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MO Fishing

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter of the
Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association

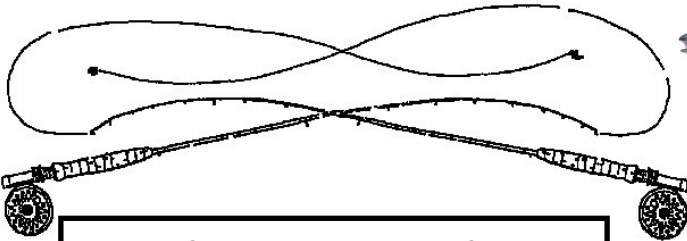
Formed in 1972 to serve all fishermen in the Springfield area

May 2023

Volume 17 No.05

The next gathering will be May 4, 2023, near Highlandville, at the Mountain Spring Trout Park (2549 State Highway O Highlandville, MO 65669) for an evening of catch and release trout fishing and fish fry. Please bring one dish to share. We will plan to eat at 6 PM with plenty of time to hook a trout or two.

Mountain Springs Trout Park: From Nixa at State Hwy 14, go south on Hwy 160 9 miles, turn right on State Hwy O, drive 2 1/2 miles. It will be on the right.



[Mountain Springs Trout Park – You catch 'em! We clean 'em!](#)

Recommendations:

Fly Rod and Reel: I've seen a 5 weight used successfully but it's a little light. Generally, a 6 weight is minimal and an 8 weight is optimal.

Tippet: 4X or bigger. Your pansy tippet that you use for fishing the state trout parks simply isn't big enough.

Net: if you have a large opening, long handled net, please bring it. There will be nets on loan from the trout park.

This is catch and release: barbless hooks or debarbed hooks only. Larger trout don't have as good a survival rate as smaller trout when played to exhaustion. Get 'em in quickly. Be gentle upon release, help them breathe if necessary.

Be careful not to foul hook them. I never cast into a spot with light reflecting off of it. If I can't see the fly in the water, I'm more likely to foul hook because there are so many fish. One of them will bump the line and give me a false strike indication. I set the hook and end up with a foul hook. If I fish a wet fly, it's usually a brightly colored fly so I can keep track of it visually. I prefer a dry fly but you'll generally need a larger, stronger hook.

If you kill a fish, it's \$8.95 per pound live weight. If you want to take a fish or two home, yet still fish C&R, let the staff know and you can pay for those fish. They'll gut, gill, and package them for you at no extra charge.

This will be a fun event. It's a great place to teach a beginner. Personal guests are welcome.

Bob Randall

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Chapter News: The Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association (MTFA) annual meeting and derby will be May 20-21, 2023, at Bennett Spring State Park. Our



chapter will host this year's event, we will provide a fish fry lunch, oversee the derby. Bob Randall is the MTFA State President and will preside over the annual meeting and derby (Derby Chairman). We have purchased many items for the derby (kayak, fishing rods, fly rods just to name a few, with prizes exceeding \$1500). We will enter people into the derby Friday evening and Saturday morning until 8 AM with a \$5 donation to enter the derby. The derby will end Sunday at noon will prizes selected by the fishermen who caught trout with an MDC tag. Mike Rissell will provide a memorial service for members who have passed this year, it will be at 11 AM at the MTFA Memorial stone near the hatchery. All prizes left after the conclusion of the derby will be raffled off to MTFA members. Hope this may interest you for a weekend of fun, fishing and getting to know members from other chapters.

Fishing Reports:



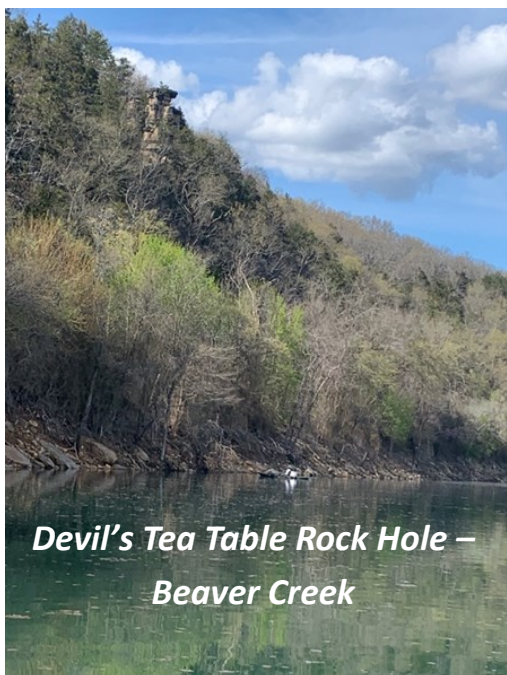
**Mike Kidd, April 3: Little Piney River
wild McCloud Rainbow on wispy**



Kim Schultz: I have been out a bit chasing white bass. Rod has been on most of the trips with me and we have had success finding the fish and taking our limits. The high light of the trips would be an eagle swooping down touching the water's surface to take a fish or watching osprey diving into the water to take a fish.

APRIL 4, 2023: Rod and I fished the little Sac River this evening. There was a threat of severe storms, so we stayed near Taylor Bridge, fishing just downstream. I asked a boater as he trolled by us the water temperature and he said it was 66°F. The white bass were spawning along the banks. The evening was overcast with a few sprinkles. We managed 28 white bass, one drum and few line bass, in addition Rod caught an 18" walleye. We fished until sunset, leaving the water a few minutes after 7 PM. The white bass were medium size with a few sows. 3.04ft 325CFU 868.41 ft 20230404 22wb 2 line-bass 1 drum

April 7, 2023 (Friday): Rod and I fished the Little Sac River. The recent cold snap slowed the fishing, had a hard time hooking up, saw very little surface activity or movement in the water. I managed 3 white Bass and a drum. 2.96ft 299cfu 868 ft 20230407 3 WB 1 drum



April 10,2023 (Monday): I drove to Kissee Mills Park on Beaver Creek and fished with Matt Peet. Matt had a few things going on so to checked out several access points. The park was open, but the high water has completely flooded the area below Devil's Tea Table Rock. I checked out the access from Robert's Ridge Road and found it to be closed with a sign crossed it. I took the next road to Cane Creek, which is upstream from another mile. It was accessible with fast flowing water. We fished hard for five hours with Matt catching the only white bass, I managed two sunfish. The water is up as seen from the photos. The narrow track, called Devils tea table rock road is open. Not sure who removed the boulders, a dozen cars made the pass while we fished.4.02 ft 445cfs 674ft4.02 ft 445cfs 674ft 20230410 2 blue-gill Matt 1 WB

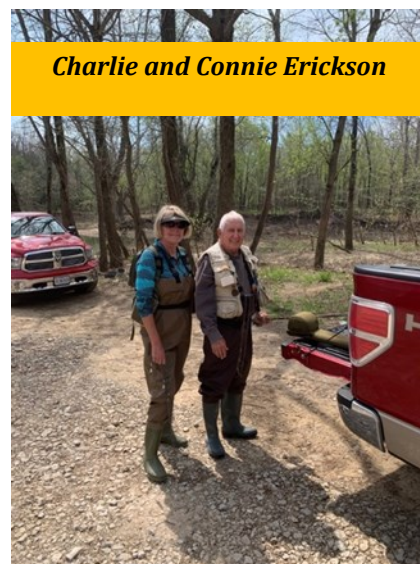
APRIL 11, 2023 (Tuesday): I returned to the Little Sac River; Rod had other commitments and could not make this trip. I found twenty-two white bass, an 18" buffalo. An eagle fished just downstream from me, grabbed a fish within a few yards from me. He dropped the fish and sat on limb of a sycamore tree and watch me catch a fish, so I was not able to get a photo. Most of the fish were caught on a stinky rabbit strip. On my drive home, saw turkeys and a broad wing hawk along the riverbank. 2.66ft 216cfs 867.6ft 2.66ft 20230411 22 WB 1 buffalo



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April 12, 2023 (Wednesday): Rod and I fished the Little Sac River. Rod fished near a feeder creek, and I went upstream a bit to waters fished days before. The water is getting clearer as the creek flow continues to decrease. I tied a few stinky bunny strips, and they seem to work. I was able to fish one on this trip, removing the fly at the end of the trip, breaking down my rod. I managed twenty white bass and a 22" carp. I took the carp to the bank and got stuck in the mud and fell into the water. I was able to hang on my rod and fish, notice the smile on the carp's face knowing she got the best of me. Rod fished below me and was helping a fellow fisherman with his fishing, by giving him some flies and tips how to catch white bass. The fellow was able to get his limit when Rod left him to return home. 2.59ft 183cfu 867.7ft 20230412 20 WB 22" carp

April 13, 2023 (Thursday): Charlie and Connie Erickson met me at Taylor Bridge. I paddled the kayak up stream, and they walked the trail to catch up with me to fish the afternoon. Unfortunately, Charlie lost the tip section of his fly rod on the hike, they spent some time back tracking to look for it, but it was not to be found. I always carry two rods, so I set it both and we all fished the water near a feeder creek. Connie caught several white bass and a medium size drum. They left at 5:30 PM, Connie wanted to get back to the truck before sunset and maybe look for the missing rod tip. I paddled upstream a bit and found a bunch of fish and had my limit to keep within an hour. I caught twenty-three white bass, 18" walleye and a 20" carp and a small largemouth bass. 2.58 ft 180cfs 867.7ft 20230413 23 WB 18" walleye 20" carp largemouth bass



April 14, 2023: Rod left Springfield shortly after noon, he wanted to get in a few extra hours of fishing. I pulled into the parking lot at Taylor Bridge at 2:30 PM. I found Rod fishing just up from the feeder creek and he found white bass taking his fly. I paddled upstream from him fishing a different area from past fishing trips. I found a few fish in the shade, and more fish midstream in the sun.

Forty minutes later a family of four in two kayaks fished just below us. They were throwing spinning gear with no success. The two siblings were done fishing after 15 minutes and found more fun exploring the riverbank, sliding in the mud, and having a good time. Travis, the father was persistent, he tried upstream, downstream with no luck. After, filling the cooler with a limit of white bass. I asked him if he wanted to try using a fly rod. So, I introduced him to fly fishing, providing a quick lesson. I explained the weighted lines, different rods, simple cast and casting down and across. We had a few white bass on, but the thrill was pulling in a drum. Rod texted me later that even to report he caught six different species including: Rod: 23 whites 2 carp 3 small mouth 1 sucker 1 line side type 1 shad



April 18, 2023 (Tuesday): Rod and I made a trip to James River at Blunt access near Galena. We spoke to Terry Tanner, he had fished the morning and did not find the white bass, he did catch a couple crappie and plan to make lunch with them. Rod and I started across the access, with no touches and paddled and walked our kayaks upstream through the next gravel shoal. We did find some white bass. The fish are large (up to 17" or less the 7") and all the whites have been males. I am sure there was a spawn weeks earlier with the warmer water, but with the recent cold spells, the water temperature has dropped. Hopefully with the next warm up the female white bass will return to finish this year's spawn. We caught six different species of fish, with 17 white bass 17" large-mouth bass and more. James River 4.96ft 619CFS 914ft 20230418

April 20, 2023 (Thursday): There was a forecast of rain. Rod and I thought if we started early, we could get in three of four hours of fishing. The storms were already on radar to the north. Again, we found a few white bass. There were at least three ospreys, fishing the shoals below us. They were taking shad from the shallow water, after a catch fly over us and find a tree to perch to feed. We fished to 1:30 PM, we heard the thunder rumbling and dark clouds moving in, so we return to our trucks to pack up and leave in the rain. Still a good day of fishing with a half dozen large white bass.

April 24, 2023 (Monday): The weekend was cold with a few places in the Ozarks reporting frost. There was not much of a rise in the streams after last Thursday rain. I had $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch I my rain gage. Rod and I returned to Little Sac River and fished in previous spots. We totaled 61 white bass, 17 bluegill and a drum. An eagle flew down stream of us and flew over and perched on a tree just upstream. The river continues to drop, and the lake is steady.

April 25, 2023 (Tuesday): Rod and I returned to James River. When we arrived, a rain had just finished, and the parking area was muddy. There was not much of a change to the river. We decided to work our way upstream and start at Taylor shoal. There was another fellow already fishing there with a few white bass and walleye on a stringer. Rod found a good place to fish and was busy releasing bluegill and catching an occasional white bass. I found plenty of bluegill, some exceeding eight inches. There was a mayfly hatch most of the afternoon and the bluegill busy taking them off the surface. I did see four deer at Taylor shoal looking to cross, but when they saw me retreated. As I was finishing fishing for the evening, saw an eagle chasing an osprey with a fish. The osprey was making tight circles to keep an eye on the eagle and finding a safe perch to eat his fish. Rod and I finished with 21 white bass 46 bluegills, four large mouth, four smallmouth. James 4.83ft 549cfu 914ft 20230425

2023 Calendar of Events

May 4: Mt Spring Highlandville Fish Fry

May 6: Kids fish free at Bennett Spring

May 19 through the 21st: MTFA state Derby at Bennett Spring SP, fishing Derby, business meeting, picnic, prizes, camaraderie

May 20: Kids fish free at Roaring River SP

May 25: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B, Russ Doughty will tie a couple of old timey flies from 400 year old recipes!

June 1: Monthly Chapter Meeting, Library Center, Community Room B Presentation by Shane Bush Taneycomo

June 10, - Jun 11: Free Fishing Weekend at Roaring River SP

June 22, Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B, Christian Andrews will demonstrate the featured fly, the Prince Nymph

July 6: Monthly Chapter Meeting, Library Center, Community Room B

July 27: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B

July 27 @ 12 noon through 29th, MTFA Expo, Branson MO, Fly tying exhibition, raffle drawings, Branson Hollister Lions Club. Contact Dennis Stead for information.

August 3: Monthly Chapter Meeting, Library Center, Community Room B Presentation: Bull Shoals?

August 19: Kids fish free at Roaring River SP

August 24: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B

September 7: Mt Spring Highlandville Fish Fry

September 17: Veterans fish free at Roaring River SP

September 28: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B

September 30: Women's Free fishing Day at Bennett Spring SP

October 5: Monthly Chapter Meeting, Library Center, Community Room B, Presentation: Tyler? James River?

October TBA, Chili Feed, Shepherd of the Hills Pavilion w/ Branson

October 26: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B

November 2: Monthly Chapter Meeting, Library Center, Community Room B, TBA

November 16: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B

December 7: Christmas Party & Installation of 2024 officers

December 28: Chapter Fly Tying at Library Center, Community Room B

John Prugger, long time member of
MTFA-Springfield has passed away on
Monday, April 24.



John and Dorothy Prugger, 2016 Chapter Fish Fry

[John Prugger Obituary - Springfield, MO | Herman H. Lohmeyer Funeral Home \(hhlohmeier.com\)](#)

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

More about us: MTFA Website www.MTFA-Springfield.org

Facebook facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/

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[Membership - Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association - Springfield Chapter \(mtfa-springfield.org\)](http://www.mtfa-springfield.org)