



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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MO Fishing

May 2012

Volume 5 No. 5

There will be no meeting at the Nature Center in May.

Here is a note from Kim Schultz:

This Thursday there will not be a regular meeting at the Springfield Nature Center. The MSU class is scheduled this Thursday with the final class on Saturday, May 5th. Our next program will be in June with Nick Gironde discussing the Blue water streams in the Rolla area. Hope to see you next month.

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See you all in June.

Reminder:

May 13th is Mother's Day. Remember Mom's

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter

Activities for May 2012

- May 3 MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM No monthly meeting
- May 4-5 11th Annual Smallmouth Rendezvous Tahlequah OK
- May 5 MSU Fishing Trip to Roaring River State Park 9 AM - 4 PM
- May 19-20 MTFA Derby at Bennett Spring
- June 1-3 Discover Nature Women's Event at Windermere

Club News...

Greetings from Ralph: Hi, been a busy April. Classes at MSU, I believe they are going fine, I've also been teaching the classes at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch and I've tried to do a little fishing. I've managed to catch some pan fish at "pond X", the "pond by the barn" and Table Rock Lake. I plan to fish at the Tri-Lakes pond on April 28 and with the boys at the ranch a few times. So I've got a little fishing in and some more on the way.

Remember there is no club meeting at the Nature Center in May; we'll be with the MSU class at Mountain Spring that evening and then our last class, the Roaring River trip is May 5. Other than that, the big event is the MTFA Derby on May 19th and 20th. There will be information in the newsletter about that somewhere else. Also, don't forget the fish fry in June.

Hope everyone gets some fishing time during May; try to make the Derby. I understand it's always fun and I plan to be there this year. Get out there and enjoy this beautiful time of the year.



May 26 8th ANNUAL FLY FISHING EXPO

Reading's Fly Shop: This year's expo will include casting demonstrations, fly tying demonstrations, and your chance to visit with representatives of major tackle manufacturers from around the country. There will be an hourly raffle; you must be present to win. Again, there will be booth rentals (\$10) for those who want to swap or trade flies and tackle. It will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be at Reading's Fly Shop one mile east of Bennett Spring State Park on Hwy 64.

For information, call (417) 588-4334

Reading's Fly Shop, 11937 Highway 64, Lebanon, MO

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association Spring Derby 2012

Welcome to the 66th Annual Convention and Derby

The Springfield Chapter will host this year's event. Registration will begin on Friday **May 19, 2012 at the Bennett Spring Park Store from 7:00 pm until the store closes with a table set up in the Park Store.** Thanks to Jim Rogers and his staff for their many years of support.

Registration will again take place Saturday morning May 20 at the Bennett Spring Park Store when it opens to sell daily tags and continue until the whistle starts the day of fishing. **Registration will end at 8 AM.**

The **memorial service will begin at 11 AM** at the Memorial Stone with Mike Rissell conducting the service.

The Springfield Chapter will provide a **fish Fry and dinner Saturday evening at 5:30 PM in Shelter A.** Thanks to Rod Pennington, Warren Wilkerson, Sean Schultz and Kim Schultz by providing the fish. A business meeting will follow with induction of new officers and general discussion. Siren will sound at 8 PM to end the days fishing in the park. The sunset will be 8:17 PM.

Picnic Shelter House B at the Whistle Bridge will be the location for Derby events on Sunday where Derby winners must have registered the fish tag and be present to win **before 12 noon.** At the conclusion of the derby prize selection, a raffle for members only will begin.

Have a great weekend, good luck we hope you enjoy the fishing and fellowship in the stream and have an opportunity to attend the events.

And good fishing... Kim Schultz MTFA State President

Wonders of Wildlife Event

Last Saturday members of the MTFA helped when Wonders of Wildlife hosted an event called W.O.W. School. W.O.W. encourages families to come join them for a weekend where they can learn about various outdoor recreational activities. One of the classes W.O.W. offered was fly tying. Unfortunately, the instructor that they had lined up to teach the event was not able to attend. Thanks to the following members for helping on short notice: Charlie Erickson, John Prugger, Norm Collison, Warren Wilkerson, and Kim Schultz. We instructed W.O.W. students and their parents in fly tying and how to tie a wooly bugger. We had a dozen students for two hours. There was without a doubt more interest from the parents; several of them expressed a genuine interest. Thanks to Misty Mitchell for inviting us. We had a good time helping others to learn more about outdoor activities.

Kim Schultz

The EPA Denies a Petition to Restrict Lead Tackle

Written by Rob Brandenburg, Wednesday, 15 February 2012 22:23

Science has prevailed. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has denied a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)—an anti-sportsmen group—that would have precipitated significant restrictions on lead fishing tackle all over the United States. The CBD wanted the EPA to use the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to heavily regulate anglers from using tackle they have long used even though science doesn't support such a measure. The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) has been, and will continue to, fight such unscientific lead bans and restrictions at the state and federal level.

In a letter to the CBD on February 14, 2012 the EPA wrote:

After careful review, EPA has determined that, while the petition does provide evidence of exposure and a risk to waterfowl in some areas of the United States, it does not provide a basis for finding that the risk presented is an unreasonable risk for which federal action under section 6(a) of TSCA is necessary to adequately protect against such risks. Accordingly, EPA is denying your request to initiate a proceeding for the issuance of a rulemaking under Section 6(a) of TSCA to adequately protect against risks posed by fishing tackle containing lead of various sizes and uses that are ingested by wildlife.... Your petition does not demonstrate why federal action is necessary given the mix of regulatory and education actions state agencies and the Federal Government already are taking to address the impact of lead fishing tackle on local environments.

When the CBD began its quest for this unwarranted restriction on fishing tackle in 2010, the CSF responded by working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) in Washington, D.C., and with the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), which serves as the umbrella organization for launching and working with state legislative sportsmen's caucuses now active in 39 state legislatures, to demand such regulations should be based on sound science. However, the CBD filed a new petition with the EPA in November of 2011. This petition asked the EPA to evaluate the unreasonable risk of injury from lead fishing tackle based on sound science and under state jurisdictions. The Executive Council for the NASC, and several state legislative sportsmen's caucuses, wrote letters to EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson asking that she deny the CBD petition. Meanwhile, the CSF rallied legislators in the CSC and in caucuses around the country to demand that any such ban be based on real scientific evidence; after all, the cost to anglers would be real if affordable tackle is taken off the shelves. The EPA subsequently denied the CBD's first petition.

However, the CBD filed a new petition with the EPA in November of 2011. This petition asked the EPA to evaluate the unreasonable risk of injury from lead.*****

MDC NEWS: Table Rock Lake/Lake Taneycomo among 10 “Waters to Watch” for 2012

The Missouri Department of Conservation is sending the media release below as a courtesy to the National Fish Habitat Partnership to help inform you about Table Rock Lake/Lake Taneycomo being selected as one of the Partnership’s 10 “Waters to Watch” projects for 2012. As the release explains, MDC has been working with other partners to maintain and enhance fish habitat in Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo.

POPULAR MISSOURI LAKES RECOGNIZED AS WATERS TO WATCH PROJECT FOR 2012

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (www.fishhabitat.org) has unveiled the 2012 10 “Waters to Watch” list, a collection of rivers, streams, estuaries , watershed systems, shores and lakes that will benefit from strategic conservation efforts to protect, restore or enhance their current condition.

These waters represent a snapshot of this year’s larger voluntary habitat conservation efforts in progress. These and other locally driven conservation projects are prioritized and implemented by regional Fish Habitat Partnerships that have formed throughout the country to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The objective, to conserve freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats essential to the many fish and wildlife species that call these areas home is the foundation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. In Missouri, Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo have been selected as one of the 10 “Waters to Watch” projects for 2012, through the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. Throughout the year, through the work of our partners these projects will be the showcase of conservation efforts working to avoid and reverse persistent declines in our nation’s aquatic habitats. Having featured 60 partnership projects since 2007, the monitoring of these projects proves that partner efforts and strategies do make a difference.

Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo are located in the White River Hills region of the Ozark Plateau along the Missouri-Arkansas border. At conservation pool, Table Rock Lake encompasses 43,100 acres with 745 miles of shoreline, and Lake Taneycomo covers just over 2,000 acres. Table Rock Lake is the second largest of five reservoirs in the upper White River drainage basin which covers over 5,000 square miles in both Missouri and Arkansas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates the recreational use of the lake at between 40 and 50 million visitor visits annually with the economic value of the fishery estimated at \$41 million (1997 estimate). Along with the Branson tourism industry, Table Rock and the other White River impoundments are responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars pumped into the local economies.

This high-profile recreational development has come with an environmental cost. The large number of visitors, as well as increases in confined animal production spaces in the watershed and population growth, has created water quality issues in Table Rock Lake. According to USGS, water clarity at Table Rock Dam decreased by more than 2.5 feet from 1974 to 1994. The Missouri Department of

Conservation (MDC) identified municipal sewage discharges, residential wastewater treatment systems and livestock and poultry wastes as the likely causes of nutrient loading. In response to declining water quality issues, the Table Rock Lake Area Chamber of Commerce formed Table Rock Lake Water Quality (TRLWQ), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, in 1998. TRLWQ is focusing its efforts on failing onsite wastewater treatment systems and other decentralized wastewater treatment systems in the watershed. Estimates are that 75 to 90% of existing systems over 5 years old are failing. MDC has pledged full support of TRLWQ's water quality improvement programs.

TRLWQ received \$2 million in federal funding and along with \$667,000 in local match funded a demonstration project to determine which advanced wastewater treatment systems were best suited for local conditions, along with installation and on-site testing. The project also tested the feasibility of a Responsible Management Entity (RME) to own, operate and maintain the wastewater treatment system so property owners had only to pay a monthly maintenance fee. TRLWQ identified Ozarks Clean Water Company as the RME and expects active service connections to number in the thousands.

Lack of structural habitat in Table Rock Lake was identified by MDC as a limiting factor of fish community stability. The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership's reservoir habitat assessment has also identified "lack of structure" as a major impairment of reservoirs in this region. In 2007, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), in cooperation with Bass Pro Shops, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC), began working on a five-year project to maintain and enhance the fish habitat in Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo. This project is part of the NFWF's National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) and More Fish Campaign and is designed to be a pilot project in a broader national program focusing on habitat restoration within reservoirs. A total of \$4.5 million was earmarked to spend on the 5-year project.

Between October 2007 and September 2011, 1,650 fish habitat structures were installed in Table Rock Lake, including 1,460 brush structures, 104 rock piles, 49 stump fields, 11 rock/stump combination piles and 26 shallow water rock fence structures. Structure locations are recorded by GPS and are available to the public on the MDC website. In addition to the structural habitat portion of the project, eight cost-share projects for erosion control and sediment reduction in the Table Rock Lake watershed were initiated.

Habitat improvements to the upper portion of Lake Taneycomo began in November 2011 and will include large rock structures designed to increase holding areas for trout and other fish, as well as increase locations for anglers to fish. Project publicity has been a success, with the cooperation of our various partners and other media outlets and businesses.

Evaluation and monitoring of the fish habitat structures began in 2010. Four evaluation techniques are utilized, three of which are underway: electrofishing surveys of habitat treated coves, SCUBA

observations of selected habitat structures and radio-telemetry tracking of largemouth bass in the Kings River Arm. The fourth evaluation technique, an angler creel survey, is set to begin in 2012

The Table Rock Lake NFHI project builds upon a long-standing public/private partnership in southwest Missouri to improve and restore fish habitat in Table Rock Lake, Lake Taneycomo and their watersheds through cover augmentation, watershed management and other water quality-related projects. This project has proven to be an excellent opportunity to proactively maintain and enhance fish habitat in and around two of the Midwest's most popular sport fisheries and is providing a national example for sustaining and improving reservoir sportfish populations through large-scale habitat improvements.

“Large-scale reservoir habitat restoration efforts are larger and more costly than any one agency, state or federal, can undertake on its own.” said Jeff Boxrucker, Coordinator for the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, “Partnerships among agencies, local communities, and resource users are vital to addressing these issues, not only to sustain high quality recreational opportunities but to maintain the quality and quantity of water needed by consumptive users

.”Since 2006 The National Fish Habitat Partnership has been a partner in 342 projects in 45 states benefiting fish habitat. “Our approach—teaming local, state, tribal, and federal agencies with private partners and stakeholders is the most strategic way we can make a difference in benefiting fish habitats,” said Kelly Hepler, Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Board. “By watching these 10 models of our nation’s aquatic conservation efforts underway, we can see real progress. Too often we have focused on treatment of symptoms with limited success. Through sound science and on-the-ground locally driven partnerships, these select Action Plan projects can be held high as a vision of what quality habitat should and can be, and how it benefits all people throughout the United States.”

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is built on a framework of National Fish Habitat Partnerships. These regional-scale efforts include, the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the Western Native Trout Initiative, the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, the Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, the Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership, the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, the Fishers and Farmers Partnership, the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership, the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, the California Fish Passage Forum, the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership. There are also four “Candidate” Fish Habitat Partnerships that have stated their intent to apply for full NFHAP Board recognition.

About the National Fish Habitat Partnership:

The National Fish Habitat Partnership works to conserve fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal, state, and private funding sources to achieve the greatest impact on fish populations through priority conservation projects. The national partnership implements the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and supports 18 regional grassroots partner organizations.

<http://www.fishhabitat.org>

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2012 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

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Monthly meetings at the Springfield Nature Center are the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM for Fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting.

Committee Chairs

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