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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**

January 2020

Volume 14 No.1

Notes for the January Meeting

TFO Fly Casting videos by Lefty Kreh and Ed Jaworoski. Thirteen chapters in all and we may not cover them all in one sitting. The coverage includes The Four Principles (of casting), Types of Casts, The Tailing Loop, Beyond the Basics, Practice Techniques, Helpful Tips, and more.

**Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter
Calendar of Events for January, 2020**

January 2 MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Nature Center @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Springfield Chapter Officers

President: Dennis Stead

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Vice-President: Dan Ditzler

417-737-0885

desert8mule@yahoo.com

Secretary: Bruce Hinkston

417 838-0713

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Treasurer: Fred Brown

417-693-2942

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From the President's Desk – Dennis Stead

Looking forward to 2020 and know that we have a lot of plans for the year. Join us at our monthly meetings.

Programs: Some of you indicated some preferred program topics on your 2020 membership forms. Among them were **Tying flies, Bass flies, Guide Programs, Taneycomo, Casting instruction, and Different fly patterns.** Harry Morgan, our Programs Chairperson, would like to know if you have any ideas on who might be the best person to present the programs. Contact him at the next meeting with your suggestions or email him at h.topwater@gmail.com.

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2020 Membership Dues: If your dues for 2020 are not current, you may pay them at the January meeting. If you have received notice by email along with a membership form, please print off the form, make any necessary corrections, and submit it along with your check to MTFA-Springfield for \$15. **If you pay in cash, please bring correct amount. No change. A \$20 bill = dues + a \$5 donation.**

You may also mail your membership to me at 2239 W. Buena St., Springfield, MO 65810. If you need a membership form, you can find it on line at <http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/about/membership/> Thanks,
Bob Randall

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Hunt & Fish Outdoor Show: Last year we went to the Arc of the Ozarks outdoor show. It was a great success. This year we want to go back again. All the money the show generates goes to help kids with disabilities. This is in Feb. so that is a good time to go to the show and support it. Harry Morgan, Program Chair.

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John Bush has been our fishing trip coordinator for a few years now. He has stepped down from that position recently. Since John actually has a job unlike most of us, his planned trips were almost always on a Saturday. He believes that weekday trips may attract better attendance. If you would like to tackle this organizational task, contact Dennis Stead.

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Fishing Reports:

-December 2, Bennett Spring, Larry Olson and Bob Randall arrived at BSSP and absolutely no one was there. We checked the calendar to make sure it was Monday and not Tuesday. Fish were hitting very lightly. We used a number of flies with some success on each. There was activity on or just below the surface. Bob took a few fish on dry flies but the size and color of the fly was wrong. Larry was doing well with a silver/gray scud just below the Gut Hole. Bob switched to a similar fly and did well with it along the outflow stream. Toward the end of the day, another angler was very successful on a size 16 dark brown hare's ear nymph.

-December 6, Mike Kidd, Ron Ward, and Dick Solomon caught over 330 trout at Bennett Spring today primarily stripping dark colored streamers.

-December 7, Harry Morgan and Bob Randall at BSSP each caught around 50 trout. Keith Coffey was also there. Early in the day, Keith and Harry were slaying them just below the Gut Hole on olive or brown streamers. Keith caught one that he estimated at 5 pounds and a couple more at about 2 pounds. Harry and Bob both caught some good fish. They must have released some of the brood stock. A lot of them had hook jaws.

-December 9, Harry Morgan, Larry Olson, and Bob Randall at Bennett Spring near the Gut Hole did well. Bob caught somewhere near 80 fish, Harry caught more, and Larry less. Bob used a small wingless dry fly and did very well on the surface. Later he used a dark grey sowbug and did well in the outflow stream. Harry used an orange worm with weighted head and later a yellow and black jig with great success. Larry moved to the pool above the dam and using streamers caught some very nice fish, the largest of which was about 20 inches.

-December 13, Friday the 13th was pretty good for MTFA members at Bennett Spring. Without much coordination at least 7 of us showed up. Fishing was Mike Kidd, Ron Ward, Harry Morgan, Keith Coffey, John Dozier, Larry Olson, and Bob Randall. There was only moderate success stripping streamers below the Gut Hole with Ron using this method best. More successful were thin mints (similar to a wooly bugger) at the top of the Gut Hole and grey scuds. Mike and Harry caught over 100 fish, Ron caught 54, Bob caught 52. Most of this activity was near the Gut Hole both below it and in the outflow stream above it. Larry's preferred fishing method is stripping streamers and/or swinging nymphs which he deployed in the pool just above the concrete dam. He had moderate success there but observed that fishermen fishing deep against the dam landed many fish. They must have been holding right at depth at that location.

-December 23, Larry Olson caught more than 30 trout at BSSP stripping and swinging between the Gut Hole and the Whistle Bridge. Nymphs, streamers, and tigertails.

-December 27, Larry Olson, Dick Solomon, Keith Coffey, Bob Randall at BSSP, lots of people, especially kids. School's out. Go figure. Fishing somewhat slow. They would hit on a fly for a while and stop. Change flies, bite would be good, then stop. The most caught by any of us was 36 fish, some much less.

Mid-afternoon, searching for a place to get away from the crowd, I found solitude on the main stream 75 yards or so up from the Gut Hole. I noticed a few flying midges and a minor amount of fish feeding activity near and on the water surface. The smallest dry fly I had was a size 20. I had some strikes, then a hookup. That's my idea of fishing. Bob Randall

Catch and release season at the trout parks will close at 4pm on February 10, 2020. Get up there and fish. Dress warm and in layers. No whining.

Fishing Pics:

For
more:

[Click
here.](#)



Annual Meeting and Christmas Party was held on December 5 at the Golden Coral. Forty-five people were present. Thanks, Eric Shinault, for all your work organizing the event. Voting for 2020 Club Officers was conducted and the results are:

President – Dennis Stead

President Elect (Vice President) –Dan Ditzler

Secretary – Bruce Hinkston

Treasurer – Fred Brown

Executive Committee–Russ Doughty and Mike Kidd

There were lots of prizes raffled off and an auction for a special framed streamer and a half day guided fishing for two. The proceeds go to the Pipkin Middle School for their under privileged students.

***The MTFA DONATION (to the Pipkin Middle School)
WAS \$1060. We delivered it yesterday (12/11/2019).
The lady in the center is the social worker that helps
the students in need. Larry Wegmann***



Pic of the Month: Keep ‘em wet.
This guy was under water until just before the camera snapped the picture.

Photo by Bob Randall



Fly of the Month: Midges Over the last few trips to Bennett Spring, your humble newsletter correspondent observed fish hitting at or near the surface and later clouds of tiny black or brown insects. A few times, the action I experienced was using the tiniest dry fly I could tie onto my finest tippet. I also caught a few using the zebra midge, Dorsey’s top secret midge, the harvester midge, and Dave Tucker’s gilled midge. *Bob Randall*



“Midges will be the bread and butter of the winter fly fishing , and make up the majority of a trout’s diet. Midges will hatch during the warmest parts of the day often from 10 am – 3 pm and can bring nearly every fish in the river to the surface. This hatch alone can make winter fly fishing worth pursuing.” Text and photo by Allen Gardner

<https://thecatchandthehatch.com/winter-bug-guide/?fst=3qsec-akm>

- Stages: Nymph, Emergers, Dries
- Sizes: #18 – #26
- Colors: Black, Blue, White, Red, Purple, Olive, Brown

- Hatch Times: 10am -3 pm warmest part of the day

A refresher on tying a Dorsey’s Top Secret midge:

- Hook: Tiemco TMC2499SP-BL or TMC2487
- Hook Size: 18, 20, 22,24
- Body: UNI-Thread Dark Brown or Camel 8/0
- Ribbing: Metallic Pearl Embroidery Thread-Coats & Clark
- Wings: Kreinik Metallic Pearl very fine #4 – No. 032 11M or fine #8 – No. 032 10M
- Thorax: Super Fine Brown Dubbing (Rusty Brown)

photo by Dennis Stead

<http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/resources/fly-tying-recipes-patterns/dorseys-top-secret-midge/>



Video of the Month: <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/dry.flies>

Link of the Month: <https://projecthealingwaters.org/>

I Wish I'd Said That

I fish ... not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant__and not nearly so much fun. *Robert Traver*

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 or photos for the MTFA newsletter, please put MTFA NL in the email subject line and send to Bob Randall:
bobbyleensandy@gmail.com

More about us:

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| MTFA Website | www.MTFA-Springfield.org |
| Facebook | facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/ |
| E-mail | MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com |



SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

12th annual **HUNT & FISH** **Outdoor Show**

BOOK YOUR BOOTH NOW! FEB. 8th & 9th

THE PREMIER OUTDOOR EXPO

QUALITY VISITORS

QUALITY EXHIBITORS



Show Features:

- Samples of moonshine & whiskey from local distilleries
- Seminars given by outdoor experts
- Certified antler scorers
- Local, regional and national outdoor vendors
- Pop-up archery tournament
- Activities for the kids
- and more!

Funds raised from this event benefit The Arc's No Limits Summer Camp program.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Visit OUTDOORSHOW.ORG to book your booth

Contact SStryker@TheArcOfTheOzarks.Org or call 417-874-1902