

# Ozark Fly Fishers

## Member Newsletter

January 2021

### President's Message

So, we turn the page on 2020 and hope for an improving 2021. We will ease into the year slowly and continue with our Zoom meetings for now.

Our Holiday Fly Exchange went well, and twenty gifts were exchanged. I expected maybe twelve and it was good to see everyone step up.

We have two new directors on the board, Richard Bable for Outings and Chris Friesen for Ways and Means. A big Ozark Thank you goes out to Ed Olander and Jerry Kniepman - who both served admirably for our club. Thanks also to the Chairperson, Steve Garret, and both John Gallia and Bob Strathman for their work on the Nominating Committee.

As everyone is well aware, 2020 was a challenge, so we waived the club fees for this year. We are still trying to squeeze in some value for our members and I applaud the Wednesday fly tying via Zoom. A couple other activities were the trip to Westover and the ongoing side trips by a few of us to Busch Wildlife and the other Urban Lakes, including the lake added in Union, MO. It looks like the annual FYAO will look different this year and I will let Ed write up the particulars a little deeper in the newsletter.

I read Mark Van Patten's book and he is interested in speaking via Zoom at a future member meeting. Maybe by late spring we can get back to normal. Hope springs eternal.

Let's change the meaning of streaming!

Be well, My friends.

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

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

### Throwback

Ozark Fly Fishers has had a Monthly Member Newsletter for a long time. To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com)



### Upcoming Events

#### January

January 28, 2021 – 7:00 pm  
Online via Zoom  
Speaker TBD

**Reminder: 2021 OFF  
Banquet is CANCELLED**

#### February

##### General Member Meeting

February 25, 2021 – 7:00 pm  
Online via Zoom

#### March

##### General Member Meeting


March 25, 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](http://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)

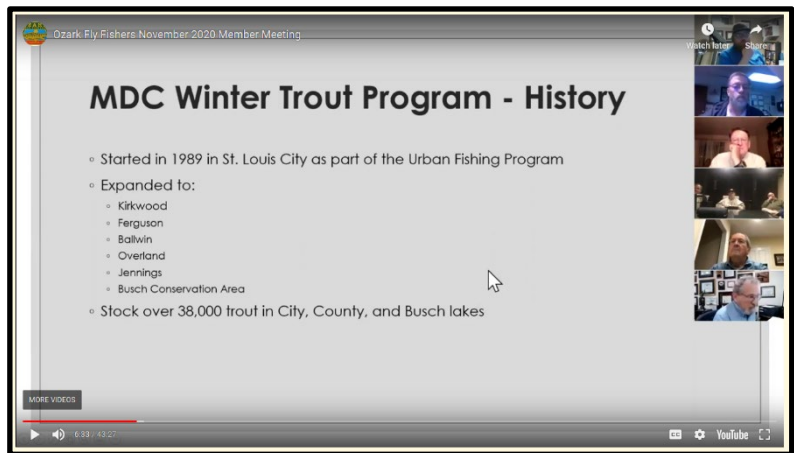
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## OFF Zoom Meetings

Come Zoom with Ozark Fly Fishers. On Thursday, January 28, 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.)

## 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.

# Outings Report – January 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.

## Montauk F.Y.A.O. Outing – February 5, 6, and 7, 2021

**RSVP Due: February 1, 2021**

Rooms M01 – M09 are available to OFF Members for reservation for the nights of Friday, February 5th, and Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. All rooms have been fully renovated with microwaves and coffee makers. Members are responsible for their own for meals. Montauk's dining room will be open, although members are encouraged to abide by COVID guidelines. Unlike years' past, we will **not** have use of the Searcy Building on Friday and Saturday for socializing.

Please make your reservations by **February 1, 2021** directly with Montauk for \$123.66 each for two for the weekend.



## 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](http://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](mailto:olanderedward@att.net)

## Questions about 2021 Outings?

### Contact the New Outings Chair

#### Richard Bable

Phone: 314-650-2859

Email: [blackbird@brick.net](mailto:blackbird@brick.net)

# Fly of the Month – January 2021

## Bling Midge

Winter is when trout fishing really starts getting technical here in Missouri. Water gets low and clear, and the fish have had a long summer and fall and have already been subjected to a lot of fishing pressure. Winter is also a time when the bugs take a break too. They tend to be very small and only really emerge on just the right days and for a fairly short time. This is either streamer time or midge time. The streamer game is a young guy's sport – a “hero or zero” kind of day. Midges produce year round but especially now -but not your typical tungsten bead-thread midge variety. They do work, but they've seen 'em all. This season calls for something different.



The Bling Midge is a very minimalistic midge pattern that includes just a hint of flash – that glimmer of life. It can be tied in just about any color and on a variety of hooks, and it can easily be tied down into the #20 - #24 sizes if need be.

### Tying Materials

- Hook: Pictured on Lightning StrikeSE7 but I now prefer the Firehole 316 in #18 - 22
- Thread: Color of body – Red, Olive, Brown, etc.
- Rib: Black or Brown Tying Thread or X-Small Wire
- “Bling”: Opal Flashabou
- Head: Black Tying Thread
- Coating : Head Cement or Thin UV Cure (I like Solar-Ez BoneDry)

### Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and start thread just behind hook eye. Wrap back to hook bend in very flay touching thread wraps. Remember to keep the body slim.
2. Tie in ribbing material at hook bend, and wind thread back to about the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> point on the hook shank. Spiral wrap rib material to the thread and secure. If using black thread, clip off the body color thread and continue with black thread.
3. Tie in opal flashabou and advance thread to hook eye. Make several wraps of flashabou at the collar and tie off.
4. Trim excess flashabou and form a head of black thread and twice the thickness of the body.
5. Whip-finish and trim the thread.
6. Coat with your favorite cement and let cure.

I typically fish these to those fish you see hovering near the surface or in shallow water obviously feeding on whatever bugs you cannot see coming down to them. like to fish them in tandem with other unweighted midge or BWO patterns – Barr's Emergers, JuJu Bees, etc. will also fish these under a parachute dry fly as a dropper, or under a mini-egg pattern as an attractor. While tungsten bead midges certainly have their place, these are much more of a finesse style pattern that catches fish when everything else is rejected.

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



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

Time flies, right? 2021 is 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)

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](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.

# 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

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Directors</u>	<u>Chairperson</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
<i>Secretary:</i> Richard Brasington	<i>Membership:</i> Al Bourisaw	<i>Video Library:</i> Ed Heist
<i>Past President:</i> Steve Antonic	<i>Outings:</i> Richard Bable	<i>Webmaster:</i> Jake Voss
	<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.

### 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 Flyfishers

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EDITOR: DREW SPANOGLE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It may seem strange to read a president's message that touts membership in other organizations, but that's exactly what's going to happen here.

First, if you haven't considered joining the Smallmouth Alliance, do so now. This is a new organization dedicated to creating a better smallmouth bass population in Missouri. We feel it is worthy of your support.

Second, if you receive *Fly Fisherman* magazine, you probably read Art Lee's articles on the Little Beaverkill and Willowemoc rivers which come together near Roscoe, N. Y. to form the Beaverkill river at the famed junction pool. It was here that some years ago Theodore Gordon cast his dry fly onto the water and began what we call today fly fishing in America. Development along the Little Beaverkill and Willowemoc is threatening water quality. I remember several years ago seeing a sewage treatment facility being built just off junction pool, and wherever you see that kind of construction going on, you can be assured that man is moving in. The loss of trees is causing a lot of silt to run off into the streams, covering good spawning gravel, and water temperatures are rising rapidly.

The Beaverkill is the very beginning of our sport in America. I would like to urge each of you to join an organization I have been a part of for a number of years: the Catskill Fly Fishing Center. The Center is dedicated to preserving Catskill streams. Cost is only about \$25 a year, and when you join a trout is placed in a stream in your honor. It's worthwhile investment not only in our past, but in our future. Write the Center at Roscoe, N. Y.

Ozark is also a worthwhile organization. I was happy to hear that the three resolutions we promoted with the Conservation Federation of Missouri were adopted by the Federation. However, remember: this is just a first step. These proposals must be adopted by the Department of Conservation.

Let me say one thing about that: We are sometimes quick to fire off letters concerning the things our government agencies do that we don't like. Let's remember to fire off some letters in support of those things they do that pleases us.

*Empty creels and full memories*  
Tom Widmar



## Schedule of Events

- Apr. 23 Roundtable Discussion on Area Fishing
- May 1,2,3 Spring Outing - Current River
- May 23 Jim Toth of Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop, Mizzoula, MT, discusses Western Slope fly fishing in Montana.
- June 6,7 Warm Water Outing - Big Piney River
- June 25 Fly Tying
- July 23 Museum of Fly Fishing
- August 7 Art Johnson - Fly Fishing the Smoky Mountain streams
- Sept. 24 John Gully and the White River/Northfork
- Oct. 22 Sage Representative Jack Birkner and former Florida guide Ted Heitman discuss salt water fly fishing.
- Dec. 5 Dave Whitlock

All meetings will be held at the Creve Coeur American Legion Post at 934 Rue de la Banque at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise designated.

## APRIL 23 MEETING

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON  
AREA FISHING SET  
FOR APRIL MEETING

A busy schedule can play heck with setting up fly fishing programs. And



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CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MISSOURI



that's what happened to Bill Heckle and his April 23 appearance. But we've come up with an attractive alternative.

As you probably guessed, Bill had to cancel his discussion of striper and Wisconsin trout fishing because of other commitments. Putting our noggins together, we've decided instead to hold a roundtable discussion of various fishing destinations and opportunities in our own backyard in Missouri and Arkansas.

What, no exotic climes. No fish as long as your arm tales of angling angst. No nuggets of knowledge from an expert (someone with a slide show who lives more than 50 miles away). No flash, no excitement.

The climes we'll be talking about aren't particularly exotic and we have enough angst in our nonfishing lives as it is. But there will be nuggets of knowledge and maybe a little excitement. Please, no flashing.

We're going to have club members talk about waters many of us call home -- the Meramec, Current, North Fork of the White river for trout; these rivers and a lengthy list of others for small-mouth bass; the spring creeks that supply put and take fishing in Missouri's trout parks; tailwater trout below dams in Missouri and Arkansas; and farm ponds and lakes for bluegill and largemouth bass.

For the newcomers to the club and fly fishing in general, this is an opportunity to pick the brains of knowledgeable anglers who have fished our waters for years. They may not know everything there is to know about these waters, but they can supply enough information to get you started.

Did you know, for example, that there are only about 200 miles of trout water in Missouri but hundred of miles of smallmouth water? That there are wild trout in Missouri and Arkansas? Or what streams offer good dry fly

fishing? The list of questions you can ask is endless.

Yeah, the oldtimers say, we've heard all this before. Well, maybe you haven't. Maybe there are bits of information that you can use on your favorite stretch of river or lake.

Our intrepid group of club members will each speak briefly about a particular stream or type of fishing and answer questions. These anglers can also talk about a wide range of subjects including fishing in some of those exotic climes.

We'll also show some slides of some of these areas, to put in pictures as well as words some information about fishing here close to home.

The meeting also may be a good warmup to our first coldwater outing of the season on May 1, 2 and 3 at Montauk State Park.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. at the Creve Coeur American Legion Post at 934 Rue de la Banque.

## UPSTREAM, DOWNSTREAM

*Jeff Bryan*

### MOVING WATER

Moving water, a river or stream, is a very special thing. It is a living, breathing, ever-changing life-support system that is just as important, equally in need of protection, as the fish that depend on it. Lakes and ponds are nice, sometimes even beautiful, but there is something intoxicating about flowing water.

As a child growing up in rural Missouri, I spend much of my time exploring and playing in the creeks and streams near my home. Even as a youngster I was amazed at the "things" that lived in moving water. Turn over a rock and you were likely to find a crawdad, a snail, maybe a wiggly,

crawly bug, or you might find that the rock is really a mussel. This child-like amazement is with me still. Each time I go fishing, I spend a little time turning over rocks, looking for bugs and otherwise just playing in the water trying to connect with its inhabitants.

I prefer my moving water, of course, full of happy trout, swimming merrily about in search of my fly. No matter how many creeks you have waded in your youth, how many rocks you have turned over as an adult, you cannot fully appreciate a stream and all that it can offer unless you have fished it. Only then can you begin to unlock the mysteries that lie beneath the meniscus. Only with a fishing rod can we fully unite with the rivers and the streams and the wildlife that they nourish.

I caught myself today, during a rainstorm, watching a gutter that was swollen with run-off. Looking closely at this miniature river, I saw a beautiful series of riffles and runs and a few nice pools and back-eddies. Fly fishing, as you all know, is an addiction and can influence much of what we think and do, so I know that you can understand my somewhat strange way of looking at a ditch. Regardless, moving water is special, even in a ditch.

Therefore, as fishermen, we have a vested interest in the protection of our natural rivers and streams. While we may be aware of the necessity to preserve the likes of the Current, the Meramec, the Eleven Point, the North Fork of the White and the Jacks Fork, the Big River, the Little Piney, the Gasconade, and the Niangua, many others are not. It is important that we strive to educate the newer members of our sport to the ways of the Ozark streams and urge them to not only push for stricter regulations governing the harvest of trout, but to write letters supporting the MDC's efforts regarding stream conservation.



In his book, *The Way of the Trout*, M.R. Montgomery writes, "Of all the water on the face of the earth, less than 1/2 of 1% is in lakes and rivers. The rest is in oceans, in snowfields, or locked underground. And of all surface fresh water, most is in the lakes. At anytime, less than 1/1000 of 1% of the world's water is flowing, and much of that is warm or muddy. The amount of water suitable for trout is so small as to be all but unimaginable, so trivial that no one has attempted an accurate estimate of the percentage."

Let's think about this for a moment. Unless the stream is cooled by a bottom-releasing dam or replenished by spring flow, trout habitat ends within a few dozen miles of the river's source. We would have to travel many, many miles up the Missouri or Mississippi before we would find a trout. Moving water is special. Moving water that can support trout is rare and needs to be protected.

I have in front of me a report sent by Dr. Edward Brown, a Bioeconomist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, entitled "Missourians' Perceptions of Streams and Stream Conservation". This study is a summary of the findings of a survey commissioned by the MDC in 1991. The primary findings of the evaluation was that few citizens are aware of stream conservation programs and very few have yet to put a high priority on stream degradation and the need for conservation in the state. It shows that despite a four-year streams initiative, punctuated by intense media coverage of the Natural Streams Act, citizens awareness of stream conservation issues was barely detectable.

These results are extremely disturbing because we are especially blessed in this state to have so many free-flowing streams. Streams that will one day be warm and muddy unless we act now to protect them. Dr. Brown admits in his letter to me that "...this

may be because we are not advertising our programs through appropriate channels or with adequate methods." Maybe. I happen to think that the MDC is doing a reasonable job of trying to promote "stream awareness". I also think that the average citizen needs to wake up and recognize what these rivers mean to us, aesthetically and financially.

According to a paper being presented by Dr. Brown and Dr. Daniel Witter to the 57th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, fish and wildlife recreation expenditures in 1985 in Missouri, by residents and non-residents, totaled nearly \$1.4 billion and accounted for over \$2.7 billion in total business activity. These expenditures accounted for nearly 1/3 of all travel spending in Missouri and supported almost 57,000 jobs in our state.

These statistics included all fishing, as well as hunting. What about us river fishermen? In the United States in 1985, stream anglers alone spent over \$8 billion, \$400 million of which was spent in Missouri. This magnitude of spending has many positive impacts on local and state economics. Dollars spent by recreationist are re-spent several times, generating additional business and supporting many jobs; stream angler spending alone supports over 10,000 jobs in Missouri.

In Missouri in 1985, state sales tax revenue from stream angler spending was about \$16 million, which equals 1/3 of the MDC annual sales tax revenue generated from the 1/8% sales tax for conservation. The point that all of these statistics make is this: not only do we need to protect and preserve our beloved moving waters for conservation and environmental reasons, we need to recognize the economic value that these streams provide. Management decisions made by the MDC will take these factors into consideration in the future.

Here's another statistic for you that requires no explanation – you decide for yourself what the implications might be – According to a report done by Spence Turner in 1986 about trout fishing on the Meramec river, "83% of the fishermen lived outside the immediate area; only 17% were local fishermen."

As most of you know, the Conservation Federation of Missouri recently passed a resolution recommending that 18" length limit, no gigging and no artificial regulations be placed on all of our trophy trout water. I strongly urge you to write to the Department and express your desire to see these regulations enacted. I understand that some members of the Department have bemoaned the fact that they are receiving too many letters to answer. If you are concerned about this, you might say in your letter that there is no need for them to reply, but that you hope that they will take your opinions into consideration. Regardless, write.

Send your letters to:

Mr. Lee Redmond, Assistant Chief  
Fisheries - Management

Mr. Jerry Presley, Director

Mr. Andy Dalton, Commissioner

Mr. Jay Henges, Commissioner

Mr. John Powell, Commissioner

Mr. Jerry Combs, Commissioner

Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

## APRIL WARM WATER REPORT

*Hank Reifeiss*

Spring is here and it's time to partake of some old time Ozark cures and remedies.



An old traditional cure was to drink sassafras tea to thin the thick winter blood.

To get you moving around after the long winter, pokeberry juice was mixed with home brew to help rheumatism and aching joints.

A headache (probably from drinking too much pokeberry juice) could be relieved by chewing bark from a willow tree. Makes sense to me, there was many a morning I woke up and felt like chewing the bark off a tree.

Fresh manure rubbed on the scalp helps prevent baldness. The only explanation I can think of for this quaint custom is once again, too much pokeberry.

Ringworm can be cured if the sufferer finds a sixteen year old girl. She must rub the little toe of her right foot around the ringworm for one minute and the ringworm will disappear. Now this one doesn't sound bad at all. I'll bet there was a plague of ringworm among those old boys in them hills.

Even with all these home spun cures, the best cure for a fisherman is still spring and its great fishing. This year, the club has a lot of fishing coming up to cure your spring fever.

The club's annual warm water outing will be June 5, 6 & 7 on the Big Piney River. We will be camping at Wilderness Ridge Resort. We have reserved the bluff campground. This is a great chance to fish some excellent bass water and get to know and fish with your fellow club members. I'll have more information in next month's newsletter. If you have any questions call me at 846-1466.

Kevin Meneau of the Conservation Commission will be talking to us at the next meeting about doing a creel survey on the lower Meramec. He wants us to help gather information on spotted bass in the section from Pacific to Times

Beach. This is a good opportunity to get to know some close-in water. It's also a good excuse to get out and improve the fishing in that section of the river.

I'd like everyone to look into and join the "Smallmouth Alliance." This is a non profit grass roots organization founded to promote quality smallmouth fisheries. A chapter is just forming in the St. Louis area and this is your chance to get involved and help improve the smallmouth fishing in this state. This is the way to let your feelings be known. There is a meeting May 13, 7:00 P.M. at the Power Valley Nature Center, 11715 Craigwood, Kirkwood. For more information contact Ozark member Mike Corson at 993-2029.

That's all for now. I'm going out and try to catch a cure for ringworm.

SPREAD THE WORD  
CATCH & RELEASE

### From the editor.....

Work is the curse of the fishing class.

Next month: "A Muskie Ate My Flesh!"

*Drew*

### To the editor:

Dear Drew:

Howdy pilgrim. Just a quick note to say hey, humm-baby and all those other quaint colloquial greetings usual invented by sport jocks with single digit IQ's. Also, I have a couple of ideas to pass along and hope you wouldn't mind playing mailman for me to save an extra stamp. Thanks ahead of time!

Haven't been fishing much lately at all. Went up to a little tail water fishery called Putah Creek (interesting name - in Spanish it is a not so nice word for "lady of ill repute"). And this creek

can treat you like that too. They don't run a lot of water in winter because the farmers don't have much corn growing at that time of year. So the creek is pretty fishable most everywhere. During summer there's only about two or three locations accessible for fly fishing - the rest looks like a lake. Like most winter fishing the trout are slow to move and patience is the name of the game. But the fish you do catch are chunky rainbows in the 10 to 16 inch class. Sure beats pruning trees or other similar domestic chores.

Did tie flies at two of the Ed Rice International Expos - one in Sacramento and one in San Mateo. Had a nice long chat with Cal Bird - he's quite a neat old gentleman. Planning to tie at the International in Calgary. Also have business in Seattle and Salt Lake City later on this year and hope to combine a little fishing with both those trips. Dave Simmons of Powell Rods invited me to come steelhead fishing with him so I may take him up on that because I don't have a clue how to do that. And plan to make the Southern Conclave if they'll have me back this year. Set aside some days this time and have a business trip planned to Marietta, Ohio and will fly thru St. Louis which'll make it pretty affordable. Which brings me to one of my messages I'd like you to pass along for me. If the club would like, I'll offer to make a shadow box of "White River Flies" (as published in one of the Ozark newsletters late last year) for the club to donate. All I ask is reimbursement for the materials - all the labor is really cheap - as in free. Or if they have something else in mind that I can help with just let me know.

Well, that about covers my little trivial news. Keep in touch and if any of you get out this way please give me a call.

Doug Jeffries