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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

May 2022

Volume 16 No.05

**The May Get-Together is May 5 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at  
the Springfield Conservation Nature Center**

## MTFA-State Derby Schedule

**Trout Derby Tags in front of store (\$5 donation)**

**Friday, May 13, from 7:00pm to 9pm; Saturday, May 14, 5:30am to 8am**

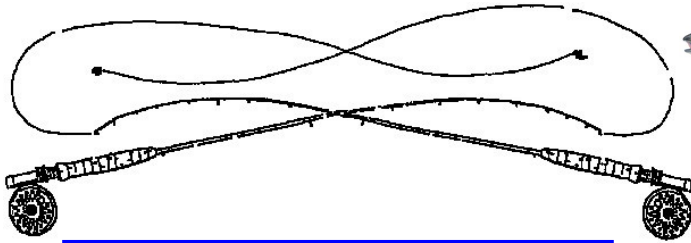
**Memorial Service will be at 11:00am Saturday**

**Saturday, 5pm, Dinner, Pavilion B (across the Whistle Bridge)**

**Check tagged fish Saturday afternoon till 5:30 PM at shelter house B and Sunday morning 11:00 until 1:00PM and award prizes then.**

**We will close the Derby at 12:00 Noon.**

**After awarding prizes we will sell raffle tickets to members and draw for remaining prizes.**



**"Anyone can be a fisherman in May."**

Quote by Ernest Hemingway in Old Man and the Sea

**Bennett Spring State Park:**

**-Kids Free Fishing May 7, 2022**

**Roaring River State Park:**

**-Kids Free Fishing Day May 14, 2022**

**Springfield Chapter Officers**

**President: Bruce Hinkston**

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**Vice-President: Kim Schultz**

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**Secretary: Allen Stanley**

[allenstanley@yahoo.com](mailto:allenstanley@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer: Dennis Stead**

**417-380-3687**

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

Thanks to Kim Schltz for food at the BSSP Table Project. Goo-ood stuff. Thanks also to Bruce Hinkston, Brian Letterman, Russ Doughty, Wayne Frizzell, Bill Huyett, Charlie, Connie, and Sarah Ericson, Jon and Jean Smith, Dick, Shirley, and John Owensby, Beth Marsh, Dick Deerfield's daughters and grand-daughter.

*Bob Randall*

### **Chapter News:**

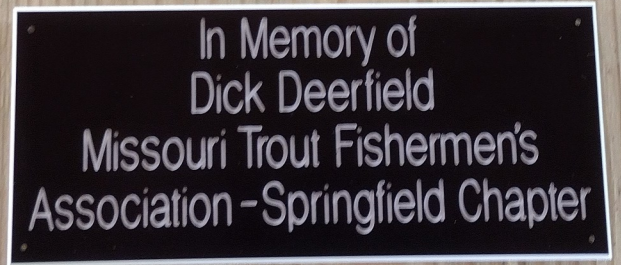


*We're going to try something different at our meeting next Thursday. I am going to offer beginning fly tying, primarily for people who have wanted to take the MSU Beginning Fly Fishing Class. It will take several meetings to complete so it will be stretched out over time. If you want to participate, please let me know so that I will know how many tying kits and how much material to bring. Email me at [bobbyleesandy@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyleesandy@gmail.com) or call me at 417-224-1104. Many of you don't need this training, so you can either assist or participate in fly casting practice with Kim Schultz at the Memorial Park. Bring your rods.*

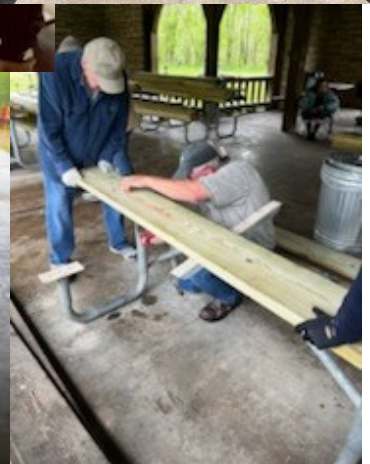
*Bob Randall*



**April 30, 2022, Dick Deerfield Memorial Project at Bennett Spring State Park  
Table Repair and Replacement at Pavilion B**



**Dick's daughters  
and granddaughter**





Last month, Kim Schultz presented more casting practice opportunities. Those who braved the weather, learned how to cast in the wind. Afterward, we viewed a video showing 15 casting errors and then the proper techniques to correct each of those errors. Thanks, Kim.

## Forward Cast Error



## Back Cast Error



HE IS THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO  
CAN CAST A SIZE SEVEN HAT  
WITH A FOUR WEIGHT LINE!



"Sorry. Casting when it's windy isn't  
one of my strong points."



## It's Derby Time 2022

This year the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association Derby will be at Bennett Spring State Park on May 14 and 15. Some of us will arrive on Friday, the 13th. The Branson Chapter is taking their turn to be in charge. They'll set up the tournament rules, obtain Derby and raffle prizes, accept the tournament donations, organize the picnic, distribute the prizes, and be responsible for making sure that the sun shines and it doesn't get too hot. If you want to participate in the tournament portion of the Derby, you must sign in with your donation on Friday evening or Saturday morning in front of the park store. The times and rules are yet to come. The dinner on Saturday will be at the pavilion across and downstream from the Whistle Bridge. Prizes will be awarded at that same location on Sunday at noon.



You can't understand the Derby without knowing about the MTFA-State Council and how we fit. You need to understand that MTFA-Springfield is not a totally independent club. It is through the State Council that we get our chapter name, our non-profit status through registration with the MO Secretary of State, our chapter insurance, and the right to operate our club as an MTFA affiliate. The same goes for the Branson, Kansas City, and St. Louis chapters.

Remember that we are a social organization. So, what good is a social organization unless we socialize? Each of the chapters have their own socials, such as the Fishing Picnic at Mountain Springs Trout Park, the summer fish fry, and the autumn chili feed. Once a year, we all get together for a big social event at Bennett Spring State Park. We call it "the Derby". It's a picnic, a fishing tournament, a fund raiser, a chance to win prizes, and a chance to get to know some of our fellow club members from out-of-town. I've met some fine folks from KC and SL, and I know almost all of the Branson people anyway. It's a fun event. I fish and banter with new friends, I tell a few lies, and I will accuse more than one person of cheating when their raffle ticket is the winner of a prize that I had my eye on.

In the past, I have noticed that the Springfield Chapter has not attended the Derby well. I have been a little disappointed to find that KC and SL members show a good level of participation when few of us bother to drive an hour for the event. I have often thought that it was because we were "day fishers" rather than "over-nighters".

You may be thinking that you're not much on fishing tournaments. Neither am I. I don't enjoy competition with other anglers. I enjoy the competition between me and the fish. That's not really a competition considering the number of fish in the river and the number that end up in my net. I seek out an area of solitude and slowly become a part of the stream. However, I still donate to the tournament because the proceeds go into a cause I believe in. Even if you don't want to participate in the tournament portion of this event, the food is still good and it's a fun couple of days.

I understand that in the "old days" they used to have a dress-up event with black ties, long dresses, and dancing. I'm glad we quit that, but it makes sense to me that all the chapters should occasionally get together for fun, a picnic, fishing, and inter-chapter business. Be there or be square.

*Bob Randall*

## **Fishing Reports:**



**Bob Randall, Larry Olson, Bennett Spring, 4/5/22, from Gut Hole to Whistle Bridge-**

**Bob caught 8 on a variety of flies, Larry caught 15 all on a "gut sack" sowbug fly. Water was a little high and murky.**

**4/19/22 Bob and Larry, water was high, fast, and murky at the Gut Hold and the Outflow stream. At first no one was catching anything. I was experimenting with high sticking with a 20 foot leader with sighter marks (home-made) but I think the fish were seeking better water. I saw a number of trout feeding just below the surface in a seam between fast and slow water. I put away that rod and switched to lighter tackle. I tried a number of flies and only fooled one trout. I tried a couple of different dries, a couple of different soft hackles, a midge, and a scud. I moved on up into the Outflow stream and using a tungsten bead head prince nymph, I caught three more. After lunch I switched back to high sticking with a similar nymph and caught one more. Larry caught five trout on a sowbug. Bob Randall**

**Dick Solomon, 4/19/22, Fishing at Bennet was pretty good once I got on the right bait, I finally hit it good with a size 14 copper bead scud with gray dirty yarn that Wayne Essary put me onto. This is the easiest scud material there is to tie with. I fished mostly in the outlet stream where I ran into Bob Randal who was up with Larry Olson. By the time I left the Gut Hole it was packed in all the way down to the Whistle Bridge. The outlets are the clearest except on Tuesdays, that's when they scrub the holding tanks and the water browns up. I moved up to zone one and fished Gold Crackelbacks but struck out. The water is over the low water bridge and the Spring is flowing very fast. You cant fish it, no one was fishing from the Handicap pier to the spring the water is so fast. That's my story ! P.S. I watched a fellow fish a heavy sink line right below the Gut hole and he was doing good. He showed me his fly, it was one of Old Doc Taylor's Brown Roaches on a 100th oz jig.**

**4/26/2022, Mike Kidd and I fished Bennet yesterday, fishing is at best LOUSEY. The water is high and very stained. We fished the outlets only and when I left at 11, I had netted 6. They were caught on 4 different baits and none were keepers by any means. I have never seen so many small fish as I have this year at Bennet. Mike left around 10 and I think he said he had caught 3 or 4. To add insult to injury the hatchery also started cleaning rearing tanks and the water stayed a ugly brown color for most of the time we were there. Guess its time to get out the old golf clubs. With the cost of gas it will be a win- win to stay around Springfield.**



Mike Kidd  
36m · 🧑

Bennett Spring is high and muddy. Fishing is sloowwww



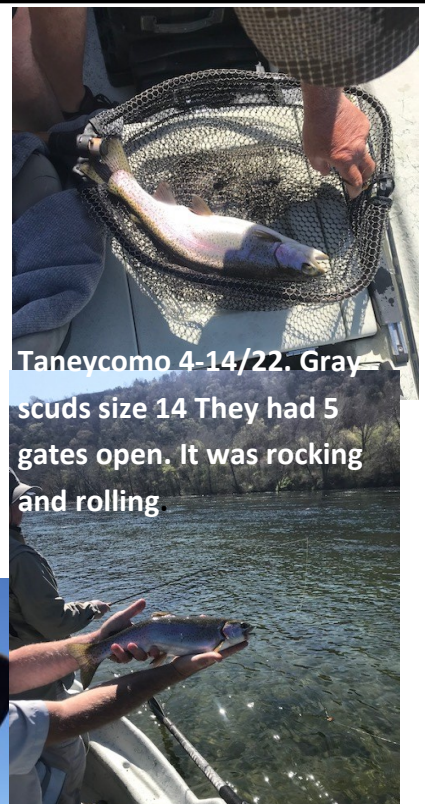
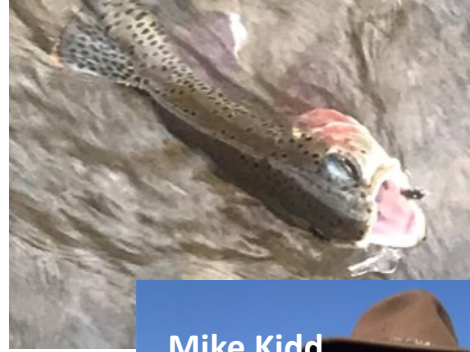


## Fishing Pics

Mike Kidd and Ron Ward  
Spring River, OK,  
white bass



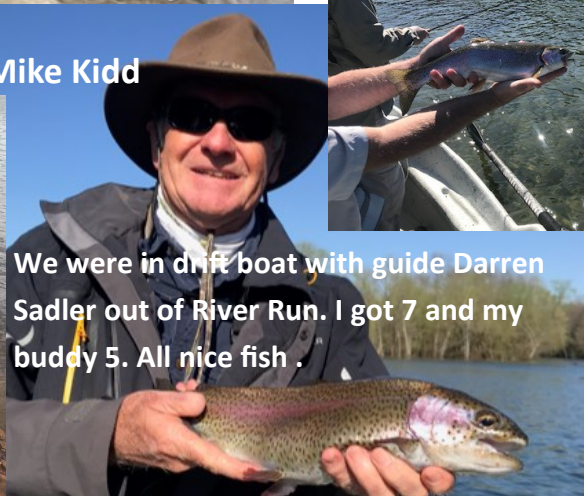
Mike Kidd, Crane Creek, Water was way up and cloudy but I managed 7 on wispy and fox squirrel stripped on full sink line



Taneycomo 4-14/22. Gray scuds size 14 They had 5 gates open. It was rocking and rolling

Mike Kidd

We were in drift boat with guide Darren Sadler out of River Run. I got 7 and my buddy 5. All nice fish .



Ron Ward and Mike Kidd  
White Bass fishing in Oklahoma



Steve Morton, Ron Ward, Wayne Essary, and MIKE KIDD caught over 200 white bass on clousers at Spring River Oklahoma.





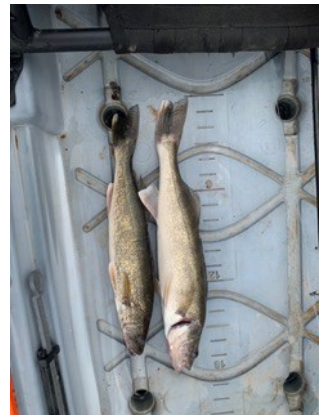
## April Fishing by Kim Schultz

Rod Pennington and I had numerous opportunities to fish the Little Sac River this month, with many successful days fishing and catching. The limiting factor was the rising streams after a rain. I keep an eye on the USGA river monitoring system and know after high water when conditions are favorable to get back on the river.

**April 3, 2022: (Sunday)**, Rod and I drove to Kissee Mill Park on Beaver Creek. We decided to fish below Slough Hollow with kayaks to find a place to wade and fish on river right bank. There were several people driving in and fishing on river left, with a few people catching fish. There was a significant wind, and the dust was blown into our faces. We caught white bass 14–16-inch range finishing the night with nine a piece.

**April 4, 2022: (Monday)**, Rod and I drove to Morrisville to fish the Little Sac River. We put in at Taylor Bridge and paddled upstream. There was a strong current to paddle against and we finally made it to our destination. There were plenty of fish with the catching good at dusk with 35 white bass to hand. Rod and I each caught a walleye, Rod hooked and released two drum and a carp, with line bass, sunfish also released; we caught six species of fish this night on the Little Sac River. I did see a pair of Great Horn owls and an eagle flew directly overhead as we made the return trip back to our vehicles. A good night of fishing.

**April 5, 2022: (Tuesday)**, We returned to Beaver Creek, again fishing below Slough Hollow, fishing the bank on river right. The weather forecast was rain later in the week with a frost warning. The sun was bright, and we had a difficult time finding



Rod Pennington

fish. We did have more success with the sun dropping below the tree line, providing shade on the water. Rod caught a nice 14-inch crappie, I caught one good size white bass with the other five under nine inches. I did hook and released a carp. After our evening of fishing figured the white bass had moved up stream to the whistle bridge or fisherman's nose.

**April 10, 2022: (Sunday)** We heard there was a white bass spawn just below Kissee Mill Park Beaver Creek) last Wednesday. The cold front came in right behind that, and the white bass moved. Rod and I took our kayaks and accessed the river just above fisherman's nose. There were a few fishermen and three boats that made the trip up from Beaver Creek State Park. We fished river right and caught a line bass, forty sunfish/bluegill (up to eight inches). Beaver Creek (0.5" rain) had a small bump on the graph with a light rain fall last weekend. We did not hook and single white bass or saw anyone bringing one to the bank. My guess is the white bass went back to the lake to swim in deeper water.

**April 12, 2022: (Tuesday)** Rod and I returned to Beaver Creek. There was some rain that fell, not enough to raise the river but enough to stay off the trails that could get one stuck. We put the kayaks in at Whistle bridge and fished that area. I did see an osprey flying about and it drove into the water. A pileated woodpecker made the rounds to all the dead wood. We caught two white bass, a line-bass, and thirty sunfish/bluegill. I did see two eagles, and an osprey driving into the water.



**April 18,2022: (Monday)** I kept an eye on the river data for the Little Sac River and the river finally fell below four feet. So, Rod and I headed north to fish. The lake level was up from the bridge with some current and we paddled up stream to fish the gravel bars. We did find plenty of white bass as we kept two limits catching fifty-five white bass and an 18" walleye. I saw an osprey scouting the river and an eagle flew over us as we fished.



**April 20,2022:(Wednesday)** Rod and I decided to fish the Little Sac River. I called Bruce Hinkson and let him know, we knew where to fish and he join us at Taylor Bridge. He was ready to go when I pulled in, with his kayak in the water. He did find fish and had a limit within two hours. He returned to his vehicle a little after 5:30 PM. Rod and I stayed a little later, each catching a limit plus and I picked up another 18" walleye. Overall, the fishing was good, most of the white bass caught were males. The water is mid-

fifties and with the temperatures forecasted in the eighties by the weekend. The spawn is very close. The fishing/catching will only get better.

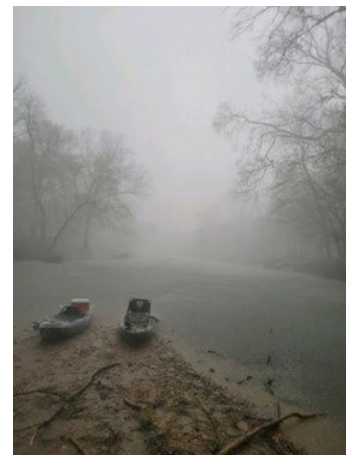
**April 21,2022: (Thursday)** Even if you pull up the river data, check the weather and look at the sky before leaving for a fishing trip, sometimes you get a surprise. I left the house and filled up the truck before heading north to fish the Little Sac River. While pumping the gas, I noticed a dark cloud to the northwest, over the area we would be fishing less than an hour. I pulled the weather radar and saw a thunderstorm forming over Stockton Lake and heading to Bolivar. I figured Rod and I would have to sit a few minutes before kayaking to our fishing destination.



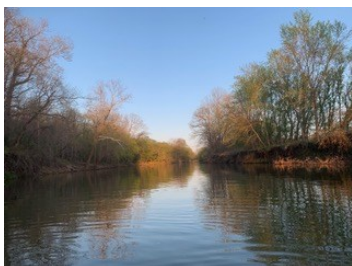
At Taylor Bridge, we kept looking at the radar figuring the storm would move on by with a light rain. So, we made our way up stream and found the fishing to be very good. Unfortunately, the sky kept getting darker and the thunder was getting louder. I checked the radar again, the first super cell had already passed, with another supercell forming near Stockton, twenty miles north of us and appeared to track to the east, away from us. But the sky was getting more ominous in a short time and another super cell was forming much closer to us. So, we put on our rain gear, waiting for the rain to begin. About that time, we saw some movement in the cloud over head with some circulation, then downstream from us, we saw some clouds moving, in a peculiar direction, then our phones went off sounding a warning, a tornado was indicated on radar, take cover. Rod said do you hear that.... I said yes, it sounds like the blowing winds of a tornado. It was just north of us, but we did not know how far away it was from us. The rain blew from the south, then the west and finally from the north as the storm moved away from us. It was 5:30 PM before it calmed down. But now, the water turned to chocolate milk, with the water rising and the catching of fish was now difficult. A fellow walked in a short time later and fished near us. He sat his vehicle as the storm passed and decide, since he had already made the drive, he would fish. He was fishing with a bass pro 5 WT rod with a sinking line, made a few casts, caught a small white bass, and snapped his rod, breaking at the first connection. So, his day was of fishing was done in a short time. Rod and I stayed to 7:30 PM, and the water were so dirty, one could not see the fly one inch below the surface and the catching went to nothing. I did see many fish waking the surface with some spawning activity. I had a few fish in our cooler before the storm. I had an unusual hookup; it was a turtle catching a fly in the neck.

April 22,2022: (Friday) Rod and I returned to the little Sac River. It was still turbid with 6–8-inch visibility. We fished the same general area and moved up stream to fish, the white bass were somewhat spread out. I did have a water snake (Northern Banded) sneak upon me as I was fishing, he came from behind me and passed in front of me before I saw him,

and he continued his way. The eagle made his usually evening pass with many blue herons in the water fishing. There were many signs the white bass spawn is on with surface activity seen in the lower reaches. We caught twenty-five white bass and Rod caught a short 14.5" walleye that was returned to stream.



April 26, 2022: (Tuesday) Rod and I made another trip to the Little Sac River. The water was a bit clearer, visibility more than a foot. On the trip up stream, I saw a beaver from the bank slip into the water. Once we found our destination, we found the catching to be very good. Rod found a spot with white bass and

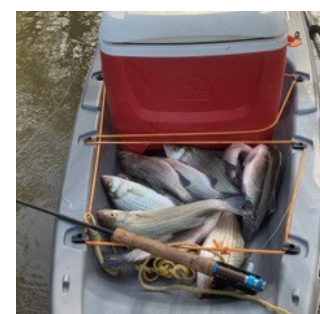


carp together with six carp hooked and released. I fished a long stretch of gravel bar and picked up fish most of the evening. We total seventy white bass this evening with most of the fish in our limit being male.

April 27, 2022: (Wednesday) When we arrived Taylor Bridge, a half dozen vehicles were leaving the water, packing up and leaving. Some had stringers of white bass. The sun was bright, and I am sure it was more difficult to hook up fish. Rod and I made our way up stream, with a few people fishing about the power line hole. The water was clear to two ft and dropping a little. I found white bass right off and continued to pull them in for the evening of fishing. Rod went down stream to another gravel bar and found a carp, and numerous white bass. After 6 PM, and parade of boats made their way to power line hole. Some of the boats with 175 hp engines, one boat hit a rock on the bottom of the stream and another getting stuck on a submerged tree. They even threw over my line as they trolled within a rod length of me. I was still pulling fish out in front of them. They could not figure it how to hook a fish. Rod and I caught five species of fish: a shed, bluegill, carp, drum and seventy-five white bass. The white bass were much larger with the female fishing moving up from the lake. The fish I clean found the female fish had already spawn out and dispersed their eggs, and that is a great.

I have found over the years, after the spawn is over the fish will hang around feeding on the new fry and stay until Mother's Day. When the water gets too warm return to the more comfortable water in the lake.

Tight lines... Kim Schultz



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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