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MO Fishing

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February Meeting

Our guest speaker for the February meeting is Gary Flippin. Gary is a native of Cotter, Arkansas; he has spent a lifetime learning the intricacies of the White River. He and his better half, Paula, own and operate Rim Shoals Resort on a famous stretch of the river by the same name.

Even though he has only known the watershed as a cold-water fishery, his dad sure remembered “the good ol’” days.” The senior Flippin was a commercial fisherman who depended on catfish to support his family and was not happy about the change. “I always say that my momma was the one who started catch-and-release. I remember her hollering out the door, “You bring any of those trout back here and I’ll whip your butt,” says Gary.

Gary Flippin spent his early years chasing trout. “When we grew up, we just took the river for granted,” he said. “We thought it was natural to go and catch five-pound trout. I would show a buddy a 10-pound trout one day and he’d show me a 14-pounder the next. That’s just the way it was.”

Gary is well respected in the river community. He has served as the chairman of The Great Cotter Trout Festival for the past five years. He is currently part of the Bull Shoals/Norfolk Advisory Group that is working with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to develop long-term plans to improve the White River fishery.

-Submitted by Les Wilson

February Meeting, Polish Nymph Demonstration:

The fly tying session at 6 PM this February meeting will feature Randy Hanner from Backcountry Outfitters. He will demonstrate the weaving of Polish nymphs. This will be our first opportunity to use the new projector. Everyone should have a great view of Randy's technique. I have witnessed his nymphs having exceptional success at Roaring River when everything else fails. Randy will put his nymphs in that night's raffle.

Randy has competed for a position on the U. S. Fly Fishing team, placing as high as 7th. He has previously guided for Caddis Co. in Durango, CO specializing in high country streams, the San Juan River and Animas River.

**Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter
Activities for February 2008**

January 3	Regular Meeting Fly tying @ 6 PM Meeting @ 7 PM
January TBA	Adult/Youth Fly Fishing Outing Bennett Spring State Park
February 7	Regular Meeting Fly tying @ 6 PM Meeting @ 7 PM
February 15	Valentines Party Heritage Cafeteria @ 5:30 PM
February 23	Bass Pro- Trout Week and Tri-Lakes Fishing Expo , Bolivar
March 1	Opening day for Trout Season at MO State Parks

Regular meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, unless indicated differently on the activity calendar.

**The annual Valentines Party will be celebrated at the Heritage Cafeteria on February 15th (Friday) starting and meeting at 5:30 PM, bring your spouse, friend or significant other. The Social Committee will provide more details at the regular February meeting.

Fly Tying Demonstrations:

January 23, five members of MTFA demonstrated fly tying at the **Springfield Nature Center**. There was a steady stream of observers and requests about our meetings. There were quite a few fly fishermen looking for group to share experiences.

Backcountry Outfitters is having their Re-Grand Opening on February 16th from 9-4. Fly tying, factory reps and a raffle for a drift trip on the White River is among the events.

Bass Pro Fly Fishing School is being held February 23, 2008

learn to fly fish the Ozarks with local experts and outfitters! This is a free workshop and will be held in Uncle Buck's Auditorium from 9 am-3 pm Bass Pro would like a group to come into the fly shop from 12-2 pm on Feb. 23 to demonstrate tying and be available as customers come into the fly shop

**This is the schedule for the trout weekend at Bass Pro
Please note fly tying demo by MFTA.**

**Fly Fishing School Seminar Feb. 23, 2008
Bass Pro Uncle Josh Auditorium**

9 am - 9:50 am	Jim Murphy local expert "Small Mouth Bass Fishing on the James River"
10 am - 10:50 am	Carolyn Parker River Run Outfitters "Where, What and How"
11:00 am - 11:50 am	Keith Oxby Dogwood Canyon "Fly Casting and Fly Selection"
12:00pm - 12:50 pm	Carolyn Parker River Run Outfitters "The Soft Hackle Demonstration"
12:00pm-2:00pm	At the Fly Shop MTFA Members demonstrate fly tying & Membership Information

****This letter was sent to FFF headquarters in response to the possibility of Bass Pro having the FFF fly fishing museum.**

Hello,

I am the President of Missouri Trout Fishermen Association of Springfield Missouri, member of Southwest Missouri Fly Fishermen and Project Healing Waters, Southern Council.

Our chapter of MTFA has been involved for the past 18 months in upgrading Bass Pro Shops fly fishing display in their Hunting and Fishing Museum. Bass Pro (BP) has been exceptionally co-operative and appreciative of our efforts. The possibility of having FFF's museum moved to BP-Springfield is exciting.

Our display focused on the history of fly-fishing and was 95% finished when BP Corporation decided to revamp the entire complex of the Hunting/Fishing Museum and the Wonders of Wildlife complex. I hope that the timing of the FFF move and BP's reconstruction merge into a fabulous site of fly-fishing history. BP just finished the Archery Hall of Fame and the expertise in this endeavor has been exceptional. The working relationship of BP and the fly fishermen in the area has been long standing. They have supported the classes I have taught in the Springfield Public Schools. BP is currently giving PHW meeting space to teach fly tying to the rehab soldiers of Fort Leonard Wood. Their community involvement has a long history.

I hope that FFF and Bass Pro find a conjunction of goals and physical sites for the Fly Fishing Museum.

Sincerely,
Larry Wegmann

MTFA Fly Tying Exposition & Raffle

Backcountry Outfitters has offered a \$50 gift certificate for a fly tier, picked at random, that enters the MFTA fly exposition. You enter this expo by submitting a fly you have personally tied in the categories of dry fly, nymph and/or streamer.

If you submit a fly in each group, you have three chances to win. The flies may be displayed at Backcountry Outfitters (BO) at the appropriate time that you have indicated is the most effective season for its' use. The flies remain the property of MTFA, but are used by BO where space is available for the display. If you wish to enter, but not want your fly displayed, note this on the back of the entry form. You can copy the entry form or pick them up at BO. Place each entry in a separate small clear plastic bag.

Complete the raffle portion of the entry and deposit both at Backcountry Outfitters or bring them to the next meeting. The deadline for entry is the March MTFA meeting, at 7PM.

MTFA Fly Tying Exposition 2008 Entry

Your Name _____

Name of fly _____

Type of fly (circle one) dry nymph streamer

Location, season and conditions that have the best results with this fly.

Attach fly here

You must be a member of MTFA to participate in this drawing. You are limited to one entry in each category, three total entries. Print or copy this form for additional entries. This fly may be displayed at Backcountry Outfitters. If it your preference not to have your fly displayed, indicate this with a large X on the back of the top form.

Cut both forms from this page. Complete the information and attach your fly within the labeled box of the top form. Place each form in a separate small sealed plastic bag. Complete the Entry Form. Both forms may be left at Backcountry Outfitters or brought to the March MTFA meeting by 7PM. The winner of the Fly Exposition will be drawn at the March meeting.

**This was in the Smiles section of "The Rattler" newspaper of Shell Knob, MO.
I got a chuckle out of it and thought maybe you fishermen might too.**

Beverly Sweeney

Fishy Story

A man calls home to his wife and says, "Honey, I have been asked to go fishing up in Canada with my boss and several of his friends. We'll be gone for a week. This is a good opportunity for me to get that promotion I've been wanting so could you please pack enough clothes for a week and set out my rod and tackle box. We're leaving from the office and I will swing by the house to pick my things up. Oh! Please pack my new blue silk pajamas."

The wife thinks this sounds a bit fishy but being the good wife, she does exactly what her husband asked. The following weekend, he comes home a little tired but otherwise looking good. The wife welcomes him home and asks if he caught many fish? He says, "Yes! Lots of walleye, some blue gill, and a few pike, but why didn't you pack my new blue silk pajamas like I asked you to do?"

The wife replies, "I did, they're in your tackle box."

Water

I was discussing Roaring River State Park and the Roaring River Parks Alliance situation with a friend. During the exchange of ideas, she mentioned a short story by Henrik Ibsen, titled “An Enemy of the People”. It was published in 1882 taking place in a small Scandinavia village. The village found prosperity and new wealth with a water project, creating baths, which were a magnet for tourism. The baths were promoted and proclaimed to refresh and heal the body of the old and sick. Unfortunately, several of the patrons after arriving became sick and died of typhoid and dysentery. It was thought the guests before their arrival to the village contacted the disease.

The main character in the story is a doctor; he discovers the baths to be contaminated with bacteria from a tannery and is excited to share the news with the village board and residents. The mayor (the brother of the doctor) is uncertain of the doctor’s findings but is concerned; the ramifications of the bad news will ruin finances for the village, the board and investors associated with the baths. It is a classic environmental problem clashing with practical business practice. In addition, the story provides a glimpse into human nature; financial security, sitting on the fence and yielding to leaders telling us what is good for us.

It provides insight to the community of Eagle Rock and the Roaring River watershed; they are concerned for water quality. George’s (big business), an international poultry industry providing financial security for Barry County residents wishing to establish a chicken concentrate animal feeding operation (CAFO) on their property. The concern is with the waste this will cause: dead chickens and spreading chicken manure on hill slopes to get rid of it. This causes, run-off from the slopes into our streams and lakes. For the poultry business, it is standard procedure to spread the waste on the operator’s property; a practice in Arkansas for years, with Tyson contaminating several rivers. For the property owners along the stream, it may result in a dying spring and stream due to the run off of pollutants from the hills. There are a few options for the residents down stream; they have addressed this issue in Jefferson City and through the Joplin Globe newspaper by educating the public about the situation. We will wait and see how it is ruled. If you have an interest in being more involved in water quality check out:

Stream Team: <http://mostreamteam.org/>

The James River Basin Partnership: <http://www.jrbp.missouristate.edu/>

Roaring River Parks Alliance: http://www.joplinglobe.com/editorial/local_story_023221654.html

Joplin Globe: http://www.joplinglobe.com/editorial/local_story_024211600.html

Most Missourians believe clean water is a necessity and for the most part have been good stewards. There will be more conflicts over our water supplies and the wasting of our natural water resources. Our water resource is a precious commodity and it will continue to be more valuable in the future. As the date, 1882, of the Ibsen story shows us, not much has changed over the years.

Again, we must take sides to decide the best use of Missouri waters for today and the future. ... Kim Schultz

Fishing Report
Bennett Spring State Park
Jan. 26th 2008



On the water...

About 11:00 after meeting up with Jeff House and his friend Robert McMaster, both from Olatha Kansas. It was still a little cool when we first hit the water but warmed up quickly. Full sun with a mild breeze blowing down stream made for a very pleasant day. Expecting a crowd brought out by the warm weather I was very surprised to see so few fishers and as it turned out the crowd did not grow much for the rest of the day.

A couple of nice browns were holding between the tunnels of the whistle bridge occasionally rising to sip some unseen morsel. Casting a number twenty-two BWO I hook one for just long enough to say I did. Jeff pointed out several fish now rising, all concentrated around a log sticking out from the far bank, just below the whistle bridge. Again hooking several fish but most ejecting the size twenty-two hook long before I could get them to the net. I tell Jeff that I've been developing a method to release fish from a distance. I call the method LDR, short for Long Distance Release. He tells me it looks like I've just about perfected the method.

I was checked for a license and permit again this trip. That's five times this C and R season. As a tip you may want to keep yours a little more handy than mine has been, as the officers seem to have no problems with waiting for you to find it. Also don't look up or down stream and shout, "Run, Forest, run!" they don't seem to think that's funny. In that respect they're kind of like baggage inspectors at the airport. When they ask you, "Is there anything in your luggage you want to tell me about before I open it sir?" Answering, "That depends on what you find," is not the correct response. Oh well live and learn, right?

By noon I was removing my sweatshirt and I had hooked and LDR'ed (Long Distance Release) a couple more fish below Susie hole in the bait fishing area. I didn't know it but during C and R all sections are open to fly-fishing. Makes sense just never thought about it.

We meet back at Jeff's truck for lunch. Rob was the first back to the water, fishing just in front of the outlet. I have never seen so many fish stacked up like they were. Rob was catching one about every cast. Four or five fishers were already stacked up behind him waiting for their change, I move on up stream.

I made a short trip of getting to the bottom of the riffle below the main bridge and waited out a couple of guys wading down before moving up along the side with the rock ledge. I was casting to rising fish as I went, catching a few but mostly perfecting my long distance release. Still throwing a BWO, I caught my first brown on a dry pattern from under the bridge, all six inches of him. Some ten to twelve inches short of the previously LDR'd brown.

Jeff and Rob caught up with me and after a few more casts we went back to the whistle bridge to finish out the last hour. To my surprise, no one was at the outlet and rising fish were everywhere. It was a fish about every cast and with only a few feet of line out past the rod tip I found my LDR method does not work as well. I set another mile stone by landing a sixteen-inch rainbow, the largest trout I've caught on a dry pattern so far. The last fish of the day also took my last BWO and so I called it a day some twenty minutes before the horn.

Kim Schultz showed the BWO pattern I've been using at Bennett to me. It is tied using only thread for the body no dubbing is used and the hackle is tied in parachute style. Rising fish readily take this pattern and I've had a lot of fun fishing it over the last few weeks. Thanks Kim!

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association
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