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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

February 2026

Volume 20 No. 2

Notes for February

February 5 MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Library Center, Community Room B
@ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Guest speaker is Kara Tvedt

Your Trout Permit will expire at the end of this month. Time to buy a new one! Online:

<https://mdc-web.s3licensing.com/>

February 7, 2006: Club outing to Bennett Spring SP, Weiner roast at Shelter House A (by the spring) at noon. Bob Randall will have a roaring fire going at the Shelter House. The club will have some weiners, etc available. Bring something to share if you want. Fish if you want.

February 9, 2026: Last day of trout park catch and release season

February 14 and 21, 2026: Beginning Fly Tying Class at Nature Center 1-4:00pm

February 26, 2026: Fly Tying, Library Center, Community Rm B 6:00PM—9:00PM

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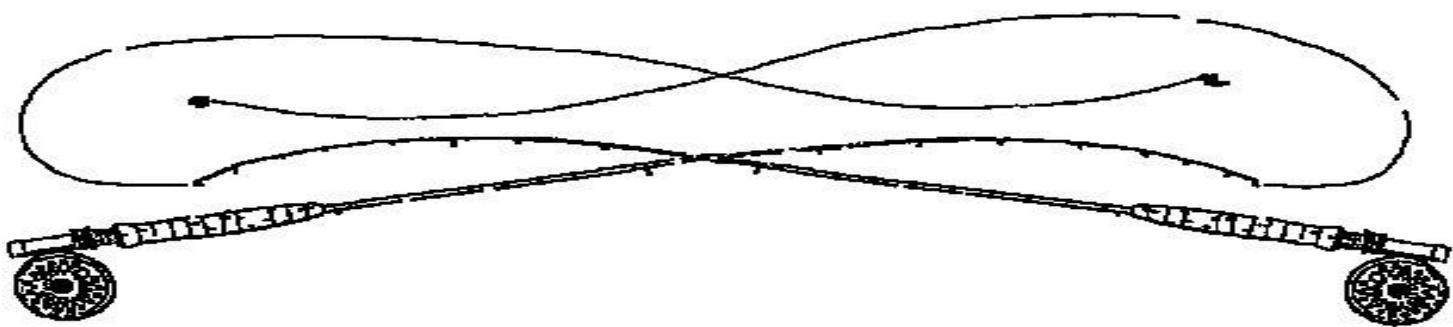
Membership Dues: If you haven't paid your MTFA dues yet, now is the time. Dues support activities like fish fries, club outings, and fly-fishing programs. Membership is \$20 per year for both individuals and families.

We appreciate your support and encourage you to invite others to join.

Pay at the February meeting with Treasurer Kim Schultz or mail your payment to:

MTFA Springfield
2303 E Grand
Springfield, MO 65804

NOTE: If you attended the Beginning Fly Fishing Class at the Nature Center last year, your membership is complimentary and active thru 12/31/2026.



Fly Tying in Branson: Our MTFA club has been invited to tie flies at the MoNASP State Archery Championship, March 18-21, at the Branson Convention Center. The competition begins after noon on Wednesday, March 18. Thursday – Saturday the event begins at 8 a.m. It would be great if we can get two volunteers to tie each of the following sessions: Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon, Friday morning, Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon. Tie as many sessions as you like. Tiers will be scheduled on a first come first scheduled basis with no more than four an any one session. If we enjoy the same set up as previous years, lunch is provided. Call or email Christian "Andy" Andrews to get put on the schedule. (417) 880-7378 or christian@lumpofclay.net.

Our February guest speaker is Kara Tvedt, a fishery management biologist overseeing Greene County. She will share in-depth knowledge about fishing opportunities throughout Greene County, including Fellows Lake, and will provide an update on the invasive plant Hydrilla. Ms. Tvedt last discussed this topic with our group twelve years ago, making her return particularly timely as concerns continue regarding aquatic environments at local, state, and national levels.

Hydrilla, classified as a federally noxious weed, poses serious threats to aquatic habitats. It was first found in Florida during the early 1950s, likely brought in as an aquarium plant from India. In the 1980s, a cold-resistant strain began spreading through northeastern states, and now Hydrilla is present in over 29 states, including southwest Missouri.

According to Ms. Tvedt, Hydrilla can significantly disrupt local ecosystems by crowding out native plants, interfering with boating and fishing, clogging water systems, and affecting fish populations. Efforts to eliminate Hydrilla are difficult and expensive. To combat these challenges, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has launched initiatives such as partnering with landowners and hosting educational workshops to help protect ponds and small lakes from infestation.

Additionally, Kara will discuss the installation of floating wetlands—artificial "floating islands"—in Fellows Lake and McDaniel Lake. These anchored platforms, each covering 250 square feet, use native plants to improve water quality by removing excess nitrogen and phosphorus. The root systems below also foster habitats for fish, birds, and pollinators while reducing algae blooms.

We hope you can join us for the February meeting.

Fisheries Management Biologist

Kara Tvedt

Southwest Regional Office

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kara.tvedt@mdc.mo.gov

Fishing Reports:

Ron Ward: Had two trips to the Lower Illinois and Verdigris Rivers in



Oklahoma in December. It was cold, but productive. Caught striper, hybrids, white, and largemouth bass.

A bonus, snagged and landed a spoonbill on my 8wt fly rod and

broke off 2 others.



Les Wilson: Below the Table Rock Dam 1/20 afternoon. First for those looking for one of those detailed reports from an expert...this is not it. I had a very good afternoon on Taney...for me. I am not in practice of catching those "sea monsters" This is the first time I have fished at all, since 10/31/25, a record for the past 55 years of going that long, but deer season and heart procedures and test in addition to the weather has got in my way. I had drive Peggy to a gathering at Big Cedar this afternoon. She has a broken bone in her right foot, has a boot and cannot drive. It has been traumatic for both of us. I am afraid she is going to break a bone in her left foot, stomping the brake on the passenger side. I dropped her off about 1300, figured I would just look around and go down to #Lilleysriverside and spend some money and visit. I looked at the generation chart, water off at 1300, none forecast for the afternoon. Drove by the dam, 2 cars in the parking lot????? Wind not bad, took a walk and assessed the situation. I think I can at least give it a try. So about 1400 I have a rod rigged wadered up and ready to give it a try. First cast, missed what I thought was a take. Second cast, hooked up, but came unbuttoned. Caught a couple of stockers, and had multiple come unbuttoned, was trying to be easy with a 7x tippet, got a bit more aggressive... got a good fish on... after a few minutes of fight he broke me off. I got another decent fish on, and fought it, too long, took some revival for it to swim away. So, I switched to a 6x (which is 4# maxima for me) my hit rate decreased by at least half, but my hook up and land rate went up. The only fly I threw was a size 16 gray scud. I would cast let it settle and slow drift then SLOWLY strip in. Do not have a counter but lost count at 14 or 15 to hand in 2.5 hrs of fishing. There was another gentleman from Minnesota he switched to a gray scud under an indicator and did very well. It was great to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

Whim Fishing, Bob Randall: On Friday, the 9th about noon, a feeling of missing out on something overwhelmed me. FOMO is the new age slang term for Fear of Missing Out. I call the feeling that I had that day FOMF, Fear of Missing Fishing. On a whim I had to go fishing even though I would only have a couple of hours by the time I got ready and drove to Bennett Spring. I called up Andy Andrews with this spontaneous offer. He was in. We fished near the gauge house. He was slightly upstream and I was slightly downstream. The water surface directly in front of the house was active with something small. Probably midges but the sun was in my eyes. I tied on a Bennett Spring Blue Crackleback. I had five strikes total but landed nothing. Two were on just long enough for me to feel the wiggle through my line and then they were gone. I guess those were “whim strikes”. As the hatch seemed to change, I tied on the smallest grey Griffith’s gnat that I had, about size 20. No strikes. I tied on a small greyish brownish soft hackle. Surely that would work. Nothing. The sun went below my horizon and I got cold. My whim diminished and I left the water. Andy fished another 20 minutes or so with no better story to tell.

Andy’s Story: Here’s my side of the tale. I’m still part time employed, so I have a great deal of freedom when it comes to how I use my time. The main thing is that I have to be ready for fulfilling my Sunday responsibilities. When Bob called at noon on Friday asking if I would ride up to Bennett Spring with him, I hesitated. That would mean the work I yet needed to do would be put off until later, even Saturday when I prefer not to “work.” So my reply was, “Why not?” Bob would pick me up at 1 which meant I had an hour for lunch and to get my gear together.

No sooner than having a bite in my mouth I remembered that my gear was in the cab of my truck which was at the mechanic’s for some repairs. I managed to retrieve my gear just in time for Bob to show up.

I didn’t check my pocket watch (ha, phone) before we stepped into the water, but it was well after 2 given that it’s an hour drive to Bennett. Since we observed some top feeding, I thought I’d take the opportunity to throw some dries. I was going to start with a Badger Spider (#14 up eye, Badger palmered body) which I set on the truck bedside and lost promptly blown away by the breeze. Then I reached for a rolled wing mayfly I tied long before I knew the importance of cleaning the eye of head cement. You can guess why that didn’t get tied on.

I did fish a black adult midge, but one probably 10x the size of the midges hatching, with no success. Then I tied on a white Double Ephron (one hook, two spinner mayflies) and got a take is all. Then I tried a Buszek Hopper which looks like a tailed deer hair caddis. I got a bent rod hit on it. I ended the day by tying on the fly with which I ought have started, the Crackleback. I got my second bent rod on it and a few more “takes.”

Bob left the water cold 20 minutes before the whistle. I pulled my last cast up out of the water as the whistle blew satisfied that I didn’t have to take a trout off a hook. Ha!



Dave Reynolds: Caught these on Taneycomo January when the temp reached 65 degrees.

Friend wanted some fresh trout to eat. Drifting scuds & power bait.

Dave Reynolds: I caught this last February on the White River using spoons. This is the one Duane made a mount of.



Got my 23" brown trout mount made by Duane Doty Made from wood and hand painted.

Dave floated and fished for steelhead trout in the Trinity River in Northern California. The bite was slow. He



used a biwiggle worm, an artificial red worm, and inductor rigs with scuds. Dave's son-in-law caught a 20" native brown trout.



Mike Kidd: Bryant and I caught over 80 at Montauk recently on wispies.

Safety:

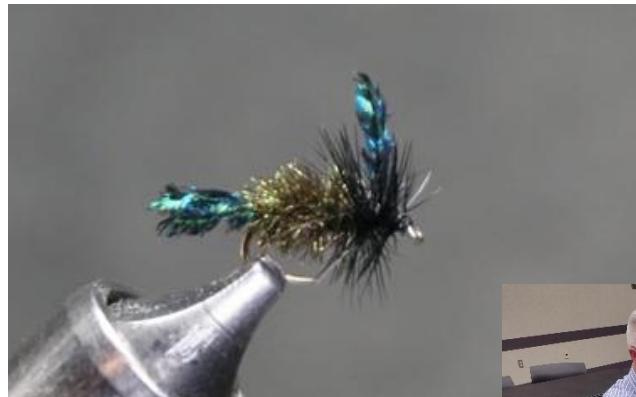
There was a close call at Bennett Spring State Park in January with an 80-year-old angler floating downstream face down. He had gone to the aid of his wife who had fallen but he tripped on a rock before he got to her. He ended up in a worse predicament than she did as he could not "right" himself to a face up position. After a struggle to turn over, he became exhausted and lost consciousness. He was pulled out by nearby anglers, given CPR until he was breathing on his own. 911 was called and he was taken by ambulance to a hospital. Frank Lentine of Phoenix, Arizona, was the hero who gave CPR and revived the man from a near-drowning. Kudos to him. More of us should be prepared to assist others and particularly, to be able to perform CPR .

Fly Tying Night at the Library Center Auditorium on January 22, 2026

We tied a fly called the Love's Lure with peacock swords. Don't know what a sword is? I had to look it up, too. There are four types of feathers in a peacock's train (what we think of as the tail originates from the back of the bird, just above the actual tail which has a different kind of feather. It's called a train.) During the fan behavior that catches everyone's attention, including the peahens', we notice the eye feathers. When the train is relaxed and not in display, look at the edge of the train on either side. Almost touching the ground, you will find swords. Sword barbs hold their shapes better than the eye feather herls that we usually use to tie flies. We generally use the herls for bodies. With more sturdiness, swords are good for tying wings and tails on flies.



Good Attendance with 12 tyers present. The fly was demonstrated by Andy Andrews.



Love's Lure

Hook: #14 - 24 dry

Thread: black

Tail: 5-7 Peacock swords

Body: Peacock herl to desired thickness

Wing: four Peacock swords, split

Hackle: black dry

Fly Tying Night Continued:

Andy says this fly originated in New Zealand. Newmexicotrout.org says it has been around since the 1930's. You can tie it to be fished as a dry fly as we did, or it can be tied and fished as a wet fly. I suppose you could fish it as a dry fly until it absorbs so much water that it sinks. Then fish it as a wet fly, either stripping it or fishing it as a soft hackle. With the herl body unsupported by thread, my guess is that it would deteriorate quickly. If I tie it again, I'll wrap the herl and thread together for more strength. Bob Randall



Fly tier or tyer? The term "fly tier" takes its linguistic roots from the word "tie," as in tying knots and materials together. In essence, it acknowledges the act of "tying" a fly. Many fly anglers and experts prefer this spelling, as it emphasizes the craftsmanship and the tactile nature of the endeavor.

In recent years, an alternative spelling has emerged: "fly tyer." This variation shifts the focus from the act of tying to the person performing it. "Fly tyer" places more emphasis on the individual behind the vise, highlighting their skills, creativity, and dedication to the craft. It's an acknowledgment that the person isn't merely tying flies but is, in essence, a "tyer" of them.

Proponents of "fly tyer" argue that this term captures the artistry and passion of fly fishing. It humanizes the process and elevates it to a level of expertise that goes beyond mere knot-tying. It recognizes the creativity involved in selecting and combining materials to create flies that mimic natural insects and entice fish.

In the end, the debate between "fly tier" and "fly tyer" boils down to personal preference. There's no definitive right or wrong in this discussion. Some individuals will swear by the traditional "fly tier," valuing its heritage and the focus on the craft itself. Others will opt for the more modern "fly tyer," embracing the idea that it's not just about tying flies but about the skill and creativity of the person doing it. [Fly Tier vs. Fly Tyer: Unraveling the Spelling Debate – Spawn Fly Fish](#)

KNOTS: In a test of knot strength for the clinch knot and the improved clinch knot, the clinch knot held to 84% strength of the tested line while the improved held to about 85% of the line strength. See the results [here](#). Some other tests show a greater difference as in 50% to 60% for regular vs 90% for improved. There are a lot of variables such as, materials (mono or fluorocarbon), line diameter, wet or dry at testing, seating the knot, etc. Regular clinch is better for larger gauge line. Note that smaller gauge lines require an extra wrap or two than larger gauge.

Always seat the knot with a tug no matter what knot you use. Pull on the standing end while holding the bend of the hook, don't pull on the tag end. Oh yeah, don't hook yourself!

Here are some more good knot tips: [CLICK HERE](#)

And just when I thought we had the knots covered, David Ransin sent me this really good tip for tying a clinch knot:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/17v3Ag1ERm/>

If you don't have a Facebook account, the link may not open. Here's a screen shot. Hold the tippet on either side of the fly. Twist the tippet and then ease up on the tension. The tippet will twist around itself. From there, you can finish your clinch knot.



Pics left over from the December fishing trip to Montauk State Park

Fishing Pics:

photos by Bob Randall



Montauk State Park, December 5, 2025, by Bob Randall



Broken Rod Section

Pic of the Month:

Frost Flower at Montauk State Park "Not really a flower at all, frost flowers are delicate, beautiful ribbons of ice crystals that form on the lower stems of a few species of Missouri native plants." MDC



DO YOU THINK WHEN THE FISH GET THROWN BACK BY FISHERMEN,



THEY SWIM AROUND YELLING ABOUT ALIEN ABDUCTIONS AND THE OTHER FISH STOP TALKING TO THEM?

Fly of the Month: Tabou Caddis

Tied it years ago but didn't fish it until now. Caught a fish with it. It ain't purty, but it's buggy. If you'd like to see it, it's in a tree at Montauk State Park.



[Tabou Caddis Emerger video](#)

Tabou Caddis Emerger. Recipe:

Hook: Dai-Riki 270, size 14.

Thread: 6/0 or 140 Denier, olive.

Rib: Clear Stretch Round Rib, small.

Tail/abdomen/legs: Chickabou feather.

Wing: Soft-hackle feather.

Thorax: Soft hack "fluffies."

Schedule of Events:

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

February 7, 2006: Club outing to Bennett Spring SP, Weiner roast at Shelter House A at noon

February 9, 2026: Last day of trout park catch and release season

February 14 and 21, 2026: Beginning Fly Tying Class at Nature Center 1-4:00pm

February 26, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

March 1, 2026: First day of trout park catch and keep season

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

March 21, 2026: Pre-Derby State Council Meeting at BSSP Restaurant

March 26, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM-9:00PM

April 2, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM-9:00PM

April 23, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM-9:00PM

May 7, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM-9:00PM

May 16 and 17, 2026, State Council MTFA Derby Bennett Spring State Park

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

June 4, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

June 25, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

July 2, 20256 Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

July 23, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

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

August 27, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center, Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

September 3, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

September 24, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

Video of the Month: [This Changed my View of Fly Tying Forever](#)

From Mad River Outfitters

Wish I'd said that: "Carpe Diem" does not mean 'fish of the day.'"

—Unknown

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 Bob Randall:

bobbyleensandy@gmail.com

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