



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**

September 2026

Volume 20 No.9

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Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association - Springfield Chapter

Calendar of Events for September, 2026

**September 3: MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Library Center,
Community Room B
@ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Chris Diggons will speak about the work that the Tri-Lakes FF
club does with the Boys Ranch and then draw a parallel to
the purpose of the Tri-Lakes Expo. The presentation is titled
“Passing It On”.**

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

Chapter Business:

Christmas Charity: Start getting together items for donation at the MTFA Christmas Party. The donations will be raffled or auctioned off at the party and the proceeds go to the Pitkin School for various students' needs. December 3, 2026: Annual Meeting and Christmas Party at the Golden Coral on Glenstone. *Rick Headlee*



The August Monthly Meeting program was planned to be about cold-water fisheries, however, a last-minute change sent Kim Schultz, Rod Pennington, and Rick Headlee into planning mode. Together they put together a program on fishing the James River. They made us aware of access points, specific fishing spots, and fishing history which means they told us some fishing stories from their childhoods. It was a good program. They pulled the rabbit out of the hat.



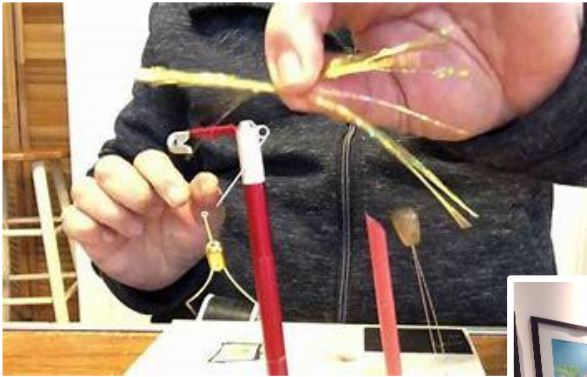
August 27, 2006: Fly Tying the Gold Rib Hare's Ear Nymph



October 1, 2026: Tour of Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery in Branson, 3:30 pm, let's carpool. After the tour, we will have a picnic at the Shep Hills pavilion. Club will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and buns. Bring something to share and maybe a lawn chair.

Insectorama *Not all bugs are insects. Some are safety pins.*

The Missouri Department of Conservation hosts an annual event called the Insectorama. This year it was on August 14. It's goal is to teach kids about the importance of insects in the ecosystem. Kids can touch 'em, watch 'em, learn about metamorphosis, and eat 'em. Yes, you can get an insect lollipop or eat cookies and brownies made with cricket flour. The MDC pre-event info says, "Join insect specialists and enthusiasts for an evening devoted to discovering insects." We were there so I guess that makes us insect specialists. We tied our trout flies representing insects on safety pins and passed them out to kids to pin on their shirts. It's great fun. Plan to participate next August. Attending were Dick and John Owensby, Pat Taggart, Kim Schultz, Andy Andrews, Woody Woodman, and me, Bob Randall.



Fishing Reports

Andy Andrews: A couple handfuls or three were caught at Bennett Spring on two Wednesdays in August. I bummed a ride with Woody. We hobnobbed with the Bennett Spring fly tying group in the mornings and hit the water by the gauge house and spring in the afternoons. I out fished Woody by one the first outing, but only because he let me (he pretended to be fixing his line more than actually casting). He out fished me by one on our second outing, but who's counting. The highlight for me was three hook-ups on Jenny, a fly pattern from 300 years ago that I tied on a blind snelled hook. (Blind, because I cut off the eye. Snelled, because I lashed on a short twisted silk thread leader.) It's essentially a dark spider pattern, so ya, looks like hatchery pellets. *Christian "Andy" Andrews*

June Thru October

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](#)

Pure Strain Trout: A Sense of Pride

Back in the mid 1970's, President Jimmy Carter was preparing to designate millions of acres of land in Alaska as national monuments. Politically, it was a big controversy, really big. Some little girl who lived in a big city somewhere wrote to him encouraging him to create those monuments. In her letter, she said something like the following: I may never get to see a grizzly bear or a moose, but I'd like to know that they're there. He made those designations, most of which are national parks now and no longer stir great controversy.

For years, now, we've all fished proudly with the knowledge that a pure strain of the McCloud redband rainbow trout inhabited our very own Crane Creek. [Now, we know they don't.](#) It is disappointing, but we have to follow the best science and accept the evidence. Still, I'd kinda like to know that pure strain McClouds are out there ... somewhere. Another river holds the same rumor, firm belief if you will, that McClouds were brought from California by rail in milk cans and stocked in its cold, clear waters. That little river is Seneca Creek in West By God Virginia. For anglers who care and bother to follow the evidence, disappointment suffocates their hopes as well.

"While the wild bows in Seneca are widely rumored to be descendants of the McCloud Redband Rainbow strain (of Northern California), it's more likely that these original stockers were a mix of redbands, coastal rainbows, and hybrids." [That's according to David Thorne, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Biologist.](#)

Are there any pure strain McClouds? Do not despair. Waterfalls, impassable to trout, block off the upper sections of the McCloud River and its little tributaries may have saved our heroes, indeed, those falls and the genetic isolation they caused probably allowed the McClouds to evolve separately from the other coastal 'bows in the first place. While some of the lower reaches above the falls may have been stocked, we can hope that the stockers haven't invaded the uppermost sections. Until proven wrong, I settle my anxiety about the McClouds with the firm hope that they are still there.

But what about that sense of pride? I don't think that our pride should be diminished one bit as we take our final glance of our Crane Creek trophies just before we release them back into the creek.

Bob Randall

The Knot Hole:

[An Easier Way to Tie a Clinch Knot](#) A Charlie Craven video on FaceBook from David Ransin

Some of you don't have FaceBook accounts so here's a similar video on YouTube [Bing Videos](#)

Conservation Federation of Missouri says Keep Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Our Public Lands Need Your Voice

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed eliminating the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule), a longstanding safeguard for approximately 44.7 million acres of National Forest System lands. For 25 years, the Roadless Rule has helped protect intact fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and some of the country's best hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and backcountry recreation.

Good, science-based forest management matters. Habitat restoration, fuels reduction, and other necessary work can and should occur when science and local conditions support it, but there is no need to eliminate protections across millions of acres to accomplish those goals.

The Conservation Federation of Missouri is asking Missourians to speak up for our public lands. Tell the U.S. Forest Service to retain the 2001 Roadless Rule and continue addressing management needs through science-based, site-specific decisions.

Comments are due September 21.

It only takes a few minutes to make your voice part of the official public record. Thank you for standing up for fish, wildlife, clean water, and the public lands we all share.

You can submit comments here: [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Or for a little help, go to this [Trout Unlimited response page](#)

MTFA is a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. We only comment on conservation issues.



Video of the Month: [Three Keys to Finding Trout](#)

10 degrees Celsius equals 50 degrees Fahrenheit

18C = 64F

Video of the Month: [Bass vs Trout](#)

"If they were fly fishermen, a bass would throw an 8 inch streamer. A trout would argue that it's actually a size 20, not a size 18."

Schedule of Events:

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: Tour of Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery in Branson, 3:30 pm, let's carpool
After the tour, we will have a picnic at the Shep Hills pavilion. Club will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and buns. Bring something to share.

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

Other Local Fish Related Events:

MTFA-KC Fall Club Derby at Roaring River SP, Sept 25-27, 2026

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

[Link to Tri-Lakes Expo flier](#)

[Link to Tri-Lakes Expo Schedule](#)

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

Montauk State Park, Veteran's Free Fishing Day, September 12th

MTFA-St. Louis annual fishing derby at Montauk State Park, September 19th and 20th

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 Cdiggon@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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[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>