

# Ozark Fly Fishers

## Member Newsletter

March/April 2022



### President's Message

There we were. All set. First in-person meeting in two years! Forgot to check the weather box. Oops. So we zoomed, one more time, and with a turnout of 45 attendees, it was a great meeting.

Augie Knickmeyer really preferred an in-person meeting, and given the detail he covered - I think he was justified. I think his value is how close his different day trips can be. Also was quite interesting how he switches from Smallmouth to Trout in the winter. One resource he mentioned, the Gasconade, has always been on my bucket list, and maybe someday?



As we covered during the meeting, several dates for your fishing calendar are the Chili Tie March 26, followed closely by the all-day meeting April 2nd with Danny Barker from the White River. Then, in June, our barbecue at Tilles will return. Other upcoming speakers being considered is the Cardiac Mountain Outfitters, another guide group closer to town. Watch your email and the website calendar for announcements!

I learned that Westover Farms has an offer of a prize for anyone who catches a brown trout at their park and takes its picture.

Lastly, I think our Stream Team outing to Montauk in July is coming back. Stay tuned for more announcements as we get the year in gear.

Getting back to being a club!

**Dan Rasch, President, Ozark Fly Fishers**

Email: [drasch27@hotmail.com](mailto:drasch27@hotmail.com)

### A Gift from Skip Morris

Past Speaker, Skip Morris has provided the following hyperlink to Skip Morris's Trout-Fly Proportion Chart. All you need do is click on it and you can then print out all the copies you want:

<http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com/skip-morris-trout-fly-proportion-chart.html>

*"Hope your season's shaping up. I've got my eye on a trout lake close to home that should get fired up next month, a largemouth lake that should come on in April, and some trips to Montana and Idaho trout streams in the planning.*

Best, Skip"

### Upcoming Events

#### 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  
13014 Olive Blvd.  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141  
Guest Speaker: TBD

#### May

##### Member Meeting

May 26, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
13014 Olive Blvd.  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141  
Guest Speaker: TBD

#### June

##### Member BBQ


June 16, 2022


Tilles Park, STL County  
More Info Soon


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

 Instagram: [@ozark\\_fly\\_fishers](https://www.instagram.com/ozark_fly_fishers)

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 [OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com)

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# April Member Meetings

## **All-Day Meeting**

Saturday, April 2  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
In Person or via Zoom

### **Meeting Location**

Community Christian Church  
623 Meramec Station Road  
Ballwin, MO 63021

### **Guest Speaker: Danny Barker** ***“My Fishing Life”***



At the April 2, 2022 Ozark Fly Fishers All Day Meeting, fly fishing guide Danny Barker from Mountain Home, Arkansas, will talk about his life as a fisherman and trout fishing guide. Danny has probably fished and guided longer than most of us. He has many stories and exciting tales, tall and otherwise! An exciting and entertaining day is ahead.

Danny started angling for brook trout at a very young age in the Appalachian Mountain Region of West Virginia and Virginia. His mother and dad taught him to catch fish on a fly rod, spinning and baitcasting equipment. After a forty-hour workweek, fishing became the most critical activity in their family life. They fished for trout, smallmouth, and largemouth bass using artificial lures and flies only; no live bait of any type was allowed. After moving to the East Coast of Virginia, they did some saltwater fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and off-shore fishing off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. They fished the Atlantic Intercoastal waterway in Virginia and North Carolina for northern largemouth bass. I was fortunate enough to fish one of the best if not the best bass fishery's in the world during the sixties and seventies.

Danny retired after working for forty-one years as a tool and die maker with Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. He and his wife Lena moved to Mountain Home, Arkansas, and he became a trout fishing guide in 2008. Danny enjoys guiding and teaching people to catch trout using ultra-light spinning gear and light-action fly-fishing gear with artificial lures or flies. He is grateful to his parents for giving him such a good education in fishing and catching technics. He enjoys teaching and sharing his knowledge with others about the sport he loves so much.

After Danny talks about his fishing life, he will talk about fishing Missouri's state parks and the Rainbow Trout Ranch In Rockbridge, Missouri. He will cover the tailwaters of the White and Norfork Rivers in North Central Arkansas. Danny is a big nymph fisherman, so he will be prepared to talk about the type of flies and techniques he uses to catch trout, especially in high water conditions. He will demonstrate his tying techniques at the vise by tying some of his world-famous flies he uses to catch many trout on the White and Norfork Rivers. Be prepared and ready to ask Danny questions about anything related to fly fishing.

## **“Regular” April Member Meeting**

April 28, 2022 – 7:00 PM  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
13014 Olive Blvd.  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141  
Guest Speaker: TBD

# 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.

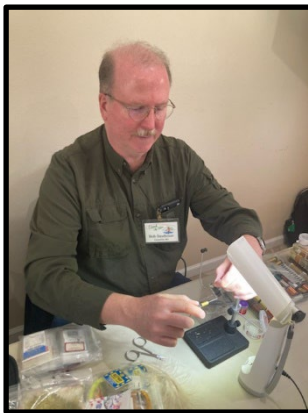
Chris Friesen  
474 Summit Tree Ct.  
Fenton, MO 63026  
drcpfriesen@gmail.com

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 8<sup>th</sup> fly, preferably typed. See you all soon. Stay healthy.

## Chili Tie-In Pics

Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed our first Chili Tie In of the year. More to come in the future!



# Fly of the Month

## Mini Minnow

As the water warms up, it seems the first fish moving up to spawn are the crappie followed by the bass and finally the bluegill. One of the best baits for Crappie is minnows, but they have to be the small ones – especially in the spring. This little Clouser-based minnow is perfect for spring crappie, bass, and bluegill all summer long. The gray-over-white colors with a little flash makes a very realistic minnow imitation. I tie them with both bead-chain eyes and small lead dumbbell eyes depending on where I fish and how deep I need to go.

### Materials

- Hook: Firehole Sticks #618 size 12
- Thread: White 8/0
- Eyes: Silver Bead Chain Eyes – Small (or small silver lead dumbbells)
- Tail: - Pearl Crystal Flash
- Under-Body: White Marabou
- Lateral Flash: Silver Holographic Tinsel
- Wing: Gray Bucktail

### Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise, start thread behind hook eye, and advance to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  point. Build a small bump of thread here to act as a base for the bead chain eyes.
2. Tie in the bead chain eyes on top of the hook against the thread bump using crisscrossing wraps. I use a little super glue help keep them from moving around. Advance the thread to the hook bend.
3. Tie in 4 or 5 strands of crystal flash and trim to the length of the hook shank.
4. Advance thread to the eyes using touching turns to form a smooth body.
5. Tie in a small bunch of marabou just behind the eyes and pinch off the excess just shorter than the tail.
6. Place a section of holographic tinsel around the eyes, one on each side, and tie in with thread wraps behind the eyes. You should end up with one strand flat against each side. Trim to the end of the tail.
7. Advance the thread to in front of the eyes, and tie in a smaller section of marabou and pinch off just a little shorter than the other marabou.
8. Turn the fly over in the vise and tie in a small section of gray bucktail that extends just past the end of the tail. Measure the length and trim it before you tie it in so that you end up with a neater head.
9. Whip-finish and trim the thread.



I fish this just like any other warm-water fly – pitch it out to a likely looking spot, let it sink, and then start a short quick twitching retrieve. In the spring, most fish do not bed in deep water so stick to casing along the shoreline in front of you as you walk. Crappie love to bed in and around sticks and brush, so look for that close to the shoreline. I have also tied this in white & chartreuse and white/gold/brown colors. So far, the original works best.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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## 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](mailto:Shur-way@sbcglobal.net)



# Ozark Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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	<i>Ways &amp; 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](http://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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