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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**

August 2026

Volume 20 No. 8

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Calendar of Events for August, 2026

August 4 is your opportunity to vote to keep or remove the existing sales and use tax of 0.1% for 10 years to fund state parks and soil and water conservation programs. [Click here to read about the amendment in Ballotpedia.com](#)

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

**Program: Cold Water Fisheries and Hatcheries of Missouri
Speakers: Tom Whelan and Clint Hale**

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

President's report;

Once upon a time MTFA-Springfield was invited to teach a fly fishing class at Missouri State University as a way for students to fulfill physical education credits. The C-19 events of 2020 brought about many changes among them the end to the fly fishing classes of which we were a part.

To fill that void and continue to promote our great sport, Bob Randall has coordinated with the staff at the MDC Springfield Conservation Nature Center to offer both fly fishing and fly tying classes. These classes are sponsored and promoted by the Nature Center. All we do is provide the teachers, mentors, and supplies. Our hopes are that there will continue to be at least a trickle of folks interested in these classes so we can have two of each every year.

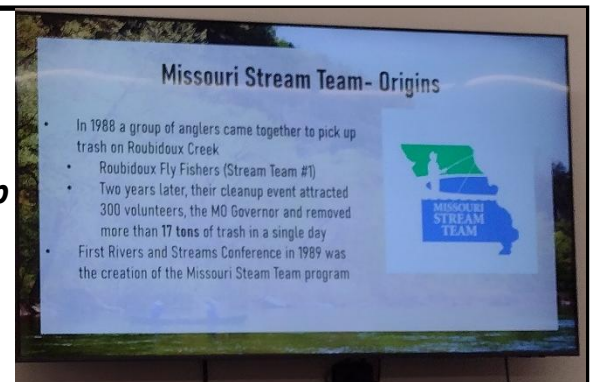
Bob Randall has since stepped down from the responsibilities of coordinating and leading these classes. Rick Headlee has agreed to take on the fly fishing classes. Yours truly has agreed to oversee the fly tying classes. I am thankful to Bob for his leadership as we find ways to promote Missouri trout fishing, fly fishing in general, and the conservation efforts that sustain our sport. Thank you also to Rick for taking on the upcoming classes. And thank you all who support these endeavors with your time and knowledge.

Sincerely,

Christian "Andy" Andrews

July Program:

Brent Stock from the James River Basin Partnership spoke to us about the Missouri Stream Team Partnership and other water quality issues. There was a good Q&A at the end.



Link for more info: [MO Stream Teams: Get Involved in Water Conservation](#)

August 6 Program Cold Water Fisheries and Hatcheries of Missouri

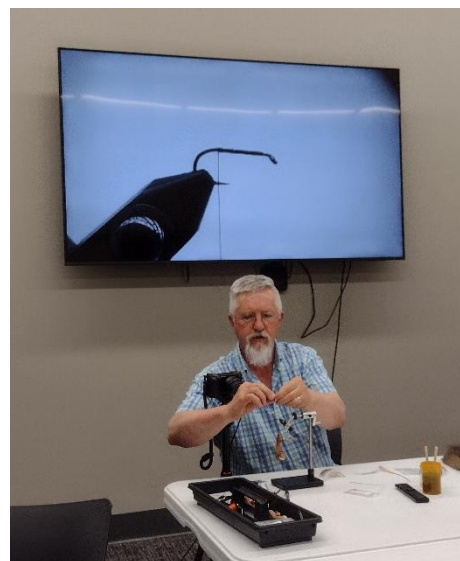
Speakers: Tom Whelan

Tom has held several various positions within the Fisheries Division over his 40-year career. He enthusiastically began his career at Montauk Hatchery as a temporary employee in 1985 and quickly proved his worth, being promoted to hatchery management at Roaring River in only 6 years. Early in his career, Tom honed his fish culture talents at Montauk, Shepherd of the Hills, Roaring River, and Chesapeake Hatchery. Working in state parks for almost his entire career and being a Trout Park manager at Montauk for a decade takes special skills; Tom has developed the skills of a plumber, electrician, public relations officer and a farmer all at the same time. Tom is a true professional with experience managing both warmwater and coldwater facilities, he is truly a fish culture leader in Missouri. All our spring fed hatcheries experience flooding events and Tom has time after time shown leadership in organizing this battle and exhibits expertise in heading off complications by thinking ahead. Tom is currently the Coldwater System Supervisor, overseeing fish culture operations at 5 Coldwater MDC Hatcheries.

Clint Hale

I grew up on a farm near Belle, a small town in central Missouri. My education includes an undergraduate degree from the College of the Ozarks (CofO) in Branson and a master's degree in human relations/education from Drury University in Springfield. I started my Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) career at Maramec Spring Hatchery (and Indian Trail) as a temporary employee while attending CofO in 1998. Within two years of full-time employment, I became the first Assistant Hatchery Manager in that facility's history. Starting in 2008, I started as the manager at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery until 2022. My current role is the Hatchery System Manager, overseeing all 9 MDC hatcheries. I have had many opportunities over the years to serve in various capacities (i.e., MO Natural Resource conference chairman, president of the AFS MO Chapter, and a committee member overseeing pay structure change for the agency and employee recognition chairman. My entire career has been in hatcheries.

Andy taught us the basics of tying dry flies on July 23.



MDC/MTFA Fly Tying Class, July 11 & 18

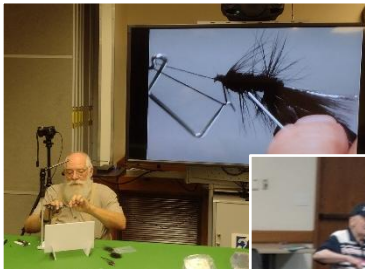
7 or 8 students

Class was led by Andy Andrews

***Flies tied were the San Juan worm,
the Harvester midge,
and the pheasant tail nymph***



***Second Class flies: Scud by Bill Huyett,
Wooly Bugger by Woody Woodman,
Soft Hackle by Kim Schultz***



Fishing Reports:

Andy Andrews, Bennet Spring State Park, Wednesday, July 29.

The whistle sounded as I trekked my way through the woods to the otherside access upstream from the bluff. I had four in the net on an Art Flick Dun Variant Nymph fished deep by 8:30 am. I took a break to hobnob with the Bennett Spring Fly Tying group. I tried my fortune at the well house around noon. Nothing. I went back to the other side access and hooked up on number 5 as I was letting out line with a Greensleeves North Country Spider. Then nothing until I went home at 3:00 pm. No fish were harmed in this outing.

Christian "Andy" Andrews

Rodney Pennington, Bennett Spring State Park, Wednesday, July 29.

Terry Marti and I went to Bennett this morning. The water was clear, with lots of fishing folks. Terry tangled lines often with the spin casters. Landed a good number of fish while there. He believes the most he has landed in any outing. Many in the 13 -14-inch range. Lots of colors and dots.

I landed this girl fish. 21 inches long 14-inch girth. Definite football shape. Returned her quickly to the water.



Rodney K Pennington

Kim Schultz, Roaring River State Park:

My daughter Jenn, my grandkids Des and Fi, and I had a great family fishing trip at Roaring River State Park (RRSP) from July 19th through July 21st. We stayed at campsite 148 in campground 3.

Although it was hot, there was plenty of shade to provide shelter from the sun, and the cool stream water offered relief and comfortable fishing over the several days. Everyone caught fish with fly rods, and my daughter had a close encounter with a banded water snake.

The most effective fly was a meat-and-potato fly, a sculpin imitation fished along the bottom. Over two days of fishing, we caught about twenty-five trout.

On Tuesday morning, Lincoln fished with me for six hours as we tried various spots along the river and picked up a few more trout. Lincoln also participated in the MDC fly tying class, and I discovered he was a regular at RRSP, having fished there with a fly rod for the past two years. He is a senior at Kickapoo High School and has a passion for fishing.

Overall, it was a great outing and a memorable time spent together on the water.

Kim Schultz

Kim Schultz, Little Sac River Trip Report

Goal: Continue the 2026 challenge of catching at least one white bass each month.

Previous progress: On June 6, I fished solo on the Little Sac River and caught six white bass, along with a drum and a smallmouth bass, near the second power line. A recent high-water event had pushed several trees into the stream and changed parts of the river structure.

My July challenge was finding another white bass before the month ran out. I spent the Fourth of July holiday in Michigan with family, and while I was away, another round of high water moved through Missouri. Stockton Lake rose about five feet, pushing water into the trees and brush and covering much of the accessible shoreline.

After returning to Missouri, I spent time catching up on lawn and garden chores. By mid-July, the heat had become the main factor. With temperatures in the mid-90s, I was not eager to fish a warm-water stream. Instead, I fished Roaring River State Park from July 19–21, where the cool spring water and tree canopy provided more comfortable conditions.

As the end of July approached, I decided it was time to return to the Little Sac River and find my July white bass. Starting point: Upstream from the conservation area near Taylor Bridge, Water temperature: 87°F, Lake level note: Stockton Lake was dropping and stood at approximately 870 feet.

I returned to the Little Sac River and began by heading upstream. Before I got in the water, a doe and spotted fawn crossed my path, and a pair of ospreys flew over Taylor Bridge. The water felt warm, and the thermometer confirmed it at 87°F. I was concerned the water might be too warm to hold white bass, but I paddled upstream and worked the shady spots along the riverbank.

Wildlife and river activity included:

- Baitfish occasionally breaking the surface.
- A blue heron fishing upstream from me.
- A snake waiting downstream until I passed so it could move to safety.

Catch Summary

- Two sunfish near brush along the water's edge.
- Two channel catfish tucked into shoreline cover.
- One smallmouth bass during the downstream float back to the truck.
- One small white bass near the steel bridge after 7:30 p.m.

Steel Bridge Stop: By nearly 7 p.m., I had returned to the truck, secured the kayak, and was ready to head back to Springfield. As I left the conservation area, I made a quick decision to drive a few miles downstream to the steel bridge to check the water level.

At the conservation area near the steel bridge, the water below the inflow of Walnut Creek was active with baitfish. It was after 7:30 p.m., the sun was dropping toward the western horizon, and the surface activity made the stop worth a closer look. I grabbed my fly rod and found a narrow corridor where I could cast. Result: A short time later, white bass began busting the surface on the opposite shore. I kept throwing a small orange jig until I finally got a hit and landed a small white bass. That fish counted as my July white bass, keeping the 2026 monthly white bass challenge on track.

Follow-Up Notes: I stopped after one white bass, especially after a later cast left my fly hung six feet up in the bark of an elder elm tree. I expect the baitfish and white bass may remain in that area for a few more days, unless the water changes again. I hope to return Sunday evening and begin the search for my August white bass.

Kim Schultz

Fishing Pictures:



The two above are Lincoln catching and releasing trout at Roaring River State Park. The other two photos taken in zone two near campsite 3.

Kim Schultz



Abbreviated list of critters that any fly fishing angler should be familiar with, that serve as indicators of water quality.

***Pollution sensitive organism found in good quality water:**

stoneflies, caddisflies, mayflies

***Somewhat pollution tolerant organisms can be in good or fair quality water:**

Dragonflies, Sowbugs, clams/mussels, scuds, waterbugs, crane flies, crawfish

***Pollution tolerant organisms can be in any quality of water:**

Aquatic worms, Midge, Leeches,

Modified from information received from the James River Basin Partnership

Wish I'd Said That:

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day." – Anonymous

"Teach a man to fly fish and he'll move to Montana."

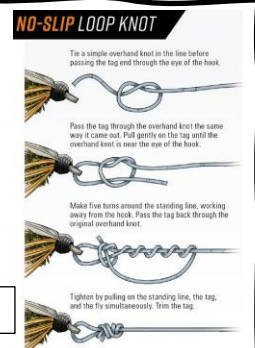
– another Anonymous

The Knot Hole:

Non-Slip Loop Knot: AI says "The non-slip loop knot, also known as the Kreh Loop, is essential for fly fishing as it allows for natural movement of the fly or lure, increasing your chances of a successful catch."

[Video click here](#)

Beaver Lake Fly Fishing



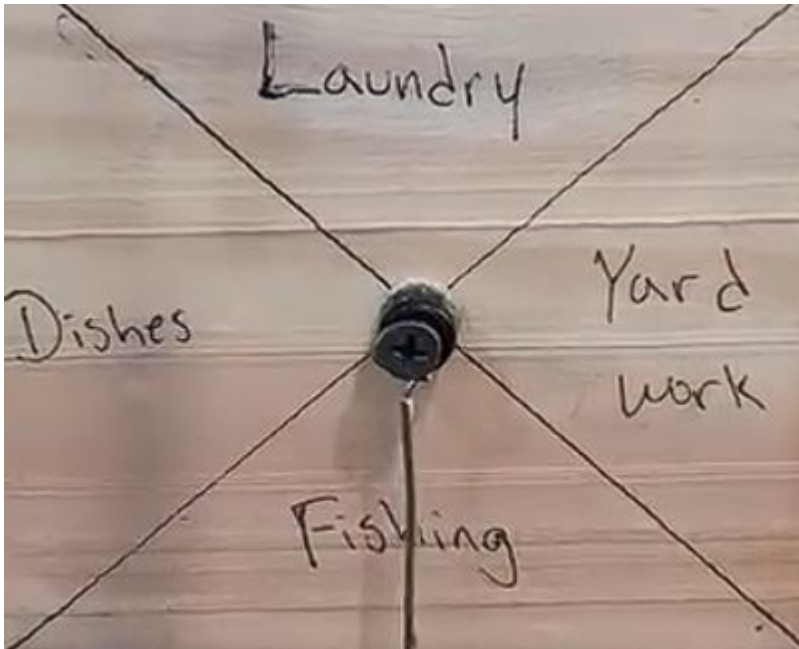
Fly Fisherman

"Gone Fishin' Instead of Just Awishin'":

[Bing Cosby and Louis Armstrong, 1951](#)

Video of the Month: [5 Nymphing Mistakes Most Anglers Make](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BYqGC3F4i/>



Some of you don't have Facebook accounts so here's a screenshot. The pendulum is loosely attached to the center point so gravity always points it to fishing.

From David Ransin

Early Season Caddis Fly Hatch Chart

Approximate Hatch Dates	Common Name	Time of Day	Hook Size	Imitation's
Mid April to Mid May	Little Black Caddis	Early Afternoon	18	Dark Brown/Black Elk Caddis
Mid April	Grannom Caddis	Late Morning – Early Afternoon	14-16	Leadwing Coachman V dark Brown Elk Hair C
Late April to Early May	Cream Caddis	Late Morning – Afternoon	14	Cream Elk Hair Caddis Emergent Pupa
Early May	Green Caddis	Late Morning – Afternoon	14	Green Caddis Larva ar Henryville Special Dry

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

Schedule of Events:

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

January 22, 2027: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 6 pm—9 pm

February 4, 2027 Library Center Annie Bush Community Room on Thursday, January 7, 6pm- 9pm

February 25, 2027: Fly Tying Library Center Community Room B 6 pm—9 pm

March 4, 2027: Monthly Meeting Library Center Community Room B 6pm—9 pm

Other Local Fish Related Events:

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

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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>