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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**

**November 2026** **Volume 20 No.11**

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## Calendar of Events for November, 2026

**November 5 MTFA-Springfield Meeting – Library Center,**

## *Anne Busch Room (the auditorium)*

**Speaker: Marty Marsh, Education District Supervisor for the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) 17-county Southwest Region, will speak at our November meeting. He aims to connect conservation with southwest Missouri's medical community. Marsh brings 31 years of experience in public education and athletic administration, including roles with Springfield Public Schools and the Missouri State High School Activities Association. He joined us in March to discuss MDC programs in area public schools.**

**He plans to work with medical personnel and physicians to promote retirees' health by prescribing outdoor activities. Learn more about these health benefits through MDC resources by attending the Nov 5th meeting.**

## *From the President's Desk – Christian "Andy" Andrews:*

***The Catch and Keep season in the state trout parks ended on October 31. Do not despair. You can still fish for trout at the tailwater below Tablerock Dam, as well as any of the blue, red, or white ribbon trout streams such as Crane Creek. You will need a trout permit as well as meeting any license requirements. Fish on.***

***The Catch and Release season at the state trout parks will begin on November 13. It is a Friday through Monday fishing opportunity. The hours are 8am to 4pm. All trout caught are to be released immediately.***

***Since you can't fish at the trout parks this week, go vote on Tuesday.*** *Andy*

## *Chapter Business:*

***The Executive Committee will develop a budget for 2027 for the club. It will be presented to the membership for a vote at the January meeting.***

***The Nominating Committee will establish a slate for officers for 2027. To volunteer, contact Kim Schultz.***

## Fishing Reports:

**John Dozier: Went to Stockton, last Saturday, October 24. I arrived about 10:30 a.m. There were a few people there, but getting ready to leave. Said they caught a mixture of fish, but bite was slowing down. I only caught 2 bass and it seemed they moved out to deeper water. I did notice a school of shad close to shore moving slowing along the bank. Left around 1:30. Water was low but not as low as last time I was there. Nov, 2024.** *John*

**Rod Pennington: Trout are readily catchable at Bennett. Lots of fish and fisherfolks. Several in the 13 inch plus length.**
**Appears to be many baitfish in the coves at Stockton lake. Fish seem to still be in deeper water. Should be a great fall when conditions become right.** *Rod*

# Fishing Report:

**Les Wilson, Lake Erie Steelhead: We had heard stories and seen you tube videos on the fall Lake Erie Steelhead run near Erie, PA. Admiring the love Kim Schultz has for Steelhead in Michigan we decided to give it a go. A 13 hr drive and we started with several creeks in the Fairview area just outside of Erie, PA. Like us they are much drier than usual. All of the fly shops told us when it rained they will run up heavy. A look at the weather app no rain forecast for the next 10 days. Appears we should have done more research. I called my friend, Wayne Essary who I knew was familiar with the PA/NY area. He said they were on Kings on the Salmon River near Pulaski, NY, come on up. Another 4 hrs and we were on the Lake Ontario tributary. A quick stop at Fat Nancy's tackle shop, an inexpensive 10' rod and we were on our way. As most of you know I am not a guy who keeps track of numbers. But Wayne said he counted me landing at least 6 legal the first day. (break offs and foul hooking can be an issue probably 20-25) Thanks to him for mentoring me. After observing the first day, another stop at Fat Nancy's for Peggy a license. The fish were not as aggressive the next day, most had to be flossed but she still brought 5 legal to hand. It was a fun time, but 20-30 lb fish wore us down we took a couple days to scout for the steelhead that were following the salmon to eat eggs. So far no luck on those. We are currently exploring some other streams in upper New York and enjoying the fall foliage. We plan on returning next year.** ***Les***









Peggy is clearly the fish whisperer.



**Fishing Reports:**

**October: Woody was on a fishing trip with his sons. They started out at Bennett Spring. Here are pics from the Arkansas River in Colorado.** ***Woody***








***Kim Schultz:***

***Cooler days and falling water temperatures gave me a chance to fish at Bennett Spring and Roaring River state parks and make several trips to Stockton Lake. With students back in school, the parks were less crowded. Older visitors came midweek, but there was still more room to roam. Rod has found a fly and technique that work well for catching and releasing trout, usually getting three times as many hookups as I do. My method—fishing a dry fly wet—still caught plenty of trout. Over the last two weeks, I made four trips to Stockton Lake to log an October white bass. On the first two trips, Rod and I fished the Chicken Rock area near Mutton Creek. Plenty of baitfish were near the surface, but we caught only a few fish. Rod caught a white bass; I caught a catfish but no white bass. A south wind took us to Twin Bridges for the last two trips, where I caught half a limit of white bass each time. Other catches included four line-bass, smallmouth bass, large sunfish, a 27.5-inch carp, and a 16-inch walleye. We saw a few deer on our drives and two armadillos on our hikes. The days have been sunny, with a persistent south wind. I'm hoping for rain on Halloween, followed by a northwest wind. My next trip is November 1, and I hope to fish the Highway 245 access.*** ***Kim***

# Kim's Fishing Photos:

27.5 inch carp Stockton Lake



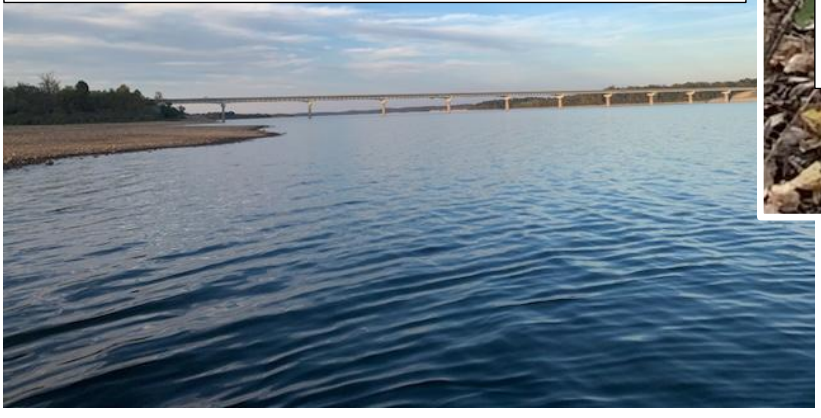
Stockton Lake - Chicken Rock





Armadillo seen hiking back Stockton Lake

Stockton Lake- Twin bridges south beach lake level 862ft.



## *Fishing Reports:*

**David Ransin and 2 high school buddies. They've been floating together for 50 years; they are part of a winter guys' float, in fact, the fellow in the middle was Dave's high school photography teacher in 1972 !:**

**Just the three of us with perfect weather, despite the low water, very leisurely pace; plenty of trout seen but none were interested in my offerings of every kind from my fly box despite robust midge rises each morning; the 2 nice smallies were caught on my favorite lure, using a painfully slow retrieve, on a spinning rod, in deep holes. In one picture you can see the rod tubes I made which allows safe storage and quick access to a pair of rods under each side rail.** ***David***

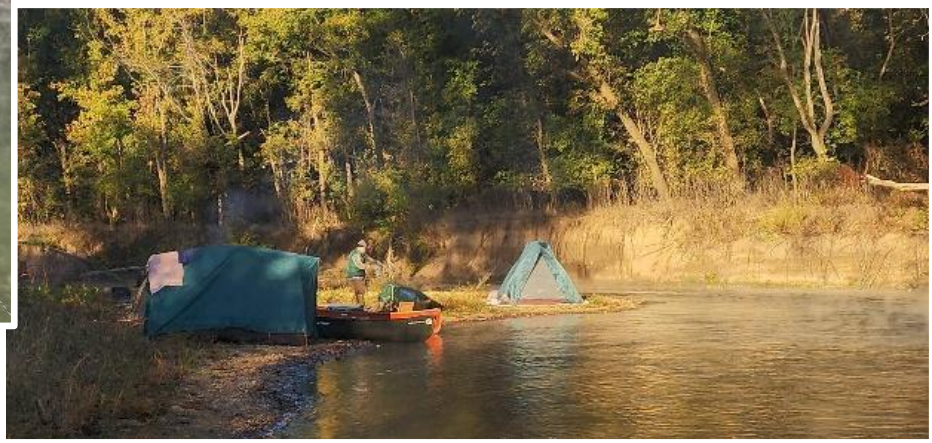










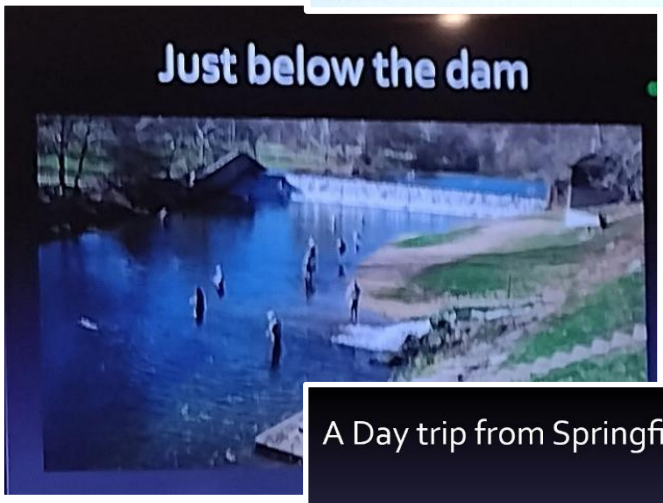


**Fly Fishing Class**

**Second Day**

















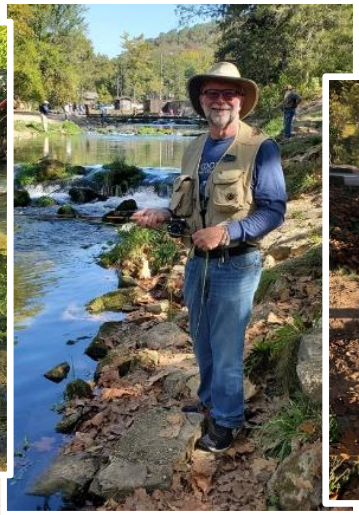
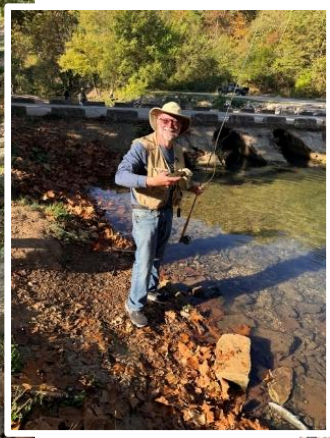








# FF Class Field Trip, October 10, Roaring River












***Recently in this newsletter we lamented the loss of our local McCloud River trout***. **We found out that we never had them to begin with, but it was fun to think we did. Our consolation was that the McCloud strain of rainbow trout probably still exists in the upper reaches of the McCloud River in locations beyond the read of trout stocking trucks.**

**Another subspecies of trout, cutthroat this time, was nearly gone. Its recovery is an equally compelling conservation story: Click Lahontan Trout (a video by the US F&W Service of the fishery's recovery) You have to watch this video, if for no other reason than to see and laugh at the step ladders used by anglers to get a little further cast.**

**"…the history of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the Lake. Commercial overfishing of the trout and a few other reasons had the fish declared extinct in the 1940's. Miraculously, the fish were found again in NE Nevada/NW Utah but weren't considered the same species because the newfound fish were far too small (just minnows). Turns out the new fish found in a stream are the same and were just growing to the size of their habitat. The lake was restocked and quickly the population grew in numbers and size. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout now flourishes in Pyramid Lake. Fish can now be caught weighing up to 20 pounds." Reprinted with permission of Chris @Chris-de2qh from a comment on Shawn Willsey: Geology Explained video**

**The fishery has become a destination trout fishery about 40 miles northeast of Reno, NV. If you go there to fish, you should know that access to Pyramid Lake and fishing in it is controlled by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Pick up that tribal fishing permit online or at the Tribal Ranger Station.**

**This story is better when you know the "recent" geology of the area. This is the Basin and Range country that held extremely large freshwater lakes 20,000 years ago. If they still existed today, we would include them in any discussion of the Great Lakes. These lakes were fed by the melting snow and glacier ice of the last ice age. The two primary lakes were Lake Bonneville (the freshwater predecessor of the Great Salt Lake) and Lake Lahontan (the freshwater predecessor of the modern-day Pyramid Lake in Nevada). Lake Bonneville rose so high that it broke through a low pass in southern Idaho and drained to the Snake River. It has dried up to the level that it no longer has an outlet, leaving the salty minerals to concentrate. Pyramid Lake is a smaller remnant of Lake Lahontan and interestingly, has deposits of calcium carbonate called tufa, and is not nearly as salty as Utah's GSL. Roughly, Pyramid Lake is 1/10$^{th}$ the area, twice the depth, but not nearly as salty as the GSL. Pyramid Lake is 1/6$^{th}$ as salty as sea water while the GSL is 20 times saltier than sea water. Instead, Pyramid Lake is very alkaline and any fish thriving there must have a physiological adaptation to handle that much alkalinity. A trout from one of our Missouri fish hatcheries would not survive in that water.**

***Bob Randall***

***The "First Lady of Fly-Fishing," Joan Wulf turned 100 years of age in October. "One of the best fly-casters and instructors of all time, Wulff was born in 1926 in New Jersey—the daughter of a sporting goods store owner/newspaper outdoors columnist. Wulff began fly-casting at age 10, winning her first statewide casting tournament in 1937. She went on to win 17 national casting titles and wrote an acclaimed 1987 book on fly-casting. A celebrated ambassador of the sport, she traveled the country representing fishing tackle companies and conducted casting demonstrations at many of the largest sportsmen's shows in the United States. Author Monte Burke wrote, "When Joan entered the sport back in the late 1930s, it was exclusively a man's world. That's not the case anymore, largely due to her."*** ***Quote from the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust***

Women In Fly Fishing video by Huge Fly Fishing

**Wish I'd said that:**

**"People often ask me which of the three I consider most important: size, shape , or color. I always answer: Behavior " From *Handbook of Hatches* by Dave Hughes. Pg 20**

**Presenting your fly in a way that mimics the behavior of the insect**

***Video of the Month:*** ***Every Level of Fly Angler Explained***

**From The Fishing Lab**

**Schedule of Events:**

**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**

***Other Local Fish Related Events:***

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

**State Trout Parks: Catch and Release season November 13, 2026 to February 8, 2027 8:00 am to 4:00 pm CST, Fridays through Mondays.**

Where to Fish | Missouri Department of Conservation

Trout Areas | Missouri Department of Conservation

***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 https://www.facebook.com/events/fly-tying-gala/1442133354642909/**

**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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**E-mail** **mailto: mtfa.springfield@gmail.com**

**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**