



## **Message From the Prez**

Hello Everyone,

A friend of mine once said, "Missouri is the only place in the world where you can shovel snow on Saturday and cut your grass on Sunday". That's definitely been the case recently, but I hope you've all gotten out during the nice days & enjoyed them. This weekend I'll be going to southeast Missouri to visit family, who knows, maybe I can do a little fishing while we're down there.

I want to give another huge thank you to everyone who helped with the banquet. It was a success and everyone's hard work & efforts are noticed & appreciated.

I want to remind everyone we need some volunteers for the Conservation at the Capitol event. It's Wednesday, April 2nd from 7am-1pm. John Goad, Jerry Kemple, and Greg have volunteered, but we still don't have the entire time covered. The roles are fly tyers and someone to direct the people around our table. During the same time, there's a kids event taking place on the other half of the third floor rotunda so it sounds like it'll be a busy day. If you're able to volunteer, please let me know as soon as possible.

Also, If you're attending the Sowbug Roundup in Arkansas next week, be sure to get pictures to share with everyone. Rachel & I were planning to attend for the first time, but unfortunately something came up and we're unable to go this year. There's always next year.

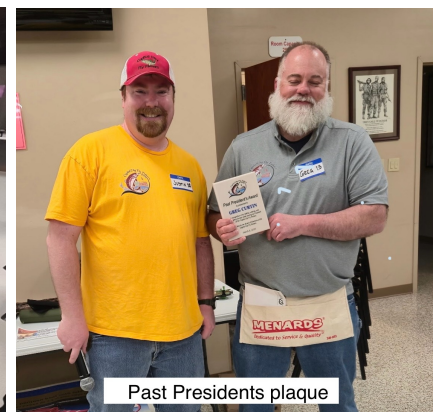
God Bless,  
Justin

## **CCFF Banquet Recap**

First off, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the CCFF Banquet on March 8th a resounding success! We met our goal of selling 100 tickets, and the turnout was fantastic. The raffles, auctions, and giveaways were a hit, and we couldn't have done it without the incredible support from all the attendees, our members, and the community. If you attended, volunteered, donated, or simply helped spread the word—your efforts are truly appreciated!

We are still waiting on some expenses for the banquet to come in, but even after those are tallied, we will have made over \$4000 to go for club activities in the future. We should have a final total at next month's meeting.

I want to personally thank everyone for the plaque and recognition for being the past president. I will continue to be involved and work for the success of CCFF. Let's all do are part for the group. Thank you – Greg Curtin.



Past Presidents plaque

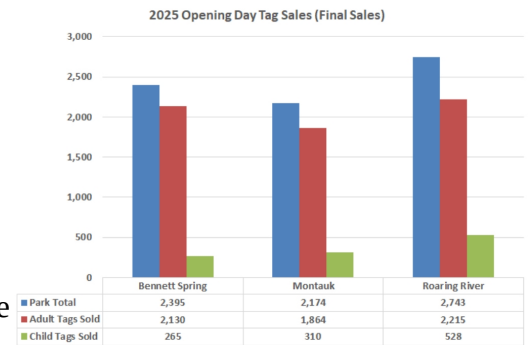
## Volunteers Needed for some of the upcoming events:

- **Sowbug Roundup (March 27-29):** If you're planning to attend in Mountain Home, Arkansas, be sure to check out the special guests, Pat Dorsey and Tim Flagler. It's going to be a great event filled with fly tying, networking, seminars, and fun. Some club members will be tying during the event. Be sure to stop and say hello to them.
- **Conservation Day at the Capitol (April 2, Wednesday):** We're still looking for a few volunteers to represent CCFE. The event runs from 7am to 1pm and we could use at least 2 more people to help. If you can't be there all day, consider stopping by to show support for the club and the conservation efforts in Missouri. Please let our President Justin know if you are able to be there to tie flies. Conservation Day is an opportunity for you to show your support for the efforts to preserve Missouri's natural resources.
- **Veterans Free Fishing Day At Bennett Spring (April 12):** We realize that the Tri-Lakes Expo falls on the same weekend as Veterans Free Fishing Day, but we could sure use your help to make this a memorable day for all the veterans that attend. Last year was a little lackluster for attendees and we want to come in and make it better. We need you to come help with fly tying. If you are not able to tie, come for the fishing and fun. There will be food provided to Veterans.
- **Tri-Lakes Fly Fishing Expo (April 11-12):** If you want to attend both the Tri-Lakes Expo and Veterans Free Fishing Day, you are in luck. You can go to the Tri-Lakes Expo on Friday, April 11 from 1 pm to 4 pm and then volunteer at Veterans day on Saturday, April 12.
- **Summer Outings:** Don't forget to mark your calendars for our summer events starting in May. Our coordinators for the upcoming outings are Greg Curtin for May and Mark Javersak for June. Attendance numbers will be needed so message Greg for May outing or sign up at April meeting so we can plan for the food and the potluck.
- **Kids Fishing Derby at Binder Park (June 7):** We made an incredible showing last year with 18 volunteers at this event. It really showed how great of an organization CCFE really is. Let's do it again this year! We will need help with registration, measuring/recording all the catches, handing out water and snacks, and other things as they come up. This is a great community builder and present an opportunity for us to advertise for Kids Trout Fishing Day in November.

## Opening Day

Opening Day on March 1st at the trout parks was a fantastic way to kick off the season! There was a strong turnout, with members and fellow anglers braving the early morning chill to land some beautiful trout. The attendance graph shows just how many dedicated fishers made it out to celebrate the start of catch-and-keep season.

Here are some great photos capturing the success of the day—smiling faces, great catches, and a shared love for the sport. If you have any photos you'd like to share, send them our way, and we'll include them in the next newsletter.



John Walther starts the season



Montauk Opener



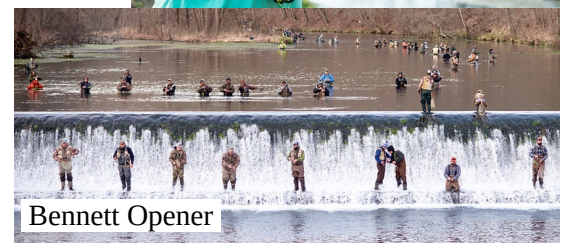
Michael at Montauk



Justin enjoying opening day



Roaring River Opener



Bennett Opener

## **Stream Team Update**

### **Water Quality Monitoring - Saturday April 5 6:15 am**

We will meet at the Assembly of God Parking lot on Route C near Schulte's Fresh Foods. Then we will carpool to big Saline Creek in Miller County off of Highway 17. We will all have a donut and set up our equipment on a gravel bar. We will conduct some chemical tests and count bugs. Then we will measure the flow. That was a challenge last time because we were in a serious drought, but we found a surprising number of insects, maybe because the water was so low, or because Uldis brought a rake. To get a better idea of what monitoring involves, check out this link [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBQMlfy\\_cD4DQe07cir0nipWVrbQ2npVy](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBQMlfy_cD4DQe07cir0nipWVrbQ2npVy)

After we finish the water quality monitoring and picking up trash, those of us who want to fish will drive to Bennett Spring. After monitoring last spring Karah caught her first trout on a fly rod with Greg's guidance. Everyone who goes enjoys the experience of getting out and checking on the stream. We have recently had several new volunteers and I encourage everyone to give it a try.

Our plan Saturday is basically the same. Bring a lunch and your rod to fish after we finish monitoring. Please let me know:

1. If you can come?
2. What kind of doughnut you prefer?
3. If you are willing to drive to Bennett?

## **Help TU Protect Conservation Funding**

- Nationally, Trout Unlimited has more than \$230 million in obligated federal funding through 2031. While reviews of these contracts by the new administration appear to be moving along and some work is now continuing, considerable uncertainty remains about the federal funding picture and the future of TU's long-standing relationships with agency partners.

- At Trout Unlimited, we leverage federal dollars, paired with tens of millions of dollars in other public and private funding, to support restoration and conservation work across the country.

- These projects power the restoration economy and create family-wage jobs for construction workers, engineers and equipment operators, primarily in rural communities that depend on America's working lands and waters.

- We inject mill

## **America's Public Lands**

Chris Wood, TU's CEO tells how he first came to appreciate our public land. After graduation, I worked and saved and eventually packed my beloved pound-hound, Gus, into an old Mercury Lynx that I managed to keep running with wire, **Bondo**, duct tape and prayer, until we made our way across America. They drove across the country with a case of beef stew in the back seat and stopped to camp in amazing places on public land. Camping on BLM land was free then and still very cheap. Public lands are places average people like us camp and enjoy. You can read all about Chris' adventure here [https://www.tu.org/magazine/from-the-president/looking-for-america-2/?](https://www.tu.org/magazine/from-the-president/looking-for-america-2/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=HbpM4)

[utm\\_source=informz&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=HbpM4](https://www.tu.org/magazine/from-the-president/looking-for-america-2/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=HbpM4)

Hoping to hear from you and that you can help,

Jeff Holzem, Stream Team Coordinator

jeff2002h@yahoo.com

## Guest Speaker for April 8th Meeting

At our next club meeting, we are excited to welcome fellow member Bobby Zylstra as our guest speaker. Don't miss this chance to hear about his experiences, the species he encountered, and the challenges and triumphs of fishing in Argentina. From this photo, it looks like a great time! We look forward to hearing about this great adventure.



## Preparing Flies for the season ahead

Remember, our informal gatherings continue every Tuesday except on monthly meeting nights. These are a great opportunity to connect with fellow fly fishers in a relaxed setting and a perfect chance to tie some flies in preparation for upcoming events. Bring your gear, share techniques, and get ready for the fishing season ahead! John Walther has been painting jig heads to get us started in tying at the informal meetings. If you can't make it to the gatherings, consider tying some at home so we can stay prepared for upcoming events.



Bennett opening weekend



Taneycomo opening weekend



Crappie at JC PARK



John Goad receives lunger patch

L 19.86" | G 11.06" | w 3.04lbs

Fishtechy™ Accepted

I released a  
Maramac Spring Lunger Trout

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## March

- March 25 – Informal Gathering
- March 27-29 – Sowbug Roundup, Mountain Home, AR

## April

- April 1 – Informal Gathering
- April 2 – Conservation Day at the Capitol
- April 3 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- April 5 – Stream Team water quality monitoring at Saline Creek
- April 8 – Monthly Members Meeting
- April 11-12 – Tri-Lakes Fly Fishing Expo (Clinton, MO)
- April 12 – Veterans Fishing Day (Bennett Spring State Park)
- April 15 – Informal Gathering
- April 17 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- April 22 – Informal Gathering
- April 24 – Senior Citizens' Trout Fishing Tournament (60 years of age or older) Montauk State Park
- April 29 – Informal Gathering

## May

- May 1 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- May 3 – Kids Free Fishing Day (Bennett Spring State Park)
- May 3 – Spring Kids Free Fishing Day (Montauk State Park)
- May 6 – Informal Gathering
- May 13 – Summer Outing (Countryside Park, Taos, MO)
- May 15 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- May 17 – Kids Free Fishing Day (Roaring River State Park)
- May 20 – Informal Gathering
- May 27 – Informal Gathering

## June

- June 3 – Informal Gathering
- June 5 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- June 7 – Kids Fishing Derby at Binder Park
- June 7-8 – Missouri Free Fishing weekend
- June 10 – Summer Outing at Binder Park
- June 17 – Informal Gathering
- June 19 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- June 24 – Informal Gathering

Let's keep the energy up and continue making 2025 a great year for CCFF!  
Fly fishing is Life!



   
Serving nature and you

**Veterans Fishing Day**  
Saturday April 12, 2025  
Bennett Spring State Park  
Time: 0700-1930

Veterans Fish Free - No Tag or License Fee  
Veterans may fish in any zone of the stream.  
Special area of Zone 2 Reserved for Veteran's only.  
Pick up your free Veterans Fishing Day Tag at the Park Store.

For more information please contact:  
Hatchery Manager Ben Havens at 417-532-4418 or [Ben.Havens@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Ben.Havens@mdc.mo.gov)

