



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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

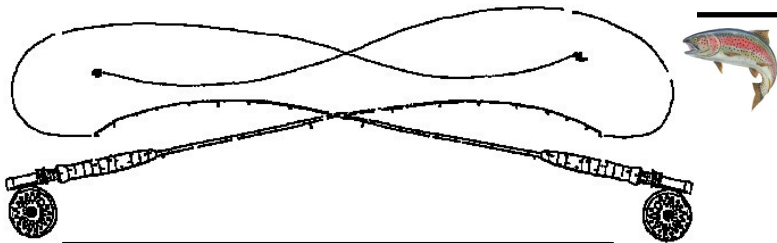
May 2024

Volume 18 No.5

The February Meeting is on May 2
at 6 pm

At the Library Center in Community Room B

April was a doozy of a month! Wind, rain, hail, and tornados did not hamper the fishing! See the fishing reports page to see the success of our members! Kim Schultz is the club's "white bass whisperer" with over 300 hundred white bass caught in the month of April! May is also going to be busy with our club's monthly meeting, club fly tying, and the MTFA derby at Bennett Springs, May 18 and 19. This will be a good opportunity to meet the members of the Kansas City and St. Louis chapters. The White River Fly Fishers have planned an expo, October 11 & 12, in Branson, Missouri. This will be an opportunity for the club members to tie. The location if the Lions Club Community Center. See Bob Randall's thoughts on the eclipse and fish, as well as pending legislation, good reads! Pat Taggart



Springfield Chapter Officers

President: Pat Taggart

417-844-4178

cptaggart@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: Cecil

“Woody” Woodman

417-300-4560

flyfisherwoody@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Dennis Stead

417-380-3687

dmstead@aol.com

Secretary: Jean Smith

417-678-2711

jcljgmjsmith@hotmail.com



Chapter News:

Currently, there are only three members of the Executive Committee—John Owensby, Dick Owensby, and Bill Huyett. There is one opening for the 2-year term, and two openings for the 1-year term. If any of the membership is interested, please contact one of the above committee members, myself, or Kim Schultz.

The club has the following events in 2024:

Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association—Annual Derby May 18 and 19 at Bennett Springs State Park.

Rod Pennington has penciled in the following club fishing outings:

Dates are to be determined—so get your calendars out!

July—Roaring River State Park

September—Stockton Lake for various fish species

White River Fly Fishers Expo—October 11 & 12 at the Lions Club Community Room in Branson, Missouri

Fishing Reports:

Matthew Peet posted the following: 4/2/2024

The whites are starting to show at Beaver Creek, however we are going to have some cooler air move into the area. I plan to try tomorrow morning.

Matt

Michael Kidd:

Fishing is good at Montauk. Caught over 70 today

Mike also provided a picture of a nice carp that he caught!



I have made nine trips to the Little Sac River for the month of April as of this report. I have made several trips with my daughter (Jenn) and Rod. The fishing has been good with eight different species caught and plenty of quality white bass. The total white bass caught for April is greater three hundred (303) with a number of carp over twenty inches.

Some of the smaller white bass made it above Taylor bridge and most of the fishermen are at the bridge and upstream with a few boats making the trip from Aldrich or putting in at the steel bridge. The water temperature has been mid-sixties for the last two weeks. With the recent rain, conditions will change with the lake level coming up.

The osprey have been fishing with a few bald eagles perching along the rivers edge.

Kim Schultz





**Missouri Trout Fishermen's
Association
Invites You to the State (Tagged) Trout
Derby**



We are encouraging a \$10 per person or \$20 per family (donation) as an entry fee to the MTFA Derby. This event can be a great chance to meet other anglers that share your passion for trout fishing, win prizes and fishing itself can be fun too.

Registration at Park Store

Registration starting approximately 7:15 pm Friday evening (May 17th) until store close and Saturday am (May 18th) from 5:30 AM until 6:30AM. Derby Rules available when you Register.

Dennis Stead provided the below information regarding the upcoming White River Fly Fishers Expo—October 11 & October 12.

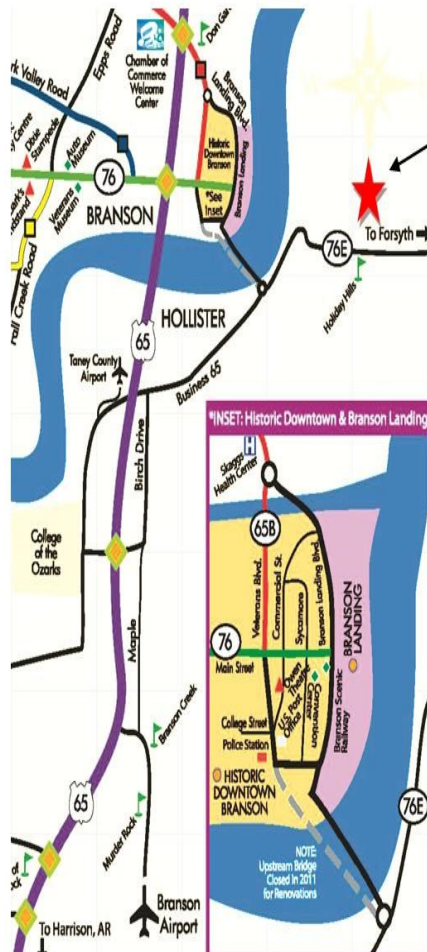


Howard and I just want to let all of you know, that the White River Fly Fishers of Branson Missouri will have their annual fly fishing expo in Branson, Missouri. The dates are October 11th and 12th.

The Lions Club has WIFI. They added Security cameras and the old lighting has been replaced with bright LED lighting. Parking will not be an issue because they purchased 8 acres for additional parking and vendors booths.

We are inviting you to join us and demonstrate your fly tying skills. Howard and I will be managing the fly tiers this year. Below is a sign-up sheet for those of you who want to join us and tie. Please fill out the form completely. Though we might have your information in our data base, it is always good to verify and update it if there are changes. Make your reservations early at your hotel or motel.

You can print, fill out and mail it to the address below, or print, fill out, scan then E-Mail it to either Howard or me. Don't forget to check off the time slot that you would like to tie.



From the Branson Landing – Take State Highway 76 East, cross over Lake Taney-como, through the roundabout heading east on Hwy 76. Around the bend heading up the hill, on you left you will see the BIG YELLOW Lions Club Community Center sign. You have arrived at the WRFF Fly Fishing Expo. Join us for a great time.



1015 East State Highway 76
Branson, MO 65616

Trout and the Eclipse

by Bob Randall

I wasn't fishing during the recent eclipse. I was way too fascinated by the celestial events. However, after it was over and while I was still captured by the excitement, I wondered what it might mean to a trout. To my knowledge there have been no scientific studies of that subject, but there have been proper studies of how trout deal with changes in light intensity.

Unlike the human eye, a trout's eye does not have an adjustable iris; the pupil is fixed in the open position. Combine this with the fact that fish do not have eyelids, and it becomes apparent that trout must have other mechanisms to regulate the amount of light reaching the sensory cells of the retina. Of greatest concern are the rods which are very sensitive and easily damaged by bright light. The cones on the other hand require bright light in order to see color and fine detail. In response to this, two mechanisms have evolved that allow trout to see effectively under changing lighting conditions: In bright light there is an increase in melanin pigments in the upper layer of the retina that shield the rods from bright light during the day (much like wearing dark sunglasses). In addition, the rods physically migrate deeper into the retinal layers where they are exposed to less light. During periods of low light, and at night, the process is reversed; the amount of melanin pigment decreases allowing more light to reach the sensory cells, while the rods migrate closer to the surface of the retina. From past MTFA member Larry Wegmann: "As the light levels change, trout adapt by moving the light receptors in the retina backwards and forwards. Moving the receptors backwards protects the eye from intense sunlight damage as the sunlight comes from behind a cloud. The reverse occurs as the sun hides behind a cloud or the moon. This adjustment is slow, requiring 20 minutes." Since the eclipse didn't last that long, the adjustment must not have been complete.

Using this knowledge, I would expect trout to react much as they do at dusk. They went from normal sunlight to diminished light. That would vary between totality and the partial eclipse areas. So, I guess the trout would experience a short period of dusk, night, and then dawn. I suspect it could also be thought of as a dense cloud passing. Their eyes made an adjustment, albeit over an inadequate time to complete the change. Did it affect their feeding?

I read an anecdotal report that at a nature preserve in Arkansas, the trout began hitting the surface just as they would during an evening insect hatch. Not enough information was given to guess where they were reacting to a normal evening routine or whether insects were actually happening. The former possibility makes more sense.

Another report was that the trout stopped biting, a behavior that would fit well with the knowledge that eye adjustments take time to occur.

It would be nice to have a scientific study for the next total eclipse. Start with the hypothesis that trout react to the diminished light of an eclipse. Gather an adequate amount of data from fishermen concerning the catch rate before, during, and after the eclipse. Use that information to propose a theory that explains that data. Someone else will have to conduct this study because I don't know enough honest trout fishermen (outside of our club, of course) to trust the data they report. Tight Lines.

Bob Randall provided the below regarding pending legislation up at the State Capital in Jefferson City:

CFM—Conservation Federation of Missouri

CFM is opposed to any legislation that would weaken protections for clean water. HB 1691 and SB 981 do just that by changing the definitions of which waters are protected under state law. The definitions proposed under these bills are not based on sound science and would create significant regulatory uncertainty.

These bills are especially detrimental to groundwater and wetlands, both of which play important roles in sensitive ecosystems. By removing groundwater protections from state law, the drinking water supplies for millions of Missourians could be legally polluted, as could many miles of intermittent and ephemeral streams.

Unnecessarily changing definitions for the Waters of the State would harm wetlands, groundwater, wildlife, and drinking water for millions of Missourians while creating regulatory uncertainty and a significant burden for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.”

Others:

[HB 1691: Modifies the definition of "waters of the state"](#) CFM Opposes

[HB 1787: Establishes protections for landowners taking wildlife on the landowner's property](#) CFM Opposes

[HB 2134: Modifies permit requirements and exemptions in relation to Missouri fertilizer and clean water laws](#)

CFM Supports

[HB 1956: Modifies construction permit requirements under the Missouri clean water act for projects involving sewage conveyance or discharge to waters of the state](#) CFM Supports

[HB 1553: Adds an exemption to the sunshine law for state parks records](#) CFM Supports

[HB 1799: Specifies that no more than twenty percent of land within a county may be collectively owned by the state, a county, and municipalities](#) CFM Opposes

Schedule of Events:

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—9PM, 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

September 5, 2024: Fish Fry Mountain Springs Trout Park

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 12, 2024: Chili Feed -Lake Taneycomo Pavilion—starts at noon

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

January 2, 2025: Monthly Meeting 6PM-9PM, Library Center Community Room B

January 23, 2025: Fly Tying 6PM-9PM, Library Center, Community Room B

February 6, 2025: Monthly Meeting 6PM-9PM Library Center, Community Room B

February 27, 2025: Fly Tying 6PM-9PM, Library Center, Community Room B

March 6, 2025: Monthly Meeting 6PM-9PM Library Center, Community Room B

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

April 3, 2024: Monthly Meeting 6PM-9PM Community Room A

April 24, 2024: Fly Tying 6PM-9PM Community Room B



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

Facebook facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/

E-mail MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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