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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 2024

Volume 18 No.1

**The January 2024 Meeting is on January 4
at 6 pm**

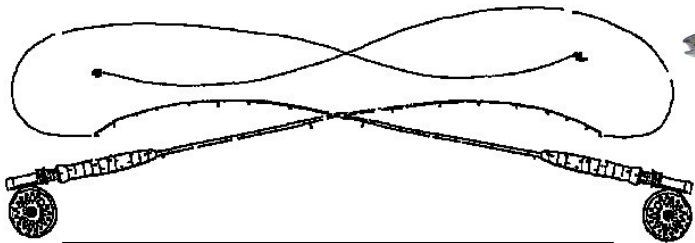
At the Library Center in Community Room B

The January meeting highlight will be the discussion of the 2024 annual budget. With the Branson Chapter terminating its affiliation with the MTFA, the Springfield Chapter has lost a material revenue source. Consequently, a discussion regarding increasing revenues and lowering discretionary expenses is needed. The Executive Committee will meet and finalize the 2024 budget, before bringing the budget for a vote at the meeting.

Please bring your thoughts regarding topics for next years monthly meetings, in 2023 it was primarily fishing locations.

Thanks

Pat Taggart



As you will notice the look and content of the newsletter is markedly different from previous newsletters. Bob Randall has decided to step away from the editing and publishing of the newsletter. He has done a wonderful job of providing news worthy national and local articles, news concerning the club, and interesting fly fishing and fly tying articles. Maybe he or others will become contributors to the newsletter. We all owe Bob much thanks for all he has done to make the newsletter a quality piece of literature.

Bob, Thanks again for your efforts!

Pat Taggart

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Chapter News:



Biggest news of the year, possibly, is the decision of the Branson Chapter of the Missouri Trout Fisherman’s Association to end its affiliation with the state chapter. The reported reason is to align the “new club” with FFI. As it now stands, it is unknown as to whether the new club will host an expo in 2024.

Fishing Reports:



David Ransin provided this account, via email on 12/4/2023

Three very best friends and I floated the upper Current from Baptist Camp to Akers this last weekend Friday to Sunday, not another soul on the water, but a few fishing from the banks below Cedar Grove and above Akers. We are not fair-weather floaters, but Sunday was gorgeous ! Low water gave us some bumps and rubs here and there but no get out and pushes unless someone chose the wrong fork... The water was crystal clear, full of fish but none were interested in my many offerings other than a nice 14" Bo that took my small spoon nose bass fingerling on an ultralight spinning rig and then just after sunset Saturday at camp where an 18" Bo fought and stripped line on the same rig until he finally surrendered. Until I landed him I thought it was a Smallie ! I normally catch and release, but since I get to fish so little, I like to eat a few now and then... He was wonderful with just a few pats of butter wrapped in foil on the fire and I brought my frozen steak home instead. Sunday was the same until mid-morning when the big brother of the others showed up and I brought him home to share with my wife while the Chiefs lost to the Packers. In all, 3 days of endless casting, 4 strikes produced 3 fish, lost only a single fly which snagged on a low limb I failed to notice while twisting thru some tight and turbulent S turns !

12/15/2023 thru 12/17/2023

Rod Pennington, Kim Schultz, Bob Randall, and Pat Taggart journeyed to Montauk State Park to partake in the late season catch-and-release. It was generally cold and overcast. Upon my entering the park, I was driving and Bob was a passenger, I was met by one of the park rangers and told that I was exceeding the 20 mile per hour speed limit! Oh well, I was at least going below the previous 30 mile per hour speed limit. Bob and I met up with Kim and Rod, and fished the afternoon. Kim and Rod had arrived earlier and had good success. Over the next two days most of us, except me, had good luck catching may fish. There was occasional caddis hatches going on; however, the flies were in the size #28 variety. I tried a #16 renegade but no takers, some lookers. Wet flies, particularly cracklebacks, dark mud-dler minnows, woolies, and soft hackle flies were the most productive. We all fished from the spring down to behind the restaurant/motel. On Saturday night, Rod was the chef and cooked a really good batch of quail and fish. The other courses were salad and veggies. Kim was the breakfast chef and he cooks a good batch of eggs and bacon!

Schedule of Events:

January 4, 2024: monthly meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

January 20, 2024: Fishing at Bennett Spring State Park, meet at noon at Pavilion B

January 25, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

February 1, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

February 12, 2024: Last day of Catch and Release season in trout parks

February 22, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

March 1, 2024: Catch and Keep season begins in trout parks

Mar 7, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

March 9: MTFA State Council Pre-Derby Meeting, Bennett Spring State Park

March 28, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

April 04, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

April 25, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

May 2, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

May 17-19, 2024: the MTFA Derby, Bennett Spring State Park

May 23, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

June 06, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

June 27, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

July 4: NO MONTHLY MEETING

July 25, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

August 01, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

August 22, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

Sept 05, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

September 26, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

October 3, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

October 24, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

October 31, 2024: Last day of Catch and Keep Trout season in trout parks

November 7, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM - 9:00PM, Library Center, Community Room B

November 28, 2024: NO FLY TYING

December 5, 2024: Annual meeting and Christmas Party TBD

12/26/2023 Springfield Nature Center pictures—Springfield, Mo



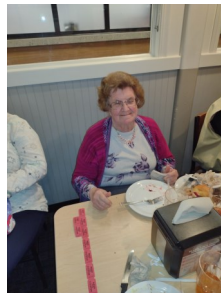
Pictures courtesy of Bob Randall. Locally renowned fly tyers are Rod Pennington, Christian Andrews, Kim Schultz, Charlie Erickson, John Owensby, John Bush, Jerry Jester, and Dennis Stead.

12/15/2023 thru 12/17/2023 fishing at Montauk State Park



We have the Chefs—Kim and Rod starting the evening meal, and Bob relaxing after a cold day on the water.

December 14, 2022 Christmas Dinner



Everyone enjoying good company! The drawings were a fun time and the auction for the tied flies was interesting, to say the least. Charlie McDaniel almost bankrupted his grandfather, Pat Taggart, with a \$100 bid on a framed fly. It should be noted that his grandfather, at the time, had the highest bid, at \$75. Charlie, always the good businessman, offered Dennis Stead a single wrapped chocolate out of a tin of chocolates that Dennis had just won in the raffle.



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 Pat Taggart: cptaggart@sbcglobal.net

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

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