



Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association

Springfield Chapter

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MO Fishing

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

Our guest speaker will be Tim Rielly. Tim is with the Missouri Department of Conservation in Jefferson City and a stream team volunteer monitoring coordinator. Tim will present a program entitled "Aquatic Monitoring in Missouri, What We Do and How You Can Help"; a discussion detailing the effects of storm water on the aquatic ecosystems. If you have an interest to know more about Stream Team, Tim will be able answer your questions. If you have an interest to know more about macro-invertebrates; stream team is a great place to start. For more information about Missouri Stream Teams, try www.mostreamteam.org

On the agenda will be a follow up discussion of activities at Bass Pro February 24th - 25th, and the Bass Pro Classic with the club providing a fish pond; these topics and more will be discussed. John will be looking for help with the fish pond during the classic and will be asking for volunteers. John will discuss this past weekend at Bass Pro and wishes to thank the following for their help during Trout Week: Les Wilson, Cletus Hermann, Joe Simecek, John Prugger, Kevin Smith, Howard Hawkins and Dennis Mount.

We thank Joe Curry for the supplies he passed on to the club (waders, vises, tying material, tying bench and more). He had been very active over the years teaching youth fly tying and providing instructions for fly fishing; Joe is a long time member of Southwest Flyfishers. It has been two years since he has been involved with the youth and felt it was time to pass on the materials to us. We thank Joe for his generosity.

MSU CLASS UPDATE

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.

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

A review of the “Streamworks – Modular Tippet Dispenser”
By Kevin Smith

If you have an eye for gadgets the Modular Tippet Dispenser from Streamworks (\$14.95) has the appearance of a must buy gizmo.

The kit includes three dispensers and two swivel clips. Each module has a built in line cutter and interchangeable labels that identify the contents by size. The clear covers also aids in tippet identification, however when the modules are locked together only the front module’s contents can be viewed through the cover. This makes it impossible to determine 7X fluorocarbon from 7X mono. I color code the labels with a highlighter to indicate which module contains fluorocarbon tippet. Loading the module is a little cumbersome at first, keeping the swivel clip in place, not pinching the rubber line guide and aligning the two retaining clips that hold the shell halves together takes a little practice. To date I’ve had no problems with the module not holding large spool sizes but, oddly shaped spools like “Frog Hair” will bind. To eliminate this problem I removed one of the tension arms and bent the other so it applies less tension on the spool. Large spools also require some tension arm adjustment.

A small rubber guide keeps the tippet from binding between the two halves of the module. I have concerns with the durability of the guide but to date I can see no signs of wear. The built in line cutter is great and using it keeps enough of the tippet outside of the module to keep it from being pulled back into the dispenser.

The price of the system is about double of a good post type dispenser and you are limited to three sizes and types of tippet. Of course you could purchase more modules, (three at a time, no single modules are sold, as far as I know) or load the modules on the fly. No pun intended.

All three modules locked together create a somewhat bulky profile so I prefer to use the dispensers separately, keeping my current tippet hanging from my vest or lanyard and the others two in a pocket. One of which has no swivel clip.

I don’t know why you don’t get the same number or clips as dispensers, it’s like hot dogs and buns use to be... I guess.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Kevin

Opening Day for trout at State Parks

Opening-day attendance at Missouri's four trout parks is expected to be modest, since March 1 falls on a Thursday. Even so, hatchery managers plan to stock approximately 24,000 trout in anticipation of 8,000 anglers showing up for the event. Trout opener likely to draw modest crowds, but fish will be out in force. A Thursday opener favors moderate attendance at the state's four trout parks.

JEFFERSON CITY-Catch-and-keep season at Missouri's four trout parks begins March 1, and while good weather is not guaranteed, officials with the Missouri Department of Conservation say thousands of people will turn out for the event, regardless of conditions.

Missouri has three trout parks owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Bennett Spring State Park (SP) near Lebanon, Montauk SP near Salem and Roaring River SP near Cassville. The fourth trout park is Maramec Spring Park south of St. James. The James Foundation owns and operates this park. All four parks operate on Central Standard Time March 1 through 10 and on Daylight Savings Time after that.

The Conservation Department operates hatcheries at all four trout parks, and stocks approximately three fish per angler for opening day. How do hatchery managers know how many anglers to expect?

"We have attendance records going back more than 50 years," said Coldwater Hatcheries Supervisor George Kromrey. "With decades of figures to base our predictions on, we have a very good idea how many anglers to expect on a particular day of the week." Kromrey said weather is the wild card when it comes to predicting opening-day turnout. However, even extremely cold, snowy or rainy weather does not seem to deter most anglers. "Opening day is a tradition for lots of people," he said. "It is a social event and a way of marking the changing of the seasons. Most people are going to come, regardless of the weather."

Projections for this year are for a turnout of 2,300 anglers at Bennett Spring, as many as 2,200 at Montauk, 2,000 at Roaring River and 1,500 at Maramec Spring.

This year's opening-day attendance could top 8,000 with favorable weather. The record of 14,947 was set in 1992, when the opener fell on Sunday.

The DNR expects to have Bennett Spring SP ready for visitors in time for the trout opener. Trees in the park sustained heavy damage from January's ice storms, but the Division of State Parks pulled out all the stops to get storm debris cleared. The park's headquarters and cabins did not sustain any damage.

Anglers at Montauk SP will find a few changes from last year. These include bank-stabilization work along the spring branch, making the fishable area larger and safer. Near the spring, anglers will find several new boulders, which will create spots for trout to hide in and help control bank erosion.

Regular visitors to Maramec Spring Park also will find some changes. The Conservation Department paid for placement of 90 boulders more than 3 feet in diameter in the stream to improve trout habitat. Also, some holes were dredged to deepen them.

On opening day each year, Conservation Department hatcheries at each trout park release up to 100 large brood trout that are no longer needed for hatchery operations. These range from 3 to 6 pounds each, compared to about 1 pound for the average trout-park fish.

To get the most angling fun from these "lunkers," the Conservation Department encourages anglers to catch and release them. The "I Released a Lunker" program provides a patch to sew on fishing vests for anglers who return fish 18 inches or longer to the water. Anglers who catch and release lunkers at each of the four trout parks get a Grand Slam Patch around which the other four patches can be sewn. To qualify, you must immediately release the fish in good condition and have a witness to verify the release. Applications are available at hatchery offices at the parks.

The Conservation Department also has a recognition program for first-time anglers. The First Fish Award Program recognizes this landmark in new anglers' careers with a certificate suitable for framing. The First Fish Award application is available online at www.mdc.mo.gov/62 or from Fisheries Information Specialist Randy Noyes, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, 573/522-4115, ext. 3593.

Missouri's trout parks remain popular tourist destinations throughout the eight-month catch-and-keep season. Last year the Conservation Department sold 413,800 daily trout fishing permits at the parks. Besides providing recreational opportunities for Missourians, the parks also boost the flow of tourist dollars into the Show-Me State. At Roaring River SP, which sells more than 100,000 daily trout tags per year, more than half the anglers come from out of state.

Anglers can reduce the amount of time they have to stand in line by purchasing fishing permits before arriving at trout parks.

For more information about Missouri state parks, call (800) 334-6946 or (800) 379-2419 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or visit www.mostateparks.com.

-Jim Low- (MDC)

FFF NEWS and ITEMS OF INTEREST

- FFF Conservation Update – November 2006 thru January 2007

Contacting Leah Elwell - Conservation Coordinator at conserve@fedflyfishers.org

Announcements:

- National Conclave will be in Livingston, MT on July 31 – August 4. We are accepting submissions for Conservation Conclave Programs until April 2, 2007
- Next deadline for Conservation Grant Proposals: March 15, 2007 Positions/Letters/Press Releases:
- Submitted letter opposing riders on legislation from Senator Craig (ID) that would weaken protection for salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest (11/06)
- Submitted letter urging Senator Thomas (WY) to designate the Snake River as Wild and Scenic
- Submitted letter to PacifiCorp regarding Klamath River dam re-licensing with several fishing organizations (11/06).
- Submitted letters regarding energy extraction and protection of specific areas from extraction in the West to Senator Burns (MT) and Secretary Kempthorn with Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (11/06).
- Submitted comments on BLM Bristol Bay Draft EIS Plan (12/06). The BLM Anchorage Field Office has prepared a draft Bay Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This plan will provide a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating uses of the BLM-administered public lands and resources within the Bristol Bay and Goodnews Bay areas of southwest Alaska. The plan will also provide direction for site-specific activity planning in the future. FFF position: we do not support any mining in this area. Information about the plan can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/ado/BayRMP01.html>
- Submitted letter to Montana Senate supporting 250' setbacks for development projects in Montana river riparian areas (12/06). The Montana Stream Legacy Act requires all new homes and commercial buildings to be set back at least 250 feet from the mean high water mark of identified Tier 1 streams. <http://water.montana.edu/setback/>
- Submitted letter to Senator Crapo supporting the re-introduction of the Tax Incentive Bill regarding Endangered Species with over 15 hunting, fishing and wildlife organizations (via Fish Net) (1/07). A bipartisan effort to further use of conservation incentives is underway in the U.S. Senate, where on December 6 Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced The Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2006 (S. 4087) with Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AK), Max Baucus (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA) as cosponsors. The bill would offer \$400 million a year in tax credits, along with other tax deductions and exclusions, to landowners who take voluntary steps to help endangered or threatened plants or animals on their property.
- The Federation of Fly Fishers has been actively involved in the fight to recover salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest for the last twenty years. In the form of numerous legal actions, sportsman conservation working groups and outreach, the FFF has weighed in to help protect salmon and steelhead.

Our very active FFF Steelhead Committee, dedicated to the preservation of wild steelhead, has been a long-time advocate. The Osprey Newsletter, generated by the Steelhead Committee, has publicized the science, management and fishing of wild salmon and steelhead. The FFF continues to protect wild salmon and steelhead for our future generations.

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Activities for 2007

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 15, 16, 17	.....	Sowbug Mountain Home Ark. Sponsored by North Ark. Fly fishers
March 15,16, 17, 18	.....	Bass Pro Classic Fish Pond
March TBA	.....	MTFA Pre-Derby meeting Bennett Spring State Park
March 29	.....	MSU PED 135 Class to start

- ✓ Do not forget the 2007 Sowbug in Mt. Home Arkansas March 15, 16, and 17, located at the Redeemer Lutheran Church. For more details check out <http://www.northarkansasflyfisher.org>

2007 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	John Dozier	753-9118
1st Vice President	Charles Gregory	833-3169
2nd Vice President	David Duncan	833-3562
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	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.

Education Chair - Charlie Erickson
Social Chair - Simecek/Collison/Burkhart
Newsletter Editor - Kim Schultz
Librarian - Charles Gregory
Equipment - John Prugger
Web Page - Brent Simmons
Membership Chair - Howard Hawkins
FFF Contact - Howard Hawkins
CFM/MTFA Contact - Rod Pennington
Public Relations - John and Dorothy Prugger