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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**

April 2020

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Notes for April

The MSU Beginning Fly Fishing Class has been cancelled.

The April MTFA-Springfield chapter meeting has been cancelled.

MDC has lifted the requirements for a daily trout tags at the state trout fishing parks through April 15.

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From the President's Desk – Dennis Stead
Well now is the time to do all those honey do projects will you are stuck at home. Then start tying flies so that you will be ready to go fishing. I guess you can go now but the rain and high water will not make it easy. White Bass season might also be a wash up for this year. Just stay healthy so that we can see each other soon.

Chapter Business: The MTFA-State Council met at Bennett Spring SP on March 14 for the Pre-Derby meeting. That was before the coronavirus shut down. The minutes to the meeting haven't been distributed yet, but the Derby is scheduled to be held on May 16 & 17. If it is held, the St. Louis Chapter will host it. Minor changes were made to the State Council by-laws.

The MSU Beginning Fly Fishing Class:

I emailed many of you a couple of weeks ago cancelling the 2020 Spring MSU Beginning Fly Fishing Class. The university ceased offering in-person instruction for the rest of the spring semester. It was cancelled. That was entirely true as far as us MTFA folks mentoring students. However, the university has expected me to somehow convert this class into an on-line deal. I had already spent a lot of time making Power Point presentations and high jacking a lot of Larry Wegman's material. My original expectation had been that it would simply supplement the face to face discussion in the classroom. Then I had to go back through all of it and somehow convert it into a full on-line curriculum. After that, I created a test, mostly multiple choice. Obviously, we aren't casting, tying, or fishing; but as far as MSU is concerned the class is on ... on-line. I don't know if any of the students will drop the class. We don't know if they will offer anything beyond on-line instruction next fall.

How do I teach you to cast a fly line if you don't have a fly rod to practice with?

How do I teach you how to tie a fly if you don't have the tools and materials?

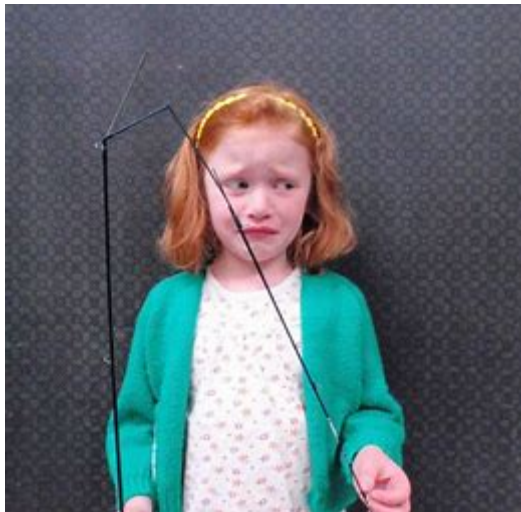
How do I teach you how to land a fish when the fish are here but you're not?

My only answer and hope is that maybe I can create enough enthusiasm in the sport of fly fishing that you'll find a way to make it your own passion. It's all about passion. Bob Randall

Fishing Reports:

Haven't heard many reports. Haven't heard ***any*** reports!

Experts say that many memories are just flat out wrong. Your memories can be from suggestion, they can change over time, and they might not even be your memories. After the pandemic is over, I will give you a fishing report about the number and size of the fish I have caught this winter. My report will include how I succeeded in reaching my goal of catching more than 1,000 fish this year. That's really one of Mike Kidd's memories, not mine. And I will include the five pound trout that Keith Coffee's wife caught years ago. I may throw in the story about being chased by a brown bear in Alaska last summer (didn't happen). It will be a good story. Not only am I looking forward to telling it over and over, I also look forward to embellishing it without limit. I'll change the name of this segment from "Fishing Reports" to "You Shoulda Seen the One That Got Away". Throw in some of your own stories. Bob Randall



Pic of the Month:

The Smith River, Montana

There's a river in western Montana where you can launch a canoe, kayak, or raft and not take out for 59 miles. I mean there's just no place to take your boat out because the nearest boat ramp is 59 miles downstream. It takes at least three days to complete the trip, maybe four. The fishing and scenery are fantastic. You can camp along the way but you better put an electric bear fence around your campsite. It's not crowded because the state park service controls the number of launches. They operate a lottery to "win" a time spot when you are allowed to launch. I've put in for that raffle for the last two years. Haven't won yet. It's the Smith River.

Today I opened up an email from Trout Unlimited to find that "the Montana Department of Environmental Quality finalized and released an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Black Butte copper mine in the headwaters of the Smith". ... "The final EIS means that a mining permit is not far behind, despite widespread public opposition from a strong majority of Montanans and well-documented concerns expressed by scientists, landowners, and a coalition of conservation organizations. The DEQ ignores more than 12,000 public comments opposing the mine and a wealth of evidence presented to the agency showing a high risk of long-term pollution and chronic dewatering of the Smith River and its most important tributary, Sheep Creek."

"The release of the final EIS has kickstarted the next process of our efforts [TU's efforts] to protect the Smith River. TU will move our efforts from the administrative process, in which we have fully participated at every stage over the past six years, to the legal arena. Montana's State Constitution gives Montanan's the right to a clean and healthful environment, and we believe this mine flies in the face of that right. The fight continues, and Trout Unlimited will take the point position in our battle to protect our Smith River." Bob Randall

From the Conservation Federation of Missouri

"Keep Politics Out of Conservation"

HJR 100 would elevate the JCAR, ("Joint Committee on Administrative Rules") from a committee created by the legislature, to one created by the Constitution. This places JCAR in a position of authority over the Missouri Department of Conservation, restoring legislative control of wildlife management. Missouri voters took that authority away 84 years ago, launching a conservation success story that remains the envy of the nation today.

(Continued on page 5)

House Bill would force DNR to sell Eleven Point State Park

HB 2535, which would force the Department of Natural Resources to sell the 4,200 acre "Eleven Point State Park", in Oregon county. This park has been trapped for years now in a partisan squabble that has kept the park closed. A similar measure passed the House last year then died in the Senate, but we can't count on that.

Fly of the Month: Trude

Originator: Carter Harrison, 1900s.

Hook: Standard dry fly hook. Turned down eye.

Standard length. Extra-fine wire (Mustad 94840), or equivalent, size 6 - 12.

Thread: Black 6/0.

Tail: Reddish brown hackle fibers.

Body: Scarlet wool yarn.

Rib: Silver tinsel.

Wing: Red fox squirrel tail.

Hackle: Two reddish brown neck or saddle hackles.

Quoting from Fly Patterns and Their Origins, "This pattern, one of the earlier hair flies and the first known to have been tied in this fashion, in which hair was used as a substitute for feathers in making the wings, was created in fun by Carter H. Harrison in 1903, while a guest on the A.S. Trude ranch, in Idaho.

Red worsted from a rug for a body and a bunch of hair from a red spaniel dog, put together with a squirrel tail hackle in the spirit of fun on an over-size muskie hook, and presented to Mr. Trude, looked so good that a few more serious samples were made up with a red yarn body wrapped with silver, squirrel hair tied long enough to show the dark band, and red rooster hackle. They caught all the fish the party could carry away from the Snake River, near the ranch. <http://www.flyangleronline.com/features/oldflies/part231.php>



An alternate color/material combination.



In the state trout parks, you rarely see a uniformed MDC Conservation Agent. What else is true?

- A. That means they're not in the park.
- B. It means that the State Park Rangers are the only officers enforcing the rules.
- C. It means that you can throw rocks into the water because the splashing attracts bigger fish.
- D. You've paid your daily tag fees and this is the time to get a little more for your money.
- E. The fly fisher who is fishing just upstream may be an undercover Conservation Agent.

Which of the following are true:

- A. If your indicator stops, you might have caught a rock. Set the hook.
- B. If your indicator goes under, you might have caught another rock. Set the hook.
- C. If your indicator jiggles, you might be bouncing on the bottom. Set the hook.
- D. Set the hook. Set the hook. Set the hook.
- E. They are all true. Many a fish has kept its freedom because the fisher failed to properly identify a strike, failing to set the hook. Ask me how I know.

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

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