

Ozark Fly Fishers

Member Newsletter

April 2019

President's Message

Thanks to everyone who made it to the March meeting on a soggy Thursday night at our temporary location at the church. Jeff Trigg had an excellent presentation and I hope to fish the Niangua with him soon. The smallmouth discussion was a nice alternative to our usual trout-based talks. His story about the river levels is so true, as we have the opposite problem this year. Our upcoming April 25 Meeting is back at the usual spot in Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park.



As I write this, our club is scattered between the Sow Bug convention in Arkansas and the Spring River outing. The rain slowed down the Spring River and the guiding was cut back, but our members still had some successes.

Reminder, Wetland for Kids is Saturday, April 6 at Busch Wildlife. We are still looking for volunteers. Our new (sold out) Taneycomo trip is later this month and is followed by the Montauk outing is May 17-19.

Thanks to Jim Gera and Dianne Ellis for helping at Cabela's for Ladies Day Out in late March and teaching casting skills. We only had just a few that participated, but we also spoke to others and handed out a few cards.

Dan Rasch, President, Ozark Fly Fishers
Email: drasch27@hotmail.com

April Meeting Guest Speakers

Terry and Roxanne Wilson

Think fishing a pond is easy? Not all ponds are created equal, and fly-fishing success on ponds is dependent upon understanding what makes a good fishing pond and how to best take advantage of the circumstances, whatever they may be. Illustrations and photos enrich the viewer's knowledge of where, when, and how to target bass, bluegill, and other species in public or private ponds and lakes. Fly selections and presentations for bass and bluegill are discussed.

Terry and Roxanne Wilson are regular contributors to the Fly Fishers International magazine. Their most recent book, *The Bluegill Diaries: A Fly Fishing Chronicle*, was published in January of 2018. They also authored *Crappie Fly Fishing: A Seasonal Approach* (2013), *Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing: A Practical Guide* (2007), *Largemouth Bass Fly Fishing: Beyond the Basics* (2001), and *Bluegill Fly Fishing & Flies* (1999). The Wilsons are ProStaff members of Sage, Redington, and Rio, and their original patterns are distributed by Orvis. They were presented the Dr. James Henshall Award for their many contributions to warmwater fly fishing by Fly Fishers International in 2017, and named Fly Fishers Educators of the Year in 2014.

Questions about the Newsletter?

Email OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

April

Wetlands for Kids Day
Busch Conservation Area
April 6, 2019, 9:00-3:00
(See p. 4 for info)

Feather-Craft 2019
Fly Rod & Reel Expo
April 6, 2019, 9:00-4:00

Mill Creek Clean 19
April 13, 2019, 8:00-1:00
(See p. 2 for info)

General Monthly Meeting
Greensfelder Rec Complex
April 25, 2019, 7:00 PM

May

General Monthly Meeting
Greensfelder Rec Complex
May 23, 2019, 7:00 PM

June

Member BBQ & Fly-Casting
Tilles Park, STL County
June 27, 2019, 7:00 PM

July

General Monthly Meeting
Greensfelder Rec Complex
July 25, 2019, 7:00 PM

-  www.ozarkflyfishers.org
-  Instagram: [@ozark_fly_fishers](https://www.instagram.com/ozark_fly_fishers)
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Outings Report – April 2019

April - Lake Taneycomo Outing

April 26, 27, and 28, Lilleys' Landing - Branson, MO **SOLD OUT**

For those attending, please send your pictures and videos to OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com for inclusion in our social media and future newsletters.

May - Montauk State Park Outing

May 17, 18, and 19, Montauk State Park - Salem, MO

We have reserved 10 motel units, (Rooms MO9 through MO18). In addition, we have reserved the Searcy Building for meals, hospitality, and fly tying.

Cost: \$220.00 – Includes lodging for two people for two nights, and the Saturday night BBQ dinner.

Please contact Ed Olander for your room reservations and to bring a food item for the Friday Night Favorite Stew/Soup Recipes Potluck and Saturday lunch. Breakfast is on your own. For the potluck, the following are needed: 4-5 stews/soups, appetizers, salads, and desserts.

Saturday night's BBQ dinner is catered by Olig's BBQ with beef brisket, pulled pork, potato cheese casserole, slaw, green beans, rolls and condiments. OFF will furnish coffee, ice tea, soda, and water. For those not rooming with us are welcome to participate in the pot dinner/lunch and the BBQ dinner for \$15.00 per person. Note: Please provide your stews and soups in a crockpot to keep them warm.

Make your checks out to Ozark Fly Fishers and mail to:
Edward Olander,
5886 Chrisbrook Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128
Phone: 314-566-1422 Email: olanderedward@att.net

Mill Creek Area Clean '19

Saturday, April 13, 2019

You're invited to join a good cause on a nice morning, in a beautiful area, and meet some fun people! We are picking up the trash along the roads in the boundary of the watershed as trash, dumps, and spills in this area end up in the area caves, springs and Mill Creek. It is cleaner than most streams in Missouri, and several groups coordinated by the Mill Creek Watershed Coalition (MCWC) are coming together to make it even better. Come help with this massive watershed cleanup. We use this beautiful resource so why not help in keeping it the awesome treasure that it is. Persons under 18 should be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Lunch will be provided after the cleanup. This time of year, inclement weather and flooding can be a possibility. Check friends of Mill Creek on Facebook for any changes pertaining to the event.

A separate email will be sent with additional information.

Or for more info, call Mark at Mill Creek. 573.433.5719

Visit: www.millcreekmo.org

2019 Outings

April

Lake Taneycomo
Lilley's Landing
Branson, MO
April 26-28, 2019
SOLD OUT

May

Montauk State Park
May 17-19, 2019
BOOK NOW

July

11th Annual OFF
Stream Team Outing
Montauk State Park
July 12-14, 2019

September

White & Norfolk
Rivers - Norfolk, AR
Sept. 13-15, 2019

October

Eleven Point River
Alton, MO
October 11-13, 2019

November

Bennett Spring
Catch & Release
Sand Springs Resort
Nov. 7-10, 2019



Fly of the Month – April 2019

Bob Clouser's Foxee Minnow

Smallmouth and saltwater guru, Bob Clouser, created an entire line of Clouser Minnows designed to catch everything from trout and panfish to saltwater species like redfish and snook. The lead eyes tied on the top of the hook invert the fly so that it rides hook-up, and the sparse style mimics what a true baitfish looks like on the water – lighter on the belly, shiny and sparkly across their mid-line, and darker across the back. His Foxee Minnow looks like just about any minnow or sucker we find in our Ozark streams as well as crayfish and other prey.

Fly Materials

- Hook: Standard Streamer Hook – I like Gamakatsu B10S Size 4 or 6
- Thread: 8/0 Veevus Tan
- Eyes: Painted Lead Eyes – Red or Gold
- Belly: Lighter section of Red Fox Tail
- Flash: Gold Crystal Flash, Gold Flashabou, and Bronze Flashabou
- Top Wing: Darker section of Red Fox Tail

Tying Steps

- Secure Hook in vise and start thread about 1/3rd of the hook shank behind the eye.
- Secure eyes to hook by making several crossing wraps then wrap horizontally around the eyes to tighten the thread. Use your favorite cement or super glue to secure them
- Advance the thread to behind the hook eye.
- Cut a section of red fox tail from the lighter side and brush out all the under fur – There's a lot of it.
- Tie in front of the eyes and then between the eyes and wrap down the hook shank to about the hook point. Return thread back to in front of eyes. Invert the hook so that the eyes are on the bottom.
- Cut 2 Gold Flashabou, 2 Gold Crystal Flash, and 3 Bronze Flashabou from their ties. Fold around the thread, position on top of the hook and wrap down to just in front of the eyes.
- Cut a section of darker black-tipped fox tail and brush out all the under fur.
- Tie in just behind the eye secure down about half way to the eyes.
- Form a neat head with thread wraps, whip finish, and trim thread.
- Finish the head with your favorite cement or UV cure goop.



Our own Bill Armon has a [quality video on YouTube](#) on tying this fly, or check out Bob Clouser's book.

I fish it with a floating line to give it a jiggling motion, but I'm sure a sink-tip line would get you deeper. Make sure to fish it deep with steady strips. I fish it for smallmouth, largemouth, trout, redfish, and everything in between. I will cast it slightly up and across stream, let the belly pull it downstream as I strip it, then let it swing across and downstream.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers

Casting Tip – April 2019

Just back from 2019 Sowbug Roundup. While there I attended a class about Tenkara rod fishing with streamers. This gave me a thought. One of the points the speaker made was to identify the difference between Tenkara and Tenkara Rod Fishing.

- “Tenkara” - Fishing for trout on high gradient mountain streams with Tenkara style fixed line rods.
- “Tenkara Rod Fishing” - Using a Tenkara fixed line rod to fish for anything anywhere.”

The speaker, from Badger Tenkara, fishes streamers with his Tenkara rod. He had photos of everything from muskie to trout taken on Tenkara rods. You may ask what does this have to do with casting? When it comes to casting, the similarities between euro nymphing and Tenkara rod streamer fishing became apparent. Both methods depend on a line with as little slack between the caster and the fly as possible. Also, both cast a line very different from our traditional fly lines. Both methods (when casting streamers with a Tenkara rod) require a type of constant tension cast. This is a modified version of the Belgium cast.

Next casting tip will discuss the constant tension cast.

Bill Armon, CCI, Ozark Fly Fishers

Legislative Call to Action

Two current proposed national legislative changes could affect the waters each of us fish. We ask OFF Members to take a moment to educate themselves on these important issues and reach out to your representatives to take action. A simple phone call to let them know you support or oppose proposed legislation goes a long way.

OPPOSE the changes to the Clean Water Rule of 2015

The proposed Replacement Rule would end Clean Water Act protections for millions of stream miles across the country -- streams that contribute to the drinking water supplies of 117-million Americans and provide essential fish and wildlife habitat that support a robust outdoor recreation economy worth \$887 billion.

Opportunity for public comment is now open. The comment period will close on Monday, April 15th at 11:59 PM EST. Contact your [Senators](#) and [House Reps](#). [Click to learn more about the Replacement Rule](#).

SUPPORT US Senate Bill 47 The Natural Resources Management Act

This bill has passed in the Senate and will be voted on in the near future in the House. Part of this bill covers the renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund which is critical to the continuation of many of the programs related to habitat and wildlife conservation. You can look up you Representative using this website:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

2019 Stream Team 31 Events

If you plan to attend or have any questions about these events, please contact Scott Darrough at 314-560-1335 or swdarrough@yahoo.com

- **MARCH - APRIL** Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Level 3 Certification
- **APRIL 27** Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Introductory Workshop (Registration MUST be received by April 17 - Columbia Bottom Conservation Area - St. Louis, MO)
- **MAY 16** Ding Darling State Tour Performance (Powder Valley Nature Center - Kirkwood, MO) - by invitation - Legends of Conservation
- **JUNE 27** Raffle tickets for the 11th Annual Stream Team Outing will be available for purchase at the Tilles Barbecue (Tilles Park - Saint Louis County)
- **JULY 12-14** 11TH Annual Ozark Fly Fishers Missouri Stream Team Outing (Montauk State Park, Salem, MO) - by invitation - Stream Team #31 - Ozark Fly Fishers
- **AUGUST 24** 52nd Annual Operation Clean Stream - Big River (Byrnes Mill City Park, Byrnes Mill) - by invitation - Stream Team #3797 - Trashmanian Devils
- **AUGUST 24** Passport to Clean Water
- **SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER** Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Level 3 Certification

Wetlands for Kids Day April 6, 2019, 9:00-3:00

Busch Conservation Area

Main MDC Building, 2360 MO Hwy D,

St. Charles, MO 63304

MDC and OFF are looking for volunteer fly-tiers and fly-casters to come out, promote the club, and teach the next generation of fly-fishers how fun the sport can be. We will be tying safety pin flies for the kids. Materials are provided. All skill levels are welcome. For those unable to attend the event, Jim Gera will be collecting safety-pin flies at the March meeting. The more garish and gawdy the better. Kids love wearing these big bright flies.

Donuts & coffee provided by OFF. Lunch provided by MDC. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Gera.

Jim Gera

Cell: 314.560.4144,

Email: James.Gera@gmail.com



2019 Chili Tie-In Recap

Thanks to everyone who made the trip to Marlan's Club House for the Ozark Fly Fishers 2019 Chili Tie-In. There was good food, a good turnout, and great time was had by all. Thanks to those who attended, tied flies, cooked food, and especially those who took pictures.



Sowbug Roundup Roundup

Several fly-tiers of the Ozark Fly Fishers participated in the Northern Arkansas Fly Fishers 2019 Sowbug Roundup, bringing their skills and bags of tools and materials down to Mountain Home, Arkansas for the weekend-long event. Hats off to Al Bourisaw, Joe Aimonette, Mike Swederska, Mike Ott, and Mike Scoffic. (Apologies if we omitted anyone here). More details of the Sowbug Roundup will be coming next month.



Thank You OFF Volunteers!

Thank you to Diane Ellis, Dan Rasch and Jim Gera for participating in Cabela's Ladies' Day Out event. The rain held down most Cabela's customers but we casted inside. Diane performed an outstanding presentation.

Thank you also in advance to all of the volunteers at the Wetlands for Kids Day (April 6, 9:00-3:00). This is always a great event for our club and gets the word out to both kids and their parents about who and what OFF is. If you're reading this before April 6 and are interested in volunteering, please see Page 4 for more info.

Rainy Days at Montauk Never Get Me Down

There is a fine line when bad weather turns from "this might actually help me catch more fish" into "there's no way I'm catching anything in this." This past weekend at Montauk, I carefully toed that line and luckily was able to stay on the better side of it. Salem, Missouri was a balmy 50 degrees this weekend, which felt pretty fantastic considering how long, cold, dark, and wet this entire winter has been.

Normally, the fishing will slow by a great deal around midday. The bright overhead sun heats up the water and the lack of shadows makes the trout much more exposed. So they're a little shy, typically, around 11 AM. However, the sky was completely overcast that Friday, with the rain threatening to burst at any moment. And it did. Several times throughout the afternoon. It was one of the soupier days that I had spent at Montauk.

Despite the rain, the water remained clear on Friday, and I had only minimal difficulty spotting fish. No more than usual, I should say. It's amazing how once you spot one trout, your eyes will adjust and suddenly you can recognize them and distinguish between a Rainbow and a stick. Still, the rain was consistent, and by the time I ended on Friday, I could already see the brown murky water creeping in from the banks, particularly at the bottoms of steep hills where the rainfall runoff was more significant.



Thank god I was staying in a cabin. Camping would have been a muddy nightmare. But the dark clouds and steady rains meant that the trout had no qualms about spending the afternoon out in the open, and made for some damn fine fishing. I had my freshly re-sealed waders and a new raincoat, so I was perfectly snug and dry standing in the river. I even managed to keep my pipe lit in the rain.

At one point, while dropping gear off at the cabin, I noticed we had a line-of-sight to the river. It was just a hundred yards or so down a decently sloped hill, but it was under power lines, so the state had cleared most of the heavy brush away. It was an easy trek down the hill and it accessed some pretty decent and secluded water. I caught a good-sized Rainbow Trout I decided I wanted to keep, but then realized I had left my stringer back at the cabin. Even more frustrating, I even remembered exactly where I had left it. I gave my pal Mr. Rainbow Trout a nice bop on the head with a rock so he wouldn't have to suffer the return trip with me, and I began hoofing it back up the pretty steep slope I had descended mere minutes before. A lot easier going down than up, especially trying to climb it in waders without dropping your newly caught Rainbow Trout from your fishing net.

Early Saturday, I did receive the call from my wife that she was running a 101-degree fever, so I had to cut the trip short and leave two days early. This was obviously a bummer for many reasons, and not least of which because I didn't get to partake in the longest trout contest the fellows were having on Saturday. One of the guys even 3D-printed a trophy of a pretty lady holding up a trout. I have pictures but will not post them here for decency's sake. In my haste to pack up all my gear and get back to the city, I committed the ultimate fisherman's cardinal sin, and accidentally took someone else's trout from the fridge. I could die from embarrassment.



It certainly was no fun having to leave early, but there's really nothing you can do in that situation but shrug off the poor fortune. These things happen, and I'm certainly not going to leave my feverish wife at home unsupported with our kid causing a general level of chaos throughout the entire house. And besides, Saturday's rain was even heavier than Friday's, so it's not like I was leaving any world class fishing behind. But still, I do have that persistent and lingering itch. I'm going to need to go fishing again soon. The weather is only getting nicer, at least for a few weeks, until the St. Louis summer hits.

Originally published on www.vosssfish.com

For more of this story and other fly-fishing tales, visit www.vosssfish.com
Jacob Voss, Director of Communications, Ozark Fly Fishers

Communications

Ozark Fly Fishers Member Newsletter

Do you enjoy writing as much as fishing? Have you recently read a good fly-fishing book or had a fun trip you wish to recap? The Ozark Fly Fishers Member Newsletter is always looking for new content from our members. Articles up to 1,000 words can be submitted to: OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com.

In addition to member content, the Member Newsletter acts as members' primary source of information about upcoming events and speakers, future outings, and other important dates and updates from the Board of Directors. It is delivered each month either through email or snail mail. Many members collaborate each month to put the newsletter together, and we hope you enjoy.

Social Media

A great way to stay up to date (and not have to wait for the monthly newsletter) is to follow Ozark Fly Fishers on our social media channels. In addition to getting updates from the club, it gives you the chance to interact with other members and to share your stories, photos, and videos. Be sure to like and subscribe to the various links below. **WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.** Sharing your photos and videos is a great way to show off your latest huge catch and to promote the club. Send photos/videos to OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com. If you have any questions about social media or even want to create your own account to interact with OFF, please reach out to Jake Voss, who is happy to help.

Follow OFF on Twitter for discussions.



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Ozark Fly Fishers Website

The Ozark Fly Fishers website will provide you with all the information you'll need about the club, its members, its events, and its sponsors. The website holds an archive of past monthly newsletters, flies of the month, and photos of past OFF Events. The OFF Website also hosts the Club Calendar, which provides the dates and times of all club events, as well as some events hosted by third parties.

Our website can be found at: <http://www.OzarkFlyFishers.org> or use your smartphone to scan the QR code to the right.



Groups.IO

Ozark Fly Fishers has now joined Groups IO. To join in the discussion, all you have to do is go to <https://groups.io/> or google search for "Groups IO".

Register on the site by putting in your email and creating a password. (Write it down, save it, and keep it simple. If you lose it or forget it nobody can find it or get it for you.) They will send you an email to your address where you can verify your account. That's all you

have to do to become a member of Groups IO. Once you have registered, search for "Ozark Fly Fishers" and ask to join the group. It will send an invitation. It is that easy. We also have a subgroup in the Groups IO of Ozark Fly Fishers for the tiers in the club. Once you're a member of the Ozark Fly Fishers main group you can then join the Fly Tiers of the Long Table sub group. You **have** to be a member of the Ozark Fly Fishers **main** group to join the sub group. It's just a matter of asking to join as you did with the main group. Having problems, contact Mike Swederska at: Shur-way@sbcglobal.net



Ozark Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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Stream Team 31

<i>Coordinator / Current River</i>	Scott Darrough
<i>Blue Springs Creek</i>	Glen Bish
<i>Mill Creek</i>	Bill Leslie

Reminder:

Ozark Fly Fishers meet at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Greensfelder Recreation Center in Queeny Park, Ballwin, MO (Unless noted differently. See OFF Calendar at www.ozarkflyfishers.org)

Donate A Fly to the Members' Fly Box

Please consider donating a fly to the Members' Fly Box which will be raffled at the 11TH Annual Missouri Stream Team Outing. You decide on the type of fly you wish to donate. The donor's name and the name of the fly pattern will accompany the fly at the time of the raffle. Our Members' Fly Box will only be as good as we the members make it, so please donate. All proceeds will benefit Ozark Fly Fishers. See Scott Darrough at the monthly meeting to make your fly donation. If you have any questions regarding this matter contact him at 314-560-1335 or swdarrough@yahoo.com

Ozark Fly Fishers Objectives

Founded 1971

To promote fly-fishing as the most sportsmanlike and enjoyable way of fishing and the method most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our game fish.

To practice conservation of natural resources and to support efforts for environmental quality and pollution control.

To provide advice, education, and assistance to promote the art of fly fishing. To demonstrate applied techniques in fly-fishing, tying, casting and related subjects

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