



MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

We had a great fly tying season and now we will get into some informal gatherings. I want to thank Terry Smith, John Walther, and Michael Collins for doing such a great job of instructing all the sessions. If you have any ideas for next year's flies please let us know so we can start looking at patterns and their materials.

Sam Stewart had a great presentation about fly fishing for smallmouth bass at our last meeting. I hope to have a video out soon to share all the information Sam gave us. Thank you Sam for taking the time out of your busy schedule to come visit the group.

Speaking of videos, I have been working on editing the videos I took during our fly tying sessions. I hope to be able to get those out to you in the next couple of weeks. I am no video expert, but you should be able to follow along with the steps for each fly.

We have a couple of special events coming up in April. On April 5, we will participate in the Conservation Day at the Capitol and April 15, our stream team will do water quality monitoring. More details will follow.

I haven't done a lot of fishing since the end of February due to weather and schedule. I did attend the Tri-Lakes fly tying Expo with Phil Curtin, Uldis Pironis, Mike Dean and John Wenzlick. We saw some other club members there as well. It appeared that they had a good turn out from guest tiers, vendors and the general public. Some of us even came away with some bucket raffle wins. On a side note, on the way home we got to the Dutch Country Store about 20 minutes before close. I was told they had specialty cheeses at a reasonable price. I would recommend the smoked Gouda and smoked cheddar.

Lee Kudrna and I will be heading down to the Sowbug Roundup in Arkansas this weekend. I'm sure we will see a number of other club members down there as well. I look forward to seeing a lot of great fly patterns and possibly attending some seminars while there. I think you should experience this event at least once. For anyone wanting to gain a lot of fly tying tips, tricks, or fly pattern ideas, this is the place.

See you soon, Greg Curtin



Just a couple of Sam's Bass Fly Boxes

Sam Stewart starts his presentation

CONSERVATION DAY AT THE CAPITOL

It is now confirmed! We will have a table at the Conservation Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 5th. We want to show our support for the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the many other groups that help to preserve Missouri's natural resources. Just showing up is a step in the right direction.

***We are looking for at least 6 people that would help at the event.** The plan is to have 2-3 fly tiers at the table. We will break the time up into two 3 hour sessions. From 7 am to 10 am and 10 am to 1 pm. The official start time is 7:30 am, but we will want a little time to get set up. You will need to use your own tying equipment and materials. If you come to the informal gatherings we can discuss what you might tie and then we might even be able to go to the storage unit and find some materials to use. If you expressed interest in helping previously, we need to hear from you again to make sure you can still help out. We can have as many people there as we want, but we will only have one table for the event. I hope we can have a person out front to bring people into the table to show off our club. Please contact me (Greg Curtin) via this email or by phone/text at 651-492-4025 to verify your interest to help.*

STREAM TEAM UPDATE

Water quality monitoring and fishing April 15.

It is time for our spring monitoring of Big Saline Creek in Miller County. We will meet at 6:00 am at the Assembly of God parking lot on Rt C, just west of Schulte's. I will pick up donuts when they open at 6 and meet you then. We will fish at Bennett after monitoring. Please let me know if you will help monitor, if you will fish, and what kind of donut you prefer. All are welcome to join. This is one way our group helps to maintain Missouri's natural resources.

After I submitted our last monitoring data, we received a big thanks from Amy Meier, the stream team biologist. She asked if we wanted to have our names in a drawing for prizes, so I submitted an activity report for everyone who monitored. I do that every time we go out.

If you have not taken the water monitoring classes, here is a chance to attend. There is no longer a requirement to begin with the introductory class. You can start with level 1 and participate online. You will do a field test April 8 to complete the training. Unfortunately, the field training is in Columbia and not in Jefferson City. I think you will enjoy the training and get tips on matching the hatch. Sign up here: [Events | Missouri Department of Conservation](#)

*Jeff Holzem, Stream Team Coordinator
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KIDS FISHING DERBY – BINDER PARK

There is not much detail for this event at the moment, but for the last few years the Kids Fishing Derby at Binder Park has been held the same time as Missouri's free fishing days, June 10-11. So please leave June 10th open to help at the event. I would like to see the club have at least 15 members there to help that day. We did it last year, so let's do it again this year. Thanks!!!!

MAY 9th OUTING

Our May 9th meeting is our first outing of the season. We will meet at Countryside Park in Taos, MO. It will be a potluck with the main course being fried fish. You can't have a fish fry with out sides, so we will also have french fries and onion rings, not to mention the other wonderful side dishes and desserts others will bring. Umm, Umm, Good!

In order to get everything lined up, I need to know if you can come to the outing and what you might bring. You can email starting now to let me know of your intention to attend. I will be at most of the informal gatherings and our April meeting night with a sign up sheet as well. If you are unsure of what to bring, we can discuss that so we don't get too many of the same thing.

Don't forget to bring your fly rod. Countryside Park has a stock lake to fish. I want to be able to put some fish catching photos in the newsletter. I have not fished there yet, but May should be a great month for fish catching opportunities. Planning starts now.

GUEST SPEAKER

Andrew Branson, Fisheries Programs Specialist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, has agreed to come to our April 11th meeting for a presentation. For over 10 years, Andrew has served with the MDC to bring fishing to Missouri. He has helped to develop many programs to increase awareness and participation in fishing activities. He will talk to us about the many angler recognition programs that were developed to increase participation. Programs like the Blue Ribbon Trout Slam, Smallmouth Slam, the I released a Lunker Award, Brag Boards, First Fish Certificate, Master Angler Award, and more. He might even have a few tips to share.

OPENING DAY

March 1st, was the start of the catch and keep season at the four Missouri trout parks. Things started with a bang, literally. One of the photos (left) is CCFE member Danny Goldschmidt firing the starting gun to signify the start of the season at Bennett Spring State Park. Congratulations Danny on being selected for the honor of beginning the season. You will also see (middle) the many fishermen lined up on the hatchery dam to try their hand at catching the big one.

Not to be out done, there is a photo (right) of the fishers lined up at Montauk State Park as well. If my memory serves me correctly, there were over 1500 tags sold opening day at Montauk and over 1400 sold at Bennett Spring. This is still a popular tradition for many people. Great memories!



THE MAYFLY PROJECT

If you are not familiar with The Mayfly Project, what better way to tell you about it than with their mission statement.

MISSION

The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) organization that uses fly fishing as a catalyst to mentor children in foster care. Our mission is to support children in foster care through fly fishing and introduce them to their local water ecosystems, with a hope that connecting them to a rewarding hobby will provide an opportunity for foster children to have fun, feel supported, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

Sarah and Ben Havens started the Missouri chapter at Bennett Spring in 2020. Along with many others, Mike and Karen Jaegers, who are longtime members of CCFE, are helping as mentors of the project. Their continued hard work helps to build more recognition for the program and draws in more help around the state. Dates will be announced as to when you could help as well. There will be meetings once a month for the next few months to tie flies for the kids. The next meeting is April 15th, coinciding with Veterans free fishing day at Bennett Spring State Park. I will get a few more details as to time and place and send them out to everyone.

BRANSON FLY TYING EXPO

With the Tri-Lakes Expo just completed and the Sowbug Roundup coming up this next weekend, the next big fly tying event in Missouri is the Branson Fly Tying Expo. On July 27-29, the Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association of Springfield/Branson is sponsoring the 3 day event to raise funds for their club. Like the other events, I'm sure you will see a lot of great tying, seminars, vendors, raffles, auctions, and the like. Don't wait too long to make your plans for this one. Lake Taneycomo has plenty of good fishing as well. If you want to tie flies at the event, there is still time to sign up for that as well.

PHOTOS



Beautiful Taney Brown



There are still trout to be caught at McKay



An opening day prize at Bennett

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 23-25 *Sowbug Roundup – Mountain Home, AR*
- 28 *Informal Gathering*

April

- 4 *Informal Gathering*
- 5 *Conservation Day at the Capital - Conservation Federation of Missouri – Volunteers Needed*
- 6 *Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 11 *Club Meeting*
- 18 *Informal Gathering*
- 15 *Stream Team – Water Quality Monitoring at Big Saline Creek*
- 15 *Veterans Free Fishing Day – Bennett Spring*
- 15 *Mayfly Project – Bennett Spring*
- 20 *Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 25 *Informal Gathering*
- 27 *Senior Citizens' Trout Fishing Tournament – Montauk State Park*

May

- 2 *Informal Gathering*
- 4 *Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 6 *Spring Kids Free Fishing Day – Montauk State Park*
- 9 *Club Outing – Countryside Park Taos,MO – Fish Fry (potluck)*
- 16 *Informal Gathering*
- 18 *Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 20 *Spring Kids Free Fishing Day – Roaring River State Park*
- 20 *Kids Free Fishing Day – Maramec Spring State Park*
- 20-21 *MTFA – State Trout Derby (tagged fish only) Bennett Spring State Park*
- 23 *Informal Gathering*
- 30 *Informal Gathering*

June

- 1 *Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 6 *Informal Gathering*
- 10 *Kids Fishing Derby – Binder Park*
- 10 *Fly Fishing Clinic – Montauk State Park*
- 10-11 *Missouri free fishing days*
- 13 *Club Outing*
- 15 *Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 20 *Informal Gathering*
- 27 *Informal Gathering*

**Capital City
Fly Fishers**



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023