



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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MO Fishing

February 2007

Volume 8 No. 2

The next MTFA meeting will be February 1st at the Springfield Nature Center; the activities will start at 6PM with fellowship and members demonstrating basic fly-tying. The business meeting will start at 7 PM.

On the agenda will be to discuss the Sweet Heart banquet February 8th 5:30PM at the Golden Corral, Trout week at Bass Pro February 24th - 25th, and the on going project at Bass Pro with the fly rod and reel display. These topics and more will be discussed. John will be looking for tyiers to demonstrate for the public during Trout week and will be asking for volunteers. John will discuss this past Saturday at Bennett Spring with adult and youth fly fishing through the MDC. He thanks John Prugger, Norm Collison, Joe Simecek, Deanna and Michael Porter for their support by helping with this outing.

Dennis Mount will speak and lead a discussion on Kayak fishing. He will provide his insight to equipment, where to purchase a kayak and tips to get started on the water. Dennis and his family spend many days on James River south of Nixa and he will share his experiences on the river for small mouth and camping.

Note the article from Robert Inguagiato or A.K.A. "Kayak Bob" from Eudora spring; Bob provides his insight to kayaks and his passion for them. Bob is known to be an outstanding fisher on the Little Sac River, fishing late winter to early summer for walleye and white bass.

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter

Activities for 2007

February 1	.....	Regular Meeting Fly tying @ 6 PM Meeting @ 7 PM
February 8	.....	Valentines Party
February 24,25	.....	Bass Pro- Trout Week
March 1	.....	Opening day for Trout Season at MO State Parks Regular Meeting tying @ 6 PM Meeting@ 7:00 PM
March 16, 17	.....	Sowbug Mountain Home Ark. Sponsored by North Ark. Fly fishers
March 16, 17, 18	.....	Bass Pro Classic
March TBA	.....	MTFA Pre-Derby meeting Bennett Spring State Park
March 29	.....	MSU PED 135 Class to start

Web Page update: MTFA-Springfield.org

The web site has been updated, modified and on a new server. Brent has been working on the site for the past month and it looks quite impressive with each page providing a different state park or nature photo. The move to a new server was for Brent's benefit for easier accessibility to modify and edit the web site. Please check it out and provide Brent with feedback. Thanks... Kim

Library

More stuff for the library (Howard talks like it won't be to long before we can use his building) Mike Kyle gave us three books:

1. Fly-tying how to get started
2. Step by step rod building
3. Graphite rod repair, they are small books but have good info in them.

We bought 4 books and 1 DVD for the club:

1. The bench side introduction to fly tying, by Ted Leeson & Jim Schollmeyer
2. Tying bass flies, 12 of the best, by Deke Meyer
3. Tying trout flies 12 of the best, by Deke Meyer
4. Beginners guide to fly-tying, by Chris Mann and Terry Griffiths
5. DVD fly-fishing for bass and pan fish, by Skip & Carol Morris

I will add them to the library this weekend unless we have a power failure from the ice.

Thanks, Charlie

Considering a Kayak, here is some good advice from Kayak Bob....

I'm biased but think for this area, the kayak offers a very viable option at a modest price. I have used kayaks for fishing for about 12 years or so, in both fresh as well as saltwater. Kayak fishing in saltwater is still the way more popular than using them in fresh water. One day it will catch on in freshwater but it hasn't arrived yet. I have a few opinions on kayaks as a fishing platform but the most important one is **to try out a number of kayaks before making a final purchase**. There are many pros and cons for the different types of fishing kayaks but how it fits for you and your body type and comfort level is very individualistic. There are very few fishing kayak dealers in the Springfield area. Bass Pro is the only one I know of in this area, and of course you are limited to what they carry, which is again pretty limited. There is a number of fishing kayak dealers in northern Arkansas, especially in the Bull Shoals area. Again, try out a few kayaks before you make your final purchase. I am going to recommend three different websites which are rich warehouses of information about fishing kayaks:

www.kayakfishingstuff.com, this one has a great review of the different types of fishing kayaks on the market

www.texaskayakfisherman.com, this one is the premier site for kayak fishing, both salt and freshwater, you do not need to be a member to navigate their site and it is rich with information and opinions and if you are willing to travel to south Texas you will find lots of used kayaks for sale on this site; in many cases the money you save on a used kayak is substantial.

www.kayakfishing.com, this is the original site for kayak fishing and offers free services where you tell them what you are going to use the kayak for and your body size etc. and they will email you their opinion of what kayaks are best for you.

I have a preference for sit-on-top kayaks vs. the sit in kayak. Dennis uses a sit in kayak as you know. The sit in kayak will keep you drier and offers some protection from the sun on your lower body. Generally, the sit in kayak is nowhere as stable as the sit on top kayak. If you are never going to get out of your kayak while fishing then the sit in kayak can be potentially more comfortable for you in the cooler months, but pretty toasty in the summer. I use my fishing kayak as both a fishing platform and also as a method of transportation to get from spot A to spot B. If you are using it for both purposes then you still will have to wear waders in the cooler months. Wearing waders in a sit in type can get mighty warm, even in the winter. Generally, the sit in type will be lighter and shorter making it a little easier to transport. Most of the sit in types are made for white water and can offer quicker turning etc. The three reasons I don't prefer sit in types are: less stable, much warmer in the summer, and since I use the kayak for both transportation to get to many spots that I will get out and wade fish, as well as a fishing platform I am wearing my waders most of the time during cooler months any how.

Why I like sit on types. Much more stable. If you are anchored somewhere fishing from your sit on type you can literally turn yourself on the seat and hang your legs over the side like a raft and comfortable fish from it as if it were a raft. In salt water many fishermen will stand on the seat of a sit on top kayak and cast from a standing position. I have never tried the standing up routine but it is done often by people fishing the saltwater flats. In the summer I fish in my shorts making the sit on type much more comfortable and cooler. In the winter I wear waders allowing me to get out at some of my favorite spots, stay dry, fish, and then hop back on the kayak and fish from it if I choose. I think a sit on type is much easier to rig for fishing than a sit in type. I have rod holders etc. on my kayak, and I know of people who have fish finders etc. installed as well. Most of the sit on type kayaks are longer than a sit in type making them track more true in the water, but if you were navigating lots of white water then the extra length would be a disadvantage. I left the white water experiences back in my past life so that is not a concern for me.

I have used sit on top kayaks in saltwater and freshwater and have never tipped one (probably shouldn't say that because that's when it will happen). It is certainly possible to tip any kayak if you try, but the sit on top type you have to go way out of your way to tip one. If you plan on using it for some lake fishing as well as river fishing then a sit on top kayak is the very best choice. If you are going to be in water where you will have to drag it over gravel bars etc. then make sure the kayak is not made of fiberglass, Kevlar etc. or it will bring tears to your eyes. The material used for sit on top as well as many sit in kayaks is some composite plastic made for lots of abuse. One of the few ways you can hurt a sit on top type is to have it fall out of your truck or car. I drag mine over lots of gravel bars etc. and it gets scratched but it is only cosmetic. I have had it flipped in sand bars while I was riding waves in from the ocean etc. and not a sign of any damage.

Now for my favorite kayaks if I was going to buy one today. I currently own an Ocean Kayak Scupper Classic that I bought used from a canoe/kayak place on Beaver Lake in Arkansas. I rigged my kayak for fishing and like it but the following kayaks are ones that have caught my eye in the last couple of years and are made and rigged for fishing:

- **Ocean Kayak, Prowler.** (This model comes in a P13 and P15, differences mainly in the length)
- **Wilderness Systems, Tarpon 120 or 160/**
- **Wilderness Systems**
- **Ride 135 Heritage Redfish**

Unless you are going to do lake fishing or ocean fishing there is no need to have a rudder on your kayak, plus it adds an extra couple of hundred dollars to the cost. All these kayaks can be bought between 700-900 dollars new and half that cost if you can get one used. I hope this information is helpful. As you can tell I have a love for kayak fishing and can talk about it for hours. I use to be an editor for a place called the International Kayak Fishing Association. It never really took off and I got paid in free tee shirts. At some point in your kayak fishing experiences, you will really enjoy the difference between an ordinary kayak paddle and a carbon fiber one. They are expensive and for the first couple of years you probably won't notice the difference, but what a difference it makes if you are out on a kayak for hours on end. They are feather light and if you do a lot of paddling your shoulders and back will love you for it.

Anatomy of a Fly Line

By Pat Hinchliffe – taken from the Pikes Peak Flyfishers newsletter

The “weight” of a fly line is based on the weight, in grains, of the front 30 feet of fly line. This standardization of fly line rating allows line and rod manufacturers to coordinate their efforts in designing rods and lines that are perfectly matched with each other. At the time that these standards were adopted, 30 feet was considered a reasonable length of line needed to adequately load the rod.

Since rod stiffness has changed over the years, many line manufacturers are now “pushing” the weights of their lines to the top end of the spectrum to help fully load the newer rod materials. Some anglers routinely move up a line weight for a specific rod.

The lines and weight most fly fishers are concerned with are:

Line weight: Wt in grains of the first 30 feet

3	94-106
4	114-126
5	134-146
6	152-168
7	177-193
8	202-218
9	230-250

While there are literally dozens of fly line brands in the world, all of them are made by one of only 7 manufacturers. They are Cortland, Rio, Scientific Anglers, Monic, Northern Sport Fishing Products, Airflo and Shakespeare. The first 4 are located in the US. Basically, all fly lines are nothing more than a core covered in a coating. All the characteristics of a fly line, its weight, whether it floats or sinks, if it is weight forward or double taper, are controlled by those 2 factors. Applying the coating is by far is the most important and secretive part of the process. The cores of all fly lines are typically made of braided nylon, solid nylon mono or hollow core nylon fiber. Kevlar, Dacron and other synthetics have been tried over the years, but, so far, nothing works as well nylon. Braided nylon is the most common, since it retains the least coil memory and is the supplest, especially in cold weather. Typical break strengths for braided cores are 12 pound test for 3 weight and lighter, 20 pound test for 4-8 weight and 30 pound test for 9 weight and heavier. Once the core is made, stretched, dyed, singed and heat set, it's ready for the secret coating process to begin. This is where things get complicated very quickly. The core is passed through a series of dyes where the coating is applied; these dyes open and close at specific times to allow the coating to build up or be reduced, thus producing the tapers. All these processes have been done on 2,500 foot lengths of line. After coating, the lines are cut to length in the right spots, hand inspected, boxed, labeled and shipped to stores around the world.

MSU CLASS UPDATE

I want to take this opportunity to say that I am tremendously pleased and happy with our club members who have given their time and energy to make our Missouri State University “Beginning Fly fishing class” such a tremendous success. All of you are to be congratulated more than I can express. Some of you have been at every class session and field trip and many of you have been to the majority of the classes and trips. It is this type of commitment and dedication to our clubs mission that all of us can be proud of.

We are now preparing for our tenth class and it is my hope that our new members will do so this spring. You too will enjoy the personal satisfaction of watching young people learn a skill that they can enjoy and participate in for a lifetime. It is a joy and a thrill to watch a young man or woman tie a fly or catch a fish on a fly line for the first time.

In talking with Mike and Jim at Backcountry they have stated that a number of our past students come into the shop for materials and equipment. This proves that some of our students have taken up the sport that we so enjoy. Promoting our sport is one of the main goals of our club; let us continue the good work. I thought you might be interested in some data relative to what our class has produced so I sat down and put the pencil to our records and came up with the following:

1. The first class was taught in the fall of 2002 with 10 students. Since that time we have taught 9 classes with a total of 124 students. This spring we have 18 students enrolled which will give us a grand total of 142 students.

- As I stated earlier this is our main goal = Promoting our sport.

2. From the financial perspective, considering what we get paid from the University plus receive students fees, we have produced \$10,282 for our club activities in which we all enjoy. At the end of this springs class that total will be approximately \$11,530.

As you plan your schedule for this spring, please mark your calendars with the times of the spring class. The class meets in Cheek Hall Room 205 from 6:00pm until 9:50pm. The meeting dates are Mar. 29, Apr. 12, 19, 26 and May 3 with the trip to Bennett Springs on Sat. May 5th from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The class outlines have been written and will be handed out at our regular meeting in March. Parking passes will also be available at that time.

Once again - Thank you for making this a great Success!!!!

Charles Erickson

Education Chair

Quest for the Perfect Loop by Bruce Richards

I've been studying fly lines, casting and loops for a long time now and think I'm finally starting to get it. Slow, I know, but at least it's happening. Here's what I've learned in the last few years about making perfect loops, which just happen to be the ones that require the least energy to make, work best in wind, are most accurate and go the farthest, and who wouldn't want those?

First, we all know that a straight line tip path makes tight loops, but, based on the variety of loops I see, not everyone knows what it takes to make the tip go straight. This summer and fall Noel Perkins and I have done many casting clinics where we have analyzed hundreds of casts using the [Sage Casting Analyzer](#) (SCA). Many of these casters have been quite talented, several CCIs, some MCIs. Some were avid beginners (who made the quickest progress, by the way, not thinking they already know everything!). There was an incredibly common theme to what we said to nearly EVERY caster at every level to improve their loops, and here they are, THE secrets to great loops...

1. Delay, rotation, then
2. Apply constant acceleration to a ...
3. Hard Stop

OK, so not big secrets, but many of the casters we worked with swore they were doing all three and believed so until proven otherwise by the cold, hard data on the SCA. Granted, most were close to ideal, but not quite there and what wasn't perfect in their rotation, acceleration, and/or stop were precisely what kept their loops from being "perfect".

So, if your loops aren't quite as tight, top pointed and sexy as you'd like, here's some advice that I would nearly trust with my life, without even seeing you cast...

1 - Concentrate on delaying rod rotation a bit longer than you do now. Nearly everyone who is short of "casting god" status starts every stroke with some early, very slow rotation that raises the rod tip and prevents perfect loops. This is subtle, but critical, we're trying to make a very good cast into a great one.

2 - The rate of acceleration of the rod butt must be as close to the same at the beginning of the stroke as it is at the end. Yes, the rod will be going much faster at the end than the beginning, but the rate of acceleration should be constant in getting the rod from slow to fast. I know this goes counter to what many have said and written, and even to what many of us think we do, but ALL the best casters we've analyzed had very constant acceleration, regardless of what they thought they were doing.

3 - Stopping the rod quickly IS important (and there is no such thing as a "stopless" cast, Paul...). Of course, how we define "stop" is important. I think of it as the act of decelerating the rod, the same as we "stop" a car, a deceleration. Of course some (Paul) think it is the state of the rod when it is motionless, but I digress... The slower the rod decelerates the farther it rotates during the process, which opens and rounds the loop. A faster deceleration limits rotation during the stop tightening and sexifying the loop. Yes, a new term that the definitions committee is now working on.

I will probably get drummed out of the casting instructors union for revealing how simple it is to cast perfect loops, and I'm sure Paul will disagree with all of this, but that should be a sure sign to you that it is all true!

Bruce Richards's bwrichards@mmm.com is one of the world's leading authorities on fly-casting, fly lines and [imaginary saltwater tactics](#). He is an inventor of fly casting machines, a fly slinger [of some repute](#) and of course, an active board member. What Bruce doesn't know about fly lines, probably isn't worth knowing. In fact some of what Bruce "does" know about fly-lines you probably wouldn't want to know either.

Roaring River State Park, Cassville, MO

Fishing Report 1/21/2007 or the big one that got away by Kevin Smith

Heavy gray overcast sky with air temp around thirty-four degrees. The rain mixed with sleet started falling about five minutes after my first cast but it was still to warm to stick. I started fishing in the second to last hole above Dry branch with the intention of working my way up to the first bridge crossing the water. The water is very high and flowing quite fast, beautiful light green water. I don't see any fish rising and I want to try some new midge patterns I tied over the recent new ice age we all experienced. By the time I got to the third hole up I had tied on four different patterns, adjusted the depth as many times and had managed to catch one tree branch and a short conversation with one of the three people I could see in either direction. He was fishing drys and had landed a couple. Moving to the next hole above my fellow fisherman I change my pattern again to a Black Zebra Midge and set the depth about eighteen inches below the indicator.

Fish on!! First cast, another on the third and then another and yet another and they were hammering it. All nice fish twelve to fourteen inches with a lot of fight combined with the current, a 7x tippet and a three weight rod, I was having a blast. The sleet had started coming down a little harder and it was starting to stick some in the grass. I know I should head for home but I was catching fish practically every other cast.

Then I saw him, a huge rainbow swimming up stream like a lumbering yellow catfish skimming the surface on a hot summer evening. I cast just in front of him and overcastted just a little to his far side but he turned and sucked down that little black midge and was hooked. Instantly I started talking to myself trying to build up confidence that I could land this one. Down stream he goes, then all the way up to the top of the pool. Back and forth all the time I take up the slack and he takes it all back. Five minutes, ten minutes I don't know, he was working his way down stream for the third time farther this time I wanted to turn him away from the falls but not sure if the tippet could take it. He did just what I feared, at the falls he flipped up, grinned at me... I think and fell over the falls breaking my line. I look up stream then down, not a single witness to my efforts even the fellow fisherman I previously conversed with had long since fled for the security of home. I stare at my indicator hanging with the crooked bit of line that is created after a break and slowly I become aware that the sleet was really starting to stick now so I figure it best to head for home. Consoled in the fact that it is better to have fished and lost than to have never fished at all, a great day on the water and another story I can tell.

Fare winds and following seas.

Kevin Smith