

Ozark Fly Fishers

Member Newsletter

August 2021

President's Message

The dog days of August are barking - and I thought by now we would know this pandemic was coming to a halt. Thinking has it flaws.

By now, I think everyone had a chance to watch our interview on KSDK. I thought Hannah and our members made it a great experience and presented our club well. I had a few inquiries into our club, so it helped our exposure.

The July Montauk trip was fun, and the fishing was good. I tried the pattern Mark Van Patten gave us and caught a few with it. The hot fly was a green holographic Crackleback. The streamteam monitoring went well and our group enjoyed reviewing our bugs. We met Chris Chivetta at Innsbrook, who stocks trout in their lakes over winter, and he gave us a nice tour of their facilities - letting us fish several of his lakes. We might try a day outing with tying lessons, followed by some fishing. Their fishing club has a good start. They also have a nice banquet center that we might keep in mind. He suggested December, but January might be better.

The Branson Fly Fishing Expo, at the end of July was good. I only attended Thursday, but saw a few people I knew from my days in Springfield and some Ozark members, too. Watched a lot of tying and exchanged more than a few stories. Half a day at Montauk on the way down got me in the right frame of mind. I know the Eleven Point trip is coming up, and then the White River, with members making their own plans. Keep those hooks sharp!

Signed us up for the Two Rivers Fishing Fair in Grafton on October 2, and the Passport to Clean Water at Greentree Park on August 28. Nice to see these events back this year.

So, we wait for the pandemic to ease before we assemble again. Really hoping to fully restore our usual operations by December, and the opening of Catch and Release - not sure any earlier is wise, despite the temptation to recall everyone's smile.

I have received several inquiries to joining the club, passed out a few brochures at both Hargroves and Branson, and still getting the occasional eMail from someone I supplied with a business card. A few have joined, too. So we are getting a little interest.

Be well my friends.

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



Upcoming Events

August

General Member Meeting
August 26, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Guest Speaker: Skip Morris

September

Eleven Point River Outing
September 17-19, 2021

General Member Meeting
Sept 23, 2021 – 7:00 PM

October

White River Outing
October 15-17, 2021

General Member Meeting
Oct 28, 2021 – 7:00 PM


November


Catch & Release Outing
Nov. 12 – Nov. 14
Bennett Spring State Park
See p. 2 for info.


Reminder

Get vaccinated. We can't go back to normal until you (Yes, you) get your shot.

 www.ozarkflyfishers.org

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

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Outings Report – August 2021

Tentatively, and due to COVID-19, outings for 2021 will not be club sponsored. Members are welcome to utilize the Club's existing reservation slots and make their own private bookings. For outings questions, please contact:

Richard Bable, Outings Chairperson, Ozark Fly Fishers

Phone: 314-650-2859

Email: rbable@brick.net

Remaining 2021 Outings Dates

As these are not Club sponsored, Members are required to make and pay reservations directly to resorts.

- Eleven Point River: September 17-19, 2021
 - Eleven Point Guide Service and Housing
- White River: October 15-17, 2021
 - Ridge Lodge, Norfork, AR

2021 Catch and Release Outing

We are planning on having the Catch and Release outing this fall. Dates this year are Friday, November 12 through Sunday, November 14. It will be at Bennett Spring State Park with lodging at Sand Springs Resort. The winter season begins at 8:00 am on Friday morning. We are planning on have a dinner as usual on Saturday evening. This outing will be subject to change as we see how the COVID conditions are playing out. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Antonic.

Steve Antonic, OFF Past President

Phone: 314-401-8874

Email: sjantonic@charter.net

FFI Virtual Expo News

Save the Date: Fly Fishers International will be having a Virtual EXPO 2021 this year on November 5-7.

If you would like to participate as a tier, speaker, or Zoom person, contact plueken@luekenlay.com

More info to follow

FFI Southern Council Conclave Cancelled for 2021

The southern Council board of Directors has determined it is in the best interest of everyone to postpone the 2021 Southern Council Conclave. Plans are in place to schedule the future date to be September 29 -30, 2022 through October 1, 2022

Book Review: "THE GUIDES SPEAK"

Yesterday I received an advance copy of Fly Fishing The White and Norfolk Rivers The Guides Speak. It was edited by Keith Campbell. This is a book about fly fishing our local rivers. Its premise is to present in depth interviews of fly fishing icons, Dave Whitlock and Dale Fulton. There are also interviews with seven local guides, Steve Dally, Chad Johnson, Ron McQuay, Jim Traylor, Hank Wilson, Davy Wotton and me. I received an advance copy because I was interviewed for the book.

In addition to the interviews there are chapters on the White and Norfolk Rivers (including history and safety), maps of the White and Norfolk Rivers and suggestions for different styles of fishing.

I was most interested in the interviews with the icons on the White and Norfolk Rivers, Dave Whitlock and Dale Fulton. I was an early fan of Dave Whitlock. I have all of his books, several pieces of his art and have listened to his lectures for years. I have learned a lot from him. He is also one of the greatest fly tyers around. I regularly fish his patterns and have caught an incredible number of fish on them. I found his interview fascinating and found out things about him that I never knew before.

The interview about Dale Fulton was especially meaningful to me. He passed away a few years ago. We were friends and I miss him. I worked for him as a guide years ago at his Blue Ribbon Fly Shop and I learned a lot about guiding from him. After I established myself as an independent guide I would stop by and talk to him whenever I was near the shop or would stop by his lodge to chat. His interview told me a lot about him that I never knew.

I know and have worked with almost all of the guides included in the book. They are all solid guides that know how to catch trout. Each guide explained his guiding. The interviews were all similar in some of the questions asked. How did you get started in guiding? This is where every guide had a different story. They were all interesting. The best question was common mistakes I see my clients make. I really thought that this would be useful to any reader. They were also asked about their favorite flies and how we could grow bigger rainbow trout.

There is also a section on flies that has photos and recipes for the guide's favorite flies.

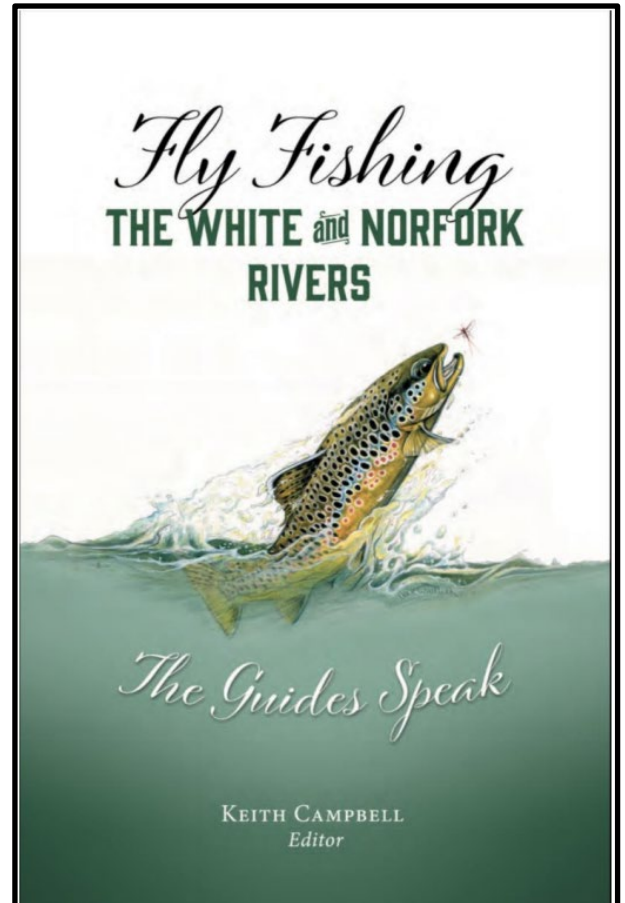
This cost to publish this book was provided by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers and club president, Dave Boyer. Proceeds from the book are earmarked for selected youth programs in Baxter and Marion Counties. The book will be available at :

Wishes & Fishes fly Shop (Jimmy T's)
www.theflyfishingstore
870-404-8906

Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher
www.theozarkflyfisher.com
870-435-6166

I heartedly recommend the book for anyone who fishes here or plans to.

John Berry



My Fly-Fishing Adventure

John Steuterman, Jr.

This year my second fly fishing trip to Steamboat Springs occurred during the last week of a very dry Colorado July. The Yampa River that flows from the Stage Coach Reservoir through Steamboat Springs was completely closed by the Colorado DNR to any recreational activities due to falling water levels and rising water temperatures. Any fishing activity was to be organized by an outfitter with access to private ranches. This requirement proved to be a fantastic opportunity for superb fishing. In my case, the private land was located outside the town of Phippsburg (6500 Feet above sea level), 35 miles south and slightly east of the Steamboat Springs outfitter. The daily temperature range of the area was between 58 degree F in the early morning and 73 degrees F. by afternoon.

The water temperature was hovering in the middle 60 degree F and would climb as the day progressed into the range that would stress the Trout. As a result, this trip would be a half day event, per the Colorado DNR.

The barometric pressure was 30.36 in this area. High cumulus clouds indicated possible rains later in the day.

The area for fishing was a lengthy, though occasionally narrow, free flowing stream with numerous riffles, pools, and easily fordable areas. This fly-fishing trip was to be a true 'high sticking' and 'pendulum cast' fishing experience. My guide, Ryan Y was a local fly fisherman with over 20 years' experience, not only in NW Colorado, but also 16 years in Alaska. Ryan has a great sense of humor and patience beyond the pale. '

Proud that I was of all my newly tied midges, Beatis, PMD, Trycos, and Wolley Buggers, Ryan preferred to use his own flies and supplies. Who can argue with that experience? I brought two 5 wt Sage rods with 2 Lamson Liquid reels wrapped with floating weight forward lines and 5 wt leaders.

Ryan rigged one rod with a nymph system consisting of a plastic strike indicator, a San Juan worm, two lead weights, a lower curved #12 hook and a beaded disco midge on an 18 hook as the dropper. This rig was to be fish with the pendulum cast and high stick technique with short drifts. During one of our many conversations throughout this experience, Ryan mentioned the he occasionally has clients that ask him, "How many fish are we going to catch?" His answer was routinely. "None!"



The second 5wt rod was rigged with a streamer/Wholly on a #8 straight hook, white in color and laced with colors throughout the marabou. Ryan called his fly a 'balanced leach' as he did not use a bead, but a thin nail tied over the middle of the hook to keep the fly 'balanced'. This system was to be fished with a jigging motion after the streamer had sunk below the surface. Given my experiences with 'high sticking' was minimal, the educational process began early. Using a guide with Ryan's local experience proved invaluable on several level

1. Learning new casting techniques. The importance of a tight and accurately placed casts was the rule due to limited space and heavy tread shrubs lining the creeks.
2. Understanding how the rigging was supposed to be developed.
3. Importantly, Ryan was familiar with the potential areas that could hold trout.

Continued Next Page...

My Fly Fishing Adventure (con't)

I had a unique experience of actually seeing that ledges, foam trails, dark water, rifle, and pools can hold trout. What I had to learn is that one cannot rush fly fishing...one lateral step after another to make sure you have covered as much to the creek as possible, stop wasting one's time walking the creek side without addressing all the opportunities. For every trout I caught, I missed dozens more due to inexperience. However, having felt the tug, seen the flash, or lost the fish once on the hook proved to be the best teacher.

While the pendulum cast was a preferred tactic, I am proud on my developing roll cast. I hit the marks more often than not. Was Ryan's cajoling, advising, correcting, and never-ending patience important? Are 5 20" rainbows and 2 18" Whites worth the 5 hours spent on a high country creek during a serious drought? For this entry level OFF member...YES!!!

Ironically, using either the nymph system or the streamer proved to be of equal value for my fishing experience. Ryan changed out my rigged rods on an episodic basis to make sure I had the experience of using a nymph and streamer system. Ryan advised me that his years of experience, the time of the summer, a rising Trico hatch that the trout were ignoring, and the lack of trout surfacing all indicated to him that my experiences would be richer with using two different systems and avoid multiple changes in flies.

John Steuterman, Jr.

Next Meeting: August 26, 2021 – 7:00 PM

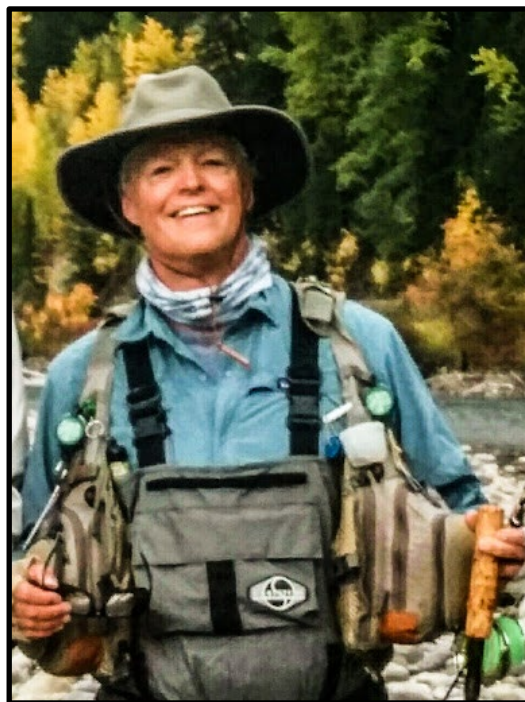
Guest Speaker: Skip Morris

On Thursday, August 26, OFF will have its next Member Meeting. Join us as we continue to celebrate our 50th Year with this online meeting, with Guest Speaker Skip Morris.

Skip is the author of 18 books on fly fishing and fly tying (among them, FLY TYING MADE CLEAR AND SIMPLE, FLY FISHING TROUT LAKES WITH MORRIS & CHAN, THE ART OF TYING THE DRY FLY, and WESTERN RIVER HATCHES), is the host on six instructional videos (TYING FOAM FLIES, FLY FISHING FOR BASS AND PANFISH...) and has spoken for sportsmen's shows, fly-fishing shows, and fly clubs in Arizona, New Jersey, Toronto, Alabama, Illinois—all over the US, Canada, and overseas. A few years ago, he and Lefty Kreh were co-headliners at the Great Waters shows in Chicago and Minneapolis.

Come Zoom with Ozark Fly Fishers. OFF 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.



Beginners Fly-Tying Class

Ozark Fly Fishers, through the subgroup Fly Tiers of the Long Table, will be offering a beginners fly tying course via Zoom. The classes will be held on Tuesday evening starting at 7:00 PM and have a limited enrollment. The date of the first class is yet to be determined. If interested in enrolling in the class contact Mike Swederska at 314-799-1998 or shur-way@sbcglobal.net.

If you have any questions about the class or tools required, contact Mike.

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 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.

Looking for Vaccine Info?

The sooner we're all vaxxed, the sooner the Club can go back to normal.

For information and to book a vaccine appointment, visit:

<https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/>



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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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

<i>Coordinator / Current River</i>	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.

Fly Tiers of the Long Table

The Fly Tiers of the Long Table newtying 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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Brad Kohlbrecher

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