

# Ozark Fly Fishers

## Member Newsletter

April 2020



### President's Message

What a month!

Looks like everything is cancelled up to the Montauk outing in mid-May, and even that is questionable. This includes all meetings and outings.

As our leaders request us to stay at home, our fly club will not be an exception. Our membership profile is especially at risk. To my knowledge, no member has contracted the virus, which is good.

I had more of a message to deliver but as I reviewed it, it seems moot. I really hope we all concentrate on keeping healthy and once this passes, we will resume our activities. Well, I guess I will tie some flies to get my inventory stocked for when we can jump back in the stream.

Be safe and well, my friends!

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

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



### Not Sure When an Event Is?

#### Check the OFF Calendar!

Obviously many OFF Events are being cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Whereas the newsletter should be up-to-date when you receive it, things do change after publication. The best way to stay current on all OFF happenings, is to check the Website and Calendar, which are continuously updated.

[www.ozarkflyfishers.org/calendar](http://www.ozarkflyfishers.org/calendar)

### Have a Newsletter Article?

Stuck inside with nothing to do but tie flies? Mix things up and submit an article to the OFF Newsletter. We accept just about anything! Stories, fly recipes, fish recipes, opinions, editorials, complaints, outright lies, pictures from your last fishing trip, or pictures from your trip back in the 80s. We want to see it. Plus, with the pandemic happening, we need content to fill the newsletter, since there's not much else going on!

Email the Editor at [OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events and Cancellations

#### April

Membership Meeting

April 21, 2020

**CANCELLED**

#### May

Membership Meeting

May 28, 2020

Greensfelder Rec Complex

**TO BE DETERMINED**

#### June

Membership Meeting

June 25, 2020

Greensfelder Rec Complex

**TO BE DETERMINED**

#### July

Member BBQ

July 23, 2020

Tilles Park Pond

**TO BE DETERMINED**

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

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# Ozark Fly Fishers – Member Newsletter

## Outings Report – April 2020

Many 2020 Outings have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing OFF to cancel all outings for the next few months. Future newsletters will include additional information about outings later in the summer. In addition, please see the OFF Website and Calendar for up-to-date information.

If you have outing questions, please contact Ed Olander.  
Tel: 314-487-1663  
Cell: 314-566-1422  
Email: olanderedward@att.net

### Lake Taneycomo - April 23-26, 2020

**CANCELLED**

### Eleven Point River – May 6-7, 2020

**CANCELLED**

### Montauk State Park - May 15-17, 2020

Montauk Resort - Salem, MO  
**TO BE DETERMINED**

### Niangua River - June 12-14, 2020

Smallmouth Outing, Sand Springs Resort  
(Saturday includes Guided Smallmouth Bass by Jeff Trigg)  
**TO BE DETERMINED**

### Montauk State Park - July 10-12, 2020

Stream Team Outing  
**TO BE DETERMINED**

### Eleven Point River - September 25-27, 2020

Alton, MO  
**TO BE DETERMINED**

### White and Norfolk Rivers - October 9-11, 2020

River Ranch Resort - Norfolk, MO  
**TO BE DETERMINED**

### Bennett Spring - November 12-14, 2020

Catch & Release Outing,  
Sand Spring's Resort – Lebanon, MO  
**TO BE DETERMINED**

## 2020 Outings

**April 23-26, 2020**

Lake Taneycomo  
Lillies' Landing – Branson, MO  
**CANCELLED**

**May 6-7, 2020**

Seniors' Outing (65+),  
Eleven Point River  
Alton, MO  
**CANCELLED**

**May 15-17, 2020**

Montauk State Park  
Montauk Resort - Salem, MO  
**TBD**

**June 12-14, 2020**

Smallmouth Outing,  
Niangua River  
Sand Springs Resort  
(Saturday includes Guided  
Smallmouth Bass by Jeff Trigg)  
**TBD**

**July 10-12, 2020**

Stream Team Outing,  
Montauk State Park  
**TBD**

**September 25-27, 2020**

Eleven Point River - Alton, MO  
**TBD**

**October 9-11, 2020**

White and Norfolk Rivers  
River Ranch Resort  
Norfolk, MO  
**TBD**

**November 12-14, 2020**

Catch & Release Outing,  
Bennett Spring  
Sand Spring's Resort –  
Lebanon, MO  
**TBD**

# Casting Tip – April 2020

Early on during this time of corona virus a new club member asked if I could help him with his roll cast. Thinking I could do this and maintain social distancing I agreed. (No restrictions were in place when we did this). Wanting to have the basics fresh in my mind so that no “hands on” would be necessary I referred to Tom Deck and “The Orvis Fly-Casting Guide”. These were the main points.

1. The end of your line must be held by water tension. And, the less line on the water the better.
2. Raise your casting hand slowly
3. Tilt the rod slightly to the side
4. As the line starts to stop raise your casting hand higher than for a normal cast.
5. The line should form a large D loop shape as it hangs behind the caster.
6. This is the ready position. The more line behind the caster and the smaller amount on the water the easier it is to roll cast.
7. The first part of the cast is a lowering of the hand. *Smoothly* pull downward, leading with the elbow. (Leading with the butt and grip of the rod.)
8. Drive the rod to an abrupt stop while rotating the rod tip, (translation then rotation) (smooth acceleration to a hard stop) (sound familiar???)
9. End cast with rod tip at or just below head level.
10. The line will unroll in the direction the rod tip accelerates to a stop.

**Bill Armon**

## CONSERVATION/MISSOURI STREAM TEAM #31

### 2020 EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATES!**

Watch the OFF Newsletter and Calendar for details concerning the events that are listed below.

**If you plan to attend or have any questions about these events please contact:**

**Scott Darrough, 314-560-1335, [swdarrough@yahoo.com](mailto:swdarrough@yahoo.com)**

#### **NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELANON DUE TO COVID-19!**

- **MARCH - APRIL** Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Level 3 Certification
- **APRIL 11** Wetlands for Kids (Busch Wildlife Conservation Area)
- **APRIL 15** Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Introductory Level Certification (Missouri Department of Conservation St. Louis Regional Office, St. Charles, MO) - **Registration must be received by April 5**
- **APRIL 25** Kimmswick Clean Stream Cleanup (Kimmswick, MO) - by invitation - Stream Team #4397
- **MAY 3** Cleanup on the Joachim Creek (Walther Park, De Soto, MO) - by invitation - Stream Team #401
- **JULY 10-12** 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual Ozark Fly Fishers Missouri Stream Team Outing (Montauk State Park, Salem, MO) - by invitation - Stream Team #31 - Ozark Fly Fishers
- **JULY 25** Annual Meramec Watershed Celebration (Meramec State Park, Sullivan) - by invitation - Stream Team #727 - Northern Ozark Rivers Partnership and Stream Teams United
- **AUGUST 22** 53rd Annual Operation Clean Stream - Big River (Byrnes Mill City Park, Byrnes Mill) - by invitation - Stream Team #3797 - Trashmanian Devils
- **SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER** Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Level 3 Certification

## DONATE A FLY TO THE MEMBER'S FLY BOX -

Please consider donating a fly to the Member's Fly Box which will be raffled at the 12<sup>TH</sup> Annual Missouri Stream Team Outing. You decide on the type of fly you wish to donate. Our Member's Fly Box will only be as good as we the members make it, so please donate. All proceeds will benefit Ozark Fly Fishers. See Scott Darrough at the next meeting to make your fly donation. If you have any questions regarding this matter contact him at 314-560-1335 or [swdarrough@yahoo.com](mailto:swdarrough@yahoo.com)

# Fly of the Month – April 2020

## Andrew Grillo's User Friendly

From the man who brought you the Hippie Stomper, comes the User Friendly. I have had great success with the Hippie Stomper and am very excited about this one. This thinner, more elegant, yet equally versatile dry fly is more of a mayfly imitation than attractor pattern. It can be tied smaller than the Hippie Stomper, but still floats better than a traditional dry style and has lots of movement and is easily visible to both fish and the angler. It is almost indestructible as well.

### Materials

- Hook: TMC 100 #12 – 16 (or your favorite barbless dry fly hook)
- Thread: Veevus 14/0 Black
- Tail: Dun hackle fibers or CDL fibers
- Shell Back: Black 1mm Razor Foam
- Abdomen: Purple Dry Fly Dubbing
- Wing: Gray McFlylon or Z-Lon
- Legs: Fine round barred rubber legs White with Black Bars
- Hackle: Grizzly Neck Hackle
- Thorax: UV Purple Ice Dub



### Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and start thread at mid-hook shank and advance to hook bend. Dub a small ball at the end of the hook shank, then tie in tail fibers about the length of the hook shank. Tie tail up against the dubbing ball causing them to flare a bit. Tie tail fiber butts down to hook shank to the midpoint of the hook shank and trim excess.
2. Cut a section of razor foam about half the hook gap wide. Trim to a point on one end and tie in on top of the hook at the base of the tail.
3. Dub a thin tapered body to the mid-point of the hook. Pull the razor foam over the body, tie down but leave the excess out over the hook eye. Use crossing thread wraps over the foam back to the hook bend and back to the midpoint to secure.
4. Wrap forward to secure the foam to the hook eye. Tie in about half a strand of McFlylon crosswise like spinner wings. Lift both wings and make a couple of wraps around them to form something of a parachute post.
5. Tie in two sections of round barred rubber legs along the thorax— one on each side – so that it they come out just behind the hook eye and just in front of the body. Tie in an appropriately-sized grizzly hackle just ahead of the body, and then dub the UV Purple Ice Dub thorax to the hook eye.
6. Make 2 turns of hackle behind the wing and two more in front of the wing. Tie off the hackle and trim excess.
7. Lift the razor foam, make a few turns, and then whip finish the thread. Trim the foam about two eye-lengths out in front of the hook eye. Trim the rings to just above the hackle and trim a v-notch in the hackle on the bottom of the hackle in line with the hook point.

Charlie Craven has a great tutorial at Charlie's Fly Box. This is Andrew's original black and purple version, but you can also tie it in other colors to match a local hatch. This fly floats very well especially when dressed with floatant, and is great to use in a dry/dropper rig as well.

**Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers**



# Social Distancing on Blue Spring Creek

It's April 2020, and COVID-19 is spreading across planet Earth, killing tens of thousands of people and disrupting the global economy. People are stuck inside and cannot risk going to school, church, work, or even the grocery store for fear of infection. I had been working from home full-time for the past three weeks. Cabin fever was setting in with a vengeance. It was the perfect time to leave society, go into the woods, and do some fly-fishing. But where to go? I only had a few hours to fish and didn't want to waste the whole day driving.. I'd have to think outside the box.

The CDC recommends people keep a minimum of six feet of distance between individuals not living together. Blue Springs Creek lies five miles outside of Bourbon, Missouri, which only has a population of about 1,200 people. It doesn't get much more socially distant than that.

I found Blue Springs Creek very shallow, narrow, and silent, with the only noise being trucks driving past on the nearby Highway N. The weather was beautiful, with mid-70 temps and overcast clouds. The water was low and clear, which made the already nervous fish even more skittish. For Blue Springs Creek, a good "hole" was a dip in the creek bottom that would maybe get two feet deep. The deepest water I had to wade the entire day barely got over my knees.



I wanted to fish some small nymphs on an indicator, but the low water-levels made this impossible. Instead, I switched to small dry flies - Adams and Royal Wulffs. A fun fact about me is that I'm terrible at casting dry flies. I spent a large portion of the morning untangling my tippet that somehow got tangled up with the rest of my fly line and various tree branches and shrubs. This was through no fault of my own, I assure you.



I walked upstream from the Blue Springs Ranch entrance bridge, hitting each little hole along the way. On top of the wind picking up, and my own general slopping dry fly casting, I kept having small minnows hit my dry flies as soon as I set a cast on the surface of the water. These small fish would drag my fly under, soaking it, leaving me to have to false cast a while longer to dry off the fly. This inevitably led to more tangles. After untangling my line for the umpteenth time, I did manage to pull out a few small fish from the creek - mostly Bleeding Shiners, but also one decent sized Creek Chubb.

After a few hours, I headed back to the Prius and scouted out some other spots along the creek. To my surprise, a few other cars had shown up later in the morning. This wouldn't do. Not only was there a risk of contracting COVID-19, but also Blue Springs Creek simply couldn't handle more than one or two anglers at a time. It was time to wrap things up. It was a short trip and I was back in the city and the real world, pandemic and all, for lunch time. Upon arriving home, my two-year-old let me know that he wasn't happy I went fishing without him. So we hopped on the bike and headed to Carondelet Park to fish with his new Paw Patrol rod in the pond there. We got skunked, and that's okay.

For more to this story, and other fly-fishing tales, visit [www.vosfish.com](http://www.vosfish.com)  
**Jake Voss, Director of Communications, Ozark Fly Fishers**

# 2021: Ozark Fly Fishers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Time flies, right? Next year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ozark Fly Fishers. The club was founded way back during the Nixon Administration in 1971. We are looking to our members for ideas on how to celebrate the occasion. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or requests on how to celebrate our Gold Anniversary, please send them to [OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com)



## Tie Flies with OFF on Zoom

The Fly Tiers of the Long Table have made the best of a bad situation. Mike and the guys have set up a weekly group tying Zoom call.

If you are looking for something to do while you're at home, and you don't tie flies yourself, but are just needing to be entertained, the FTOLT has been successful in holding Zoom meeting tying session. The sessions are free for anybody wanting to participate. All you need to do is download the Zoom app and let us know that you want to participate.



Email Mike Swederska at [shur-way@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shur-way@sbcglobal.net) or post that you'd like to join in the Ozark Fly Fishers Facebook page or GroupsIO page. You'll be provided with a link and can join in on the fun using your laptop, smartphone, or tablet.

The tying sessions are 5:30 on Wednesday nights.

## Pic of the Month

OFF President, Dan Rash, is making the most of quarantine by spending his days at Westover Farms. This is his latest Rainbow Trout.

Send in your fishing pics to [OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com) to be featured on the Club Newsletter, Website, and Social Media outlets.



# 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.

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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

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Directors</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
<i>President:</i> Dan Rasch	<i>Communications:</i> Jake Voss	<i>Casting:</i> Brian Ellis
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## 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 meet 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))  
**MARCH AND APRIL 2020 MEETINGS ARE ON TUESDAY NIGHT.**

## Fly Tiers of the Long Table

The Fly Tiers of the Long Table new tying schedule is tying on the second and the fourth Wednesday of the month at the same location, Shur-Way Auto Body in Maplewood, starting at 5:30 pm. Early arriving tiers are welcome. All tiers of all skill are welcome to join in on the fun. There is always more going on at the tying event than just tying. We talk about everything fly fishing. Feel free to join!

## 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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