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MO Fishing

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The March MTFA meeting program will be Thursday, March 5, 2009 at the Nature Center, Tying @ 6 PM, Meeting @ 7:00 PM

The March program will be on rod building. I started building my fly rods and a couple of ultra-light spinning rods about 30 years ago. It began as an economic necessity and has grown into an obsession, but don't tell my wife my admission of guilt. I have been lucky in my exposure to several of the top fly rod artisans in the Midwest. They have made suggestions and given a few guidelines that have paid dividends. Robbie O'Neal and I were privileged to upgrade the Wonders of Wildlife fly fishing display. Fixing the old bamboo rods and researching their history has added a great deal to the experience. You do not need an expensive rod winding bench to get started. You can produce a fly rod comparable and probably better than those you cannot afford in the fly shops. Catching a fish on a fly rod of your creation is a special pleasure.

If you are interested, make a point of coming to the March meeting.

Larry Wegmann
President, MTFA

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

February 27 - March 1	.....	Annual Meeting, Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark Location : Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark
March 1	.....	Opening day for Trout Season at MO State Parks
March 5	.....	Regular Meeting tying @ 6 PM Meeting@ 7:00 PM
March 19, 20, 21	.....	Sowbug Roundup Mountain Home Ark. Sponsored by: North Ark. Fly fishers
February 27- March 15	.....	Bass Pro Classic
March 14	.....	MTFA Pre-Derby meeting Bennett Spring State Park
March 19	.....	MSU PED 135 Class to start 6PM

From MTFA President; Larry Wegmann

The Tri Lakes Fly Fishers will again host the largest fly-fishing show held in the state of Missouri on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The event will be held from 9 am until 5 pm at the activities building of the Highway Assembly of God Church in Brighton, Missouri, 14 miles north of Springfield on northbound Highway 13. The event is open to the public, there is no admission charge, and all seminars and shows are free as well. The show will feature 40 of the world's best fly tiers, seminars and programs on Belize, white bass, spey casting, and much more throughout the day. There will be an outdoor casting pond with demonstrations by a certified casting instructor and free casting lessons. Food will be served throughout the day. Vendors will offer a wide variety of products for fly-fishing, and the club will give away fly-fishing door prizes and present silent and live auction items on which to bid.

This is the 10th annual Fly Fishing Expo sponsored by Bolivar's Tri Lakes Fly Fishers. Each has been larger than all previous shows, and this event promises to be the largest and best yet.

The Bass Pro fly tying demonstration brought a dozen of our members out on a cold windy day. There were constant visitors coming by and asking questions. I have finally caught on to the five to eight year olds fascination with fly tying. Many of them will stand still for five minutes and watch every detail and action. Then when they are given the fly, Christmas lights go off in their eyes. If you have not had that pleasure, you need to set aside an afternoon when we have another demonstration.

Michael Kyle is working on a White Bass outing on the James River. I was looking forward to my first White Bass experience last spring and was washed out. I built a rod special for the occasion and purchased a mid-arbor reel to match.

I have instructions and photos of Junior Crow tying spiders. I spent an afternoon with him at Sowbug last spring and photographed every step. Someone emailed Junior asking if he had details on his method. He gave permission for me to write up his techniques. If you are interested, email me and I will try my best not to forget to bring them to the meeting.

If you plan on going to opening day, try to bring to the meeting photos of the experience. Someone will have "truth is stranger than fiction" stories to tell. There are some lunkers at Roaring River that will tangle more than a few lines and provide good entertainment.

The MTFA trout derby is Springfield's show this year. I need some help and guidance on how this is done. If you can help, please do not hesitate to speak up.

**This is copied from the state website:
Welcome to the 63rd Annual Convention and Derby**

This year hosted by the Springfield Chapter: Registration will begin on Friday May 15, 2009, at the Bennett Spring Park Store from around 7 pm until the store closes.

Registration will start again Saturday morning May 16 at the Bennett Spring Park Store when it opens to sell daily tags until the opening whistle.

We hope you will enjoy the fishing and fellowship in the stream and attend the events. 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.

Have a great weekend, good luck and good fishing!

A special thank you to the MDC Bennett Spring Hatchery Manager Mike Mitchell and his Staff

Alaska Trip Update: After the last meeting, Mel Schmitt gave me a lead that a friend of his son's may want to purchase the Kodiak trip. After several emails and phone calls, Bryon Wofford of Kirkwood, MO has confirmed the purchase of the trip. This should add an additional \$580 to our treasury.

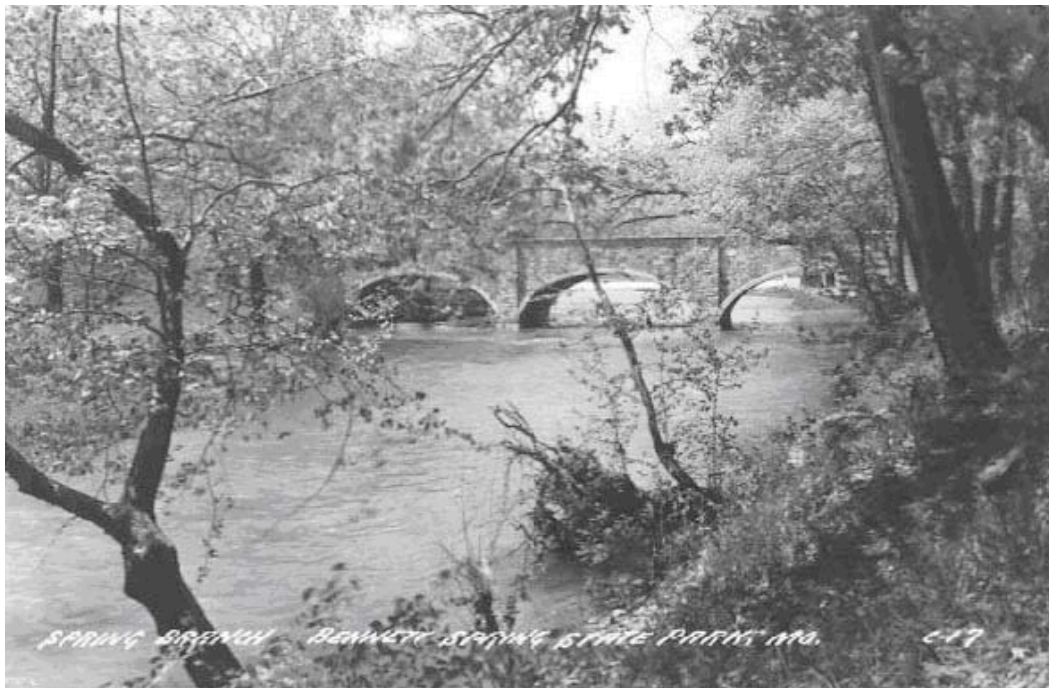
The MSU fly fishing class starts March 19th. More details at the meeting including parking permits. There will not be a MTFA meeting on April 2nd. The next meeting will be May 7th at the Nature Center. The MSU class will meet jointly with the club. Fly tying will be at 6 PM as normal.

From Rod Pennington:

The Pre-Derby meeting is March 14th at Bennett Springs. This meeting will finalize the rules of the State Council Trout Derby to be held May 16-17 at Bennett Springs. It also reconfirms the commitment to the Conservation Federation of Missouri as an affiliate club and any other business before the council.

February 27-28 and March 1st will be the Conservation Federation of Missouri's annual meeting at "the Lodge of the Four Seasons", Lake Ozark, MO. We will present the clubs resolution concerning the Niangua river designation as proposed by the membership.

Rod Pennington



Internet postcard

A lot more crowded today, but a nice place to visit and cast a line.

HAPPY SPRING, IT'S ON THE WAY.



Recent fishing in the Ozarks...

I fished this winter with eight trips to Bennett Spring State Park for the catch and release winter fishing season. The mayfly hatches were best in early December and waned to the conclusion of the season. I had the opportunity to fish on snowy cold days with the temperatures in the mid-teens with a dry fly that matched the BWO mayflies.

On several days, the north wind mixed the fog from the condensing vapor of the relatively warmer spring creek forming mini-cyclones on the stream surface. Some of the formations would grow to twenty feet dancing on the water's surface. The rod had to be dipped into the spring creek waters throughout the day to de-ice the guides. Even on the days of catching only a few trout, the solitude was worth the trip.

Sean, my son fished with me on several of these trips. He opted out of the coldest days with reasonable excuses. We fished on the last day for catch and release winter fishing (FEB 9). We started fishing before the front moved in and we fished the afternoon in the rain. We put the dry flies away in the afternoon and tied on some egg patterns. It was late in the afternoon, he manage to catch a pithier of trout; out fishing the old man. Some days it is acceptable put away style and technique, tie on something like an egg pattern to catch a bunch of rainbow trout just for the sheer joy catching a lot of fish.

Last week (FEB 18), Jim Scheve and I drove to the North Fork for a day trip. The stream gage on February 11 peaked at 9 ft, a week later {the day we fished} the reading was 3.2 feet. We started at Kelly ford and finished our day at Blair Bridge. It was fishable but difficult in some areas with treacherous wading due to faster than normal currents. Our old legs began to wobble in the afternoon due to the physical exertion trying to stand in the rapid water. We managed several small-mouth bass, a few rainbow trout and two small brown trout. The day was very mild for a February trip. We had the river to ourselves for the entire day and we enjoyed the peace and tranquility.

I have looked at the 2009 calendar, with an eye to spring fishing. I will follow the fishing pattern Paul taught to me for white bass and walleye searching the Bull Shoals tributaries and Stockton Lake. Hope to see you on the water....

Kim Schultz

Missouri Department of Conservation – Jim Lowe, February 23, 2009

Large crowds expected at trout park opener.

Anniversaries and improvements at some of Missouri's four trout parks will make fishing more fun than ever.

SALEM, Mo.—When catch-and-keep fishing season opens at Missouri's four trout parks this year, anglers will have some new things and some old ones to celebrate. March 1 always marks the start of the fishing year for thousands of anglers. This year's turnout is likely to be heavy because the opener falls on a Sunday. "Historically, Sunday openers have been our biggest days," said Hatchery Systems Manager James Civiello, with the Missouri Department of Conservation. "We have opening-day attendance records going back 50 years, and turnouts always are bigger when opening day falls on a weekend."

Weekend or not, weather also plays an important role in determining crowd size on opening day. The trout park attendance record occurred in 1992, when 14,947 anglers descended on the parks for a Sunday opener with beautiful weather. "With good weather, I would expect to see upwards of 11,000 anglers at the four parks on opening day," said Civiello. "On the other hand, if it turns cold and rainy, that could hold down attendance."

Three of Missouri's trout parks (Bennett Spring, near Lebanon; Montauk, near Salem; and Roaring River, near Cassville) are state parks, owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The fourth – Maramec Spring Park, near St. James – is owned by the James Foundation. The Conservation Department operates trout hatcheries at all four.

Roaring River celebrates an anniversary this year. The trout hatchery, located a few miles south of Cassville, became a state park in 1928, when its owner donated it to the Missouri Game and Fish Department – the Conservation Department's predecessor. The Civilian Conservation Corps helped build a new hatchery that went into service in 1939, just in time to replace the original, which was destroyed by a flood. Roaring River's attendance record of 3,504 anglers occurred in 1981, another Sunday opener. Hatchery Manager, Jerry Dean said the park's stream will contain approximately three fish for each of the 3,300 anglers expected to visit the park on opening day this year. That stocking rate applies at the other three parks as well.

Roaring River Hatchery will have approximately 280 fish per hole in the tag-fishing area for its 70th anniversary. That number will include at least 50 "lunkers," hatchery brood fish weighing upwards of 3 pounds. Crews have removed gravel washed into the Roaring River spring branch by floods, and they have cut vegetation to further improve fishing conditions.

Junior and Clarice Stephens, of Olathe, Kan., will be honored with the first and second tags of the year at Roaring River in recognition of their contributions to the park. The couple has been fishing and mentoring young anglers at Roaring River since 1974. They will have the honor of firing the pistol that marks the start of the 2009 season at 6:30 a.m. March 1.

For more information about fishing at Roaring River State Park, call 417-847-2430. Bennett Spring became the state's first trout hatchery a few years before Roaring River. Hatchery Manager Mike Mitchell says he is preparing for approximately 3,200 anglers on opening day. Anglers at Bennett Spring will find a brand new fishing platform across from the Suzy Hole in Zone 3. Park officials hope to have the platform completed for opening day.

Long-time businessman Larry Peace will have the honor of sounding the opening siren at Bennett Spring March 1. His parents were concessionaires in the 1940s and 1950s, and he > and his wife carried the family tradition through the 1950s and into the 1960s as concessionaires at Montauk State Park. After that he operated Larry's Sporting Goods inside the park. "The Peace family has provided approximately 60 years of service to trout fishermen at Bennett Spring and Montauk," said Mitchell.

For more about fishing at Bennett Spring State Park, call 417-532-4418. Montauk Hatchery Manager Tom Whelan is preparing for opening-day attendance of 3,200 anglers. Montauk anglers will find some improvements in the Mill Dam and Sycamore holes, where excess gravel has been removed to improve fish habitat. For more about fishing at Montauk, call 573-548-2585.

Maramec Spring Hatchery Manager Paul Spurgeon expects around 2,300 anglers on opening day. They will help Maramec Spring Park celebrate over 50 years of trout fishing, which began there in 1958. Those who buy daily fishing tags that day will receive commemorative fly boxes and copies of the Conservation Department's Conservation Heritage Calendars, while supplies last. State Rep. Dan Brown (R-Rolla) will sound the opening bell at Maramec Spring Park. The St. James Chamber of Commerce will continue its long-standing tradition of serving coffee and doughnuts to anglers and sponsoring a variety of fishing contests. One-hundred fish stocked for the season opener will carry tags good for prizes. For more information about opening day at Maramec, call 573-265-7801.

Anglers need a daily trout tag to fish in Missouri's trout parks. Those age 16 through 64 need a fishing permit in addition to the daily tag. Trout parks are only one option for Show-Me State anglers. For more about the state's extensive system of trout streams and winter trout fishing, visit www.mdc.mo.gov/7248 <<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/7248>>. -Jim Low-

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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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