

Ozark Fly Fishers

Member Newsletter

February 2021

President's Message

February just snuck up on us, as we bid farewell to the catch and release season and anticipate the warmer weather.

Just finished listening to Steve Ehrlich, our January speaker. A different tact, reviewing literature on our hobby, with a little deep thinking involved. I know a good book on our craft seems to add another line on my bucket list. Good to see at least 31 attended, a good Zoom showing for a Thursday in January.



I heard that six members were at the FYAO event at Montauk and had the park to themselves on Friday. Not sure about the rest of the weekend as I suspect the weather scared people off. Fishing was reported as OK.

Our next Member Meeting is a little off schedule, and on Wednesday, February 10 - as we have a special speaker, Al Beatty. I will be out of town that week and leave David in charge.

Still working on activities for our 50 Year Anniversary and have a few looking good. I should have it completed for the next newsletter.

I see snow on the ground, but Spring on the horizon!

Be well my friends,

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

Throwback

Ozark Fly Fishers has had a Monthly Member Newsletter for a long time. To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we'll be highlighting some issues of the Newsletter from years' past, so keep an eye out.

Questions or Submissions for the Newsletter?

Email the Editor at OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com

We are always looking for new content to fill our Newsletter. If you've got a good story, a hot tip, a nice pic, or a funny joke, send it our way.



Upcoming Events

February

General Member Meeting

February 18, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Online via Zoom

Guest Speaker:

Al Beatty (See p. 2, 3 for info)

March

General Member Meeting

March 25, 2020 – 7:00 pm

Online via Zoom

Guest Speaker:

Former Governor Jay Nixon

April

General Member Meeting

April 22, 2020 – 7:00 pm


Online via Zoom


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 Guest Speaker: Al Beatty

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THIS MEETING HAS CHANGED. Due to a scheduling conflict, this meeting has been rescheduled. On **Thursday, February 18**, OFF will have its next Member Meeting with Guest Speaker, Al Beatty. Join us as we continue to celebrate our 50th Year with this online meeting.

Retired telephone company executive, Al Beatty, today enjoys running a family owned business (BT's Fly Fishing Products). Located in Boise, Idaho Al and his spouse Getchen manufacture, distribute, operate a video production studio (fly fishing and tying, of course), write, and tie flies on a commercial basis. Al has been recognized for his contribution to the Federation of Fly Fishers; being awarded the 1999 Buz Buszek Award and the 1994 Man of the Year. Come Zoom with Ozark Fly Fishers. On Thursday, February 18, 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.



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.)

Reminder: Using Zoom

Click the Link to Watch this Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKQq96TiGpg>

Join by computer

- Have a headphones available if possible to minimize feedback – your cellphone earbuds will work well.
- Click the **Zoom link** that's been sent to you in an email, and Zoom should automatically and quickly download to your computer.
- In Downloads on your computer, click Zoom_launcher.exe. Zoom should direct you to this with a large orange flag.
- Once Zoom has launched, a screen should pop up asking for your name. This will identify you during the meeting.
- You should now be part of the meeting. Click the green button that says "**Join Audio By Computer**".

Join by tablet or smartphone

- If you choose to use your tablet or smartphone, be sure to download the Zoom app ahead of time.
- Once you have downloaded the Zoom app, follow the "Join by computer" instructions above.

Join by telephone

- First, dial the phone number provided in the Zoom email.
- When prompted, dial the meeting ID number that is also provided.
- Your phone will be automatically muted once the meeting starts. If you want to speak, press *6 to unmute.

Additional February Meeting Info

Gretchen & Al Beatty are long time fly fishers, fly tiers, photographers and writers from Boise, Idaho. Both have received the Buz Buszek Memorial Award for fly tying excellence. They are best friends at the vise, on the water, at the computer keyboard, behind the camera, and in their Zoom studio. When they are not working, they enjoy spoiling their four grand children. If you are interested, you may review their many books on Amazon (search “gretchen beatty books”), their website (www.btsflyfishing.com) or check out their YouTube Channel (search “al beatty channel”) where they have numerous fly-tying tips and tricks for your viewing enjoyment.

Wonder Wing Drake

Wonder Wing Drake Materials

- **Hook:** Size 20 to 8, 1-x long dry fly
- **Thread:** Gray, 70 denier (6/0) in size
- **Tail:** Whiting Tailing Pack fibers or grizzly hackle fibers
- **Wings:** Large grizzly feathers, looped Wonder Wing style
- **Body:** Gray Soft Touch Dubbing or color of choice
- **Hackle:** Grizzly or color(s) of choice
- **Head:** Thread

Student notes: The wings on this fly allow the student to use any large hackle to make delicate, small (or large) dry fly wings. Once this technique is mastered, the student will never again have to search through a hen or rooster cape to find a matched pair of hackle-point wings.



The Rotary Stimulator

Modified Rotary Stimulator Materials

- **Hook:** 18-8 3XL, dry fly (straight or curved shank)
- **Thread:** Black, olive or color of choice
- **Tail:** Elk or deer hair
- **Body Hackle:** Grizzly or color of choice
- **Body:** Olive Soft Touch Dubbing or color of choice
- **Wing:** Deer or elk
- **Head:** Peacock herl (optional dubbing color of choice)
- **Front Hackle:** Grizzly or color of choice

Student notes: We refer to this pattern as a “modified” Stimulator because it doesn’t totally follow the original recipe. Our purpose with this pattern is to NOT show you how to tie the fly, but rather to use the fly to learn some secrets hidden within your inline rotary vise. We finish with the question, “Can an inline rotary vise make spinning hair a walk-in-the-park?” You’ll have to wait and see when we demonstrate the “surprise” fly pattern.



Outings Report – February 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.

Lake Taneycomo Outing – April 23 and 24, 2021

RSVP Due: February 14, 2021

OFF Members are welcome to reserve the following cabins for a two-night stay at Lilley's Landing Resort in Branson, MO (www.LilliesLanding.com). Members are required to make and pay for their own reservation directly with Lillie's by February 14, 2021. Please contact Ed Olander to notify the Club of your reservation. Ed confirm who is staying where.

- Cabin #2 - One bedroom, two beds @ \$82 per person
- Cabin #3 - Two bedroom, two beds @ \$138 per person
- Cabin #4 - Two bedroom, two beds @ \$138 per person
- Cabin #5 - Two bedroom, two beds @ \$95 per person
- Cabin #6 - Two bedroom, two beds @ \$95 per person
- Cabin #7 - Two bedroom, two beds @ \$106 per person
- Cabin #8 - Two bedroom, two beds @ \$106 per person

Edward Olander

Tel: 314-487-1663

Cell: 314-566-1422

Email: olanderedward@att.net

Questions about 2021 Outings?

Contact the New Outings Chair

Richard Bable

Phone: 314-650-2859

Email: blackbird@brick.net

2021 Membership Directory

As I hope everyone is aware by now, the Ozark Board of Directors voted to renew membership for 2021 to everyone who was a member in 2020, at no charge. When preparing this year's directory I am using 2020 directory information since new applications have not been submitted, Therefore, if any of your directory information has changed, please contact me at troutal@att.net.

The new directory will be published electronically sometime in mid February.

Al Bourisaw, Director of Membership, Ozark Fly Fishers

Conservation / Missouri Stream Team #31

2021 Events and Opportunities

Belews Creek Watershed Cleanup - March 20, 2021 - 9:00 AM

Location to be determined between Hillsboro and Cedar Hill, MO along Highway BB

By invitation - Belews Creek Watershed Partnership - Stream Team #3853

This cleanup will concentrate on eliminating roadside trash on rural county roads. The goal will be to remove trash before it is flushed into the beautiful Belews Creek watershed tributaries. Numerous Stream Teams will partner on this project. Work gloves, trash bags, safety vests and bottled water will be provided. COVID-19 precautions will be practiced. Finalized details for this cleanup will be determined closer to the event.

If interested in attending or if you have questions, please contact Scott Darrough at 314-560-1335 or swdarrough@yahoo.com

Fly of the Month – February 2021

WD-40 Midge

I tie a lot of flies. I like tying new and different flies. I, also, carry a lot of flies on the river. However, I still find myself tying on the same go-to flies every time I hit the streams. This is one of them. It is genius in its simplicity, super durable, very versatile, and a proven fish catcher everywhere it is thrown.

Materials

- Hook: Your favorite scud hook Size 16 – 20 (preferably barbless)
- Thread: 12/0 Veevus Olive
- Tail/Wing Case: Lemon Wood Duck Flank
- Body: Tying Thread
- Thorax: Grey Muskrat dubbing

Tying Steps

1. Pinch down barb on hook, and secure hook in vise. Start thread 1/3 back from the hook eye and advance to hook bend using touching wraps.
2. Tie in a tail of 6-8 wood duck fibers about as long as the body and wrap down using even touching thread wraps to form an even, smooth body ending where the thread started.
3. Leave the butts of the wood duck fibers for the wing case and pull back to leave room for the thorax.
4. Dub a rather prominent thorax of the muskrat dubbing between the body and the hook eye.
5. Pull the wood duck fibers over the thorax and secure just behind the eye.
6. Form a neat head with thread, whip-finish, and trim thread.



I like to fish this as a dropper behind either a dry fly when fishing near the top, or behind a heavier nymph when fishing deep. It mimics small mayfly nymphs and midges alike. It can be tied in olive, tan, gray, and black – all with the same wood duck tail and wing case and gray thorax.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers

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.

2021: Ozark Fly Fishers 50th Anniversary

Time flies, right? 2021 is the 50th 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

We will be celebrating throughout the year so keep an eye on the Newsletter and OFF's social media and website for more details.

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.



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

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Directors</u>	<u>Chairpersons</u>
<i>President:</i> Dan Rasch	<i>Communications:</i> Jake Voss	<i>Casting:</i> Brian Ellis
<i>Vice President:</i> Dave Crawford	<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
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<i>Past President:</i> Steve Antonic	<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

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 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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Ozark Fly Fishers



P. O. BOX 19753 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144

JUNE 1995

**DREW
SPANOGLE,
EDITOR**

CASTING PROGRAM AT TILLES PARK JUNE 22

Get those arms limbered up and those shoulders ready because an evening of casting is planned for our next meeting June 22 at Tilles Park. The casting will begin about 6:30 and will run until dark or until the mosquitos run us out.

Tilles Park is at the intersection of Litzinger and McKnight roads. Bring that one weight or that thirteen weight and plan to cast for accuracy and distance. or

simply to conk someone on the head. Meet at the lake.

Members of our club who are certified instructors are expected to be there and it's a good chance for members to cast other makes, shapes and types of rods. Brownie points will be awarded for bamboo, fiberglass, boron and even steel rods that show up. We are also panning to have a raffle.

Wear a hat and sunglasses because some of our members get, shall we say, a little like Indian Jones armed with his whip when they have their graphite poles in their hands.
Brian Flinchpaugh

WARM WATER OUTING JULY 14, 15, 16

The outing will be at Big Forks Campground on the Big River. Go four miles

past the Wal Mart in Desoto on Hwy 21 to Big River Heights Road. Turn right and go 4 miles and cross an old iron bridge over Big River. Then turn on the first

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**June 22-Tilles
Park- Casting
Program 6:30**

**July 13- Powder
Valley Center
Youth Club 7:00**

**July 14, 15, 16
Warm Water
Outing Big
River**

**July 27 Meeting
Swap Meet 7:30**

**Augst 24 Meeting
Mike Kruse 7:30**

road on the right. We will be at the pavilion Call Jenny to arrange canoe rental and shuttle. 586-0972/ Call me if you have any questions.

Hank Reifeiss

JUNE BOARD MEETING

A summary of the June meeting reported by secretary Nancy Lancaster:

Treasurers' Report; Our expenditures exceeded our income by 1696.66 This was due to the expenses incurred by bringing Gary LaFontane to speak in May and from purchasing a used computer and printer for the club newsletter.

Ways and Means; Reported a profit of \$200 from the May raffle.

Conservation: The warm water outing has been rescheduled for June 15 and 16 on the Big River.

Membership: the club membership gained ten new members bringing our total to 279.

Programs; The June meeting will be held at Tilles Park. Casting is the program. July will be a swap meet with fly tying demonstrations. August will have Mike Kruse speaking about Lake Taneycomo.

New Business: Youth meeting June 8. Powder alley Nature Center. More casting programs are scheduled for August with Joie Aimonette

and Rick Pelleter heading this up.

WANTED: SLIDES OF YOUR TRIP

Many of us will be fortunate enough to go fishing in locales both exotic and close to home this summer. This is "What I did on my vacation" theme will be the subject of our last meeting this year Thursday, December 7. We are going to have a slide show with places where members have gone in 1995. It is a chance to hear about some new locations and pick up some travel pointers as well as hear some real whoppers about fish.

We ask you to keep this in mind when you go fishing this summer. Bring a camera and shoot some slides. We want you to become part of the show. Call Brian Flinchpaugh at 949-9198 for more information

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Agnew
2634 Carousel Drive
St. Louis, MO 63125

Henry & Mary Ann Brinkly
755 La Fell
Manchester, MO 63021

Robert C. Hoyer
14366 New Offenburg Rd.
St. Genevieve, MO 63670

J. Andrew Lodes
126 Ivy Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63011

Ralph Kuehnel

605 Glen Arbor Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63021

Scott O'Malley
1547 Westmeade Dr.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Bill Ward
3578 Hirondele
Florissant MO 63034

Jim Toth
Grizzly Hackle
215 W. Front Street
Mizzoula, MT 59802

John Toth
1147 Martin Manor
Florissant, MO 63031

Gerry Clancy
4444 Bingham
St. Louis, MO 63116

CORRECTIONS:
Dave Barron H: 925-5704
W:441-0729

Steve Antonic H: 892-3792

Drew Spanogle W: 432-3616

YOUTH CLUB

The youth club is off and running according to John Walker. They meet at the Powder Valley Nature Center. Our next meeting is on July 13 at 7:00 P. M. All are welcome. No equipment is needed. Bring a youngster out and join the fun.

FROM THE EDITOR . . .

I would like to thank the board of directors for giving me a second opportunity to serve the club as newsletter editor. They generously purchased the necessary equipment to maintain the high quality of our publications. And I will be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the twentieth

century. My portable Royal typewriter is no longer up to the task. This here PC . . . well, it's something else, with word processor and publishing programs. It is going to take me a while to learn how to use it properly and I ask your indulgence while I figure out how to use it. Hopefully, technology will overcome typos and misspelling.

I thank Tom Widmar, Jeff Bryan and John Walker for their help in getting this system up and running. Without their help, it would be I, the Royal, and the typos.

As before, I wish to keep the newsletter informative, educational and entertaining. A good newsletter requires membership participation and interest. I welcome contributions from members. As always, letters to the editor and welcome and, except Widmar, encouraged. (Tom needs no encouragement) Members wishing to sell tackle and equipment are welcome to use the newsletter to advertise their gear.

Contributors should have their submissions to me by the first Monday of each month. Please send to:
Drew Spanogle
108 Holly Green Drive
Ballwin, MO 63021

FOR SALE

Leonard 7 1/2' 3/2 split cane 4 wt. Red, Cigar, NS SB w/butternut spacer. One tip down 1/2," Invisible wrap on

mid and butt. Factory refinished. Delightful moderate action. Original bag and tube. \$500 Call Steve Lauer

Phillipson 7 1/2' Powr Pakd 2/2 split cane. 4/5 wt. Gold, tipped black. Gold ann. alum./tenite DL seat with small full wells grip. All original. With original bag and aluminum tube. \$400 Call Drew Spanogle.

Orvis 7 1/2' Midge 2/2 Split cane 4/5 wt Wrapped brown Orvis DL seat with walnut spacer. Cigar grip, blued ferrules. Perfect rod for small flies and selective fish. Like new, all original with proper bag and tube. \$500 Call Drew

Fenwick 7' 2/1 Glass FF70 One of Don Green's finest tapers when the best rods were made by Fenwick. 5/6 line with crisp casting action. For small brushy streams, this would be hard to beat. VG condition with OR bag and tube. \$60 CHEAP Call Drew

WHITE RIVER TRIP

Jack Sadler

What are the subtle forces that can induce man to desert the comforts of his fireside chair and a good book to face the cold elements of mid-January in an open boat? I can think of four, maybe five.

Picture this: It's five p.m. Friday at the fly shop. The smoke is so thick, the only

way you know you are not by yourself is the loud talk and tinkling ice cubes in the glasses filled with rich amber libation. Over at the counter, Tom is showing recently taken pictures of his trip to Bull Shoals tail water. One in particular comes to mind: Gary Balke is holding a huge brown trout with a set of teeth that matched those in his broad smiling face. Gary has this trout clutched against his chest for one reason: If he tried to advance it toward the camera (as we often do) it would pull him over on his face. It was a fish that gets a man to thinking. Dr. Bill Popovic is looking at the picture with an expression that says "book the hunt!" Dr. Bill Friedman, also in the picture viewing crowd, drops the first shoe and says "Who's ready?" Warren Couch, who has already seen the pictures in the first to respond. Tom kicked the ball along by reminding us that Gastons's Lodge offers half price rates during January/. Before the next round of Oban was history, "the hunt was booked." Dr. Bill volunteered to drive, and Dr. Pop offered to bring the scotch and the old redhead signed up for the food.

The following Wednesday, a tad ahead of the afternoon traffic, three of us departed the parking lot in Bill's bright red Ford. Bill had made reservations at Gastons for one of the two bedroom suites. I mention this because they offer ample food for four fishermen, cooking chocolates and a lovely fireplace with free firewood. We also

secured the services of two guides for two days. A must if the turbines are in operation that is a sure thing in midwinter. Warren Couch and his son Mark were a good hour ahead of us. That was good. There would be a warm fire to greet us and glasses at the ready.

We were approaching Cuba on I44 before someone had the audacity to mention the position of the sun with regards the yardarm. Dr. Pop, from his comfortable seat besides the cooler provided a toddy for the body while Bill regaled us with selections from popular Broadway musicals with the volume of his surround-sound set just below permanent hearing loss. Not to mention the fact that my pant cuffs were being singed by the heater. On several occasions I serriptitiously nudged the temperature selector toward the blue. Dr. Pop complained it was so cold he couldn't pour the Oban because the neck was icing up. By the time we reached Lakeview Arkansas, we were ready to eat the labels of the corned beef hash cans. The Cow Shed was suggested by someone as a suitable steakhouse and since we couldn't find the 178 club, it was the Cow Shed. I attributed the fact that it was virtually empty to the hour. The fine cuts of meat on display in cooler by the door were encouraging. So we ordered. Friedman and Popovic selected 28 ounce T-bones. I went for the sirloin strip, rare. The salad was excellent but I could have

walked back to St. Louis on the steak.

I awoke in the morning to the smell of fresh brewed coffee. Warren, God bless him was in the kitchen cooking breakfast. We were to meet the guides at 7:30 by the public boat ramp next to the Bull Shoals Campground. I was in hopes we would get to wade a little but all eight turbines were in operation and the river was bank full.

Since Jim's boat was the bigger of the two, Warren, Mark and I went with him. Jim is a pleasant sort; a big man that could pass for Santa in work clothes. His boat boasted two lean-back fishing seats which were comfortable to fish from. My reel was loaded with a shooting line similar to a #2 level fly line. The leader was 2X down to a 1/8 bell sinker. The tippet held two small egg flies.

Warren and Mark had good hook ups on their first drift. Colorful rainbow and brown about 15 inches. For a half hour, I couldn't buy a strike. After at least six pattern changes, I tried a shad fly. We had seen a few dead shad about an inch long and the gulls near the dam were in a feeding frenzy. In two minutes I had my first strike, a beautiful 18 inch rainbow. For nearly an hour I had one of those "fish on every cast experiences. Warren and Mark got an occasional fish but I was having a ball. The casting technique with so much lead weight is what is

called chuck and duck. Thirty feet of line is stripped off the reel and by deft roll of the wrist, is cast broadside into the water. In a few seconds, the tick tick of the lead weight in the riverbed gravel is the telltale sign of a proper drift. A tug on the line is caused by one of three things: a snag on a rock, sub surface vegetation or a fish. All are met with a quick lift of the rod tip. A rock usually disengages itself, a steady pull means moss, a fish hook up is obvious. If one of your companions gets a fish on, get your lie out of the water now! A ten pound brown will give an angler all he can handle. Extra line in the water can mean a lost fish. Halford would roll over in his grave at this type of fly fishing, not excepting the catch and release. However, this isn't the River Test during a sedge hatch. For two days of fishing I didn't see one disappointed fisherman with a scowl on his face.

At about eleven o'clock the trout got lockjaw. For half and hour not a single fish was taken from either boat. We agreed a little food for the inner man was in order so we headed for the boat dock. The other boat soon followed.

A satisfying nip of brandy put a warm touch to our innards and we enjoyed Hillary Friedman's tasty sandwiches. It seems as though Bill Popovic took the biggest fish, a hook jawed brown estimated at ten pounds plus. We all agreed, spawning browns are as

beautiful as any fish alive. Their spots are glistening beacons and their flanks bright golden brown. The catch and release program instituted by the Arkansas conservation people is producing a world class fishery in the White river and its tributaries. Any time from the first of the year through mid- February is good. If for some reason, the turbines at the dam are not running, the water will be wadeable and you will have the added pleasure of sight fishing to huge trout. Twenty five pounders can be found in these waters. Take your life preserver and your hearing aid. Wading can be dangerous when they pull the plug at the dam.

Late in February, when the shad kill occurs, the trout and gulls feed in a frenzy and this simple pattern tied with white marabou on a # 10 3X long hook is a killer. and during the spawning season, eggs, eggs and eggs. Egg color... let the guide or success decide. Mid week is best if you can get away. There were five boats using the best part of a mile of water on Thursday. By the time we left for home, the parking lot was loaded with cars, trucks and boats. Gaston does not keep the restaurant open in the winter so take someone along who can cook. Sorry, but Warren is booked for the year.

SWAP MEET, FLY TYING SET FOR JULY

If there is an old fly rod or reel, some unread books or some neglected fly tying material sitting undisturbed in the corner of a basement, start thinking about selling or swapping the at the club swap and fly tying meet planned for July. Yes, we're going to have some tables set up for all of you who would like to get, sell or buy fishing equipment and related stuff at the meeting. It's a good place to pick up some decent gear and increase or decrease that pile of stuff that may be in danger of becoming a fire hazard. This pot luck meeting will also have casting instruction, fly tying and various other activities. Stay tuned for more details in the July newsletter. Brian Flinchbaugh

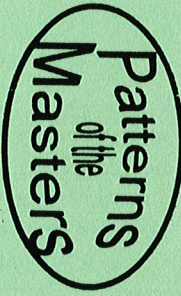
TROUT STOCKING ASSISTANCE FROM OZARK

Dick Jente is to be commended for his assistance with the MDC stocking program. Dick and three other Ozarkoids assisted the MDC in stocking 8000 brown trout in the Current River from Montauk Park to Cedar Grove on April 7th. The fish typically were 8-9 inches in length. In the eight miles of river in which the fish were stocked, there should be an average of a fish every five feet. Thanks to Dick and his crew.

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