



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

MO Fishing

March 2014

Volume 7 No. 3

Our March 6th meeting will be at the Springfield Nature Center beginning at 6 PM for fly tying and 7 PM for program and business meeting.

Kara Tvedt is a Fisheries Management Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Kara will discuss the invasive species Hydrilla. This will be a very informative program to the ongoing concerns for our local, state and national waters.



Kara Tvedt In a conversation, Kara discussed Hydrilla. It is a federally listed noxious weed that can be detrimental to our aquatic resources. Hydrilla was first observed in the United States in the early 1950's in Florida, more than likely an aquarium plant from India. In the 1980's another variety of Hydrilla, more tolerant of colder temperatures, began to spread to the northeast. Today more than 29 states are dealing with populations of Hydrilla and it has been found in southwest Missouri. Kara said Hydrilla can have major detrimental impacts on waterways as it displaces the local plant aquatic community interferes with boating and fishing, clogs water intake systems, and adversely changes the dynamics of fish populations and it is very difficult and expensive to eradicate.

MDC is taking action to contain and eradicate Hydrilla from our region including working with landowners and providing workshops providing information on how to protect their ponds and small lakes from Hydrilla, MDC has developed partnerships with other government agencies and staff is being trained on identifying Hydrilla and resources are being combined for monitoring, inspections and education of Hydrilla. Kara will have just returned from a recent work shop and she will have up to date information.

For more information contact, [Kara Tvedt MDC](#)

Hydrilla



Membership

A list of 2014 membership from the Springfield Chapter has been compiled. There are 37 individual members with 41 families memberships; our total membership including spouse and dependents tally to a sum of 129. Our chapter will send a check for \$238 to the MTFA pre-derby meeting to pay our annual dues to the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association with a portion of that money going to the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM). The club has several new members Lewis Stevens, Myrna Stevens, Jasmine Weaver and Dan Baker joining at February meeting. There are fifteen members who have not paid for 2014. If you wish to pay and not sure if you did, please ask me at the March meeting; I will have all returned membership applications and new membership applications if you need to fill one out.

Calendar for March 2014

March 1	Opening Day for Trout Season at MO State Parks
March 6	Monthly meeting 6-9 PM Speaker: Tara Tvedt
March 8	MTFA Pre-derby meeting Bennett Spring SP 12 PM
March 20	MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM
March 20-22	Sowbug Roundup, Mountain Home AR 9 AM-4 PM
March 27	MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM
April 3	Monthly meeting 6-9 PM Speaker: A J Pratt

MTFA Pre-Derby Meeting

Chris Gann (St Louis Chapter) is this year's president of the MTFA State Council. He will call a pre-derby meeting Saturday, March 8, 2014 at Bennett Spring State Park, with the meeting starting at noon. He will discuss the upcoming MTFA Derby in May. Our chapter will submit a rooster of 2014 membership with dues to the state and the CFM. Since, St. Louis is the host at the derby each chapter will provide \$250 to St. Louis for derby prizes with raffle receipts returned to the chapters at the conclusion of the derby. All MTFA members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Bass Pro from Bill Huyett

We had a good time tying flies at Bass Pro this weekend (2-22-2014). The attendance was not huge probably due to the beautiful weather (65 degrees). We did have 8 people tying flies. The people that did stop by seemed very interested in the demos. I think we do have a good chance of picking up a few new members and that is good for the club. The club also received a gift certificate from Bass Pro which will help us re-stock the student supplies at our MSU classes. We do have another opportunity to demo again at the Hunting and Fishing Classic March 8th (I believe). **If you are available to tie please consider coming to that event. The Classic is very big and I am sure we will need all the tiers we can get.**

Thanks,

Bill Huyett

MTFA Members



Norman McCaskie's Cat by Larry Wegmann

During my rehab from the left knee replacement this past summer, I discovered three new fly-fishing trivia bits. Two have improved my fly boxes, Tup's Indispensable, the Pre-copulatory Scud. Like most things, these new items are common knowledge to others. I mentioned Tup's to Tony Spezio and he said he used to fish it all the time. Later that same week, I told Harvey Ragsdale about Tup's and Tony's comment, and then he says he has fished it in the past. I now have six Tup's in my fly box tied soft hackle style. They worked at Roaring River and on the White across from Tony's home at Wildcat Shoals.

Regarding the pre-copulatory scud, my knowledge has changed from amazement to commonplace in my discoveries about their secret lives. I took my eight-year-old grandson Ethan to Taneycomo to test my latest scud pattern. Dave Tucker met us between outlets 1 and 2. Ethan's interest in fishing was limited to two trout when his attention changed to turning rocks over looking for scuds. He was yelling to Dave so loud that everyone between 1 and 2 could hear him. "Dave, there are a bunch of scuds playing with each other, you should see this!" Dave is also on the path of developing a pre-copulatory scud pattern. How many times have we walked over these rocks and never bothered to see what was beneath our feet? It was a slow day, but I caught three more using my latest pattern.

One other trivia find that I have to mention is McCaskie's Cat. In G. E. M. Skues writings (the founder of nymph fishing), he mentions fishing with Dr. Norman McCaskie on the Itchen in England. McCaskie was one of the "go to" guys used by Skues when fishing was slow. McCaskie usually had the solution to that day's fishing problems. At one of those slow periods, Skues was at a loss wondering what to use, nymph or dry to fool the knowledgeable trout of the Itchen. McCaskie had another answer; a daddy long-leg tied with green cat dubbing acquired from his cat, Tim! Skues, being a lawyer, immediately thought the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would be in pursuit of McCaskie and he might be defending his friend in court for abusing Tim. Norman assured his barrister that the cat is perfectly healthy and he was only using fur combed from Tim. Many times McCaskie out fished Skues and when Skues had to ask, "Green Cat" was the only reply.

On their next fishing trip, Tim, the cat accompanied McCaskie to the Itchen. McCaskie was probably low on dubbing and took the cat along to insure a steady supply. He knew the other fishermen in the Itchen Syndicate would want to add to their supply of dubbing. The pattern Skues had developed was based on blue-winged olives tied on a size 14 hook using orange silk thread and McCaskie's Green Cat dubbing.

Sadly, Tim passed away after supplying many dozens of flies to the Itchen Syndicate. But McCaskie continued to catch trout and grayling on a green dubbed daddy long-legs for years after Tim's demise. Skues had used his last supply of Tim and his curiosity got to him. What was McCaskie using now in his unlimited supply of flies? Norman finally gave up his secret. "Tim is in my fly tying kit!" Yes, McCaskie had Tim skinned and tanned after his death and he lay concealed at the bottom on his dubbing box. There must be some guilt associated with the cat. Somewhere I found Norman McCaskie wrote a memoir, "Fishing is my Life's Hobby". Thanks to Amazon, I found this book in a bookstore in Shropshire, England. For less than \$15 including shipping, I hope to find more information on Tim the cat. Skues wrote an introduction. Sadly, neither writer mentioned Tim, possibly from embarrassment.

So what is the story about green cats? One summer long ago, I spent a summer working in a molecular biology lab at Children's Hospital in St. Louis. My lab partner was Michelle. She was interested in raising calico Hemmingway cats. Hemmingway cats have five digits on their front paws. This dominant mutation originally hails from the Dutch settlements in New York. Hemmingway brought the five digit cats to Key West where they are commonly found among the stray cats. I helped Michelle research Washington University's Medical Library on cat traits. We wasted an entire morning in the medical library with 22 Nobel Prizes staring down from the walls in their futile effort to raise our research to higher levels. We found what everyone knows about calicos; there is nothing new to breeding calico cats. But in our searching for other color patterns, I remember that among the seven genes for cat coloration, there was never a green cat. Research has changed in the decade since those days of searching journal entries. There are also new sensors on University servers that are more successful in fretting out wasted time than walnut and brass Nobel plaques. Google informs me of a green cat. The owner fed and watered their cat in copper mixing bowls. Thankfully we now have Wapsi and their old washing machines dying our dubbing. McCaskie's secret was to feed his cat in expensive copper bowls.

One last note> our daughter informs me that if you need a five-toed cat, look for a stray in the neighborhood of Division between Glenstone and 65. There was a Hemmingway cat fan there sometime in the past. A green cat is your experiment.

Editor's Food Idea:

Smoked trout, a toasted bagel and a schmear of cream cheese with chives. Cup of hot coffee and a smile across the table. Best Breakfast ever.



Spring will be here soon!

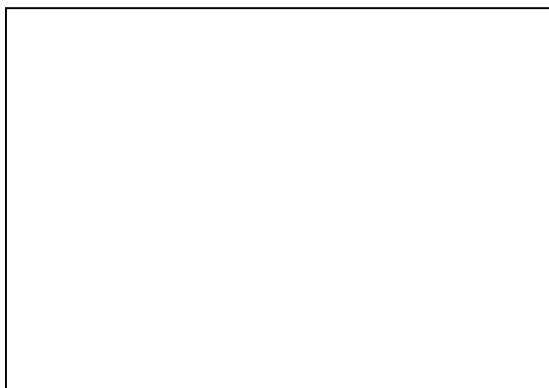


But don't forget the IRS!



2014 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	Lezley Chastain	848-1858
President Elect	John Dozier	
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	Ralph Eicholz	343-2591
3 Year Executive Committee Member	Connie Erickson / Joe Simecek	
2 Year Executive Committee Member	Warren Wilkerson / Mark Strothkamp	
1 Year Executive Committee Member	Charlie Erickson / John Prugger	
Monthly meetings at the Springfield Nature Center are the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM for Fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting.		
Committee Chairs		
Program/Materials Chair – Kim Schultz		
Education Chair – Ralph Eichholz		
Social Chair - TBA		
Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson,		
Newsletter Advisory Editor - Kim Schultz		
Librarian – Dennis Steed Harry Morgan		
Equipment/Supplies - John Prugger/Kim Schultz		
Web Page - Brent Simmons		
Membership Chair – Kim Schultz		
Liaison Natl./State FFA – Rod Pennington		
Public Relations – Lezley Chastain		



If you would like to submit an article for the MTFA newsletter

Please put MTFA in the email subject line and send to

Eve at the above email address

The web sites:

MTFA-Springfield.org

E-mail:

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

Send Articles to:

ekanderson@hotmail.com