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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

March 2026

Volume 20 No.3

Notes for the March Meeting

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

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 lodge meeting room. 1:00PM

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

Springfield Chapter Officers

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**From Rudy Martinez,
MDC Nature Center**

Manager:

Thank you and your MTFA members for the fly-tying programs. Let's keep the momentum going.

Just to confirm, the next Fly-Fishing for Beginners is scheduled for April 18, 1-5pm and Part Two on April 25, 1-5pm. I have Pool #1 reserved for you on May 2nd at Roaring River.

From the President's Desk – Christian “Andy” Andrews

It was great fun to watch Keith Coffee hook up on an early cast in the pool upstream from Whistler Bridge. As far as I could tell, we all had a grand time throwing flies, roasting weenies, and telling fish tales that last Saturday of Catch-and-Release season at Bennett Spring. Thanks, Bob, for keeping the fire roaring and to all who contributed to lunch. Are there any “Aye’s” for making this end of the winter season outing an annual tradition?

More fish tales were told at the two beginner fly tying sessions we taught in conjunction with MDC-Springfield Nature Center. Again, thanks Bob for organizing, and to each of you who either mentored new tiers (or is that tyers?), who taught a fly, and who did both. As far as I could see, the students enjoyed this introduction to tying. Time will tell if we made any life-time converts. It's great to have such wealth of tying knowledge among us. We will continue with fly tying opportunities the fourth Thursday of each month (unless a holiday gets in the way).

Rod and Kim have a great line-up of speakers for the monthly meetings. I'm looking forward to learning more about our place in the angling and conservation communities. Be sure you've reserved the first Thursday of the month to join us.

And, here's hoping to see you at the vice or one the water.

Christian “Andy” Andrews, president

Chapter Business: The Pre-Derby meeting is one of the MTFA State Council business meetings. It's a chance to get to know members of our sister chapters in Saint Louis and Kansas City. Any MTFA member can attend although voting is limited to delegates. Come join us on March 21 at the BSSP lodge meeting room. 1:00PM

Membership March 2026

I am pleased to report that 2026 club membership is strong, with 79 members—27 family and 15 individual memberships. Ten memberships remain unpaid for 2026; I will contact these members directly to confirm their status. Thank you all for your continued interest and willingness to support or learn from one another.

Kim Schultz treasurer, membership chair

The guest speaker for our March meeting will be Marty Marsh.

He was recently named Education District Supervisor for Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) 17-county Southwest Region, aims to integrate conservation themes into southwest Missouri schools. With 31 years in public education and athletic administration, including roles in Springfield Public Schools and the Missouri State High School Activities Association, Marsh brings extensive experience to MDC.

He is promoting MDC's Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program, which offers hands-on outdoor learning across school subjects and encourages problem-solving. Learn more about DNS at <https://education.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature-schools>. Marsh will also support hunter education in classrooms and the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP), with SPS leading the state in student archers.

Contact Marsh at Marty.Marsh@mdc.mo.gov. Additional details on MoNASP and hunter education are available at <https://education.mdc.mo.gov/>.



Water Quality was the subject of the February meeting.

Kara Tvedt, a fishery management biologist overseeing Greene County



spoke of fishing opportunities throughout Greene County, including Fellows Lake, as well as an update on the invasive plant Hydrilla and other invasive species. She updated us on 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.



Fishing Reports:

Mike Kidd: Caught some beautiful trout at Little Piney recently
Soft hackle flies!



Rod Pennington, Feb 2: Lots of fish caught yesterday.

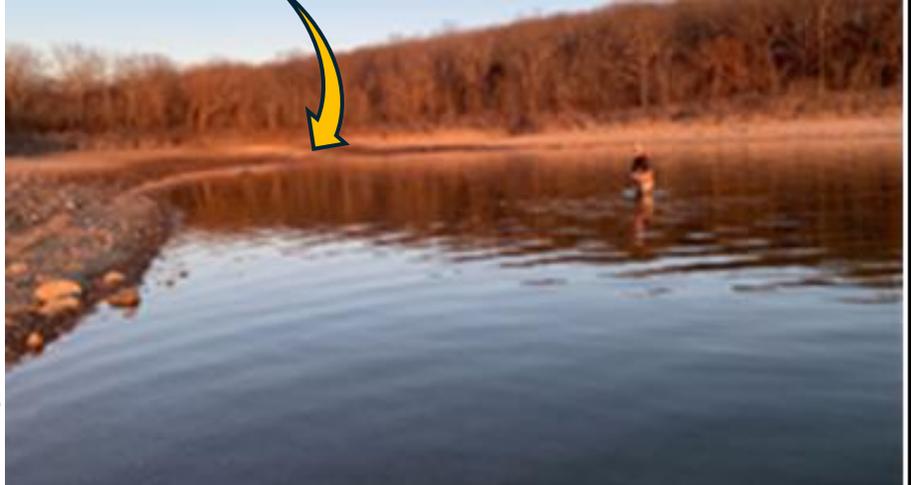
Great out there. Plan on going Sunday. Traditional Superbowl fishing day.



Kim Schultz and Rod Pennington, Feb 27: Stockton Lake, Chicken Rock Cove, note the lake is down three feet in last eight weeks.



Kim Schultz's February White Bass



Rod and I went to Stockton Lake so I could keep up my goal of catching a white bass each month. The lake was at 862.2 ft, 3 ft lower than in January, with some areas still cold but others warming to 54°F. It was sunny with a WSW wind at 8-12 mph—favorable conditions. I caught crappie and a line bass on an orange jig, while Rod landed a largemouth and several white bass. As evening set in, I finally caught my white bass and managed a 24" carp before we wrapped up. Our final tally was five white bass, two crappie, three largemouth bass, and a carp—so my streak continues another month. Kim Schultz



Rick Headlee with a limit of white bass on Stockton Lake just above the dam on Friday, February 27, 2026. 1/4 ounce silver spoons at right around 90 feet deep.



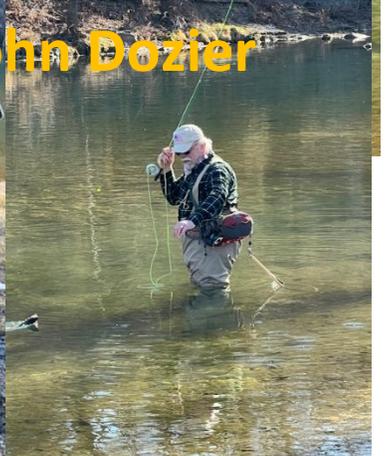
Fishing Pictures: February 7, 2026



Keith Coffey



Andy Andrews



John Dozier

Tying the Crackleback



Beginning Fly Tying Class at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

February 14 & 21

We tied the San Juan worm, the Harvester midge, the black midge dry fly, the pheasant tail nymph, the scud, and the wooly bugger.



Fishing Outing and Wiener Roast, February 7 at BSSP

You can't go wrong with a day of fishing, lunch with fishing buddies, a roaring fire and wieners roasting on a stick. We had more food than we could possibly eat. A dozen of us gathered in the old CCC pavilion up by the spring. The only thing better than camaraderie is a wiener roast. We agreed that we should do it more often. Attending: Ed Brown, Rick Headlee, Kim Schutz, John Dozier, John Owensby, Keith Coffey, Dick Owensby, Bob Randall, Andy Andrews, Woody Woodman, Moi Lozano, and Oliver Lozano.



So let's break down the process of catching, landing de-hooking and releasing a healthy fish. Here's what matters:

How long the fish is played

The longer the fight, the more exhausted a fish becomes, and the more lactic acid builds up in its body. This can cause the fish to die some time later, even after you release it to swim away.

Use tackle heavy enough for the species you're after – don't use an ultralight trout rod for walleye or pike. Land the fish as quickly as possible.

How a fish is landed.

Hauling in fish over the side by the line, hanging on a hook, or squeezing it with your hand, can cause major internal organ damage.

If possible the best thing for the fish is to leave it in the water while a hook is removed. If that's not possible use a soft rubber mesh landing net which is less damaging to eyes, fins, scales and the protective mucous membrane than a fine mesh net. While a net means the fish will be out of the water for some period, it's often the least stressful way to get a fish into your hands for a quick hook removal and release.

How long a fish is out of the water.

One study by R.A. Ferguson and B.L. Tufts looked at the amount of time a trout was exposed to air after being caught. Fish that were released without being held out of the water had a 12 percent mortality. But fish held out of the water for 30 seconds had a 38 percent mortality rate; more than one in three fish died. Fish out of the water for a full minute saw a 72 percent death rate.

Remove the hooks and gently place the fish back in the water as quickly as possible – in 30 seconds or less if possible. If you take a photograph, make it fast. Decide beforehand which fish (how long or what species) are to be kept; immediately release all others. Do not engage in a prolonged debate over whether or not to release the fish while it is out of water.

Excerpt from Article by John Meyers in the [Duluth News Tribune](#)

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March 21, 2026: Pre-Derby State Council Meeting at BSSP Restaurant 1:00PM

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

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

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

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, 2026: 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, 2026: 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

October 1, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

October 22, 2026: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 6:00PM—9:00PM

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

November 22, 2026: Fly Tying Cancelled due to Thanksgiving

December 3, 2026: Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

January 17, 2027: Library Center Auditorium on Thursday, January 7, 6:00PM - 9:00PM

Missouri Hatch Chart – Flyfishers at the Crossing

March Thru May Early Season Mayfly Hatch Chart

Approximate Hatch Dates	Common Name	Time of Day	Hook Size	Imitation's
Mid Mar to Mid April	Little Blue Winged Olive	Early Afternoon	16-20	Blue Winged Olive Emerger and Dry
Mid April to Early May	Blue Quill	Early Afternoon	16-18	Blue Quill Dry Paraleptophlebia Nymph
Mid April to Mid May	Quill Gordon	Early Afternoon	12-14	Hare's Ear Wet Fly, G.R. Hare's Ear Nymph, Quill Gordon Dry
Mid April to Mid May	Hendrickson (Red Quill)	Mid Afternoon	12-14	Hendrickson Nymph, Light Hendrickson Dry, Red Quill Dry

Video of the Month: [When to Put Fish On The Reel](#)

Wish I'd said that:

Fishing is not just about catching fish; it embodies the essence of life itself. It teaches patience, encourages mindfulness, and offers moments of reflection. Whether you are waiting for a bite or enjoying the serenity of nature, fishing reminds us to appreciate the journey and the simple joys along the way. Unknown author



Life is like fishing. You never know what you're going get. Forest Gump?

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: bobyleensandy@gmail.com

More about us:

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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](#)