



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

MO Fishing

May 2009

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Our meeting will be at the Springfield Nature Center, as usual, on Thursday, May 7. This meeting will feature Eric Schmuecker from WAPSI. He will be demonstrating new flies and new products.



Fly tying and chat will be at 6:00 with the Presentation and business meeting beginning at 7:00.

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

- May 7** Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM - Springfield Nature Center with MSU class
- May 16, 17** MTFA Spring Derby Bennett Spring State Park
- May 23, 24** Fifth Annual Fly Fishing Expo - Readings's Fly Shop, Hwy 64
- May 28** Solutions – Roaring River

From President, Larry Wegmann:

The April meeting was canceled for the Missouri State fly fishing class. We have 18 students in attendance and approximately 15 club members helping. The final is a trip to Bennett Spring.

The Bennett Spring Trout Derby budget was increased to \$1000 for prizes and Bass Pro is giving another \$200. There are fifty tagged trout. Any prizes not claimed will be raffled to MTFA members attending the prize raffle. There are over 70 items for the derby. Two ultralight rods and reels, three ultralight spin reels, a fly rod and reel outfit, three fly rods, two fly reels, seven hackles, nine fly lines, books, DVD's and more. The items were acquired from Bass Pro, Backcountry Outfitters, Fin & Feather, Collins Hackle, Reading's Fly Shop and Bennett Spring Tackle Shop. The derby dates are May 16 & 17th.

The MTFA Solutions project ends with a trip to Roaring River Thursday, May 28th for the Pepperdine students. The staff at Roaring River is reserving the first pool for the students only. The helpers from MTFA cannot fish in this pool. They can only help the students.

We have not had a club fishing trip and it has been suggested that this would be a good opportunity. After the Solutions project, if you want to camp over Thursday night through the weekend, you will not be alone. If you have an interest in staying and not camping, the Lodge and Cabins at the state park are top quality. Either option will require quick action to reserve a site. Hope to see a good crew of teachers and even more coming down for a couple days of fishing.

Charley Reading is having a fly fishing expo at his shop on Hwy 64 between Bennett Spring and Lebanon on May 23 and 24 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Charley gave MTFA great support for the derby amounting to \$1700 of merchandise for \$400. If you are in the area that weekend, stop by and tell Charley you appreciate his help. Charlie has agreed to do a fly casting workshop for our club this summer. The most likely time will be the August meeting or the watermelon picnic on the following Saturday.

The May meeting will feature Eric Schmuecker from Wapsi.

Terry Wilson is scheduled for the June meeting and Terry Tanner will be our speaker in July.

Norm Collison offered our club many fly fishing items for "garage sale prices". I thought about using these for the trout derby and then reconsidered that we should keep these treasures in our club. One or more of these items will be included in the raffle at our meetings. Charlie Collins donated two exceptionally colored hackle necks that will be in future raffles. I will also build a 4 wt. IM6 fly rod and put it in for a raffle, probably in the fall or the Christmas dinner. If you have something extra that the club could either purchase cheaply or that you want to donate, let me know. We may need to sell tickets for a minimal cost (\$1) to cover the purchase. Another option may be a 50/50 raffle where half of the ticket sells would go to the seller and half stays with the club. Discussion will be open to your thoughts at the business meeting. My objective is that no one gets hurt and someone may acquire an item of interest for minimal cost.

Editors Note: Reprinted from the MDC Website. We all drive a lot and I think this is important.

Conservation Department Asks Motorists To Spare Wandering Box Turtles

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Automobiles may threaten this long-lived species.

JEFFERSON CITY—Have you ever seen a turtle trying to cross a busy highway and wondered how many of these creatures die under the wheels of automobiles each year? Jeff Briggler has, and as Missouri's State Herpetologist, the answer worries him. . . .

. . . . "We discovered that mortality rates are very high on high-traffic roads," says Briggler, "whereas mortalities are much lower on less-traveled roads."

On May 26 last year, Briggler counted 116 three-toed box turtles crossing Highway 63 between Jefferson City and Cabool. Of those, 104 had been hit by vehicles.

Turtles are struck by cars throughout the warm months, but they are at special risk at this time of year, when they are moving around looking for mates and establishing home ranges. Young males are most at risk.

Comfort is a factor, too. Like other reptiles, turtles are cold-blooded. Walking out onto warm asphalt and basking in the morning sun feels good on cool spring days.

Box turtles live a long time, and females continue laying eggs for most of their lives. They need lots of time to replace themselves, since snakes, raccoons, opossums and other nest predators eat most of their eggs. Before roads crisscrossed their habitat a low reproductive rate was no big deal. Animals that continue laying eggs past 60 years of age can afford to take their time replacing themselves. But the unnatural mortality caused by speeding cars is a problem.

"Box turtles did not evolve amid thousands of miles of busy highway," says Briggler. "We don't know very much about how highway mortality will affect their long-term survival, but the implications of our casual observations are worrisome. Animals with low reproductive potential usually cannot sustain the sort of continuing slaughter that we see on our roads."

To help, Briggler suggests that motorists slow down when they see a turtle in the road and check to be sure they can safely steer around it. If traffic and road conditions permit, motorists can pull their vehicles off the roadway and carry turtles to the other side of the road and place them at least 15 feet beyond the pavement, facing away from the road.

Briggler also is troubled by the too-common practice of capturing box turtles for pets. He said the animals' nutritional needs are not easy to meet in captivity, so captive turtles are likely to die due to improper care. In most cases, that means slow starvation.

He suggests keeping a turtle only for a day or two and then releasing it where it was captured. He said this last condition is very important, since turtles are intimately familiar with their home areas. If released in strange surroundings, they have trouble finding food and may wander across roads trying to meet their daily needs.

The three-toed box turtle is the species most often seen crossing roads in Missouri. Primarily a woodland species, it is found everywhere but the extreme northern part of Missouri. The ornate box turtle is found in all but the southeastern corner of the state, but is more adapted to grassland and is most common in western Missouri. Young males make up most of the travelers as they search for territories of their own and for female turtles. Three-toed box turtles have three toes on each hind foot, unless they have lost a few appendages to predators or frostbite. Ornate box turtles usually have four toes per hind foot. In keeping with their name, ornate box turtles also have more vivid yellow stripes on a black background on the tops of their shells. The bottoms of their shells typically have streaks of black on a yellow background.

For more information about box turtles, visit mdc.mo.gov/nathis/herpetol/boxturtles/.

-Jim Low-

Reprint and reminder about the MTFA Library

The Library has some great DVD's that will help get you all geared up for Spring and Summer, learning to tie a new pattern or just brushing up on your technique.

VHS Tapes with a greater range of information than Mel Krieger with a double haul cast.

Books to help you build a rod, learn to cast, tie the fly, tie the knot, catch the fish and how to identify your catch and if that's not enough you can even learn how to noodle.

The MTFA Library Locker

Check out the complete Library list at:

<http://mtfa-springfield.org/>

Go to the Library page

Click on the PDF or Word document or get a list from me using the address below.

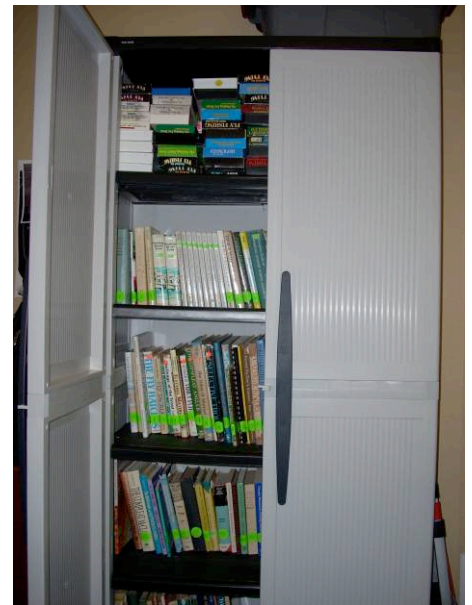
Order your selection at:

Kevin's address:

MTFALibrary@suddenlink.net

or call me at 417-440-0577

I'll deliver your selection or you can pick it up at the next scheduled meeting.



Fare Winds and Following Seas

Kevin Smith

Editor's note: Besides this is a nice picture... very inspirational.

Look at all the learning, just waiting for you.

From Rod Pennington, Treasurer

The MTFA Trout Derby is just a few weeks away (May 16-17).

A brief schedule of events follows:

Memorial Service – Saturday 11:00 AM

Annual Meeting and Fish Fry - Saturday 5:00 PM

Awards – Sunday 12:00 PM

The annual meeting and fish fry begins at 5:00 PM and will be held in the Valley at Sand Springs Resort along the Niangua River. Drive into the Valley and look for the large tent. Fresh fried fish, burgers, hot dogs with all the sides will be the fare. (Contributions to help with the cost will be greatly appreciated). MDC officer Craig Fuller will visit with us as to our concerns for the Niangua River Fishery.

Great prizes this year including fly rods, fly lines, rod & line cases and lots of other great fishing gear can be yours if the right trout selects you. Otherwise you could be at the mercy of the raffle.

The Springfield Chapter is the host for this years Derby. The Derby is an annual event sponsored by the MTFA State Council. Great Derby prizes and raffle prizes will be awarded.

Registration for the Derby will begin at 7:00 P: M May 15th. The Derby will officially end noon Sunday, with the awards ceremony and drawings to be held immediately after at Shelter House B.

The Memorial Service honoring our deceased members is 11:00 Saturday with the annual meeting, dinner and program at 5:00. Craig Fuller from MDC will be our featured speaker offering insight as to the Niangua rivers white designation.

I know you don't want to miss this event. Rooms around the area are quickly being reserved so call as soon as possible should you need a reservation.

This should be a great event. I look forward to seeing you there.

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Great outdoors day will be Sept 26, 2009, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

This will be our 15th year of participation.

Fish early – Fish often

Rod Pennington

Fishing Report... by Larry Wegmann

My wife and I made a trip to Montauk for a short spring break getaway.

I had two great afternoons during a March Brown hatch. The first afternoon I tied on a light brown crackle-back with great success from 3 to 5:30 PM. Instead of pulling the fly under at the end of the drift, I cast it upstream and immediately pulled it under. I took note of the trout chasing an emerger downstream and sometimes leaving the water to take emergers as they lifted off the water film.

As the sun dipped below the tree line, the hatch stopped. I returned to the same area the next afternoon but had misplaced my original crackle-back. I found a slightly darker version and thought it would work. As I have been told many times, "That's what I get for thinking! The color was close enough to bring a rise and then a rejection in the last two inches. I searched through all my fly boxes and found the fly that was successful the previous night. I tied on the light brown 15 inches behind the rusty fly. Everything worked perfectly. The trout were attracted to the dark version and caught sight of the lighter color about every third cast. Then a trout on steroids took the nymph, ran downstream 30 yards, returned, jumped three times and then headed to the bottom. There was a VW-sized boulder in the perfect place that became the trout's escape obstacle. Lost both flies and was concerned for a while that my fly line may have been permanently wrapped around the boulder. I tried substituting a light brown Bird's Nest nymph brought no success. The sun was going down and the hatch stopped. A good day's ending

I prefer to fish where others have left, even if conditions are less than perfect. I found a vacated pool early the second day and was enjoying the fishing and casting without much success. Just as I was casting along the opposite bank another fisherman jumped down from the bank and crossed my drift without any concern. My glares could not fix stupid! He yelled back to his son that he left his stringer and needed it now. His son came down the same section on bank wearing hip boots. With his second step he found that the boots have a large opening at the top of the leg. It is said that the apple falls close to the tree!

We are including a lesson on stream ethics in the MSU class, but I think this man probably would struggle with the thought of ethical behavior.

2009 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	Larry Wegmann	
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.

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Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson,
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If you would like to submit for the NL,

Please put MTFA in the subject line.

The web site:

MTFA-Springfield.org

E-mail:

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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