



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hey Everyone,

I saw a post the other day that "The weather dropped from 95 to 65 like it saw a State Trooper!", and that's definitely been true. I hope everyone's been doing well with the weather changing & staying safe.

I wanted to let everyone know that we're going to give the Co-Angler app a try as an organization. I'm going to contact John Bledsoe (our September guest speaker) and find out any additional details. I'll send an email with all the information soon.

I also wanted to give a thank you to everyone that helped with Women's Fishing Day, although I didn't see any lunkers, the day was successful with many attendees. A special thank you to the fly tyers & Greg for the giveaway items, they were all really popular.



God Bless,
Justin

McDonald's in Lebanon Sept. 26



JOHN BLEDSOE

On September 8th, our guest speaker was John Bledsoe. He is the creator of the Co-Angler app and from the Springfield area. In October 2021, he had the idea for an app that could connect anglers, and since the app's launch in 2023, it's been building success ever since. On the app, you can setup a profile, connect with other anglers, schedule fishing trips, log your fishing experiences, & more. According to John, the most recent update is the inclusion of clubs & organizations. It was really cool getting to meet John and knowing someone from Missouri is having a huge impact on the world of fishing.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

2027 membership renewals will be going out this month. In an effort to reduce costs we would appreciate your attendance at the Tuesday, October 13 monthly members meeting. We can then hand out your renewal in person and save on postage. Feel free to pay your renewal that night. The annual household membership fee is still only \$20. Checks can be made out to "Capital City Fly Fishers", or simply "CCFF". I hope everyone is able to renew and take part in all the great events we have throughout the year.

WOMEN'S FREE FISHING DAY RECAP

I don't know if you could have asked for any better conditions to be on the stream at Women's Free Fishing Day. The 595 women with tags and their families would probably agree. I want to say thank you to everyone that volunteered to help and all the organizations that joined us. Thank you to the Ozark Fly Fishers, Mid-MO Trout Unlimited, Tri-Lakes Fly Fishers, Friends of Bennett Spring, and MO Stream Team for taking part. We worked to direct the attendees toward the organization that were closer to home. It was great to have the Stream Team present to promote their volunteer efforts that help Missouri waters remain clean and healthy. Although the Conservation Federation of Missouri was not able to make it, we did have some of their information to share.

By 10:30 am we had given out all 100 fly boxes and by the time we wrapped things up we had given out around 200 of the fishing accessories. We were also fortunate to get three membership renewals and three new household memberships at the event. I hope you will enjoy the many photos taken at the event. The next page and a half are photos from Women's Free Fishing Day.

Volunteer Photos



Groups at Women's Day



Ladies out having fun



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the three new households that have joined the group. Lisa and Mitch Hardesty, Lousie Miller and Jeff Witten, and Melissa, Craig, and Dominic Tybring became members at Women's Free Fishing Day. If you ever have any questions about the club or fly fishing, always ask. There are many helpful members happy to share their knowledge with you. The calendar of events at the end of the newsletter gives a good list of the many things going on. Thank you for joining.

KIDS TROUT FISHING DAY

With Women's Free Fishing Day all wrapped up, we turn to preparing for Kids Trout Fishing Day. We need to start with tying some flies to fill the 100 boxes. Please stop in to one of the informal gatherings or the monthly meeting on October 13 to see what flies you can help with. There will be a sign up sheet at the October meeting for volunteers to help at the event on November 7. Your help is always welcome.

INTERNATIONAL FLY-FISHING FILM FESTIVAL (IF4)

Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited will present the 2026 International Fly-Fishing Film Festival (IF4) at Forum 8 Theaters in Columbia on **Sunday, October 25**. Doors open at 6:00 PM and film starts at 6:30 PM. Tickets will be \$20 online or \$25 at the door. Links to purchase tickets for our event will be available soon on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MidMOTU>) or our website (<https://www.midmotu.org/>).

We will be raffling off a number of items from manufactures like Orvis, Bajio Sunglasses and Ross Reels.



THIRD ANNUAL KIDS TROUT FISHING DAY



Where: McKay Park (Sunset Lake)
1700 Southridge Drive
Jefferson City, MO

Date: Saturday, November 7th, 2026

Time: Noon - 3 pm

Age: All Kids 15 and Under

BRING THE KIDS OUT FOR A DAY OF FISHING, FOOD, AND FUN.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT FLY FISHING, WE
WILL HAVE FLY CASTING AND FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS.
TRY FLY FISHING! THERE WILL BE PEOPLE TO ASSIST.

FISHING ACCESSORIES WILL BE GIVEN AWAY
PLUS FIRST 100 WILL ALSO RECEIVE A PACKAGE OF FLIES/LURES

LEARN ABOUT MISSOURI CONSERVATION AND ENJOY A GREAT DAY!

**WE ASK THAT THERE BE SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY EACH CHILD
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN FISHING GEAR**



FREE PUBLIC SCREENING – THE TRAIL STATE

Free Public Screening of *The Trail State*

FREE PUBLIC SCREENING
OCTOBER 6



PRODUCED BY
ONCE FILMS

THE TRAIL STATE SHARES THE STORY OF HOW MISSOURI BUILT
THE KATY TRAIL, MILE BY MILE, TOWN BY TOWN. THIS
DOCUMENTARY CELEBRATES MISSOURI'S TRAILS AND
OUTDOOR HERITAGE.

JOIN US AT RUNGE NATURE CENTER FOR A FREE SHOWING OF
THE TRAIL STATE. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—BRING
YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO CELEBRATE THE KATY TRAIL!

Tuesday
6 October, 2026

6:30 PM
7:30 PM

330 Commerce Dr.
Jefferson City MO
65109

Join us on Tuesday, October 6th, as a new documentary makes its way to Missouri. *The Trail State* shares the 40-year-long effort of transforming a flooded rail line into a core pillar of Missouri's outdoor legacy. Explore the people, stories, and ideas that led to what we know as the Katy Trail.

A free and open-to-the-public screening of *The Trail State* will be hosted at Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. The showing will begin at 6:30 PM.

Photos and official documentary poster courtesy of Once Films.

STREAM TEAM UPDATE

Water Quality Monitoring will be on Saturday, October 10.

Meet at the Assembly of God Parking lot on Route C across from the Hen House (Schulte's) at 6:15. Let me know what donut you prefer and I will bring it. We will car pool to the stream and fish at Bennett after. Bring your rod, lunch and water. So far I have Mike, Greg, John van Eschen, Lenny and Uldis. Bobby and Noah may be able to join us. Noah likes the sprinkle donuts and they motivate him to come.

Conservation Federation News:

Lee and I attend the CFM Affiliate Summit on Sept 18. It was a day of great presentations and a lunch too. Lee and I will talk about it at our next meeting.

Resource Advisory Committees are meeting and preparing resolutions that will be voted on during the spring 2027 meeting. This a link to resolutions that have already been submitted:

<https://confedmo.org/listed-resolutions-through-the-years/> Ethan Duke, whom you may have met at our banquet, heads the Environment and Ecology Committee that I serve on. We are preparing these resolutions:

1. Leftover Paint Disposal
2. Updating the Data Center Resolution
3. Responsible Lighting Resolution
4. Bighead Carp Resolution (They are currently protected/)
5. Solar Paneling of Missouri State-Owned Buildings and Properties
6. Support for Pollinator Habitats and Native Species Gardens in Missouri Municipalities

I will share more CFM updates later, and if you want to know more about them let me know.

Jeff

Conservation:

TROUT AND DROUGHT: WHAT TO KNOW

With low water and high temps, here are two ways you can help keep fish and fisheries healthy this summer.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00NzE3NjM4JnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01NzI3Nzk5MQ/index.html>

Great waste in the Great Lakes: How plastic pollution is clogging our waters

More than 40 million people in the United States and Canada depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water. Each glass of treated lake water is laden with tiny bits of plastic — microplastics — made of toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other diseases. Also contaminated are fish, staples of Midwestern fish fries and fish boils, and an important part of the diet of Indigenous tribes, certain immigrant populations and communities of color.

At 400 stadiums in the country over 2 billion plastics cups will be used and mostly trashed.

A KC soccer stadium will begin using reusable cups.

<https://www.boldreuse.com/case-studies-for-reuse/kansas-city-current-bold-reuse-set-a-new-standard-for-sustainability-at-cpkc-stadium>

RESTORATION

LOGJAMS FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD HABITAT

In the Pacific Northwest rainforest, TU and the Hoh Tribe are using helicopters to restore historic fish habitat and benefit the entire ecosystem.

<https://tu.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c97310f4c63c3bdc766145bfc&id=a77383a3f4&e=9fb8644ac7>

A BEAUTIFUL MESS

Watch to learn about how cutting trees and adding them to streams is helping native brook trout.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00Nzl5NDMxJnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01NzQ4NjkxNg/index.html>

IMPROVING FISH PASSAGE IN CALIFORNIA

Achieving balance is always a mark of success on a barrier removal project, and on Paynes Creek in Northern California, salmon and steelhead can now move more freely and water users still get the water they need.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00Njl5NTgzJnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01NTE5NTk4NQ/index.html>

Education

TROUT TIP - ACCEPT CHANGE

Be willing to revel in youth's ever-changing interests as you guide them through learning to fly fish.

<https://tu.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c97310f4c63c3bdc766145bfc&id=d806ed2847&e=9fb8644ac7>

Fishing

TIME ON WATER EQUALS FISH

Trial and error is a big part of fly fishing, so test that out by spending more time on the water... both you and your fly. <https://tu.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c97310f4c63c3bdc766145bfc&id=f0e89cdc5a&e=9fb8644ac7>

BROWN TROUT

Fishing for these popular and wily trout are a treat for many anglers. Learn more about their history, their habitats and how to fish for them.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00NzQ3MDkyJnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01NzgxODMwMA/index.html>

SHADOWS

Which shadows affect fish the most, and how concerned should anglers be about boats?

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00NzA4OTM0JnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01NzE0MDE3Ng/index.html>

TROUT TIP - ROLL CAST

An important cast to have in your arsenal as it comes in handy in many fishing scenarios.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00NzA4OTM0JnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01NzE0MDE3MA/index.html>

Water Quality Monitoring Training:

Level 1 videos https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBQMify_cD4DQe07cir0nipWVrbQ2npVy

READING'S FLY SHOP
Presents
NIANGUA OUTDOOR DAYS
HOSTED By Hidden Valley Outfitters
October 2nd and 3rd

JOIN READING'S FLY SHOP AT HIDDEN VALLEY OUTFITTERS FOR A WEEKEND OUTDOORS WITH HUGE SALES, VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS, A ONE-FLY TOURNAMENT, PRODUCT DEMOS, GIVEAWAYS, RAFFLES, GAMES, AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
FRIDAY - NOON TO 7PM
4PM TO 7PM - Cappy Hour SPONSORED BY GRUNDENS - Pick a HAT and customize with a PATCH of your choice!

SATURDAY - 8AM TO 10PM
8AM TO 9AM - ONE FLY REGISTRATION
DIVISION 1 - UP TO 13 YEARS
DIVISION 2 - 14 YEARS AND UP
9AM - One-Fly Begins
10:30AM - ANNOUNCE WINNERS/GIVE OUT PRIZES

JOIN US ON THE RIVER at NOON!
Bring your CAMPING CHAIRS and LOVED ONES for some SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS with CHARLIE READING and OTHER Fishing EXPERTS from the area.
Keep the kids entertained with GAMES BY THE RIVER!

3PM - KAYAK RACE For Kids
5PM - GIVEAWAYS AND RAFFLE WINNERS - MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN
7PM - MOVIE BEGINS

BOOK YOUR STAY AND MAKE IT A FULL WEEKEND!
CAMPSITES | RV SITES | CABIN RENTALS AVAILABLE AT HIDDEN VALLEY OUTFITTERS
FOR EVERY NIGHTS STAY, YOU WILL RECEIVE A RAFFLE TICKET FOR SATURDAY'S DRAWING
(417) 533-5628 HVOUTFITTERS.COM

COME FOR THE SALES, STAY FOR THE STORIES, LEAVE WITH THE PRIZE

Everyone is Welcome!  Free

Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers
Family Fly Fishing Festival
Saturday October 24th, 2026
Bennett Springs State Park
9:00am to Noon

First 100 Participants to complete the Fly Fishing Festival Trail will earn a SMFF Fly Cup and a free \$5 Daily Pass to fish Bennett Springs State Park.

Learn to Fly Cast, Tie Flies, Rigging Stations, Specialized Fly Fishing Knots.
Meet Stream Team #57 from Crane Creek.

  

 ELKS Lodge 2705

"GOT YOUR SIX"
Totally Free to Veterans

5th Annual Veterans Fishing Event, Lake of the Ozarks, MO.
Where: Ricks Headquarters - 1616 Big Island Drive, Roach, MO 65787
When: October 12th - October 15th, 2026

Event Schedule:

October 12 -

- Arrive at Ricks HQ between 1330 and 1500 for Registration
 - Sign in, Name Tag, Room/Bed assignment
- Refreshments 1430 - 1730
- Dinner served at 1800 (Pizza and Salad)

October 13 -

- Reveille - 0645
- Breakfast served 0700 - 0800
- Guide/Veteran Boat assignment for the Day.
- Gather fishing equipment, load boats with drinks/coolers, and begin fishing
- Return to Base 1200: restrooms, sack lunches, drinks and go fishing.
- Return from fishing 1530

- Clean fish, weigh, mark, date and bag them, place in freezer
- Pictures, refreshments 1600
- Dinner 1730

October 14 -

- Reveille - 0645
- Breakfast served 0700 - 0800
- Guide/Veteran Boat assignment for the Day.
- Gather fishing equipment, load boats with drinks/coolers, and begin fishing
- Return to Base 1200: restrooms, sack lunches, drinks, and go fishing.
- Return from fishing 1530
 - Clean fish, weigh, mark and bag them, place in freezer
- Pictures, refreshments 1600
- Dinner 1730
- Awards 1845
 - Rick and Robin appreciation
 - Trophies for largest Bass and Most Crappie
 - Guide Appreciation (Gas Cards)
 - US Flags
 - Flocks" Knit
- 1930 - "Got Your Six" - Presentation on Suicide Awareness
- Veteran Service Officer (VSO) discussion on Disability filing process, latest legislation on PACT Act
- Closing

October 15 -

- Reveille - 0700
- Breakfast served 0730 - 0830
- 0930 - Depart for Home
- Sponsor Clean up

Paul Sells, Veterans Chairman; Paultb55@yahoo.com 816-835-5681
Harry Cox, Veterans Co-Chairman; hcox82@gmail.com 573-317-6435

"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- October 1 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- October 2-3 – Niangua Outdoor Days – Hidden Valley Outfitters
- October 3-4 – 63rd Annual Rose Holland Derby – Montauk State Park
- October 6 – Informal Gathering
- October 10 – Water Quality Monitoring – Saline Creek
- October 13 – Monthly Members Meeting
- October 15 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- October 20 – Informal Gathering
- October 24 – SMFF Family Fly Fishing Festival – Bennett Spring State Park
- October 25 – International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) – Columbia, MO
- October 27 – Informal Gathering
- October 31 – Last Day of Catch-and-Keep at the trout parks

November

- November 1 – Urban Winter stocking program scheduled to begin
- November 3 – Informal Gathering
- November 5 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- November 7 – Kids Trout Fishing Day at McKay Park – **Volunteers Needed**
- November 10 – Monthly Members Meeting
- November 13 – Catch-and-Release season starts at the trout parks
- November 17 – Informal Gathering
- November 19 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- November 24 – Informal Gathering

December

- December 1 – Informal Gathering
- December 3 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- December 8 – Monthly Members Meeting – Christmas Party
- December 15 – Informal Gathering
- December 17 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- December 22 – Informal Gathering
- December 29 – Informal Gathering

January 5, 12, 19, 26 – Fly Tying Sessions – KC Hall

February 2, 9, 16, 23 – Fly Tying Sessions – KC Hall



Tanner Forck with a nice bow

Please share your fly fishing stories, photos, events, and/or gear by submitting something to the newsletter.



Jeff Holzem at Montauk

John, Phil, and Mark having a good day at Bennett by the bridge

