



Message from the Prez

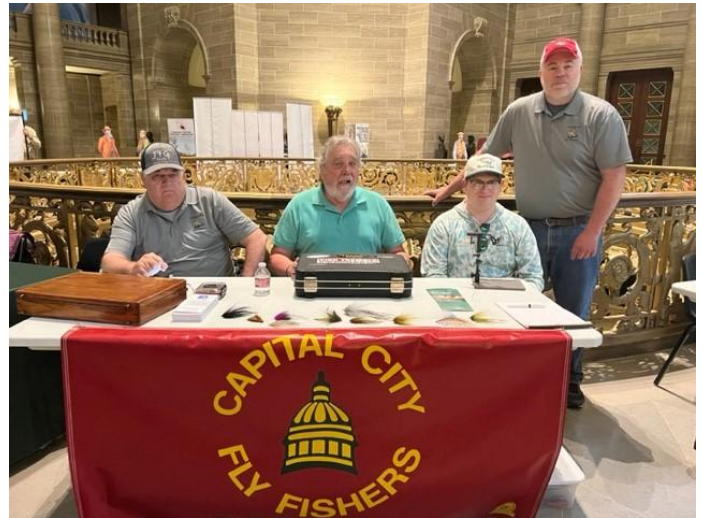
Thank you to everyone that participated at the Conservation Day at the Capitol. Some were tying flies, some were out in front of the table talking to those who stopped, and others made sure we were either set up in the beginning or cleaned up at the end.

Many Thanks to: John Goad, Michael Collins, Mark Javersak, Jerry Forck, Lee Kudrna, Earl Schuessler, Jerry Kemple, and Phil Curtin. Also, thank you to those stopped by to help create a buzz at the table and for supporting the club.

We were there to support Missouri Conservation and the organizations that help protect our natural resources for the future. We had a lot of positive comments about the club. There was a really nice article in the paper and it featured Jerry Forck and Lee Kudrna in the photo. I'm excited to do it again next year.



Jerry, Lee , Earl at Conservation Day



Greg, John, Mark and Mike at Conservation Day

Thank you to Andrew Branson, our guest Speaker at the April members meeting. Andrew presented the many Angler Recognition programs available to Missourians through the MDC. You are all aware of the Trout Slam that started around 2020, but did you know that there is now a Smallmouth Slam as well. The Smallmouth Slam kicked off last year and it includes 12 smallmouth bass special management areas to complete the Slam. We were given information on both slams.

Andrew also left us some new booklets that map out many fishing locations. They have gone away from the Missouri Trout Map and replaced it with the booklet. They also have a booklet

with all the smallmouth bass and goggle-eye special management areas as well. If you would like a copy of any of this information, please let me know.



I'm crossing my fingers and hoping that we are done with cold weather. I'm talking about that freeze your hands off cold type of weather. I'm ready to fish more! In fact I'm leaving this Saturday for The Great Smokey Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina for a part family and part fishing vacation. My family will be with me for the beginning of the week, and at the end of the week, some club members will be joining me to get some fish on. I'm super excited for the opportunity.

Get out and fish, Greg Curtin

Banquet Date

It was discussed at the meeting and voted on to have the Banquet on August 5th 2023 at the American Legion. Cost will be \$25 per ticket.

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 without 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 by May 6th.

You can email Greg at gjc14thebooks@yahoo.com starting now to let him know of your intention to attend.

I will be at most of the informal gatherings and our April meeting night with a signup 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 stocked 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.

Help needed at Kids Fishing Derby

I anticipate that the kids fishing derby at Binder Park will be held on June 10, which coincides with Missouri free fishing weekend (June 10-11). For the past number of years CCFB has helped at the event and this year should be no exception. Please leave your calendar open to help at this time. We would like to have at least 15 people to help in many areas that day.

BRANSON FLY TYING EXPO

With the Tri-Lakes Expo and the Sowbug Roundup just completed, 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.

Bennett Springs Hatchery Improvement Schedule

Andrew Branson also had a hand out concerning Bennett Springs Hatchery construction. A picture of the work and timeline is below.

Need For Improvements

- Improve staff and public safety
- Increase flood protection
- Increase fish rearing capacity
- Replace aging and obsolete infrastructure
- Improve fish waste handling system
- Improve building code compliance
- Improve ADA accessibility
- Increase feed storage capacity and handling efficiency
- Address poor site access for operations
- Improve water quality and flows to improve fish health
- Increase electrical service capacity
- Improve site drainage and storm water control
- Improve exterior lighting

Planned Timeline

- Advertise for bids, March 26, 2023
- Pre-bid meeting April 5, 2023
- Bid opening, April 26, 2023
- Commission action, May 2, 2023
- Construction period, 24 Months

Summary of Improvements

- Demolition of select existing structures
- Site improvements including drainage upgrades and flood wall
- New Spring Branch intake structure with traveling screens
- Instrumentation upgrades
- Replacement of upper raceways for fish rearing
- Improvements to lower raceways
- Improvements to the existing hatchery building to add ultraviolet disinfection and water chilling
- Addition of bulk liquid oxygen system
- New backup generator
- Renovate hatchery office building
- Construction of new shop building
- Construction of new bulk feed storage building

What to Expect During Construction

- Bennett Spring State Park will remain open to the public
- Fishing in the Spring Branch will be available to anglers
- Public access within the construction limits will be restricted
- Temporary road closures will occur, detours will be provided
- Expect sounds of construction and construction traffic

Proposal at Bennett Spring to add Fly Rods only and C&R Section in Zone 1 – Survey is open March 25 – May 15, 2023

Also after Andrew's presentation it was brought up that this proposal is being considered and MDC has a survey on line until May 15th. MDC is asking if:

- 1. I support making Bennett Spring, from the spring to Holland Dam, fly and fly rod only (no spincasting, baitcasting, etc.).*
- 2. I support making Bennett Spring, from the spring to Holland Dam, Catch and Release only.
(the survey asks yes or no, and how strongly you agree or disagree and asks for comments.)*

Please take the survey before May 5 and get your opinion counted! The link is:

<https://mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/public-commenting-opportunities/angler-public-survey-bennett-spring>

Stream Team Update

John Wenzlick, Phil and Greg Curtain, Uldis Pironis, Mike Dean and I dodged the thunderstorms and completed monitoring on Saturday, April 15th. We planned to meet at 6am, but Greg and I talked at 5:30 to consider the weather. Greg took a poll on going so we decided to leave at 6:30 and not go to Bennett to fish. Greg picked up donuts, carpooled with Phil, Mike and Uldis to meet John and me at the stream at 7. The sky looked threatening, so we geared up before having the donuts. We set up at our spot, completed chemical tests and the first insect sampling. Mike started counting time between the lightning and thunder to judge how far away the lightning was. We hustled through the second sampling, packed our gear and hustled to the vehicles in the rain. By the time we had donuts the storm appeared to be over, so we went back to our monitoring location for the third bug count and stream discharge.

We did not find large numbers of insects, but as with the last time there was a good distribution. Most were pollution intolerant (mayflies, caddis, stoneflies....) we even found a hellgrammite and a crane fly. If you want to see a chart with colored pictures, check this out, <https://www.macroinvertebrates.org/> .

A few years ago, I pulled a tire out of the stream below the low water bridge. This time Greg picked up one and Mike got the inner tube. John and I recycled the tire at Big-O. They charge \$4.50 but it beats having the trash at the stream. We always fill up at least one trash bag every trip out.

Even though nitrates were very low as they have been there was more moss in the water than I have ever seen. There was so much, we had to continually clear it from the tape as were measuring stream discharge. Phil said the warmer winter may have been a factor. The other possible explanation is the 80+ degree days we had in March and April. I noted that on the data sheet I submitted so perhaps Stream Team will provide an explanation.

You may recall several of us monitored and fished last September. After monitoring Greg and I fished down a half mile or more. Phil and Lee fished up stream for a good distance too. In the past there were a fair number of nice smallmouths, but that day we did not even see fish. However, we talked to a couple fishermen who said they caught smallmouth last fall and were trying to again today. We asked them to post a picture on our web site if they caught one. I hope they are right.

Certification Opportunity

There was no Level 1 field training in Jefferson City this spring, but the videos are excellent. Check Them Out at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBQMlfy_cD4DQe07cir0nipWVrbQ2npVy

Level 2 and Validation trainings are combined starting Summer 2022.

Monitors attending Level 2 for the first time will complete an online training prior to attending the in-person certification. A link to online training will be emailed after registration.

Level 2

The focus of the VWQM Level 2 training will be Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures to improve the quality of volunteer data. At this training, water samples will be analyzed in the classroom by monitors using their program-issued equipment. Attendees will also improve aquatic invertebrate identification skills.

PREREQUISITES TO ATTEND LEVEL 2:

Completion of VWQM Level 1 and submission of two seasons of data including biological, water chemistry, visual survey, and stream discharge. Greg and Doug have completed the prerequisites and are eligible to register.

The training in Jefferson City will be August 6 and this is the link to register https://www.mostreamteam.org/assets/level2_schedule.pdf with Event Passcode DE59.



Some nice smallies for Dan and Bob Howard

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

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 (also Aug. 19, 2023)

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*
- 3 Veterans Free Fishing Day – Maramec Spring Park*
- 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 – Binder Park*
- 15 Fly Tying For Veterans – Columbia, MO*
- 20 Informal Gathering*
- 27 Informal Gathering*

July

- 27-29 Branson Fly Tying Expo - sponsored by MTFA of Springfield/Branson*

August

- 5 CCFF Annual Banquet – American Legion*
- 19 Kids Free Fishing Day – Roaring River State Park*

September

- 9 Women's Fishing Day – Maramec Spring Park*