# **Ozark Fly Fishers**

## **Member Newsletter**

# May 2020

# **President's Message**

Well hello folks!

A bit of good news. The trout parks will open up on May 16, just in time for the Montauk outing! Ed took reservations for lodge rooms, but will not having the Searcy Room, or organized dinners. The rooms have microwave ovens and a refrigerator, so that eases the pain a little. I will be there, at a safe distance, along with four other members.



But, the bad news is our Smallmouth Trip with Jeff Trigg has been cancelled. Our May meeting at Queeny and the Tilles Barbecue is in doubt also.

I hope everyone is healthy and avoiding the virus. I have no report of any member contracting the disease. I know I have been busy at my desk tying flies and now have a sizable inventory. More than my marginal casting skills can lose while I fish Westover Farms (which has been a true blessing to keep my line wet).

Something to think about is our 50 Year anniversary next year. We will be golden! Maybe a special outing, or something similar to the 40 year design for clothing options, if we have an artist in the club. Maybe a presentation on the history of the club, perhaps with the county or the state declaring an Ozark Fly Fishing day? I am open to suggestions.

Be well my friends, as the recollection of our last catch size grows by the day.

Dan Rasch, President, Ozark Fly Fishers

Email: drasch27@hotmail.com

# Not Sure When an Event Is?

### **Check the OFF Calendar!**

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

www.ozarkflyfishers.org/calendar



# **Upcoming Events** and Cancellations

Mav

Membership Meeting Mary 28, 2020 Greensfelder Rec Complex **CANCELLED** 

June

Membership Meeting June 25, 2020 Greensfelder Rec Complex TO BE DETERMINED

July Member BBQ July 23, 2020 Tilles Park Pond TO BE DETERMINED



www.ozarkflyfishers.org



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OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com

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# **Ozark Fly Fishers – Member Newsletter**

# **Outings Report – May 2020**

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

The next outing is scheduled for June 12-14 at Bennett Spring. We will be staying at the Sand Springs Resort with Four Double bed rooms with refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker. Rooms are 116, 117, 118, & 121. Two-night rental are \$92.72 per person paid to Sand Springs. The Saturday smallmouth guided trip with Jeff Trigg was cancelled by Jeff. Future date to be determined.

To secure your room call Jack at Sand Springs 800-543-3474. You need to call ASAP by June 5th.

The OFF Board has decided that this and future outings will not be club sponsored. However I will continue to do monthly reports with details on how to participate on your own.

If you have outing questions, please contact Ed Olander.

Tel: 314-487-1663 Cell: 314-566-1422

Email: olanderedward@att.net

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

Smallmouth Outing, Sand Springs Resort (Saturday includes Guided Smallmouth Bass by Jeff Trigg)

CANCELLED - PRIVATE BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

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

Stream Team Outing

TO BE DETERMINED

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

Alton, MO

TO BE DETERMINED

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

River Ranch Resort - Norfork, MO

TO BE DETERMINED

## Bennett Spring - November 12-14, 2020

Catch & Release Outing, Sand Spring's Resort - Lebanon, MO

TO BE DETERMINED

## 2020 Outings

June 12-14, 2020 Smallmouth Outing, Niangua River Sand Springs Resort (Saturday includes Guided Smallmouth Bass by Jeff Trigg) CANCELLED -

PRIVATE BOOKINGS

July 10-12, 2020 Stream Team Outing, Montauk State Park **TBD** 

**AVAILABLE** 

September 25-27, 2020 Eleven Point River - Alton, MO **TBD** 

October 9-11, 2020 White and Norfork Rivers River Ranch Resort Norfork, MO **TBD** 

November 12-14, 2020 Catch & Release Outing, **Bennett Spring** Sand Spring's Resort -Lebanon, MO **TBD** 

# **CONSERVATION/MISSOURI STREAM TEAM #31**

#### **2020 EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATES!

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

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

Scott Darrough, 314-560-1335, swdarrough@yahoo.com

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

- **JULY 10-12** 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual Ozark Fly Fishers Missouri Stream Team Outing (Montauk State Park, Salem, MO) by invitation Stream Team #31 Ozark Fly Fishers
- **JULY 25** Annual Meramec Watershed Celebration (Meramec State Park, Sullivan) by invitation Stream Team #727 Northern Ozark Rivers Partnership and Stream Teams United
- AUGUST 22 53rd Annual Operation Clean Stream Big River (Byrnes Mill City Park, Byrnes Mill) by invitation Stream Team #3797 Trashmanian Devils
- SEPTEMBER OCTOBER Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Level 3 Certification

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

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

## **Member Photo of the Month**

OFF Member Rod Powell caught this impressive Rainbow Trout out fishing in Saint James.

Nice one, Rod! Keep it up.

Reminder: Send your fish pics to <u>OzarkNewsletter@gmail.com</u> so we can plaster your face and fish all over the internet. You can show your kids and grandkids that you're on Instagram. They'll be impressed for sure.

# **Welcome New Members!**

Please join in welcoming OFF's newest members.

- Chris Roth Chesterfield, MO
- Rik Hafer (Gail) Kirkwood, MO



# Fly of the Month – May 2020

## **Bluegill Belly Bean Fly**

From Paul Beel and Frankenfly.com comes this very easy to tie and versatile bluegill bug. I'm sure it would work on a variety of warm water fish species and even smallmouth bass, but it was originally designed for bluegill. The jig hook and lead eyes make it ride hook up and adds a jigging motion when retrieved. In addition, I have seen this fly tied in a rainbow of color combinations and in sizes 6 to 14. I like the original olive in size 8, but play with it on the waters you fish. Remember to take advantage of local waters and local fishes. All of us are within 30 minutes of some kind of pond, creek, or lake that get a lot less pressure than our favorite trout streams.

#### **Materials**

- Hook: Standard length 60 degree jig hook size 6 14
- Thread: 8/0 color of body
- Eyes: Painted Lead dumbbell eyes
- Tail: Crystal Flash plus 1 strand of leg material
- Legs: Barred Silicone Legs
- Body: Medium or small Estaz
- Thorax: standard nymph dubbing of your choice



#### **Tying Steps**

- 1. Secure hook in vise eye-down and start thread where the hook shank meets the eye bend. I like to superglue it before tying in eyes.
- 2. Tie on lead eyes on top of hook shank at the eye bend using crossing wraps and then go around the base of the eyes to tighten the wraps.
- 3. Use one strand on crystal flash per fly. Fold strand in half, tie in at the midpoint behind the eyes with a couple of thread warps. Fold over to the rear and tie down on top of the hook shank back to the hook bend. Trim to the length of the whole hook.
- 4. Use I strand of sili-legs for each fly. Tie in one strand on top of hook shank and trim to just shorter than the tail. Fold the remainder in half and cut. Save for later.
- 5. Expose the thread core of the Estaz and tie in at the hook bend. Advance thread to 2/3rd point of hook shank. Wrap a full body while stroking the fibers to the rear, tie off at the thorax, and trim excess.
- 6. Tie in one section of legs at its midpoint on each side so that one half sticks out the side and the other sticks out slightly above the center axis.
- 7. Dub a full thorax between the thorax and the eyes, then dub around the eyes using crossing wraps to fill in on top and bottom. Whip finish and trim thread. The shank to the hook eye should be left bare.

I fish these both by themselves and as a dropper under a popper. Short quick strips causes the fly to jig up and down and the up-riding hook keeps it from hanging up on the bottom. Use bigger or smaller eyes depending on how deep you need to fish. The jig hook allows for a variety of eye sizes to be used without changing the hook size. Popular colors include olive & chartreuse, black & red, purple, root beer, and plain old olive, but I have seen these in a rainbow of colors.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers

# **Wine Bottle Cork Popper**

With the virus preventing me from doing much else, I found myself drinking more wine than usual. Then I noticed that I was accumulating lots of wine bottle corks. In a diligent effort to find a use for the corks, I try to re-cycle everything that I can, I decided to attempt to make a top water fly fishing bug from the cork. After numerous attempts (and more wine) I finalized my bug and named it "BeetleBug".

It's about a½ inch long and¼ inch wide, just right for bluegill. I left it in the corks natural color (beetles are brown) with its natural cork marking and the wine producers design on BeetleBugs are alike.



and the wine producers design on its bottom thus giving each BeetleBug its own unique design. No two

After sealing the cork with clear coat lacquer, to give it more buoyance and a shiny surface, I added two bright red eyes and a bright red "strike point" on its belly and four dark brown rubber legs. It has a #8 Mustad hook. No flamboyant wings, no circular hackle and certainly an unimpressive body design. It is as ugly as a mud fence and crude as a cardboard outhouse. But to the fish it looks like a big fat delicious meal. Some of the BeetleBugs appear as though I may have a little too much wine! However, it does catch fish and fish taste good with wine which means more corks. If the virus lasts much longer, I will have lots of wine bottle corks!

Don Davis Bream Bugs.com

# **Obsessive / Compulsive**

At what point is fishing a passion versus a compulsion? I asked myself about this after a number of these incidents. My latest compulsive behavior expressed itself last summer. I spent August and September wandering around Idaho and western Montana. But my nemesis this year was the Big Hole River.

A great thing about fishing the west at this time of year is that there are plenty of bugs hatching to have the fish looking up, blue-winged olives, pale morning (evening? afternoon?) duns, Callibaetis, not to mention hoppers and caddis. I fish almost exclusively with drys and only consider hopper / dropper fishing as a last resort. For me to find some fish feeding regularly on a hatch and then getting them to bite is the real game. A fish focused on a specific bug can be amazingly particular.

"Oh they're taking PMDs" is such an over simplification. You pick out a specific fish and try to make the perfect cast. The fish comes up and splash but I missed him? Well I didn't feel anything. Well maybe the fished "missed" the fly? NOT! That was a rejection. It wasn't a big fish, maybe 15", 16". So I give the fish a couple of minutes to get back into a feeding rhythm and make the perfect cast again. It drifts right down the gullet the fish slowly rises to within an inch of the fly and drifts along the following fly down about two feet and slowly sinks without take. Damn! Now I'm obsessed. Most people would I give up on that fish and find one more "friendly" or less selective. Not me. He's a challenge. The next cast he doesn't even come up for a look. From two feet down, he knows he doesn't want that bug.

# **Obsessive / Compulsive (cont.)**

Are they taking #16, #18? Are they taking full duns, emergers or cripples? Are they taking yellow or tan or pink? Should I try a parachute, a downwing, no hackle? Maybe my leader is too obvious. Maybe I should try 7x? So I add 2 foot of 7x to my leader and open my fly box looking for a new strategy. If I use a different fly then I won't know if it's the fly or the leader. So I tie on the same fly, I see the fish stir, but he doesn't come up for a full look. He's seen enough. So I start to go through the fly box looking for the magic bullet.

So back to the Big Hole. Last summer I was wandering around Oregon and Idaho for most of August and Montana for most of September. My first stop was the Owyhee in Oregon and my first fish there was a 21" brown on a #20 PMD. What a way to start the trip. However, my fish of the trip was a rainbow on the Big Hole. It was my fish of the trip because I had hooked "that" fish on my first day there and let it get below me and it twisted off. The hatch routine is Trico spinners from ~10A - ~12P and then PMDs from ~2P - ~5P. So I went back to that run a couple of days later on my last day there. This run was full of little trout and lots of white fish. I prided my self on being able to pick a trout rise from a "whitey" splash. The nicer fish were rising in this little slot at the top of the run. I watched this dark head rising on Trico spinners and I had my favorite western #20 Trico spinner fly on. On the second cast it floated nicely and a fish came up and took a bug but it wasn't my fly so I didn't strike... Ooops I was watching the wrong bug and felt the fish for a second but didn't hook up. Damn!

I waited for about 10 minutes but they had spooked and weren't feeding so I fished down the run and caught 10 – 12 trout and not a single "whitey", but I had reeled up and was about to head out as a guided raft floated through. The guide said he had seen a 19 incher feeding at the top of the run. "That's my fish!" So I slowly waded up and found the fish feeding in the same slot. By now they were on the PMDs. First cast was a little short, second cast about two inches outside the slot but a fish took it. It was obvious that it was a smaller fish, 14 inches, not my fish. After landing it, I waded back up and waited to get into the rhythm. There he was. First cast short, second cast right down the slot, jaw comes out of the water and pulls the fly down, wait, wait, tighten, on. Zinging drag, jump, run, jump, into my backing straight down stream, Damn! I get as far off to the side as possible and chase downstream holding my rod off to the side. Slowly I closed the distance and finally got the fish to the bank, about 25 yards downstream. I was fulfilled. It was only 16 inches, but that was my fish of the trip.

That was last year. All winter I wondered if the real fish in that pod wasn't a 19 incher. This year I was working Eastern Idaho with the Forest Service on a project and we work four 10 hour days a week. That leaves me a three day weekend, so I went back this year to the same spot on the Big Hole. Well with a river, it is never the same spot even from day to day much less from one year to the next. The river was down from last year and the head of the run did not have the same features as last year. The bugs were there, Tricos early and PMDs later but where were the fish? I could see all kinds of fish rising, but not that big dark head and long slow sip of a big fish. I chased after a number of risers and caught 2 whities, some 12 – 14 inch rainbows and a nice 10 inch grayling. The grayling made my day.

The sun was going down and I decided to call it a day. I broke down my rod, took off my boots and waders and had a beer. It cooled off quickly after the sun went below the mountain and I started the car to leave. Just as I was about to drive off I looked down and there were 4 really nice fish rising to maybe Trico duns in a little slot between two rocks. I was standing 3 feet above that spot earlier, fishing to some little 12 inch risers on the far side. Buggars!

I fished that same run for three solid days looking for those fish and never saw them, although I did catch some more trout and another grayling. I knew of a half dozen other nice spots on the river, but I was obsessed.

Seriously, I know that a fish will not be in the same place next year. But I know I will be back next year, in that same place, looking for that same fish, and probably many years to come? **Dan Curran** 

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

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



## 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 <a href="mailto:short-way@sbcglobal.net">short-way@sbcglobal.net</a> 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.

he 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 u p 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: <a href="http://www.OzarkFlyFishers.org">http://www.OzarkFlyFishers.org</a> or use your smartphone to scan the QR code to the right.

## **Groups.10**

Ozark Fly Fishers has now joined Groups IO. To join in the discussion, all you have to do is go to <a href="https://groups.io/">https://groups.io/</a> 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>Chairperson</u>	
President:	Dan Rasch	Communications:	Jake Voss	Casting:	Brian Ellis
Vice President:	Dave Crawford	Conservation:	Scott Darrough	Fly Tying:	Mike Ott
Treasurer:	Steve Lekich	Education:	Jim Gera	Stream Team Coordinator:	Scott Darrough
Secretary:	Richard Brasington	Membership:	Al Bourisaw	Video Library:	Ed Heist
Past President:	Steve Antonic	Outings:	Ed Olander	Webmaster:	Jake Voss
		Ways & Means:	Jerry Kniepman	Group IO Moderator:	Mike Swederska

## **Stream Team 31**

Coordinator / Current River	Scott Darrough	
Blue Springs Creek	Glen Bish	
Mill Creek	Bill Leslie	

# **Reminders:**

## **Monthly Member Meeting**

Ozark Fly Fishers meet at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Greensfelder Recreation Center in Queeny Park, Ballwin, MO (Unless noted differently. See OFF Calendar at <a href="https://www.ozarkflyfishers.org">www.ozarkflyfishers.org</a>)

# 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

Affiliate Club of Fly Fishers International.



# **Please Support Our Corporate Sponsors**









Ozark Fly Fishers PO Box 31473 Saint Louis, MO 63131-0473