

# Ozark Fly Fishers

## Member Newsletter

July 2021

### President's Message

Welcome to July! Ready for a hot streak?

We had a good turnout (including yours truly) this July at Montauk, and also a Water Quality Monitoring event. Thanks as always to Scott Darrough, but also to our other Stream Team leaders, Glen Bish and Bill Leslie. Maybe next year we can restore the full schedule of events from years past. The outing at Montauk, with the programs, meals and fly tying in the Searcy Room, and the grilling under the Pavilion has always been one of the highlights of the year for the club, I think.



Thanks to Blake Wilson from Lilleys Landing for his talk on Taneycomo. He gave many good ideas on different methods and patterns for the lake. Looks like the water levels on Tablerock and Beaver Lake will keep the gates open for a while. That requires just enough weight to bounce (not drag) size ten scuds across the bottom- and the ugly but effective 'chunk and dunk' casting method. Oh, and a boat helps.

A few of us visited Innsbrook on Thursday, July 8, to meet Chris from their fishing club, and check out their lakes for ideas. Might be worth thinking of an agreement between our clubs.

I was able to find some Lagurtun flat braid on Mark Van Patten's "Simple Beaded Soft Hackle" from a vendor in British Columbia, and tied up a few of these bad boys for Montauk and a test run. Mark does well with them but my results may vary.

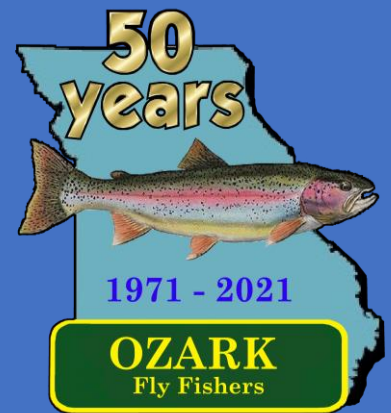
Had a nice day with the veterans, Amy Milne and Project Healing Waters on Monday, July 5 on the Huzzah. Spent a good part of the day dodging the watercraft, and the place turned into a stream version of The Party Cove, but with bluegills and Veterans, it was a fun outing.

Still hoping to get this virus behind us and return to our normal business. Be well my friends.

**Dan Rasch, President, Ozark Fly Fishers**  
Email: [drasch27@hotmail.com](mailto:drasch27@hotmail.com)

**Have a Newsletter Article?**

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



### Upcoming Events

#### July

General Member Meeting

July 22, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Online via Zoom

Guest Speaker:

Louis Wittenberg

#### August

General Member Meeting

August 25, 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

#### Reminder

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

 [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)

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

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# OFF on SportsPlus

This month, KSDK Channel 5 highlighted the experiences of the Steuterman family, and how fly fishing helped them cope following a cancer diagnosis. OFF Member, John Steuterman, and other club members were interviewed for the segment that aired earlier this month.

To read the story, visit KSDK's website at: <https://www.ksdk.com/article/sports/local-fly-fisherman-sport-community-cancer/63-d3feb005-59b2-4adf-9c91-7f33712c5b36>

A link to the video of the segment can be found here: <https://www.ksdk.com/video/features/local-fly-fisherman-sport-community-cancer/63-86e5922d-0a44-4841-a72f-93bb819113fd?jwsourc=cl>



## Outings Report – July 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](mailto:rbable@brick.net)

### 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

# Fly of the Month – July 2021

## Countach Jig Nymph “Plus”

I'm always cruising around the internet looking for the next great fly pattern. I came across a warm water fly fishing page with loads of photos of enormous bluegill caught on the Countach Jig Nymph Plus. Because everything in on Google, I found this little gem of a fly with an interesting controversy as to where it originated. The story is that Clark "Cheech" Pierce of FlyFishFood created the Countach Nymph while John Newbury created an almost identical fly called the Knuckle Dragger. When the two were both named to the Fulling Mill Pro Staff, they learned of each other's fly, and had a good laugh. While the original is a great looking fly, apparently the “Plus” version with the addition of antron in the abdomen and a tiny marabou tail is the “bomb”.

### Materials

- 
- Hook: Barbless jig hook - size 12 (Firehole 516)
- Bead: 1/8" tungsten, black nickel
- Thread: 8/0 Orange or Brown (orange if you want a hot spot)
- Legs: Grizzly Sili-Legs - Rootbeer
- Tail: Tan Marabou
- Abdomen: Antron dubbing, Rust or Red Fox Squirrel Back
- Ribbing: Midge Diamond Braid - Pearl or Rootbeer
- Thorax: Micro Pine Squirrel Zonker, Rust or Red Fox Squirrel back hair



### Tying Steps

1. Position bead on hook and secure in vise. Start thread behind bead and advance to hook bend.
2. Tie in a marabou tail about as long as the hook shank. Tie in a section of the sili legs on each side of the tail just slightly longer than the tail.
3. Tie in the Diamond Braid ribbing, and then dub a tapered body to about the 3/4 point on the hook shank. Evenly wrap the ribbing to the thorax and tie off. Trim excess.
4. Make a dubbing loop just behind the bead. Trim the pine squirrel hair off of the zonker strip and put it into the dubbing loop so that it is fairly sparse and has the tip ends longer than the butt ends. Spin your dubbing loop to make a spikey noodle and make two wraps to form the collar. Tie off and trim the excess thread loop.
5. Tie in a section of leg material on each side of the hook between the collar and the bead extending out both front and back.
6. Whip finish the thread and trim excess.

The photo actually has way too much of a collar, but you get the idea. I fish this like most warm water flies – short twitching retrieve or as a dropper under a popper. It is also great if you can find bedding bluegill or cruising carp. They will take it too. I also found it tied in all black, and all tan so don't be afraid to experiment. You may also want to experiment with the bead size. Since ponds and lakes generally do not have much current, a full-size tungsten bead may be too heavy and sink too fast.

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



# How Safe Are We Now?

In an article I saw this morning, I was dismayed to see that Missouri was among the states with the lowest vaccination rates (~38% currently). When you look on a map detailing rates of vaccination by county it is clear the most poorly vaccinated areas are rural, sparsely populated areas. In particular, where most of us like to fly fish in this state with rates less than 24%! . But what really got my attention was data recently published about the rise of cases of the new Delta mutation (in particular, Delta Plus) that was first seen last year arising in India but now found globally. Right now, this variant accounts for 29% of all cases in Missouri. This is especially serious in the Springfield area it appears.

So far, the two most commonly used vaccines here in Missouri have shown reasonably good efficacy against the variants that have popped up (as the ID folks predicted they would). The problem we face with the Delta Plus variant is that it has much higher transmissibility rates. The bad news: there are cases of fully vaccinated patients testing positive for DP. The good news: they are far less likely to become severely ill.

The US vaccination rate is averaging 46%, so why is Missouri and so many nearby states lagging so far behind? I have yet to find any seriously done investigation into why we have vaccine hesitancy, but an article posted on the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's webpage cited a project done by the Kaiser Family Foundation COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor shed some light on this. They found that 13% said they would "definitely not" get a vaccination for COVID-19. 17% of respondents stated that the vaccine was "too new, there's not enough information about it or its long-term effects are unknown." The three next most common reasons, each cited by 8% of respondents, are "that they don't believe the vaccine is effective, they don't need it and they don't know what's in it." Other reasons include being concerned about "side effects, not liking vaccines in general and not being concerned about contracting COVID-19".

I am posting this to the membership because I know there is a crap-load of rumor, inuendo and hearsay about COVID and vaccination. Were I still practicing medicine, I would advise patients in the 55-80 yr age group in particular, who want to go trout fishing in our rural regions to practice the same precautions you learned in 2020, but the most important being: (1) social distancing when among unvaccinated people or whose vaccination status is unknown (2) prudent hand-washing and use of alcohol gels.

Best wishes and lots of fishes,

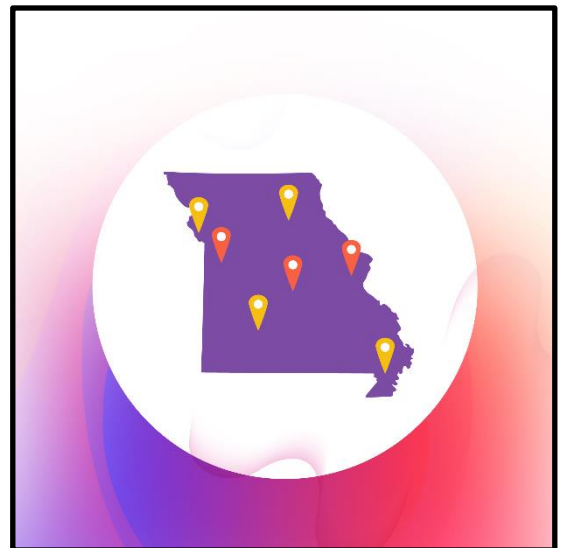
*Dr. Chris Friesen, Ways & Means Chairman, Ozark Fly Fishers*

## Looking for More 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/>**



# Next Meeting: July 22, 2021 – 7:00 PM

## Guest Speaker: Louis Wittenberg

On Thursday, July 22, OFF will have its next Member Meeting. Join us as we continue to celebrate our 50th Year with this online meeting, with Guest Speaker Louis Wittenberg for a discussion on fly fishing Alaska.

Do you dream of fishing in Alaska but think you will never get there because of the cost? Then do not miss the July meeting! Louis Wittenberg will be speaking about self guided fishing in Alaska and he will provide an updated cost breakdown. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear from a local fisherman who has done this trip multiple times and is eager to show you how.

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.

## Reminder: Using Zoom

**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.)**

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

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.

### **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.

# 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](mailto: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.



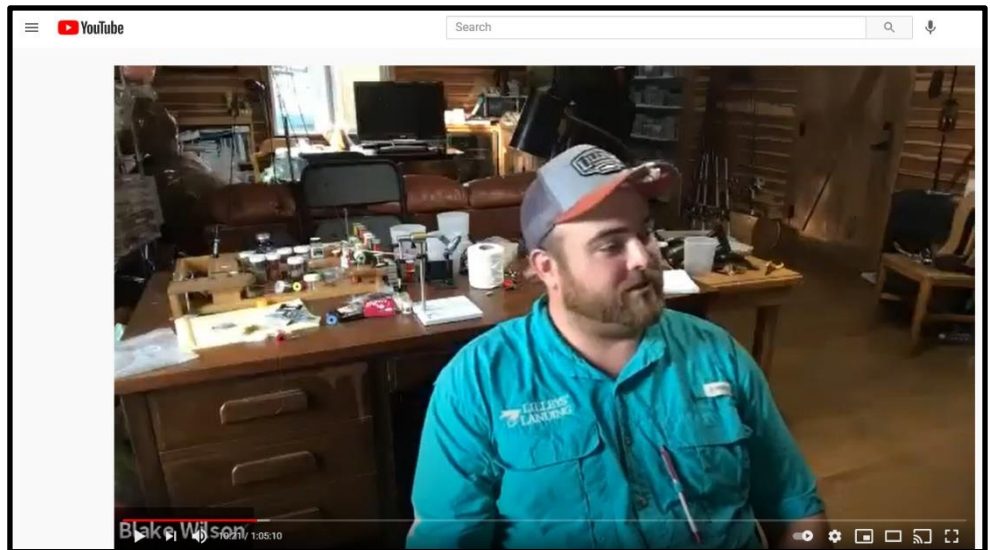
Email Mike Swederska at [shur-way@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shur-way@sbcglobal.net) or post that you'd like to join in the Ozark Fly Fishers Facebook page or GroupsIO page. You'll be provided with a link and can join in on the fun using your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. The tying sessions are 5:30 on Wednesday nights.

# June Meeting Video Recording

Our June Meeting recording is now available on YouTube.

To watch this meeting, and all available past meeting recordings, visit the

[Ozark Fly Fishers YouTube page.](#)



# 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>Chairpersons</u>                            |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
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| <i>Treasurer:</i> Steve Lekich       | <i>Education:</i> Jim Gera             | <i>Stream Team Coordinator:</i> Scott Darrough |
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|                                      | <i>Ways &amp; 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](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 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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# BRANSON FLY FISHING EXPO 2021

Sponsored by the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association

JULY 29-31, 2021

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Thursday July 29 <sup>th</sup> | Noon – 5 pm.  |
| Friday July 30 <sup>th</sup>   | 9 am. – 5 pm. |
| Saturday July 31 <sup>st</sup> | 9 am. – 4 pm. |



## Lions Community Building

1015 E State Highway 76, Branson, MO 65915

Food and Drinks served by the Branson/Hollister Lions Club



## Admission - Free

Fly Casting Demos - Fly Tying Demos - Classes

Raffles, Silent, and Live Auctions - Many Local Exhibitors

INFORMATION CALL: Ron Leggins, Expo Director (912) 980-0766 [ronleggins@gmail.com](mailto:ronleggins@gmail.com)

Howard Hawkins, Expo Treasure, (417) 234-6806 [pdgpcc@yahoo.com](mailto:pdgpcc@yahoo.com)

See our Website: [MTFA-Springfield.org](http://MTFA-Springfield.org) or [MTFA Branson Chapter](#) Facebook page

