



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hello Everyone,

I hope all of you are well & enjoying the nice weather days we've been having. I've been doing some tying, but I haven't had the opportunity to get out there & fish. Which is why I'm looking forward to our May outing on Tuesday the 13th In Taos. Our meal will be fish and Dennis will be doing a filleting demonstration, so be sure to arrive on time, socialize, & have fun!

God Bless,
Justin

A BUSY APRIL

The month of April was very active for CCFF. There are a number of people to be thanked for the time and effort they put in during the month.

We started with Conservation Day at the Capitol on April 2. Thank you to Lee Kudrna, Phil Wisch, Phil Curtin, John Goad, Justin Beyer, Jerry Kemple, Greg Curtin, and Uldis Pironis for attending. Also, thanks goes to John Walther for making up some pin on flies for the event. My apologies if I missed anyone. It was a great day to show support for the conservation efforts that are put forth to try and protect Missouri's natural resources. It was also a great way to meet with other organizations that support some of the same ideas. Not even a fire alarm deterred us!



On both April 3 and April 17, we saw groups go to the VA hospital in Columbia to help veterans tie flies. Thank you to Jerry Kemple, Lee Kudrna, Uldis Pironis, Phil Curtin, John Wenzlick, and Mike Dean for month after month taking the time to help. Because of appointments, vacations, illness, or other life events, they are not always available to make the trip. **If you have time please help these guys!** It's the first and third Thursday of every month. Contact Jerry Kemple to coordinate.

At our monthly members meeting on April 8, Bobby Zylstra spoke about his incredible adventure to Argentina. With his twin brother, Bobby went to the Parana River to catch golden dorados and the surubi (type of catfish). It sounded like good times and good food were had by all. Bobby, thanks for sharing your story with us.



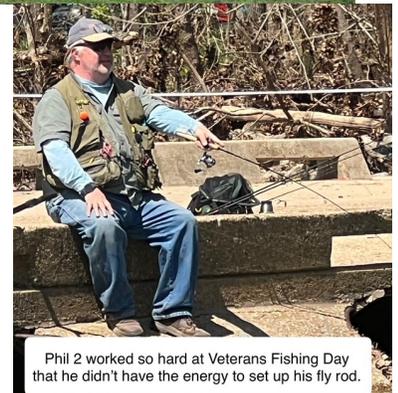
With flooding the weekend of April 5, Bennett Spring State Park was flowing. When Veterans Free Fishing Day arrived on April 12, the water was still high and dirty, but still fishable. It was a cool morning and a beautiful afternoon. Thank you to John Walther, Mike Dean, Phil Wisch, Ken Foster, Phil Curtin, and Greg Curtin for helping. This year they put on a great event. There were at least 8 fly tiers, free giveaways, and an incredible fish fry. You missed a good one!



On the left, is a view from above the dam at the Bennett Spring Hatchery building. (May 5th)



On the Right, is below the dam where the handicapped access is.



Phil 2 worked so hard at Veterans Fishing Day that he didn't have the energy to set up his fly rod.

As a result of the flooding, it was necessary to move our water quality monitoring to April 13. Jeff Holzem will fill us in on that. Thanks for doing such a great job as our Stream Team Coordinator Jeff.

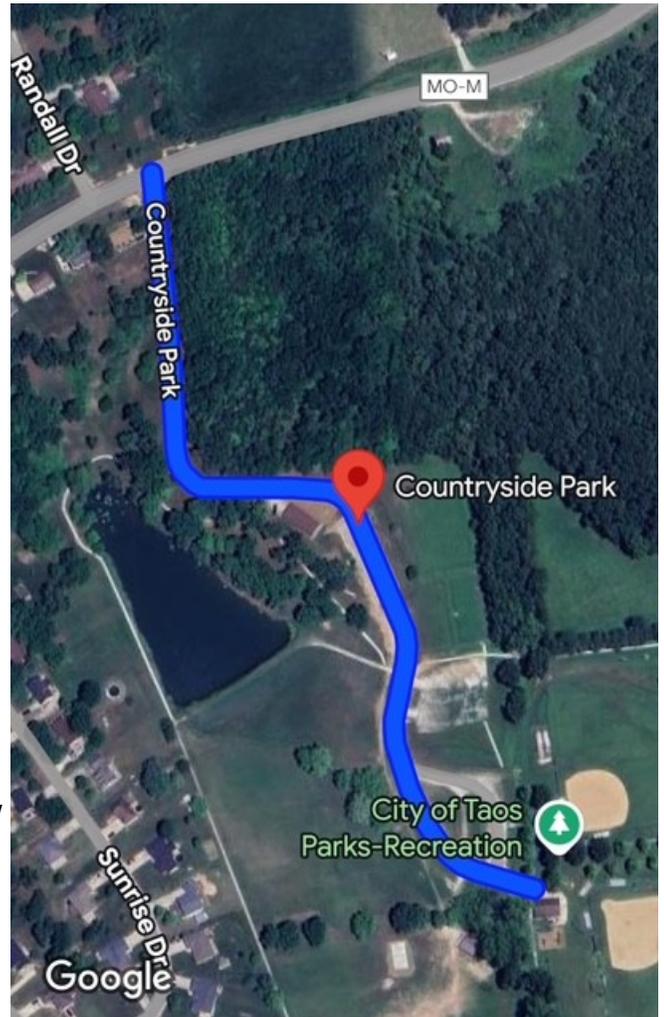
A new month and new activities are right around the corner. Be involved and be part of the fun!

MAY 13TH OUTING

Our first outing of the year is on May 13 and will be held at Countryside Park in Taos, MO. We will be having a fish fry and potluck items brought by those attending. We will eat around 6pm, but feel free to be there early to help setup.

At this moment, there are 39 people on the sign up sheet. If you did not get on the list at the April meeting or any of the informal gatherings after, we need to know if you will be attending to help get a better count on how much fish will be needed. **All member households are welcome to attend whether you're on the list or not, but those on the list will get first priority to eat.** Please contact Greg Curtin and let him know how many in your household plan to attend and what food item you might be able to share with everyone.

Dennis Stieferman will be doing a fish filleting demonstration for us. So, Bring your fishing gear along, in case he needs some fish. Also, if you have any potential new members, please invite them along.



JUNE 10TH OUTING

Our June outing will be at Binder Park right here in Jefferson City. Mark Javersak will be the coordinator for this one. He will be at the May outing so you can let him know how many you have attending and what you can bring for that potluck. John Walther has agreed to prepare a main course for us. He had mentioned pulled pork or pulled chicken. If you are not at the May outing please get a hold of Mark, Justin Beyer, or Greg Curtin to let them know how many are coming and what food item you might bring. If you need any ideas, please ask.

STREAM TEAM UPDATE:

We rescheduled from April 6 to the 13th due to rain. Lenny Liebler has completed level 2 and together we did the chemical monitoring. In the past nitrate waste was toxic, so we returned the waste to MDC. The new reagents are safe, so can dump it on the gravel and rinse equipment in the stream. Greg and Rick, who is a Master Naturalist, have done this some many times they easily handle the macro-invertebrate sampling. It's great to have Mike, who always pitches in and gets it done along with newer volunteers like Bob. In addition, it is great to have other new volunteers like Lincoln, Karah, who recently took the level one class, and Bobby join us. We found a good cross section of species, which indicates the water quality is good. Numbers were down, probably because the massive flooding simply washed them away. After the lowest flow I have seen in about 10 years of monitoring last November, 7 feet wide and a discharge of .23 CFS. Last April it was 55 feet wide with a flow of 61 CFS. What a difference in flooding and drought. I have not worked through the details this time, but the width was 30 feet so the flow would be about 30 CFS.

Even a week later Bennett was high and murky, limiting fishing for Bob and me. Greg only caught half his usual number, but way more than me. Overall it was a good day for all of us and we will be ready to go out again in the fall. Check out the actions shots of the crew at work (no pictures of us eating donuts).



Lenny Liebler taking photo



Bob Leonberger fighting a fish at the whistle bridge

Below are some more stream related items, fishing and taking care of our streams. Trout Fishing Tips, Thoughts:

Dial in your mending skills and you're sure to offer better presentations and catch more fish.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00Mzk0NDYyJnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01MDYzNzg0NQ/index.html>

FACES OF RESTORATION: CAPITAN FORESTRY In Oregon, headwaters restoration work improves the lives of fish and wildlife as well as those of community members.

<https://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00Mzk0NDYyJnA9MSZ1PTQwNzAyMjM0OSZsaT01MDYzNzg0Nw/index.html>

Enjoy of few minutes of ocean beauty and appreciate our wonderful, but fragile environment:

<https://www.tu.org/magazine/photo-of-the-week/photo-of-the-week-coastal/?>

[utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=LqUR4](https://www.tu.org/magazine/photo-of-the-week/photo-of-the-week-coastal/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=LqUR4)

Help Advocate to protect trout and jobs:

<https://www.tu.org/powering-the-restoration-economy-and-rural-jobs/?>

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Stand Up for Public Lands:

President Trump signed an executive order March 1st allowing federal permitting agencies to ignore environmental protection laws in an effort to increase domestic timber and lumber production. The executive order also calls for expanding domestic logging production on federal lands.

Public lands are core to who we are as Americans. These are the places we hunt, fish, and recreate with our friends and families. America's 640 million acres of public lands are some of the last wild places in the country. It's hard to exaggerate the importance of public lands for fishing, hunting, and other outdoor pursuits in America, but these lands also provide energy resources, minerals, forage, timber and other uses. Our nation needs responsibly developed, domestically produced energy, critical minerals and other resources—no question. But we also need wild and native fish and wildlife, in populations robust enough to sustain our sporting heritage, the \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy and the many small businesses and communities that depend on healthy lands and waters. <https://www.tu.org/magazine/conservation/public-lands/public-lands-key-to-americas-sporting-legacy/?>

[utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=detQ4](https://www.tu.org/magazine/conservation/public-lands/public-lands-key-to-americas-sporting-legacy/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=detQ4)

Some wonder how much timber will be cut and will it impact them directly. My son has a concrete example in the Los Padres National Forest where he spends much of his time. Unless action is taken it could be logged based on the March 1 executive order. Please read about it and consider sending an email. <https://forestwatch.p2a.co/87b0joT>

Join Trout Unlimited in standing for public lands and the strongholds these lands provide for fish and wildlife. Read about their value and take action to keep them public. https://www.tu.org/magazine/conservation/public-lands/public-lands-key-to-americas-sporting-legacy/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&zs=hW5wb&zl=detQ4

Jeff Holzem, Stream Team Coordinator

JOHNNY MORRIS INSTITUTE

During Conservation Day at the Capitol there were so many great organization present. One of those organization was the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF). They were there to talk about the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands, & Aquatic Systems at the University of Missouri (MU). A partnership started in 2023 between MCHF, MU, and the MDC helped to design a program that integrates areas of study that often were studied separately and could be used as a national model. This integration will be used to develop future talent in the conservation field.

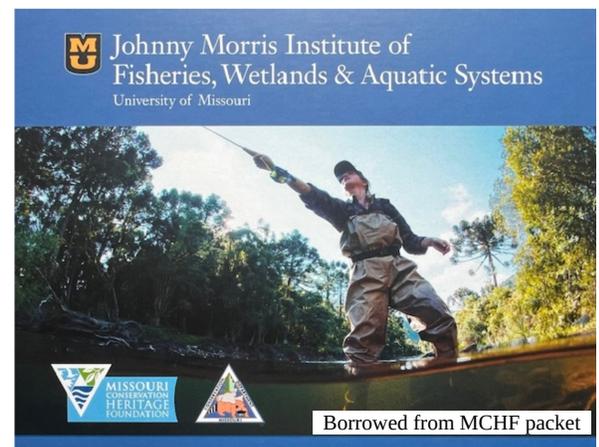
The Capital City Fly Fisher (CCFF) share a commitment to the conservation and sustainability of Missouri's aquatic resources, aligning with the goals of the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems at MU. Both organizations prioritize the health and preservation of Missouri's waterways, fisheries, and wetland ecosystems, making this a natural opportunity for collaboration.

The Johnny Morris Institute, dedicated to advancing education, research, and policy on fisheries and aquatic systems, is making strides in training the next generation of conservation leaders. Their focus on water quality, invasive species management, and the impacts of climate change mirrors the values we hold dear at CCFF, where we work to promote fly fishing as both a recreational activity and a tool for environmental stewardship.

By finding ways to coordinate our efforts, we can amplify the positive impact we have on Missouri's aquatic ecosystems. Whether through joint educational events, volunteer opportunities, or supporting their research on sustainable fisheries management, working together could strengthen the conservation message and ensure that our efforts are aligned in the fight to protect and preserve our state's natural resources.

Let's explore how we can collaborate with the Johnny Morris Institute to further Missouri's conservation goals and promote sustainable practices among anglers, conservationists, and the general public. Together, we can help foster a deeper appreciation for our state's aquatic ecosystems and continue the critical work of preserving them for future generations.

To help draw more attention to the Institute, CCFF has invited them to Women's Free Fishing Day. Maybe there we can help grow support or even find someone from the next generation interested in entering the program.



ANNUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider adding to your calendar some of these upcoming events:

June 7 – Kids Fishing Derby at Binder Park—Last year we had 18 club members come out and help at this event. We would have members at the sign up tables, measuring and recording the fish caught, handing out a snack and water, and helping with the casting contest. The event is usually done before 11 am.

August 9 – CFM Pull for Conservation – Held at Prairie Groove Shooting Sports near Columbia, MO. This earned \$250 for the club and was a great time. Will need 6 or more people.

September 27 – Women’s Free Fishing Day at Bennett Spring – This is one of the big events of the year and we will need several volunteers. Right now, you could start by tying flies for the fly box giveaway at the event.

November 8 – Kids Free Trout Fishing Day at McKay Park – This is another big event for us. Please open your calendar up to any or all of the big events. Thank you!!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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)- Fish Fry/Potluck
- 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 (Binder Park, Jefferson City, MO)- Pulled Pork/Chicken/Potluck
- June 17 – Informal Gathering
- June 19 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- June 21 – Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers 5th Annual Women’s Event
- June 24 – Informal Gathering

July

- July 1 – Informal Gathering
- July 3 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- July 8 – July Outing – JC Park (County Park) - Pizza
- July 15 – Informal Gathering
- July 17 – Fly Tying with Veterans (Columbia VA Hospital)
- July 22 – Informal Gathering
- July 29 – Informal Gathering

