

Ozark Fly Fishers

Member Newsletter

JULY 2023



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As I write this its 96 degrees outside with not much relief in site. Not my kind of fishing weather. Joe Aimonette has been wanting to go warm water fishing, but I'm just not up to it even in early morning. I will be going to Taneycomo on July 27 -29 for the MTFA's expo. If you have never been, it is a gathering of tyers that meet and tie their favorite patterns. (Very similar to the Sowbug Round Up in Mt. Home AR in March). While there, I hope to fish Taney

for a day or two. The club's Taney outing will be held in October 13-15. See information and details about this event elsewhere in this newsletter.

We want to welcome all new members that have joined since the first of the year. Please make a point to introduce yourself at the next meeting you attend. We are looking forward to meeting you and finding out your interest in fly fishing. The way for us to meet the memberships interest is to know what they are. People join a club for a number of reasons, whether it be to be a better fly fisher, improve their casting, where to fish at, fly tying or someone to fish with. Please let me know what you are looking for.

Planning is in the works for getting the monthly fly tying sessions (FTOTLT) back in September. These meetings will probably be on Zoom with a personal gathering during the winter. Hope to be doing basic to medium level patterns for fishing our local waters. Tying tips and Q / A sessions will be a part of the program.

If you have any questions or comments about the club, please give me a call. 314-401-8874

Stay cool and healthy.

Steve Antonic sjantonic@charter.net

Upcoming Events

July

Stream Team Outing

July 14 -16

Montauk State Park

Dent Countv. MO

Member Meeting

July 25 - 6:30PM

Speaker: Cara Arrigo

Powder Valley Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

August

Member Meeting

Speaker: Darren Sadler

Powder Valley Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

September

Member Meeting

Speaker: Marty Koch

Powder Valley Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

Reminder

Keep an eye out on upcoming newsletters and the OFF calendar and website about future events. To keep up with OFF, you can follow our social media accounts listed below.

 www.ozarkflyfishers.org
 Instagram: [@ozark_fly_fishers](https://www.instagram.com/ozark_fly_fishers)
 Twitter: [@ozarkflyfishers](https://twitter.com/ozarkflyfishers)
 Facebook: [@ozarkflyfishers](https://www.facebook.com/ozarkflyfishers)
 OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com

© Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc. 2023

Questions or submissions for the Newsletter?

eMail the Editor at

OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com

One key benefit of an OFF Membership is the ability to contribute to our monthly newsletter. We encourage all types of submissions, including pictures, fly recipes, fishing reports, stories and tall tales.

ED HEIST AND HIS PEDAL KAYAK

I haven't fished for trout in months. I've mainly been flyfishing for smallmouth. I did a 5-day canoe float on the Buffalo and day trips on the Meramec, Big Piney and Crooked Creek (Arkansas). It's difficult to position a canoe and then cast a fly rod before the wind and current move you out of position so I bought a pedal kayak that lets me move forward and back with my feet and steer with one hand. So far, I've only had it out on my pond and a local public lake, but I landed a 21" largemouth on the lake, so I guess it works. Can't wait to take it out on Ozark rivers this fall. I'll probably bring it to Taney.

In 2 weeks I'm headed to the Catskills to fish some storied streams. It's the wrong time of the year for Quill Gordons on the Neversink, but I'm still going to try.

Ed Heist

JOHN STEUTERMAN'S COLORADO ADVENTURES

I am at the start of my own 'excellent fishing trip to Colorado' that will continue till mid July. My excuse is to continue to apply the information, OFF tying lessons, OFF casting help, and any book I can find about fly fishing. I bought a fishing license and a map of the Yampa river and set off to find trout.

Yesterday was day 1:

Eventually caught two cutthroat trout after spending time researching riffles up and down a stretch of the Yampa river. The river is high and very fast, so all the local suggestions are to do bank fishing. I felt that the nymph fishing strategy would be my best option after discussing the adventure with Dan Rasch.....so, I retied my bead head #16 pheasant tail nymphs flies as many of them were my first attempts and hardly representative of any nymph. I added CDC and partied feathers to this fly.....seems to help attract the trout.....

What I learned should not surprise you, or any of the more seasoned OFF members.

1. Make sure you can tie your knots. I have adopted the Turl knot that you had spoken of in the past Zoom meetings. What I discovered is that tying any knot in your family room is not even close to tying the same knot in the wilds of Colorado. However, patience is a virtue. After losing 4 of my flies due to dropping the fly in the weeds, leaving one in the bushes, I was able to keep the fly on the euro tippet/leader and worked on a casting technique that would allow me to fish close to the bank using the euro nymph line.
2. Euro nymphing is a challenge as I discovered that I was stuck with a short 'reach mend' or the side arm cast. No matter, after a lot of casts, the fish found my flies!!!
3. Even using a long handled net, bank fishing and retrieving you trout can be a challenge as going into the river could prove very problematic due to the speed of the river at this time of the year. I did check the USGS info on the yampa prior to starting, so I was prepared for the height, temperature, and speed of the water.

Today is Day 2. Cutting down on all my 'stuff' as a lot of stuff is tough to pack around the Wild. Will continue with the euro nymph plan today and then switch to a traditional fly fishing plan in the next few days....we shall see.....

I can send my experiences on my excellent adventure as the week passes.....

I will say this, my success, such as it has been to date, have come from the interest, explanations, and suggestions of OFF members, congratulations to our club.....

John G. Steuterman, Jr.

A GUIDE TO TYING BETTER FLIES

A Guide To Tying Better Flies

I printed an article from www.thecatchandthehatch.com way back in 2018 that I still keep on my bench today. Because it's 7 pages long, I am just condensing it down to a summary of all the things I tell new tyers... or when I am coaching an old tyer to get better. I hope it helps you in your fly tying too.

1) Invest in a good vise and tools – a craftsman cannot do quality work without quality tools. You don't need to spend a fortune to get started, but cheap tools will lead to a much longer learning curve and frustration. I don't recommend fly tying kits – they are too generic and often contain a lot of stuff you'll never use and not the stuff you really need.

2) Use proper proportions – IFFF has great tutorials and tyer's guides in their Bronze Medal instructions. Some tyers make templates to help keep tails, wings, thoraxes, etc. the right sizes. One easier way is to use another hook as a guide for eye-length, shank length, and hook gap. Bugs are not as big as you think – whenever possible, do less, count your thread wraps, avoid bulk, and keep it smooth.

3) Use proper materials – There's a reason they call it a recipe. You cannot tie quality flies without quality materials, and certain flies look and fish the way they do because they were designed with the end product in mind. This includes using the right hook for the patterns. Also, be picky when buying materials. Open the package and check it out. Not all materials are created equally.

4) Understand what you are trying to imitate – Know what the bug is supposed to look like, move like, and behave in the water. Does it float high on the water, flush in the surface, or skitter around on the surface. Does it swim freely in the water, or tumble along the bottom, or cling to rocks. Do you want your streamers to dip and dive or swim straight.

5) Practice makes perfect – more accurately – perfect practice makes perfect. Tie in dozens. Repetition with the pattern and materials will help you build muscle memory and skills.

6) Lay out your materials – get out only what you plan to use. Avoid clutter on your tying station and stay organized. Searching for the proper materials or tools over and over will not only slow you down, but will become a distraction.

7) Strive for perfection – If the tail isn't right, it's pointless to proceed with the fly until it is. It's ok to start over or go back a few steps to make sure it is right before you go on. Slow down and make sure you are doing quality work the first time. Put your flies side-by-side and check for consistency.

8) CUT AWAY! – The hooks are the most expensive part of your flies (and beads if you are using them). Don't be afraid to reject inferior flies. If you don't like it in the vise, don't put it in your box. You'll wind up carrying it around and never tying it on to fish it. One of the most important tools on your bench is an Exact-O knife to cut flies apart and recycle your hooks and beads.

Mike Ott - Director Fly Tying

MIKE SWEDERSKA AND FTOTL

Hello everyone. There hasn't been very much activity on this group in a while and so I thought I'd ask everybody what you guys have been up to. Have you been fishing? Have you been tying? Have you been reading any fly, tying, or fly fishing books that you might want to recommend? Have you listen to any podcast lately that you would like to recommend for fly fishing? Or a YouTube channel that you really like on fly fishing or fly tying that you would like to share? I for one done nothing but run the chainsaw since the storm came through last Friday And I have worked in Webster Groves Lions carnival selling beer. Terry Hildebrandt was kind enough to jump in and help and I know we raise some money in the tip jar for the real recovery program. I've still got about another 15 trees to cut up, but at my age I just chew at them a little at a time early in the morning so I don't get overheated. Fishing's been good bass are really active. The bluegill are back on their beds again yay. Even through what they're calling a drought, the lakes look really really good. So post up any of your thoughts are what you've been up too. I and the others would like to hear from you

--

Mike Swederska Sr
Fly Tier Of The Long Table

OZARK FLY FISHERS 13TH ANNUAL STREAM TEAM OUTING

PROMOTING THE MISSOURI STREAM TEAM PROGRAM - (THE YEAR OF THE MAYFLY)

EDUCATION * STEWARDSHIP * ADVOCACY

"WHERE SCIENCE AND SPORT COME TOGETHER"

July 14-16, 2023 Montauk State Park

Once again Ozark Fly Fishers (OFF) will host an outing dedicated to promoting the Missouri Stream Team program. Stream Team staff members from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be on hand to assist.

Note that this outing is based at the Searcy Building located across from the Montauk Lodge and connected to the Park Office. This facility is air conditioned and has restroom facilities.

On Friday evening at 5:30 pm, we will start our outing with a Potluck Dinner - (please bring a dish). Nibbling will continue throughout the evening.

Our first Friday evening program presenter this year will be Brian Canaday with the MDC. In years past Brian oversaw Missouri state fisheries. Today he is the Statewide Resource Management Branch Chief. This long title allows him to oversee Missouri's fisheries, forestry, wildlife and natural resources planning. He will present on Missouri State Record Fish.

Following, we welcome Dr. Rachel Heth of the DNR Water Protection Program. Dr. Heth is versed in the field of aquatic biology and will present a natural history on the order Ephemeroptera (Mayflies), this year's macroinvertebrate theme. She is a foremost authority on the aquatic entomology of the upper Current River watershed. Anglers and Stream Team enthusiasts alike will find interest in her program.

On Saturday we will start the day by demonstrating Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring procedure. Learn first-hand what the biology of a stream can tell about its health. Anglers will see in person what fish feed upon. This will be a "hands on" demonstration for participants. If you have never studied the biology of a stream, your eyes will be opened at what you have been missing. Joining Dr. Heth at our net set sampling sites will be other staff members from the MDC and the DNR. Brian Waldrop MDC Stream Team Volunteer Engagement Specialist (St. Louis and Southeast Regions) will assist, as well as Sarah Wright DNR MS4 and Land Disturbance Permitting Coordinator. Brian has presented numerous times at this annual outing and will do so again this year. We will also have fellow OFF member Dr. Barry Poulton helping with the net sets. Barry is a recently retired United States Geological Survey (USGS) aquatic entomologist. His forte is the order Plecoptera (Stoneflies). If you have an interest in stoneflies, he will be more than happy to discuss this subject. Barry was a past presenter at our Stream Team outings.

If anyone is interested in improving their fly-casting skills, long time OFF member Bob Heine will provide Fly-Casting Instruction. Newcomers to fly-fishing will benefit from his instruction. Casting instruction will be held on the grassy area across from the Searcy Building. Two casting sessions are planned for the day. One in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Later in the day, Scott Darrough will demonstrate on-stream an angling technique that he refers to as "Hobo Fly Fishing". This is a very simplistic and relaxing way to fish, and a great way to introduce anyone to fly fishing. Those interested in attending will be invited to fish along with him, as hobo rods will be available for use. Upon conclusion of this presentation, participants wishing to take their hobo outfit will be welcome to do so.

At noon the OFF will be providing a Barbecue Lunch. Grill Master Al Sims has once more agreed to cook for us. He is a veteran from many of our past outings. Thank you, Al!

On Saturday evening, Montauk State Park Naturalist Kristi Nelson will present "Creepy Crayfish" a natural history of the Crayfish. If you are unfamiliar with these fascinating creatures, you will find her presentation very interesting.

Brian Waldrop returns this year to provide a unique perspective on Streambanks. We will look at how our state's streambanks have changed historically from presettlement to current day. What we may think of today as "environmentally natural" may surprise you. This discussion promises to provide a fresh and insightful view of our riparian corridors.

Fly-Tying Sessions are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evening. Consider tying, demonstrating and sharing a fly pattern that you have personally developed and fished over the years. If you are a fly tier, please bring your fly-tying tools and materials with you. If you are unfamiliar with fly tying but would like to give it a try, please come and enjoy this session. Note: Fly tying tools and materials will be provided by the OFF. Do not miss out on this opportunity to learn this aspect of fly fishing. OFF members will be on hand to aid with instruction. Do not be intimidated. You will be tying amongst friends.

As usual, on this Saturday evening, we will have our Ice Cream Social.

Don't forget about our Stream Bank Cleanup on Sunday morning in the park. Our participation with this cleanup continues to grow from year to year. OFF wants to demonstrate and promote all aspects of the Missouri Stream Team program of which stream cleanups are a major part.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend this outing, OFF member or not, trained or otherwise. Feel free to bring others and don't forget the kids as they will dictate the future of conservation!

WHAT TO BRING:

1. If you plan to attend the Friday evening potluck dinner, please bring a finger food item.
2. If you plan to participate with stream monitoring, bring appropriate footwear. Waders are not essential in the month of July. A pair of old shoes will suffice. Sandals and beach thongs are not recommended.
3. If you should wish to take a chance on our raffle bring some "folding money"
4. All Stream Teams attending are encouraged to bring their banners for display at the Searcy Building, if they have one. Be proud of your team and promote it!

ACCOMMODATIONS: If you have not done so, consider making your accommodations, whether reserving a motel room, cabin or camp site. The five rooms reserved at Montauk Lodge for OFF members have been filled. Additional rooms may be available. Each room has two double beds. For Montauk Lodge reservations: 573-548-2434. A list of other accommodations may be obtained from Scott Darrough (see NOTIFICATION).

NOTIFICATION: IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND or have any questions about the outing, please contact Scott Darrough at 314-560-1335 or swdarrough@yahoo.com It is important that we have a head count so that adequate preparations can be made for lunch and the ice cream social.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY at the Searcy Building

5:00 pm Searcy Building Arrival / Social Time

5:30 pm Finger Food Potluck Dinner / Social Time - (Please bring a dish) nibbling continues throughout the evening.

6:30 pm Introduction to the Ozark Fly Fishers 13th Annual Stream Team Outing

7:00 pm Missouri State Record Fish: Presentation by Brian Canaday - MDC

8:15 pm Mayflies - A Natural History: Presentation by Dr. Rachel Heth - DNR

9:15 pm Fly Tying Session

SATURDAY at the Searcy Building

8:30 am Arrival / Social Time.

9:00 am Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring - Biologic (macroinvertebrate organism) collections - for those who are participating depart for the parking area near the Highway 119 Bridge (this is in the park a short distance from the Searcy Building). In attendance to aid and instruct - Dr. Rachel Heth (DNR), Brian Waldrop (MDC), Sarah Wright (DNR), Dr. Barry Poulton (Retired USGS)

10:45 am Monitoring concludes.

11:00 am Fly Casting Instruction - Session 1 - Next to the lodge in front of the rearing pools - Bob Heine (OFF)

12:00 pm Barbecue Lunch - Provided by the (OFF) - Al Sims (Grill Master)

1:00 pm Raffles - Attendance (free) and pay raffles.

2:00 pm Free Time - You are on your own - fish, fly casting instruction, take a nap, etc....

2:00 pm Fly Casting Instruction Session 2 Next to the lodge in front of rearing pools - Bob Heine (OFF).

3:00 pm Fly casting instruction concludes.

3:00 pm Hobo Fly Fishing - On stream demonstration - meet at the Searcy Building - stream site location to be determined - instruction by Scott Darrough (OFF).

7:00 pm "Creepy Crayfish" - Presentation by Kristie Nelson (Montauk State Park Naturalist)

8:00 pm Presentation with Kristie Nelson concludes.

8:00 pm Ice Cream Social

8:15 pm Streambanks - Presentation by Brian Waldrop (MDC).

8:30 pm Montauk fishing whistle sounds concluding the day's fishing within the park - evening activities continue at the Searcy Building.

9:15 pm Fly Tying Session

SUNDAY at the Searcy Building

8:00 am Montauk State Park Stream Bank Cleanup - This cleanup should not exceed two hours - in years past this cleanup has become a highly visible promotion of another aspect of the Missouri Stream Team program - those who participate will receive a Stream Team T-shirt to wear during the cleanup - gloves, trash bags and bottled water will be provided - consider lending a hand - stewardship can influence others in their care for our streams - that is what this outing is all about! - meet at the Searcy Building - on stream site(s) to be determined.

Taneycomo Outing – Lilleys Landing Resort

October 13-16, 2023

This has always been a popular outing. Fish out of a jon boat, reserve a guided trip in a drift boat, or wade if the water conditions allow. Big Brown Trout move towards the dam this time of year. There are plenty of activities around Brason for families if the weather does not cooperate.

Rooms are available Thursday, Friday and Saturday night (must pay for all 3 nights). Rate range from \$260 to \$390 depending on occupancy.

Contact Ed Heist (618) 201-7195 or edheist@siu.edu to reserve a room.

Make checks payable to “Ozark Flyfishers” and send to:

PO Box 31473
St Louis, MO 63131-9998

Deadline for reservations is August 10.

Communications

Ozark Fly Fishers Member Newsletter

Do you enjoy writing as much as fishing? Have you recently read a good fly-fishing book or had a fun trip you wish to recap? The Ozark Fly Fishers Member Newsletter is always looking for new content from our members.

Articles up to 1,000 words can be submitted to: OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com.

In addition to member content, the Member Newsletter acts as members' primary source of information about upcoming events and speakers, future outings, and other important dates and updates from the Board of Directors. It is delivered each month either through email or snail mail. Many members collaborate each month to put the newsletter together, and we hope you enjoy.

Social Media

A great way to stay up to date (and not have to wait for the monthly newsletter) is to follow Ozark Fly Fishers on our social media channels. In addition to getting updates from the club, it gives you the chance to interact with other members and to share your stories, photos, and videos. Be sure to like and subscribe to the various links below. **WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.** Sharing your photos and videos is a great way to show off your latest huge catch and to promote the club. Send photos/videos to OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com. If you have any questions about social media or even want to create your own account to interact with OFF, please reach out to Dan Rasch who is happy to help.

Follow OFF on Twitter for discussions.



www.twitter.com/ozarkflyfishers
[@ozarkflyfishers](https://twitter.com/ozarkflyfishers)

Follow OFF on Instagram for photos.



www.instagram.com/ozark_fly_fishers
[@ozark_fly_fishers](https://www.instagram.com/ozark_fly_fishers)

Like/Follow OFF on Facebook.



www.facebook.com/ozarkflyfishers
[@ozarkflyfishers](https://www.facebook.com/ozarkflyfishers)

Subscribe to OFF on YouTube for videos



www.youtube.com/ozarkflyfishers

Ozark Fly Fishers Website

The Ozark Fly Fishers website will provide you with all the information you'll need about the club, its members, its events, and its sponsors. The website holds an archive of past monthly newsletters, flies of the month, and photos of past OFF Events. The OFF Website also hosts the Club Calendar, which provides the dates and times of all club events, as well as some events hosted by third parties.

Our website can be found at: <http://www.OzarkFlyFishers.org> or use your smartphone to scan the QR code to the right.



Groups.IO

Ozark Fly Fishers has now joined Groups IO. To join in the discussion, all you have to do is go to <https://groups.io/> or google search for "Groups IO".

Register on the site by putting in your email and creating a password. (Write it down, save it, and keep it simple. If you lose it or forget it nobody can find it or get it for you.) They will send you an email to your address where you can verify your account. That's all you have to do to become a member of Groups IO. Once you have registered, search for "Ozark Fly Fishers" and ask to join the group. It will send an invitation. It is that easy. We also have a subgroup in the Groups IO of Ozark Fly Fishers for the tiers in the club. Once you're a member of the Ozark Fly Fishers main group you can then join the Fly Tiers of the Long Table sub group. You **have** to be a member of the Ozark Fly Fishers **main** group to join the sub group. It's just a matter of asking to join as you did with the main group. Having problems, contact Mike Swederska at: Shur-way@sbcglobal.net



Ozark Fly Fishers Board of Directors

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Directors</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
<i>President:</i> Steve Antonic	<i>Communications:</i> Dan Rasch	<i>Casting:</i> Brian Ellis
<i>Vice President:</i> Paul Jackson	<i>Conservation:</i> Scott Darrough	<i>Fly Tying:</i> Mike Ott
<i>Treasurer:</i> Steve Lekich	<i>Education:</i> Jim Gera	<i>Stream Team Coordinator:</i> Scott Darrough
<i>Secretary:</i> Susan Krupa	<i>Membership:</i> Alex Scott	<i>Video Library:</i> Dan Staggenborg
<i>Past President:</i> Dan Rasch	<i>Outings:</i> Richard Bable	<i>Webmaster:</i> Jake Voss
	<i>Ways & Means:</i> Chris Friesen	<i>Group IO Moderator:</i> Mike Swederska

Stream Team 31

Coordinator / Current River	Scott Darrough
<i>Blue Springs Creek</i>	Glen Bish
<i>Mill Creek</i>	Bill Leslie

Reminders:

Monthly Member Meeting

Ozark Fly Fishers typically meet at 6:30 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood, MO (unless noted differently. See OFF Calendar at our website, www.ozarkflyfishers.org).

OFF Student Membership

Ozark Fly Fishers is proud to announce our new Student Membership Program. Students will be able to join OFF for a discounted rate of only \$10 per year. Be sure to pass word along to any young anglers you believe would benefit from membership.

Ozark Fly Fishers Objectives

Founded 1971

To promote fly-fishing as the most sportsmanlike and enjoyable way of fishing and the method most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our game fish.

To practice conservation of natural resources and to support efforts for environmental quality and pollution control.

To provide advice, education, and assistance to promote the art of fly fishing.
To demonstrate applied techniques in fly-fishing, tying, casting and related subjects

Affiliate Club of Fly Fishers International.



Please Support Our Corporate Sponsors

Shur-Way
Since 1978
314-645-9340
AUTO BODY

The First—The Original
to bring environmentally
friendly water-based collision
repair paint to St. Louis.

Go Green!

**SHUR-WAY
AUTO BODY**
3540 Greenwood
Maplewood
314.645.5540

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
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

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

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

IOI Mobility 636-447-1414
St. Louis

Access Solutions

	Stair Lifts Access Ramps Auto Lifts Platform Lifts	Patient Lifts Bath Access Pool Lifts Grab Bars
---	---	---

Brad
Kohlbrecher

4025 South Old Highway 94 • Unit T
St. Charles, Missouri, 63304

