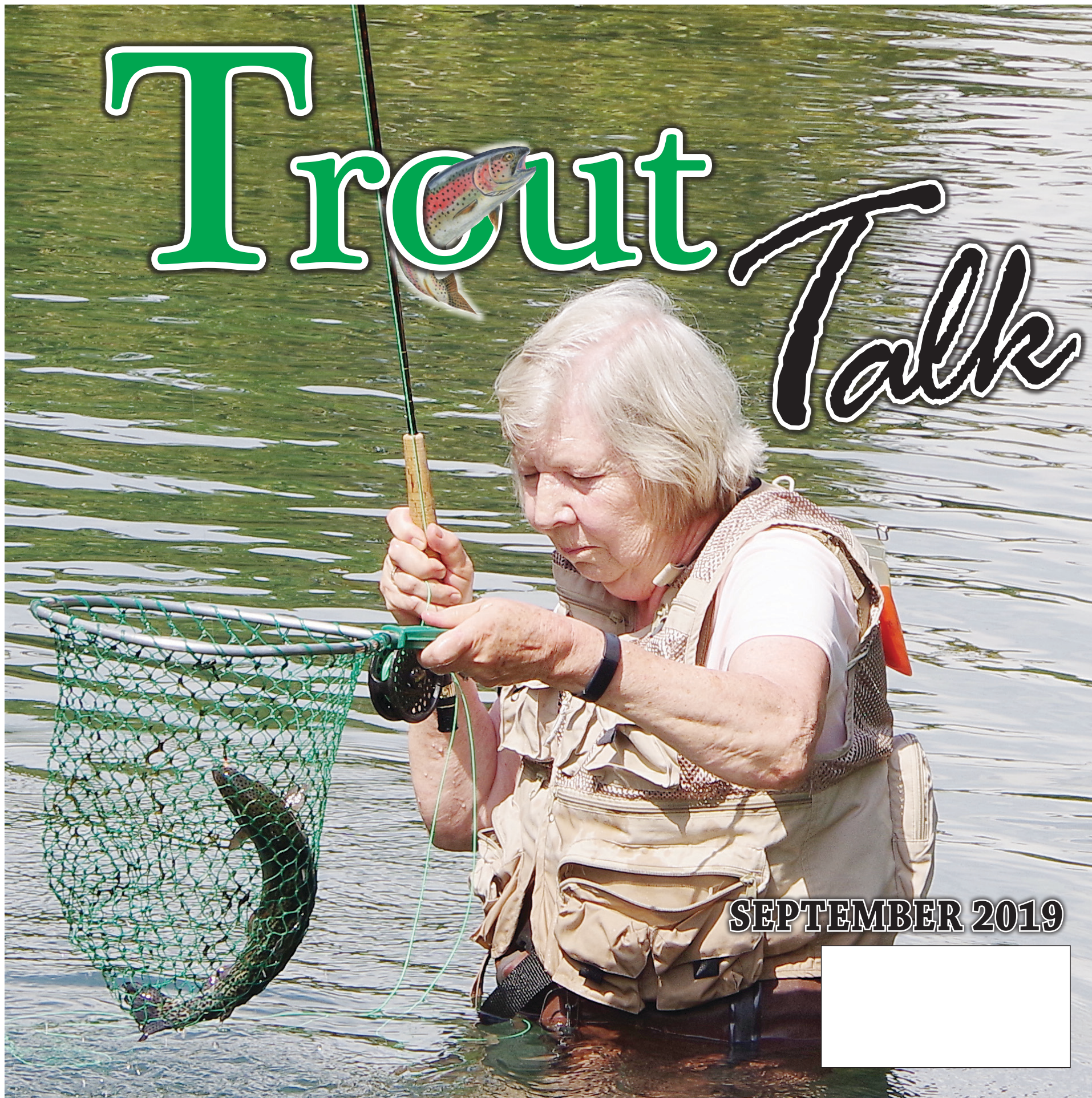
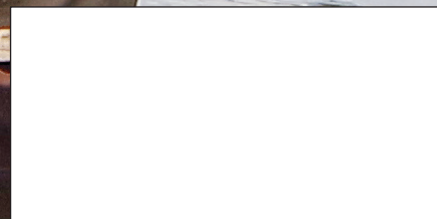


Trout Talk



SEPTEMBER 2019



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Trout Talk photo/Chris Roden

Ben Havens helps his daughter Harper begin tying a fly at a Mayfly Project meeting at Bennett Spring State Park. Sarah Havens, right, discovered the Mayfly Project online and saw an opportunity to help foster kids and promote fly tying.

The Havens keep busy at Bennett

Ben Havens runs the park hatchery while his wife, Sarah, works as a natural resources field specialist for MU-Extension

LAURA VALENTI • FOR TROUT TALK

Ben and Sarah Havens have been living right in the middle of Bennett Spring State Park with their 11-year-old son, Eli, and 6-year-old daughter, Harper ever since Ben took the position of hatchery manager four years ago. However, life at Bennett Spring is much more than a regular job for this busy family. Sarah is a natural resource-

es field specialist with the University Missouri Extension Service, working out of their Rolla office where she covers 61 counties, primarily in the Bootheel area, as well as the region south of Kansas City and much of south central Missouri.

"I enjoy what I do," she explained recently seated in their living room, sandwiched between their two chil-

dren. "I work in natural resources, with forestry and wildlife issues in adult education, doing workshops a number of evenings. I also help to educate people in Missouri about invasive species and why it is important to plant our own native plants at home. Then I teach these same subjects through 4-H."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Trout Talk photo/
Laura Valenti

The Havens family poses

for a picture at Bennett Spring State Park. Pictured, from left, are Sarah and Ben Havens, 6-year-old Harper, holding their dog Sandy and Eli, age 11. Sarah is a natural resources field specialist with the University of Missouri-Extension and Ben is the manager of the Bennett Spring State Park Hatchery.



"We host Lunch and Learn programs, all sort of things to get the information out there."

Another program that has captured Sarah's interest is the Mayfly Project, one that promotes fly tying and fly fishing for the state's foster children. "It's a chance to get the kids outside five or six times. When they finish the program, they leave with their own fly rod, a vest, a chest pack, and a pocket full of flies. There is a real emphasis on conservation, like pack out what you pack in, pick up your trash as well as someone else's if it's there, that sort of thing."

Sarah was first involved with the program at Meramec Springs and Montauk, two other Missouri trout parks, and now she is working with others to bring it to Bennett Spring. "We are looking for mentors right now to help teach the kids how to tie their own flies."

Independent of the Mayfly Project, Ben and Sarah had started a fly tying event once a month at Bennett Spring on the first Friday of each month, or as close as they could get to that first Friday, depending on the holiday weekend schedule.

"We meet at the Bennett Spring Church of God annex, also right here in the park. We started at the hatchery building but immediately outgrew it, which of course, is a good thing," Ben laughed.

Currently, approximately 25 folks gather on those Friday nights and it is open to the whole community, both local residents and Bennett Spring visitors and campers.




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"In that way, everybody can get caught up in the fun of fly fishing with the kids," she continued. "We try to pick a fly to teach and work on each night but of course, if someone there wants to work on a different one that's perfectly all right, too. We look for lots of flies to be donated because when we get out on the spring branch later, especially with our Mayfly Project kids, a lot of these flies end up in the trees and never make it back to those vests and boxes. Still, it's great fun and for so many of these kids a completely new experience."

While fly tying meetings will continue this fall at the Bennett Spring Church of God on the first Friday (or the second Friday in September, due to Labor Day), plans are well underway to bring the first Mayfly Project to Bennett Spring in the spring of 2020. Would-be mentors are encouraged to come by those fly tying get-togethers or drop off their contact information at the Bennett Spring Hatchery.

Meanwhile, Ben Havens, the hatchery manager, has his own special trout fishing project, Ladies Free Fishing Day to be held on Saturday, September 28, the last Saturday in September. "This is our third year to host this event here at Bennett Spring," he stated. "All the same trout fishing rules apply, the only difference being that the ladies don't have to pay for a tag that day. We stock a few extra trout and we feature activities that include information on regional and national womens' angler groups and other shared interests."

He concluded. "Just to make it more fun and interesting, Sarah hosts a Ladies' mixer on Friday night before the Free Fishing Day, that includes a little wine, cheese and crackers as a fund



Harper Havens holds a trout fish she caught while her mother Sarah, laughs, during a Ladies Free Fishing Day two years ago at Bennett Spring State Park.

raiser for the Mayfly Project, so we encourage everyone to come out and enjoy. We appreciate everyone's help

to get these underrepresented groups involved in trout fishing because that is what it is really all about, getting more

folks involved in something we have long enjoyed, spending time outdoors, fishing."

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Remember the advice of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl?

LAURA VALENTI • FOR TROUT TALK

Local kids can demonstrate their knowledge of wild fire prevention and protecting the environment all the while showing off their art skills in the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest.

This is the second year that the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and National Garden Clubs, Inc., have hosted the contest.

The contest is being handled at the state level through state parks like Bennett Spring. Locally the contest is sponsored by the Sunbonnet Garden Club. It is open to all children in the first through fifth grades.

"This competition remains open and is still accepting new participants, first through fifth graders, from schools and as homeschoolers through Oct. 31 at 4 p.m. Local participants can submit their entries through the Bennett Spring Nature Center at the park or through their local Sunbonnet Garden Club," said Patricia Chambers, Interpretive Resource Specialist at the Bennett Spring Nature Center.

Smokey Bear is known around the world as the symbol for fighting forest



Submitted photo

The Lebanon Sunbonnet Garden Club poses for a picture with Woodsy Owl.

fires. His motto is "Only you can prevent wildfires." Woodsy Owl has been used

since 1971 to teach children about conservation. His motto is "Lend a hand, care

for your land!"

National winners will be honored with a recognition ceremony in Washington, D.C. with travel and stay provided. They also will receive a \$50 check.

Tips and more information about the contest can be found at gardenclub.com.

In addition to the competition, on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 1 p.m., the World Bird Sanctuary will host a live owl program at the Bennett Spring State Park's Shelter A as they did last year. People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to enjoy the show.

"The day's activities are sponsored by the local Sunbonnet Garden Club with Margie Wild serving as chairperson. The park sponsors all of these activities in an effort to teach and share with the next generation, ways to heal the land. Natural resource stewardship is a priority at Bennett Spring," Patricia said.

A complete list of all fall activities hosted by the Bennett Spring staff and their volunteers is posted at the Nature Center and also on the bulletin board at the front of the Bennett Spring Park Store in the park.

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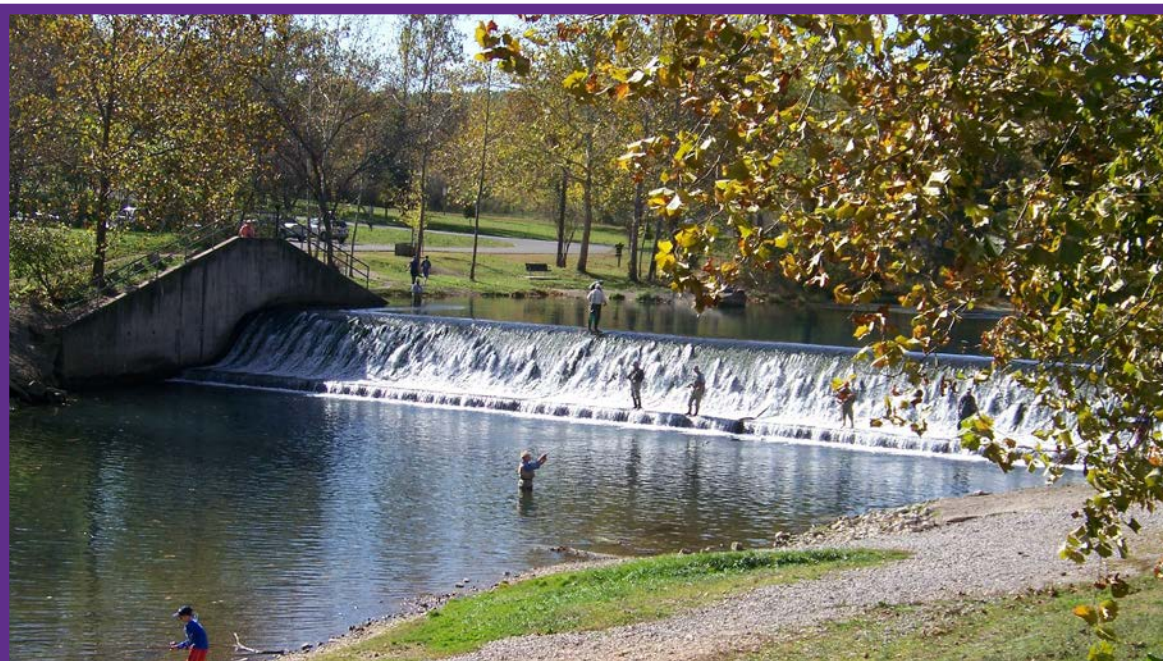
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Get in the zone



Take a look at Bennett Spring State Park's rules and regulations

FISHING REGULATIONS

The spring branch is stocked daily during the regular fishing season, which is March 1 through Oct. 31. Daily permits are required to fish on the spring branch and zones are set aside for different kinds of lures. Permits are available at the park store. For more information, call (417) 532-4307.

ZONE 1: From the hatchery dam upstream to the end of the area. Only flies are permitted.

ZONE 2: From the hatchery dam to the whistle bridge. Only flies and artificial lures are permitted.

ZONE 3: From the whistle bridge to the Niangua River. Only soft plastic bait (unscented), natural and scented bait are permitted. All flies and artificial lures are prohibited, even if natural bait or scent has been added.

Zone areas are marked in the park and maps are also available in the Park Store.

Trout Fishing Hours

April: 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

May: 6:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.

June and July: 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

August: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

September: 7:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m.

October: 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

PARK HOURS

Park Grounds: Sunrise to one hour past sunset, daily

DINING LODGE HOURS

7 a.m. to one hour after the whistle during trout season

NATURE CENTER HOURS

Feb. 25 through Oct. 31
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday

Nov. 1 through Feb. 24 - Closed

PARK OFFICE HOURS

SUMMER HOURS (On-Season)

Feb. 25 through Oct. 31
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
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STORE HOURS

One hour before fishing officially starts through one hour after the regular fishing day ends according to the regular schedule daily during trout fishing season at the park

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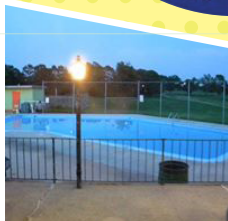
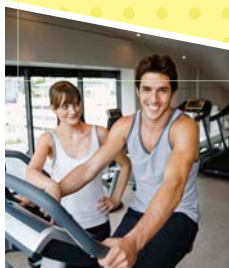
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BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA



Beating the heat down at Bennett



Trout Talk photos/Chris Roden

Despite a heat advisory, hardcore anglers made their way down to Bennett Spring in August to catch lunkers. Far right, Rick Pirtle of Sedalia wades through the algae on his way back to the bank. He visits Bennett Spring every Tuesday excluding bad weather. He said 96 degrees did not count as bad weather. Middle, Jerry Pruitt feels the tension on his line as he brings in a trout on a hot day in August. He has been coming to Bennett Spring State Park since 1974. Above, Nora Rush, 6, of Kalamazoo, Mich., shows her casting style from a jetty.



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