



MO Fishing

January 2010

Volume 1 No. 13

The Thursday, January 7th meeting will be at the Nature Center with fly tying at 6:00 PM and the program and business portion of the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM

Our guest and speaker for the January meeting will be Tim Fowkes. Tim is the new owner of Backcountry Outfitters. Tim and his wife Becky are from Stark City. His interest to be a shop owner came from visiting Tim Homesley's fly shop at Roaring River.

Tim will provide us with some information of him and provide some insight to the future and improvements to Backcountry Outfitters. It will be a pleasure to meet Tim and introduce him to Springfield.

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

January 7	Regular Meeting Fly Tying @ 6 PM Meeting @ 7 PM
January 16	Springfield Nature Center Fly tying demonstration 1-4 PM

From Charles Erickson, President MTFA

From the President

Please read carefully

For your information – Board Meeting was held December 8, 2009

I want to thank each of the board members who braved the cold weather to get together at my home to address several concerns that have been brought forward at recent meetings and to plan the 2010 year. The board examined our bylaws, budget for 2010, storage and disposal of property, committee assignments, the calendar and other miscellaneous concerns.

This is what was determined for each area as follows:

By-laws - There still seems to be some concerns as to which set of by-laws have been approved by the club. Larry and Ralph will get with Herb to work out this concern.

Budget for 2010- The board set the budget for 2010 based on projected income and 2009 expenditures. Each committee chair needs to be aware of their expenditures.

Christmas Party Follow-Up from Larry Wegmann

The raffle at the Christmas party was a huge success. Dan Ditzler donated a Pflueger mid-arbor fly reel and a Cloud-veil fishing vest. Backcountry Outfitters donated a Dyna-king tying vise. Project Healing Waters donated a 5 weight rod, reel and fly line outfit, Larry Wegmann donated a custom 5 weight fly rod, Terry Beeson donated a copy of his book and Dorothy Prugger made a box of cookies.

Many thanks to the donors and the purchasers of the tickets

Tickets sold totaled \$400.

Four families have been designated from Pipkin Middle School to be helped. I just received word that some of these children are wearing the same sweatpants with worn holes every day to class. The school nurse and principals are going to DAV, Salvation Army and Goodwill to purchase the clothing they need with this money. Other agencies are providing winter coats and food.

Larry Wegmann.

Winter Trout Fishing From MDC online

Whether you're a seasoned angler or a first-time fisher, you can find good winter fishing at one of Missouri's many [trout lakes](#) or [four trout parks](#).

Regs, Permits and Gear

The trout parks and many of the trout lakes are catch-and-release only—this means you can't take your catch home to eat. You must also use only artificial lures (no live bait). Beginning February 1, you can catch and keep the trout at the winter lakes, and use any bait or lure. The trout parks allow harvest beginning March 1.

[See the regulations page for full details.](#)

Get a [trout permit](#) (\$7, good for an entire year) and, if you're aged 16 to 64, a [fishing permit](#).

Don't worry about gear—a simple, inexpensive rod and reel and a few artificial lures will do.

Tips for Success

Experiment and visit with other anglers who are having success.

Trout often strike lightly, so keep your line tight and use light line—4-pound test or less—for the best results.

Drift or very slowly retrieve a small jig or fly under a tiny bobber or strike indicator.

Be ready to set your hook at the slightest twitch of the line.

Hone Your Skills at trout parks

The winter catch-and-release fishing season in Missouri's four trout parks is a good time for beginning fly fishers to learn how to catch trout on a fly.

You can fish from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at [Montauk](#), [Roaring River](#) or [Bennett Spring](#) on Friday through Monday from the second Friday in November through the second Monday in February. [Maramec Spring](#) is open daily during this same period.

[Check our Calendar of Events](#) for a fly-fishing workshop in your region. After grasping the basics, practice, practice, practice . . .

[A Winter Fishing Lesson](#), from the Missouri Conservationist, covers everything you need to know to start catching trout at Missouri's trout parks this winter.

Bennett Spring State Park in December

By Kim Schultz

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

I look forward to the winter catch and release program at the Missouri state parks. The BWO Mayflies emerge late morning with dry fly action from noon to 2 PM. I have targeted these insects for several years and understand them a little more every year. If the water above the dam is left undisturbed the trout will move into the shallow water near the slough where the aquatic plants grow. The mayflies will emerge from this area in moderate numbers. The trout will set up in favorite spot to take the duns. A #18 or #20 fly will usually work to take these trout. After they have been caught a few times; they become more particular giving chase often refusing my fly. All in view with polarized sunglasses and high anticipation. This is one of the few places in the Ozarks with the opportunity to fish a dry fly for trout. Plan a day to give it a try. Be sure to dress warm.

Monday Nov 30: I called Frank Moran on Saturday. The weather looked good for Monday with moderate temperatures. I drove by at 10 AM on Monday and met Frank at his home. We drove on to Bennett Spring and arrived a little after 11 AM. There were a few fishermen fishing the area where Frank and I planned to fish. We did not see much activity on the water or the fishermen. We walked and started near the dam and worked our way upstream. It was afternoon before we started to see duns on water. My fly was a near enough to take a few trout, with many of the trout taking it short. I missed three fish for every one hooked. Frank and I fished until 4 PM, with the sound of the horn telling us to quit for the day.

Saturday Dec 5: I returned to Bennett Spring and fished the same area as the last trip. There were more fishermen this day, it's Saturday.... Imagine that. There was a full sun on the water with light variable winds. I decided to use 8X tippet instead of the typical 6X, since the sun was so bright. Fishermen wading through the shallow waters were constantly disturbing the trout. Many fishermen do not realize the trout feed in shallow water when there is a hatch. Many of the trout moved to mid-stream to shelter themselves from all of the movement. The duns continued to be seen until 3 PM with only a few taken by trout. I managed ten trout with less interest for the #20 BWO fly. I should find another day other than Saturday to fish. ...Too many people.

Friday Dec 11: It had been cold for several days with the temperatures dipping into the twenties. I drove into the park to find two fellows fishing in the handicap hole above the New Holland dam. The waters above the dam left alone, no other fishermen in sight. This continued through out the day. I had the waters totally to myself. Again, I started at the dam and fished my way up stream.

The morning started cool and warmed in the afternoon. The sun was in my eyes most of the day and probably made it difficult for the trout to see my fly. There was a hatch of BWO that came on schedule. The trout moved into the shallow water. I still had a difficult time getting the trout to take my fly. It seems with the bright sun on the water, the trout had trouble seeing. For the first four hours, I managed six trout. I decided to walk back to the dam. I was looking for pods of trout and if none were seen, move below the dam to fish. As I approached the dam, I could see many trout up and in position. The sun was below the trees, the water was shielded from the light and the trout were ready to feed. Every time the fly hit the water there was interest. The fly even lost its tail and it continued to be used with many takes. An eagle flew up stream at 3:30 PM and flew over me thirty feet above my head. I was still the only one fishing with a few fellows below the dam, fishing near the bridge. The last hour was a delight and convinced me that the BWO fly I tie and use was near enough to fool trout.

Thought for the day: The problem was finding a place with diminished light. I have fished this area on bright sunny days, with the trout looking into the sun. It is difficult to find a place to present the fly to the fish in these conditions. The game is presenting the fly without spooking the trout. I look forward to the next cloudy day.

From Kim Schultz's Blog page, as reached by the link on the MTFAs website.

Editor's Recipe Idea:

Sauté' fish fillets that have been liberally seasoned until golden set aside on a warm plate at the back of the stove.

Add some cherry grape tomatoes and some diced onion or shallot to the same pan; Sauté' quickly with some white wine or chicken stock to make a fast pan sauce. Pour over the fish and serve with steamed broccoli and rice or noodles.

In twenty minutes dinner is done and you can go back to tying flies.

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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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Happy New Year!

I am hoping to hear from more of you in the coming year with material for the newsletter.

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