

Ozark Fly Fishers

Member Newsletter

February 2022

President's Message

So, January is over! Slowly we turn to Spring.

Time to clean your fly lines, fill out your fly box and get ready for the streams. Still have the Urban Lakes available, so there is that option.

Really enjoyed Bart and his Panfish on the Fly presentation, and I have received that reaction from several club members. I guess I never knew so many variations of sunfish existed. I always called them Blue Gills - so the education continues.



Eight of us took a trip out to Innsbrook and gave tying lessons and fished their stocked lake. They have a fishing club and may have a few joint ventures with us. Umm, not the dispensary kind (slip of the typing fingers). Nice resort with great facilities, and I might add- one lake for smallmouth and another with Walleye. I think Walleye like Wooly Buggers and Leeches and also know they are delicious. Looking forward to another visit.



After the board discussion, we decided to finally meet in person this month, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Olive. Our speaker is August Knickmeyer, who specializes in guide trips within the commute from St. Louis. Look for more information soon.

Making plans for the Spring Barbecue, also. Really hoping we get back to normal this year, but we will try the in-person meeting this month and evaluate from there. Be well, My friends.

Dan Rasch, President, Ozark Fly Fishers
Email: drasch27@hotmail.com

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.



Upcoming Events

February

General Member Meeting
February 24, 2022 – 7:00 pm
Speaker: Augustus Knickmeyer

In Person or Via Zoom
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
13014 Olive Blvd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

March

Chili Tie-In
March 26, 2022 9:00 AM
Marlan Graham's Clubhouse

April

All-Day Meeting
April 2, 2022
Speaker: Danny Barker
Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Road,
Ballwin, MO 63021

Member Meeting

April 28, 2022 – 7:00 PM
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Guest Speaker: TBD

Reminder

Keep an eye 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

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February Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 7:00 PM

In Person or Via Zoom

Guest Speaker: Augy

Knickmeyer

Augy is an educator by trade and has branched out in his professional career to build a new guide business, targeting small mouth bass, along with trout and other species on the rivers just south of St. Louis like the Meramec and the Gasconade.

This will be our first meeting that will be available for members to attend in person. Per local ordinances and venue rules, masks will be required for attendance. We will have masks available at the door.

For those wishing to attend virtually, a Zoom link will be sent out to the OFF Membership the morning of the meeting, as detailed below.

Meeting Location

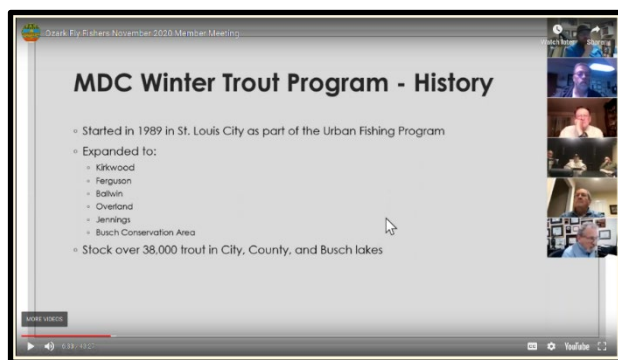
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
13014 Olive Blvd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141



OFF Zoom Meetings

Come Zoom with Ozark Fly Fishers. On Thursday, January 27, Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc. will offer online, visual programming for members. The programs will be available to all members that have a computer or smartphone.

On the morning of the meeting, each OFF member will be emailed a link and password for the evening program. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, but members will be able to join the Zoom meeting room as early as 6:45 PM. This month, our Guest Speaker is still to be determined, but we'll have more info soon.



As always, the programs will be advertised on the OFF Website, our social media channels, through emails to members, and in the monthly newsletter. **On the morning of the meeting, each OFF member will be emailed a link and password for the evening program.** During the meeting program, all members except the presenter will be muted, so that only the presenter will be able to speak. Members will be able to virtually raise their hands in Zoom if they have questions, or post their questions in the Zoom chat. We'll demonstrate how to do this before the meeting gets started.

If you cannot make the Zoom meetings, a video recording will be posted to the OFF website a few days following the meeting. (But it's more fun to join in live.)

Seven Flies

By Chris Friesen

To all Ozark Fly Fishers Club Members:

As you already be aware, the Club will be holding our annual All-Day Meeting (ADM) on April 2, 2022. It will be held at the same location as our last ADM: Community Christian Church (623 Meramec Station Road, Ballwin, MO 63021). We'd like to do something that I believe the club will find interesting and generate a consensus on the flies we find most indispensable when fishing Missouri's trout waters. We are calling it "The Seven Flies".

The premise is this: if you had to rely on ONLY seven flies to fish in Missouri for 2022, what would those seven be? You must be specific with regards to fly color, key material, type/size hook, etc. In other words, don't just list 'woolie bugger'.

Email (or snail mail) your list to Chris Friesen, Ways & Means chairman by the end of the month. This way I can tabulate the responses and make a master list to hand out at the ADM.

Chris Friesen
474 Summit Tree Ct.
Fenton, MO 63026

drcpfriesen@gmail.com

Now the interesting part. We'd also like you to think of an EIGHTH fly that you have had success with that is a bit 'unusual'. Perhaps a pattern you have discovered or come up with on your own that is not likely to be found in most fly boxes but is a fish catcher. We would like you to tie at least two copies of that fly and bring them to the ADM where they will be put into fly boxes to be raffled at the meeting. Depending upon how many flies we collect, there should be enough to fill several boxes with a dozen flies each. I will approach our local fly shops to donate some nice fly boxes to put them in and make a unique fly selection that I believe will be well worth owning.

We don't just want some pretty little fly you just saw on YouTube but one that has worked well for you. Please include a tying recipe for that 8th fly, preferably typed. See you all soon. Stay healthy.

Chili Tie-In

Our first Chili Tie-In of 2022 is Saturday, March 26 at Marlan Graham's Clubhouse. Come and hang out, eat too much, and tie some flies with the Ozark Fly Fishers.

Marlan's Clubhouse
851 Country Stone Drive
Manchester, MO 63021

Set up starts at 8:00 AM. Help is always needed. Bring your favorite Chili, Chip & Dip, Veggie Tray, Cookies, Pie, Cake, etc. Soft drinks will provided by OFF



Tough Times for Trout on the North Fork of the White River

By Richard Brasington

The North Fork of the White River (NFWR) in Ozark County, Missouri, boasts a “wild”, or self-sustaining, rainbow trout population; the last stocking was in 1965. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) designates the stretch from Rainbow and North Fork Springs to Patrick Bridge a Blue Ribbon Trout Management Area with potential for trophy-sized fish. Since 1967 brown trout have been stocked in the Red Ribbon section in the lower stretch of the river, upstream of where it warms and becomes Norfork Lake, created by a dam in northern Arkansas.

This NFWR was once listed by Trout Unlimited as one of The Best Trout Streams in the US. But there is consensus that now “the fishing is great, but the catching is poor’. A “thousand year flood” in April, 2017 followed a period of torrential rain. The river rose almost 40 feet with an estimated flow rate of 200,000 cfs. Riparian dwellings were under water, and several were completely swept away downstream. Shade trees along the banks disappeared, and gravel was stripped from the bedrock. Earlier that year, a dam creating a millpond at Dawt was completely removed, after a child drowned when trapped in a breach of the dam which resulted from a flood in 2013.

MDC conducts electroshocking studies in several sections of the NFWR each fall. Since 2017, there has been a dramatic reduction in counts of Rainbow and Brown Trout in the Blue and Red Ribbon sections. High water and the damage to the Dawt Mill dam have allowed striped bass in Norfork Lake to migrate up the NFWR since 2013.. The stripers have been seen far upstream from the trout areas. Very large schools of fish have been seen in pools along the river.



Some anglers have attributed the dwindling catch rates of trout to predation by the stripers. A guide told me that he has twice seen stripers attack rainbow trout. However, according to Nathan Recktenwald, Fisheries Management Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, shad (also from Norfork Lake) and crayfish are the more common prey of choice for stripers. He also notes that fisherman do not commonly find trout in the stomachs of harvested stripers. Additional information provided by Mr. Recktenwald suggests that there are other issues which negatively affect the trout population. Alarming changes in Ozark weather patterns have been documented by Missouri State University Professor Pavlowsky, Director of the Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute.

The Ozark Plateau lies in a band which has been receiving much heavier rainfall in the spring and fall. Consider the following data:

- A 37% increase in heavy precipitation in Missouri in recent years
- An 8-fold increase in days with more than 3 inches of rain in Big Barren Creek since 2015
- A 2-8% increase PER YEAR in peak annual flow rate in Ozark streams since 1990

The effect on Ozark streams is widening, bank erosion, and increased sediment, adversely affecting trout habitat. In fact, the MDC has concluded that flooding has diminished the effect of Brown Trout stocking not only in the NFWR, but Lake Taneycomo, the Meramec River, and Roubidoux Creek. High flows, flash floods, and heat stress are likely other contributing factors.

The future of the trout population in the NFWR is uncertain. Supplemental stocking of rainbow trout has been considered but deferred for now. Anecdotally, the smallmouth bass population is thriving, despite the adverse state of the trout. It will probably take years for the trout population to reach a new equilibrium.

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 Jake Voss, who is happy to help.

Follow OFF on Twitter for discussions.



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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

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	<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

Before COVID, Ozark Fly Fishers typically met at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Greensfelder Recreation Center in Queeny Park, Ballwin, MO (Unless noted differently. See OFF Calendar at www.ozarkflyfishers.org) These days, our meetings are held on Zoom.

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

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