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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

December 2025

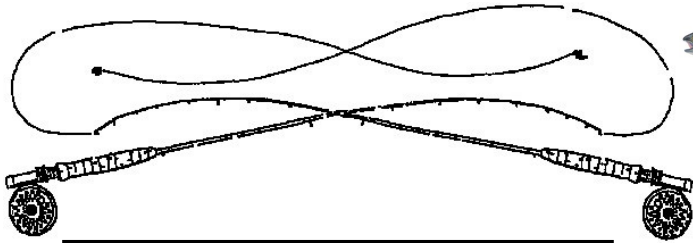
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The regular meeting will be held on Thursday December 4 beginning at 5:30pm. The meeting location is the Golden Corral located at 2020 East Primrose Street Springfield, Missouri. This is the annual meeting; consequently, the upcoming officers and executive committee members will be elected.

Hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving! Our upcoming meeting is a combination meeting and dinner. Please bring a raffle gift if you are attending, proceeds from the raffle will be given to Pipkin Elementary school. So bring some cash for the raffle. Participants be prepared for good food and an evening of fellowship with the other club members.

Happy fishing!

Pat Taggart



Springfield Chapter Officers

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Chapter News



Dept of Conservation Springfield Nature Center

December 30 (Tuesday) from 1:00PM til 4:00PM—There will be children at this event

Current members committed to this event:

Christian Andrews

Linda Chase

Bill Huyett

Pat Taggart

If anyone else is interested, please let me know

Upcoming events and happenings:

October 14, 2025, area wide fly tying at Emmanuel Lutheran Church—monthly fly tying, see below in this newsletter. Everyone is welcome to come and participate. This event is ongoing.

The weekend beginning Friday December 5, 2025, Rod Pennington has offered members of the club to meet and spend a weekend fishing at Montauk State Park. The store, hotel, cabins, and restaurant are still open to any club members wishing to attend. Contact Rod Pennington if you are interested.

Regarding the upcoming Fly Tying Class—the MTFA is again partnering with the Dept. of Conservation Nature Center. The below is from Bob Randall.

The classes will be February 14 and 21 at the Nature Center from 1 to 4 pm. These dates will precede the club's monthly fly tying night which will hopefully serve as a transition to club membership. Will we offer free club membership to the participants like we did for the fishing class. The class limit will be 15 students.

Bob



We have a number of fly tying clubs in the surrounding area, MTFA, WRFF, TLFF, SWFF,

No officers, no club rules, no cost to come and join.

JOIN US

Fishing Reports:

From Michael Kidd:

Took my grandson to Little Piney to catch wild trout!



Fishing Report: From Bob Randall

On Friday, November 14, Linda Betlock, Ed Brown, and I went to Mountain Springs Trout Park for an hour of catch and release fishing.

Linda and Ed are both participants of the MDC Beginning Fly Fishing Class held in September. Of course, we all caught fish. We tried a number of flies, most of which caught fish. It was a great opportunity to practice what they learned in the class. Afterward, we had a picnic lunch in the pavilion. It was a nice day.

On Monday, November 17, Ed Brown and I fished at Bennett Spring State Park. Most of the strikes I had were very soft and difficult to set.

Nothing much was happening that I could see but the guy just upstream from us began to catch a couple just as we left the water for lunch.

After lunch we fished near the spring. I was surprised to see fish rising to the surface over the spring. I wouldn't expect a hatch in that water. I caught a nice one on a Bennett Spring Blue crackleback fished as a dry fly. I'm not sure what Ed was throwing. We each caught two. Not a great day for numbers but it was nice to be outside on a beautiful day.

On Friday, November 21, I went fishing at Bennett Spring State Park. I was in the water by about 10:30 about 75 yards downstream from the spring. I was planning on standing midstream and fishing in front of the gauge house, but I started with a brown nymph under an indicator but started out casting from shore into a hole where I could see fish holding. I had no luck with the nymph. The only thing I can say is that no one else was pulling anything in at that time either. I switched to a dry fly that was probably best described as a black gnat on about a size 20. No particular reason except that I like dry flies.

Few fish were hitting the surface. While changing flies, another angler moved into the best route for wading into the river without getting deeper than I like. He was still changing flies so I asked him how far downstream he planned on fishing. We divided up the stream cordially and I tried to wade to my spot. It got a little too deep. I started to back out. That was a mistake. It's probably best to turn and walk forward or at least sideways than to back up. Yes, of course, there was a rock behind my foot. It was only waste deep water but as I fell backward my feet came up so that I was now sitting in the water.

I say sitting as the air that was trapped in the legs of my waders held me up, yet prevented me from regaining my footing. My legs would resurface just as fast as I could try to get them underneath me. There was no standing up. I knew better than to struggle so I maneuvered back toward shore and shallower water. I was forced to consider what I think is a most important decision: Should I let go of my rod so that I can use both hands to paddle? It's almost as serious a question as which child you will choose if you can only push one of them out of the path of a speeding train. It was settled! I held onto the rod and paddled with one hand.

Wouldn't you know that that was a day that I forgot to bring a change of dry clothes. As I worked on drying out, I watched other anglers. If they had been hauling in the fish, I would have figured out a way to get back out there but they weren't except for one guy who brought in three. I later asked him about his fly. He was throwing a gray soft hackle.

Fishing Reports: From Rick Headlee

Current River -- a belated report, I spent October 13 - 15 on the Current River, putting in upstream from where we were camped at Log Yard Access and float fishing back down to camp. The weather was beautiful, the water was crystal clear, as usual, and the floating conditions were perfect. However, I have never seen a more sterile river -- over three days I caught one fish, a goggle eye. One of my partners doubled that with two fish, and the grand winner of the trip caught six, only one of legal length. Pretty miserable fishing. The locals tell me that this is largely due to people they call "the giggers" who come up the river at night in gigging boats and pretty much spear whatever moves. Whether this is true or not, I do not know, but I do know there are no fish in that stretch of river.

Roaring River -- I spent the first three days of Catch & Release opening at Roaring River. The water level was nearly perfect, and the fishing was good. Not as good as it was with last year's double-stocking snafu, but still very good. I caught most of my fish on chamois worms, white & red maribou micro jigs, and in the evening, elk hair caddis flies. I caught one fish on a black foam ant, but my old standby crackle backs proved unproductive.

Schedule of Events:

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, 20256 Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

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

August 6, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

August 27, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

September 3, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

September 24, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 5:30PM—9:00PM

October 1, 2026: Monthly Meeting—no venue booked—the Library Center is not available

October 22, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 5:30pm—9:00pm

November 5, 2025: Library Center is unavailable. Schweitzer Brentwood Branch has enough seating; however, it cannot be reserved more than 90 days in advance



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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E-mail MTFA_Springfield@yahoo.com

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