



www.MTFA-Springfield.org [MTFA-Springfield Facebook](#) mtfa.springfield@gmail.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**

July 2026

Volume 20 No. 7

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Notes for July

Calendar of Events for July, 2026

**July 2 , MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Library Center, Community
Room B
@ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**July 11 & 18, 2026: Beginning Fly Tying Classes, Conservation
Nature Center, 1pm—4pm**

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

July 2, 2026, MTFA Monthly Meeting

Program at 7:00 pm

Stream Teams with Brent Stock

of the James River Basin Partnership

At the Library Center, Community Room B

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Fly tying and fellowship

7:00 pm Program

A short meeting and the door prize drawing will follow the presentation.



Missouri has 110,000 miles of streams that provide recreation, drinking water and serenity for ourselves and our children, but they need your help.

Chapter Business:

We had a great program at the June meeting. It was presented by Ben Havens, Hatchery Manager at Bennett Spring. Ben explained what was going on at the hatchery. As you know, the hatchery reconstruction has been temporarily halted because the contractor was doing substandard work. No one knows yet when the work will recommence with a new contractor or when it will be finished. Hopefully, it will be sooner rather than later. Rest assured it will happen. In the meantime, the Department of Conservation is still stocking with rainbow trout raised at other hatcheries. People are still catching fish. Be patient!



Hatchery News:

The Missouri Department of Conservation is pleased to announce that construction is set to resume on the Bennett Spring Fish Hatchery Renovation project. The Department is working directly with Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company on the completion of the project. Philadelphia has selected Crossland Construction to lead the completion work. The Department has issued its notice to proceed to Philadelphia but anticipates it may take a few weeks for Crossland and other subcontractors to fully mobilize. We appreciate the public's support and patience as we work to complete this important hatchery renovation project for Missourians.

[Bennett Spring Construction Updates | Missouri Department of Conservation](#)

What is the timeline on the construction and when will it be done?

The work will take up to 18 months with construction expected to be completed by December 2027.

Who is Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company and why are they involved?

Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company is the surety that issued the payment and performance Bond for the Bennett Spring Fish Hatchery Renovation project. Philadelphia has agreed to correct and complete Cahills Construction's work on the project.

If Philadelphia is in an agreement with MDC to correct and complete Cahills' work, how is Crossland Construction involved?

Philadelphia selected Crossland Construction to serve as the completion contractor.

Does MDC anticipate that Crossland Construction's charges to Philadelphia will exceed the remaining unpaid contract amount?

Yes, but Philadelphia has agreed to pay Crossland Construction for the excess completion costs, provided the entire unpaid contract balance is paid by MDC.

Fishing Reports:



Les Wilson: Fished LOZ 6/17 and 18 near the 6mm and mouth of Gravois. Wind on 17th was brutal, stayed behind the seawall at the condo, fortunately found a school of fish on one of the windbreaks anchor cable. In about 45' of water, fish were hanging 20-30 feet, no real structure other than the cable and some shade. The bite was lite, if you thought you felt something set the hook, otherwise you might feel them spit it. A chartreuse/pink or black chartreuse tail worked the best for me. Water temp 79 degrees. On the 18th caught some off brush piles 15-25 feet deep 30 fow. Saw several guys trolling not catching much, the water was brownish, about 18" visibility.

Fly Tying Night: Rick Headlee tied the Black Gnat

He's been tying this since he was a kid.

It is a modification of a 50-year-old fly they used to call the Black Gnat. It is tied leggy, with oversized hackle to be fished as a soft hackle, just sub-surface. It is deadly on bluegill and other warm water species.

#6 or #8 wet fly hook

Tail - red duck quill fibers or bucktail, sparse.

Body - black chenille or yarn.

Hackle - black hen feather if you have it.

Any black thread.



Say It Isn't So:

[SIU professor debunks legend surrounding redband trout](#)

It's not that the McCloud Redband trout is not a real subspecies of the rainbow trout, it's just that the Crane Creek population that we are so proud of came from a different "ancestral" population out of the Sacramento River drainage. The McCloud River is in Northern California while the Sacramento River is in Central California, roughly 140 miles apart, the way the crow flies. Although the McCloud River was a part of the Sacramento drainage until about 80 years ago when the Shasta Dam was built, the upper section has been isolated by a waterfall since the Pleistocene Epoch. That's enough time for genetic differences to be selected.



Neither the history of the McCloud River fish hatchery nor contribution of the local native people, the McCloud Wintu, are in question. We can still be proud of our wild trout, no matter what you call them.

The Knot Hole:

[An Easier Way to Tie a Blood Knot](#)

Wish I'd said that:

"The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad." – A. Best

Video of the Month:

[90% of Trout are Caught This Way](#)

This video is only 28 seconds long but it's true.

[Or this one by a Dry Fly Snob](#)



Late Season Mayfly Hatch Chart

Approximate Hatch Dates	Common Name	Time of Day	Hook Size	Imitations
Mid June through Mid October	Slate Winged Mahogany	Sporadic Throughout the Day	10-12	Leadwing Coachman, Isonychia Nymph, Dun Variant, Rusty Spinner
Mid June, Mid July	Blue Winged Olive	Morning, Midday	14-16	Ephemerella Nymph, Emerger & Dun
Late June and July	Golden Drake	Evening	12	Cream Variant
July thru September	Trico	Morning	22-24	Trico Dun & Spinner
July thru October	Tiny Blue Winged Olive	Sporadic Afternoon	18-24	Blue Winged Olive Nymph, Emerger & Dun

Late Season Caddis Fly Hatch Chart

Approximate Hatch Dates	Common Name	Time of Day	Hook Size	Imitations
June thru Sept	Tan Caddis	Sporadic All Day	14-20	Tan Elk Hair Caddis
August thru Oct	Summer Sedge (Autumn Sedge)	Late Day, Evening	12-18	Woodchuck Caddis, Cased Caddis

[Missouri Hatch Chart – Flyfishers at the Crossing](#)



Schedule of Events:

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

July 11 & 18, 2026: Beginning Fly Tying Classes, MDC Conservation Nature Center, 1pm—4pm

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

October 1, 2026: TBD a picnic

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

November 5, 2026: Monthly Meeting Library Center Anne Busch room 6pm—9 pm

November 22, 2026: Fly Tying Cancelled due to Thanksgiving

December 3, 2026: Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

January 7, 2027 Library Center Auditorium on Thursday, January 7, 6pm - 9pm

Other Local Fish Related Events:

White River Fly Fishers Expo on July 24 - 25, at the Lions Club in Branson, MO. ronleggins@gmail.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

Roaring River State Park, [Veterans Free Fishing Day](#): Free daily trout tags will be available at the park store on Sept. 18 and 19. Event Date: Sep 19, 2026

Bennett Spring State Park, Ladies Free Fishing, September 26 @ 7:30 am - 7:15 pm

Any age of ladies fish for free. Pick up your tag at the park store. All rules and regulations apply

State Trout Parks: Last Day of the Season (catch & keep), October 31 @ 7:30 am - 6:30 pm

Fly Rod Building Class put on by Mud Hole, November 13 - 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Cost is \$249 and you walk away with a finished rod plus all the tools you used to build it. You must select whether you want to build a 3, 5, or 8 weight rod. The contact to sign up is Brad Bauer, a member of SMFF, and his phone number is 417-234-1034. His email is bbauer4sons@gmail.com. Space is limited and so if you are interested inquire early.

Fly Tying Gala, presented by Frontline Fly Fishing, serving Veterans, First Responders, and the Fly Fishing Community, Blue Springs, MO. Feb 27, 2027 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:

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[Membership - Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association - Springfield Chapter \(mtfa-springfield.org\)](#)

Water levels:

Roaring River water level: [Roaring River near Roaring River State Park](#)

Taneycomo water level: [Lake Taneycomo at Ozark Beach Dam, MO - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

Bennett Spring water level: [National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

SWPA Generation Schedules

<https://www.energy.gov/swpa/generation-schedules>