



www.MTFA-Springfield.org [MTFA-Springfield Facebook](#) 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

April 2026

Volume 20 No.4

Notes for the April Meeting

Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter
Calendar of Events for April, 2026

April 2, 2026: MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Library Center, Community Room B
@ 6pm - 9pm

**April 18 and 25, 2026: Beginning Fly Fishing Classes at MDC Nature Center 1pm-5pm
Let Bob Randall know if you can help mentor students in casting practice.**

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

May 2, 2026: Educational fishing for the Beginning Fly Tying Class, RRSP

Springfield Chapter Officers

President: President:

Christian Andrews

(417)880-7378

Christian@lumpofclay.net

Vice-President: Rick Headlee

(417)-839-7981

rqheadlee@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kim Schultz

417-860-0264

kim_schultz@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Linda Chase

816-405-4124

lschase52@att.net

From the President's Desk – Christian "Andy" Andrews
The whistle blew Saturday morning, March 21, as I stepped into the stream at Bennett Spring. I was at Bennett for the MTFA state pre-derby meeting and thought I might as well get there early enough to throw some flies. I like to take the short walk to the far side between the bridges. Just for kicks I started the morning with a size 10 Morrison, an old classic wet fly in black and red which I had tied on a blind hook with a snelled leader. It wasn't long before I realized it was not on the trout menu for the morning, so I switched to a size 14 leach I'd tied with a yellow marabou butt and gray filoplume. That fly proved productive with a couple of the hits just as the fly began its descent below the water's surface. At around 10, I moved upstream to the gauge house where I threw three different flies with no success until it was time to meet our group for stew lunch prepared for us by Bob (thank you!). Looking down from our lunch spot on the bluff above I noticed the stream sparsely populated which may have explained the lack of hook-ups. At least if I tell myself that, I feel better and continue to in live in denial regarding the quality of angler that I am. Andy

The April Program:

Rick Headlee will be talking about the **Missouri Blue Ribbon Trout Slam**. Rick says this has been done, to some degree, several years ago, so it will be a refresher for some and new info for others. I will discuss what the Trout Slam is, how to enter, and how to achieve various awards. The nine rivers/creeks I will be talking about are

- 1 - Barren Fork Creek
- 2 - Blue Springs Creek
- 3 - Crane Creek
- 4 - Current River
- 5 - Eleven Point River
- 6 - Little Piney Creek
- 7 - Mill Creek
- 8 - North Fork of the White River
- 9 - Spring Creek

I will have handout information for those present.

Rick

Fishing Reports:

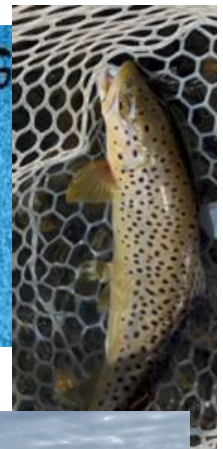


From David Reynolds, Grandson Evan Kilmer catching trout in Potato Lake, CO on streamers and nymphs. Evan taught two of his fraternity brothers to flyfish and they all caught fish.



Mike Kidd

PROCRASTIFISHING
THE ART OF GOING FISHING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE



Stockton lake, lake level 864.7ft at Hwy 245 access. From Kim Schultz

Kim Schultz: During March 2026, I, along with Rod and my daughter Jenn, made several fishing outings. Following significant rainfall on March 5 and March 7, the Little Sac River rose to seven and nine feet, respectively. Two days after these events, I fished from a kayak below the steel bridge, noting the lake level rising and water temperatures nearing 60°F. The second week of March was notably productive; Rod and I retained several limits and caught over one hundred white bass. Numerous bank fishermen were observed near the steel bridge.



Kim's report continued next page

Kim's fishing report continued:

The subsequent weekend brought temperatures as low as 15°F, which damaged spring flowers and halted fish activity. My next outing occurred on March 22, yielding only a few white bass; Rod caught a carp and Jenn landed an 18-inch walleye. On March 27, Rod and I found Taylor Bridge and the steel bridge devoid of fishermen. With a northerly wind and cool conditions, we proceeded to Aldrich access where I caught a drum and Rod retrieved a lost fishing pole. Later, at Hwy 245 access, we encountered smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and a few white bass in water temperatures around the low fifties.

We observed half a dozen eagles and ospreys actively fishing or nesting, along with a white pelican present on the lake. Overall, it was a rewarding day outdoors. We now await a substantial rainfall to prompt the anticipated river run of white bass, potentially occurring next week. Kim

More Fishing Reports:

Moi Lozano: Moi's first Taneycomo trout. Caught out in the narrows on a ruby midge. Good job!



Moi also fished Roaring River on 3/29 and landed 6 rainbows:

March 29: Great time at Roaring River State Park. This was one of my most successful fishing days there so far.

I started at the Old CCC Lodge, where I caught one rainbow trout. I had three more on the line, but they managed to shake free. After a couple of hours, I moved down to Zone 2, the flies-only catch-and-release section. Fishing the shallow water, I hooked another trout and was able to bring it in.

Later, I headed back upstream to Zone 1 and caught one more. After meeting up with you and Ed, we fished for about 30 minutes near the CCC Lodge. I had two bites but wasn't able to land any.

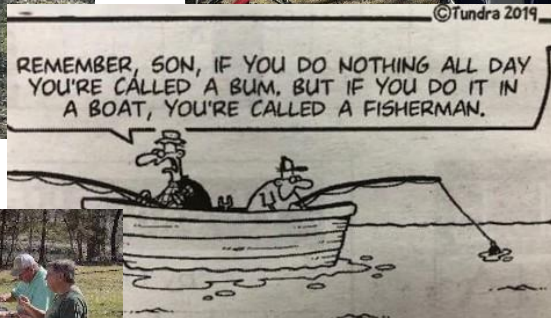
Overall, all the fish I caught were around 10 inches or less. I was using #16 hooks with a mix of red and black midges, an orange San Juan Worm, and a pellet-style fly.

I also enjoyed meeting a few people throughout the day—some folks from Rogers, MO, another angler who shared memories of fishing with his grandfather, and a lady I gave one of my fish to. She was very thankful, mentioning she had two teenagers to feed.

All in all, it was a great time. Moi

FUN STUFF WE DID IN MARCH

The MTFA chapters met in Bennett Spring State Park for their pre-derby meeting. The derby itself will be held May 16 & 17. More info on the derby will follow. Because it was an excuse to get together, we had a picnic. Bob Randall brought a Dutch oven, the fixin's, and the charcoal and made beef stew for all of us. Everyone brought something to share, and we had more food than we could eat. Great time. Eight from Springfield, 3 from KC, 1 from SL.

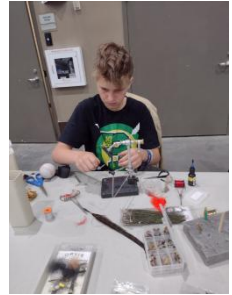


Tying Flies: Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP)

We tied at MoNASP to get kids interested in tying and fishing. MoNASP is a conservation program by MDC.



Kim Schultz



The **Feather Weight Jig** pattern is relatively simple, relying on only a few materials.

Here's a standard materials list for tying the classic Feather weight Jig:

Hook: Jig hook, Mustad 32756 typically sizes 6-8

Thread: Red or black, 6/0

Body: Crystal chenille

Tail: Marabou (white, orange, gray or chartreuse)



Kim Schultz



Wish I'd said that:

"Do not tell fish stories where the people know you. Particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish." —Mark Twain

Video of the Month: [Tips on Dry Fly Fishing for Trout](#)

Knot again:

In February, David Ransin sent us a video of a quick and easy way to tie a clinch knot. He has sent another way to tie it using forceps. He notes that it works very well, especially on smaller flies such as a 22. The first video link is on Facebook: [Facebook](#)

But not all of you are on FB so I found a similar video here: [Use forceps when tying clinch knot](#)

Schedule of Events:

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

April 18 and 25, 2026: Beginning Fly Fishing Classes at MDC Nature Center 1pm-5pm

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

May 2, 2026: Educational fishing for the Beginning Fly Tying Class, RRSP

May 7, 2026: Spring Fish Fry at Veterans Memorial Park, pot luck, casting practice on the lawn. 6pm-9pm

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

May 28, 2026: No Fly Tying due this being the week of Memorial Day

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

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

July 2, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 6pm—9pm

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

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

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

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

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

Other Local Fish Related Events:

Tri-Lakes Fly Fishers Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Swap Meet on June 27, 2026. 9am-3pm, 1423 W Atlantic, Springfield. \$5 admission or \$25 seller fee. Proceeds support COMMUNITY outreach.

Cdiggons@trilakesflyfishers.com

White River Fly Fishers Expo on July 24th and 25th, at the Lions Club in Branson, MO. dmstead@aol.com

Tri-Lakes Fly Fishing Expo, Benson Center in Clinton MO. Sep 11-12, 9am-4pm. Vendor set up on 9/10.

Cdiggons@trilakesflyfishers.com

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

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 \(mtfa-springfield.org\)](#)

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](#)