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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

June 2021

Volume 15 No.06

The June Meeting and Fish Fry Will Be at the Mountain Springs Trout Park in Highlandville

on June 3 *This is our first real social event in over a year!*

June Meeting/Fish Fry: Fishing will start at 4:30pm. The fish fry will start when we get darned good and ready. We'll have to work the meeting in sometime between the start and dark.

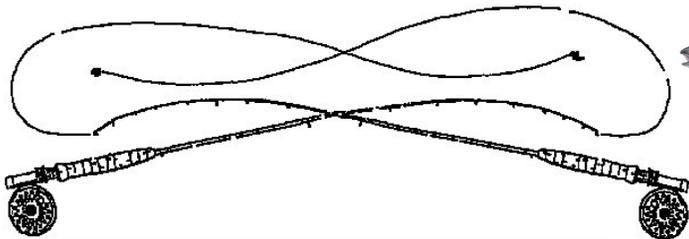
The fish fry will be white bass furnished by Kim Schultz and deep fried on site. We'll forego the fried potatoes and onions this time but the chapter will furnish chips, drinks (water and soda), paper plates and flatware. Bring a side dish or a dessert. Mark your dish or bowl so we won't have to guess who left their stuff behind. Be there.

Bring a lawn chair. Bring a long handle net, if you have one.

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

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 State Hwy O, drive 2 1/2 miles. It will be on the right.



The 2021 MTFA 75th Annual Fishing Derby was successfully pulled off over the weekend of May 16 & 17 at Bennett Spring State Park. Springfield Chapter members present were Dan Ditzler, Bob Randall, Kim Schultz, Rod Pennington, John Dozier, Todd and Kamdyn Fecho, and Charlie and Connie Erickson. There were lots of raffle prizes, including a soft sided Yeti cooler, some quality rods and reels, fly lines, and much more.

The Saturday memorial service was held at 1 o'clock at the memorial stone. Kim Schultz gave the memorial eulogy for the Springfield chapter members who had passed away over the last two years. The lunch (or dunch) and meeting was held indoors at 3 o'clock in the Lodge Restaurant Meeting Room. Thank you Jim Rogers for making the arrangements for us to meet inside. A pulled pork BBQ dinner with sides was catered by the Lodge Restaurant. The Sunday Derby prize drawings and member-only raffles were held at noon at Pavilion B which is across the Whistle Bridge. Each day the events were over early enough that there was time for a Springfieldian to drive back home if they didn't want to spend the night.

Continued below:

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Derby news continued:

Lots of fish were caught. Of the 100 tagged fish that were released, 18 were turned in for the Derby prizes. I know of two more that were caught but the anglers who caught them had missed the sign up.

The St. Louis Chapter was the hosting chapter this year. They did a great job except that they let it rain a little on Saturday. The Branson Chapter will be the hosting chapter in 2022. The dates picked for next year are May 21 & 22.

Bob Randall



Greg Darlington of St. Louis removes the tag from a fish.



Springfield Chapter News:

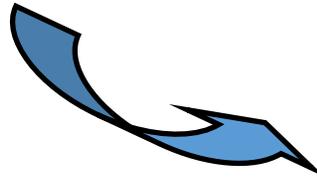
We're hoping that the next Springfield Chapter meeting can be held at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center in our old meeting room.

Discount at Fly Shop: Dennis Stead "talked to Austin, the new owner of the Plateau Fly Shop, and he told me that he is reinstating the 10% discount for all MTFA members"

Fishing Pics and Reports:

Kamdyn Fecho, 6 1/2 years old, showing off his new Ugly Stick, Ranger vest, and net from the Derby weekend.

Kamdyn is Todd Fecho's son.

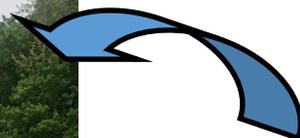


Mike Kidd's Pics:

John Bush and I fished with Pat Dorsey in Colorado in May



Taneycomo May 2021. White jigs from boat by dam .



One of my three trout caught at Roaring River Euronymphing 5-22



Fishing Reports and Pics:

Norfolk River, by Russ Doughty My wife, Barbara, gave me the trip for Christmas. My son, Rusty, and I showed up at Dally's fly shop on the morning of April 6th and met up with Chad Johnson, our guide. He told us we would be fishing the Norfolk as the White was too high. I was initially disappointed as I wanted to fish the White.



My disappointment lasted about 5 minutes into the float as we were on trout in 5 minutes after getting on the water. We would motor upstream and drift back down, catching fish on every drift.

We fished a fuzzy looking egg pattern under which was slung a caddis pupa. We estimated we caught over 60 trout and missed that many more, some over 18" We caught fish right up to the end of the last drift.

For anyone considering a float on the White or Norfolk rivers, I highly recommend Chad. He is a true professional and took care of every tangle and hang up, in fact I caught every trout on the same 2 flies I started with, not one breakoff. My son and I had a blast and can't wait to go again.

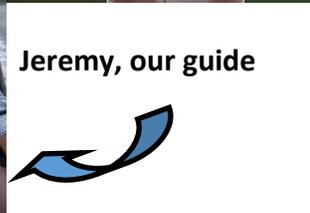
Bruce Hinkston. "A friend on mine and I hired a ShowMeCatfishing.com guide a couple of weeks ago. We put in by the lock and dam North of St. Louis. Caught 13 Blues in 6 hours. Smallest was 8 lbs and the largest was 42 lbs. Bucket List trip"



May 3, 2021, White River below Bull Shoals Dam, Larry Olson and Bob Randall,

We booked a guided fly-fishing trip through White River Fly Anglers. The owner was already booked that day but he said he would arrange for one of the other guides to take us, I said, "We want a fly fisherman, we don't want no bait fisherman." He arranged for Jeremy Gilmer to be our guide and he did not disappoint us. Even though Larry and I have both fly-fished for a while, we learned a lot from Jeremy. He showed us where the fish were, the contours of the river bottom, he gave us tips on playing the fish, how to tell the rise of a large brown trout from the rise of a rainbow, and most importantly he taught us some good dry fly tactics. We didn't really keep track of the numbers except that all of our browns were 20+ inches long. We probably caught 6 or 7 of these beauties each. Between the brownies, we landed rainbows that were each as good as or better than what we usually catch in our home waters in Missouri. At the end of the day, Jeremy noticed that there was a pod of big browns feeding on emerging caddis just upstream of a large boulder. He moved us close enough to the pod to make casts and coached us where and how to place our dry flies. On what would probably have been the last cast of the day, a very minor swirl of water surprised us when a 27 inch brown slurped up Larry's dry fly. We didn't even see it for 10 minutes or more and it circled the boat

once or twice. It was the trophy fish of the day. One of the best parts for Larry is that he has a snooty brother-in-law who swears that anything other than dry fly fishing is a sacrilege. Now, Larry has bragging rights for the next family visit. All in all, we had a great trip and are planning to repeat the trip again next year.



Jeremy, our guide



Colorado Adventure by John Bush: Mike Kidd and I fished the South Platte River in Colorado May 2nd-4th. We arrived late on Saturday May 1st and after getting a good nights sleep, went to the Blue Quill Angler to fill out some paperwork, grab a few flies and get some tips on where to fish.



The first day was a DIY trip and after talking to the guys at the fly shop we found a nice spot in the Deckers section of the South Platte that was really fishy looking from the road



and no one was fishing

it. As soon as we got out of the car, our guess was confirmed as we found a blue winged olive hatch coming off and fish rising like I've only seen one time that I can recall around here. We both managed to catch 4 or 5 fish in just the time we were there. I caught 2 or 3 on a

Matthews Sparkle dun, and a few more on a Manhattan midge. Mike caught several on his wispy.



The next 2 days, we had the privilege of fishing with the legend himself, Pat Dorsey. We fished the Deckers area again the first day and woke up to temperatures in the mid 30's as well as snow and rain for a good part of the day. We had come prepared with adequate rain gear and fished



mostly midges in the morning. With the overcast weather and snow, Pat kept thinking there would be a blue winged olive hatch that day but it never materialized as expected until the end of the day, and then it was a very light hatch. Regardless, we caught several fish using the black beauty, top secret midge, and an egg attractor. Later in the morning we changed the egg to a crane fly larva and both Mike and I caught a couple of fish on that. I also managed to fool a nice rainbow on a Matthews Sparkle Dun again towards the end of the day.

The 2nd day, we fished Cheesman Canyon. This is a pretty difficult hike in and out due to the steep hill, and I think we covered 6 or 7 miles total that day but is

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also one of the most pristine places I've been in quite a while. We hiked into an area known as Head of Cow's Crossing and started fishing just a little upstream from there. In the morning, we fished midges again. We started with the egg, black beauty, and top secret midge setup again. Pat warned us that Cheesman Canyon would be more technical than Deckers, but despite this it wasn't long before Mike and I were both into fish. Towards the middle of the day, we stopped to eat lunch and change our flies as Pat had started noticing fish moving to intercept bugs and told us usually this was a sign that the Baetis (blue winged olive) nymphs were starting to get active as they are good swimmers.



We ate lunch and switched to a Jujubaetis, a Stalcup's baetis, and a chocolate foam wing emerger. Mike finished eating a few minutes before I did

and we had noticed several fish in the pool where we were taking lunch so he made a few drifts and hooked into a really nice rainbow. After landing the fish and me finishing lunch, we moved up to give ourselves a little more room for fishing. The chocolate foam wing emerger seemed to



be the pattern of the day for us, although we both caught fish on the Stalcup baetis and Jujubaetis as well. The chocolate foam wing emerger worked particularly well if you let it float to the end of your drift, and then lifted slowly before recasting. Often, this would end up enticing a savage strike from a fish and they'd essentially hook themselves.



Other pools we fished were the Blitz pool, Rainbow Pool, Rocky Road pool, and Hell's half acre. I did particularly well in the Rocky road pull and landed 7 or 8 fish from this one spot including a couple of nice browns.



One thing of note for all of these as far as rigging. In addition to the yarn indicators he's known for, Pat used a moldable putty called JP's nymphing mud that I haven't seen around here for weight. He was constantly adding or removing weight to get the flies to the right level in the water column.

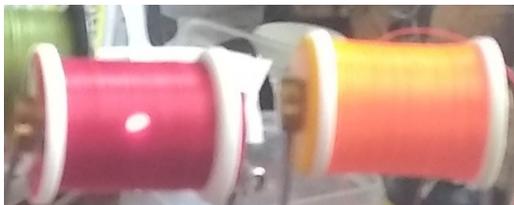
Fly Talk:

I have talked about fluorescence before in the [December 2020](#) and [February 2021 newsletters](#). Fluorescence is not the same thing as ultra-violet light but you would never notice fluorescence without UV light. The kind of fluorescence we're concerned about occurs when UV light, which has a wave length outside of the visible spectrum, is absorbed by a material and then reflected as a slightly longer wave length which is visible. You don't see the UV light but you see the reflected visible light. Young trout (at least some of them) can see UV light but it seems that as they grow older some of them lose that ability. They can see fluorescence.

I was sitting in my den one day, looking at my fly tying bench trying to decide if I wanted to tie a fly or two. I picked up the UV laser light that I use to cure UV fly finish resin and aimed it at the floor next to the cat. He looked at the dot but showed little interest. Dumb cat. Moving the dot around the room, I swung it over a piece of cord that I use to practice tying knots. As the light hit the cord, there was an explosion of light. **WOW!** The cord was fluorescent.



Now I couldn't stop. What else was fluorescent? The fluorescent orange thread I bought from the fly shop. Here are the pictures showing the difference in the light reflected from the regular red thread and the fluorescent orange thread. The pictures do not do the fluorescence justice. It was much clearer to my eye than it is in the photo.



LASER DOT ON REGULAR THREAD LASER DOT ON FLUORESCENT THREAD

For clarification, there is a wide range of color wave lengths produced by my UV laser light. When you see the dot on the wall and the red thread, you are seeing visible colors that my cheap laser emits, not the actual UV that cures the fly finish resin. If it only produced UV light, I wouldn't be able to see where I was aiming the laser. Now you know: trout see fluorescence and fluorescent materials really work to reflect fluorescent light. Still, flies tied with fluorescence in mind will probably work better in shallow water or on the surface as UV light penetrates water poorly. ***Bob Randall***

Neanderthals were not just Hunter-Gatherers, They were Skilled Fishers

Recent archeological studies have shown that Neanderthals were not just mammoth hunters, they knew how to fish. Read the article [here](#) in USA Today or a more scientific report [here](#) in Science Magazine. Spoiler Alert: I am sad to report they have not yet found an 80,000 year old fly rod. *Bob Randall*

Conservation News (Legislative Activity) The 2021 legislative session has ended.

HJR-55 was an attempt to put political influence into the Missouri Department of Conservation. Although, it was not voted down per se, the action in the House was postponed. Don't have any doubt that it will rear its head again in the next session.

HB 1046 was an attempt to force the sale of the Eleven Point State Park. The bill was placed on the Imperfection Calendar. I don't know what that means but I know it did not have time to be passed this year. It will be back!!!!!!!

The Missouri Prescribed Burning Act: The act passed the legislature and is on the governor's desk for signature. Multiple bills contained the language, SB 301, SB 377 and HB 369. Prescribed burning is a powerful tool for habitat management, enhancing flora diversity and reducing long-term buildup of natural fuels that can result in destructive wildfires. Missouri is one of only 5 states, in fact the only state west of New England, that has no statute covering prescribed burn liability. *Bob Randall*

Judicial Activity

Court Judgement Rules in Favor of MDC Land Purchase

A recent judgment in the Circuit Court of Cole County ruled in favor of MDC and supports their constitutional authority to spend their own money. The constitutional division exists between the Missouri General Assembly and the Missouri Conservation Commission. The decision stated the Commissioner of Administration must certify the St. Clair land purchase as requested by the Conservation Commission. This land purchase would expand the Linscomb Wildlife Conservation Area. The ruling has since been appealed and will now go to the Missouri Supreme Court. *From Conservation Federation of Missouri*

The constitutional division between the MDC and the legislature has been challenged several times. HJR-55, discussed above was a legislative attempt. This judicial challenge is a further effort to undermine the MDC's ability to function independently. This is different from the state park issue as MDC and DNR are different agencies and DNR does not have the same independence as MDC. In fact, a Howell County judge ruled that the state must sell part of the Eleven Point State Park. That ruling is being appealed. *Bob Randall*

A fishing tale.

I am a retired park ranger. I worked at Timpanogos Cave National Monument in Utah in the late 1970's. Arlo Shelly had been a cave guide there for 30 years before I transferred there. He could have been a permanent NPS ranger but he chose to teach school in the winter and be a seasonal cave guide in the summer. He was a man to admire. He had walked the 1 ½ mile trail that rose 1065 feet to the cave daily during the summers for years. He could out walk anybody I knew.

I was in my mid to late 20's. I was tall and lean. I looked like a runner. He was in his 50's, short, and round. I couldn't keep up with him.

We went fishing at a mountain lake that was clear, cold and full of trout. The trail was straight up a ridge. The closer we got to the lake, the faster he walked. After an hour of trying to keep up with him, I finally said I had to stop and rest. He was so excited about getting to the fishing hole that he just pointed to the trail and told me to follow it. He said he would meet me at the top. He walked on.

Half an hour later I arrived at the lake. Arlo had already caught a couple of nice trout. For lunch, we built a little fire, gutted the fish, and cooked them on sticks over the fire just like hot dogs.

Fishing is not about the fish you catch, it's about the stories you can tell around a campfire. Fond memories! Share your stories and we'll put them in the newsletters. *Bob Randall*

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/>

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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