



www.MTFA-Springfield.org

facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/

MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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

September 2025

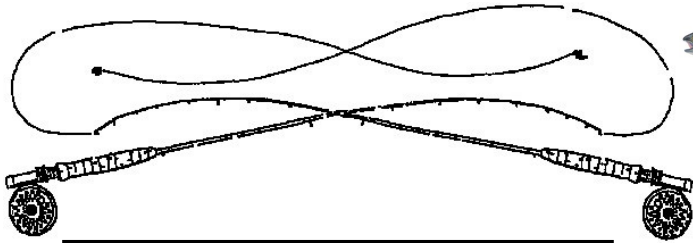
Volume 19 No. 9

The regular meeting will be held on Thursday August 4 in Room B at the Springfield Library Center 5:30pm until 9:00 pm. The featured speakers will be Christian Andrews and Kim Schultz. The topic is warm water fishing in Southwest Missouri.

The MDC is again partnering with our chapter to offer another beginning fly fishing course. There is further information in this newsletter and a local TV station, KOLR, had a nice online article, also see this newsletter.

Happy fishing!

Pat Taggart



Springfield Chapter Officers

President: Pat Taggart

417-844-4178

cptaggart@sbcglobal.net

**Vice-President: Christian
Andrews**

(417)880-7378

Christian@lumpofclay.net

Treasurer: Kim Schultz

417-860-0264

kim_schultz@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Linda Chase

816-405-4124

lschase52@att.net

Chapter News



Nature Center events needing Fly tying participants:

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

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:

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

Current members committed to this event:

September 9, 2025, area wide fly tying at Emmanuel Lutheran Church—monthly fly tying, see below in this newsletter.

September 13 and 20, 2025—Beginning Fly Fishing Class 2.0. The Nature Center and the MTFA Springfield Chapter will co-sponsor this event. October 4, 2025—attendees will fish at Roaring River State Park 8:30am til Noon. See below for additional details.

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

I saw this online, Saturday August 30, and it is from a local TV station in Springfield, Missouri, KOLR-TV

Fly fishing for beginners: Two-part program in September

by: [Russell Bell](#)

Posted: Aug 21, 2025 / 04:53 PM CDT

Updated: Aug 21, 2025 / 04:54 PM CDT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is holding two different events in September about fly fishing.

According to an MDC news release, the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association is educating visitors on the distinctive style of fishing at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center in two different programs in September.

The first event, titled "Learn to Fish: Fly Fishing For Beginners," is from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. The second event is called "Learn to Fish: Fly Fishing for Beginners – Part 2" and will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 20.

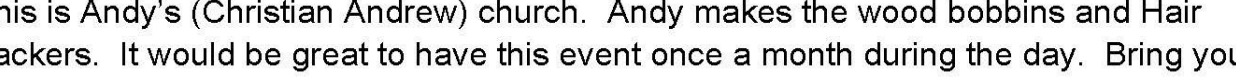
MDC says that participants are encouraged to attend both programs, but they must register for both separately.

The Sept. 13 program will introduce topics of equipment, basic casting techniques and the common types of flies that are used in fly fishing.

Residents during the Sept. 20 program will be given a deeper dive into the skills of fly fishing.

Here is the website for signups and additional information:

<https://www.ozarksfirst.com/news/missouri-conservation-fly-fishing/>



We have a number of fly tying clubs in the surrounding area, MTFA, WRFF, TLFF, SWFF, MAKO and the Bennett Springs fly ties. You are invited. Not a member of one of these club, that is OK, you too are invited.

JOIN US

Fishing Reports:

This is from Rod Pennington's Club event at Bennett Springs Park this past August 15.

Kim Christian Linda Bob and myself. No photos. Think we all caught a few. Below from Bob Randall.



Participants were rod, Kim, linda, Andy, and me. Most fishing was done in zone 2. I caught 12, had several rodeo rides for 8 seconds or more, but there were people nearby who were knocking them dead. My success was mostly on Bennett Springs blue cracklebacks. Also had some nymphs under an indicator success.



Fishing report from Bob Randall

BSSP. Thursday the 21st. I only caught stupid fish. I landed to, had a couple of 8 second rodeo rides, there were some other people doing well. I was trying some soccer flies, had a couple on but I lost them.

Tuesday August 26th, Andy and I went to Bennett Springs State Park. For me the first hour was very slow. I finally figured out what to throw and where to throw it. My best luck was with tiger tails and Wooly Buggers. Landed 10, had at least that many rodeo rides for 8 seconds, had a whole lot of short strikes in which I couldn't set the hook. You know what, it was a good day. Beautiful weather, I'm glad I went.

**August 28, 2025 fly tying at the Library Center—monthly fly
From Bob Randall**

Rob Randall will demonstrate how to tie the Zonker and tell fish stories.

Hook: #8-14 streamer

Thread: to match beard (red, orange)

Tail / Body: mylar tubing

Tail / sail: rabbit strip (zonker)

Beard: hen hackle (red, orange)

Head: thread

Kim Schultz sent the below link to fishing the James River near Galena, Mo,
<https://sgfcitizen.org/springfield-culture/outdoors/bluffs-clear-water-and-no-crowds-on-the-james-river-yes/>

Here is the text:

Bluffs, clear water and no crowds — on the James River? Yes. A well-kept Galena stretch offers bluff views, gravel bars and an easy float close to Springfield

How do nature-loving Ozarkers get outdoors when temperatures soar but summer days are numbered? Paddling a river, of course. And luckily for southwest Missouri Ozarkers, the James is a short drive away. While we often paddle the James River Water Trail around Lake Springfield, my family heads to the Current River, two hours away, for longer river floats. But I'd long planned to paddle a five-mile stretch of the James River between the H.L. Kerr and Ralph Cox Memorial access points near Galena. A few weeks ago, we finally did — and loved it. In fact, we plan to go again before the end of August, and I'd like to do it again in the fall

Our first impression before launching was reassuring. The water looked so clear and inviting, thanks to the hard work of the James River Basin Partnership, other clean water advocates, and community members who care about our natural resources. We would never have considered floating the James when we moved to Springfield in 1999 because its water quality was so bad. In the ensuing years, the JRBP has helped to educate our community and, with volunteers, physically clean up the river. It shows. Not only did we thoroughly enjoy our float on the water, but we also had no qualms about getting in the water to cool off from the Ozarks' heat. Just writing about it makes me want to go again. What? You too? Here's how

James River, Kerr to Galena: Need to know details (click to expand) Enjoyable float The section of James River between the H.L. Kerr and Ralph Cox Memorial public access areas makes a nice five mile float on a summer afternoon. (Photo by Sony Hocklander) We floated Kerr to Cox Memorial at Galena on a Friday when the water level was 5.8, which felt perfect to us: Not too high, not too low, and flowing nicely with very few dead areas. We mostly steered while happily and lazily drifting along the running current. Launching from Kerr, we immediately noticed one surprising scene: Tall bluffs. We expect those on the Current River, part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and certainly on the Buffalo National River in Arkansas, another great place to float. We didn't expect to see any on the

James. Yet, there they were, soaring above us near the beginning of our trek, and again, about halfway along

But the natural scenery was beautiful even in areas without bluffs. We floated by lots of purple and yellow wildflowers along the banks, as wide, pretty gravel bars tempted us to stop. We laughed at how many log-sunning turtles slipped into the water as we passed. We weren't alone on the river, but it wasn't crowded on a Friday. The paddlers we did see were spread out. We passed one cheerful ladies-day out group of friends a few times, and saw families on rafts and canoes. We stopped several times at enticing gravel bars — once for snacks, other times to cool off. Passing more than a few anglers, my husband wished he'd brought a rod and reel. Next time, he will!

A group of our family friends — Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad, and kids — floated the same section a couple of weeks after we did. By their photos of smiles, splash stops, fishing, and happy paddling, it appears they had a great time. Float the James with Show Me Women Paddlers The nonprofit Show Me Women Paddlers is hosting a 5-mile group float for women between the Kerr and Cox Memorial access points in Galena on Saturday, Aug. 23. The float is estimated to take roughly four hours. Life jackets are mandatory and must be worn at all times. Inflatable life jackets are NOT allowed. Bring your own boat. Participants are expected to help with the vehicle shuttle. Arrive at HL Kerr Access by 9 a.m. to drop off boats. A volunteer will stay with them while the group caravans to Cox Memorial Access. You must be registered to participate. This form (with more event information) allows registration for one participant. Cost is \$10 for the event or membership (\$40) with the American Canoe Association

Where to rent a canoe — Lower James River outfitters ([click for the list](#)) Launching at Kerr was as easy as getting out at Cox Memorial. The day we floated, there was plenty of parking at both access locations, which have large, wide lots. The H.L. Kerr Access is located on over Horsecreek Road off Missouri 176, just five miles from the take-out at Ralph Cox Memorial Access in the town of Galena. Both locations have an easy-to-use boat ramp.

You can't miss the public take-out access at Cox Memorial. After passing under the Missouri 176 highway bridge, you'll see James River Outfitters on your right as you approach the Cox Memorial boat ramp on your left.

The historic Y-Bridge is just beyond. (If you get to the Y-Bridge, you've gone too far.) If you use an outfitter, your launch and take-out points may vary if they own property along the shores of the James River. However, it's roughly the same stretch of water. There are several ways you can get on the river, whether using your own vessels or renting. Self-shuttling: If you have your own boats and more than one vehicle in your group, this float is easy to self-shuttle because the road distance is about 5 miles, which takes 15 minutes or less to drive between access points. Drop your boats off at the Kerr Access, then take all vehicles to the Cox Memorial Access. Leave all but one –if all drivers can fit in it – to drive back upriver to Kerr. (Of course, someone will have to take the Kerr driver back to their car after the float.

We always leave a few group members with boats when we self-shuttle, but we observed one family at the Kerr access leaving boats unguarded while shuttling cars. Shuttling private boats through an outfitter: If you only have one car (as we did on our float), you can pay an outfitter to shuttle your boats and yourselves upriver to the launch point. Depending on which outfitter you use (see our dropdown), your access points may vary. Some outfitters own land along the James from which they launch and take out. The float is roughly the same, but might be six miles instead of five. Do note that outfitter fees vary, too. Renting boats, rafts or tubes: Several renting outfitters serve the lower James River. Some have been around for years; others are more recent additions. Most rent kayaks, canoes, rafts, and/or tubes. When we called around, we found they varied in fees and manner of operation. Make your own calls to determine which best fits your style and needs

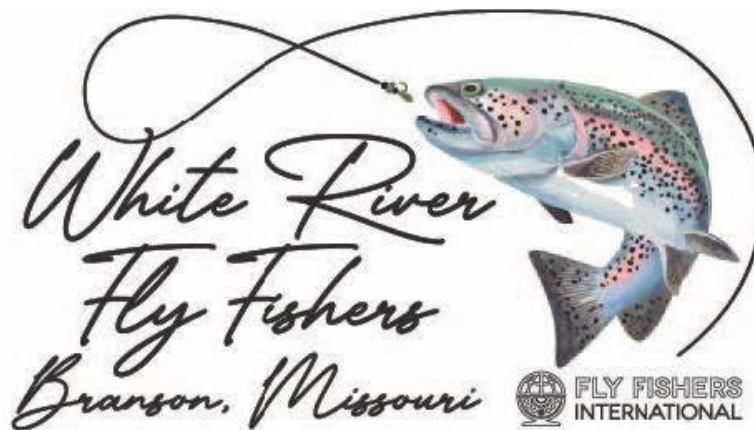
Lastly, I'd be remiss not to mention a nearby opportunity where you can arrange for tubing only. Camp Tomahawk is a campground near the H.L. Kerr Access that offers all-day adventures, with shuttles taking tubers upriver over and over with a purchased pass. (Learn more at floatcamptomahawk.com.) No matter how you get on the river, it's a great way to cool off as summer fades into fall. Or anytime you want to enjoy nature while paddling an Ozarks stream. Floating other sections of the James River While this guide focuses on the Galena stretch, there are many ways and locations to float the James River. Here are a few more popular options. [?](#) Explore floats on the Upper and Middle James (click to expand) Sony Hocklander

Sony Hocklander is a veteran journalist and nature art photographer specializing in stories and images about the Ozarks outdoors. Her career also includes feature and magazine editing, video storytelling and covering the arts, business and community. When she's not writing about the outdoors, Sony loves to travel and wander the Ozarks with a camera in hand. Follow her on Instagram [@sonyhocklander_photoart](#), Facebook [@SonyHocklanderCreative](#) or email her at sonyhocklander@gmail.com.

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:

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

March 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

April 2, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM

April 23, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM

May 7, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM-9:00PM

May 28, 2025: No Fly Tying due this being the week of Memorial Day

June 4, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

June 25, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

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

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

August 6, 2025: Monthly Meeting 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

Facebook facebook.com/groups/MTFA.Springfield/

E-mail MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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