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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

November 2022

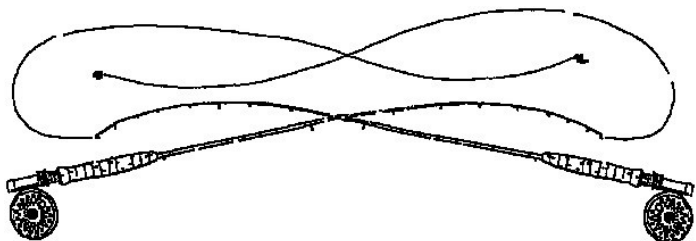
Volume 16 No.11

**The November Get-Together is at the Library Center  
Community Room A on Thursday, November 3 at  
6pm.**

**Bring your vices and materials,  
there will be time for you to do some tying.**

## **November Program – How Trout Think**

Terry Tanner was asked, and he was willing to give us a program on fly tying for November. He had several medical procedures the past two months and is not physically able to attend. So, we will go to plan B and provide a program on how fish think and discuss their other senses. Understand the things important to their survival in streams and rivers. This will be a power point presentation and open to Q and A and discussions from the members present. Hope to see you this Thursday. *Kim Schultz*



### **Springfield Chapter Officers**

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Normally Rod Pennington prints and mails out the MTFA newsletter to the 10 or so members who prefer to receive them as a hard copy by U.S. Mail. Last month, Rod's mother passed away just before the newsletter came out so I had the newsletters printed and mailed. I was shocked at the cost of printing at Staples. It was \$51.02 for double sided, color printing for eight pages of newsletter. I know that some of you who want the hard copy could get it by email but prefer to read on paper. If that is your case, let me ask you to request it by email on next year's membership form. Just download it and print it. We will continue to mail them out if necessary but it costs somebody to do that and your club dues do not cover that expense. There is an item in the club's budget that could be used to reimburse Rod for personally taking the time to make this happen. He has never submitted an invoice for reimbursement, to my knowledge. So, next time you see Rod, thank him for this effort and know that he bears the printing and postage expenses for the hard copy newsletters. *Bob Randall*

***The last day for Catch and Keep Trout Season at the state trout parks will be October 31. Catch and Release season will begin November 11.***

***Chapter News: The next group tying opportunities are November 3 (6pm at Library Center Room A) and November 17 (6pm at Library Center Room A).***

**Just a reminder: The membership dues for 2023 are increasing from \$15.00 to \$20.00. New membership forms will be available next month.**

**Financial Report: Beginning Balance      \$9,126.37**

**As of Oct 30, 2022**

**Income: \$1,349.50**

**Expenses: \$3,841.68**

**Ending Balance: \$6,634.19**

***Dennis Stead***

## Fishing Reports:



Dick Solomon: "So Wednesday (10.19) Coffey and I fished Bennet Springs, the fish were plentiful but not as active as last week. We caught several, no slabs or braggers. The leaves are still a major distraction for Dry Fly fishing. I opted out for John Deere jigs with a San Juan dropper. I think Keith was stripping a Olive Booger with a Soft Hackle dropper. The weather was chilly in the morning hours at one time for about a hour Keith and I had the Gut hole to ourselves. We didnt leave home until about 9, so most of the warm weather guys were not up yet, anyway by afternoon it looked like opening day. I never seen so many spinning rods, so we headed up to zone one Gut Hole. I caught several shorts on my new white zonker. At 3 we left for home. All in all a pleasant day fishing. Dont know which is worse the Surf Rods, the Moss, or the Traffic on I-44."

Keith Coffey: 10/25/2022, Bennett Spring SP, "I went yesterday (the 25th) and didn't get up there until about 1130. Caught somewhere around 20 to 25. At one time I was the only one fishing. I fished the gut hole. It rained all the time. It didn't rain hard. but I got wet. When I left at about 1;30 3 guys came to fish."

Jon Smith: 10/24/2022, Roaring Rive SP, caught two on one of the flies he learned to tie at the fly tying class. Was rained out.

Dick Solomon: 10/26/2022, Bennett Spring SP, "Fished Bennet yesterday, it was about 8 on the scale of 10. No leaves, I fished the Gut Hole for 2 hours mostly using 4 different colors of my version of the San Juan Worm on the bottom of Doc Taylors John Deere Jig. I say Dock Taylors's version because in my opinion Doc's JD has been changed by different tiers but mine has stayed the same. I fished several different dry flies in different sizes, all caught fish. Later I moved up to the Spring where there were a lot of folks and fished Dry's there too. All in all a good day. One last thought, the stream is in great condition and running clearer than I have seen it in a long time. Catch and Release starts next month. That's my FAVORITE fishing time."



Harry Morgan, Stockton Reservoir, "Lots of white bass are being caught at Stockton right now. But with a spin cast outfit."





## **Fishing Reports:**



**Kim Schultz, Stockton, "I spent five days fishing the shores of Stockton Lake this month. The autumn winds mixing the water along the windward points attract the many bait fish in the lake thus the bigger fish: white bass and walleye move in.**

**Oct 2, 2022: Stockton Lake, south of Roark Park. I caught six fish: white bass, bluegill, a walleye, and a large-mouth bass. ESE wind less than 10 mph. We saw several deer in the park and an eagle flew overhead. Nellie did better with a spinning outfit.**

**Oct 7 (Friday): Stockton Lake near twin bridges, the wind blew NNE. I caught sixteen white bass, all sizes. I did walk a long stretch of beach found fish in small pockets. I met Nellie and Jim (Nellie's Brother in-law) they caught many on their spinning rods.**

**Oct 10, 2022, (Monday): My daughter had a short window to fish. We left Springfield a little before 9 AM heading west to fish Roaring River State Park. It was a more crowded than expected, we found out a school was in session at the park with plenty of people for a late fall Monday. There was a light wind with plenty of full sun. We fished the water just above the handicap access in zone 3. I managed to hand release 4 and Jenn released two for three hours**



**Twin Bridges fishing the south shore**

**Oct 11 (Tuesday): Nellie called, and we met near twin bridges on Stockton Lake. The wind blew from the SW with a good chop on the water. The fish are bigger at this location, I was able to release thirteen white bass.**

**Oct 14 (Friday): I took off on mine own, checked Stockton weather: SW wind with 25 MPR gust. I decided to fish Hwy 245 bridge. This is not a favorable wind for this location, there was plenty to push the water. There were at least a dozen fishermen fishing throughout the afternoon. I work the near bank for an hour or so before moving to the west the other side of the cove. A group of four moved out and I could see they were catching a few fish. There were still two fellows on the point. The water was mixed with plenty of color. I found fish with the first cast and continued until dusk. I kept nine white bass with twenty-five caught, I picked up a walleye, black bass, and three drum. I saw pair eagles, spooked a wood-chuck hiking in and saw a dozen turkey crossing the road on the drive home."**

### **Fishing Reports:**



**Kim Schultz, Stockton, "Oct 21 (Friday); Rod sent me a text and we got together to fish. I decided on Hwy 245 bridge with an SSE wind. We fished the point near the bridge since the cove was calm. A ring neck snake was on the path to the water. There were good size white bass on the point. Rod released seventeen and I released fourteen white bass and an eighteen-inch walleye. The white bass were 12–15-inch range. An osprey perched just above me for a short period, a deer ran out front of truck on the drive home. A raccoon and two youth trailing behind her scurried along the near Eudora.**



**Rod and I plan to fish this Friday with a favorable wind forecast for twin bridges. White bass at Stockton Lake should be good for a few more weeks until the water cools and the lake turns over, then it's anybody's guess where the fish will go. So, my recommendation is to get out while the fishing is good."**

**Kim Schultz**

## Checking your equipment and trusting your gut by John Bush

While fishing recently, I experienced a huge strain of bad luck with my line breaking almost every time I went out. If it had only happened once in a while, I would have chalked it up to just being lazy and not changing my tippet as often as I should, but in this case, probably 85% of the time or more, it was happening on the first or 2nd fish I hooked after replacing it. It also cost me one of the largest browns I've hooked at Taneycomo in a long time so I was getting very frustrated.

I began to wonder if I was starting to get inconsistent with my knots, so I started paying more attention and making sure they were lubricated and seated well. Same result. Also, I've been doing this for 15 years now and never had my knots break as consistently as they were during this spell.

I also noticed that at times, when I would pull new tippet off my spool, I would find several nicks in it, so I started paying close attention to that as well and inspecting it for nicks before ever tying it on my line.

The one thing I did notice was that the knots were always breaking right at my tippet ring. I got to thinking back, and had heard a podcast some time back where they had mentioned that occasionally, and especially on cheaper tippet rings from overseas, you would get a batch that wasn't polished well and would have microscopic burrs that could break your line. I began to suspect this was the case, and had decided I was going to remedy this even if I had to throw the whole spool away and get new tippet rings.

I came home and started to remove the remaining tippet from my spool, and had barely started before I noticed that the tippet had caused a groove in the plastic sleeve on the homemade tippet tender I was using and that my tippet was pulling through said groove and causing the nicks I was finding on the stream. Mystery #1 solved, and it turned out there wasn't much tippet left on the spool anyway. After removing the bad tippet tender, I didn't find any nicks whatsoever in what was left. I removed the short piece of tippet that was left, and reloaded it with a spool I had purchased a while back and a new tippet tender from the small stash I had in my equipment.

The 2nd mystery was more of a gut feeling, but given that the break was always right at the tippet ring and I never found any remainder of my knots, I went to Plateau and bought a new pack of tippet rings. I had also noticed some small kinks or curls up close to my knots that I hadn't seen before. On my next trip out, I cut the tippet ring off my leader and replaced it with a new one from the pack I bought and tied a new section of tippet onto my leader.

My 2nd cast of the day, I hooked and landed a nice brown and never had another issue that day.

All of this to say, remember to check your equipment on a regular basis and trust your gut when needed. I'll be regretting the brown I saw that broke one of these before I came to my senses as I got a good look at him before he swam off.

After writing this, it occurred to me that my daughter had received a fairly nice microscope as a Christmas present last year. I took one of the suspect tippet rings, and one from the new batch and placed both of them on a separate slide. Using her microscope and 300x magnification, I could find several small burrs on the tippet ring from the batch I had problems with. On the new ones, I didn't find any.

*John Bush*





Remember in the old days, we used to have a chili feed in October? We would meet at the Shepherd of the Hills fish hatchery pavilion. Great fun and lots of good food. The Springfield Chapter relinquished this event to the Branson Chapter since it was in their “territory” and they invite us to participate. If you missed it, you missed a good event.

John Bush came down and fished before lunch. He said the fishing was slow. I stopped by the hatchery’s nature center and visited with the staff who told me the oxygen levels were low.

Dennis Stead reported that the attendance was 8 members, 12 fisherman, 40 family for a total of 60. Also, Branson MTFA got two new memberships.





## Fishing Pics

Two of our newest and youngest members fishing.

Charlie McDaniels shows off his large mouth bass with his grandpa Pat Taggart.

Ian Garber shows off a nice trout caught In the Niangua River, Oct 22. His dad, Kyle, is behind the camera. Kyle reports: "We fished from the Bennett Spring access to Low Gap. The brown trout photo was in the Keith Bluff area caught on a sculpin fly. The rainbow was at Sturgeon Bluff just upstream of the NRO access caught on a Pat's Rubber Legs.

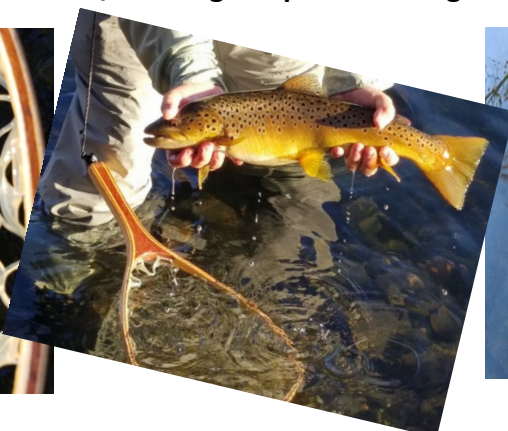
There was a very strong wind so the river was covered with leaves which fouled our lines and made it hard to get the flies down to the

fish. We went with heavy flies in olive sculpin patterns and black & brown stonefly nymphs to get some depth.

Subsurface leaves made strike detection a challenge, so we used stripping retrieves with intermediate sinking leaders so we could feel the take to set the hook. We still caught a lot of sycamore leaves, but we managed some fish too."



John Bush did well at Taneycomo on 10/23 using a top secret midge.





## ***Fly Tying Class***

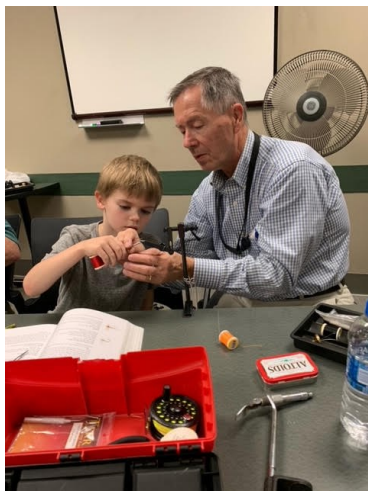
We started a fly tying class at our May 2022 meeting. We have had a lot of fun even though the attendance fluctuated a lot from class to class. People who attended or mentored at various times include: Scott and Cindy Edwards, Harry Mogan, Dennis Stead, Jean and Jon Smith, Bill Huyett, Dick and John Owensby, Mike and Mason Suttmoeller, Rod Pennington, Mark Schumacher, Kim Schultz, Jeff Emry, Chris and Emily Diggins, Pat Taggart and his grandson Charlie McDaniels, Kyle and Ian Garber, and myself, Bob Randall.

We tied San Juan worms, the 56er, wooly buggers including the red hot chili pepper, cracklebacks, pheasant tail nymphs, scuds, sowbugs, clousers, elk hair caddis, marabou jigs, and Adams dries plus some variants. We held our final class on Tuesday, October 25. Graduating were John and Dick Owensby, and Jon and Jean Smith. Congratulations to them.

Tying will continue on a social basis during the first hour of meetings and other times between meetings.



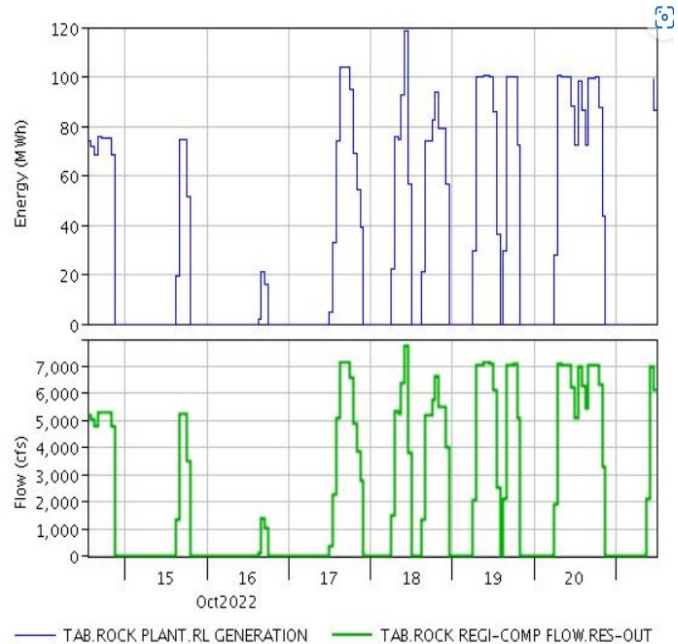
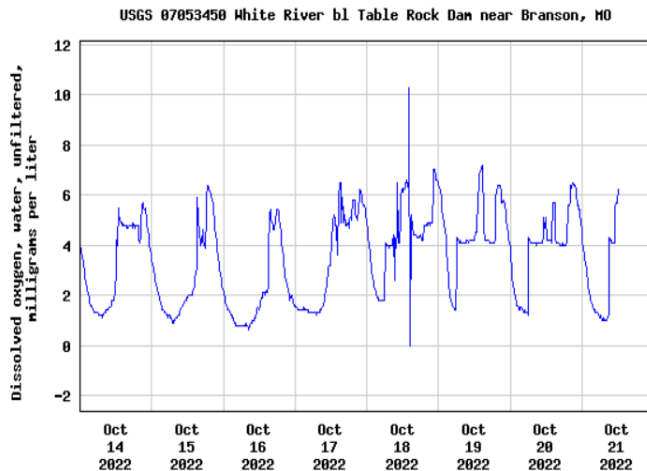
**Ian Garber,**  
**Photo by Kyle Garber**



**Charlie McDaniels**  
**With his grandfather, Pat Taggart**

We've covered this before but it is the time of year when the Tablerock tailwater or upper Lake Taneycomo has insufficient oxygen levels. Notice how the graph shows oxygen levels dropping from between 6 and 7 mg/l around midnight to below 2 mg/l when they resume water flow sometime during the day. Note: 4 milligrams / liter is minimum target level. Compare [oxygen levels](#) just below Tablerock Dam with the water releases.

Dissolved oxygen, water, unfiltered, milligrams per liter  
Most recent instantaneous value: 6.2 10-21-2022 12:15 CDT



## Water levels:

Roaring River water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Taneycomo water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Bennett Spring water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

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](mailto:bobbyleensandy@gmail.com)

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