

MDC offers free fly tying classes in January

Fishing has side pursuits, such as the artful skill of tying flies that look like a tasty bug to hungry fish. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer a free series of fly tying classes during January at the Parma Woods Shooting Range, 15900 N.W. River Road, in Parkville. Participants are asked to sign up by Dec. 28.

In fly tying, anglers use feathers, fur, artificial materials, thread, and small hooks to create lures that mimic insects or minnows. Anglers commonly used them with fly rods to catch trout and panfish such as bluegill, crappie, and bass. Since they're effective lures, some anglers will also rig flies with floats attached up the line and cast them with spinning gear. Students will make flies that look good and catch fish.

The fly tying classes will be held 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday and Thursday nights, Jan. 3-24. The class will not meet on Jan. 21, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Classrooms will also be open one hour prior to class if a participant needs extra help or has questions. All tools and fly-tying materials will be provided. The classes are progressive, starting with basics and advancing to more complicated techniques.

This course is open to anyone age 14 and above. However, participants under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For more information, call 816-891-9941 or visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/parmawoods>.