



[www.ozarkflyfishers.org](http://www.ozarkflyfishers.org)

## President's Message

*Mike Swederska*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

BCA – YOUR TURN TO HELP!	2
ON EXPLORING	3
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	4
HOW TO FISH TIGHT CREEKS	4
RANDOM THOUGHTS	6
OUTINGS – MONTAUK	7
MEMBERSHIP	7
SCULPINS	7
STREAMSIDE	9
TYLER BEFUS PROGRAM	10
PROGRAMS	11
CFR FUNDRAISER	11
ANNUAL CASTING CLINIC	12

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **July 7**  
 OFF EDITOR  
 PO BOX 632  
 EUREKA MO 63025  
 E-MAIL: [wwarren@amfam.com](mailto:wwarren@amfam.com)

I am glad to see so much enthusiasm from the club pointed at the wild trout water now known as Bohigian Conservation Area (BCA). When I announced at the last meeting the club had pledged \$15,000 over a three-year plan to help with the purchase I had expected to get more questions than were asked. At the last board meeting I asked Bob Temper, Conservation Director to put together an article for the newsletter outlining the facts. I think that his article will answer any other questions that might be popping up. Please make it a point to read his article in this newsletter.

We are asking for all the members in this club to reach into their pockets and donate to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Fund with the money being earmarked for BCA. There is a donation form attached to this newsletter to send with your donation. Please fill it out and bring your check to the next meeting or mail to the address listed.

After reading an article, *Mill Creek Habitat Improvements* by Nick Gironde, an MDC Fisheries Management Biologist, it sure does look like there are some good plans for the future of the creek. They want to install habitat that will allow older trout to survive and thrive. I am going to keep an eye on this project and keep our club up-to-date, as I am sure Bob Temper will also. If they should need some volunteer manpower I will let the club know.

After the last newsletter I have been receiving quite a lot of emails from fellow club members asking me about small creeks. A lot of the questions are: Have I fished a certain creek and if so how does it fish? I get questions about flies and equipment to fish on a small creek. I have to admit that at first I was overwhelmed with the questions and it took me awhile to get back to everyone. I had several that needed answers before the weekend and I was late getting back. So now I am ready and want members to ask



# FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS™

*Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing*

me about warm or coldwater creek fishing. Please send your questions by email and I will do my best to get them answered. If I cannot answer them I will reach out to others for those answers. I also will take a couple of the better questions and put them in the newsletter as anonymous unless otherwise instructed. Please don't ask me where and when I will be fishing because I don't even know that answer until I string up my rod. Please ask the question whether you are just starting out or have been fishing a lot longer than I have. I look forward to your emails:

[Shur-Way@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Shur-Way@sbcglobal.net)

Please put in the subject line: *Question OFF*

## **Conservation:**

### ***OFF Helps BCA Become a Reality, Now it's your turn to help!***

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), with help from private funding sources, recently purchased a 432 acre tract of land containing 1 ¼ miles of stream frontage on Mill Creek. This new property is called the "Bohigian Conservation Area" (BCA), in honor of *OFF* member Dr. George Bohigian, who made a significant contribution of this property. The area is located not far from Rolla. With this acquisition, the public has access to fish the upper 2/3 of this coldwater stream within MDC and U.S. Forest Service ownership.

The Cold Water Fund of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation pledged \$100,000 to assist the MDC in acquiring the Bohigian property. The pledge was a significant factor in the Conservation Commission approval process for MDC to complete the acquisition. *OFF* has pledged the final \$15,000 of this commitment needed to cap the Cold Water Fund donation.

Facts:

- BCA contains 432 acres including 1-1/14 miles of Mill Creek frontage.
- Mill creek is home to a self sustaining wild trout population.
- MDC has already posted much of the area and plans to continue to manage this as a Blue Ribbon trout area.
- This acquisition completes control and public access to approximately 6-1/2 continuous miles of Mill Creek. Other

sections of the creek were previously acquired by MDC and or U.S. Forest Service.

- The historic home site and surrounding 10 acres including several ponds will remain private property of the Bohigian family for ten years after which it will revert to state property.

*OFF* members are being asked to contribute to make this \$15,000 pledge become a reality.

The *OFF* Board of Directors designated up to \$7500 of *OFF* funds currently on hand in a CD to match member donations dollar for dollar.

Donations are tax deductible. To qualify, checks must be made out to "Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation". In your notes area, designate "Cold Water Fund/BCA". The check should then be mailed to *OFF*. The treasurer will periodically total the amount of contributions and forward the checks to the Heritage Foundation with matching funds. The pledge is to be completed by *OFF* within a three year period. (We are anticipating doing it much sooner than that) The Heritage Foundation will send individual letters of acknowledgement of the contributions which will serve as receipt for your tax deduction.

The Coldwater Fund is a designated fund within the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation. The Heritage Foundation is a private 501(C)3 organization (hence, contributions are tax free) formed to allow private support of the Missouri Department of Conservation. It has been in existence since 1997. The Coldwater Fund was established specifically to support coldwater conservation projects.

MDC Fisheries Biologist Nick Girando has addressed the project. He reports "The wild rainbow trout population of Mill Creek in Phelps County is about to get a home makeover".

Starting in the summer of 2007, structures will be placed in the stream to create new habitat that will help adult trout survive. This small, clear, spring-fed stream is very shallow with extensive amounts of gravel and watercress vegetation. This type of habitat is great for young-of-year and one year old trout; however, older fish have a hard time surviving without

deep pools and overhead cover that are currently lacking in the stream. The new structures are designed to create these habitats within the stream. These structures include skyhooks, boulders, anchored root-wads, half logs, hard points and some other innovative techniques... These structures have been successfully installed in Barren Fork in Shannon Co, a stream similar to Mill Creek, and are being used by adult trout there “

In announcing the pledge made by the board at the May monthly meeting, *OFF* President Mike Swederska stated, “What we are doing will have a lasting effect on fly fishing forever. I cannot think of another investment that this club could do that will pay off for eternity.”

This project brings to fruition part of the Missouri Trout plan’s goal of acquiring access to 10 miles of additional cold water fishing. Ozark Fly Fishers can be very proud to play a significant part of preserving the heritage of wild trout fishing in Missouri through their generous donations. If you have any questions about this pledge, contact Conservation Director Bob Temper or any of the *OFF* Board members.

## **On Exploring: Further Thoughts**

*Terry Finger*

*(Note: For some earlier musings on this subject, see the May 2005 Newsletter)*

On a trip west last August, I ran into an acquaintance that I hadn't seen in nearly a decade. During a summer in the early 1990's we had lived in the same small desert town while I was on a fossil dig and I had spent a few enjoyable hours one evening giving his then-young son some pointers on fly fishing and tying. The dad now proudly told me that his son, currently in college, had really taken to fly fishing. He was off on a bit of a fishing odyssey with a friend that summer and thus far had fished for something like 150 days straight.

I mulled that statement over during the rest of my trip and, on the long drive home, reached the rather heretical conclusion that, even if I had the opportunity, I really didn't want to fish

for 150 days straight. At least not with the thoroughness and dedication typical of my fishing trips. On that particular trek I had spent eleven days camping and hiking along wilderness and near-wilderness streams, saw more moose than people, caught some fine fish, and had a wonderful time. But by the eleventh straight day my casting lacked a certain edge, my motions were a bit rote, one more fish didn't really matter that much, and I found myself looking forward to returning to my tent that evening to read a book that had nothing to do with fishing.

Like most anglers, I have interests and hobbies other than fishing. I also find that life is richest when I can mix these activities. After a day or sometimes even after a few hours of fishing, it feels good to settle down to play or listen to some music, read a good non-fishing book, or work in the wood shop. It feels equally good to go back out fishing again after some time away. So even though fishing is foremost among my interests and fishing trips are never as frequent as I'd like, I don't want to just fish for too many days in a row. It's nothing peculiar to fishing; I don't want to just do any of my other interests to the exclusion of others for too long either.

Even though I had convinced myself that I didn't really want to fish for 150 days in a row, I remained a little envious of those kids on their fishing odyssey. Maybe it was their youth and the freedom that only college summers can provide, but I think it was something more, something to do with the stage of development in those young anglers' lives.

In *Jerusalem Creek*, Ted Leeson describes his early fishing days on midwest spring creeks, likening them to the meanders of a low-gradient stream. There were no fly shops, classes, or guides. He and his friends, with the new-found freedom provided by a driver's license, spent their summers bouncing from creek to creek, struggling with whatever tackle they could afford or scrounge, making lots of mistakes, and, at times, catching a few fish. Leeson learned to fly cast with an overly stiff 6'6" 6-weight rod he later dubbed The Rod of the Beast, The Anticast. He used flies that didn't work on creeks that held few fish. But over time he and his friends learned to fish and learned well. Their low-gradient meandering

took longer to get down the valley than a linear approach, but they achieved true learning, not the superficial, short-lived kind that comes from the direct route of taking a class or receiving instruction from a guide or other "expert." And along the way, they generated the richest, life-long memories imaginable. I had been down a similar twisting road in the Catskills, including my own version of *The Anticast*, and I now envisioned the young anglers on their western fishing odyssey going through the same wonderful process.

David James Duncan, author of the renowned *The River Why*, touches on a similar subject in his rather heady and philosophical *My Story as Told by Water*. Duncan considers a sense of wonder to not only be among the most powerful and pleasant of human emotions (umm, absolutely wonderful, in fact), but also to be crucial to real learning. Having a sense of wonder about something requires us to admit, happily, that we are ignorant about it, and only through admitting our ignorance do we open ourselves up to accepting fresh knowledge. Know-it-all's just don't bother to look and don't have much fun along the way, either.

In the chapter *In Praise of No Guide*, Duncan notes that largely through the efforts of promoters and advertisers, we live in a world filled with self-anointed experts who have a vested interest in making people believe that they can't do anything themselves. These "experts" include fishing guides. And even though he considers most guides to be fine, upstanding folks, Duncan disdains the idea of hiring one. Clients hire guides to help circumvent their ignorance, but that very ignorance is essential for the pleasure of developing a sense of wonder and for true learning. So, not only do guides impair your fun and your ability to truly learn, they charge you for it. Duncan dares you to strike out on your own and become the bumbling hero of your own fish story. It really doesn't matter if you make mistakes. You'll have a lot more fun and, in the end, you'll learn more than you ever could otherwise. And, you can pay and tip yourself handsomely at the end of the day rather than someone else.

I still think about those kids on their western fishing odyssey often, but I become a little less

envious when I realize that the learning process never stops unless you want it to. I've been fly fishing for a little over forty years now, and I still meander through each year, making mistakes, admitting ignorance, and keeping my sense of wonder. I catch a few more fish than I used to, but I'm still learning. And I have no plans to hire a guide.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roger D. Carroll  
Manchester, MO

Bruno Greco  
Crestwood, MO

Kenneth C. Jeffs  
St. Louis, MO

Jesse Jones  
Florissant, MO

Mike & Lorie Ott  
St. Peters, MO

Kevin Sohn  
New Haven, MO

Jim Wildmon  
Chesterfield, MO

Denis & Jan Kloppenburg  
Florissant, MO

Gary & Deborah Fernandez  
Chesterfield, MO

Jerry & Lynne Harman & Family  
Wildwood, MO

William & Maria Hudson & Family  
St. Louis, MO

## How to Prepare for Tight Creek Fishing *Mike Swederska*

Ever since I wrote the article about my love of creek fishing I have been getting all kinds of emails with questions about creek fishing. Nowadays I fish by myself and don't give it much thought as to how I do it. I just do it out of habit. As usual, on the trip to the fishing hole I am in my truck just thinking about everything.

It dawned on me that maybe I should mention some of the quirks that I have to stay comfortable and safe on a creek by myself.

The first thing is a well thought-out plan the day ahead of the trip. I always let the people I love know where and when I plan to fish. I call on my cell when I get there so they know I am getting ready to hit the creek. I tell them about what time I am getting out so they know about when to expect me to call them. I don't go into all the details about the creek because some times they worry and that is not a good thing. By knowing where I am going and what kind of environment to expect I can dress accordingly.

Knowing that I am going to be in weeds up past my armpits I always wear my breathable waders. If you are concerned that it will be hot, trust me it won't. Wear breathable shorts and a long sleeve fishing shirt. This keeps the bugs and sun off my skin. If I do start to overheat I just dip my sleeves in the water and cool off. Ticks and chiggers have to find a way into your clothing to get to your skin so I am always aware of keeping the over lap of my clothing tight. All my fishing apparel is very drab in color. I definitely want to blend with the colors of the woods.

My boots are felt-soled but are lightweight for the long walk back to the car. I do prefer the leather uppers on my boots for two big reasons not to mention the great ankle support. The first is when you are walking along a creek and staying way back you are stepping over logs and big rocks. You have to always beware of snake bite. I like the insurance that they cannot bite thru my boots and waders. Also they dry out on the walk back faster than fabric boots. This allows me to keep my eyes on the creek that I am stalking and not always looking for snakes.

One thing about snakes, they are always where you don't expect them. If you like to sit for a while, don't do what I have done in the past and sit on a log to tie on a fly. Once I did without looking and on the log next to me sat a water snake well within striking range. The old adage of, if a tree falls in the woods and nobody is there to hear it hit the ground. Does it make a noise? Well, if you are in the woods by yourself nobody will hear you scream!!

When I got my first breathable waders, I kept my old neoprenes even though they leaked. I do wet wade big streams knowing I would never have to get into the weeds. I cut the feet out of my old waders and used them for wading socks. Today Simms makes wading socks and they are very nice to wet wade in your boots. They take up the slack of waders and work as a rock guard.

The other tip I would like to pass on is cut the lower part of the legs out to use as kneepads. I now have store bought black kneepads that are neoprene to go over my breathable waders. As I have gotten older those rocks really hurt the knees. I average an hour in a five hour fishing trip on my knees. Those kneepads are lifesavers. Also they save the cheaper waders from getting holes in them. By pushing them down to my ankles I get more snakebite protection.

Sam's sells first aid kits that are inexpensive at Sam's. I have always kept an up-to-date kit in my truck. I have only needed it once on an outing several years ago. I know that DEET bug juice will melt the plastic coating on fly lines and I am always careful not to get it on my hands. I do spray everything on my upper body for ticks and chiggers. I don't bother with chest down because of the waders. One of the things that really bothers me on the creek is mosquitoes. They will eat your hands and wrist up while you are casting. I picked up a little plastic bottle of cream bug juice made from citronella. I use it constantly on my arms and hands while in the creek. It will not eat up my waders and fly line. Also, I don't think it gets on my flies when I tying them on.

When I was younger I never carried any water or food - too heavy, got in the way. I just fished till I quit and then worried about eating and drinking. Today I carry a water bottle and some kind of snack. I still hate carrying the water bottle but now with the new inventions of fanny packs and such they have places to keep the heavy bottle out of the way and you don't notice the extra weight. I also carry an apple, it does everything - gives me hydration and sustenance. Then you can just throw the core away!

When I went to Michigan to fish the Ausable there was a big hex hatch at night. I got one of those lights that fit on the bill of your hat. It has three white LEDs and is very bright. If I think for one second I will be on the creek close to dark I will put it in my pocket. Even when the sun goes down at 8:30 it starts getting dark around 6pm. I have walked out of the woods in almost pitch black and it was not fun. That half hour walk took way too long and was painful.

Some final things that I do to make my trip fun: I never leave anything visible in the cab of the truck and I never leave anything in the bed that I don't want stolen. I never fish till I am too tired to drive two hours home. Travel light on the creek and always keep your eyes and ears turned on.

## **Random Thoughts**

*Ty Livingstone*

My highly random thoughts this month are not at all about fishing, but they were inspired by a recent fishing trip. I thought this month I might go after a couple of different groups. What I anticipate happening is a price put on my head for my assassination. I will go into hiding when this column hits the newsletter and my good friends will wonder what happened to me. In the event that you think I am just paranoid (and I may be...wouldn't you be paranoid if someone had a hit out on you?), when you see who I am going after, you will understand.

First of all, it is important for you to understand that for many years I wanted a truck with four-wheel drive. For a large variety of reasons, I was never at a place in life that I could get one. Whether it was raising kids, work, budget, and on and on and on, I always had an excuse for myself. Then I came to a place in my life where I took the advice of Ferris Buhler, and I just said, "What the #&\*!" and was done with it. I got my four-wheel drive and I haven't looked back since. I feel like a kid in a candy store.

Having said that, I am firmly convinced that getting a four-wheel drive immediately decreases the IQ of that individual. Let me explain. I was out this past weekend on one of

my favorite spring creeks that winds through some farmland about an hour from my house. I am able to get access to the water and the stream has some nice smallies and some pretty stubborn pan-fish in it. It had rained the day before and was sprinkling lightly that afternoon. The road that runs down to the valley was pretty muddy and I parked at the top of the hill and walked. I needed the exercise anyway. I had been out all afternoon hiking and fishing (and thoroughly enjoying myself) and had the good fortune of encountering a beautiful white-tail buck, a beaver, a mother wood duck, some red-tailed hawks, a beautiful blue indigo bunting, and even a few fish. On my way back to my truck I ran into a guy and his two daughters in an old four wheel drive jeep. He had just gotten stuck in some mud (about a foot deep) and he told me he couldn't believe it – after all, his vehicle was four-wheel drive. Duh.

You also have the Midwest snow or ice storm scenario where you are driving on the edge in a snow storm (maybe 45 to 50 miles per hour) and Joe Four-Wheel Drive comes by you going 85 miles per hour and a few miles up the road you see Joe in the ditch. Joe is scratching himself on the head and saying to himself, "Myself, I thought this was four-wheel drive...how did I end up in this ditch?" Duh. Point made. Memo to all four-wheel drive vehicle operators – you still have to drive intelligently...you do have an edge over those two-wheel drive sedan folks, but you are not driving a tank or a Humvee. Enough said.

Now, I move on to another American icon – the HOG style motorcycle. Vroom, vroom, vroom. On the way home from my fishing trip which inspired my attack on the four-wheel drive thing, I was at a stoplight in a small town and a group of Harleys pulled up next to me at the intersection. While I was waiting for the light to turn green, they proceeded to show me how loud their engines could be and I was quite impressed. Actually, to be more accurate, it made quite an impression on me. When I was younger I rode motorcycles and it really is a blast. There is a sense of freedom that does not have much compare. However, I really don't want to be subjected to your over the top dose of noise pollution. Hey, HOG folks; if you have an issue with size, they have medication and devices to help you with that. Keep it to

yourself...the world will be better off for it. You do your thing and I will do mine...just try to not be so damn noisy.

Now that I have attacked four-wheel drive trucks and motorcycles, I should move on to mom and apple pie. However, I don't want the price on my death to go to unnecessary heights. I am going to share a condo with Samon Rushdie until things cool down. I will be looking out for black helicopters. I might wear a hat, and dark sunglasses. I might even get one of those fake mullet ball caps so I can really travel incognito. I might just have to head out to the woods and live off of the land for a while. There are worse things in life. Who's paranoid? I am not paranoid. They really are coming after me. But I know how to deal with it. I just need to go fishing.

You think about that.

## Outings: Montauk Update

*Ted Calcaterra*

[tcalca@hotmail.com](mailto:tcalca@hotmail.com)

(636) 305-1085

The club will have its annual Montauk outing on the weekend of August 17-19<sup>th</sup>. We have 20 motel rooms signed up as well as the Searcy Room. The deadline for signing up this year is Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a very popular event so please make sure to sign up as early as possible. As usual, the club will be providing dinner on Saturday night, which will be catered by the lodge. The Searcy room will also be available to us all day Saturday and Sunday for those who want to get some tying done in addition to the fantastic fishing available.

All rooms include two double beds, TV, etc but no kitchen. They have a walk out back door and a picnic table. These are the rooms next to the lodge. Tax is included and all prices subject to change. Make checks payable to Ozark Fly Fishers c/o Ted Calcaterra. The rates are as follows:

One person/night	\$62
Two person/night	\$67
Three person/night	\$72
Four person/night	\$77

## Upcoming Outings:

June 30	Meramec Float Trip: Adventure Outdoors
August 17-19	Montauk State Park
September 7-9	Eleven Point River
October 4-6	FFF Southern Council Conclave Mountain Home AR
November 9-11	Bennett Springs
December 7-9	Montauk
January 26	Annual Banquet

## Membership: Name Tags

*Kevin Miquelon*

Please wear your OFF Name Badge at every meeting! It is very helpful, with so many new members, for people to give a quick glance at your name badge and see who you are. Lots of effort goes into making the badges and bringing them to the meetings, so please make an effort to wear yours. If you don't have one (basically, you lost yours), then let us know and we will replace it. Also, bonus tickets to the raffle are an added incentive if you are wearing your name badge. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

## Sculpins *(contributed)*

The year: 1985

The Place: West Yellowstone Mt.

The Situation: Two rookie fly fishermen entering a "big time" fly shop for the first time.

One young man engaged the assistance of a clerk; his fishing buddy wandered the shop,

*Clerk:* Good morning. What can I do for you?

*Young man:* I'd like to pick up some materials for tying flies that would be suitable for fishing in the park.

*Clerk:* I see. Will you be fishing on top or underneath?

*Young Man:* Underneath.

*Clerk:* Any particular pattern?

*Young Man:* (Flummoxed. He'd gone to the highly recommended Blue Ribbon Flies for answers, not questions. He blurted the first western pattern he'd recently read about.) Elk Hair Caddis.

*Clerk:* (temporarily thrown off track but used to suffering fools ) Where have you been fishing?

*Young Man:* Southern part of the Park. Down by Lake Lewis.

*Clerk:* And how has it been going?

*Young Man:* A few small ones (translate: one yearling trout the size of the average Ozark shiner after three days of fishing and many miles of hiking).

*Clerk:* I see, as he nodded knowingly.

The clerk walked over to a selection of flies unlike any Young Man had ever seen. They were big and they were ugly: they were wool-head sculpins.

*Clerk:* Take a half dozen of these over to Buffalo Shoals today and you should have better luck.

*Young Man:* I would prefer to tie my own.

The clerk sold him a box of 3X long hooks, ample lead wire, two colors of wool (brown and gray) a few strips of rabbit fur, red wool yarn for the body and some gold colored wire to hold it all together, Matuka style. He demonstrated how to put the wool on the hook in small bunches, alternating colors and how to trim it down to get the variegated look of a scuplin.

The young men drove off to Buffalo Ford, now Nez Perce Ford. Young Man proceeded to set up his vice. His fishing buddy proceeded to string up his rod.

*Fishing buddy:* How long will you tying those flies?

*Young Man:* Hard to say...maybe another hour or so.

*Fishing Buddy* - looking across the street at the fishermen who had already moved into position at The Shoals thought "this guy ties slower than the last day of school"...You tie all you want. I'm taking my Royal Wulff and going fishing.

Young Man eventually armed himself with enough scuplin streamers to get through a day of fishing. He waded to waist deep water at the shoals to get as far from the considerable collection of fishermen who had already staked out their spots on the Yellowstone. The scuplin was big and heavy – really too much fly to be easily cast by his soft action six weight. But he began picking it up and slapping it down inexpertly, letting line out with each cast. On about the fifth or sixth downstream swing his fly met resistance. The hit was solid and unmistakable. The fish, aided by the relentless push of current, put up a respectable fight. Eventually the buttery beauty, highlighted with pinkish orange towards the front and black spots to the rear, succumbed to the young man's clumsy landing technique.

The wool head scuplin was a top producer that day. By the time young man had landed his 30<sup>th</sup> trout he naively began to think of himself as a budding river god. Only later did he learn that he had stumbled into the Yellowstone River on the first day of the season for very hungry, very innocent, and very cooperative trout that had spawned in the feeder streams and were now making their way back to Lake Yellowstone. His anguished awakening to the vagaries of persnickety trout selectively feeding on unknown (and unseen) forms of insect life was to come later. That day he basked in the short lived feeling of triumph that accompanies good fishing success after months of meager production.

So, what was this "scuplin" that the Yellowstone Cutthroat so eagerly sought?

According to Wikipidia, there are many species of this bottom dweller scattered all over the world. Most live in salt water and some are among the most poisonous fish in the sea with such nick names as scorpion fish.

According to William Pfeleger in Fishes of Missouri, there are two in our area. "Sculpins may be recognized by the broad, flattened head, tapering abruptly into the rather slender body. Scales are absent, but small prickles are often present on the head and body...The pectoral fins are large and fan shaped...The rear margin of the tail fin is rounded. "



The Mottled Sculpin (*Cottus bairdi*) is described as “olive brown, strongly mottled...without definite cross bars on the back”. This is the species commonly found in spring branches and trout streams. The Banded Sculpin, (*Cottus carolinae*) is similar but tending towards reddish brown and more strongly banded. It is more commonly found in our warm water Ozark streams. Neither species exceeds five inches at maturity.

“The mottled sculpin lives on the bottom, spending considerable time lying motionless in one spot and moving in short, quick dashes in a matter similar to darters. Many fish can modify their colors to match their background and this ability is developed in a high degree in the mottled sculpin. This...probably helps...to escape detection by its enemies...and may also be useful in capturing prey from ambush”.

This species is somewhat cannibalistic. Apparently, sculpins do not feed to any great extent on eggs and young of trout, as is sometimes charged.

Eggs...have been found from early November to late February: males guard and clean the nest cavity which can be found on the underside of stones”.

Without a doubt, the most expert sculpin fishermen in the Midwest (and for those of you new to the club – a former president of Ozark Fly Fishers) is our own Bob Heine.

Bob has developed a highly effective sculpin pattern which he has used to great success to catch gigantic, nocturnal feeding brown trout. Silhouette is more important to a fish feeding at night than color. Accordingly, Bob's sculpin is jet black (except for silver ribbing) and is called the Night Train. I don't want to get too specific about Bob's streamer. If he wanted the world to know how he ties the night train he would have published that account by now.

I have accompanied Bob to the White on several occasions but only once at night. We suited up after midnight by the light of a closed grocery store near the river and got into the water as soon as the generators shut down. Bob placed me at the head of a riffle. He took a spot 25 yards downstream. Within 10 minutes I heard loud splashing and thrashing. I moved to

join Bob in time to observe the businesslike landing and release of a seven pound brown trout. Bob then hopped into his trusty float tube and silently slipped into the blackness and mist of that White River valley. What you learn from Bob is that knowing that the fish like to dine on Sculpin only a small part of the equation. Being prepared to set the table when and where they want it is the key.

*(Ed note: portions of this article were based on information from William Pflieger's 'The Fishes of Missouri')*

## Streamside

*Tim Wade – North Fork Anglers Cody, WY*

The night was black. So black, in fact, one couldn't see your hand in front of your face. You could feel the air as the hand fanned back and forth, but seeing motion in darkness is difficult. Normally, the skies of Cody Country are lit with stars so fishing when the sun sets doesn't slow things down much, except when tying knots or finding appropriate tackle.

This evening, clouds were blocking the star light upon which I was expecting to fish by. Turning on a light really messes up good night vision. Since bifocals (2 power) are necessary for me to see even in daylight I was bummed.

I was on Beck Lake of all places with big plans. Now, I have to admit to not fishing the lake much. When I did fish it, it was to take my nephews there to catch perch, maybe a trout, or a neophyte angler wanting instruction. The truth is, I haven't fished it enough. No reason particularly because I know there are fish in there and some mighty big ones, too, as I was about to find out.

A buddy of mine swears there is something huge living in Beck Lake. Another buddy of mine swore the same thing about trout as long as your leg on Medicine Lodge Creek and I was foolish enough to take another friend on what turned out to be a long, long day with no trout over 14 inches! Needless to say, I was skeptical about the supposed monster in Beck.

After my buddy told me he had actually had this “thing” on a fly, not once, but 12 separate occasions, I swallowed the bait. Each time, the

fish took, he said it pulled his reel like no other fish before that one. He also told me things about his fantasy fish that began to merge with similar stories told by other angling buds of mine that swear whatever is in Beck Lake, there's not more than half a dozen, if that.

Skeptical or not, I am an angler first and adventurer second, hence the reason for me sitting in a pontoon boat on Beck Lake, when I could have been doing the same thing at East Newton! Big fish, as Larry Dahlberg says, are "addictive." And it's all because of the way they burn your reel and tax your angling skills.

So, here I am in darkness, about halfway between Taco Bell and the southern shore of Beck. I can't see, but my 12 weight is rigged with one of Enrico Puglisi's baitfish patterns and I have it tied to a tarpon leader. If any one of the stories I had heard up to the point of driving me to the water, is that no tackle was strong enough to land whatever is living in Beck, and quite possibly swimming under my boat. That's the reason for the 12 weight fly rod.

I couldn't see, but I could cast. Wind was negligible, so I just finned and cast short casts or 20-30 feet probably. As I while away the darkness, I am stripping my fly back on one of these casts, when I get a take. Not a tap, tap, wham, like some big fish do when eating minnows. No sir. This take was nothing like I have ever experienced.

Remember the movie, Jaws, when the winch was breaking and the boat was taking on water? My experience was similar, but I was using a 12 weight rod that can handle 300 pound fish, no problemo. My reel is no slouch either. I thought I was prepared.

Whatever it was that inhaled my fly and then broke water and took off, I can't say because it was dark! Dang it, Son! I can tell you, the thrill was better than any carnival ride. Whatever it was also had my fly rod taxed to the max and my reel hadn't screamed that fast since I hooked a yellow fin tuna. No kidding!

My pontoons felt like they were going to be pulled under the water as this "thing" pulled me along behind it with no problemo, either, I might add. There was no fight on my side of

the battle. I was holding on and hoping the darned thing broke me off before it killed me, or I had to land it, which I in no way wanted to do.

I wish I could have seen it. I can't remember if I was hooting or screaming through the entire 60 seconds I had whatever it was fast to my line. I hesitate to speculate on what the thing could have been, but I do know a 10 inch fly caught its interest. I also know my other buddies weren't kidding. In another ten years, I might go back to Beck Lake and give it another go! In the meantime, you have a go at catching the "thing".

### **Tyler Befus Program** *Larry Murphy – FFF Southern Council ' Long Casts'*

Ozark Fly Fishers' members, guests and their children experienced a 'reel' treat when Master Tyler Befus of Montrose, Colorado was the featured speaker at a monthly meeting held at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. Tyler Befus, a nine-year-old fly-fisher, has had more world-class experiences than those average fly fishers present. Tyler, author of the recently published "*A Kid's Guide to Flyfishing*", provided a dialog covering a period of six to seven years accompanied by slides of flyfishing adventures on waters near and far. You could say these adventures covered the "better part of his life."

Among the audience, several of the youngest generation could be found attentively watching Tyler. I am sure most of them left inspired from the positive encouragement provided by a young fly fisher. Each one primed to follow in his footsteps could someday provide similar tales to their peers, relatives and other fly fishers. His presentation contained an ample amount of information. He was thorough in covering the basics of flyfishing from a young perspective and I am certain everyone who listened closely could understand his love for this life sport. I certainly came away with that perspective about him and his passion.

Methodically he covered the basics of flyfishing from the essential equipment, species of fish available, fly patterns that are useful, general

locations and types of water where fish can be found. Tyler, without going into detail, provided sufficient morsels to wet an appetite for young and old alike. With his age appropriate words and featured digital images, he guided his audience in a mutual journey of the mind.

In addition to being an experienced fly fisher, the lad is known to tie fly patterns. As an instructor, he shares his fly tying skills with other young people. On a trip to Alaska, he mentioned having tied a large quantity of flies that seemed overwhelming at the time, but proved worthwhile when on the Alaskan waters. He remarked that Alaskan salmon preferred a special streamer pattern he had tied. And he is acquainted with the 'realistic' fly patterns being tied and those who tie them. During his presentation, he referred to 'lunker' or 'trophy' trout as 'hogs' and he had a good collection of photos to prove his 'hog' tales. My favorite image of the evening was a rare photo opportunity pose of him holding a pair of brown trout 'hogs', a male and a female, tightly under both arms.

The Ozark Fly Fishers are to be congratulated on their continuing education and outreach efforts. Hosting this type of presentation obviously shares with their members, neighbors, friends, citizens and their children the message of flyfishing as a wonderful family-oriented life sport. Their membership is growing as witnessed by their vitality. This club is an important part of the Federation of Fly Fishers – Southern Council (FFF-SOC). We are honored by their commitment for the future of flyfishing being directed toward new fly fishers and trout waters. Here is my opportunity to challenge each FFF-SOC member to visit other clubs and learn more about your companion clubs

## Programs

*Mike Krueger*

Dave Murphy, Executive Director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), will be with us for our July 26th meeting to give a recap of the 2007 Missouri Legislative Session, to discuss the Coldwater Fund and his new seat on the Streams Committee of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and to begin talking about a proposed Missouri summit in 2008, hosted by CFM, to consider the future of Missouri's natural resource needs. Dave plans to be with us throughout the evening to have plenty of opportunity to listen, discuss and strategize with us, one of CFM's most important affiliate organizations. He may be reached directly at [dmurphy@confedmo.org](mailto:dmurphy@confedmo.org) or by phone at 800-575-2322.


### **Casting For Recovery Fundraiser**

A Trivia Night will be held Aug 18 to raise funds for this year's Casting for Recovery retreat, to be held at Windrush Farms in October. Mark your calendars for a fun evening to support an important program. Contact Missouri Coordinator for CFR, Patti Hummert for details on how you can help and to reserve a table for your group! 314-477-9319  
[www.pattihummert@yahoo.com](mailto:pattihummert@yahoo.com)

## Ozark Fly Fishers Annual Casting Clinic & BBQ at Tilles Park

OFF extends an invitation to share an evening of fly casting and BBQ, Thursday, June 21 at Tilles Park in Maplewood. Instructors and equipment will be available for those that would like to learn basic fly casting methods or for the experienced to develop new techniques. The program will start at 6pm – BBQ and beverages will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Enjoy the skills of our casting instructors and our seasoned grill experts. Members and non-members are invited – bring your rods and share an evening of fun, food and fly flinging!

## OZARK FLY FISHERS recognizes our CORPORATE SPONSORS



**POP PEN & ASSOCIATES**  
CPA'S, P.C.

**Gavin H. Poppen**  
CPA, CVA

9012 Manchester Rd.  
St. Louis Missouri 63144

Phone: 314-961-2070  
FAX: 314-961-3465  
gpoppen@poppenpcpas.com




**Lilleys' Landing**  
Resort & Marina  
Upper Lake Taneycomo

Cartering to the experienced flyfisher...

- ★ Fly tying materials and tools
- ★ Fishing reports and articles online
- ★ Largest selection of flies in SW Missouri


1-800-284-2196    phil@lilleyslanding.com

<http://OzarkAnglers.Com>

Est. 1983  
member  
TU  
FFF

Your  
Business Card  
HERE!!!

OFFICE: 645-5541  
SHOP: 645-5540  
FAX: 645-1093  
Cell: 799-1998




*Shur-Way Auto Body, Inc.*

BODY, FENDER & DENT WORK • WRECKS REBUILT  
WELDING • PAINTING

3540 GREENWOOD BLVD.  
MAPLEWOOD, MO 63143

MICHAEL H. SWEDERSKA  
SHUR-WAY@sbcglobal.net



**JACK CORNETT**

5109 Hampton Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63109

**314 353.3862**

OZARK FLY FISHERS recognizes our CORPORATE SPONSORS

9024 Manchester  
St. Louis, Missouri 63144  
(314) 968-4223




**T. HARGROVE**  
Fly Fishing Inc.  
www.thargrove.com



**North Fork Anglers**  
1107 Sheridan Avenue  
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Tim Wade (307) 527-7274  
Owner/Outfitter streamside@wavecom.net

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



**Outdoor Logistics**

Stuart "Stu" Keck

8 Webster Acres  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-239-3963  
stu@outdoorlogistics.com  
[www.outdoorlogistics.com](http://www.outdoorlogistics.com)

*"Consulting and Management of Water, Land, Game and Conservation"*

Freshwater & Saltwater  
Fly Fishing Specialists  
Since 1955



**Feather-Craft®**  
*Fly Fishing*

HUGE Selection of all things fly fishing!  
FREE Fly Casting & Fly Tying Lessons...  
beginner through advanced.  
Visit [www.feather-craft.com](http://www.feather-craft.com)  
for on-line Fly Fishing Catalogs, Specials,  
Bulletin Boards, Closeouts, Demo's,  
one-of-a-kinds and much more.

Call or stop by for our  
FREE 92-page Fly Fishing Catalog  
314-963-7884 \* 800-659-1707  
8307 Manchester Rd  
St. Louis, Missouri 63144



OFFICERS:

President: *Mike Swederska*  
 Vice President: *Mike Krueger*  
 Secretary: *Jerry Kniepman*  
 Treasurer: *Lou Juranas*  
 FFF Liaison: *Roy Cleveland*

DIRECTORS:

Conservation: *Bob Temper*  
 Education: *Al Bourisaw*  
 Membership: *Kevin Miquelon*  
 Ways & Means: *Joseph Aimonette*  
 Communication: *Wallis W Warren*

CHAIRS:

Fly Casting: *Brian Ellis*  
 Fly Tying: *Gavin Poppen*  
 Outings: *Ted Calcaterra*

WEBMASTER: *Brian Ellis*

NEWSLETTER: *Wallis W Warren*

## OZARK FLY FISHERS PROGRAM CALENDAR

<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>MONTHLY MEETING:</b> Tyler Befus, Montrose CO 7pm POWDER VALLEY
<b>JUNE 21</b>	<b>MONTHLY MEETING:</b> Casting Clinic & BBQ Tilles Park
<b>JULY 26</b>	<b>MONTHLY MEETING:</b> Dave Murphy, CFM Queeny Park
<b>AUGUST 23</b>	<b>MONTHLY MEETING:</b> Larry Murphy, FFF Southern Council