



MO Fishing

May 2010

Volume 3 No. 5

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 6th, at the Springfield Nature Center. There will be fly tying at 6 PM and at 7 PM programs and the business meeting will begin.

Our May guest will be: Mike Mitchell with the Missouri Department of Conservation

Mike has been with the MDC for a number of years. He worked at the Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery in Branson for several years; seven years ago became the manager of the Bennett Spring Hatchery facility. Mike has been involved with improved production of trout and improvements in Missouri trout fishing. I stopped at the hatchery office in February and had a good visit with Mike. He discussed the renovation project for the hatchery. He will be a guest speaker at the May MTFA meeting. It will be an outstanding program, so mark it on your calendar.

**Mike Mitchell
Manager, Bennett Spring Fish Hatchery**



**Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter
Activities for May 2010**

May 1	MSU Class Roaring River 9am - 4:30pm
May 6	Regular Meeting Fly Tying @ 6 PM Meeting @ 7 PM
May 15,16	MTFA Spring Derby - Bennett Spring State Park
May 22, 23	<u>Six Annual Fly Fishing Expo - Reading's Fly Shop, Hwy 64</u>
May 19, 20	Solutions - Roaring River State Park

From MTFA President, Charles Erickson, M.T.F.A./F.F.F. (Please read)

As most of you know the issue of F.F.F. becoming a part of our M.T.F.A. chapter has been in discussion for quite some time. The proposal has been for F.F.F. to become a chapter within our present M.T.F.A. chapter with a common set of officers.

As some of our members have examined the Bylaws of these two fly fishing organizations, a number of concerns have been expressed. This has become a fairly hot issue with a few of our members who have different views as to how we should move forward. All are acting in good faith and I believe that everyone involved wants what is best for our club. My feeling is that we have a great group of people who like to get together, tie flies, help in the projects, attend the social activities and enjoy each other's fellowship. I am sure that nobody wants to see a split in the club as a result of policies relevant to organizational structure.

In order to bring this debate to closure, I have asked Kim Schultz, Larry Wegmann, Rod Pennington and Mike Kyle to meet together in person and examine the issues relevant to this configuration. Kim will serve as chair and arrange the meeting. If any member has a question, opinion or desires input contact one of these committee members. These four people have all worked diligently with both the MTFA and FFF and I believe they can come up with a final recommendation to present to our current MTFA board. This recommendation must be accompanied with written verification from both MTFA and FFF officials who both understand what the proposal involves. Once this is accomplished, the board will bring it to the membership for a final vote. There will be information before the vote one month prior to the meeting in the newsletter.

Issues that need to be examined are: legal issues, tax issues, liability issues, do our officers have to be FFF members and relationships with other organizations such as CFM, as well as other issues that I am not aware of. One thing is for certain, I will not bring this issue up to the club again until this procedure is accomplished.

Respectfully Charles Erickson (President)

FFF Charter Application Details

With all the questions regarding our FFF charter application, Michael Kyle asked me to go back in my records and determine when and how the changes last year were communicated.

One confusing issue has been the revision of the MTFA-Springfield By-Laws. The FFF application and the adoption of the revised By-Laws are separate issues. The change in the By-Laws began after the September meeting. The revisions were published in the October newsletter, discussed at the November meeting and ratified at the Christmas party all in keeping with the procedures listed in the By-Laws.

The proposal to change from an Affiliate FFF association to the Charter FFF association was brought to the club by Michael Kyle at the August meeting in 2009. Howard Hawkins, the Membership Chairman, worked with the FFF headquarters trying to get the process in motion. Howard and Mike met with difficulty in working through the process. This FFF Charter membership change was on every agenda for the balance of the year. Because Howard never received information from the FFF headquarters, the newsletter never reported the status of the change. **I should apologize to MTFA members that did not attend the meetings from August through December in 2009 that they were not informed to this change in our status.** The forward motion of the change was reported in January of 2010 and every month since in the minutes of the club.

The major reason in changing from an Affiliate to a Charter club was a saving of approximately \$400 per year. I have since learned that we could also save money on club liability insurance if the membership votes to make that change. The FFF liability insurance covers FFF members in the club and also ALL PARTICIPANTS attending a club sanctioned event, such as the MSU fishing trip to Roaring River. In other words, the insurance would cover FFF members of MTFA, members of MTFA not belonging to FFF and the students registered in the MSU class. This is only an option we could consider. We are not being forced to change our insurance carrier. The option is there for our consideration.

There has been a change in 2010 with the communications of clubs working with the FFF headquarters. Michael Kyle is the FFF National Membership Chairman. I took over as Membership Chairman for MTFA-Springfield. In January my primary objective was to clear the air between FFF Headquarters and our Charter application. In completing the Charter application, I learned that MTFA-Springfield needed an IRS status of a 501c3 educational non-profit status. The original MTFA status was as a 501c7, a non-profit recreational club. The national FFF headquarters has offered to help us change to an educational non-profit at minimal or no cost by working with their staff legal counsel, James Schramm.

Since that application was made another item has entered into the consideration of changing from a 501c7 to a 501c3. Ed Kosuth's family has donated Ed's considerably large fly fishing/fly tying supplies and equipment to MTFA-Springfield to be used for educational purposes only. The family has requested that a letter be sent to Ed's wife stating that this large donation was dedicated to our educational activities. Since this donation involves recognition by the IRS that MTFA-Springfield is an educational non-profit organization, Mrs. Kosuth could not benefit from her donation until we have a 501c3 status.

I know that if I read this two years ago, I would be saying, "What is this all about?" For the majority of the MTFA membership, this doesn't mean anything. Your membership status is unchanged. We all go about with our meetings and events as if nothing has changed. In trying to save some money and be "on board" with the IRS regarding our mission and ability to accept donations, we should change our non-profit status to an educational 501c3. The intent of moving forward with this change is not meant to be disrespectful to the original goal of the MTFA documents of Incorporation. Two chapters of MTFA, Kansas City and Springfield have moved past the original concept of being a recreational group to becoming a major training resource for up and coming fly fishermen.

Like everything in life, change is inevitable and we need to keep current to remain viable.

Larry Wegmann, MTFA Membership Chairman & President Emeritus

In Memory of Ed Kosuth

Ed Kosuth was a person that I wished I had known. But in one sense, I do know Ed. I received a phone call from Ed's son, Bob. Bob lives in Minnesota and was asking if I could help move some of Ed's fly tying/ fly fishing materials the family was donating to MFTA. Bob mentioned that Norm Collison could direct me to the house in Forsyth. Bob had another motive; he had fond memories of his Dad and Norm taking trips together.

When Norm and I arrived on the morning of March 18th, Norm asked Bob, "Which son are you? 1, 2, 3, or 4." Evidently Ed just called out a number and one of the kids would march over for his instructions.

Bob took us to the basement where he had organized the materials and books being donated. I was astounded with the size and variety of "stuff" that was going to invade my garage. Bob and I started loading boxes containing every variety of tying materials you could imagine. Only Wapsi has a larger inventory of "stuff". Ed was approaching the classification of a hoarder. Anything he saw at yard sales that could be put on a hook became his inventory. Unimaginable amounts of fur collars, yarn, wildfowl feathers and on and on. We loaded half the inventory in my truck's bed and back seat. ONLY HALF!

I remember the date, March 18. On the way home I told Norm, "Something is not right inside me!" I spent the next 10 days in the hospital. Fortunately, my son-in-law unloaded the truck into the garage while I was in the ER. My wife said there was "stuff" completely filling her parking space. When I finally returned home, I saw a task beyond my abilities to organize. I called John Richerson and he gladly come over and organized all the "stuff" into piles of; fly tying, fishing and book, categories. That took one day. John returned another day to organized the books into categories we could manage. Finally, Dave Tucker and I started to compare the books against our current MFTA library holdings. I took three afternoons sorting and cataloging. The final result, Ed's donation: our Library had 166 books that were not in the library! Our library doubled in size and I would dare to say the MFTA-Springfield has the most extensive library of any fly fishing club in the United States. Kevin Smith is in the process of placing these books into his catalog system.

An example: I kept a copy of Gary Borger's Designing Trout Flies to read before placing it in the library. While reading the chapter of Caddis flies, Borger mentions that Sylvester Neme's book on "The Soft Hackle Fly" is the ultimate authority on caddis imitations. When I read an endorsement like that, I usually do an Amazon search on the possibility of finding that book in my price range. No luck here. The prices ranged from \$28 to \$55. Then I checked my database of books in Ed's library. There was Nemes' Soft Hackle Fly book.

There were also around 24 books that were duplicates. Ed's family requested that all the donation be used in our educational activities. Charley Erickson and I made an executive decision that the duplicates be used as incentives and achievement awards for our MSU fly fishing class. If we continue to teach this class, depending of MSU's economic status, we have at least 6 years of awards to give.

What happened to the remaining "stuff"? Charley returned to Ed's with Norm and loaded his truck to the top again. Then Charley gathered the non-book "stuff" in my garage and Howard Hawkins has the daunting task of sorting again. HE IS GOING TO NEED HELP!

Is there a moral to the story? Everyone reading this has an accumulation of "stuff" in your garage or "man cave". Realize that with your passing, you are leaving a legacy of who you were. I mentioned to Tony Spezio of my adventures with Ed's "stuff". Tony has fond memories of fishing with Ed and Norm. Tony mentioned that Ed sold a Granger bamboo fly rod to Leo Eck. Another great name that has passed on. Luckily, Leo and I developed a friendship before his passing. I am getting to know Ed. I wish I had fished with him too.

Larry Wegmann

FISH FRY/AUCTION

At our club fish fry social on June 26, all of Ed Kosuth's donations to our club that cannot be used directly in instruction will be auctioned off to our members and/or their guests. Many great items will be listed in the June newsletter. Mark your calendar and invite any prospective members to attend with you. All the money made from the sale of these items will be added directly to our instructional budget. **There will be some great deals.**

An open letter to MTFFA sent via email:

FISH FRY/AUCTION

When: June 26, 2010

Where: Living Memorial Park (north side of pavilion)

Time: 5:30 pm



The club will furnish the fish, potatoes and tableware. If you are coming, please bring one of the following; salad, vegetable dish, fruit dish or dessert. Since we are adding an auction and we might have more people, please bring a dish according to your size group so we have enough for all. I will have a couple of activities for the kids and there is a small playground nearby. This is a time to socialize, eat good food and just relax and get to know others in the club. Bring a lawn chair and plan to spend the evening.

Remember the auction, we have many good items to auction off and the money collected will go into our education fund. This was requested by Ed Kosuth's family, where many of the items come from. You can call me at 890-7243 or let Charles or I know at the May meeting. I will be setting the area up for the meal and Charles will be putting the auction together so we do need some help.

Connie Erickson (Social committee)

MTFA Web Site

There have been some modifications to the web site, to access the links and pages after the home page a user name and password is required. The user name is "Springfield" and the password is "MTFA". This change was made for compliance reasons according to our exempt status. If you have any questions contact Kim Schultz at MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com or Brent Simmons at brentsimms@gmail.com

The web address remains the same at <http://mtfa-springfield.org/>

March and April New Members:

Our club is having some amazing growth in membership and attendance. I hope we are doing something right and we don't mess with the recipe. Our greatest strength is sharing the experience of fly fishing. Equally important, I have been struck by the caring concern our membership has for each other. With my own personal setback with my peritonitis, I can relate that I was very glad to be able get back for the last meeting. The reception I received on April 1st was one the best medicines anyone can have to help cure a disease. Proves one of my mantra's, "Goes around, comes around". I owe a lot of you on the next go around.

Our new members for March and April are Bob Ball, Kwen Griffeth, Cheryl Griffeth, Alex Griffeth, Chad Dunkel, Kerry Evans and Scott Meier. Two of our newbie's have a past history with the club. Alex Griffeth was in our MSU fly fishing class two years ago. I had the pleasure of being her mentor. Alex is one of the finest target pistol shooters in the nation You will have to ask her about her goals for the near future.

Kerry Evans and the Deerfield's are old friends from Colorado vacations. Kerry is also an accomplish rod builder. We were able to share some ideas and techniques to add to the beauty of a fly rod. Kerry was originally from Aurora and returned to Springfield to be close to family. I can see a fly rod building class developing in the near future given the club's interest and now additional experience.

Chad Dunkel is a neighbor to both Dave Tucker and myself. By the time you read this, Chad will have another little girl controlling his life.

I apologize to Bob Ball and Scott Meier for not having time to get more acquainted. Please welcome them on their return to the meetings and "pick their brains" for me. Fly fishermen always have a story to tell.

Larry Wegmann

2010 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	Charles Erickson	890-7243
President Elect	Ralph Eichholz	343-2591
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	Rod Pennington	883-1789
3 Year Board Members	Russ Doughty, Kevin Smith	
2 Year Board Member	Bill Huyett, Kim Schultz	
1 Year Board Member	Crete Deerfield & Connie Erickson	

Monthly meetings at the Springfield Nature Center are the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM for Fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting

Committee Chairs

Program Chair – Kim Schultz
Education Chair – Larry Wegmann
Social Chair - Connie Erickson
Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson,
Newsletter Advisory Editor - Kim Shultz
Librarian – Kevin Smith
Equipment/Supplies - John Prugger/Howard Hawkins
Web Page - Brent Simmons
Membership Chair – Larry Wegmann
Liaison Natl./State FFA – Rod Pennington
Public Relations – Kevin Smith

The web site:

MTFA-Springfield.org

E-mail:

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

Send Articles to:
ekanderson@hotmail.com

If you would like to submit for the newsletter, Please put MTFA in the subject line and send to Eve at the above email address