



www.ozarkflyfishers.org

### President's Message

Mike Swederska

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

CONSERVATION	2
VARIATION	3
OFF APPAREL	5
WAYS & MEANS	5
OUTING UPDATE	5
RANDOM THOUGHTS	6
STREAMSIDE	7
PROGRAMS	7
OFF WOMEN' OUTING	8

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **May 7**  
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As everyone knows who attended the last meeting there was a short presentation by club member Maryann Townsend. She has brought to the club a proposition to participate in a scholarship award for Ozark Fly Fishers. I, like everyone else, was very impressed and so I invited her to do a presentation at the Board meeting and then take questions. She accepted and did come to the Monday night Board meeting. She gave a much more in-depth presentation to the board and fielded all the questions from the members to their satisfaction. At that time we voted on this proposed scholarship award and it passed.

For those who don't know what I am talking about, here it is in a nutshell. The award would go to two students per academic year selected by OFF. They will be eligible to attend Lindenwood University campus in St. Charles, Missouri. All qualified OFF member candidates will be given scholarship consideration based on their OFF involvement, academic record, merit and financial need. The students will have to meet the requirements of Lindenwood U. and criteria still to be determined by the OFF. The amount of the scholarship will be \$7,000 plus an optional \$2,400 in on-campus work for the campus residents. This would be renewable each year for a total of \$37,600 (\$28,000 scholarship and \$9,600 work-and-learn award) provided the student establishes and maintains good academic status (C average) and good social standing. At this time I am forming a committee to handle the responsibilities of the scholarship. The committee will set the OFF criteria, where and how to do applications,



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where and when to do the scholarship awards and everything else that goes with setting up a scholarship.

Back in the beginning of March the club pledged man-hours and \$200.00 for initial seed money to help establish a partnership in the National Fish Habitat Initiative-Meramec River Partnership Plan. We will wait to see how this will develop in the upcoming years. But as the board decided we wanted to see something get started and we wanted to be on the ground floor.

OFF also joined the Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery. The Friends of the Norfolk National fish Hatchery, Inc. is a nonprofit citizens organization dedicated to conserving fishery resources and providing support for activities conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's at Norfolk National Fish Hatchery to benefit fish and other aquatic wildlife.

The club also received in March a thank-you letter from Orvis for funds we donated to the 2007 Casting for Recovery Program. Orvis matches every penny donated by individuals and clubs up to \$25,000 per year. They will keep everyone up to date in The Orvis News and on their web site.

## Conservation

### *The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Needs Your Help*

Do you like to fish for trout on Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters? Would you like to have a say in how the trout fisheries in Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters are managed? If so, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) could use your help.

This spring AGFC will be seeking public input to aid in the development of management plans for the trout fisheries on Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters. Through a series of facilitated public meetings, anglers and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to help

establish management goals for these fisheries. This is part of a new process that the AGFC Trout Management Program is using in which the public plays an integral role in determining the future of trout fishing in Arkansas. If you would like to take part, you are invited to attend the Mountain Home Trout Summit in May. This will be the first of several opportunities for you to get involved.

The Mountain Home Trout Summit will be held on the evenings of May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Mountain Home. Anyone interested in these fisheries is encouraged to attend both nights of the event. During the summit, participants will be asked what issues they want AGFC to focus on in regards to Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters and what advice they have for fisheries managers in addressing those issues. Two days later on May 17<sup>th</sup> there will be another public meeting, this time in Mountain View. This meeting will provide individuals from that area with the same opportunity to provide comments and suggestions as those that attend the Mountain Home meeting without having to travel so far.

Following the Mountain Home and Mountain View meetings, AGFC personnel will draft a set of management options based on public input from the meetings. Comments sent in to the AGFC website as well as those obtained from a survey of non-resident anglers will also be used in developing management options, which will be available in early September.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a public review workshop where participants will be asked to provide comments on the management options developed by AGFC for Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters. AGFC fisheries personnel will then take this input and use it to shape a draft management plan, which will be available in early December. Finally, the public will be given another opportunity to provide input on the draft management plan during a second public review workshop on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. A final draft of the management plan is anticipated by mid-March 2008.

The public is invited to attend all public meetings and workshops, which will be facilitated by Spencer Amend of Dynamic Solutions Group. Specific times and locations

will be made available prior to the meetings. Throughout this process, you will be able to track progress and find information on the AGFC website at [www.AGFC.com/trout](http://www.AGFC.com/trout). If you enjoy or are concerned about the Bull Shoals and Norfolk trout fisheries, AGFC trout managers invite you to participate and help build comprehensive plans that will make these fisheries the best they can be.  
on management options

For more information, contact:  
Jeff Williams  
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission  
201 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653  
(870) 424-5924

### *Conservation Lobby Day*

Representatives from many environmental and outdoor groups were represented April 4<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City. The purpose was to discuss legislation currently being considered and approach those legislators actively involved with the bills under consideration to express our concerns and offer recommendations to improve the legislation or in some cases to oppose the legislation. Several legislators addressed the group to discuss their conservation and environmental issues, as well.

Terry Finger and Wallis Warren represented OFF. They met with Representative Loehner to discuss the current standing of HB628, of which he is the sponsor. Representative Loehner was open to discussion, as he has been on previous occasions. The current status of HB628 is that the bill was voted out of the Rules Committee and is now eligible for the House floor calendar. Three amendments were submitted to Representative Loehner for consideration:

#1 – To make contractors working with counties subject to the same requirements as those working with landowners.

#2 – To reduce the landowner tonnage limit from 5,000 to 3,000 tons.

#3 – To delete the whistle blower clause entirely, which requires those individuals reporting violations to identify themselves by name and telephone number, provide date of violation along with photographs and water samples or other proof as determined necessary by the DNR that there has been a violation.

### *Update on CAFO's - MVC*

The "freedom for CAFOs" bill - [SB 364](#)- has not seen any movement this week. This lack of movement is likely due to the avalanche of calls received by Senate offices from environmentalists, family farmers, Missouri residents who live near State Parks, and others. Although we are pleased to see the bill stalled, we need to keep up the calls and emails to ensure that SB364 continues to stay put.

Other CAFO news might be more alarming. [HB879](#) was rolled into an Agriculture Omnibus bill last week. This new provision of the Agriculture bill would provide up to \$2 million in tax credits to CAFOs for odor abatement. While odor abatement is a good thing, we believe that the facilities themselves ought to be responsible for the pollution they create, and not Missouri's taxpayers. Furthermore, by providing tax credits to CAFOs and not to family farmers, the State ends up tilting the playing field away from family farms and toward CAFOs. MVC will continue to work with family farm groups and other pro-conservation organizations to remove this language from the agriculture omnibus bill. *Keep in mind the CAFO's represent less than 1% of Missouri's farmers.*

### **Variegation**

*Terry Finger*

You won't read much about us in the mainstream fly fishing press, but I belong to a cadre of anglers whose very existence centers on vintage bamboo rods. My people. We argue, gently, over the merits of rod designs by Leonard, Thomas, Payne, Garrison, Granger, and Young, and evaluate them at "rod tasting" lawn casting gatherings. Without looking in

reference books, we know the lengths, weights, and wrap colors of dozens of classic models. We buy, sell, and trade old rods, and dream of someday finding a Gillum tucked in a corner at a garage sale. We know that a few inexpensive models are better than some revered and unaffordable rods. We can't imagine fishing anything but wood.

Times have changed since the days when nearly all rods, from custom models to production rods sold at Montgomery Ward, were made of bamboo. Although the large manufacturers of cane rods are either gone or limit their current production to a few outrageously priced neo-artifacts, there have never been as many small-shop bamboo rod makers as there are today. These makers have studied the old masters, invented their own techniques, and approach rod building with exactness and care. The precision and cosmetics of their products, whether reproductions of classic rods or newly designed tapers, are often superior to vintage rods. Many of us find their rods every bit as interesting as old rods. The golden age of bamboo rod making may very well be right now.

A similar case can be made for a current golden age of acoustic guitar building. Many players covet Martins, Gibsons, and National Resophonics made before World War II the same way many anglers crave classic bamboo rods. Vintage instruments have a certain mystique and lots of mojo, and the benefits of older and aged tone woods, like fly rod actions, can be discussed endlessly. Unlike the situation with bamboo rods, the classic guitar manufacturers are still going strong. They have, however, been joined by a host of new makers, both large and small, so there are more excellent guitar builders now than ever before. The new builders have set very high standards and have actually forced the established manufacturers to improve their products as well.

One new maker has made a particular point of precision and has standardized construction procedures to produce extraordinarily consistent instruments. All aspects of the workmanship, from bracing to inlays to finish, are nearly flawless. Manufacturing defects are

essentially nonexistent. Each guitar is precisely like the next. Road musicians like them because if their stage instrument is lost or damaged, they know another of the same model will be an identical replacement. Many amateur players love them because their consistent necks and setups make them easy to play. The company has been very successful and ranks among the leaders in sales. But, at least to my ear, their guitars are completely uninteresting. They simply lack a soul. With the extreme consistency in manufacturing has come a good, solid, but flat sound that has none of the vibrancy and tonal complexities that make music (and life) interesting. Gone are the quirks and variations of individual instruments.

Shopping for a new guitar ranks close to fishing on my scale of life's great adventures (Yes, like fly rods, I already have too many guitars, but...). When I'm in the market for a new instrument I don't just pull out some catalogs and decide that a certain model from a certain manufacturer suits my needs. I have a lot more fun and sometimes spread the experience out over a year or more. I take my time and travel as far and widely as I can, visiting many shops and playing as many individual instruments of a particular model as I can reasonably find. If I'm lucky, I'll find a guitar that rings like a bell, an exceptional variant among individuals of the same model. A variant that could not be produced by extremely consistent manufacturing.

I was reminded recently of the joys of variation when a friend and I received a small lot of hackle necks from Charlie Collins. Unlike most modern hackle growers, Charlie specializes in barred and variant capes, and when I first saw the necks I felt I was reliving a part of the past. When I started tying flies in the 1960's there were no large producers of genetic hackle. Most necks came from India, and when a shipment arrived we anxiously opened the box to see what mix of colors we had to work with. Shades of brown and dark ginger were most common. Duns were nonexistent, but there were usually a few badgers, creams, and furnaces, each with its unique color variations. Seeing Charlie's barred dun, furnace, and honey dun capes made me recall how much fun it was to find necks with individual

variations and to contemplate tying unique flies with their hackles.

I have no real desire to return to the days before genetic hackle. The quality of modern feathers is much better than those found on India necks, especially in the smaller sizes. Duns of all shades are now common, as are good golden gingers. But in their never-ending quest for genetic improvements, many modern hackle growers, like that overly consistent guitar maker, have tended to produce necks with extremely consistent coloration. But the coloration is often a bit flat and lacks the individual variations that make it fun to open a shipping box to see what's inside. I just wish more growers were like Charlie, who has managed to develop good quality hackle while keeping a flock with lots of interesting variation.

Nearly all colors in nature are variegated, and I think flies tied with variegated materials are more effective than flies tied with solid colors. They are also more fun to tie. In addition to seeking interesting hackle, I plan to keep poking around and having a lot of fun using other natural feathers and developing dubbing mixes of natural furs. And, just as I have occasionally been successful in finding an exceptional sweet-sounding guitar, someday I'll find just the right hackle and dubbing mix to tie an exceptionally effective fly.

## **OFF Apparel** *Kevin Miquelon*

The Ozark Fly Fishers is once again offering quality merchandise bearing the club's logo beautifully embroidered on a fishing shirt and silk screening on a high quality t-shirts (in long and short sleeve). If you have any questions, please direct them to Kevin Miquelon at [kmiquelon@charter.net](mailto:kmiquelon@charter.net) or 314-753-3644. Spring 2007 orders for apparel will be accepted only through the April meeting and up to Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Orders must be given directly to Kevin Miquelon. Apparel will be delivered at the May meeting. See the attached 2 page flyer for all the details.

## **Ways and Means**

*Joseph Aimonette*

The April meeting will feature a Fly Rod Combo; The rod is a Cabela's Three Forks 7 foot and 6 inch, 3 piece 3 weight. Second item is a pair of Hodgeman's felt sole wading boots. Finally I have several small fly boxes which could be filled, if a few members would tie six to eight flies and enter them into the raffle.

## **Outings Update**

*Ted Calcaterra* [tcalca@hotmail.com](mailto:tcalca@hotmail.com)

This year on May 12<sup>th</sup> the club will hold its annual Women's Outing at Westover Farms in Steelville MO. Westover is a tiny little stream containing colorful rainbows and a few feisty brown trout. It is an easy stream to navigate and can be fished without wading. Cost is \$40 per person. Please contact Wallis Warren for more information on this exciting event. This is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and get involved in our club.

Later in mid May is our Port Hudson warm water outing. The date has been moved to Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> due to the conflicting Women's outing. It is a 55 acre MDC lake located in Franklin County northeast of Gerald on Bald Hill Road. It can be reached by taking Highway C north from Highway 50 to Bald Hill Road or by taking Highway C south from New Haven to Bald Hill road and proceeding one mile west. This pretty little lake contains bass, crappie, and bluegill and is a perfect place to bring your float tube, pontoon, or kayak. Mid May is a great time to catch warm water species on the fly rod. The club will provide lunch and soda for this event. Please email or call me so that I can get an accurate count for lunch needs. Click on the following link to download an area map:  
[http://mdc.mo.gov/documents/area\\_brochures/9006.pdf](http://mdc.mo.gov/documents/area_brochures/9006.pdf)

Following our warm water outing we have the annual Feather Craft day on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> open only to Ozark Flyfishers. Please make plans to attend this exciting day. Lunch will be provided along with special discounts given

only to Ozark Flyfisher members. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

<u>May 12</u>	Women's Outing Westover Farms
<u>May 19*</u>	Port Hudson Lake Gerald Missouri
<u>May 20</u>	Ozark Fly fishers Day at Feathercraft
<u>June</u>	Smallmouth Float Trip TBD
<u>June 21</u>	Casting Meeting at Tiles Park
<u>August 17-19</u>	Montauk
<u>September 7-9</u>	Eleven Point River
<u>October 4-6</u>	Southern Council Conclave Mountain Home AR
<u>November 9-11</u>	Bennett Springs
<u>December 7-9</u>	Montauk
<u>January 26</u>	Annual Banquet

\* Revised Date

## Random Thoughts

*Ty Livingstone*

I am one of those guys that is not a big fan of going to a "Chick Flick" with my gal. I might have an ulterior motive when I do go, but I would never say that out loud (at least not with my gal around). But given the opportunity to have a root canal without anesthesia or watch a Chick Flick, I will choose Option A. It has to do with a trauma I experienced as a small child, but that is a whole other story.

Over the past 30 years, I have seen two Chick Flicks that were absolutely worth the effort. I would ask that you not tell any of my friends this confession. The first was the movie *Chocolat*, and it was a wonderful story about the human experience, love, grace, forgiveness, redemption, and cautions about being judgmental. If you have not seen that one, do yourself a favor and rent it (or for you forward thinking tech-heads, download it from *Apple i-tunes* or have it delivered by *Netflix*).

But that movie has nothing to do with my comments this month. However, I recently attended the movie, *Miss Potter*, with my gal and I anticipated nothing but a miserable experience. I had promised I would take her and I had every intention of honoring that promise and I did. We went to the theatre, bought tickets, took my medication, sat in my seat and fastened my seatbelt for the ride.

The movie, *Miss Potter* is the true story of the children's book author, Beatrix Potter, set around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in England. You may know her for her famous character Peter Rabbit. Not to bore you with too many details, but she is a single women, still living at home with her affluent "society" parents at age 32, and she has a passion for writing and illustrating children's books in a time when women did not get their books published. She traipses around London, trying to convince the old, stodgy publishing houses to print one of her books and one firm agrees to print a small run of them to appease her. Leap forward in time and Miss Beatrix Potter becomes one of the best selling children's book authors of all time. Her wonderful publications literally fly off the shelves.

Anyway, what she is able to do with her fortune is buy a beautiful farm in the Lake District, which she names Hill Top. She keeps it alive as a working farm and helps to protect the area from "new development" by the city folks. She continues to acquire farm after farm (from struggling and retiring farmers) much to the chagrin of the developers – she essentially outbids them and they don't like it one damn bit – and helps the farmers to stay gainfully employed. She later sets up a conservation trust and creates an arrangement that will protect the area for farming for generations and helps to stave off overdevelopment. The movie is a great story about life, love, and dealing with hardship, following your dreams, believing in yourself, and giving back. I was inspired and dead wrong in my outlook on what to expect from this film. Get your hands on it and watch it if you get a chance. She was a visionary and champion of conservation long before others had even thought about the idea.

Fast forward the clock to a recent story involving one of our club members, Dr. George

Bohigian and his recent deal with the state of Missouri and his family property. The details of this story have been covered elsewhere, but just know this – we just picked up some new water with wild rainbow trout in it...and that is a good thing. George didn't have to do this, but he did and we appreciate it.

Another champion of conservation, Teddy Roosevelt led the cause that created much of our protected national parks system here in the United States. We have so many beautiful places protected by these initiatives that we get enjoy for generations. It took vision, courage, and tenacity to get these things done.

Thanks Teddy. Thanks Beatrix. Thanks George. It is people like you that make the world a little better place for the rest of us because of your extra effort, generosity, and willingness to share. We should all be thinking out of the box like that...myself included. You think about that.

## **Streamside**

*Tim Wade - North Fork Anglers*

As I unpacked my wading boots from a recent fishing trip, I wondered what exotic critters had been transported back to Cody on the felt-soled bottoms. Having attended the Game and Fish Proposed Regulation meetings, I came away with a better respect for angler transport of non-native water inhabitants, both animal and plant. Hence the attention paid to my well traveled boots.

Recent storm aside, it is the time of year when anglers begin to spread out more and more. Local waters have made do over the winter months, but now that spring is here, the allure of distant waters stirs the blood. Days on the Green River in Utah, the N. Platte, both Bighorn Rivers and maybe even the Madison or Missouri are ahead, if time and luck allows.

As we travel to angling destinations outside our local rivers, streams and lakes, it is imperative

we also take extra precautions to prevent transporting what are known as aquatic hitch hikers. It is also imperative we spread the word where possible.

Americans love to spend time on the water. Millions of people annually participate in boating, fishing, jet-skiing or sailing. Also, as a highly mobile society, we have the ability to travel extensively in pursuit of new recreation areas.

Research has identified water-based recreation a potential transportation pathway for the spread of these nuisance species, i.e. hitch hikers. Additional studies show that participants in these activities will take action to prevent these invasive species introductions, if they know what to do.

Here's what we water types should do whenever we move from one water hot spot to another. When you leave a body of water: Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment. Eliminate water from equipment before transporting, particularly waders and boots.

Clean and dry anything that comes in contact with water (boats, trailers, waders, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.) And never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. For more information on how to help stop aquatic hitchhikers please visit

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## **Programs Mike Krueger**

*Another Awesome Speaker at our March Meeting*

If you missed the March meeting of Ozark you missed another great speaker, Tim Wade. The night almost didn't happen we couldn't figure out how to make Tim's pc work with our projector. Luckily he downloaded his files and Al was able to use our club's equipment. We learned a lot about the public waters on the

'other' side of Yellowstone. Tim took his time and explained the diversity of water available and what flies are good for each area. He discussed fishing at different times of the year and how fishing is open year round. Anyone planning an out of town trip should definitely consider North Fork Anglers in Cody, WY with Tim and his staff. I know Louise and I will begin planning a trip.

*April 26 – Andrew Peterson*

Andrew Peterson from *Cutthroat Anglers* in Colorado boasts about having the best fishing, fly shop and personal service in Colorado. Andrew has intimate knowledge of streams, rivers, people and history. He went to College in Colorado, and now I find he did graduate after putting his education on hold to fly fish. He won't need the Lindenwood scholarship after all. Andrew is originally from Woodstock, IL. He has fished Chile, Belize, Yucatan, the Rockies and Manitoba Canada. This should be a great evening. Come one come all: April 26 at 7 pm. Queeny Park

*May 24 – Tyler Befus*

As I have said before Tyler is the 9 year old fly fisher, author, fly tyer and speaker. Tyler will meet with us at Powder Valley for the May meeting. I spoke with Jack Denis and according to Jack, Tyler is very knowledgeable about fly fishing. We encourage you to come to the meeting and of course bring your kids and or grandchildren. They will want to go fishing after this meeting. I will be dropping off information about Tyler at the local fly shops. So visit them, get some new equipment and pick up info about our May meeting.

*June 21* will be the annual BBQ at Tillis Park, for the annual Casting Clinic and BBQ.

For July I am attempting to get a speaker to come in and educate us about *Stream Team*

## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual OFF Women's Outing at Westover** *Wallis W Warren*

May is only a few weeks away, so now is the time to mark your calendars (if you haven't already done so) for OFF's Women's Outing, Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Bring food and beverages and a guest (guy or gal). If you don't have equipment, rods and reels will be provided. We will have instructors available for assisting the novice, as well as those experienced anglers that would like to develop specific techniques.

As always, the day fills up fast, so finalize your plans now and make your reservations. No deposit will be required, just pay when you arrive. This year the outing will be at Westover Farms in Steelville, Mo. Recently renovated, Westover offers great fishing opportunities in a beautiful setting – what a great way to spend part of your Mother's Day weekend. 100 year old reconstructed log cabins are available for those that would like to make it a weekend trip.

We have a great time at this outing, and hope to have even more attend this year to initiate our new location. It's the perfect opportunity to share your enthusiasm for fly fishing, or finally find out what it's all about. Reservations are required.

For additional information or to make reservations, contact

Westover Farms: 573/743-6284

[www.westoverfarms.com](http://www.westoverfarms.com)

Wallis Warren: 314/422-3455

[wwarren@amfam.com](mailto:wwarren@amfam.com)


*There is no more graceful and healthful accomplishment for a lady than fly-fishing, and there is no reason why a lady should not in every respect, rival a gentleman in the gentle art*  
W.C. Prime, 1888



*Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done.*

*Charles F Orvis, 1886*

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Fly Casting: *Brian Ellis*  
 Fly Tying: *Joe Aimonette*

WEBMASTER: *Brian Ellis*

NEWSLETTER: *Wallis W Warren*

## **OZARK FLY FISHERS EVENT CALENDAR**

APRIL26	MONTHLY MEETING	Andrew Peterson/Cutthroat Anglers Silverton, Co 7pm, Queeny Rec Plex
MAY 24	MONTHLY MEETING	Tyler Befus, Montrose, Co 7pm Powder Valley Conservation Area
JUNE 21	MONTHLY MEETING	Casting Clinic & BBQ – Tilles Park 6 pm