



www.ozarkflyfishers.org

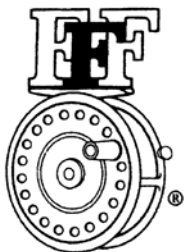
President's Message

Larry Carli

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **Feb 16**
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We've got another ice storm! This has been a strange winter thus far and we can only hope that it will change for the better. The last ice storm left my home without power for 8+ days and caused me to miss two of my favorite events, Tommy Hargrove's Annual Christmas Party and the FYAO Outing.

We had a tremendous crowd of over 100 members at the busy December general meeting. We passed the By-Laws revisions and the new slate of officers was announced. George Bohigian gave a wonderful presentation on his Top Trout Streams and on Fishing the Nile River. Thanks, George, for a job well-done. We also had our annual Fly Swap which I think we should do more often. It was an informative and enjoyable evening for all who attended.

Our membership renewals are really coming in and at press time we show our membership at 327 which equals our all-time high. Kevin Miquelon and his Membership Committee have done a great job. Dave Haas through his efforts has been instrumental in this increase in membership. If you haven't already renewed do so quickly to be included in the 2007 directory.

Our annual banquet is coming up shortly and I want to encourage everyone to attend. It's a real opportunity to share some camaraderie with club members and their spouses (and to see me in a suit). We're going to have a live auction for the first time and I hope everyone will enjoy this and have some fun with it. Johnny Chamness who does the Southern Council's live auction will be conducting ours and he's always memorable. Bill Hale has been working hard along with his Ways & Means Committee to present us with some great live auction and silent auction items.

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS™
Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing

This will be my last "President's Message". It has been a great pleasure serving as President of our organization for the past four years. We have made great progress and many of my incoming goals were achieved. I didn't do this by myself. I had a great Board of Directors, appointed many good people and asked for help from many members and got it. I wish to thank everyone who has helped make Ozark better.

I believe I leave the Ozark Fly Fishers in good hands. We have a tremendous group of new officers and our volunteer base is growing. There are still threats to our environment, our fisheries and conservation programs. We still need everyone's help to fight these threats and as long as we continue to have hardworking, dedicated people involved, this organization will remain strong in that fight for many more years. I encourage all of you to get involved with the club.

Once again, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your President. Thank you for the opportunity and I'll see you on the stream.

Ozark On-Line Newsletter

Dave Haas

Ozark extends a big "thank you" to all the members who have recently signed up for the on-line Newsletter instead of the paper copy sent through the U. S. mail. As you may remember, this has been an option for some time, but the Board of Directors has recently been encouraging members to sign up because of the significant cost savings to the club. The number of members receiving the on-line Newsletter instead of the paper copy has now risen to 122 from the 75 members who were doing so in October. This will result in a savings to the club of over \$1000 for the year 2007. If you are not availing yourself of this option and you have not yet sent in your renewal for 2007, please consider checking the appropriate box on the renewal form. You can also sign up by contacting me at 314-434-0805 or by e-mail at FFFTU@charter.net. If you contact me by e-mail please include "Ozark" in the subject line.



Skues, Tups, and the Great Dubbing Mystery *Terry Finger*

Sooner or later, it happens to every commercial fly tier. A client comes by with a bedraggled fly given to him by his great uncle. He claims that the fly has magical properties and is, of course, the only pattern that regularly catches fish from the local river. He wants more. The fly's key ingredient is some obscure material that will take days to track down. The client then places an order for three flies (one #12, one #14, and one #16) and asks for a quantity discount.

Aside from explaining why commercial fly tying is not a dream job, this scenario provides an example of the ageless obsession that anglers have had with obscure fly tying materials that possess supernatural fish-catching properties. The history of fly fishing is rife with stories of magical flies, their ingredients usually stumbled upon by their originators and surreptitiously concealed from the general angling public. Of course, it's hard to remain furtive and brag about one's accomplishments, so the secret eventually gets out, the fly reaches a wider audience, and anglers find that it, like most flies, is effective at times, but hardly magical.

Most legends of magical flies thus die a natural death. But the most interesting aspects of a particular fly's history are often during the earlier period, when anglers know of the fly but its special ingredients have not yet been revealed. Endless discussions and

experiments attempting to recreate the fly's magical properties often characterize this period. And perhaps the magical fly tying material that has generated the most discussion, consternation, and misinterpretation in the history of fly tying is the correct dubbing material for the Tup's Indispensable.

Tup's Indispensable was developed around 1900 by a British fly tier, R. S. Austin, probably to imitate one of the pale watery dun mayflies common on English chalk streams. One of Austin's clients was the famous angler G. E. M. Skues, who named the fly, made some suggestions in its development, and popularized it in magazine articles and books. The fly soon became so revered and in demand that Mr. Austin came to dislike tying it and, after his death in 1911, his daughter carried on a fly tying business tying nothing but Tup's Indispensables. Skues and the Austins kept the dubbing mixture a secret until Ms. Austin retired in the 1930's, and during this period other tiers attempting to meet the demand for the fly developed all sorts of strange concoctions. The trend continued even after Skues published the ingredients of the dressing because to this day most tiers have never seen the fly's special dubbing component.

The name Tup does not refer to an individual, but to the central ingredient in the fly's mysterious dubbing. In England, "tup" refers to a domestic ram, and the key element in the dubbing mixture is wool from the er... um... let's say "delicate underparts" (or, in British parlance, "naughty bits") of a white ram. The wool is oily, coarse, and urine-burned, and, according to Mr. Austin, requires a good deal of washing to be made fit for tying. Even then the wool retains a certain sheen and oiliness that gives the fly a unique sparkle and aids in floating the dry version of the fly.

Skues revealed that the dubbing consisted of a mixture of the aforementioned ram's wool, cream seal fur, lemon spaniel fur, and a pinch of crimson seal fur. The latter three ingredients were straightforward enough, but the ram's wool remained elusive. The material has never been available commercially, and I wonder how the Austins were able to obtain

the wool in sufficient quantity to maintain their commercial operation. I'm sure a few tiers evoked a laugh or two when they approached sheep farmers with a request at shearing time, but the wool was never widely distributed, and most anglers did not have access to an original Austin fly as a color reference. As a result, many tiers guessed at the correct color, most quite badly, and errors were compounded as tiers copied the bad guesses of others. To this day even well-respected supply houses offer wildly inaccurate dubbing mixtures, most tending toward rather bright, hideous shades of pink.

I am aware of only one set of photos of the ram's wool and original dubbing mix. English fly tier Jacqueline Wakeford made a special point to publish the pictures in her 1991 book *Fly Tying Tools and Materials* because fly tiers were being misled by commercial dubbing mixtures that were completely erroneous in both color and texture. The wool is coarse, and considerably more russet than the pale pink urine-burned fox fur used for the body of the Hendrickson, a well-known Catskill dry fly. The complete dubbing mix has considerable depth and sheen. The overall tone is a pale, grayish pink with dark broken-up highlights provided by the color variations in the ram's wool and the sparse strands of crimson seal fur.

I, like most tiers, do not know any rams well enough to ask for a wool sample, so to recreate the fly I searched for substitutes that would closely match the dubbing mix in the photos in Wakeford's book. I used the cream and crimson seal fur of the original (if seal is not available, Angora goat is a good substitute). I then added some russet seal, bleached raccoon, and North American opossum. I'm sure other materials could be used to achieve the same goal. I just kept adjusting the ingredients until the mix looked like the photos. I may not have captured the full sheen of the original mix, but the seal adds a good deal of texture and depth and the overall color is very close to the original.

As for the rest of the dressing, Tup's Indispensable is tied with primrose silk thread. The dubbing should be applied very thinly at the rear of the body so that several turns of the

thread show through. This is a subtle tying technique seldom practiced these days, and is intended to imitate the yellow coloring on the last few abdominal segments of the English pale watery dun. There are no wings. The hackle and tail are light blue dun freckled with golden ginger. If this color hackle is not available, mixing a few turns of ginger hackle in with a light blue dun is an excellent substitute. The fly can be tied as a dry fly with stiff hackle or as a wingless wet fly with softer hackle, as in the photo.

How important is it to match the original dubbing mix and hackle? Tup's Indispensable was developed to mimic an insect found on British chalk streams, not a North American mayfly, and flies tied with any of the inaccurate dubbing mixes, even the hideous bright pink ones, will undoubtedly catch fish at times. Recreating historic fly patterns is a worthwhile pursuit in its own right, but interest in the original materials may go beyond legitimate scholarly endeavors. When carefully recreating old fly patterns I have repeatedly stumbled upon dubbing mixtures, hackle mixes, and other material combinations that unexpectedly seemed to come alive and radiate that life-like bugginess inherent in all great generalist fly patterns, bugginess that proclaims to fish that the fly is something to eat. The old timers usually knew what they were doing, and we can learn much by studying their efforts. And who knows, following this path may even lead to the rediscovery of that truly magical fly, the one that catches fish above all others.

FFF - THE FIRST LADY COUNCIL PRESIDENT IS SEATED

Roger Maler, Past President FFF Southern Council

The Southern Council steps into the history books with the first lady Council President ever in the FFF. Sheryl Knight took the reins in October of the largest Federation Council. From Arlington, Texas, Sheryl has deep roots in flyfishing and the Federation since the early 80s. Serving successfully as SOC Outreach Chair and VP of Conservation on their BOD,

she has been an impressive addition to the council and our National Conservation Committee.

She was a founding board member of the Heart of America Flyfishers and has also served the Ft. Worth Fly Fishers on their BOD for some time as well as being recognized in "Texas Flyfishing Women".

Sheryl also brings to the position a 20 year professional career as a CPCU insurance executive giving lectures around the country in her areas of expertise.

Her husband Ron introduced her to fly fishing and is also a passionate fly fisher as well. He is the author of "Fly Fishing Spinner Baits" a recently published book which has been very successful. They are members of the FFF Presidents Club, as such; two make a great team and will certainly bring a new and fresh vision to the FFF with a lady's slant on the sport.

(They do switch off paddling the boat if that tells you anything!)

Education: MDC's GO FISH! Program – Bob Temper & Al Bourisaw

Ozark Fly Fishers is proud to support the Missouri Department of Conservation's new program to introduce youth in the St. Louis area to fishing and conservation. Toward that end *OFF* has made a \$300 contribution to the department. The following article introduces the program, for additional details, please see *OFF's* website. Volunteers are needed to act as instructors and coaches.

To participate, you must submit an application by *February 10, 2007*. Volunteer instructor training will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Saturday March 24, 2007*, at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood. This is our opportunity to step up and become involved - please join us as a volunteer.

GO FISH! (Go Fish, Interpret and Share our Heritage!)

In a continuing effort to bring the citizens of Missouri closer to the fish, forest and wildlife that surrounds them, it is with great excitement the MDC announces the GO FISH! Program. GO FISH! will introduce or reintroduce St. Louis area children to the wonderful world of fishing and encourage a greater appreciation of conservation. GO FISH! will target children ages 8-15 and will provide instruction and fishing opportunities. For GO FISH! to succeed, MDC needs the time and talents of many volunteers and has opportunities for people or groups to provide other gifts.

GO FISH! will rely heavily upon dedicated volunteers to instruct kids, help during fishing events, and coordinate efforts at Conservation Fishing Centers located in Suson Park, Bellefontaine Conservation Area, and Forest Park. Volunteer instructors will be trained by MDC and provided with everything needed to instruct kids in the "Seven Hooks" identified by MDC.

Fishing will be a large part of each 'hook'. Volunteer instructor training will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday March 24, 2007, at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood. GO FISH! programs will begin April 1, 2007 and end October 1, 2007.

For details, see www.ozarkflyfishers.org

Random Thoughts *Ty Livingstone*

Absolutely unbelievable...another year has passed. I am going to have to participate in that old cliché – Happy New Year! It is a fresh start for all of us and no matter how crappy (not to be confused with crappie, the fish) your 2006 was, you always have a chance to start anew. If you had a spectacular 2006, be careful, it might be your turn for a few challenges. Smile, I am just kidding. Any which way, enjoy your journey down the river of life in this upcoming year.

Now for the resolutions...I thought we might take a different angle on this and learn from

one of our most beloved animals – the dog. The best dog I ever had, a German Short Hair named Speckle, died this last year. I already miss him profoundly. He was an amazing friend and companion. Here are some random thoughts and lessons we can take from the Dog (not the Bounty Hunter, but Man's Best Friend) in 2007. These lessons are in his honor.

1. Never pass up an opportunity to go for a joy ride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
3. When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
4. When it is in your best interest, practice obedience.
5. Let others know when they have invaded your territory.
6. Run, romp, and play daily.
7. Eat and drink with gusto and enthusiasm.
8. Be loyal to friends and family.
9. Never pretend to be something you are not.
10. If you want what lies buried, dig until you find it.

Amazing what you can learn from an animal. I wish you all a wonderful 2007...make it a great one...you think about that.

Tangled Lines – *John Walker*

It's that time of the year for my Top 10 list of streams I fished in 2006. Actually, I only fished five streams and none were in Missouri.

Geez -- I'm getting lazy. I didn't even fish the Meramec or the Current rivers. Anyhow, I thought I would give you a run down of the streams I fished in 2006 with the thought that you might want to check them out yourself some time in the future. These are not ranked, but are listed in the order I fished them. Also, because I tend to get long winded I will give my Top 10 over the next couple of months.

1. Grand River

You may recall my series on fishing the Grand River a few years ago with Gavin Poppen I had fished the Grand and surrounding streams on previous occasions for brown trout. I brought Gavin in tow to fish for smallmouth and Muskie. I don't think I'll ever be able to repeat that trip. This time I wanted to fish for Spring run steelhead. I invited the editor of this fine newsletter for a quickie -- ugh, short weekend that is of steelheading in Ontario. We arrived in Fergus on May 11 and hit the Grand River Troutfitters to hook up with our guide, Ken Collins. Unfortunately, we got bad news -- no steelhead in the stream, or at least low numbers. Apparently, there was a brief warm spell in the middle of February and the majority of the fish moved upstream. This was one month earlier than normal and caught everyone by surprise.

So we went to Plan B -- fish the Grand River for the big browns. This was okay with me because there was a regular Hendrickson hatch coming off in the early afternoon. Wallis and I went back the Drew House, a small inn in the town of Elora, to unpack our gear and to unwind. If you do decide to fish the Grand I do recommend the Drew House. It is owned by Kathleen Stanley and Roger Dufau. Kathleen is a farm girl from New Jersey who fly fishes and first came to the Grand ten years ago in response to an article in [Fly Fisherman](#).

This is the same article that got me interested in the Grand. Roger (pronounced Roget like the Thesaurus) is originally from the Basque region of France. He is an award winning chef from Toronto, who has basically retired, but occasionally putters around the kitchen. He does cook breakfast and everyone sits around a big table-- the idea being to get you to talk with strangers. A very interesting and engaging couple.

On Friday morning we hook up with Ken Collins and head out to the north end of town. There are quite a few people already on the water. Ken is looking to put us on a 24" + brown, but some Barney is wading right through the hole and totally oblivious that he has waded through the prime lie for this fish, only to walk over and fish unproductive water. That's why it pays to

hire a guide the first couple of times you try out new water. Ken has another plan and takes to a spot down river. There are several anglers down river so we head upstream. We get into a little slot with Wallis on one side and I on the other. Wallis is the first to have a fish on and pulls in a 10" brown. She catches the next fish and its about 12". I finally catch my first fish and it is a little tiddler brown of "6-7". There is no hatch going on and we are nymphing and throwing streamers. Things seem to have shut down and we go in for lunch.

After lunch we head for a spot near the trestle bridge where Ken says there are lots of Hendricksons. We climb down a steep hill and take up our positions. Around 1:30 the Hendricksons start coming off. It's a full blown hatch and we start to see some rising fish. Ken spots a head sticking out of the water and I drift my dry through the slot with no luck. I cast again and see a big snout come out and suck down the fly. Fish on !! After some whooping and hollering I bring in a nice 17" brown. Ken has decided to take Wallis across the river to fish a slot where a monster brown lies. This guy takes small sips but is a rod buster. Wallis takes a couple of casts and Mr. Big totally ignores her. She takes a couple of steps closer. Perfect presentation and the fish rolls on her fly. Dang Gummit !!

The fish is not put down, but we notice the water is starting to rise a little. The Grand is a tailwater, but generates little electricity. It has rained a lot the previous few weeks and they have to let water out of the lake to relieve pressure. Its apparently getting critical. As the water rises the hatch begins to quit. Wallis doesn't want to quit-- she's dead set on catching Mr. Big. Ken convinces her to come back across. This is the first time I've been chased off the Grand by rising water. It's Miller time or is that Sleeman's time.

Wallis and I have one more day of fishing. On Saturday morning the boys at the shop advise that the water is still high and there is not likely to be much fishing on the river. They say there is a possibility that the spot by the trestle bridge we fished the day before might be fishable, but this is about the only spot. Wallis and I decide to wait for the Hendrickson hatch

in the afternoon. With nothing better to do we decide to visit the market in Kitchener, where the Mennonites have their wares for sale. The market is packed with tourists from all around. We take a quick run through and decide to do a scenic drive. We stop at smaller towns where several artists have studios. Much more here that catches our eye. After we purchased a few items its back to the Grand.

We climb down the hill and it is a little bit slick this afternoon because of the rain. The water is definitely higher than the day before and off colored. Our wading slots are restricted by the water levels. We swing a few streamers through with no luck. We then sit and wait for the Hendrickson hatch. About 1:45 the flies start coming off, but we see no rising fish. We fish streamers and dries the next hour and no fish-- not even a peep. The hatch starts to wind down and we decide to call it a day. The boys at the shop assure us that no one else has caught fish that day.

The next day we have a leisurely breakfast and walk around afterwards poking our head in some of the shops in Elora. Wallis has just bought a new/old house and is looking for something to brighten up her kitchen. A local artist has some pictures of roosters, but it doesn't quite fit the bill. She does buy some pottery from an artist nearby. About noon we head back to Detroit. Luckily there are no incidents at the border like the trip with Gavin.

I have fished the Grand seven or eight times. I have always had a great time fishing, although I might not have always caught huge numbers of fish. There are big fish and they are wily. The people in the Fergus/Elora area are always friendly to U.S. citizens. The countryside is beautiful. There are Spring and Fall runs of steelhead. The trout season is from the last Saturday in April to the end of September. I suggest going in June when they have big mayfly and caddis hatches. The Grand and surrounding rivers are also great for smallmouth. Prime time for smallies is in the middle of August when they slurp in the evenings for big Hexagenias. I highly recommend the Grand.

2. *Boulder River*

The next four rivers listed are rivers I fished this past August when I went out to Bozeman, Montana with a bunch of buds. I arrived a day early and decided I would head over to the Boulder near Big Timber. My fishing companions were Jim Heese, John Hinde and Dave Cochran. I had done a little research with some of the boys at Hargrove's shop. I was told to fish upriver from the natural bridge scenic area. I was given a map by Al MacAfee who has fished the Boulder for ten years. I was torn between fishing with sandals or using boots. I decided to use boots because I did not know what was on the trail. Unfortunately, I did not put on a pair of socks, which came back to haunt me later.

We headed down the trail and I left the boys at the "Big Rock" where there were some cruising fish along the bank. I had the map and was headed to the "Grasshopper Hole". I was told there were some big fish cruising the clay bank where grasshoppers jumped in like lemmings. I was almost to the end of the trail when I saw this dark brown mound in the trail. It moved and I could distinguish a head. It was a cow moose resting in the trail. I tried to make some noise to spook the beast but its ears started to lay back. I knew this to be a danger sign. The moose was agitated and showing fear. You never want to mess with mother moose, or any moose for that matter. I slipped into the water in order to walk around her. Boy, was the water cold! Did I tell you I was wet wading? This wasn't going to work...

I got out of the water and she was now standing upriver from me. I decide I would do an end around landside. I walked back down the trail and saw a side trail I thought might take around the moose. I took the side trail and came upon a clearing. The trail went up to a fence posted no trespassing. To the right was some scrub and I thought maybe I could bushwhack my way through. Boy was that stuff thick. I looked around me and I saw three lay downs. This is not good-- sign of more moose lurking around.

Nothing like spooking a moose in the thicket. I beat a hasty retreat back to the river. By now the other fellows join me and I tell them that the trail is blocked by the moose.

We all decide to get into the water and again try to walk around Ms. Moose. Hooray, we get around the moose, who by now seems more curious than afraid. We proceed to the glorious hopper hole and nothing. I see only a few fish. There are two or three rises to nothing discernible on the water. John Hinde had a fish boil on his fly and that was it. We decide to go back and try another place further upstream. Heese said he wanted fifteen more minutes of fishing. The others head back and I wait for Jim. He has managed to get across the stream chest deep and he's tall. It was too deep for me so I was content to sit on a log and ponder my navel.

The Boulder is heavily posted with no trespassing signs. However, if you are in the river legally, you can walk up and down the stream on posted water as long as you do not go above the high water mark. We had entered the stream from public lands. Jim had now moved into some prime water that was posted. We were told that Tom Brokaw's property was nearby. We thought Jim had managed to get onto Brokaw's property, but later learned that Brokaw's property was the next ranch upriver.

I knew Jim's fifteen minutes would be more like half an hour, so I waited around. I waited an hour and no Jim. Jim was out of sight around the bend, so I couldn't shout or waive. I began to wonder if he had gotten out and took a different path to the car or perhaps he had been caught trespassing. Well I was getting thirsty, Jim was a big boy and he knew how to get back to the car. I wanted to know if John and Dave had left for other parts of the Boulder.

Remember I told you about not wearing any socks with my boots. Well the sand from the river was now rubbing the skin around the top of my boots raw. I was also getting blisters on my heels. By the time I got back the car I was lame and ready to be put out to pasture and shot. It was not pretty and I was lucky not to get cellulitis. The rest of the week my feet

were a mess and I looked like I had some sort of disease.

Well, I made it back to the parking lot and Dave and John were still there waiting for Jim. They mentioned that on their way back they saw the moose with a calf. Boy am I glad we steered clear of that moose. Anyway, after a few beers Jim has still not shown up, so I told John and Dave to go on ahead upstream and I would wait for Jim. About 20 minutes later Jim showed up. "I know I told you guys 15 minutes but the fishing got to be so good around the corner I lost track of time", or at least that was his story. Hey, what can you say if a guy is catching fish.

Jim and I manage to catch up with the other group a couple of miles upstream. They said there wasn't much action, so we suggested going to the secret access to get onto Brokaw's property. We go back downstream to a ranger station. Across the road is a U.S. Forest Service road that goes down to the river. Because you are on public property you can walk into the river. Upstream and downstream were signs posting "No Trespassing", but we were legal because we had not trespassed getting into the river. Once in the river, we were free to go into Brokaw's property as long as we did not go outside the high water mark.

Well, a great deal had been made about Brokaw's property, but the fishing was so-so. John and Dave went downstream, but only fished a half hour. They said they would meet us at the Roadkill Cafe. Jim and I headed upstream. We fished for about an hour. I caught about three fish, none bigger than 12 inches. Jim caught a few more. About this time we too were getting hungry and headed down to the Roadkill.

The Roadkill is a tavern stuck out in the middle of nowhere. Okay, the town of McLean is not far away, but still it's on the side of the road out there by itself. Jim and I walk in and were informed that Dave and Hinde had left five minutes earlier. There is a group of folks outside. Jim and I are the only two customers inside. We get to talking to the young fellow behind the bar and find out that he and his mom (the cook) are the new owners of the bar. And even though the Roadkill is out of the

way it is fairly busy and draws from miles around. Anyway, I had an elk burger which was quite good. We down a few brews from local Montana microbreweries. Jim and I have a few more laughs with the owner and then head west to Bozeman to catch up with the remainder of our group. What a way to finish the day and the first installment of my Top 5 or 10.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Brady E. Austin Lake St. Louis, MO	Matthew J. Cleland Collinsville, IL
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Jodi Englehart St. Peters, MO	Michael Guimbarda Glencoe, MO
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Bob Harness St. Louis, MO	Darrell Jackson Lohman, MO
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Steve Kuhlman St. Louis, MO	Michael Pike Lake St. Louis, MO
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Gary G. Rager St. Charles, MO	David Senderling Granite City, IL
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David/Trudie Shaver Wildwood, MO	Dan Staggenborg St. Charles, MO
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Charlie Trankler Wildwood, MO	Norm/Diane VanRees Kirkwood, MO
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Robert H/Roxanne Gregory & Family
Staunton, IL

Rob/Jann Komotos & Family
Webster Groves, MO

Johnny Chamness (The FFF auctioneer) as our live "entertainment" is a real treat! Ted Calcaterra and Tom Zeigler are working on some nice items and Tim Wade has already donated a trip in Cody WY. Who knows, a vest might even pop up! One of Johnnys' "trademark" FUN items! You'll love him!

Getting back to the pressing timetable, I urge everyone to bring promised donations to our local fly shops. Drop them off at T.Hargroves, Feather-Craft or Outdoors, call my home and let me know it's there (314-351-2214). This helps my nerves a bit (getting it before banquet night) and it gives me more opportunities to get my personal fly fishing spending fix in. You have the same addiction I have! The night of the banquet always has a few surprise last minute items and are greatly appreciated though.

Ted also has trips with Phil Lilley (corporate sponsor) and Brian Sloss from the Eleven Point. I have many women's wading shoes and even a couple of Budweiser World Series collector magnums. If you didn't get one, this may be the only chance you'll have.

I'm personally donating an item for Casting For Recovery (CFR). It's a limited figurine series by The Hamilton Collection called "On the Road for a Cure." Top bid goes to CFR. Steve Antonic is building another masterpiece rod and Bob Temper will once again have his wonderful display of framed and beautifully matted prints and fly plates. This includes the first OFF Board Members Fly Plate.

This is a bit of the offerings. For you that have already donated, THANK YOU! I hope you will enjoy our items. Bring your cash and checks.

Annual Banquet *Bill Hale*

Well, I finally got through a bout of no internet, phone or electricity (all unrelated) that stretched out for a couple/few months. Sorry to have been out of the loop for so long.

As in years past, I find myself begging items for our January banquet. This year, having

Streamside – *Tim Wade*

January and February are the coldest months of the winter. Staying cooped up inside the house because the weather is just too nasty to do much but ski, snowmobile or ice fish, can make one a bit testy. If the listed outdoor activities aren't what you want to do when

outdoors, then one has to entertain one's self indoors.

Fly tying is a great way to spend time indoors. A fly tier can be a beginner, intermediate, or advanced, it doesn't matter. What matters is that you are keeping another range of skills honed while foregoing the application of another! Filling depleted fly boxes with flies you have tied by yourself brings great satisfaction when the weather does turn and you are catching trout from your efforts.

Fly tying also gives anglers the edge when it comes to matching colors of bugs just seen on the water. One can take a digital picture, rush to the fly tying kit in your vest or fishing rig, and tie up a better imitation within a quarter hour. Or, you can view the pic at home and tie some up for the next trip. Either way, fly tying makes you a better fly fisher in the long run.

There are several flies that one must keep in a fly box or fly boxes at all times. These flies will catch everything from panfish to salmon and can be tied by a beginner or pro with the same results on the water. Those flies would be: parachute Adams, elk hair caddis or stimulator, and a bullet headed hopper pattern with legs, like the madam X for dry flies. Nymphs would be the gold-ribbed hare's ear, pheasant tail, scud or sowbug, egg pattern, prince nymph, a girdle bug variety and copper John. Streamers would be woolly buggers, zonkers and double bunnies.

Everyone has a favorite list of flies, but the above when tied in a wide range of sizes and color, will fill your fly boxes to overflowing in no time. I left out fly patterns that were past the skill levels of a beginner to prove that simple, easy to tie flies (4-10 steps) will catch as many trout as those more complicated.

As well, it gives me opportunity to let beginners know that by changing the color of dubbing on a parachute Adams from muskrat gray to medium olive, cream, or whatever color dubbing you want, gives a beginner an easy alternative to comparaduns and more difficult patterns.

Whatever your skill level, spend time at the tying bench when cold weather has your

guides iced up. Go through your tying books and materials and lay out what you need to be productive. Set a schedule for at least a dozen at a time. Before you know it, your time indoors wasn't hard to take at all. Your fly boxes should be well on their way to being stuffed to the gills.

FFF Scholarship Offer

The FFF Southern Council has a grant for a second year student that is studying some aspect of Conservation of our waterways or Aquatic studies. The grant will be give to a Applicant that is approved by the SOC board and the SOC VP of education. The form is available on line at

<http://www.southerncouncilfff.org/>

Or contact Pat Smith

mngdir@southerncouncilfff.org

Membership Renewal—Final Reminder *Dave Haas*

If you have not yet renewed your Ozark membership for 2007 you have missed the timely renewal period, and you will have to renew at the late renewal rate at an increased cost for individual, senior, and family memberships. The good news is that you can still renew in time to have your name included in the 2007 Ozark Membership Directory, and you will not miss any issues of the Ozark newsletter, if we receive your renewal form and check on or before January 31. Memberships not renewed by January 31 will be terminated.

Don't miss any of the outstanding programs, speakers, or events planned for 2007. Be a part of the efforts of Ozark Fly Fishers on behalf of the conservation of our fisheries resources. Take advantage of our educational classes. If you haven't already renewed, do it NOW! Fill out the membership application attached to this newsletter and mail it in with your check a.s.a.p.!

Dry Fly Fishing Class

Ozark Fly Fishers is looking for someone to teach a class on fishing the dry fly at Queeny Park on March 14, 2007. The class is offered through the Saint Louis County Parks Department and begins at 7:30 PM. The instructor can use their own materials or the Power Point presentation prepared by the club. If interested contact Al Bourisaw at 314.487.2120 or e-mail at troutal@msn.com.

Conservation: Ozark National Scenic Riverways Management Plan *Bob Temper*

The National Park Service is in the beginning stages of developing a NEW general management plan and wilderness study for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (Current and Jacks Fork River) and is seeking comment on this plan that will affect management of the park for the next 15-20 years. Deadline for comments is February 16, 2007. The October edition of the OFF Newsletter contained bullet points offered for consideration in your comments.

The link below contains specific information on how and where to send comments for consideration before this plan is final and in place.

<http://www.nps.gov/ozar/parkmgmt/general-management-plan-information.htm>

The park's General Management Plan is the guiding document that will steer the management of the park for the next 10 years or more. The Wilderness Study is an evaluation of an area near Big Spring for possible management as "wilderness."

Your input into this process is welcome. If you have ideas, suggestions or concerns, now is the time to provide your input.

Public meetings were held during September 2006 where the public was able to meet with

park staff to submit comments. You may still submit comments and read documents relating to the planning process by going to this [website](#). (Deadline for comments is February 16, 2007)

After the many comments are read and considered, they will begin to formulate actual draft plans. Once more definite plans with alternatives are written, there will be a second round of meetings to solicit comments on the alternatives. These should be in Spring 2007.

You may also want to follow the GMP / Wilderness Study Newsletters posted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?parkID=158&projectId=15793>

Keep in mind that they are gathering comments and information that will be used to make future plans. Let them know what you want the park to look like in 10 - 20 years.

Visit this website to get updates and news about the General Management Plan / Wilderness Study process: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=158&projectId=15793>

You may also e-mail your comments through the website or send written comments to:

Superintendent, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, P.O. Box 490, Van Buren, MO 63965

Fly Tying Tip 1: Thread and Bobbin Storage *Al Bourisaw*

The storage of bobbins filled with tying thread can turn into a tangled situation. A plastic book binding strip can cure this problem at minimal cost. By cutting off each ring with a pair of scissors, and then cutting a ¼" slit in one end, you have a bobbin cover that work very well. It is simply wrapped around the bobbin and the thread is secured in the slit.

Have a fly tying tip that you would like to share? Send it to troutal@msn.com and look for it in an issue of the newsletter.

Ozark All Day Program: JACK DENNIS
Feb 10, 2007 9am – 2pm Queeny Park Rec Plex


Professional fly fisher Jack Dennis will present an all day program for Ozark Fly Fishers on Feb 10. Make room in your schedule to attend this exciting event – if you can't make it for the full program, you are welcome to stay as long as your schedule permits. You're sure to get some valuable information and pointers.

Jack started his first fishing tackle business in Jackson, Wyoming. Outside magazine picked Jack Dennis' Outdoor shop as the best fly shop in America in their 2001 "best of the best" issue.

Jack's books, *Western Trout Fly Tying Manual*, Volumes I and II, have sold over 300,000 copies, making them some of the best known fly fishing books in the world. He has also produced 22 flyfishing video tapes and DVD's that have received critical acclaim throughout the fly fishing world. Jack's newest book is *Tying Flies with Jack Dennis and Friends* has been a best seller in fly fishing books.

Jack's fame as an expert fly fisherman continues to grow. He has appeared in a number of fishing shows, some of which have won awards. He is presently is the co-host of the series FLY FISH on the cable Outdoor Life Network Channel, which features Jack teaching flyfishing techniques in some the West's best streams.

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OZARK FLY FISHERS EVENT CALENDAR

JAN 27
FEB 10

OFF ANNUAL BANQUET – Crowne Hotel, Clayton MO 6pm
ALL DAY MEETING – JACK DENNIS Queeny Park Rec Plex
9am – 2pm