



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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MO Fishing

December 2015

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Happy Holiday's everyone! We have our Christmas party coming up on Thursday, December 3rd and here is a little bit of what to expect. . Plan on arriving around 5:00-5:30 and we generally get in line to eat around 6:00.

Heritage Cafeteria
1364 E Battlefield Rd, Springfield, MO 65804
Phone:(417) 883-3033

The party is also a fund raising event for at risk kids at Pipkin Middle School.

We each bring a gift or two for the gift raffle. The gifts do not have to be fishing related-our members have a lot of different interests and hobbies so diversity is welcome. We then purchase the raffle tickets for the bucket raffle. There really isn't any expectation of one gift per person. Since the purpose is to raise money for the kids, we each purchase as many raffle tickets as we feel comfortable with. One person could spend \$5.00 on tickets and leave with a booty of 5 gifts. On the other hand you could spend \$50.00 and walk away with nothing to show for it except a warm heart and a really fun time. It's all about fellowship, being together and helping the kids.

J. Dozier, President MTFA



**Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter
Calendar for November 2015**

December 3 Christmas Party & Meeting - 5:00PM to 7:30PM @ Heritage Cafeteria

Membership

Greg, Suzanne, Kaylee and Levi Bouchard are new members to the club joining at the November meeting; please make him feel welcome. The total membership of individuals and family is 145. Thanks for your support.

Some members have already paid 2016 membership, thank you very much. The renewal membership forms and membership cards will be sent out in December. A slight twist will be at the Christmas Party; I will be on hand to deliver the renewal membership applications with your nametag and 2016-membership card. Please review the form to verify your information to be correct (email address, membership to FFF or CFM), before paying and return the form to me. This will verify the club's directory update with correct email addresses and home addresses.

The day after the meeting, the rest of the renewal membership applications will be mailed to members. You can return 2016 membership and payment by mail or bring the application to the next meeting in January. Thank you for the support and being a member of the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association.

Kim Schultz

Upcoming 2016 MTFA-Springfield Election Information

Lori Burke was appointed to the chair of nominating committee to search out officers for next year (2016). The members on the nominating committee are as follow: Warren Wilkerson and Kim Schultz.

They announced their nominees for 2016 at the November meeting with the names to be published in the December newsletters. There will time to add anyone else to the list at the December meeting before the election. The election of officers will take place at the Christmas party and Annual December meeting on December 3, 2015 at the Heritage Cafeteria.

See a file of the By-laws on the web site: http://mtfa-springfield.org/member_area/officers.htm or a portion of the By-laws below for details and more information.

The candidates nominated are as follow:

President:	Bob Randall	Executive Committee:
Vice President:	Harry Morgan	3 year: Russ Doughty/ Jerry Jester
Secretary:	Lori Burke	2 year: Bill Burke/ Dick Deerfield
Treasurer:	Ralph Eichholz	1 year: Connie Erickson / Joe Simecek

From Article III section 3 of the MTFA Springfield Chapter By-laws. The nominating Committee shall meet and select nominees at least three weeks prior to the annual meeting, publicized by mailed notice to the membership at large prior to the annual election meeting. Nominations for officers may also be accepted from the floor of the election meeting.

We will be providing a fly tying demonstration again this January at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. For the past few years, MTFA has presented a Saturday afternoon demonstration from 1-4pm. It will be on Saturday, January 23.

Some Details from Bob Randall

MDC fly fishing class and fly tying demo:

January 23 Springfield Nature Center Youth Fly fishing class 1-4 PM. Some of us will assist in the classroom. At the same time, we will also be tying flies in the usual area for public demonstration/interaction. You can have your choice of activities. Please let us know at the January meeting if you can help.

Catch and Release at Missouri's trout parks.

November 13th: start of catch-and-release for 2015/16

Fishing is permitted on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Catch-and-Release only during this time. You must have a trout permit and a fishing permit, but no daily park permit necessary. February 8th, 2016: end of catch-and-release season for 2015/16

Fishing report links:

Bennett Spring SP <http://missouritrout.com/weavers/report.html>

Roaring River SP http://www.orvis.com/fishing_report.aspx?locationid=7410

Lake Taneycomo <http://www.riverrunoutfitters.com/category/fishing-reports/>

Heads up for the 2016 Missouri Legislation session: Bob Randall

Remember the misbehaving Missouri State Legislature of 2015? Well, they'll be back in January. The 2016 session starts on January 6. Bills may be pre-filed beginning December 1 and bills may be introduced through the 60th legislative day of the session. So that we're not caught off guard and only react late in the session, we need to be vigilant this winter.

To find your state representative, see the calendar, or read bills go to <http://www.house.mo.gov/>

For the same information in the state senate go to <http://www.senate.mo.gov/>

Fortunately, the bills that were on our radar failed to pass during the last session. The Conservation Federation of Missouri worked diligently to insure that and will be keeping watch on the proposed legislation for 2016. Our club is an affiliate of the CFM and individually we can join at <http://confedmo.org/>. Even if you're not a member of the CFM, you can still sign up for legislative information from them at their Legislative Action Center at <http://confedmo.org/lac/> free of charge.

Articles from the MDC Southwest Area News

Natural factors causing trout die-off at Shepherd of the Hills

Rapid response by MDC statewide hatchery staff mitigating loss.

BRANSON, Mo. – An unfortunate combination of late-autumn water conditions has caused a die-off of trout at the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery.

This fish loss is a result of a combination of current environmental conditions that include warm water, low oxygen, high nitrogen, high sulfur levels and excess nutrient content. Hatchery staff will not know the full impact of trout loss for some time as some fish may experience delayed mortality from the stress they experienced at this time. Mortality has occurred in all sizes of fish at the hatchery. [Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery](#), located in Taney County, is Missouri's largest trout hatchery. It produces 1,250,000 trout annually which are stocked into Lake Taneycomo and other trout areas around the state.

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Much of the above-mentioned environmental conditions can be traced to the heavy rains, hot temperatures and algae die-off that depleted water quality and caused fish die-off problems at Table Rock Lake this past summer. Shepherd of the Hills receives its water from Table Rock.

Fortunately, quick action by MDC hatchery staff is resulting in the bulk of Shepherd's trout population being saved. Some are being moved to other raceways at the hatchery where the water quality is better; other trout are being temporarily transported to Bennett Spring Hatchery, Montauk Hatchery and Lost Valley Hatchery. The primary cure to Shepherd's problems will occur when cold weather arrives.

"The faster it gets colder, the sooner the water temperature at the surface (of Table Rock) will equal the water temperature at the bottom (of the lake) and allow the lake to mix," said MDC Fisheries Management Biologist Shane Bush, who oversees fish management at Table Rock and Taneycomo reservoirs. "This will bring better water quality through the dam. This may happen as soon as this weekend with cold temperatures expected." The hatchery's Conservation Center remains open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, but trout viewing opportunities along the raceway have been temporarily closed to the public.

More information can be obtained by calling the Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery Conservation Center, 417-334-4865 or the Missouri Department of Conservation's Southwest Regional Office in Springfield, 417-895-6880. A combination of natural factors has led to a trout die-off at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery in Taney County. Some of the fish are being temporarily transferred to other hatcheries in the state until water conditions at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery improve.

Low dissolved oxygen levels affecting trout at Taneycomo

Anglers can help alleviate problem by minimizing time they take to catch and release fish.

BRANSON, Mo. – Trout problems at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery have grabbed recent headlines, but water-quality issues similar to what's occurring at the hatchery are having impacts on Lake Taneycomo, too.

Anglers and other visitors to this popular southwest Missouri reservoir were noticing dead trout and, in some cases, foul odors on the upper end of the lake for several weeks, even before conditions at the hatchery became dire. The main reason for Taneycomo's issues is low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water. The root cause of these DO problems can be traced to summer rains that caused sudden inflows into Table Rock Lake – the primary source of Taneycomo's water. Cooler temperatures should fix the situation. In the meantime, people who fish Taneycomo can help reduce this problem by minimizing the time they take to reel in and release fish.

Anglers can help reduce trout mortality by giving special attention to how they handle trout they catch. Land trout as quick as possible. Extended fights stress fish at any time of year, but can be lethal during times of low DO. Also, minimize the time spent netting and unhooking the fish. Finally, when the fish is unhooked, gently hold it under water until it gains equilibrium and can swim off on its own.

Anglers wishing to report dead fish on Taneycomo can call Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Fisheries Management Biologist Shane Bush at [Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery](#), 417-334-4859 or they can call MDC's Southwest Regional Office in Springfield at 417-895-6880.

Blaming summer rains at Table Rock for dead trout in November at Taneycomo may seem like a stretch, but it provides insight into the annual water cycle at both reservoirs and also shows how the two lakes are connected.

Cold water released into Taneycomo from the depths of Table Rock allows trout to thrive in the upper end of Taneycomo during most of the year. However, beginning around mid-July each year, the cold water coming into

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Taneycomo from Table Rock routinely has diminished DO levels due to annual biological processes known as stratification that occur over the summer in Table Rock. This summer, the dissolved oxygen levels in the deeper water of Table Rock were further reduced by a combination of the decomposition of nutrients that were flushed into Table Rock heavy rains in the area and high levels of water generation through Table Rock dam that depleted the oxygenated water in the lake much faster.

This low-DO water is transferred to Taneycomo through flood-control Table Rock Dam and, unlike the water flowing into Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery, cannot be injected with liquid oxygen if power generation is not occurring. Therefore, DO levels drop to near zero during times of non-generation and trout in Taneycomo begin to be impacted negatively. The lack of DO, combined with high amounts of nutrients in the water, is also the culprit for the foul odor some Taneycomo anglers have reported smelling. It should be noted some autumn trout mortality occurs at Taneycomo each year as a result of this process, but the high amounts of rain and water generation at Table Rock through the summer has exacerbated the situation this year.

As temperatures become colder; the upper oxygenated layer of water in Table Rock will cool, become denser, and sink. Once surface water temperature reaches the same temperature as on the bottom, Table Rock Lake will turn over, resulting in a more even distribution of dissolved oxygen throughout all layers of the lake. The release of this water into Taneycomo will help solve that reservoir's problems.

In Missouri, from both a participant and economic perspective, trout fishing is significant. According to a 2011 survey (the most recent data available), trout fishing has more than 277,000 participants in Missouri who spend 1.4 million days fishing each year. This trout fishing activity in the state generates retail sales of \$104 million and has an annual economic impact of \$187 million. Trout fishing also supports more than 2,300 jobs.

Overall, fishing (all types) in Missouri generates about \$677 million in retail sales and has an overall impact of approximately \$1.2 billion annually.

More information about trout and about other fishing opportunities in the state can be found at www.mdc.mo.gov/fishing.

Low dissolved oxygen levels at Lake Taneycomo are having negative impacts on trout. Anglers who plan to release fish back into the lake can help alleviate the problem by minimizing the time it takes to catch and handle their fish.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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2015 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	John Dozier	209-8041
President Elect	Bob Randall	224-1104
Secretary	Lori Burke	569-6079
Treasurer	Ralph Eicholz	343-2591
3 Year Executive Committee Member	Bill Burke / Dick Deerfield	
2 Year Executive Committee Member	Connie Erickson / Joe Simecek	
1 Year Executive Committee Member	Warren Wilkerson / Mark Strothkamp	

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 Chair – Erica Weingarten

Education Chair – Ralph Eichholz

Social Chair - TBA

Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson,

Librarian - Dennis Stead / Harry Morgan

Equipment/Supplies - John Prugger/Kim Schultz

Web Page - Brent Simmons

Membership Chair – Kim Schultz

Liaison to Natl./State org – Rod Pennington

Public Relations – TBA

If you would like to submit an article for the MTFA newsletter, Please put MTFA in the email subject line and send to Eve. **Send Articles to: EKAnderson@hotmail.com**

The web sites: MTFA-Springfield.org

E-mail: MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

