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MO Fishing

**The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter of the
Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association**

Formed in 1972 to serve all fishermen in the Springfield area

May 2025

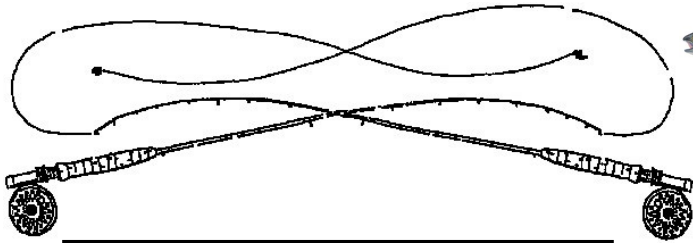
Volume 19 No. 5

The May meeting was held on May 1, 2025, at the Library Center.

The monthly speaker was member Ron Ward. Ron gave a very informative presentation on a recent bonefish trip he took to Andros Island in the Bahamas. Ron booked the trip thru Mad River Outfitters and Andros Island Bonefish Club. The fishing part covered five days with Ron catching many bonefish. The objective of the trip was to catch a bonefish that weighed double digits!

Happy fishing!

Pat Taggart



Springfield Chapter Officers

President: Pat Taggart

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Chapter News



On March 18, 2025, long-time club member Charles Louis Gregory went to his eternal reward. Charlie was known to our membership and I got to know him at our annual Christmas get-to-gathers. A genuine and nice guy! His obituary and some pictures are featured in this newsletter.

Nature Center events needing Fly tying participants:

August 8 from 6:30PM til 9:00PM— Insect-O-Rama

December 30 from 1:00PM til 4:00PM

Our Chapter is partnering with the MDoC Springfield Nature Center to offer a Fly Fishing Class. See the newsletter for additional information.

Upcoming events and happenings:

I talked with Rudy Martinez at the Springfield Nature Center and he is asking for fly tiers for the following dates:

August 8 from 6:30PM til 9:00PM— Insect-O-Rama

December 30 from 1:00PM til 4:00PM

May 16 thru 18—Annual Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association Derby at Bennett Springs State Park. Additional details in this newsletter.

Fly fishing class at the Mo. Dept. of Conservation Nature Center— Saturday June 14, 2025 and Saturday June 21, 2025. Call Bob Randall to sign-up. Club get to gather at Mountain Springs Trout Park on June 26, 2025, and June 28, 2025 at Roaring River State Park—attendees to the fly fishing classes are invited to these events. Come by and introduce yourselves to them!

October 10 and 11, 2025—White River Fly Fishers Expo at the Branson-Hollister Lions Club building, see further details in this newsletter.

Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association Derby details:

MTFA Annual State Derby - Bennett Spring State Park - May 16th - 18th.

Save these dates on your calendar, May 16-18, for the 2025 MTFA State fishing derby.

St. Louis chapter is hosting this event and the raffle.

Derby rules will be handed out when you sign up at Bennett Spring State Park. The derby can be a great family outing as there is no age limit on who can enter and you don't need to be a member of MTFA.

We are encouraging a \$10.00 (donation) per person or \$20.00 for a family, as an entry fee Memorial Service to the MTFA. The derby can be a great chance to meet other anglers that share your passion for trout fishing. The fishing itself can be fun, too.

The hatchery will release 100 tagged fish on Friday evening for our derby.

May 16th - Registration begins, 7:00 pm until Store Closes.

May 17th - 5:30am - 8:00am, Registration at Bennett Springs Store 11:00am - Memorial Service 12:30pm - Lunch & Socializing at Shelter House B (St. Louis is hosting the raffle with prizes) 1:00-5:00pm - Check in tagged fish at Shelter House B

May 18th - 11:00-12:00 Noon Check in Tagged fish at Shelter House B

Hope you can make it!!! David

The Springfield chapter is providing a prize (maximum \$150 value) to the raffle.

MTFA Springfield Treasurer Report

Dated 4/03/2025

Account balance as of 2/09/2025	\$5933.00
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Receipts:

3/07/2025 Membership dues paid	\$90.00	
3/07/2025 Raffle fly rod/saddle	\$60.00	
3/26/2025 Membership dues paid	\$20.00	
Total Receipts:		\$170.00

Expenses:

3/08/2025 MTFA Membership paid to MTFA State	\$118.00	
Total Expenses:		\$118.00
Account balance as of 4/03/2025		\$5985.00

Membership:

- 26 family memberships
- 9 Individual memberships
- 3 honorary memberships

Fly tying class.

Bob Randall will be the lead in teaching the below class, with assistance provided by other chapter members.

Bob Randall provided the below to the MDoC for their newsletter offering this class.

Beginning Fly Fishing Classes

The Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association will teach you about fly fishing. There will be two classes of combined classroom and casting practice. They are designed to be taken together but if you can't attend them both you can still begin fly fishing. The first class will discuss what fly fishing is, what fish have on their menu, some basic fly-fishing points, a few knots just to get you going, and casting. The second class is more detailed about fly fishing techniques, how flies "recreate" insects and their metamorphic stages (you don't have to know their names), ethics, where to go fishing.

No charge. The classes are on consecutive Saturday afternoons, June 14 and 21, at the MDC-Springfield Nature Center 1-3 pm with casting practice after the class at the Living Memorial Park just down the road. Bonus: We're going catch and release fishing at the Mountain Springs Trout Park in Highlandville on the following Thursday evening and having a picnic. Bonus: we're going fishing at Roaring River State Park on Saturday, June 28.

Students under 16 years of age should be accompanied by an adult.

We furnish fly rods. You should bring a cap and sunglasses (polarized are best).

Limited number of students. Contact Bob Randall, email: bobbyleensandy@gmail.com or call: 417-224-1104

Charlie Gregory's Obituary:

Charles "Charlie" Louis Gregory, 78, passed away on March 18, 2025, in Springfield, Missouri.

Born on October 16, 1946, in Howell County, Missouri, Charlie lived a life of dedication, skill, and service.

He attended Willow Springs High School and later completed his GED.

He enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam War and served his tour stationed in Korea, maintaining military vehicles.

On December 24, 1966, Charlie married the love of his life, Martha "Penny" Leona (Morgan). To this union, a daughter, Crystal, was born.

The couple settled in Greene County, MO, where Charlie was employed by Zenith Electronics for 28 years as a maintenance engineer. Upon Zenith's closing, he joined Loren Cook Company and retired after 15 years of service.

Charlie had a deep love for the outdoors and spent much of his free time fishing and hunting. He also enjoyed camping and gardening with his beloved wife, Penny. He taught his daughter to fish and hunt at an early age and enjoyed these hobbies later with his son-in-law Tim and grandson Scott. He was highly involved with the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association and served as an Adjutant in the Korean War Veterans of the Ozarks. His hands were rarely idle; he had a remarkable ability to repair nearly anything and fabricate with metal.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, Lynn Carlton Gregory and Edna Hannah (Moore) Gregory, and siblings James, E. Calvin, Irvin, Susie, and Mary.

He is survived by his wife Penny, daughter Crystal Auchtung, her husband Tim, and one grandson, Scott of the Ozark, MO area, and one sister, Rosa Lee Clark.

Charlie received Christ as his Savior in 1968 and was baptized at Liberty Baptist Church, Springfield, MO, where he was a dedicated longtime member before joining First Baptist Church of Fair Grove. He found joy in cooking for his church communities, spearheading outreach programs, and engaging in End Times Bible Study. His generosity and willingness to serve others reflected his steadfast commitment to the Lord and those around him.

Visitation will be held on Friday, March 28, 2025, from 12:00 noon - 1:00 PM at First Baptist Church in Fair Grove, Missouri. A Celebration of Life will follow at 1:00 PM. Charles will be escorted to the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri, by the Warriors Watch Riders, where he will receive full military honors and be laid to rest at 3:00 PM.

May his legacy of love, dedication, and appreciation for the outdoors live on through the stories shared by friends and loved ones. May we be spurred on to similar acts.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to MBCH Children's & Family, Springfield, MO.

Some members contributed these pictures of Charlie Gregory.



Fishing Reports:

From Kim Schultz

Rod and I made four trips to the Little Sac River near Morrisville in the month of April. We found white bass near Taylor Bridge. There was a significant rain the fourth of April that peak fourteen feet. We started to fish after the river receded and found the white bass moved out of the lake migrated upstream. Here are my notes for the four trips.

2025/04/09 First trip to little sac 865.4 ft 690cfs 3.92ft (59F)

Rod and I fished the Little Sac today, caught twenty-eight white bass, a 24" carp, a pair of crappie, drum and largemouth bass. Fished afternoon to 6:30PM. There was too much current to paddle upstream. Fished the iron bridge area with 12-16" WB most were female with evening spawning activity.

2025/04/11 little sac river 865.6ft 387cfs 3.38ft (59F)

Rod and I fished the Little Sac River, I started at the steel bridge and paddled up stream. A few white bass were caught below the bridge. There were a few bank fishermen, kayaks and power boats. I continued my trek upstream until I found a tree that fell into the river lodged near the bank; There I found the 14-15" white bass. I had caught my limit keeping thirteen whites in the cooler. I call Rod at 10:30, he just pulled in at Taylor Bridge and was ready to fish. I continued upstream to a gravel bar and was able to wade, fish and catch smaller white bass. There I was able to catch and release two limits for the next two hours. I did hear and see a mature bald Eagle fly overhead. Rod caught up with me after 1:30 PM. He caught a bunch of white bass in the sub-twelve inch class. We continued down stream to return to my truck. I managed to pickup another limit of white bass and finished filling my cooler with 15 white bass. Rod had a cooler full of fish and said he caught thirty five for the day. Overall, we each kept a limit with ninety-five white bass caught.

2025/04/13 Little Sac River put in at the Steel bridge and fished the bend 865.9 ft 226cfs 2.9 ft

I fished solo today, started 9AM, did not fish until the gravel bar below the bend. Most of the white bass were caught above the bend with two limits caught. I kept a limit with the white bass measuring 13-15" with one 16". I did keep a 11" crappie. The osprey were fishing and making their presence known. I finished the day after 3PM.

Fishing Reports Continued:

2025/04/16 Little Sac River put in steel bridge, fished the bend 866.1ft 2.72ft (55F) Rod and I fished the Little Sac River. Rod put in at Taylor Bridge. I started downstream and put in at the steel bridge. There were several watercraft already on the water. I made it up to the bend and fished that area. Rod met up with me a few hours later. There were a number of power boats motoring upstream but unable to nab agate the shallow water below Taylor Bridge. Rod and I total sixty-five white bass and I found ten drum on the fly. I did see an eagle flying over Rod and number of boats, kayaks and canoes moving about. Rain is forecasted this weekend, so now it is wait and see how much rain will fall and make it back to again find the white bass.



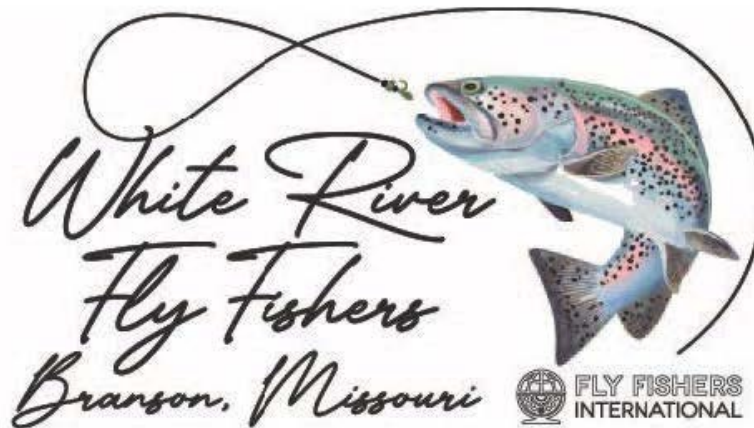
Fishing Reports: Pictures from Kim Schultz and Rod Pennington's trips



SAVE THE DATE

WRFF EXPO
OCTOBER 10-11/2025

FLY TIERS
VENDORS
FLY TYING CONTEST
DEMONSTRATIONS
SILENT AUCTIONS
RAFFLES
GOOD FOOD
GREAT FELLOWSHIP



White River Fly Fishers Exposition 2025

When: October 10-11/2025

Where: Branson-Hollister Lion's Club

1015 East Hwy 76, Branson, Missouri 65616

Time: 3:00 PM Thursday 10/09/2025 for Vendor set up. 9-5 Friday 9-4 Saturday

All tiers welcome! However space may be limited so sign up soon!

Vendor tables @ \$50.00 ea. Or donation for raffle at equal or greater value.

There will be a fly box swap!

For those wishing to help us continue to host an annual event, the donation of a

“box” of flies or similarly related item would be greatly appreciated but is

Strictly voluntary!

Vendor table contacts: Howard Hawkins – pdgpcc@gmail.com

Matthew Peet – ozarkboy06@yahoo.com

Tiers sign up contact: Dennis Stead – dmstead@aol.com

Schedule of Events:

May 17 & 18 2025: Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association Derby at Bennett Springs

May 22, 2025: Fly Tying Library Center 6PM-9PM Community Room B

June 5, 2025: Monthly meeting Library Center 5:30PM—9:00PM Community Room B

June 14, 2025: Fly Fishing Class Saturday 1-3PM at Nature Center and Living Memorial Park (near Nature Center). Classes at the Nature Center and fly rod casting instruction at the park

June 21, 2025: Fly Fishing Class Saturday 1-3PM at Nature Center and Living Memorial Park (near Nature Center). Classes at the Nature Center and fly rod casting instruction at the park.

June 26, 2025: Picnic and Fishing at Mountain Springs Trout Park 5PM til dark

June 28, 2025: Roaring River State Park— fishing with the Fly Casting Class participants

July no meetings—regular meeting canceled due to July 4 and fly tying canceled due no room availability

July 16, 2025: Executive Committee Meeting Noon at the Village Inn 2036 S. Glenstone Avenue

July 24, 2025: Fly Tying Benway Conference Room Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library 5:30-9PM

August 7, 2025: Monthly meeting Library Center 5:30PM-9:00PM Community Room B

August 8, 2025: Insect-O-Rama Springfield Nature Center 6:30PM til 9:00PM

August 28, 2025: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM

September 4, 2025: Monthly Meeting Library Center 5:30PM-9:00PM Community Room B

September 25, 2025: Fly Tying Library Center 5:30PM-9:00PM Community Room B

October 2, 2025: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM

October 8, 2025,: Executive Committee Meeting Noon at the Village Inn 2036S. Glenstone Avenue

October 23, 2025: Fly Tying Community Library Center Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM

November 6, 2025: Monthly Library Center Meeting Room Auditorium 5:30PM-9:00PM

November—no fly tying due to Thanksgiving Day

December 4, 2025: Annual Christmas Dinner at Golden Corral

January 2, 2026—**No Meeting—New Year's Day**

January 22, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Auditorium 5:30PM—9:00PM

February 5, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

February 26, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

Marcch 5, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

March 26, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM



Water levels:

Roaring River water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Taneycomo water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Bennett Spring water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Older newsletters through 2007 are archived here: <http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/news-events/newsletter/newsletter-archive/>

If you would like to submit an article for the MTFA newsletter, please put MTFA NL in the email subject line and send to Pat Taggart: cptaggart@sbcglobal.net

More about us: MTFA Website www.MTFA-Springfield.org

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[Membership - Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association - Springfield Chapter \(mtfa-springfield.org\)](http://www.mtfa-springfield.org)