



*www.MTFA-Springfield.org*

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# MO Fishing

April 2008

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**There will be no meeting at the Nature Center for April.**

The MTFA will be teaching the MSU PED 135, fishing class.

The class will be held at Cheek Hall in room 205. It will begin at 6:00 pm and continue until 9:50 pm.

If you are signed up to teach or help, or can go over and lend a hand, have a wonderful experience, and thank you for supporting this great, MTFA project.

Everybody have a good April and we'll see you in May.

### Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Activities for April 2008

<b>April 3</b>	.....	MSU PED 135 Class to start - No Regular Meeting
<b>April 10</b>	.....	MSU Class 6 PM
<b>April 17</b>	.....	MSU Class 6 PM
<b>April 24</b>	.....	MSU Class 6 PM
<b>April 26</b>	.....	MSU Class Bennett Springs

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**From the President**

My introduction to last month’s newsletter started with a “gripe” about cold weather, tornados, and excess rain. This month’s gripe is summarized with “goes around, around and around”. The upside to all of the rain is in the water table. I hope the intermittent stream conditions on the upper sections of Crane Creek and Mill Creek will return to the year round supply I remember from the ‘90’s.

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**MTFA 2008 Trout Derby**

The MTFA trout derby is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Bennett Spring. Registration is from 5:30 – 8 AM each day in the store. Buy your tag and also pay \$5 for the derby registration each day. On Saturday there will be 70 trout stocked in all three areas and 30 fish stocked on Sunday. Because this is a public derby, trout must be stocked throughout the park. A tagged trout caught without registration each day is just another trout.

On Saturday, tags are checked after the MTFA meeting and lunch located at the Gage Hole Pavilion #1 from Noon to 1 PM. The last check-in for the day is from 7:30 – 8 PM at the same pavilion. On Sunday, the check in is from 10:30 – Noon at the pavilion. Last year, 60 trout were turned during the derby.

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**Proposal to be presented at the MTFA-Springfield Meeting April ‘08**

The following proposal was authored by Bill Dowers, former Secretary of the MTFA state organization. If approved by all chapters at the trout derby meeting, 5/17, it will be presented to the Conservation Federation. CFM modification and approval of this proposal will lead to a consideration by the Missouri Conservation Department. The Springfield Chapter of MTFA will be the sponsor of this proposal if approved by the membership in attendance 4/08.

**Change of designation from White Ribbon to Red Ribbon for 6 mile section of the Niangua River.**

Whereas 6 miles of the Niangua River, Bennett Spring Branch, located in Dallas County; P 11, 35N, 18W does currently carry a designation as a cold water fishery, and whereas the hatchery at Bennett Spring State Park, does inject Brown Trout into the fishery, we at the Missouri Trout Fisherman’s Association hereby request this change in designation for the protection of Brown Trout in this section of the Niangua River.

Whereas Brown Trout with a measured length of less that 15” that have swallowed natural “bait” have a high propensity to die due to the deepness of the hook and the difficulty for anglers to release the fish in a “healthy” and “survivable” condition.

Whereas a change in designation by MDC to Red Ribbon for this 6 mile section would increase the number of fish whose overall measured length of 15” or less released unharmed and improve the overall quality of fishing in this section as it pertains to the number and size of Brown Trout.

Whereas it is our belief that “deep” hook sets and “swallowed” hooks produced via bait fishing are limiting factors for the designated area to reach a much higher potential as a Trout fisher.

The above proposal was discussed in the presence of Mike Mitchell, mgr of the Bennett Spring hatchery. He stated that this change in designation has been discussed in the Fishery’s division of MDC. Mike said that sampling of the Niangua has indicated that the greatest loss in Brown Trout populations is directly due to the intolerable water temperatures experienced during the recent drought conditions. The trout concentrate in spring inflow areas and are subject to increased fishing pressure. Mortality results from fighting stress, limited oxygen supply in addition to the current bait fishing status. Previously, 10,000 trout were released once a year with a 50% population retention. Because of the loss of trout and expenditure of time and money, the stocking has been reduced to 5,000 brown trout per year. The thought is that the reduced population density will disperse the brown trout to available shaded areas with adequate oxygen supply. The conclusion is that there is no simple answer to improving the Brown Trout fishery on the Niangua.

## One Fishing Day in March

With temperatures expected in the mid fifties a lot of fishers couldn't resist the call to wet a line. Even the high wind gusts seemed to have little effect on their numbers. A few RV's and even fewer tents suggested that most were day fishers, same as I.

By noon the temperature were cooling off and I was glad I had packed the extra jacket. The wind blew a little harder, thinning the crowd some but most held their position. If you had a spot like it or not, you had better keep it. Odds to find another were slim; I fished the same two pools the entire day.

The water was high but clear and getting a good drift required some high sticking in order to keep the line from being pulled up stream in the back flow. Midges, scuds and San Juan worms had to be heavily weighted to keep them down close to bottom. Even then they were mostly ignored. Rising fish prompted me to change to a #22 BWO and if you could place the fly correctly while fighting the wind before spooking them, the trout would accept the imitation. I netted two before my fly was known pool wide to be a fake and rising trout began to turn away. A foam beetle had the same result with many close inspections but no willing tasters.

A small Black Mayfly size 22 or 24 took up a position on my pack strap. At Roaring River I have observed both caddis and now Mayfly, that were both all black in color. I've seen rising fish many times without ever being able to observe the insect. Usually I assume the unseen bug to be midge flies and often they are as the huge clusters of flies along the bank give the secret away, but on occasion the midge fly clusters are absent and I now wonder if the bugs go unseen because they are black mayflies or black caddis all but invisible against the dark river bottom and shadowed woods. The next trip I'll have a few black parachute style dries to test.

I picked a park bench out and stopped for lunch around three. Most of the big Sycamores have been cut down, I still don't know why and I do not see any replanting in progress. Most of the removed trees didn't shade the water so I don't think much of a change in water temperature will take place. Having a shady place for lunch though will be pretty scarce this summer around zone three. I've heard it second hand that they cut the trees because they were endangering the campers as a limb or entire tree may fall during a storm. If that's the true reason I just don't know what to say about that.

The wind blows occasionally even harder now and the only sound is a fisher's line as he desperately makes some poor attempts at casting. He looks up and down the bank a lot. I figure he's just a little conscious of his casting until I notice he's not wearing a daily tag and now that he's moved a little closer I can see that he has no leader at the end of the bright green fly line. A fisher of fishers I decide and after a few more whips of the line he moves up a couple of pools to repeat the previous act. I hope he's a better agent than he is a caster.

I finish my lunch and quickly move to an opening created by a couple of spin fishers who are moving down to a spot created by a fly fisher who is moving to an undetermined location. I tie the BWO back on and long distance release (LDR) two more rising fish. My next cast catches the only limb hanging over the water. I add my indicator and fly to the already ornately decorated little tree. I count and determine that at fifty cents each there is ten dollars and fifty cents of indicators alone. I call it a day and head back to the car. Looking back at my spot I see that it has already been filled. Nature isn't the only thing that abhors a vacuum.

Back at the car I pack away my gear and strike up a conversation with the guy parked next to me doing the same.

"Catching any," I ask?

"One or two, hard to find a place to fish, he adds, you?"

"Couple on a Blue wing olive."

"Fun catching them on the top, he says through a wide grin, I tossed a beetle for a while and had a lot of lookers until some guy moved in next to me." He couldn't cast and had every fish in the pool ducking for cover. If I was an agent I would have fined him for casting like that."

"No," I say, "if you were an agent you would have said hello and asked if he was catching anyone."

**Fare Winds and Following seas**

**Kevin Smith**

## **Baghdad School of Fly Fishing**

There are a lot of Fly Fishing Schools out there but none probably as important as the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing, [www.baghdadflyfishing.com](http://www.baghdadflyfishing.com). It's a school run by our service men and women currently serving in Iraq. It's probably not much by our standards. Recently they actually acquired a cabinet to store what few rods, reels and assorted fishing gear they have. But they accomplish a lot with a little as to often our service members have to do.

They teach service members to Fly Fish but have recently changed the name of the school to, "The Baghdad Angler's Club and School of Fly Fishing" so even more service members could get involved with fishing, many having never fished before. They teach fishing but as MTFAs members you know it doesn't end there. Think of how much fun and joy you've gotten from fishing. The one that got away, the one that didn't. That one perfect day on the water surrounded by no one and the fish seemed all too eager, practically jumping into your net. That day your fishing buddy fell in up to their eyeballs and still landed the biggest Brown trout you had ever seen, up to that moment. I grin at just the thought of it and if you've not had those experiences yet you will because someone put a Fly Rod in your hand. With a little encouragement and time, you were hooked. That's what the Baghdad school of Fly Fishing really does. Now, you have the opportunity to help create some of those memories for a service member today.

On May 26<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day 2008 I'll be sending a package all the way to Baghdad Iraq hopefully stuffed with everything on the current wish list and more and I hope to add your name to the list of contributors. It doesn't take much to make a big difference in someone's life. It's a pretty small list. It would also be great to put them on our Newsletter emailing list.

### **Wish List**

Fly Rods/Reels – 8 ½ foot 7 wt. with weight forward line. Most of the fishing is for Carp and some Bass.  
Tapered Leaders – didn't specify I would say 0x – 4x  
Tippet 0x – 4x  
Leader  
Olive Woolly Buggers sizes 4-10 with or without bead heads  
Black Woolly Buggers sizes 4-10 with or without bead heads  
Silver Marabou Minnows sizes 4-10  
Dragon Fly Nymphs Sizes 6-10  
Fresh water Shrimp Sizes 8-10  
Other patterns that would work for Carp and Bass  
Small Fly Boxes  
Fishing Magazines – A subscription or two would be great.  
DVD's  
Good Coffee  
Powered Drink Mixes Gatorade, Crystal Light etc. – NO LIQUIDS can be shipped  
Packaged Tuna in Pouches

**Fare Winds and Following Seas**  
**Kevin Smith**

**MARLENE HAD:**

**A Benefit Raffle; Tickets are available at Backcountry Outfitters and MTFA April and May meetings. \$20 each or 6 for \$100.**

A comprehensive list of raffle prizes, that will be updated as new donations come in. So as not to offend any Gracious Donors, the list is in Chronological order, not by value of donations: updated 3/27/08  
Moose Taylor of White River Inn.

**GRAND PRIZE:**

A day on the White or Norfolk rivers with Dave and Emily Whitlock. Two nights accommodation at The White River Inn Luxury fly fishing, B@B Lodge. A Sage fly rod, fly reel, and fly line package (one of each) winners choice. 100 custom flies by Ozarks finest tiers.

**First Prize:**

- 1: A Supreme L42 river boat and trailer. Silver in color. A \$6000.00 value!! Donated by Supreme Boats
- 2: A one of a kind piece of framed artwork with custom framing and flies by Duane Hada Donated by: Rivertown Gallery and Riverbend Framing
- 3: Two nights stay at Rim Shoals Resort and 2 days guided flyfishing with Steve Dally and Mark Poulous. Donated by: Rim Shoals Resort , Mountain River Flyshop and Mark Poulous
- 4: Two nights stay at Lobo Landing and a day of guided flyfishing on the Little Red River Donated by: Lobo Landing
- 5: A guided Crooked Creek smallmouth flyfishing trip and custom smallmouth flies Donated by :Ben Levin
- 6: Simms G3 guide Waders Donated by :Mountain River Flyshop
- 7: Simms G3 guides jacket Donated by: The Woodsman
- 8: One custom tied presentation Atlantic Salmon Fly Donated by : Davy Wotton
- 9: Breakfast or Brunch at Hopkinswoode B@B in Cotter Ark Donated by: Hopkinswoode
- 10: Simms in-vest wader jacket: Donated by: Blue Ribbon Flyshop, Mountain Home Ark
- 11: 1 Custom Crossfire Spinning rod and six dozen Zig Jigs Donated by : Zig Jigs
- 12: Two nights stay at Rivercliff Cabin, and rental boat and fuel Donated by:: Jimmy Traylor
- 13 : Two nights stay at River Creek Cottage, Continental breakfast ,for up to 4 guests Donated By : Old Ferry Road Bed And Breakfast , Anita Derrick
- 14 : Two nights stay at River Ridge Inn on the Norfolk Donated By : River Ridge Inn
- 15 : Two Dvd flytying videos by Tony Spezio Donated By : Tony Spezio

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**Trout Parks Plan Youth Fishing Events In May - MDC Notice**

Each of Missouri's four trout parks set aside one day especially for kids.

JEFFERSON CITY-Four events in May offer children age 15 and younger a chance to learn about trout fishing, enjoy beautiful spring weather and spend quality time with family and friends.

Each year the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and The James Foundation organize Kids Fishing Day events in cooperation with local sponsors. The DNR owns and operates Bennett Spring State Park near Lebanon, Montauk State Park near Salem and Roaring River State Park near Cassville. The James Foundation owns and operates Maramec Spring Park near St. James. The Conservation Department operates trout hatcheries at each facility, supplying the raw material for fun and lasting memories.

MONTAUK STATE PARK - Montauk's Kids Fishing Day runs from 6:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. May 3. Kids can pick up free trout tags at the hatchery office from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 2 or on the day of the event. A section of the spring branch from the CCC Spillway to the Social Hole will be reserved for the youth anglers and stocked with trout all day. Volunteers will be on hand to help young anglers. Children are encouraged to bring their own fishing equipment.

Parents are welcome to help, but only one pole may be used between an adult helper and a child. Adults may not fish by themselves in the area set aside for Kids Fishing Day.

Local sponsors will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and soft drinks from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for participating children. Activities offered throughout the day will include a stream table exhibit, door-prize drawings and trout-fishing seminars, such as fly tying and fly casting.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Individuals wishing to volunteer do not need to be experienced anglers. If you would like to volunteer or donate to Kids Fishing Day, or for more information, call 573/548-2585 or e-mail Tom.Whelan@mdc.mo.gov.

ROARING RIVER STATE PARK - Kids Fishing Day runs from 6:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. May 17 and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 16 at Roaring River. Youth participants can pick up free trout tags at the hatchery office any time the day before each event or on the day of the events. They also will receive stringers, fish posters, fishing activity coloring books and other educational material.

The area from the first low-water bridge upstream to the hatchery will be reserved for youths. This area will also be stocked through out the day. Volunteers will be available to help young anglers. Children are encouraged to bring their own fishing equipment. However, some equipment will be available for kids to borrow. Parents are welcome to help kids, but only one pole may be used between the helper and the child. Adults are not allowed to fish by themselves. Free hotdogs, chips and soda will be available 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Seminars on fish cleaning, fish cooking, archery, knife sharpening, knot tying, fly tying and fly casting, jig tying, how to fish Roaring River and other subjects will be offered throughout the day. The Conservation Department's mobile shooting range will be on hand, too, or participants can take hatchery tours to see how trout are raised. Other activities will include a live snake program, a make-your-own trout fishing T-shirt station and critter-stamp headband making. The nationally known "Fishin' Magicians" will also present two programs.

Kids who attend two classes will receive prizes. Those who attend fly casting classes will be entered in a drawing for complete fly-fishing outfits. Those who attend an archery class will be entered in a drawing for a bow. In addition, trophies will be awarded to boys and girls with the biggest fish and the biggest stringer. There will also be a drawing for free taxidermy mounts among youngsters who catch trout weighing over 3 pounds.

Volunteers at Roaring River Kids Fishing Day events need not be experienced anglers. To volunteer, call 417/847-2430 or email jerry.dean@mdc.mo.gov.

MARAMEC SPRING PARK - May 17 is Kids Fishing Day at Maramec Spring Park. The park will open at 5:30 a.m. with fishing starting at 6:30 a.m. and continuing until 8:15 p.m. Kids fish free, and there will be no parking fee for cars with kids 15 and younger.

The entire upper half of the spring branch will be reserved for their exclusive use. Rainbow trout will be stocked throughout the day to help ensure fishing success. Volunteers will be on hand all day to help kids with fishing. Kids are expected to bring their own fishing equipment.

The Maramec Spring Trout Fishermen's Association will sponsor fishing contests from 6:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. A casting contest will be held at 11 a.m., with 11 trophies to be awarded. Free hotdogs and soda will be provided. Prizes galore will be given away all day long, including bicycles, 50 fishing rod-and-reel sets, other fishing equipment, savings bonds and numerous attendance prizes.

There will be exhibits, contests and activities from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the area around the registration tent. These include making fish-print T-shirts, critter stamping, a stream table, aquarium fish display, taxidermy, photographs, aquatic entomology and games. Fly fishing demonstrations and classes will be held on the stream.

Kids who want to fish must pick up a free fishing tag at the Millfield Shelter adjacent to the fishing area. Included with the free tag is a “goody bag” containing a variety of free items. These will be available the day before Kid’s Day and all day Saturday. The first 1,500 kids to arrive will receive a special “Kid’s Fishing Sports Bottle.”

For more information call 573/265-7801 or email paul.spurgeon@mdc.mo.gov, or visit www.mdc.mo.gov/2921.

BENNETT SPRING PARK – Bennett Spring will host Kids Fishing Day from 6:30 a.m. until 8:15 p.m. May 3. Lunch will be provided for the kids from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Educational programs will be held from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., including fly tying, fish cleaning and cooking, a shooting trailer, the World Bird Sanctuary and a nature center touch tank. For more information, call 417/532-4418.

-Jim Low- MDC

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### Missouri Women Invited To Learn Outdoor Skills

Events offer expertise in everything from fly-fishing to Dutch-oven cooking.

JEFFERSON CITY-Outdoor educational opportunities for Missouri women and families abound this year, with two separate programs offering classes.

Women looking to learn outdoor skills can get training at the Discover Nature-Women (formerly Missouri Outdoor Women) workshop June 6 though 8 at the Windermere Conference Center in Roach, Mo. Classes will include fishing, canoeing, archery, shooting sports and camping. The program is open to women ages 18 and older. Girls 14-17 may attend if accompanied by an adult. A \$20 deposit is required with registration. The registration deadline is May 23. For more information or to register, contact Tracy Tomson at TracyTomson@mdc.mo.gov, 573-522-4115, ext. 3808.

Participants are responsible for making room and meal reservations with Windermere at 573/346-5200 or 800/346-2215.

Women can step into Mother Nature’s classroom in five Wonders of Wildlife National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Schools between April and October around the state. The schools are packed with hands-on classes geared to beginners or experienced outdoor enthusiasts. WOW events are for the whole family. They offer some classes for ages 9 through adult and others for children ages 4 to 8.

WOW event dates are:

- |                                   |  |                                         |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------|
| --April 25 and 26 in Springfield. |  | -Sept. 26 and 27 in Kansas City.        |
| --May 2 and 3 in Columbia.        |  | --Oct. 10 and 12 at Roaring River State |
| --June 6 and 7 in St. Louis       |  | Park.                                   |

Advance registration is required for all programs. For more information, call Wonders of Wildlife 417/890-9453 or visit the website at www.wondersofwildlife.org.

Information also is available at www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/mow/weekend.htm.

-Jim Low- MDC

## 2008MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

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<b>Secretary</b>	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rod Pennington	883-1789

Monthly meetings at the Springfield Nature Center.

The first Thursday of the month at 6 PM for Fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting.

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