white bass using blue and white clouser and a grey jig. Cold front came through and Sunday was pretty slow.**

**Unsure of date, Pot Hole, Kim Schultz, from a kayak, water was quite deep. An area normally wadable was 15' under water.**

**3/29/2021, Tablerock, Larry Olson, 14 crappie, 3 bluegill, drifting with current.**

## **Fishing Pics**

**Mike Kidd, Over 20 inch rainbow caught on sculpin below outlet 3**



**Mike Kidd: "I learned Euronymphing from guide Darren Sadler at Roaring River. I caught two at the same time. Cherise worm and orange jig headed fur ball."**



**"Fishing on Turkey Creek on Taneycomo has been very good lately. Roark Creek is also producing trout on pink worms fished 8 feet under an indicator ."**



### ***Fly Talk:***

On one particular morning while fly fishing at Roaring River State Park there was a midge hatch. Yes, I know. There is a midge hatch every morning. I had a good morning using an emerger type fly, probably a soft hackle, just below the surface. I talked with a fisherman who also did well fishing deep with a midge nymph under an indicator, and another angler who did well on a dry fly, either an Adams or a Griffith's Gnat. The point of this story is that during a hatch, there is a continuum of the metamorphic activity from the nymph stage, the emergence, through escaping the water surface tension as an adult. The three of us anglers fished the different stages that morning and all of us did well. *Bob Randall*

If you are committed to tying some midges or stocking your box one way or another with these tiny flies, you need to understand the stages midges go through so you know what your pattern imitates and when you need to tie that fly on when you're on the river.

- **Nymphs:** The bread and butter of midge fishermen, midges are commonly found in a nymph form which is the underwater larval stage where they feed on micro organisms and prepare to emerge.

- **Emergers:** Once the nymphs are ready to emerge, they create a small bubble and float to the surface. This is why glass beads work so well for midges. They are poor swimmers and use air as a reverse-parachute to break the waters surface and transform into an adult to mate.

**Dries:** Once they have emerged, the dry or adult form, sits on the water drying off, preparing to take off. Trout will sip these off the surface making for some technical but rewarding dry fly fishing.      The preceding is from Alan Gardner of [Catch and the Hatch](#)

### ***Links:***

[Free Guides & Content – The Catch and The Hatch](#)

Gear Reviews

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

## Ozark Geography

This is about the landscape and has nothing to do with trout fishing, except that without this landscape, we wouldn't have any trout fishing. Our Ozark geography allows rainwater to collect and flow into a porous, soluble rock system. It has valleys where cold springs can flow into creeks and even bigger rivers, and it has deep valleys that can be dammed up. Without that geography, we wouldn't have the right conditions and the cold water for trout to live. What about north Missouri? Wrong geography. Not many springs, no clear rivers, no deep valleys to dam.

So here is a brief, generalized explanation for our trout loving geography. Hundreds of millions of years ago, due to continental drift, an ancient supercontinent called Gondwana, collided with what is now North America. The north-south compression created the Ouachita Mountains (which folded primarily up), the Arkansas River Valley (which folded down), and the Ozark Highlands (which were generally thrust upward with the rock strata remaining relatively flat). It is much more complicated than that as the uplift interacted with other areas to the east, west, and north of the Ozarks. Just a quick explanatory note: the Ouachita Mountains and the Arkansas River Valley are technically not parts of the Ozarks, but they resulted from the same processes that raised the Ozark Highlands.

If you think of all of this as a movie, don't fool yourself into thinking that you arrived in the theater for the beginning or that you stayed until the end. You saw a short clip of a very long movie. Previous supercontinents existed and the continents are still drifting today. India is still colliding with Asia. Australia is moving north. The Atlantic Ocean is getting wider. Don't worry about it, just be glad for it, and go fishing. *Bob Randall*

### Practice Does Not Make Perfect

### Practice Makes Consistency

If you practice poor casting techniques, you will consistently cast poorly.

After a poor cast, think about what you did wrong. You know the basics. Did you start with slack? Did you draw an arc with your rod tip? Did you fail to hesitate at the back of the cast to allow your line to unfurl?

Did you forget to accelerate to a stop?

Whatever it was that you did wrong, correct it.

Cast, Fish, Repeat.

Emerging in March: Stoneflies. “Most people are completely unaware that stoneflies exist --unless they happen to see a large group congregating near a stream--but they are a favorite food of many types of fish. Anglers, especially flyfishers, take note. This is the time to employ lures that closely resemble these stonefly species.” Missouri Conservationist, March 2021

“The cost of a daily trout tag to fish at three of Missouri’s four trout parks--Bennett Spring State Park, Montauk State Park, and Roaring River State Park--is \$4 for adults and \$3 for those 15 years of age and younger. The daily limit is four trout.

MDC is continuing a pilot program at Maramec Spring Park where the daily limit has been raised from four to five trout and the cost of a daily trout tag for adults is \$5 and \$3 for anglers 15 years of age and younger.” Missouri Conservationist, March 2021

MDC says late march and early April is a good time to catch walleye and white bass.

### ***Water levels:***

Roaring River water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Taneycomo water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Bennett Spring water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

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

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)

More about us: MTFA Website [www.MTFA-Springfield.org](http://www.MTFA-Springfield.org)

Facebook [facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/](https://facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/)

E-mail [MTFA\\_Springfield@yahoo.com](mailto:MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com)

[Membership - Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association - Springfield Chapter \(mtfa-springfield.org\)](http://www.mtfa-springfield.org)