



MO Fishing

March 2012

Volume 5 No. 3

Our March 1st meeting will be at the Springfield Nature Center beginning at 6 PM for Fly tying and 7 PM for programs and business meeting.

If you have been fishing Taneycomo recently, without a doubt you have seen rocks from the first outlet to the boat ramp. Mike Allen said there are 213 groups of rocks placed to form an equilateral triangle. The rock structures will direct the water and scour around the rocks, forming troughs for trout habitat. I was impressed with the amount of erosion that has occurred below the dam, many of these rocks are located where the water's edge was five years ago.



Mike Allen will be our guest speaker for March. He is a biologist for the MDC with responsibilities over Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo. He is currently working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to enhance the fish habitat in these waters. Taneycomo has become a gravel-choked tail-water from recent floods and the progression of moving rock below a hydroelectric dam. Mike spoke to us August 2010 and announced the project to place boulders in designated areas in Taneycomo to scourer the gravel bottom to sustain deepwater pockets for trout habitat. Mike will provide a power point presentation and provide us with up to date information to one of the best tail water fisheries in the Midwest.

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter

Activities for March 2012

March 1	Opening day for Trout Season at MO State Parks
March 1	Monthly meeting 6-9 PM
March 10	MTFA Pre-Derby meeting Bennett Spring State Park 12PM
March 22-24	Sowbug Roundup 9AM - 4 PM
March 29	MSU Fly Fishing Class 6-9:50 PM

Club News...

Greetings from Ralph: February is nearly gone and it looks like a busy March. I've been back from my adventures in South America for just over two weeks and I believe I'm finally getting back on schedule. I saw many of you at our Valentine Dinner and we need to thank both Lezley and Joe for putting the party together. I also want to thank, in advance, those who will tie at Bass Pro on February 25. As always, March 1 is the opening of trout season and this year it is also our Monthly meeting date. Sometime early this month we will meet at our storage unit to ready the fly tying boxes for the MSU classes. Our first class is March 29 and the class is in the same room as the last two times. The following week is spring break, so we will have our normal monthly meeting in April. Other events this month are the pre-Derby meeting at Bennett on March 10 at noon and the Sowbug Roundup in Mountain Home from March 22 to 24. The times are 9-4 daily and this year the roundup will be located at the Fairgrounds.

Thanks to Russ, I got my February fish down at Taneycomo. We went down on a cold, rainy day expecting to tear them up and were disappointed. As usual, Russ caught more fish than I did, but I did get the nicest one this time.

Some of you have been asking about my pictures from my trip. I believe I've got between 1200 and 1500 photos. I have several of them on my blog which can be found at <http://ozarkflyfisher.blogspot.com>, if you'd like to see some and read a little about the trip. It was a fantastic two weeks, the first with the animals of the Galapagos Islands and the second among the Inca historical sites in Peru.

Hope to see you on March 1st; I expect some of you will have been to a trout park that day. Elsewhere in this newsletter should be a summary of the meeting for Bennett Spring 2012. **Remember, no more porous (felt) soles as of March 1, 2012!!!**

Tight lines and happy thoughts!

Ralph

(2)

Bennett Spring 2012 Notes

February 13, 2012

The meeting was at the Bennett room on Hwy 64 and lasted just over 2 hours. Among the presenters were Mike Mitchell, Craig Fuller and Mark van Patton. I'll try to briefly summarize what I consider the main points.

Fishing: all rules for limits, methods and areas are unchanged as well as the costs. There will be 6000 fish stocked for opening day; this is 3 fish per estimated tag rather than 2.25 as for the rest of the year. There is a very high, lethal level for fish under 2 inches, of dissolved nitrogen coming from the spring. This is not organic, so it is not from fertilizer, probable cause it the spring is drawing water from an aquifer. They are working on solutions; this could cause a problem for 2013. One thing changed is the have modified Holland dam to get more splash and release some of the nitrogen. This has raised the water level above the dam by less than 2 inches. Many of the people from fly shops and resorts stated their customers complained that there were too many "six inch" fish. The hatchery people insisted that they are bound by a 5% level that is if there are more than 5 fish less than 10 inches in a sample of 100 fish, they cannot release that lot. A couple of possible explanations were given for the fish. There was no gravel removal this year.

Moss cutting schedule is for the following Tuesdays and Wednesdays: April 10 and 11, May 22 and 23, June 26 and 27, August 7 and 8 and September 18 and 19.

Other dates to remember Daylight Savings March 11, Kid's Day May 5, Free Fishing Weekend is June 9 and 10, and Catch and Release begins November 9, 2012.

Mark talked about "rock snot" and said contact cement is better and lasts longer than rubber cement. Some contact cements cannot be diluted as suggested on the MCD video. Boots will have to be treated periodically during the year.

The hatcheries are having a difficult time with a disease in Brown trout and are looking for a different strain. Because the brown trout were delivered in July this past year instead of in the fall, all 4500 were released near the Bennett Access rather than spread along the Niangua River. There were 7500 rainbow released in the river.

New playground equipment is being installed and all campgrounds will have wi-fi. This will not be at a speed for downloading videos, but you should be able to check email, probably while sitting outside of the camper.

The agent said that he will give friendly warnings about felt soled waders and you must leave the stream if you are wearing them. If he sees you have returned to the stream expect a citation. From what I understood, this is for this year and for Bennett. I don't know what will happen other places or even with other agents.

That's a summary, I hope I've hit most of the main points.

Ralph

From: Jim Low <Jim.Low@mdc.mo.gov>

Date: February 15, 2012 14:50:58 CST

To: "'Mdcnews@lists.mo.gov'" <Mdcnews@lists.mo.gov>

Subject: [Mdcnews] All Outdoors News Re: Trout-Park Opener

March 1 is take-a-trout-to-lunch day in Missouri

MDC trout hatcheries are economic engines.

JEFFERSON CITY—If Missouri is the state “Where the Rivers Run,” hatcheries at Missouri trout parks are the confluence of spiritual health and financial wealth.

More than 1.7 million visitors from Missouri and beyond flock to the Show-Me State’s four trout parks each year. They come to leave their troubles behind and to lose themselves in the beauty of nature and the pursuit of rainbow trout. Along the way, they also leave more than \$100 million, which supports thousands of jobs and sustains local economies.

Three of Missouri’s trout parks—Bennett Spring State Park near Lebanon, Montauk State Park near Licking and Roaring River State Park near Cassville—are owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Maramec Spring Park near St. James belongs to the James Foundation. These destinations, with campgrounds, hiking trails, historic buildings and other amenities, are wonderful destinations in their own rights. But trout provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) are the main attraction.

March 1 marks the start of the catch-and-keep fishing season at trout parks, and thousands of anglers have been making the pilgrimage to Missouri’s trout temples on that date for more than 70 years. The number of anglers present on opening day depends partly on weather, but just as important is the day of the week on which March 1 falls. Total attendance at all four parks has topped 14,000 in years when the weather was good and the season opener fell on a weekend. This year’s Thursday opener promises a moderate turnout, even with good weather.

Bennett Spring, Montauk and Roaring River expect approximately 2,000 anglers each. Maramec Spring expects to host as many as 1,000 anglers. Gov. Jeremiah “Jay” Nixon plans to launch the 2012 catch-and-keep season by firing the opening gun at Roaring River. Retired science teacher Berry Reynolds, of Licking, will fire the opening gun at Montauk. He has fished every opening day at Montauk since 1973.

Hatchery managers use these estimates to determine how many trout to stock each day. Throughout most of the season, they stock 2.25 fish per expected angler. On opening day, however, they put three fish in the water for every angler they expect to attend. These fish average around 12 inches long. However, MDC also stocks dozens of “lunkers,” surplus hatchery brood fish weighing upwards of 3 pounds. A few tip the scales at more than 10 pounds.

water streams with unattractive mats that choke out native plants, degrading fish habitat. It reduces natural food sources and fouls hooks, making fishing nearly impossible.

This year, opening-day anglers will get more than a chance to catch big fish. They will receive lapel buttons designed to raise awareness of didymo, an invasive algae also known as “rock snot,” thanks to its unsavory appearance. Didymo blankets the beds of cold-water streams with unattractive mats that choke out native plants, degrading fish habitat. It reduces natural food sources and fouls hooks, making fishing nearly impossible.

In an attempt to keep didymo out of Missouri, the Conservation Commission has banned the use of felt- or other porous-soled waders, which can harbor didymo cells. More information on the ban and instructions for converting porous-soled waders for legal use is available at www.mdc.mo.gov/node/16927.

Didymo can hitch a ride to new waters even without the help of porous soles, however. So, as a further precaution, MDC has installed wader-washing stations to disinfect waders at all four trout parks, and at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery near Branson.

MDC also urges anglers to keep didymo out of Missouri with the following precautions.

- **Check** all fishing gear and equipment and remove any visible algae. Dispose of algae by placing it in the trash, not by putting it down a drain or into bodies of water.
- **Then Clean** all gear and equipment with a solution of 2-percent bleach, 5-percent saltwater, or dishwashing detergent. Allow all equipment to stay in contact with the solution for at least three minutes. Soak all soft items, such as felt-soled waders and wader boot cuffs, neoprene waders and life jackets, in the solution for at least 20 minutes.
- Or **Dry** all gear and equipment for at least 48 hours by exposing it to sunlight.

Anglers need a daily trout tag to fish in Missouri’s trout parks. Missouri residents 16 through 64 need a fishing permit in addition to the daily tag. Nonresidents 16 and older also need a fishing permit. Anglers who are exempt from permit requirements due to age or other circumstances must carry documentation to verify their exempt status.

For more information about trout-park fishing, call 417-532-4418 for Bennett Spring, 573-265-7801 for Maramec, 573-548-2585 for Montauk or 417-847-2430 for Roaring River.

-Jim Low-

A photo of a past opening-day scene is available from the MDC Media Gallery at <http://go.usa.gov/QsN>.

Club Membership and Library Update

Most of the renewal membership applications have been returned with only a few active members not paying 2012 dues. I will be at the March meeting and will accept dues and renewal membership forms. If you did not receive a renewal membership application in the mail, you can access a form from the MTFA-Springfield web site or I will have blank forms at the next meeting. March is the deadline for renewal, since each chapter must submit a roster at the March 10th MTFA State pre-derby meeting.

Since the first of the year, the club has accepted four new members:

New Members of the MTFA

Joel Stewart

Harry Morgan

Dennis Stead

John Anderson

We want to welcome Charles Gregory back.

The club library is located at Backcountry Outfitters. There is a library page on the web site providing where the library is located, a file listing the books, VHS, and DVDs. There are currently twenty-five items checked out. Several of the new members have made a visit and checked out the club's DVD. Tim has moved the library into a separate room in the back of the shop. If you have any questions finding the books or checking out an item, ask Tim Fowkes at Fowkes Backcountry Outfitters.

Kim

The web sites:

MTFA-Springfield.org

E-mail:

[MTFA Springfield@yahoo.com](mailto:MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com)

**If you would like to submit an article for the MTFA newsletter
please put MTFA in the email subject line and sent to
Eve at the above email address**

2012 MTFA -Springfield Chapter Officers

President	Ralph Eichholz	581-6456
President Elect	Bill Huyett	343-2591
Secretary	Dorothy Prugger	862-9972
Treasurer	Connie Erickson	890-7243
3 Year Executive Committee Member	Lezley Chastain, Dick Deerfield	
2 Year Executive Committee Member	Russ Doughty John Richerson	
1 Year Executive Committee Member	Warren Wilkerson Joe Simecek	
<p>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.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Committee Chairs</p>		
<p>Program Chair – Kim Schultz</p>		
<p>Education Chair – Ralph Eichholz</p>		
<p>Social Chair - Joe Simecek</p>		
<p>Newsletter Editor – Eve Krit-Anderson,</p>		
<p>Newsletter Advisory Editor - Kim Schultz</p>		
<p>Librarian – Fowkes Backcountry Outfitters</p>		
<p>Equipment/Supplies - John Prugger/Kim Schultz</p>		
<p>Web Page - Brent Simmons</p>		
<p>Membership Chair – Kim Schultz</p>		
<p>Liaison Natl./State FFF – Rod Pennington</p>		
<p>Public Relations – Kevin Smith</p>		