

# Ozark Fly Fishers

## Member Newsletter

September 2021

### President's Message

August did not keep its promise to give us a clear picture of the pandemic's end. Instead, we have to pull back the reins on our November Catch and Release opening at Bennet Spring and Sand Springs. I can hear half of our club saying, "Yeah, good decision. This thing just hangs on," and the other half saying, "Awe, come on, Prez - we are all vaccinated and need to get our life back."

I hear both of the angels on my shoulder. One angel I will miss is our dear friend and fishing buddy, Al Bourisaw, who we lost earlier this month. I liked one suggestion of creating annual Al Bourisaw Fly Tying Awards in his memory. He surely gave me valuable suggestions, even after decades of tying. Specifically, his program on soft hackle was just 'spot-on' for all of us. Another impression that stuck with me was how young children were so comfortable around 'Uncle Al.'

Looks like November will follow the same formula as Montauk back in July. Sand Springs has rooms reserved for us, and in all fairness to them, we need to each privately make these reservations. They have demand for them, and I would like to continue our good relationship with them. Like last year, we will have no catered dinner, but could still light the coals and roll out our own feast. I guess the White River and Eleven Point trips will also follow suit.

I enjoyed our speaker, Skip Morris, as he detailed the Bass Flies and then tied them for us. I think he had the longest Zoom presentation we've seen since we went virtual. It would be fun to cast his flies to the edge of the weed beds and then just hang on! A weed guard would be critical.

I enjoyed tying safety-pin flies at the Passport to Clean Water event in Kirkwood, and although the number of kids was down, we got to spend a little more time with the ones who showed up. Always good to hook up with the younger generation, and our special guest, a rat snake who had no great love for safety-pin flies. Thanks to Chris F and Bill A for their help.

Enjoy these last weeks of summer, folks!

Be well my friends.

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

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



### Upcoming Events

#### September

General Member Meeting

Sept 23, 2021 – 7:00 PM

See p. 2 for details.

#### October

White River Outing

October 15-17, 2021

See p. 2 for details.

General Member Meeting

Oct 28, 2021 – 7:00 PM

#### November

Fly Fishers International

Virtual EXPO 2021

November 5-7

#### **CANCELLED:**

Catch & Release Outing

Nov. 12 – Nov. 14

Bennett Spring State Park

See p. 2 for info.

#### 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)

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# Next Meeting: September 23, 2021 – 7:00 PM

On Thursday, September 23, OFF will have its next Member Meeting. Join us as we continue to celebrate our 50th Year with this online meeting, with you, the Ozark Fly Fishers!

Come prepared to share your fishing experiences – great, bad, and ugly. We will be compiling a list of destinations and guides that members have experienced, including local and across the country and worldwide. Which bodies of water have you fished? Do you recommend it for others? Highly or should others skip it? Did you hire a guide? If so, who? What is their contact information? Did the guide meet your expectations? We look forward to hearing about the best and worst experiences.

## Outings Report – September 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 as detailed below.

### October Outing

October 15-17, 2021

White River, River Ridge Inn

57 River Ridge Rd, Norfolk, AR 72658

(870)-499-7775

**Richard Bable, Outings Chairperson, Ozark Fly Fishers**

Phone: 314-650-2859

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

## Cancelled: 2021 Catch and Release Outing

The club outing for the opening of winter catch and release has been cancel due to conditions of the pandemic. We know members look forward to this yearly event, but conditions dictate we pass on this year. If you are interested on going for the weekend, Sand Springs still has units available, but you need to make arrangements on your own. There will be no club actives that weekend. We all hope this is the end of cancelling outings due to Covid.

Winter Catch and Release season for the four trout parks in MO. begins Friday, Nov 12 at 8:00am.

Fishing is allowed Friday through Monday, 8 am to 4:00 pm. The season will close Feb. 13, 2022 at 4:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Antonic.

**Steve Antonic, OFF Past President**

Phone: 314-401-8874

Email: [sjantonic@charter.net](mailto:sjantonic@charter.net)

## FFI Virtual Expo News

Save the Date: Fly Fishers International will be having a Virtual EXPO 2021 this year on November 5-7.

If you would like to participate as a tier, speaker, or Zoom person, contact [plueken@luekenlay.com](mailto:plueken@luekenlay.com)

More info to follow

## FFI Southern Council Conclave Cancelled

The southern Council board of Directors has determined it is in the best interest of everyone to postpone the 2021 Southern Council Conclave. Plans are in place to schedule the future date to be September 29 -30,2022 through October 1, 2022

## In Memoriam - Al Bourisaw

We are saddened to report that Ozark Fly Fishers member and Membership Chair, Al Bourisaw, has died. Aloysius "Al" Bourisaw passed away on the morning of September 4, 2021.

Al is survived by his wife Evelyn of 55 years, daughters Jennifer (Chris) Hoefke, Heather (Brian) Wood, brother Gary (Laura) Bourisaw, and grandchildren Emilia Hoefke and Dean Wood. Al was a loving husband, father, friend, and the best "Papa" to his two grandchildren. Al was a retired superintendent of the Hancock Place School District. He loved to fly fish and spent countless hours tying his own flies. In 2016, Al was able to go on his dream fly fishing trip to Argentina. He was a member of Ozark Fly Fishers, Federation of Fly Fishing, and North Arkansas Fly Fishers where he developed life-long friendships. Al was a Vietnam War Veteran. He was an Army Staff Sergeant, 9th Infantry Division.

Al loved the outdoors, watching sports, reading, and spending time with his family. Being with his grandchildren was his greatest joy!

Memorial donations may be made to the Missouri Conservation Department and the Animal Protective Association (APA). Contributions can be sent payable to

Missouri Conservation Heritage Fund  
PO Box 366  
Jefferson City, MO 65102



Members can specify "Youth Fishing in St Louis" if they prefer.

More information on Al's service can be found at: <https://www.kutisfuneralhomes.com/bourisaw-alloysius-al/>

We thank Al for his years of service to OFF. He was a friend and mentor to many and will be dearly missed.

## 25 Best Missouri Trout Flies

One of Al Bourisaw's most long-lasting contributions to Ozark Fly Fishers, was his survey of effective Missouri Trout Flies. The 25 flies are meant to be used for fishing for trout and have been identified for the State of Missouri; but as anyone who has fished in other areas will testify, the selection can be used in most places that trout are found. Don't be afraid to take some of these patterns along to that trip out West or back East.

The list has been compiled from a survey conducted by the Ozark Fly Fishers of its membership and is provided in alphabetical order. The survey was taken in 2009 so the list is current. However, the sampling consisted of only a small percent of the entire membership. There was nothing scientific about the survey and only can be taken at face value. The survey was compiled by Al Bourisaw and is available by clicking the link below.

[Click Here for the 25 Best Missouri Trout Flies.](#)

# Trout Beads

Say what you will, but trout are opportunistic feeders and will take advantage of the most available food. In Missouri, our hatchery stocked rainbows are actually two different strains – one that spawns in the spring and one that spawns in the fall. That way the hatcheries always have a steady supply of spawning fish. That's one reason egg flies – Y2K's, Glow Bugs, etc. – will always be a good option for at least an attractor fly and very often be your main fish-catcher fly. They are an instinctive reflex food item that yields great food value for the energy expended.

After trips to Michigan and Alaska, I am impressed by the resourcefulness of fly anglers and the evolution of trout beads as a trout/salmon egg imitation. While I have not seen them to a great extent here in Missouri, it continues to evolve. I have seen them on Lake Tanneycomo in the fall and have produced some great fish. The key in Steelhead, Salmon, and Rainbow fishing is getting the size and color right and the rigging. Most fly shops that carry trout beads stock anything from 3mm up to 12mm beads in a rainbow of colors.

The larger sizes imitate salmon-sized eggs while smaller sizes imitate rainbow-sized eggs. I do see people fishing gigantic glowballs in our trout parks with great success, but I still prefer to fish smaller egg flies when possible. The colors of the fish eggs also change depending on the spawning fish and the time in the water after they are laid. Every steelhead, rainbow, and salmon guide have their own secret special method of picking out the perfect bead color, but the best advice is to get a wide assortment of colors in 3 sizes – 3mm, 6mm, and 8mm. That should cover all your bead needs. Ideally, you can look at the eggs in the water and choose your size and color. In Missouri, however, that may be difficult. The only real problem with the beads is that the fish are gobbling down eggs with such abandon that fish mortality was a real issue, so proper rigging is really important.



Rigging beads is also an art form rather than a science. Everyone seems to have a favorite system that has its advantages and disadvantages. One of the most ingenious systems used about 8 feet of 15-pound mono leader with a loop on the end and a pretty large strike indicator at the top, then looped on a 12-inch piece of 12 pound fluorocarbon tippet with the bead threaded on and the hook tied on. They took a section of 15-pound mono and tied a stop knot just above the hook to keep the bead off the hook. That made bead changes super easy. Obviously, I would use much lighter leader and tippet for here in Missouri, but you get the idea. The split shot should tick the bottom while the bead tumbles along the bottom. When the fish takes the bead, setting the hook pulls the bead out of their throat and hooks them in the jaw. It's almost cheating. It's almost not fly fishing, but it is definitely matching the hatch when the fish are keying on eggs and nothing else will work. I can't wait to try it here in Missouri.

**Mike Ott, Fly Tying Chairman, Ozark Fly Fishers**

# Beginners Fly-Tying Class

Ozark Fly Fishers, through the subgroup Fly Tiers of the Long Table, will be offering a beginners fly tying course via Zoom. The classes will be held on Tuesday evening starting at 7:00 PM and have a limited enrollment. The date of the first class is yet to be determined. If interested in enrolling in the class contact Mike Swederska at 314-799-1998 or [shur-way@sbcglobal.net](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.

# Looking for 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/>**



# 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>
<i>President:</i> Dan Rasch	<i>Communications:</i> Jake Voss	<i>Casting:</i> Brian Ellis
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<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> Alexander Scott	<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

<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

Affiliate Club of Fly Fishers International.



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