



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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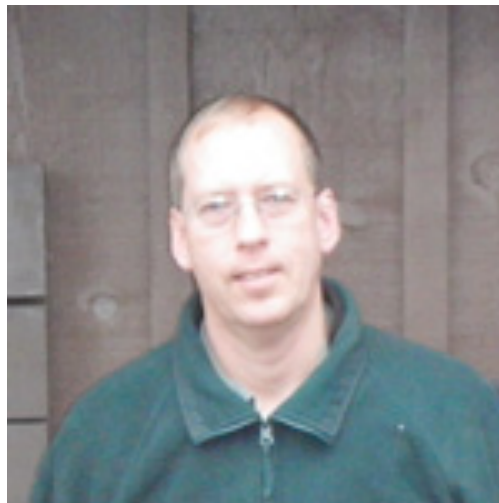
MO Fishing

April 2012

Volume 5 No. 4

Our April 5th meeting will be at the Springfield Nature Center beginning at 6 PM for fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting.

Our speaker for April will be Mike Mitchell, hatchery manager at Bennett Spring State Park. Mike did a presentation last May for us. He told us about the approved funds and plans to build a new hatchery facility. Last September, the building was opened with a dedication. Mike will update to the progress of the hatchery. As before, it will be informative, provide us with good data and the condition of the trout.



Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter Activities for April 2012

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|----------|---------------------------------|
| April 5 | Monthly meeting 6-9 PM |
| April 12 | MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM |
| April 14 | Tri-Lakes Expo 9 AM - 4 PM |
| April 19 | MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM |
| April 26 | MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM |

Club News...

Greetings from Ralph: Just returned from a few days in Mountain Home, Arkansas. My brother-in-law and I went to the Sowbug and got in a little fishing. As always, the Sowbug was good; saw some old friends and some not so old friends, got a few new ideas and refreshed some that I may have forgotten. Some of our members were tying and most of us took time to wet a line or two. I understand that some did very well on the river. I can report that I got my March fish and had a good time, but nothing remarkable in either size or number. There were some beautifully colored fish as well as a couple that were almost colorless. A disappointment was the number of dead fish I saw just below the dam. I did not notice any wounds from prey, so perhaps it was poor handling by the fishermen.

By the time you read this we will have had our first MSU class. Remember that the students will be on spring break and we will meet on April 5th at the Nature Center. After that we will have classes each Thursday in April, plus May 3rd and Roaring River on May 5th. Hope a lot of you will be able to help with the class.

Some of the members that saw the flyer for the Tri-Lakes Expo asked to have a copy and I said I'd try to have it put in the newsletter. I will try and I'll have a few flyers at the meeting. The expo is April 14 at the Highway Assembly of God Church in Brighton. Take highway 13 north for about 16 miles past I-44. Turn right on 215 and then left on highway F. 215 comes in just past the Boys Ranch.

Remember that we have the MTFA Derby coming up in May. There will be more about that at the April and May meetings. Enjoy the spring; hope to see you at the meeting, the classes and on the water.

Ralph

Tri-Lakes Fly Fishing Expo

April 14, 2012 from 9 am - 5 pm at Brighton Hwy Assembly of God Church Annex,
Hwy F, Brighton, Missouri.

Sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Fly Fishers

MISSOURI'S LARGEST FLY FISHING SHOW – See 30 of the Nation's Best Fly Tyers

Free Admission and programs covering fly fishing Taneycomo, fishing for Ozark Smallmouth bass, and tying with deer hair. Casting pool and free casting lessons, free fly tying lessons, shop fly fishing gear. Talk with guides and exhibitors.

Demos – casting, fly tying

Live and silent auctions

Breakfast and lunch concession by Assembly of God Youth Group

For more information, call (417) 777-2467.

Roxanne and Terry Wilson

Tri-Lakes Fly Fishers



River Otter

A Question on River Otters

Letter sent to Kim Schultz,

Dear Sir, attached please find correspondence I recently sent Mr. A.J. Pratt who I understand is the MDC Biologist in charge of the North Fork of the White River and probably other rivers in the close proximity of West Plains.

I am curious if any of your members have noticed a significant reduction of quality Brown Trout in the NFWR.

If so, as I have, I would appreciate an effort on the part of yours and other chapters to petition MDC to significantly reduce the number of River Otters living in the NFWR basin.

Additionally, I have attached links to articles published in The Missouri Conservationist which you and members might find interesting.

Your assistance in this matter is sincerely appreciated.

Joe Bazin/Topeka, KS

Letter sent to MDC

Mr. A. J. Pratt
Fisheries Biologist/MDC
Ozark Regional Office
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775-3126
09 March 2012

Dear Mr. Pratt,

As a native of Jefferson City, I have been fortunate enough to enjoy the Montauk, Bennett, the Current, the Eleven Point and the North Fork of the White since 1963. Living in Kansas since 1980 has not diminished my

love of these fisheries at all. I try to make 2 to 3 trips to NFWR annually to enjoy this wonderful Brown Trout fishery.

My two most recent trips were 23-25 Sep 2011 and 3-5 Mar 2012. After both trips and reflecting back over the past 5-10 years it is clear to a lay person that the NFWR, as a great Brown Trout fisheries, is in serious decline.

The only real difference I can see is the introduction of the River Otter. After reading numerous articles on the subject of the River Otters and their adverse affect on Missouri rivers and streams in The Missouri Conservations over the years it would appear the Otters are the single major factor in this decline.

While fishing in Sep 2011 two otters surfaced across the river below Athena Spring and began feeding on mature crawfish while I stood there watching. I noticed along the bank numerous piles of their scat and without exception crawfish shell was present. Last weekend a family of 6 or 7 (possibly 2 adults and their offspring) came up river in the same area and spent 30 minutes of so foraging the river. Clearly these mammals are the most efficient hunters of aquatic life I have ever seen. In these 6 days of fishing from Patrick Access to the James Bridge I did not see one adult crawfish and the soft shelled turtle population seems to be significantly reduced.

I am just a lay person but am having a difficult time understanding the positive impact the otters have on such a wonderful river. Few people enjoy seeing them while floating due to their shy nature but their potential for damage to the fishery seems enormous.

I know the past 2-3 years the price of fur bearer pelts has dropped significantly and therefore fewer trappers are taking otters which would help balance their numbers somewhat. Seems to me that 1 otter per mile of river would be about maximum to allow other aquatic life to thrive. Is there any change the Department will make an attempt to trap these otters and relocate them to South America or Russia or anywhere but Missouri?

Please feel free to forward this correspondence to anyone who can assist reducing the number of otters on the NFWR. Thanks and keep up your efforts to manage the river for fisherman.....your efforts are appreciated.

Sincerely,
Joe Bazin
3505 SW 55th St.
Topeka, KS 66610-9403
bazin@sbcglobal.net

Editor's Note: These are the links Mr. Bazin sent with his letters. Kim thought this matter would be of interest to the membership. We have no idea what the response was to this letter from the MDC.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2007/06/missouri-river-otter-saga?page=0,0>
<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/river-otter>
http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2010/09/9731_6694.pdf
<http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2005/06/otter-appetites>
<http://xplor.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/river-otter>
<http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/1999/11/controversy-times-plenty>

From: Joe Jerek <Joe.Jerek@mdc.mo.gov>

Missouri Department of Conservation NEWS: March 8, 2012

Discover nature with MDC through women's outdoor-skills workshop

June 1-3 workshops will teach hands-on outdoor skills. Registration deadline is April 30.

JEFFERSON CITY Mo -- The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites women to get hands-on training in various outdoor skills at its "Discover Nature Women Summer Workshop" June 1-3 at the Windermere Conference Center along the Lake of the Ozarks in Roach, Mo.

The workshop provides a safe and friendly environment where women receive hands-on outdoor-skills training at the beginner level by selecting a group of four courses from the following offerings: archery, hunting, canoeing, outdoor cooking, firearms, camping, fishing, fly tying, map and compass reading, and shotgun shooting. Women attending for the first time are encouraged to attend the program a second year to complete four additional courses.

The special weekend is targeted to women 18 years and older, along with young women age 14-17 when accompanied by a woman 18 years or older. The workshop is free, but a \$20 deposit is required at the time of registration and will be refunded at check in. There is no deposit fee for young women aged 14-17 when registered with an adult. Registration deadline is April 30.

Participants are responsible for their own accommodations and meals. MDC will provide dinner on Saturday. Various lodging options are available at the Windermere Conference Center including lodge, motel, cabin and camping. For more information or to make reservations directly with Windermere, call 800-346-2215, or visit www.windermereusa.org.

For more information on this and other Discover-Nature-Women programs, visit www.mdc.mo.gov and search "Discover Nature Women," or call 573-522-4115, ext. 3808.

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We want to welcome twelve new members to the club. Several of them came to us for the March meeting after seeing members tying flies at Bass Pro for the public. Eleven of the members are from the three families:

Rickey, Jennifer, Luca and Joseph Giordano
Richard Armstrong
Brad, Peggy, Luke, Nick and Jake Walz
Doug Blauvelt
Ben Blauvelt

Editor's Note:

MTFA will have members participating at the Tri-Lakes Expo and at the Nature Women's events. Both should be great events.

11th Annual Smallmouth Rendezvous & Fly Tying Extravaganza

May 4 & 5, 2012

Presented by:

Northeastern Oklahoma Fly Fishing Club
Native Women Fly Fishers

First Baptist Church

FREE ADMISSION

9am to 4pm daily

First Baptist Church

201 Commercial Road, Tahlequah, OK
(Northeast of Ross St. and US Hwy. 62)

Featured Speakers:

Larry Clark, Ken Richards, Dave & Emily Whitlock,
Terry & Roxanne Wilson and more.

Learn Fly Fishing Skills

See Fly Tying Demonstrations and Competitions.

Visit: www.okieflyfishers.org

2012 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	Ralph Eichholz	581-6456
President Elect	Bill Huyett	887-3254
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	Connie Erickson	890-7243
3 Year Executive Committee Member	Lezley Chastain, Dick Deerfield	
2 Year Executive Committee Member	Ross Doughty, John Richardson	
1 Year Executive Committee Member	Warren Wilkerson, Joe Simecek	

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

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Education Chair – Ralph Eichholz
Social Chair - Connie Erickson
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