

Ozark Fly Fishers



P.O. Box 19753 • St. Louis, MO 63144

www.ozarkflyfishers.org

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President's Message

Mike Swederska

Well, another year has passed, and we are embarking on 2008. Where did the time go? I am so proud to have served this club as President in 2007, and am looking forward to serving in 2008. I cannot begin to name all of the club's accomplishments that have taken place in 2007 because there are just too many. My goal is to take this club to the next level in 2008. I plan to get this club more involved in conservation and education thru fly-fishing, to serve the needs of our members through membership classes on fly tying, casting and most of all, put more fun into being a member of Ozark Fly Fishers!

I hope to see all of you at the banquet on January 26. I have always had the most fun being with all of you at the Annual Banquet! This is our club's biggest fund raiser - there will be a live auction, a silent auction, a guest speaker and the same magician as last year. Loads of fun and I hope to see everyone!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **FEB 9**
 OFF EDITOR - Al Bourisaw
 4731 BRAWLEY CT
 ST LOUIS, MO 63128
 E-MAIL: troutal@att.net



You are cordially invited to attend:

OZARK FLY FISHERS ANNUAL BANQUET
 CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, CLAYTON MO
 SATURDAY, JAN 26, 2008 6 PM - ??

*A great evening of food, fun and fly fishing tales at their best!
 Join us for our premier event and support your club*

Conservation *Bob Temper*

This will be my last article as Director of Conservation, but that is not an end - just a new beginning. I will continue my efforts on the committee and as part of the OFF Stream Team. There are a lot of things happening – pick one and participate. That is how we make a difference.

Stream Team: We have had two recent planning meetings and look forward to several outings this year. We hope to adopt at least one additional stream, do some water quality monitoring and clean stream operations. Watch the calendar for announced activities.

MDC's 2008 Missouri Natural Resources Conference: Scheduled for January 30 – February 1 at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO. For additional information visit <http://www.mnrc.org/agenda/html>

GO FISH: Introduction to Trout Fishing for Kids 8-15 at Tilles Park, Saturday, February 16, 2008, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. OFF will provide the club fly rods and coaches for the participants. Those who participated at the opening event last fall had a good time and were much appreciated. For more information or to volunteer call Bob Temper 314-894-0329 or Malcom Royse (636) 329-1504.

Lobby Day at the state capitol is set for February 26, 2008. OFF will again be a sponsor of the event. Plan to attend to learn more about conservation issues in front of the MO General Assembly and meet with/lobby your legislators on these issues. There has already been another gravel mining bill (HB 1389) introduced into the legislature this session.

Stream Team Water Quality Monitoring Workshop: Montauk, Friday May 30 & Saturday May 31. To register for this free course, contact DNR Water Quality Coordinator, Priscilla Stotts, by e-mail priscilla.stotts@dnr.mo.gov or fax: 573-522-9920 For park lodging call 573-548-2434.

Taking a brief look at last year, here were some of our activities and accomplishments:

1. *pledge \$15,000 to the Cold Water Fund to help purchase (BCA) Bohigian Conservation Area – as of December, contributed \$12,290 toward goal*
2. *help build trout habitat on Mill Creek in the BCA*
3. *helped put on MDC Go Fish & special Trout Programs*
4. *Reinstituted Stream Team # 31*
5. *Participated as sponsor in Conservation Lobby Day at Missouri Legislature*
6. *Maries River Streambank Stabilization Board: OFF representative Terry Finger*
7. *Submitted comments on Conservation topics:HB 628 Sand and Gravel Bill*
 - a. *National Fish Habitat Initiative*
 - b. *Tongas NF*
 - c. *CAFO bills and hearing on site near State Park in Marshall,MO*
 - d. *Presentation to Stream Advocacy Workshop at MDC Natural Resource Conference*
 - e. *Bristol Bay Mining Campaign*
8. *Participated on Conservation Committees/Organizations*
 - a. *2007 Missouri Votes Conservation Environmental (MVC)Summit*
 - b. *DNR Ephemeral & Intermittent Streams Work Group*
 - c. *MO Chapter, American Fisheries Society Streams and Rivers Committee*
 - d. *Conservation Federation of Missouri*

GO FISH program needs volunteers!

Tilles Park, Feb 16, 2008 12:30 – 3:30

OFF will participate in the the 'Go Fish' program to introduce young anglers to fly fishing and the practice of catch & release. The pond will be stocked the day prior to the program to ensure a positive experience. We need a minimum of 10 members to assist.

This is a great new program that has been very successful, due in part to OFF's participation. Come out and help us share our favorite sport with the next generation of anglers!

Contact Malcom Royse: 314-220-6007 cell
636-329-1504 home



Trash or Treasure?

Terry Finger

I probably wouldn't have seen her if it hadn't been for the snow. But there, along the edge of the woods visible from my kitchen table, a red fox skulked along while I ate my lunch. Silhouetted against the white background, she was easy to spot even though she never ventured into the open. Seeing the fox in the middle of the day was a little unusual, but I assumed it was one of the pair that I had observed frequently at dawn or dusk for the last year or so. For a week last summer the sound of their feet had even provided a daily wake-up call at 5:45 a.m. when their morning rounds included a short cut across a corner of the low roof of my earth-contact house.

Every time I saw or heard these foxes, *my* foxes, I felt a little proud that they had selected this land as suitable habitat, land managed for wildlife mostly by letting it return to its wild state. I also couldn't help but think about the red fox pelt that was stored carefully with my fly tying materials. I was glad to have it; red fox fur is wonderful for dubbing, and the underfur on a full pelt provides a variety of colors ranging from dark gray on the back to buff, cream and, if you are lucky, a little Hendrickson pink on the belly.

As much as I like the fur, the thought of shooting or trapping a fox for fly tying material would never cross my mind. I've long thought that they are just too special, but the point was really driven home by the sightings on my own land. No, my pelt came to me by a different path -- the fox was a winter road kill found along a county road. Having the fox's pelt

legally collected and properly processed by a taxidermist and using it to tie flies certainly seems like a nobler act than leaving it to rot in a roadside ditch.

Throughout history the bulk of our fly tying materials have similarly come from discarded or other "waste" materials. As early as 1681, James Chelham, in *The Angler's Vade Mecum*, was encouraging tiers to gather discarded trimmings from furriers and hunters. We've been doing so ever since, either directly or through intermediaries called material suppliers. Except for modern genetic hackle, I cannot think of a natural material that has ever been collected, grown, or harvested primarily for fly tying. The market is just too small. The same can be said for modern manufactured materials. I believe that all of the threads, tinsels, foams, and other bits of synthetic glitter and fluff that have become pervasive in modern tying are primarily produced for textile or other industries. Fly tying just provides a miniscule, albeit profitable, auxiliary market.

Perhaps the best historical example of the serendipitous use of waste material in fly tying is the dubbing commonly called hare's ear fur. The dubbing usually employed is actually a mix of fur from the mask and the base of the ears of the European hare. This large-bodied hare has been used in the fur industry for centuries, but the mask and ears have never had any commercial value. Furriers discard the material and fly tiers have been using these discards since the early 1700's. Hare's ear dubbing is a wonderful combination of soft underfur and spiky guard hair that dubs easily but provides a shaggy, buggy look. Depending on which parts of the mask are used, the dubbing can range from tan to very dark gray. It also mixes well with other furs and synthetics and readily accepts dyes, making it perhaps the most versatile of all the natural dubbing materials.

Hare's ear dubbing has most commonly been used in wet flies and nymphs, including the Hare's Ear wet (see photo), English March Brown wet, and the famous Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph. Under water, the mix of underfur and guard hair traps minute air bubbles and gives the fly's body a life-like translucent appearance. The dubbing mix also creates interesting effects in the surface film.

During the classic period on English chalk streams around 1900, anglers used a Hare's Ear dry fly with no hackle, a thorax of hare's ear dubbing, and a body of either gold-ribbed dubbing, primrose silk, or peacock quill. Adding a hackle actually decreased the fly's effectiveness, especially when trout were just bulging the surface. The spiky dubbing floated the fly and created the appearance of a mayfly struggling to emerge from its nymphal shuck. So much for the idea that flies called emergers are a modern development.

I find tying traditional flies with traditional materials like hare's ear dubbing to be more rewarding than using modern synthetics. I'm also glad to know that nearly all traditional fly tying materials are things that would otherwise go to waste. I'll continue to have a lot of fun researching and exploring the versatility of these materials. I'll also keep an eye out for roadkills, but hope that *my* foxes have enough sense to stay away from the road.

Fly Tying Note: Because of the range of colors found on different parts of the hare's mask, purchasing a mask with ears and mixing your own dubbing provides more versatility than using a packaged dubbing mix. Dyed masks are also available, and even more variety is possible with different ribbing materials. Flat gold tinsel is most commonly used, but other good choices include fine gold wire and silk buttonhole twist. I often use twist in primrose (see photo), orange, and brown. Waxing the silk rib with light or dark cobbler's wax provides even more variety.

Random Thoughts *Ty Livingstone*

Competition – Does It Really Never Exist?

At the risk of irritating some of my “codger” friends (see the December 2007 newsletter) I want to open up the discussion (and some might say, the proverbial “can o’ worms) regarding competition in fly fishing. Fly fishing has always viewed itself above competition. It has been classified as a gentleman’s sport by many and the recent development of outdoor sports television (OLN, VS, the Outdoor Channel, etc.) has spawned some new fly fishing shows that feature...you guessed

it...COMPETITION! Is this bad for the sport? You decide. I personally have no problem with it.

Which takes me to the category of these young guys in the sport – they are a new breed...driven by a love of the sport that borders on obsession – just check out all of the new videos (trout bums, etc...). Some of my “codger” buddies (said with the utmost of affection) don’t like these guys...they think they have attitude...hell, I wish I was their age all over again. It looks like fun to me. I think they are good for the sport and actually stand a chance of drawing more young folks into the sport (we say that is important...do we mean it?).

Which brings me to the concept of a “One Fly” competition...is this competition or something very different? One of the OFF members recently hosted a One Fly at the Bennett Springs Catch & Release Outing. I could not get my lazy butt out of bed that morning and dropped by the sign-up rather late (shame on me). I thought there might be a crowd, but unfortunately, nobody (or at least hardly anybody) showed up and the whole thing turned out to be a bust. Why? Who knows, but I heard some rumblings that it was because of the fact that the event was a competition. Competition? Gimme a break! It was a damn fundraiser. The reason I didn’t make it was because I am a slacker and I overslept. Shame on me and I hope the host can forgive me for that. Where did this whole one fly thing come from?

Which brings me to that...founded in 1986, The Jackson Hole One Fly Event is a celebration of fly fishing dedicated to the betterment of trout and trout habitat. Their Mission Statement is *“To generate, manage and grant funding for projects which environmentally benefit the future of trout and fly fishing by annually sponsoring a three-day event uniting enthusiastic fly-fishers from around the world with premier regional guides who all endeavor to celebrate the joy and spirit of the sport during the fishing, social and fundraising activities of the event, and who throughout the year, promote that same joy and spirit of fly-fishing and the future of trout.”* The proceeds from this event funds The Jackson Hole One Fly Capital Foundation

(JHOFCE) - the non-profit organization that manages and leverages the funds raised from the One Fly Event to invest in trout stream habitat improvement projects. It seems to me to be a good thing.

Which brings me to my big point...if you ever come back to Trout Camp talking about how many fish you caught or how big they were, you have just entered into the "competition" arena. Oh, it might not be competition in the purest sense, but you really are keeping score. It really is not that big of a deal...it is all good. Be careful whom you judge and how you judge them. Stay humble...keep your mind open...just a few resolutions for a New Year. Things change...you can too...you think about that.

When the beginner can cast his fly into his hat, eight times out of ten, at forty feet, he is a fly fisher; and so far as casting is concerned, a good one.

James A Henshall, MD, 1881

Ozark Fly Fishers Tying at Bass Pro *Al Bourisaw*

Look for Ozark Fly Fishers at the Bass Pro Shop in Saint Charles on February 23rd - 24th and again on March 8th - 16th. Club members will be tying flies in the Fly Fishing section of the store. Also, look for Ozark Fly Fishers at the Bass Pro Shop on March 1st and 5th as the club will present seminars on fly fishing. Care to participate? Contact:

Al Bourisaw (314-952-9865),
Malcolm Royse (314-220-6007)
Bob Zagar (314-486-7620)

Programs *Mike Krueger*

Well members, the New Year is upon us. I hope every one had a safe and happy holiday season. We had some great programs in the past year and I anticipate more great presenters in the year to come.

As you all know our annual banquet is January 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton. We want to make this the best banquet *OFF* has ever had. All of you who have not made your reservation need to do so as soon as possible. Again we will have a live auction as well as the traditional silent auction. I know the Ways and Means Committee has great items for this year, some are listed below. You do not want to miss this event. Be sure to check this newsletter for your reservation form.

I want to thank all the presenters for the past year for their help in making our meetings such a great success. They take time from their busy schedule to put together a slide show and make a trip to St. Louis. We do appreciate your attendance and input! You may not know it, but we have been averaging over 80 members at each and every meeting. I don't know of a fishing club who can claim that type of attendance. Let's keep it up in the New Year.

As some of you know our presenter for the all day meeting on February 23 will be Bob Clouser. He will be tying the famous Clouser minnow and the Clouser #2. Bob will also impart some of his knowledge of casting to our group. This is an event you do not want to miss. As a side note, the meeting will not be held at the Rec Plex, but instead at the Museum of the Dog. For those of you who are not familiar with the Museum of the Dog, it is located on Mason Rd just west of 270 off of Manchester. When you get to the Shell station on the right be prepared to turn right. If you are coming from the now 'famous' HWY 40 when you get to Mason Rd exit get off and turn left.

At the March 27 meeting the speakers will be Terry and Roxanne Wilson. They will be giving a great program on Fly Fishing Warm Waters for blue gill and small mouth bass. I saw their program at the 'Lets Go Fishing' show. For those of us who fish warm water, this will be a program you won't want to miss.

This has been my first year as VP, basically in charge of arranging the speakers for the meeting. I want to thank the board members for their input and advice. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members for their years of dedication and devotion to Ozark Fly Fishers.

Featured Live Auction Items:

Wyoming Fly Fishing Trip - North Fork Anglers
Taneycomo Fly Fishing Trip -
Limited Production Neon Sign
Split Bamboo rod - 4 wt blank to be custom
built by Steve Antonic
~ many other great items ~

Featured Silent Auction Items:

Flat Tube
Pontoon Boat
Tailgate Table
Artwork
~ many other great items~

Streamside *Tim Wade*
North Fork Anglers, Cody Wy

January is one of the coldest months of the year. Staying cooped up inside the house because the weather is just too nasty to do much but ski, snowmobile or ice fish, can make one a bit testy. If the listed outdoor activities aren't what you want to do when outdoors, then one has to entertain one's self indoors.

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

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

There are several flies that one must keep in a fly box or fly boxes at all times. These flies will catch everything from panfish to salmon and can be tied by a beginner or pro with the same results on the water. Those flies would be: parachute Adams, elk hair caddis or stimulator, and a bullet headed hopper pattern with legs, like the madam X, for dry flies.

Nymphs would be the gold-ribbed hare's ear, pheasant tail, scud or sowbug, egg pattern, prince nymph (or my North Fork Special), a girdle bug variety and copper John. Streamers would be woolly buggers, zonkers and double bunnies.

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

As well, it gives me opportunity to let beginners know that by changing the color of dubbing on a parachute Adams (or hare's ear nymphs) from muskrat gray to medium olive, cream, or whatever color dubbing you want, makes it easy to match the hatch above or below the surface without learning 10 new mayfly patterns!

Whatever your skill level, spend time at the tying bench when cold weather has your guides iced up. Go through your tying books and materials and lay out what you need to be productive. Set a schedule for at least a dozen at a time. Before you know it, your time indoors is not hard to take at all. Plus, your fly boxes should be well on their way to being stuffed to the "gills" (pun intended).



Fly of the Month: *Bob Zagar* **Stonefly 4 All Seasons**

This month we have another fly from our archives. The pattern was originally provided by Tom Hargrove and published in our newsletter in 1987. Tom has updated the material list for this article.

Bill Armon wrote in 1987 "In keeping this column seasonal, I have asked local tier Tom Hargrove to provide us with one of his favorite winter patterns. With a number of material combinations, Tom has given us a Stonefly for all seasons."

The following is the original article as published in 1987. I have added Tom's material revisions in brackets. [Updated materials]

"One of the most effective flies during the cold months of the year is the stonefly. There are many imitations that can be used, with many variations on each. I like to fish a big, black #6 into a hole with a sink tip line late in the season. You may not get many strikes since the fish are sometimes a little sluggish, but if you keep your fly on the bottom with lead, you might be rewarded with a real monster!

Hook: Mustad 38941, 9672, 79580 or partridge D4A, H1A, Size 2-12

[Dai-riki #700 or #700B and the TMC200R]

Tail: Black Goose Biot Fibers, stripped quill stems or black or white rubber.

[Can also use Flexi Floss]

Body: Under body of wool for bulk with an overbody of either more wool, Larva Lace, Swannundaze or Chenille.

[Tom has been using vinyl ribbing as a sub for Larva Lace. Tom says *Maxima chameleon* works too]

Wing Case: Turkey Tail, Ringneck tail fibers, Swiss straw, Black Goose.

Hackle: Black Brown/furnace saddle

Thorax: Brown marabou, dubbed, yellow or orange chenille

Antennae: Same as tail

Thread: Black or Brown 6/0

Weight: Lead 2/3 of hook shank under thorax, or tied on sides flat body

To start with, weight the hook and tie in the tail so they fork out. I like to tie in Larva Lace at this point and build up a smooth underbody with the wool to the half way point. Now wrap your body material to the point and tie off. Tie in the wing case material and hackle by the tip so when wrapped the fibers point toward the rear. Dub some marabou on the tread and wrap to head. Make 3 ½ turns of the hackle and tie off. Pull the wing case over and tie down. Then tie in antenna and whip finish and cement. I like to have the tail and antenna to be half the shank length or less. One trick to this fly is to put a 45 degree bend just forward of the mid third of the hook. This makes the fly bent over, and that is just how the naturals look when dislodged. Try them both ways on our favorite spot when nothing else is doing the trick! T. H. '

Fly Tying Tip *Al Bourisaw*

To prevent Krystal Flash or Flashabou from becoming a tangled mess when being used, simply leave the material in the poly bag it comes in and cut a notch in each upper corner. When tying with these materials, use a dubbing needle to pull as many strands as you need and clip them off at the notch in the bag.

Membership Renewal for 2008— Final Reminder Dave Haas

If you have not yet renewed your Ozark Fly Fishers membership for 2008 you have missed the timely renewal period, and you will have to renew at the late renewal rate at an increased cost for individual, senior, and family memberships. The good news is that you can still renew in time to have your name included

in the 2008 Ozark Membership Directory, and you will not miss any issues of the *OFF* newsletter, if we receive your renewal form and check on or before January 31. Memberships not renewed by January 31 will be terminated.

Please remember the 2008 change for newsletter delivery. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter through the U. S. 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.

Don't miss any of the outstanding programs, speakers, or events planned for 2008. Be a part of the efforts of Ozark Fly Fishers on behalf of the conservation of our fisheries resources. Take advantage of our educational classes. If you haven't already renewed, do it NOW! Fill out the membership application attached to this newsletter and mail it in with your check a.s.a.p.!

Education Classes 2008

Al Bourisaw

Ozark Fly Fishers will again offer a series of classes for those interested in learning more about the sport of fly-fishing. Classes will be offered in conjunction with the Saint Louis County Parks and Recreation program "Gone Fishin."

This is a great way for members to polish their fishing skills before and during the new season. All classes are taught Queeny Park starting at 7:30 PM. Call Saint Louis County Parks Department or check the SLCPD web site for more information. February thru May classes are:

February 11th-March 3rd – Intermediate Fly Tying
March 6th – Fly Fishing Techniques
March 17th – Reading the Water
March 19th – Fly Fishing Dry Flies
March 26th – Nymphs and Wet Flies
April 7-28th – Introduction to Fly Fishing
April 9th – Float Tubes/Pontoons
April 24th – Fish WindRush Farms
May 5-19th – Intermediate Casting
May 17-24th – Youth Fly Fishing

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 acknowledgement to the following donors:

Support level:

Russell S. Hill Jr.

Bronze level (+\$100):

Martin F. King

Peter G King

Mark S. Garner

Robert A. Strathman

A Member

Silver level (+\$250):

Joseph A. Aimonette

Gold level (+\$500):

Platinum level (+\$1,000):

Current Member contributions:

\$6,145.00

Ozark Fly Fishers contributions:

\$6,145.00

Remaining Pledge to be made

\$2,710.00

Membership *Kevin Miquelon*

Act Now! Shirt Embroidery Update

The Ozark Fly Fishers logo embroidery can be applied any shirt you own. Bring the shirt you want embroidered to the February 23rd 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 March 2008 meeting. *Cost for embroidery 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!*

The Emerger *Wallis W Warren*

Winter is upon us for sure. I've just turned up the thermostat to take off the morning chill and as I get ready to start my morning chores chipping ice from stock tanks (darn heaters quit working again!) and bucking hay bales (did you know hay gets heavier when its cold outside? At least it seems as though that's true!), my mind runs through the day's activities. The newsletter has to get to the printer today, there are some final revisions that still need to be done and one last article to track down.

I think of the many deadlines that have been met, and realize how much a part of my life *OFF* has become, the opportunities it has opened to me. These past several years as editor have proven to be the challenge and learning experience I anticipated. When I was asked by a Board member to help the club, I knew I needed to do more and so I agreed to accept the position of Newsletter Editor. Of course this was intimidating ~ not only because Drew Spanogle had held the position for so many years (tough act to follow, so I didn't even try!), but because I certainly did not feel qualified. I did, however, want to learn and become more involved. That has proven to be the case!

I have enjoyed my role as Editor (which became Communications Director) for many reasons. Certainly it has helped me become more involved, stay informed of what the club has been doing and plans to do (and actually have some input in that regard), gain some modicum of knowledge of our sport, develop a deeper respect for and friendship with many members, and manage to miss at least one night's sleep a month trying to meet the deadline (well, I never actually improved in that regard!).

I have always felt strongly that the newsletter serves as a portrait of our club - this is our newsletter and the focus should be on our member's efforts and opinions. I have received material from outside sources, and when I felt them to be appropriate, have included them, but the priority for me is our club. The newsletter is a venue for our members to express themselves, whether it is sharing

information about a day on a stream or a trip of a lifetime, favorite fly patterns or a viewpoint on a particular subject or conservation issue. We have a wealth of talent and a wide variety of backgrounds that come together to share their love for this sport and to share their enthusiasm through education, protecting our resources through conservation and the practice of catch and release.

The newsletter also allows members to stay informed of the many activities central to *OFF*. In addition to the President's report, I felt it important to have Conservation, Education and Programs highlighted on a monthly basis. I recognize that many of our members do not live in the St Louis area, or have schedules that do not allow them to attend meetings, but are still an integral part of our club. This is their connection to what we are doing and why they belong. As the website is restructured, it has been my goal to see that it becomes the pivotal source of information for all members as well as those members of the public that would like to learn more about this dynamic organization, and hopefully make the commitment to join *OFF*, the finest fly fishing club in the region.

As this is my last newsletter, I want to thank everyone that has shown their support and expressed their appreciation for my efforts. Of course, this newsletter is nothing without the outstanding contributions from our members. I don't want to sound biased here, I do receive newsletters from many different clubs, and I think ours is unsurpassed in the quality of articles the members submit, the projects and programs we produce and the standard of excellence our education programs and conservation efforts have set for the sporting and conservation community.

I am very proud to be a member of this club, and look forward to continuing to work for you, serving as the Conservation Director. I would not have considered leaving my role as Communications Director, had not the club again set before me the challenge to move beyond my comfort zone and accept this important responsibility. One of the best lessons I've learned is that it is good to wade into unknown waters, exploring depths unfamiliar ~ the results far exceed the effort, and every once in a while, you land a reel story!!!

OZARK FLY FISHERS ALL DAY PROGRAM: BOB CLOUSER FEB 23rd MUSEUM of the DOG


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

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. He was awarded the 1995 Conservation Award of The Year presented by the Susquehanna Smallmouth Alliance, and in 1997 the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Conservation Award presented by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Bob will tie the Clouser Minnow- Half and Half- Clouser Crayfish - Foxee Redd Minnow and a few others using techniques that can be applied to others tying needs.

Bob his wife Joan, operate Clouser's Fly Shop and a clouserflyfishing.com website / mail order business at 101 Ulrich St. Middletown, Pa. 17057. Products can be ordered from Bob's website, where information on his schools and trips is also available.

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OZARK FLY FISHERS PROGRAM CALENDAR

JANUARY 26	ANNUAL OFF BANQUET Crowne Plaza Hotel, Clayton
FEBRUARY 23	ALL DAY MEETING: Bob Clouser
MARCH 22	CHILI COOK- OFF & FLY TYING SESSION
MARCH 27	FLY FISH WARM WATER - Terry & Roxanne Wilson

