

Ozark Fly Fishers



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www.ozarkflyfishers.org

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **JAN 11**
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President's Message

Mike Swederska

Mark your calendar for the 43rd Annual FFF International Fly Fishing Show / Conclave. The dates are set for July 22-26, 2008 and the location is Whitefish, Montana. Whitefish is a small town located on the shore of Whitefish Lake just a few miles from Glacier National Park and International airport.

There will be three openings for directorship that this club will need to fill. They will be Communication, Education and Ways & Means. If you would like to run for a position or have someone else in mind for any of these positions be sure and nominate them at this month's meeting.

The December meeting is also our Christmas fly box swap meet. If you are a tier put together a dozen flies in some kind of container. Wrap them up and don't put your name on them. When you come to the meeting and drop off your package you will get a ticket that will be drawn when the swap starts. You then get to pick up a package of your choice from the assortment. Only the members who bring a package will get a ticket to participate in the Christmas fly exchange. If you don't tie you can always ask your fly tying friend for a dozen. Or purchase a dozen. I have always liked participating in this event because I learn what my fellow members are fishing with!

I would like to remind everyone that the banquet is set for January 26, 2008. This is a fun party. Please set this date aside and don't miss out on the fun time. Letters are being sent out to solicit items to be auctioned at the banquet. If you have anything that you would like to donate to the club for auction, please contact Joe Aimonette or Bill Hale - they are always looking for items!.



FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS™

Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing

The C&R outing at Bennett went without a hitch. Thanks to Russ Hill for putting it all together including getting the snacks for the meeting room. We always have a big turnout for this outing but this year we broke the attendance record with over 90 people for dinner. Al put together a 'fishing buddy' class on Friday. I participated as one of the instructors and I want to give Al a big "That a Boy" because it was so successful. The members who participated came away with some good information to add to their arsenal of techniques.

I enjoy this outing because of fishing with the other members and tying flies at night. OK, the partying that goes on in the infamous "Larry's Room". Oh, my gosh! I got about six hours of sleep Friday night. We finally called it a night Saturday at three in the morning. I know that it was way more fun than I expected because somebody mentioned to me on Sunday that they got up around two AM and heard what they thought was possibly a fight going on in Larry's Room. I, of course, told them it wasn't a fight but a bunch of us singing. I know we sounded better than a bad fight but I would not swear to it. Way more fun than a grown man should have. I suggest anyone that missed this year's outing to make sure you make next year's!

One other thing I want to mention about the C&R outing. The restaurant closes on October 31 for the winter and reopens in the spring. However, the weekend of OFF's Catch and Release Outing, the restaurant at Bennett is open for our members. Because of the OFF weekend we bring those people back to work and get them off unemployment for those two weeks. You might not have thought of it, but its just one more thing OFF does for our fishing community.

I fished Mill on Sunday before Thanksgiving. I was so impressed with the skyhooks that our club helped to build. Nick Girondo, the biologist for the creek installed them awhile back and this was the first time I got to see the handiwork with a fly rod in my hand. The way Nick installed them could only have been better if they were OEM (Original Manufactured Equipment). He even dropped a couple of trees on and around them making it even harder to get to by predators. Further

down he started installing rock peninsulas to control the current of the creek, making new pools. The two new parking lots on cleared fields make the walk over easy but yet they are far enough away to not hurt the wild creek esthetics. The whole time I was fishing I continued to get more excited at what the future will be for this jewel of a creek.

Conservation: GO FISH Program

Bob Temper

Thanks to all the volunteers that turned out at Carondolet Park to help kids in the GO FISH program learn a little about fly fishing for trout. I appreciate all the help on short notice. We ended up with almost 30 kids even though the intended limit was 25. The kids all had a good time and showed a lot of interest in fly fishing. We will probably have an opportunity to host another session early next spring.

The next date suggested for the trout program for kids in the GO FISH program is Saturday February 16, 2008 at Tilles Park. Please reserve this date on your calendar and let me know if you plan to help..

Thanks for your support of the kids in this program and the Missouri Department of Conservation for reaching out to the next generation of fisherman and conservationists.

The following note was received from Denise Otto, fisheries Biologist in charge of the GO FISH pilot program:

"Thank you for your generous donation and volunteer support. GO FISH! Experienced a wonderfully successful pilot year due in no small part to support provided by the Ozark Fly Fishers. Thank you for being so willing to host the very first "Intro to Trout Fishing" program. The program was a huge success. You are appreciated!"

Denise



The Man from Shushan

Terry Finger

Like most anglers, I fish a variety of fly patterns. And like most anglers, my fly boxes contain many more patterns than I really need. But that's part of the fun. There are just too many good fly patterns out there to resist, and I see no legitimate reason to limit a harmless indulgence in variety. I do most of my fishing with a few bread-and-butter patterns like the Sparrow, Leadwing Coachman, and Delaware Adams, and I carry other flies like the Hendrickson and Pale Morning Dun for specific match-the-hatch situations. But just for the fun of it, I also occasionally use an unusual fly, often a pattern from the past.

I'm drawn to tie and fish a fly pattern for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, I think the fly may be a good imitation of a specific insect or other prey item. More commonly, I consider the pattern to have a general buggy appearance that should appeal to fish. And sometimes, as long as the dressing isn't too outrageous, I just like the fly's name. The last reason is why I was initially attracted to the Shushan Postmaster, a streamer fly developed by Lew Oatman.

Oatman (1902-1958) was a skilled fly tier who lived in Shushan, New York, on the lower Battenkill just west of the Vermont border. Most active in the late 1940's and early 1950's, he tied commercially and sold flies through local outlets and at Jim Deren's famous Anglers' Roost in New York City. He was well known in New York circles and occasionally wrote fly fishing articles for magazines, including *Esquire*. He is most remembered for his work with streamer flies. Few anglers know that he also originated the Montana Stone

Nymph, for many years the most popular nymph on most western rivers. Unfortunately, Lew never had the opportunity to write a book before his untimely death.

Oatman was a pioneer in developing streamer fly patterns even though the evolution of the eastern streamer was well underway in Maine decades before his time. The Maine streamers are very effective for brook trout and landlocked salmon, and some, like Carrie Stevens' famous Gray Ghost, bear more than a passing resemblance to a smelt, the primary baitfish in the area. But most of the Maine flies and the few streamers that came before them are attractors, tied with fanciful flashes of color rather than with the intent to mimic specific prey. Lew Oatman appears to be the first tier to systematically study baitfish and design a series of specific, imitative fly patterns. His work influenced others, including Art Flick, who tied the Black-nosed Dace bucktail, Sam Slaymaker, who developed the Little Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout flies, and Keith Fulsher, whose Thunder Creek series of imitative streamers is well known today.

Joe Bates, in his authoritative *Streamers and Bucktails, The Big Fish Flies*, attributes seventeen distinct streamer patterns to Oatman. Most mimic minnows or other small fish commonly found in eastern trout streams, but others imitate prey fish from warmer waters and are intended for bass fishing. Oatman studied baitfish thoroughly, and knew that there are just too many species to practically imitate them all. He also knew that many of these small fish look so much alike that properly identifying them involves close examination of subtle pigment patterns and counting the number of rays in their fins. Confident that predatory game fish don't make such distinctions, Lew reasoned that a few fly patterns representing the more obvious variations in overall color and striping patterns would suffice for imitating minnows anywhere. That many of his patterns are very effective well outside the geographic range of the minnow species they were intended to imitate tells us he was right.

Most of Oatman's flies are feather-winged. He used badger hackles to imitate the dark horizontal stripe found on many minnows, and grizzly hackles to mimic the vertical barring of

other species. He achieved subtle color variations by veiling the inner feathers of the wing with outer feathers of a different hue. Lew also knew about seasonal variations in the appearance of many minnows. The males of many species exhibit bright, predominantly red, spawning colors in the spring. Oatman's Male Dace and Red Fin patterns are clearly intended to imitate spawning males.

Oatman's flies were constructed with notable care and attention to detail. The smooth silk bodies were carefully tapered and tightly ribbed with tinsel. He matched the curvature of the hackles in the wings precisely. He set the wings at a consistent angle and always parallel to the hook shank. He was also a pioneer in tying very sparse, slender versions of his flies for use in the low water of late summer.

The Shushan Postmaster is perhaps Oatman's best-known fly. He named it for Albie Prindle, a fishing friend and long-time postmaster of Shushan. The fly is a bit of an anomaly among Lew's streamers – it is one of only two hairwings. Also, only two of his flies were named for a person, the other being the Doctor Oatman, named for Lew's father. The Shushan Postmaster has a tail of mottled turkey quill, a body of pale yellow silk floss ribbed with flat gold tinsel, and a throat of red duck quill. The wing is hair from a fox squirrel tail and the cheeks are jungle cock. It is not clear whether Oatman intended to mimic a specific baitfish species with this fly or developed the pattern because he knew that the overall color scheme would be effective. Over the years I've learned that wings of barred hair can be oddly productive at times, even if we can't easily determine just what they imitate. And the Shushan Postmaster provides the added benefit of fishing a fly of the past with one of the most lyrical names ever.

Even today, travelling to the area around Shushan seems like taking a trip back in time. The area is tucked away between popular tourist areas in Vermont and New York's Adirondack Mountains. Little has changed since the 1950's, and on a foggy summer evening at dusk I wouldn't be too surprised to catch a brief glimpse of Lew, barely visible through the mist, carefully working a streamer fly through the riffles and runs of the lower Battenkill.

Random Thoughts - In Celebration of the Codger *Ty Livingstone*

The Fat Man is Coming! In other words, Christmas is just around the corner and Santa Claus is coming to town. You would think after all these years; he might be sick of the routine and would get a little crabby. But somehow and somehow, the old guy keeps coming and always maintains a smile. I haven't actually seen him and I don't know if he really is jolly, but I will believe and keep the legend rolling. But, that is another story for a different day. Speaking of the old guy in the red suit, that brings me to my point.

This month, I am pondering all "old guys" (and gals, but you don't refer them as old, but rather selectively seasoned) and just what they mean to us. This is particularly poignant to me because I am one of them. I don't like to admit it, but it is true. If you young whippersnappers will look very closely at our club and community, you will notice something very distinct. Generally speaking (meaning most of the time this is true, but not one hundred percent universally true), the seniors are doing most of the work. They are on the board, they are teaching the classes, they attend the conservation meetings, and on and on. We need to be very appreciative and tell them thanks for all the hard work.

Now, I must admit, we old guys can be cranky sometimes. We can be hard headed, ornery, stubborn, rude, eccentric, and the list goes on. Bottom line – we don't mean nothing by it. It just kind of works out that way. I remember years ago when my grandfather was in his last days and I went to see him just before he passed. He was a tremendous outdoorsman – a fisherman and a bird hunter and was passionate about conservation. He was not feeling well toward the end and was really quite crabby. He expressed tremendous regret to me about his disposition and I was sympathetic due to his condition. I told him that he had lived an amazing life of integrity and generosity and service to others and that the accumulation of his good deeds far outweighed anything that he was suffering through at the end. And that is how it is and will be. He was an inspiration to many and still is.

My point – you old codgers (term used affectionately) have earned the right to be like that. Some of us may not like it, but we have to put it in perspective. They have fought the wars – WW2, Korea, and Viet Nam – that have provided us freedom. They have built the country that gives us so much back. We have streams and lakes to fish because they have fought hard for it. They have worked hard and saved for retirement. They have raised children, grandchildren, and in some cases great grandchildren. They volunteer lots and lots of their time for all of our benefit. They don't have to, but they do. Are they perfect? No. Have they made a difference? Yes. Should we love them? Absolutely...in spite of themselves.

So, here's to you Mr. 'Think I am Always Right, Do As I Damnwellplease, Wear Weird Clothes and Doesn't Care Guy'. Let's crack open an ice cold Bud Light (or whatever your choice of adult beverage is). Thanks for everything! Keep up the great work. Happy Holidays...The Fat Man is Coming and let's hope he's jolly this year. And, if he's not, let's still embrace him.

Membership Tying Classes

Al Bourisaw

Ozark Fly Fishers will be offering three opportunities for members to tie (learn) three different fly patterns during the winter months. Each tying opportunity will be offered at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122. Dates and patterns are as follows:

December 18, 2007 – Joe's Christmas Tree -
Joseph Aimonette

January 22, 2008 – Weaving Flies –
Ron Beasley

February 5, 2008 – Don's Crayfish –
Al Bourisaw

All materials are provided. Each tier must provide their own vice and tools. For more information contact Al Bourisaw at 314.487.2120 or troutal@att.net

Membership *Kevin Miquelon*

AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN...NAME TAGS:

Don't forget to wear your OFF Name Badge at every meeting! It is very helpful, with three hundred 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!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Several of our corporate members have generously supported us in the past and continue to do so. Please thank them when you are at their shops:

- T. Hargrove's Fly Fishing:
 - Actively promotes Ozark Fly Fishers in the store
 - Provides a coupon for all new members of Ozark Fly Fishers
 - Supports us in other ways throughout the year
- Feather-Craft:
 - Actively promotes Ozark Fly Fishers in the store
 - Provides a coupon for all new members of Ozark Fly Fishers
 - Offers a Gift Card for new members that join at the store on the spot
 - Hosts an Annual OFF Members Only Day in the spring with discounts, drawings, and more...
 - Supports us throughout the year in a number of ways
- Bass Pro Shop – New Corporate Member
 - Active promotes Ozark Fly Fishers in the store
 - Will be offering a discount coupon for all members – both existing and new
 - Will be hosting a Membership Day with a BBQ (probably in the fall)
 - Will be hosting the OFF Annual Banquet (at the store) in 2009

We also have some other new corporate members that have provided donations and support of Ozark Fly Fishers and we will announce those at the December meeting.

ACT NOW! SHIRT EMBROIDERY WITH OFF LOGO

The Ozark Fly Fishers logo embroidery can be applied any shirt you own. Bring the shirt you want embroidered to the December 2007 or January 2008 meeting with your name clearly marked somewhere in the garment (best method is masking tape and a Sharpie) with any notes regarding where you would like the logo placed (left chest is standard placement) and exactly how you want your name to appear. They will be brought back to the February 2008 meeting. *Cost for embroidery on your shirt will be \$10.00 per shirt. Names can be embroidered for \$6.00 and name & title is \$7.00.* Make checks payable to Ozark Fly Fishers – due at the time you are placing your order. This will be the last time that we will do embroidery for a while!

Welcome New Members

Jim Austin Daniel L. Cotten
Lake Sherwood, MO Troy, IL

Jon Jay Charles Miller
Fenton, MO Florissant, MO

Gregg Roby Carlos A. Saenz
St. Louis, MO St. Louis, MO

John D. Wantz
Kirkwood, MO

Van Anderson & Family
New Baden, IL

Dennis & Sheila Frailey & Family
Highland, IL

Karen Hiles & Family
Collinsville, IL

Butch & Carol Rohland & Family
St. Peters, MO

Fly of the Month: Dave's Hopper

Bob Zagar



Our fly this month was sent to me by Marty King. It was originally published in our newsletter in 1977 with the recipe and tying instructions provided by Caesar P. Carnaghi.

I am going to present the information here as it was originally written by Mr. Carnaghi in 1977. Available materials have probably changed somewhat since 1977, if so; maybe the recipe could be updated for a future article.

“DAVE WHITLOCK'S - DAVE'S HOPPER”

- Hook: Size 4 thru 12 TDE 2X long
Thread: Brown Herb Howard's (prewaxed 7/0)
Tail: Natural light brown deerhair dyed reddish orange
Body: Yellow orlon wool and brown hackle
Wing: Mottled brown turkey quill section and golden yellow deer hair
Hackle: Natural grey brown northern deer hair lightly tinted golden brown
Head: Clipped grey brown deer hair, tinted light golden brown
Legs: Optional – Turkey Quill

Tying Instructions

1. Attach tying thread and wrap back 2/3 of hook shank. Attach bunch of reddish orange deer hair 2/3 of shank over thread wraps. Allow tips of hair to form tail 1/2 length of hook. Attach wool and brown hackle at bead of hook.
2. Form a small loop with wool beyond hook bend just over tail hairs, then wrap wool on shank length toward hook eye and tie down.

3. Next wrap hackle reverse palmer over wool and tie off at same spot. Trim hackle fibers so that they are about the length of hook gape.
4. Place a bunch of yellow deer hair along top of body and tie down without flaring it. Tips should extend just past hook bend. Coat tie down with head cement.
5. Take turkey quill section which has been sprayed with clear lacquer and trim to hopper wing shape. Attach over deer hair tie down so that section lies parallel with deer hair and body extends 1/3 length of hook past bend.
6. Take a bunch of natural grey brown deer hair and attach and carefully flare it with thread just in front of wings and body tie down area. Push deer hair up snug against this base. Add another bunch of deer hair in front of first muddler minnow style. Whip finish head at hook eye.
7. Trim carefully to form hopper's head while leaving flared tips of first bunch of deer hair form hackle collar or legs. Varnish head thread and turkey quill with 2 coats of very thin varnish.

This fly was submitted to us by Bill Munn, RT.1 Box 148, Bridgeport, Texas, at the October 1977 Midwest FFF Conclave. He is a member of the Dallas Fly-Fishers and at the conclave he tied this fly for several members of our club, including myself. I have a copy of this fly sticking in my hat. Bill Munn has made some additions and refinements to this pattern, over a period of time that he has been tying this fly.

I will endeavor to mention some of them. Bill Munn is definite about tying this pattern in stages, so that you may tie a quantity of these in a minimum amount of time.

First stage: is to tie to and through drawing (step) #3 on the pattern sheet. A number of patterns should be tied through this stage and set aside.

Second stage: is to tie to, and through drawing (step) # 5 on the pattern sheet, and a refinement at this stage, is that legs, an option, can be put on and included as part of stage #2, and are put on right where the thread is, at drawing #5. To complete stage #2 everything

is varnished to toughen the tied material for future stages and completion.

The legs are made of a turkey quill section as noted at #5A, but not trimmed. The quill is rolled, about the size of a match stick and it is knotted with a regular knot, to resemble the joint in the leg of a grasshopper. It should look like drawing #5 on pattern sheet. Be sure that this quill is sprayed with a clear lacquer to keep it from splitting.

Third stage: is taking all patterns previously tied through stage 2, and adding to these, tying instruction #6, and adding to this instruction; another refinement, which is: Take lacquer which has been cut by thinner to a consistency of water, and apply a drop or two to the muddler styled head of deer fibers, and are set aside. This stiffens the fibers for the final process.

Fourth stage is to take all flies and use tying instruction #7. Another refinement to this is; instead of trimming with a scissors, you use a razor blade to trim the heads, very slick. Using a razor blade is by far, the quickest way to trim heads after they have been stiffened by the application of water consistency lacquer.

Out in Texas Bill Munn states that this pattern is used for bass and bluegill in various sizes. Out West, during the hopper season this pattern in various sizes is near disrespectful to the fish gentry.

They are so real you have to tie them on your leader hiding behind a tree or rock; anything will take it.

The material; to get ready this may take some time to get together, which is one reason to submit at this time of year. Also, not indicated in the pattern sheet is that the body hair of a deer will work a lot better, which is a lot finer than some of the coarser parts of the deer.

Caesar P. Carnaghi “

Hope you enjoyed and thanks for the tip Marty.

Special thanks to Earl Schenberg for his assistance in presenting the November Peacock fly in last month's newsletter.

Education Keeping Busy

Al Bourisaw

Ozark Fly Fishers have a full plate of educational activities planned for the winter and early spring. Besides the membership tying class noted in another article in the newsletter, OFF will be teaching classes at the August Busch Wildlife Area, at Queeny Park through the Saint Louis County Parks Department and will present seminars and tying demonstrations at the Pro Bass Shop in Saint Charles.

Look for the 'Gone Fishin' brochure soon to be published by the Saint Louis County Parks Department. If your name is not on their mailing list, call to be included in their mailings. The August Busch Wildlife Area will also have available a newsletter that will list all the educational opportunities available at Busch. OFF will be teaching classes in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Lastly, look for OFF at the Pro Bass Shop on February 23&24, March 8&16, 2008, as some of the tried and true flies will be demonstrated. Also, on March 1 &5, 2008, OFF will be presenting a short fly fishing seminar. Get out and check out your club in action.

All Day Program Feb 23, 2008 featuring Bob Clouser *Mike Krueger*

Be sure to set aside Saturday, Feb 23 to participate in our all day program featuring Bob Clouser. You'll only be disappointed if you can't make it!

Bob's love of the outdoors, especially fishing, led him into the fishing business. He continues to guide, teach and share his enjoyment with others.

Schools and Trips

Bob now teaches fly tying, fly casting and fishing. His casting demonstrations, using visual aids and casting weighted flies and lines are very popular. Bob holds freshwater and saltwater fly fishing/casting schools at various locations around the country.

Presentations

Clouser's lectures, tying demonstrations and presentations are given nationwide. He is most sought after for his presentations on "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass"- Catching smallmouth from top to bottom using flies and "Fly Fishing Smorgasbord"

Fly Patterns and Industry Affiliations

Clouser is the innovator of many fine fly patterns, all of which gained worldwide popularity. His flies include The Clouser Minnow, The Half and half, Clouser Crayfish, Swimming Nymph, Crippled Minnow, Mad tom, The Darter, Hellgrammite, E-Z popper, Floating Minnow and many others. Bob's Clouser Minnow is claimed to be the most effective underwater fly ever developed; rated as #1 by Field and Stream Magazine. He is on the advisory staff for the St.Croix Rod Company also helped in designing an 8ft. 9-inch fly rod for casting his flies. He is also on the staff of Umpqua Feather Merchants and Renzetti Inc.

Awards

Bob has been presented numerous awards for his strong conservation work, especially work done to enhance smallmouth bass fishing in Pennsylvania. Most notable among his awards are his induction into the national Fresh Water Fishing Hall of fame as Legendary Angler, the Warm Water Committee Achievement Award, a national award presented by The Federation of Fly Fishers, the Dr. Henshall Award presented by The federation of Fly Fishers, and National Angler of the Year 2000 by Fly Rod and Reel Magazine. He is a strong supporter of recreational fishing as well as conservation.

X-Mas Fly Swap *Mike Krueger*

It's Christmas time again for Ozark Fly Fishers. Keeping with a long standing tradition I am asking for everyone interested in participating to bring a small wrapped box of flies for a fly exchange at the December meeting. Gift wrap a box of 12 flies of your choice. You will receive a ticket for a drawing, when your number is called you get to pick any box you choose. Let's see how many helpers Santa can get.

Bring a present ~ get a present!

Fly Tying Hint –Don't Lose Those Flies *Al Bourisaw*

Do you ever lose newly tied flies in the clutter of feathers and fur? Or, have you had to search the floor looking for a dropped fly? Cut a length of monofilament or tippet material about six inches long. (The diameter is dependent on the size of the eye on the hooks you're using.) With a match or lighter, heat one end of the mono until it forms a bead. When the fly is finished but still in the vise, insert the unbeaded end of the mono through the eye of the fly. (*This insures not only that you won't drop the fly, but also that there's no head cement clogging the eye.*) Multiple flies can be put on the same piece of mono, and by inserting the mono (with flies) into a clip (like a clothespin or hackle pliers) they can be hung to dry.

Membership Renewal; Second Reminder *Dave Haas*

Renewals for 2008 are beginning to come in following the article and renewal form in last month's newsletter, but *many of you still need to renew!*

Don't miss out on the cost savings of a timely renewal. The Timely Renewal period ends on January 1; after that date Individual, Senior, and Family memberships will each cost an additional \$5.00. *This is the last reminder you will receive before the end of the Timely Renewal period.*

Of course, there are about as many reasons to renew your Ozark membership as there are members, and some of those reasons were spelled out in last month's newsletter, but here again is a brief list:

- Annual Banquet in January
- All-Day Program with Bob Clouser in February
- Annual Barbecue and Casting Event
- Annual Catch-and-Release Outing
- Camaraderie and Friendship
- Conservation Activities (Mill Creek and Stream Team)
- Fishing Outings
- Free Member Classes

Free Video Loan Library
Outstanding Programs
Promote Fly Fishing
Raffles and Auctions

Please remember the 2008 change for newsletter delivery. *If you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter through the US, mail you must check the appropriate box on the renewal form.* Of course, if you have not provided us with your e-mail address you will continue to receive a paper newsletter.

Take advantage of the Timely Renewal rate by filling out the Membership Application attached to this newsletter and mailing it in with your check a.s.a.p. or bring your checkbook to the December meeting and renew at that time.

Ozark Fly Fishers Annual Banquet **January 26, 2008** *Mike Swederska*

Its December and getting closer to the deadline for the banquet. Don't procrastinate! I need you to get your reservations in to Ted Calcaterra as soon as possible. I really would like to see the largest turnout for a banquet this club has ever had. Our membership is very large so there is no reason to not make it the largest attended ever.

If you have never attended an Ozark banquet for one reason or another, or you don't feel you know anybody well enough to fit in, don't worry. This is the party of the year to get to know everybody and make new friends. We have always had a lot of fun and I must say I really enjoy meeting new and longer-term members at the banquet. And don't forget about all the great stuff to be had at the live auction.

The Banquet will be held in Clayton, at the same location as last year, the *CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL*. They have plenty of free parking in their private parking garage and the banquet room is large enough to accommodate our event.

The menu offers a selection of a 10 oz New York strip steak, Sautéed Chicken breast, Vegetarian Pasta or White Fish with lemon butter sauce. The sides for dinner will be a fresh vegetable medley, Parmesan roasted

potatoes, dinner rolls and butter. Also there will be a nice dessert. Included with the meal for beverages will be coffee, tea, decaf, and iced tea. The prices of the meals are going to stay the same as last year.

The cash bar will be open in the room from 6:00 on. Dinner will be served at 7:30. This will give the early arrivals plenty of time to check out all the neat items available for bid as well as time to kibitz with fellow members.

The auction this year is going to be fabulous. Joe Aimonette, our Ways and Means officer has out done himself. So be ready to bid on some really cool stuff. Plus the club will be selling raffle tickets for other great items.

Ted Calcaterra, our outings director, has booked a live auctioneer again for this year to auction some of the larger items that Bill Hale has acquired. From what I have heard about the auctioneer, he will be very entertaining.

We have guaranteed 125 attendees so please get your reservation check and meal selection slip in as early as possible.

Thanks and I hope to see every member at this year's Banquet.

Stream Team Water Monitoring Workshop – Montauk

Mark Van Patten

After my presentation to *OFF* in September, the interest in a special introductory Water Quality monitoring Workshop for *OFF* was mentioned. Well, you all asked for it and we are going to give you one. In fact this is the first time we have offered one in this special format just for you guys. The details are as follows:

We booked the Searcy Building at Montauk State Park for May 30 and 31. Instead of a grueling 8 to 9 hour day we decided to break the one day workshop into two days. The first day will include most of the classroom information with time off in the afternoon for fishing. We will then reassemble on Saturday morning for the "on the creek" portion of the training with a short meeting in the classroom to wrap up around mid day. That will leave all afternoon Saturday for more fishing or hey, maybe even a stream clean up event or maybe

just going out and looking at more bugs for those who want to.

If you plan to stay at the park you can reserve your room at 573-548-2434. They won't charge us for the use of the Searcy Building for the classroom if we all rent a number of the rooms and eat some meals at the lodge. If you plan to attend the workshop be sure to reserve your room quickly because the rooms do book fast. You will need to register for the class with Priscilla Stotts at DNR. We will limit the class to 30 participants and are letting *OFF* have advance notice. Once the schedules are sent out (early February, 2008) any remaining spots will be filled by invitation to other angling groups and/or the general public.

If you have already attended an Intro workshop but feel you could use a refresher, we encourage you to attend again.

Priscilla Stotts DNR Water Quality Coordinator
(573) 526-3406 Fax (573) 522-9920

priscilla.stotts@dnr.mo.gov

please note: reservations need to be made by email or fax

Nominations are now being accepted for the following positions with Ozark Fly Fishers:

Director of Communication:

Director of Conservation:

Director of Education:

Director of Ways & Means:

Please contact any of the following members with your nomination(s)

Steve Antonic: work 314-423-2666

steve@hanenkampelectric.com

Bill Armon: work 636-677-3070

goodloops@wildblue.net

Brian Flinchpaugh: work 314-972-1111

flinchpaugh1@netzero.net

Dave Haas: home 314-434-0805

ffftu@charter.net

Rich Pelletier: home 636-240-1842

rcpellet@worldnet.att.net

Please contact us prior to December 13, 2007. This will allow time for evaluation of nominees

MO Conservation Heritage Foundation Cold Water Fund / Mill Creek

We want to thank the following individuals for their enthusiasm in coldwater conservation projects, and their MCHF contribution to help in the preservation of stream and creek habitat in Missouri.

Contributions received as of this month's newsletter have been mailed, and MCHF will be mailing letters of acknowledge to the following donors:

Support level:

Bronze level (+\$100):

Lee Trapp

Silver level (+\$250):

Gold level (+\$500):

Platinum level (+\$1,000):

Current Member contributions:

\$5,390.00

Ozark Fly Fishers contributions:

\$5,390.00

Remaining Pledge to be made

\$4,220.00

Raising Awareness During Hunting Season *Mike Swederska*

I would like to raise a question about fishing safety. I was down on Mill Creek a few Sunday's ago between twelve and four. I fished on the new conservation property from the top almost to the bottom. This would be about a mile long. I did not see or hear anybody the whole time I was fishing. There were far off distant gunshots but over the years you get use to them. As a wild trout stalker I was truly stealthy, always walking away from the creek on my knees, casting from behind weeds, making as little motion as possible. All the stealth I could muster to catch my wary prey. My clothes were denim blue TU shirt, Simms green waders and my hat was TU light green. My rod is my Zero Sage with a dark green blue blank wrapped in blue thread no flash. What I am saying is I blend in with my surroundings very well.

After fishing over three hours, I was tired and sat down to rest. After reflecting on the day's fishing I then decided to walk back. As I was walking back I walked up on a deer hunter. He had come in behind me at some time after my passing thru. He was no less than twenty feet off the bank's edge. I was closer than a hundred feet to him when I yelled "Hello" and it startled the heck out of him. I cannot believe that he could have been that startled but he was. He was just sitting at the base of a tree with the hopes of a deer walking down the creek - I could have been that deer! That thought scared me into writing this article. He looked both ways before he could find me after I yelled. Darn scary. I was too far away to have been able to do a thing but duck behind a tree or hit the ground if he would have turned and shot before I could have yelled. Especially if he would have heard the rustling down in the creek and just shot first then looked.

I was stunned by the fact that he was hunting the creek. I was on Mill thinking that it was safe since it had just been opened to the public for fishing. He said that it was deer season and insinuated that I was in the wrong. I guess I was because a Zero is no match for a deer rifle. He never moved and never thought once that I spoiled his area. He stayed and continued to focus on hunting. I stayed in the creek bed and walked passed him. As I moved up creek I spooked two turkeys that flew over my head. He yelled and pointed at the turkeys. I thought for sure he was going to shoot at them over my head. I squatted down but no shot. I guess he was making a statement.

From this day forth I will wear orange while I am out on any creek during deer season. I know that trout can see orange but that just makes me have to be more stealthy. My hat will be orange and I guess I will get some kind of vest also. More than anything maybe I will just stay in a trout park during rifle season since it is only a week long.

On my drive home I started to think of just how close it really was. A very long way from help and if I were to be shot and killed the deer hunter would not have been found and if so maybe I was in the wrong for not wearing orange. I was trying to think of things that I could do as a fly fisherman to say safe in the woods during deer season. I could not come

up with any other ideas beside orange or just not going in the woods at all.

I also wanted to say that the trophy trout water on the Meremac is no safer. I would think twice about fishing during deer season outside a park. Even with that in mind stray bullets have no names.

Volunteer(s) needed: Club Historian/Archivist

Our club has a rich history spanning several decades – with an accumulation of hundreds of years angling experience. Many have asked about some of the club's accomplishments and influence in the angling community as well as our education and conservation efforts. We would like to ask an enterprising individual (or more) to volunteer to help compile an archive and history of our club to share with our new members, as well as refresh the memories of some of our long time members. This will be a fun and interactive project that will be under the Communication Director's guidance. Please contact Wallis Warren or Al Bourisaw if you would be interested in additional information or participating.

Tri Lakes 6th Annual Fly Fishing Expo

The Tri Lakes Fly Fishers of Bolivar, MO will host their 6th annual fly fishing show on Saturday, February 23, 2008 from 9:00am to 6:00pm. The event will be held 9 miles south of Bolivar (14 miles north of Springfield) at the Brighton Assembly of God Church's multi-purpose facility on northbound Highway 13.

The featured speaker will be Mark Van Patten of Missouri Stream Teams and host of the PBS syndicated television show 'The Tying Bench'. Thirty-five of the world's best fly tyers will demonstrate their skills and commercial exhibitors will display their wares. There will be seminars throughout the day on a variety of fly fishing and fly-tying related subjects. Interesting items will be available through bucket raffles, and a live auction will begin at

5:00pm featuring fly fishing equipment, guided fishing trips, and even some non-fishing items of interest to all.

Among the commercial exhibitors will be fly shops that showcase a selection of rods to try out at the casting pool. A casting coach will be available to give free lessons to those wishing to learn the fundamentals of fly casting.

Admission to the event is free and it is open to the public. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Terry Wilson at (417) 777-2468 or email:

terrywil@windstream.net

CHILI COOK OFF – FLY TIE IN MARCH 22, 2008

~ Save the date – more info to come~

Zebra Mussels found at Lake Taneycomo, Bull Shoals

Jim Low MDC

Missouri's second established population of zebra mussels Has been documented at Lake Taneycomo, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation. The second discovery of invasive Eurasian mussels in the Show-Me State underlines the need for vigilance among boaters, anglers.

Private Land Regional Services Supervisor Brian Canaday said the mussels were discovered by employees of the Empire District Electric Company. The fingernail- to quarter-sized mussels were attached to a submerged log.

The same day, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission reported the discovery of two immature zebra mussels near Lead Hill Marina on Bull Shoals Lake, downstream from Lake Taneycomo.

Scattered specimens of the zebra mussel have been observed at other locations in the Missouri in recent years. Last year's discovery of a colony on a boat dock at Lake of the Ozarks was the first established population, however.

Zebra mussels are black-and-white striped mollusks similar to clams. Native to Europe and Asia, they were transported to the North America in the bilge or ballast water of ocean-going ships. They were first discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit in 1988.

Larval zebra mussels, called veligers, can survive in water left in bait buckets, boat live wells and bilge systems or the cooling systems of marine motors. They attach to hard surfaces including rock, wood, concrete, plastic, crayfish and other mussels and stay there until they die. Adult zebra mussels can live for several days out of water.

Zebra mussels get free rides to previously uninfested areas when the boats, motors or trailers to which they are attached move to other locations. Canaday said this probably is how they got into Missouri waters.

"We cannot determine exactly how or when they were introduced into Lake Taneycomo. However, tens of thousands of people visit there every year, so it is likely that zebra mussels were unintentionally transported by boats, motors, trailers, aquatic plants or other items that had previously been in infested waters."

Conservation Department biologists watch for zebra mussels as part of their daily routine. Canaday said citizen awareness is a critical part of zebra mussel detection, however.

"There are many more boaters and anglers than Conservation Department workers. In several cases citizens or business owners have reported infested boats," he said. "That allowed us to make sure the boats were cleaned properly before being launched."

Missouri Stream Teams also are helping monitor lakes and streams for zebra mussels. If you would like to join the effort, call (800)781-1989 or visit the Stream Team web-site at www.mostreamteam.org.

Zebra mussels can attach to the hulls and drive units of boats left in the water. They increase water drag on the hull, reducing efficiency, and they can clog motors' water intakes, resulting in engine damage. To prevent this, keep drive units out of water when not in use. If possible, pump hot water through your engine's intake on a regular basis to prevent mussel growth inside the engine's cooling system.

Juvenile mussels are quite soft and are scoured off of boat hulls when cruising. Boat hulls should be inspected for infestation after extended periods without use.

If you ever move your boat, lift or dock to another body of water, follow the steps outlined below.

--INSPECT boats and trailers thoroughly, and remove any trash, mussels or aquatic weeds before leaving any water body. Mussels and other items removed from the boat should be properly disposed of in a trash container.

--DRAIN water from the motor, live-well, bilge and transom wells, and any other water from the boat and equipment before leaving any water body

--DUMP leftover bait in a trash container on land, away from the water.


--RINSE boats, trailers and equipment thoroughly with hard spray or HOT (104 degrees) water, like that found at a do-it-yourself carwash.

--DRY boats, motors, trailers and equipment thoroughly in the hot sun (for approximately 5 days) before using them again.

For more information about zebra mussels, call (573) 751-4115 or visit www.protectyourwaters.net. To report a potential zebra mussel sighting, contact the nearest Missouri Conservation Department office or go to: www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/exotic/.

LEFTY RAY CHAPA – Fly Fishing the Texas Coast December 13 – Queeny Park Rec Plex 7pm
 December's meeting will feature the return of Lefty Ray Chapa from San Antonio Texas. Lefty has guided warm water, coldwater and saltwater. Today he writes and photographs for a variety of fishing and outdoor publications. His presentation will be "Fly Fishing the middle Texas coast". He will include jetty fishing, kayaking, surf fishing and of course fishing from a boat. He will discuss the many different species of fish that are available to fly fishers. He has been featured in *Fly Rod and Reel*, *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, and *Shallow Water Magazine*. This will be a meeting you do not want to miss. For more about Lefty visit his web site:
www.leftyray.com

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OZARK FLY FISHERS PROGRAM CALENDAR

DECEMBER 13 **MONTHLY MEETING:** Lefty Ray Chapa 7pm Queeny Rec Plex
JANUARY 26 **ANNUAL OFF BANQUET** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Clayton
FEBRUARY 23 **ALL DAY MEETING:** Bob Clouser