

Ozark Fly Fishers

Member Newsletter

October 2020



President's Message

Hi folks! October has arrived and it seems like Summer just started yesterday. Personally, I would not mind if 2020 also makes a quick exit.

Wow! I thought Director Sara Parker Pauley had a great message. I remember her jotting down a fair number of questions she was to research.

I watched the broadcast and have marked down several to pursue.



As Steve Garret stated, we have two open Director positions this year, Outings and then Ways and Means. Anyone so moved should contact Steve or me to 'step up.' These will be big shoes to fill, as Ed and Jerry did fine jobs.

We have added another outing, probably the last of the year, at Westover Farms. We have eight available spots for the outing. Members have received an email to sign up for the drawing that will take place Monday, October 12. The outing itself will take place Monday, October 19.

We are still working on ideas for our 50th Anniversary and have sketched out a drawing. Other ideas are being hatched, but stay tuned.

Be well my friends.

Dan Rasch, President, Ozark Fly Fishers

Email: drasch27@hotmail.com

October Speaker: TBD

We are still working through the results of last month's meeting topics survey. Meeting details will be send the week of the meeting along with Zoom dial-in info.

Westover Farms Outing

Wants a free trip to Westover Farms for a day of fishing? Westover Farms has gifted the Club an outing day on Monday, October 19. Ozark Fly Fishers has eight spots available to our membership. See page 2 for details on how to enter to win one of the spots.

Upcoming Events

October

October 22, 2020 – 7:00 PM

Membership Meeting

Topic: TBD

Location: Zoom

2021 OFF

Membership News

Due to COVID-19 challenges, the Board of Directors has unanimously voted to **waive 2021 membership dues and automatically renew membership** for 2020 members. The Board is working hard to get more events on the calendar for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021 that are educational, fun, and safe. Please keep an eye on the Newsletter, OFF Website, and Calendar for updates. Thanks.

-OFF Board of Directors

 www.ozarkflyfishers.org

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Ozark Fly Fishers – Member Newsletter

Outings Report – October 2020

Westover Farms, Steelville, MO – October 19

The good folks over at Westover Farms have offered a free outing to the members of Ozark Fly Fishers. There are eight open slots available. In the interest of fairness, we will be drawing names at random to determine the lucky winners. This drawing is only available to members of Ozark Fly Fishers.

Sign-ups for the drawing will take place until Monday, October 12. The drawing itself will happen at noon on Monday, October 12. Winners will be notified. If for any reason, a winner won't be able to attend, another name will be drawn.

The Westover Farms outing will be Monday, October 19, 2020. Further details will be provided to the winners. Click below for the sign-up sheet for the drawing.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE DRAWING.](#)

2020 Catch and Release Outing November 13-16, 2020

Bennett Spring

Due to the Covid problem that has taken over our world today, OFF will not have our annual outing at Bennett Springs this year. This annual November event has been the highlight of gatherings for 25 years. What will happen, is if you still want to go, you will have to make your own room reservations at Sand Springs Resort. There will be no organized get-togethers that weekend. This would include the Saturday night dinner. I know this will disappoint the loyal group this really enjoys this fall event and I hope we will be able to have a great 2021 outing. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Steve Antonic
314-401-8874
Winter Catch and Release program runs:
Friday Nov. 13 – Mon. Nov. 16
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sand Springs Resort
Highway 64
Lebanon MO 65536
417-532-5857
800-543-3474

Remaining 2020 Outings

October 9-11, 2020

White and Norfolk Rivers
River Ranch Resort
Norfolk, MO

Reservations Closed.

October 19, 2020

Westover Farms
Steelville, MO

8 Spots Available

Enter Drawing to Win a Spot
Check Your Email for Details
and Sign up on the OFF
Website.

November 13-16, 2020

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

PRIVATE BOOKINGS ONLY

2021 Outings

Outings for next year are still to be determined. Please keep an eye on the OFF Website and future Newsletters for additional information.

Ozarks Zooms – October Meeting

Thursday, October 22 – 7:00 PM

Come Zoom with Ozark Fly Fishers. On Thursday, October 22, 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.** 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. 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.

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.

We want to start on time – please allow extra time to get online! In consideration of the whole group, **please arrive 15 minutes early** in order to get successfully connected. Someone will be on hand to help you if needed. This is especially important if this is your first time using Zoom. If you come late to the conversation and have difficulties connecting, please disconnect and phone in.

Fly of the Month – October 2020

The Red Hot Chili Pepper

For those who scoff at the lowly wooly buggler, this one is special. With the recent passing of Tony Spezio, North Arkansas Fly Fisher, fly tier, rod builder, plane builder, and Sow Bug Roundup mainstay, this fly has special meaning. Not only does it catch fish anywhere, it brings back memories of the limited time I was able to sit with Tony at the annual SowBug Roundups. He was truly an asset to the fly fishing community and just a great human being. He will be missed, but his fly lives on.

Tying Materials

- Hook: Your Favorite 3X or 4X Streamer hook #6-8
- Bead: Appropriately Sized Brass Bead
- Weight: .020 Lead Wire
- Thread: Florescent Orange Veevus 8/0
- Tail: Burnt Orange Marabou
- Flash: Copper Krystal Flash
- Body: Copper Tinsel Chenille
- Hackle: Brown or Ginger Saddle Hackle



Tying Steps

1. Place bead on hook and secure in vise. Wrap lead wire over 2/3rd of the hook shank and slide up against the bead. Start thread behind lead wraps and secure the lead wraps with crossing thread wraps back and forth ending with the thread at the hook bend.
2. Tie in the marabou tail slightly longer than the hook shank. Trim excess.
3. Tie in 3 strands of Krystal Flash at their middles, fold over so there are 3 strands down each side of the tail. Trim to just longer than the tail.
4. Tie in saddle hackle by its tip, then tie in the tinsel chenille by its thread core.
5. Advance thread to just behind the bead.
6. Wrap the tinsel chenille to the bead and secure with thread wraps and trim excess.
7. Spiral wrap the hackle to the bead brushing the fibers rearward as you go. Secure with thread wraps and trim excess. Brush some super glue on a couple of inches of the thread and whip finish thread behind the bead.

Tony said you couldn't fish the Chili Pepper wrong – strip it, swing it, or fish it dead-drift under an indicator. Throw it in warm water for bass, bluegill, crappie, and even catfish. Who knows... It might even be a good carp and redfish fly.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers

Flyfishing for Gar

By: Ed Heist

I found a pool on a lowland Mississippi tributary that has lots of gars. During late summer/early fall when the water is low they are confined to a smaller area. Gars can breathe air, and you can see them surfacing to gulp air at the surface. This allows them to survive in warm water with little oxygen. I sometimes saw 3 or 4 fish rising at a time and it wasn't hard to figure out where they were concentrated. In the past I have caught a few gars sight-fishing with unweighted streamers like Hornbergs. If you can cast a streamer near their nose without spooking them while they are on the surface, they will take the fly but they usually don't get hooked on a traditional fly because their jaws are so bony that the hook doesn't penetrate. I suppose that if you don't see gars rising, there is not much point in fishing for them, but based on what I saw that day there were plenty in a small area that would make blind-casting for them a successful endeavor.

I tied up some special gar flies that have no hook – just nylon rope that tangles in their teeth. I tied it on a 35mm articulated shank, like the kind you use for articulated streamers. To tie the fly, I covered the shank with red thread and attached a large lead dumbbell eye 2 eye-lengths behind the eye of the shank. I got some cheap ¼" nylon rope, the kind with a multi-stranded inner core surrounded by a woven nylon sheath, and cut two 6" sections. I pulled the inner cores out and secure one core to each side of the shank butted up to the dumbbell eyes. Next, I tied in two red saddle hackles at the rear end of the shank and wrapped forward with close wraps to represent the gills. Finally, I wrapped pearl frizzle chenille from the front of the gills around the shank up to, between, and just forward of the eyes and tied off the head.



I launched my canoe and paddled to where I saw the rises. I dropped my small anchor and saw gars coming up all around me. There are three species of gar there. Longnose gar have very long jaws that are narrow when viewed from above. Shortnose gars have shorter jaws that are broader when viewed from above. Spotted gar look like shortnose gars, but with spots all over their bodies. All three species have spots on their fins. Alligator gar, which can grow to 10 feet in length and weigh 300 pounds, disappeared from our region during the mid-1900's but both Illinois and Missouri are stocking them now. I didn't see any of those.

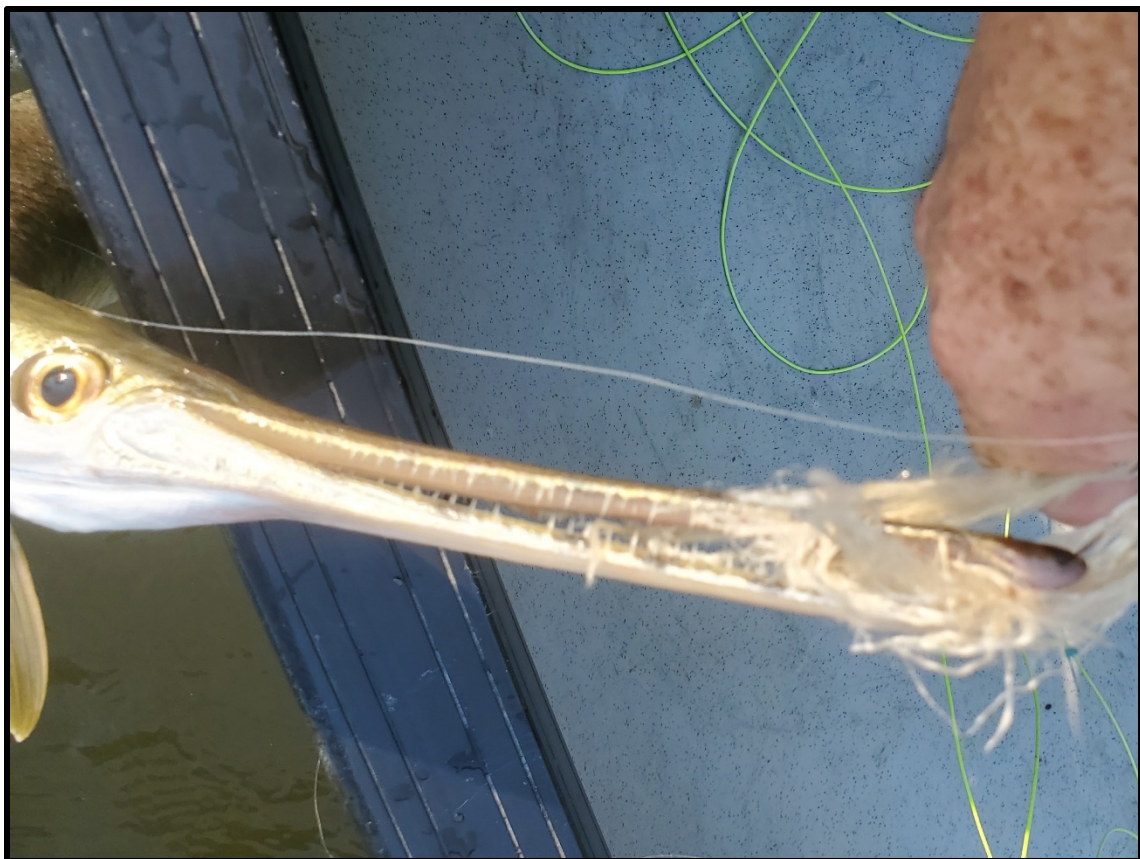


I got out my 8-weight and casted my gar fly on a sink-tip line and slowly retrieve it. Occasionally the fly would stop when a gar grabbed it. I missed about half of the strikes and there was no need to set the hook since there is no hook. I just tightened up when the line got firm and either I had them or I didn't. The first evening I landed two spotted gars each around 18-24" long and missed several others, including a large longnose gar that I saw grab my fly but quickly shed it. When the spotted gar got tangled with the fly they jumped and darted at the surface but were easily brought to hand. Getting the gars disentangled from the fly can be a challenge. Sometimes if you just hold the leader and lift their heads out of the water they will free themselves. Usually I had to bring the fish into the canoe and pull the strands from between their teeth one at a time. (Continued on page 6.)

Flyfishing for Gar (con't)

Because they can breath air, gars can survive out of water for hours so they are pretty tough. They are also armored with thick ganoid scales and have long pointy teeth so I wear gloves when I handle them. At one point that evening I saw a large catfish come up off the bottom and grab my fly, but without a hook I had no purchase and it quickly slipped away.

The next night I landed two longnose gar around 28-32" in length and had a shortnose gar right up to the canoe before it freed itself. Then the big one hit. It grabbed the fly and sounded for the bottom. I thought I was snagged until it moved. Had I somehow managed to connect with a large catfish? The fish had my 8-weight rod doubled over for about 5-8 minutes as it ran circles around me and then just kind of gave up. The big gar eventually rolled up next to my canoe and I grabbed its bony jaws with my gloved hand and hauled it in. Sagittiform (arrow-shaped) fish like pike and gars are built for acceleration but not for endurance. They fight hard at first but are quick to tire. The fish was 43" long and weighed approximately 8-10 lbs. I paddled to shore and asked an astonished bait-fisher to snap a picture of me with my trophy, before releasing it unharmed back into the pool. I think that for me gar fishing will be a seasonal event for late summer/early fall when the bass are still sluggish during the daytime and the water is too warm to fish for muskies. If you can find a place where the gars are rising, you should give it a try!



2021 Board of Directors Nominations

The nominating committee of Ozark Fly Fishers is asking for volunteers to fill two open positions on the Board of Directors. The open positions are Director and Committee chair for Outings and for Ways and Means. If you feel you would like to serve your club in either of these positions or if you would like more information on these positions, we would like to speak with you. These positions require no previous experience as the outgoing Directors have all the information you will need to conduct your duties. For information or to volunteer please call or text one of the Nominating Committee members:

Steve Garnett 636-734-7553

John Gallia 636-577-0610

Bob Strathman 636-236-8337

2021: Ozark Fly Fishers 50th Anniversary

Time flies, right? Next year will be 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



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 sessions. 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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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>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> Ed Olander	<i>Webmaster:</i> Jake Voss
	<i>Ways & Means:</i> Jerry Kniepman	<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

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 www.ozarkflyfishers.org)

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.



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