



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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MO Fishing

May 2015

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We will meet at the Nature Center on May 7th. There will be fly tying at 6:00pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

James Dillard will be our guest speaker at the March meeting; he will talk about the Little Red River in Arkansas. James has been guiding on the Little Red for over five years and spends 250 days each year on the water. He has guided in Alaska and fished many places out west. James is an adamant supporter of conservation and dedicated to spreading the good news of trout fishing.

Little Red River emerges from beneath the dam at Greer Ferry in Arkansas. It is a premier-class trout stream. Trout were introduced to the Little Red in 1966, some three years after the completion of the lake project. Rainbows, browns and cutthroats are caught for some 35-river miles below the dam. The nearest town is Heber Springs in central Arkansas.

[James Dillard](#)
[501.207.1770](tel:501.207.1770)
www.tailwaterfishing.com



Little Red River

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

May 1-2	13th Annual Smallmouth Rendezvous, Tahlequah OK
May 2	MSU Fishing Trip to Roaring River State Park 9 AM - 4 PM
May 7	Monthly meeting 6-9 PM
May 16-17	MTFA Derby at Bennett Spring SP
May 28-31	Discover Nature Women's Event, Windermere Resort
June 4	Monthly meeting 6-9 PM

Annual MTFA State Derby

Bennett Spring State Park May 16-17, 2015

Save these dates on your calendar, May 16-17, for the 2015 MTFA State fishing derby. The Springfield Missouri chapter will host this year's derby. Derby rules and program will be handed out Friday evening and early Saturday morning the day of the derby at Bennett Spring State Park in front of the park store when you sign up. The derby can be a great family outing as there is no age limit on who can enter and you don't need to be a member of MTFA. We are encouraging a \$5.00 (donation) as an entry fee to the MTFA. The derby can be a great chance to meet other anglers that share your passion for trout fishing.

The annual state meeting will be Saturday evening at pavilion B. The Springfield Chapter will provide a white Bass fish fry with Lezley in charge of prizes and preparation of the evening meal. Our guest speaker will be Regina Knauer from the MDC discussing the importance of education and outreach for all people in Missouri. Regina is a good friend of the club. She has invited us to participate several events over the years, were we demonstrating fly tying, teach fly tying and casting.

Warren Wilkerson is MTFA State council president and will conduct the meeting Saturday evening. Last year's derby attracted over one hundred angler's from surrounding area, and those that caught a tagged fish were able to choose a great prize. Come and join the fun!

Club News

Our Fish Fry is scheduled for June 20th at Living Memorial Park in Springfield from 3:00-8:00pm.

We have the north shelter which is the shelter closest to the parking lot. The club supplies utensils, drinks and fish and chips. Everyone bring a covered dish, family, lawn chairs etc and prepare for a fun evening.

Any outdoor games you are welcome to bring.

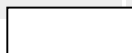
Lezley Chastain



Kids Fishing Days Events

Click on a title in the "Event" column below for description, registration details and contact information. **Editor's Note:** This table can be found on the MDC website. It will provide all the details that cannot fit in the Newsletter.

Event	Date	Location
Kids Fishing Day	Saturday, 05/02	Bennett Spring State Park
Kids Fishing Day	Saturday, 05/16	Roaring River State Park
2015 Kids Free Fishing Day	Saturday, 05/16	Maramec Spring Park near St. James, Mo
Discover Nature- Fishing Lesson 1; Equipment, Casting and Proper Fish Handling AND Fishing Lesson 2: How to Tie a Knot and Bait a Hook Reserve by 05/15	Tuesday, 05/19	Rondald and Maude Hartell Conservation Area, Plattsburg
Discover Nature- Fishing Lesson 3: Five Common Missouri Fish-Their Anatomy, Habitat, and Life Cycle (3) Reserve by 05/15	Wednesday, 05/20	Rondald and Maude Hartell Conservation Area, Plattsburg
Discover Nature - Fishing: Lesson 4: Fishing with Lures and Fishing Regulations Reserve by 05/15	Thursday, 05/21	Rondald and Maude Hartell Conservation Area, Plattsburg
Guided Hatchery Tours	Monday, 05/25	Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery



Legislative Update by President Elect Bob Randall 4/22/2015

This year has seen a whirlwind of legislative activity in the Missouri State Legislature affecting conservation issues. Some of it seems mean spirited. All of it looks as though politicians want to take control.

For instance, some legislators want to reduce the state sales tax that is earmarked for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). That sales tax was passed as a constitutional amendment by the citizens of Missouri because we recognized that conservation needed to be financed independently of politics. Another politician from northeast Missouri is angry with the MDC because they won't introduce pheasants to his area. The MDC maintains that northern Missouri as a whole does not have adequate habitat for a proper pheasant population. I admit that his reason that I just reported is only a rumor, but I have it on good authority. He has introduced bills to reduce the hunting/fishing/trapping license fees which would further reduce the MDC's budget. He also wants to change the structure of the Conservation Commission. That Commission is a non-political part of the MDC. It's a part of the plan that we citizens (OK, it was our parents and grandparents) voted for in 1936 when we passed the constitutional amendment that created the MDC. Not satisfied with those attempts to gut conservation in Missouri, that same politician wants to move responsibilities for captive deer/elk populations from the department.

There is another bill in the state house that would codify water resources law. Not a bad idea but it has a problem in it. It is not targeted on the MDC as the previous bills are so that's good. I want to point out that there has been a lot of talk about how this bill reduces the rights of recreational use of Missouri streams. That is a misconception. It specifically points out that any rights that we have had under the 1954 court case, *Elder v. Delcour*, remain unchanged. It is case law that controls recreational use on Missouri's waterways. The bill does a good job of clarifying that the riparian landowners property boundaries are either at the line of the water thread (middle of the river) or at the low water mark depending on the waterway's legal status. That's good, too, but it may embolden some landowner attitudes about "stand your gravel bar". (I made that term up, there is no legality to that phrase.) That bothers me. I'm not going to argue with a landowner about the gravel bar. If I can't talk my way out of a confrontation, I'll leave. You should have that same attitude. Unfortunately, not everyone feels that way. Remember the gravel bar confrontation in 2013 that resulted in the shooting death of a canoeist? It's perception that rules the day out on the gravel bar, not legal mumbo jumbo. But here's the really bad part in terms of conservation. The bill would prevent the MDC (and DNR) from cooperating with certain not-for-profit organizations, specifically the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF). That organization donates money for various conservation projects. See <http://mochf.org/project-list-page/> for a full list of their projects. They apparently help mitigate water issues and that congressman doesn't want that to happen. It also affects the Missouri Stream Team to the degree that the MCHF donates some money to it. Bad law!!!!!!!!!!!!

And then there's the bill that would prevent the MDC from purchasing or accepting real estate donations without congressional consent. That means that if someone wants to donate their farm for a conservation area, the politicians want to get involved. Another bill would treat the Conservation Commission members as lobbyists. Maybe two of the worst bills are identical in both the House and the Senate. They would prevent the MDC from cooperating with connected not-for-profit corporations. When you read the definition of those not-for-profits it sounds like the MTFA is included.

I believe that almost all of these issues, if they represent real problems, could be addressed by the Conservation Commission itself without interference from the politicians. That's it!!! They aren't real

problems and the politicians want to interfere with one of the best functioning departments in our state's government. Fortunately, not all of these bills will advance to becoming law but many of them are proceeding through the respective legislative committees. If you haven't done so, yet, write your legislators and give them hell. Get involved with the efforts of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. I could go on and on. I think I will. See my legislative update below:

Since the last club meeting several modifications of note have been made to state legislation concerning conservation.

HB 955 (Ross) Does not change MDC operations. Reportedly it was written to add clarity to water laws. It does not as written. Instead, it has caused confusion, especially in the area of recreational stream use. *Amendment (among others): Nothing in sections 60.700 to 60.710 shall be construed to limit or expand any public easement for navigational or recreational purposes as described in Elder v. Delcour, 269 S.W.2d 17 (Mo. 1954), if such a right exists on a watercourse." That's good! However, the bill also prohibits the MDC and the DNR from working with some not-for-profit organizations. How will that affect the Missouri Stream Team? Last Action: As of April 20, 2015 has been "laid over" which means postponed for one day. Also see SB 337.*

HJR 27 (Spencer) Proposes a constitutional amendment reducing the sales tax from 1/8 of a cent to 1/16 of a cent. *Last Action: It was read for the second time on January 14. Hearing not scheduled. Bill currently not on a House calendar.*

HJR 28 (Spencer) Proposes a constitutional amendment requiring the conservation sales tax be approved by voters every 10 years. *Last Action: It was read for the second time on January 14. Hearing not scheduled. Bill currently not on a House calendar.*

SB 56 (Munzlinger) Modifies hunting, fishing and trapping permit fees for Missouri residents. *Last Action: Has proceeded through Outdoor Resources Committee and Ethics Committee. Is currently in Fiscal Oversight Committee. Also see HB 710.*

SJR 1 (Munzlinger) Modifies the membership composition and terms of service of the commissioners of the Conservation Commission. *Last Action: February 5, 2015 - Second Read and Referred Senate Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee*

SB 178 (Munzlinger) Modifies provisions relating to captive cervids. *Last Action: January 29, 2015 Second Read and Referred to Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee Also see HB 1094 (Houghton).*

SB 337 (Munzlinger) Prohibits the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation from engaging in prohibited conduct with a connected not-for-profit corporation. *Last Action: April 14, 2015 - Hearing in Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee. How will that affect the Missouri Stream Team? Also see HB 763 (Houghton).*

HB 316 (Brown) Requires Conservation Commission members to register as lobbyists upon appointment by the Governor, and follow all lobbyist rules and regulations. *Last Action: April 2, 2015 Referred to Conservation and Natural Resources Committee.*

HB 317 (Brown) Requires the Department of Conservation to reimburse automobile owners up to \$500 for damages inflicted upon their vehicles by deer. *Last Action: April 2, 2015 Referred to Conservation and Natural Resources Committee.*

HB 710 (Basye) Allows non-residents who own property or pay income taxes in Missouri to receive resident hunting and fishing permit privileges. *Last Action: March 19, 2015 Referred to Select*

Committee on Agriculture. Also see SB 56 (Munzlinger).

HB 834 (Ross) Prohibits state agencies or entities from purchasing or receiving donated land without the approval of the General Assembly. This affects the MDC. *Last Action: April 14, 21015 Passed through Conservation and Natural Resources Committee and referred to Select Committee on Agriculture.*

HB 1096 (Houghton) Allows for the slaughter and processing of captive cervids for human consumption at facilities inspected by the USDA or Department of Agriculture. *Last Action: April 22, 2015 - Out of Executive Session. Reported Do Pass.*

HB 1094 (Houghton) Specifies that the Department of Agriculture must have authority to regulate agricultural deer. *Last Action: April 22, 2015 - Out of Executive Session. Reported Do Pass.*

HB763 (Houghton) Prohibits the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation from engaging in prohibited conduct with a connected not-for-profit corporation. DOES THAT INCLUDE THE MTFA?????? *Last Action: April 20, 2015 - Public Hearing Completed. Also see SB337 (Munzlinger).*

Happy Mother's Day

To all mother's who fish.

For those with mother's, remember them on May 11th.



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 – TBA
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