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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

July 2020

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The July Meeting is canceled.

The Branson Fly Fishing Expo is canceled.

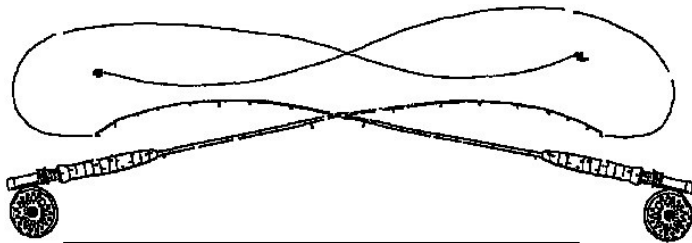
Just a note from the President's Desk:

Well by now everyone knows the Branson Fly Fishing Expo has been cancelled for 2020. The dates for the Branson Fly Fishing Expo will be July 29, 30, and 31, 2021.

I just hope we can get back together again soon with our monthly meetings and some social gatherings. Currently, I have taken over the treasurer's job from Fred Brown. His health is poor, so keep him in your thoughts. Maybe we can have Zoom meetings or Zoom fly tying. Zoom is going to be with us now and in the future, so take time to check it out and see if that is something you can do.

Dennis Stead, dmstead@aol.com

Editor's note: between the time that Dennis wrote this and its publication, Fred passed away.



Fishing Reports:

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6/2, Bennett Spring, Bob Randall caught over 40 fish, mostly grey scuds, pellet flies, a brown nymph, and a green midge.

6/8, Bennett Spring, Larry Olson and Bob Randall caught about 30 fish together. Half of those were in the outflow during morning feeding using a pellet fly. Both fished the pool above the concrete dam after that. We were successful on tigertails and wooly buggers. It seemed like there were lot's of people. Wind out of east. "Fish bite least when the wind's from the east". Water turbid and maybe a little high. Seemed to be a couple of hot spots but everywhere else was only mediocre.

6/12, Bennett Spring, Bob Randall, lots of people, high, murky water, so-so fishing. Landed about a dozen in the outflow stream using grey scuds, tan scuds, a pheasant tail nymph and pellet flies. It seemed hit and miss. They would take something for a while,

then quit. I always returned to scuds after trying something else. Wanted to fish above the dam but the guy who was standing in my preferred spot was in so deep that it looked like his waders were going to take on water. Maybe he was short. I left.

6/16, Taneycomo, Russ Doughty, Dick Solomon, Harry Morgan, and Bob Randall. Russ, Dick, and Harry fished the main channel stripping woolies and a grey sculpin, and nymphing with a primrose and pearl midge. Amongst the three of them, they landed 50 fish or better in about four hours. Bob fished the riffle near the Rebar Hole but couldn't get into the hotspot at the top of the riffle. Caught 11, mostly on grey scuds, lost a bunch.

Continued on page 3

Fishing Reports continued:

6/17, Taneycomo, Larry Olson, Matthew Peet, Ron Ward, and Bob Randall fished the riffle near the Rebar Hole and the pools downstream. Ron and Larry stripped woolies. Matt and Bob used scuds, soft hackles, yellow eggs, and a small bead head leech. Bob did well on a bead head soft hackle that bounced along the bottom in the riffles. That seemed to work better than the unweighted soft hackles that didn't get down in the lower water column. They would hit something for a while, then stop. If you could figure out what they were onto next, that would work great for a while and suddenly stop. All total we caught more than 100 fish. Note: Two weeks ago in that same riffle, fish were fighting each other for tan scuds. On the 16th in that spot, another angler was knocking them dead on grey scuds but early the next day you couldn't catch anything on grey. Later, in the day they were taking tan scuds, but not grey. They weren't supposed to start generation until 1pm. The horn blew about 11am. What? We pulled back to the north shoreline. After about 10 minutes there was no rise in the water. We moved back and fished another two hours. Later, we talked to a local who said that **they have to sound the horn each time they release any amount of water, whether or not they are going to generate electricity.**

6/23 Taneycomo by boat, Mike Kidd and Ron Ward caught over 40 trout, many over 18 inches.

6/24, Bennett, Larry Olson and Bob Randall, poor fishing until late. Larry discovered that the trout were hanging just in front of the concrete dam. Larry caught a dozen, Bob 1.

Fishing Pics

Fred Brown at Montauk State Park on 9/16/2016



Fred passed away on 6/24/2020 after a long battle with lung cancer. Fred was the Springfield Chapter Treasurer. He had also served as Chapter Secretary. He participated in many of our fishing adventures as well as our James River Float Trip.

<https://greenlawnfuneralhome.com/obituary/fredrick-joseph-brown-jr/>

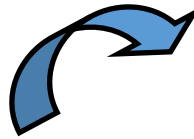
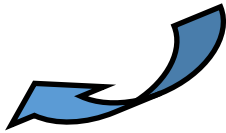
Fishing Pics



Charlie Collins, at Bennett Spring in 2016

Charlie passed away on June 2, 2020 in his home after a hard-fought battle with congestive heart failure at the age of 79. Charlie was a member of MTFA-Springfield.

<https://www.memorialchapelsandcrematory.com/obituaries/Charles-Collins-33/#!/Obituary>



**Bennett Spring Whistle Bridge
Remnants of Tropical Depression Christobol, 6/9/2020**

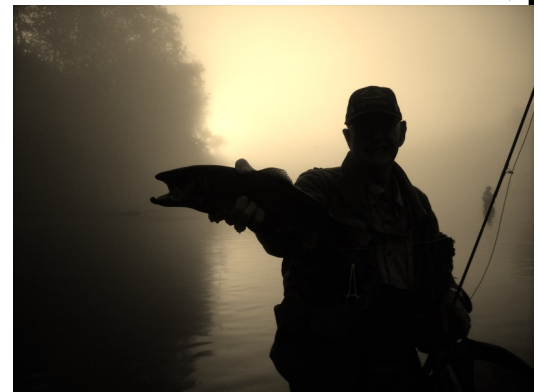
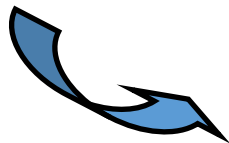


Harry Morgan, spin cast fishing. Harry is concerned that he might be kicked out of MTFA for this. We should bring that up at the next meeting.

Mystery fisherman.



**Was it worth getting up at 4 am?
Yep.
Lake Taneycomo,
Bob Randall**

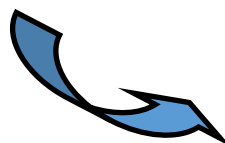


Lake Taneycomo

Mike Kidd



Ron Ward



Fly of the Month: Two Bit Hooker

The name has nothing to do with General Hooker's plan to keep the Union Army healthy. It uses two beads and it hooks fish.

Substitute colors of beads, feathers, thread, tinsel.



Materials needed:

Hook: Standard wet or dry fly hook, sizes #18-22.

Beads: Two tungsten beads. Use 1.5mm beads for size #20 hook

Thread: Olive 8/0 UNI thread.

Tail: Hungarian partridge dyed olive. Olive mallard flank, or olive hackle could also be used.

Body: Stripped peacock herl dyed olive.

Flash: Small pearl flat tinsel.

Legs: Hungarian partridge dyed olive. Olive mallard flank, or olive hackle could also be used.

Place your beads on your hook. The small end on the forward bead should face the hook eye, and the small end of the rear bead should face the hook bend, leaving the larger diameter holes touching each other.

Start your thread behind the beads, and wrap back to the end of the hook shank.

Tie in your tail. It should equal about the length of the hook shank.

Trim the tail fibers from the feather. The butt ends should reach the beads.

Don't wrap your thread forward yet.

Tie in your piece of olive peacock herl. Wrap your thread forward, covering the butt ends of your tail, and peacock herl. Soak your herl in water before you tie it in. This will make it easier to work with. Wrap your peacock herl forward, tie it off, and trim the butt end.

Tie in your piece of pearl tinsel just behind the olive bead.

Wrap your thread diagonally over the olive bead leaving your thread between the two beads.

Tie in your legs. Trim the butt ends of the legs.

Fold your tinsel over the olive bead, tie it off, and trim the butt end as close as possible.

Whip finish. Apply some UV resin to the body, and over the flash back .

You may prefer Charlie Cravens instructions here: <https://charliesflyboxinc.com/portfolio-items/fly-box-template-91/>

"An angler is a man who spends rainy days sitting around on the muddy banks of rivers doing nothing because his wife won't let him do it at home."

Suggestions for fly fishing anglers who want to fish with their buddies yet still follow the CDC social distancing guidelines:

- 1) If you ride to your fishing destination and back with your fishing buddy, turn the vehicle's air conditioner setting to allow outside air to enter through that system. Adjust the temperature. Then crack a window, preferably in the back. This will allow air to move past both of you. BTW, this only works with two people.
- 2) Limit the size of the "bubble" of people you fish with. The fewer, the safer. Only allow people whom you know are responsible.
- 3) At the trout parks, you have to buy a daily trout tag at the store. You can buy more than one tag at a time as long as the extras are for other people. Buy your buddy's tag so only one of you has to go in the store. No, you can't buy the next day's tag, nor can you buy two for yourself to increase your limit.
- 4) When you buy your trout tag, have the right amount, \$4 per tag, so that you don't have to get change back. Your mother was right when she told you that money was filthy.
- 5) When you're on the water and you ask that other guy who seems to be catching all the fish what fly he's using, don't accept his offer to give you a sample fly. You know what I mean.
- 6) If someone wants you to take a picture of him holding that fish that he caught that should have been yours, don't get close to fill up the shot. If it's your camera, use your zoom. If it's his camera, back away from him and let him crop the picture later. Better yet, don't use his camera.
- 7) Be aware of your surroundings and show other people some "health and safety" courtesy.

Editorial: We are leaving the coronavirus inspired phase of government restrictions and entering a time of personal responsibility. That doesn't mean that we should act as if the pandemic is over. Both times I purchased trout tags at the BSSP store, someone invaded my space so closely that I could have stepped on their toes. Honestly, I thought about it. Some people have become complacent; others claim it's a hoax. I can think of a number of reasons to avoid those people.

Sometimes I hear the word "scared" used to make fun of those who abide by the recommended CDC guidelines for Covid-19 precautions. It is meant to say that someone is "scared" of nothing more than a little flu bug. Insulting someone is not a valid argument technique, unless you want to start one. I'm not scared of driving, but I buckle my seatbelt. I'm not scared of sunlight, but I wear sun blocking clothing. I am scared, however, that if others insist on invading my space, I could get coronavirus and transmit it to my grandson who has asthma. That would be a problem. You don't know who in my family may have underlying health conditions that make them more vulnerable. In the same light, I don't know everyone else's health situation. I'll try to give others safe distance. I'm not going to shake hands. I ask others to follow the guidelines and stay out of my space. It is a simple courtesy and only a minor inconvenience. Your rights are not being violated if I ask you not to cough in my face. Be a team player. This is not politics; this is concern for public health. You can have your own opinion about this, but it's not okay to deliberately violate someone else's health or safety so that you can make a point.

This is my opinion. I'm the newsletter editor so I get to write an editorial. Bob Randall

Revisiting Legislative Proposals Affecting Conservation in Missouri:

HJR 100 attempted to force all regulations of the Conservation Commission through a political committee (the JCAR, or "Joint Committee on Administrative Rules"). It sought to amend the Missouri Constitution to give JCAR the authority to strike down any regulations it objects to, like those designed to protect wild deer from the disease risks of the confined big game shooting industry, or regulations designed to support the eradication of feral hogs. Voted to pass out of committee but not on legislative calendar. Will likely be introduced again next year.

HJR 112 proposed a constitutional amendment to change the conservation sales and use tax to provide funding for the conservation department, the veterans' commission, and the sexual assault forensic examination program. Would cut the conservation sales tax by 2/3rds, which would instantly reduce the overall MDC budget by 40%. Also required voter re-authorization every 8 years -- which would end MDC ability to do long-range planning. Would also damage their ability to attract quality employees. Nobody wants a career where every 8 years you find out if you're going to get laid off. Would also add two new sales taxes, one for the Missouri veterans' commission and another for the sexual assault forensic examination program. Referred to Conservation and Natural Resources(H) Committee. Not on legislative calendar. Will likely be introduced again next year.

Much of the above text comes from the Conservation Federation of Missouri Legislative Action Center. MTFA is a member of the CFM. <https://www.confedmo.org/lac/#/bills> (once you get to that web page, scroll down to "Recent Missouri Legislation" and click on "See All Bills").

The status of these bills was verified online at the Missouri House of Representatives website.

Federal Conservation Legislation:

S. 3422: Great American Outdoors Act A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s3422> CFM supports this bill <https://www.confedmo.org/lac/#/>

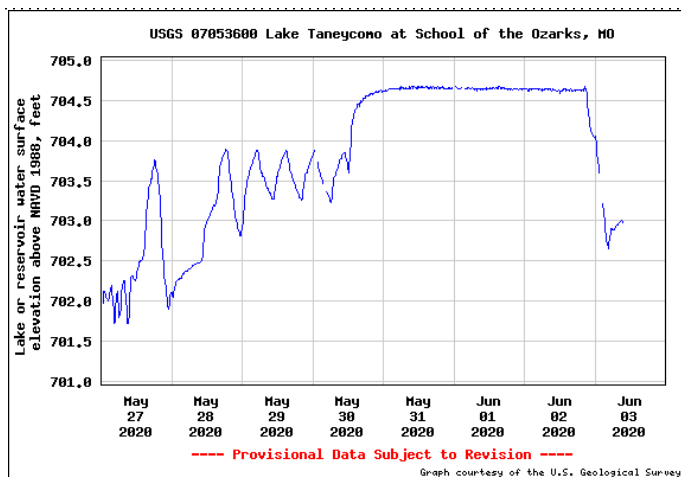
Fishing Courtesy

At Bennett Spring, I fished the outflow stream mostly casting upstream at a quartering angle and drifting an indicator downstream. On one upstream cast, I noticed a movement of an angler who had slipped in just a little too close and hadn't said anything. He didn't cast but he held his rod tip in the water angled down in my direction and fed out line with his left hand. Before my next cast, I looked for his line so I wouldn't cross it. I couldn't see it. It turned out to be a sinking line. I looked in the water directly in front of me and there it was, within my reach. I could have reached down and ~~cut~~ grabbed his line. His fly was further downstream of me. I gave him a dirty look as I bit my tongue. Before my next cast, I looked for his line again. This time he had his rod tip further out in the stream. I said to him, "I have no idea where your line is." which wasn't quite true, and cast upstream anyway. I'm sure I crossed his line. Just before my next cast, he had reeled in and was scrambling up out of the stream. I never saw him again. Maybe I should have told him that if he hooked my brand new Simms Freestone waders I would expect him to reimburse me for them. Maybe I should have threatened to cut his line. Naw. So I guess there is a learning experience here. Some kinds of equipment and some methods of fishing are not suitable for every situation and location. Bob Randall

Tablerock Lake is full ... well, it's full-ish. It's pretty high. Ever wonder why they haven't started lowering its level. It's because Bull Shoals Lake is also high. So why not lower Bull Shoals? They have to make sure that doesn't cause problems in the Mississippi water flow downstream. What's if there is rapid snowmelt in Montana? That water eventually flows down the Missouri River into the Mississippi. Heavy rain in Ohio River Valley, that matters, too. Heavy snowmelt on the eastern slope of southern Colorado can flood the Arkansas River. Why should we care? It's all connected. It's all part of the drainage of the Mississippi River Basin. We can't lower the lakes in the White River system if the lower Mississippi is full. There are six basins that make up the general Mississippi River Basin: The Upper Mississippi River Basin, the Missouri River Basin, the Ohio River Basin, the Arkansas-White-Red River Basin, the Tennessee River Basin, and the Lower Mississippi River Basin.



Water levels: They opened the spillways at Tablerock Dam in late May. We all thought it would be months before we could fish Taneycomo again. The rain wasn't as heavy as forecast so ... the June 3 USGS water level graph for Lake Taneycomo seems to indicate that the spillways were closed on Tablerock Dam during the night. There was a precipitous two foot drop in just a few hours. There are still two to three generators running. Sooooo... they began a period of no generation in the mornings. Oh, Happy Day! But the day will come that they open the spillways again to get rid of some of that water upstream. That will put a stop to wade fishing at Lake Taneycomo. Better fish it while you can. **Oops! Since I wrote this article, generation is back on 24/7. We caught a short break.**



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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