

President's Message

by Mark Borsierine

*The
Beginning
of a
New Year*

Here we are at the beginning of the New Year! I want to thank everyone who put so much effort into the club and our events last year; especially those who pitched in at the last minute to make the Auction a success! And, I want to thank Dan Zimmerman who took us a long way in his three years as auction chair and laid the groundwork for this year's success. I also want to thank Hod McIntosh for his efforts for two years in developing the format and activities for NFFW at the Prairie Center, the "stepchild" of which will be our "Fly Fishing Missouri Waters" seminar. Due to the skills and experiences learned at the Prairie Center, we'll experience the same success that the Anchorage and St. Louis clubs have had.

We look forward to a great 2006! Our auction netted

\$4,600 plus change. This is honestly more than I thought we'd end with, so this is very pleasing. Financially, we are starting the year with less than we started last year, but more than we've had in many past years: look forward to good outings and especially to the A.K. Best Seminar March 11th at the Discovery Center. Each year the club prices the Spring Seminar as reasonably as possible but still ends up subsidizing it – the more of you that come out and the more of you that can bring friends, the better off the club will be financially in addition to being able to experience the Nation's best-known living fly tier (other than Mike George)!

We are presenting our first seminar of hopefully many to come at the Discovery Center on Feb. 11th and 18th, Saturday afternoons. The format is based

HOAFF Meeting

Monday, January 16 - 7:00pm

Fly Tying Social Night

on a model used very successfully by both the Alaska Fly Fishers (Anchorage, AK) and the Ozark Fly Fishers (St. Louis, MO). I talked to Larry Carli, president of the St. Louis Club and he encouraged us; they have been very, very successful with this format and have added many new members to their club through it. Alaska has turned out as many as 200 students for their seminar. See my article on it in this newsletter for more details!

I ended the Old Year with a very successful drift boat trip down Taneycomo from the Dam to Fall Creek on December 28th. See my article on the Primrose Nymph for more details.



A.K. Best Spring Seminar 2006

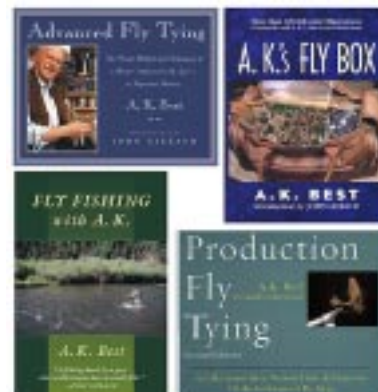
Saturday, March 11, 2006 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

A professional fly tyer of international stature, A.K. Best is one of the most well known fly tyers of our day. He has written numerous books on fly tying and fly fishing. His fly fishing adventures can often be found in the writings of John Gierach.

Club members: \$40.00 Nonmembers: \$50.00. Registration fee includes a lunch catered by Alpine Catering.

Send checks made payable to HOAFF, to: Paul Bennetts, HOAFF, 13921 W. 114th Terr., Lenexa, KS 66208.

Missouri Department of Conservation
Discovery Center
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An opportunity to educate or be educated!

by Mark Borserine

Our club (HOAFF) will be teaching a four-part course in fly fishing at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO Saturday February 11th and Saturday February 18th from 12 noon – 4:30 pm each day. The seminar will be taught in four 2-hour blocks: Fly Fishing 101, Fly Casting, Fly Tying, and Fly Fishing in Missouri.

Volunteer Instructors will only be asked to commit to the two hour block they are actually teaching so your time will be

minimal! If you wish to and can help us, please contact Mark Borserine or Jim Mattes.

This is an excellent opportunity for new HOAFF members or your youngsters (13 or older, please) to learn about fly fishing. HOAFF members are only charged ½ or \$15 and youngsters under 16 are free, but must come with an adult.

Please volunteer to help or, if you joined HOAFF to learn about fly fishing, here's your opportunity!

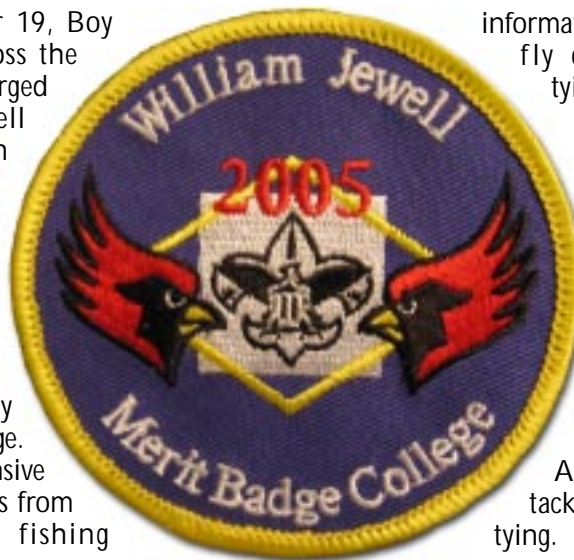
Boy Scout Merit Badge College

by Tom James

On November 19, Boy Scouts from across the Metro area converged on William Jewell College for an intense session of merit badge training. Members of HOAFF joined the faculty to teach the youngsters the Fly Fishing Merit Badge.

The comprehensive merit badge covers from general fly fishing

information and knots to fly casting and fly tying. Don Grundy provided the fly rods and fly tying equipment. John Richards, and Tom James joined forces to show the fundamentals of fly casting as Matt Grundy and Art Chevalier tackled the art of fly tying.



Hatch of the Month

Bring a fly to add to the Match of the Month collection. During each meeting names are drawn and the winner receives the collection of flies. Members can also donate a dollar to enter for the drawing.



Fly Tyer of the Month

Due to the Annual Auction, we will not have a Featured Fly Tyer.

If you are interested in being a featured fly tyer, contact Dave Andrews.

HOAFF Apparel is here



Hats \$15

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Now you can get a T-shirt or a fishing hat with the new Heart of America Fly Fishers Logo.

New fly for Taneycomo Trout:

The Primrose Nymph

by Mark Borsierine

I took a friend from California fishing at Taneycomo between Christmas and New Years.

We went with guide Jim Lund from River Run Outfitters (877-699-3474) and caught approximately 60 fish between us despite no water running at all!

If you're going to Taneycomo check beforehand; the Corps is repairing Powersite Dam and is keeping the water in Taneycomo as low as they can. We used a new fly credited to Shannon, who

manages the store for Stan and Carolyn at River Run, dubbed "Primrose Midge Beadhead Nymph".

The body is tied with Gordon Griffiths Primrose thread SHEER 14/0; another thread that matches the color is Uni Thread Lt. Cahill 8/0.

Use a size 18 Tiemco #2457; Caddis Pupae & Shrimp hook: Down eye, 2X Heavy, 2X Wide, 2X Short.

Use a tungsten copper bead 2.0 mm for the head; build

the body from the thread and make an over-tye of one piece of Pearl Flashabou, using the finest copper wire (such as Ultra Wire X-SM Copper) counter-wrapped for the rib.

The fly is fished below a strike indicator so that it floats about 3-4" above the bottom; so a strike indicator

that is small but large enough to suspend the fly and can be adjusted up and down the line (as the bottom changes) will work best.

This fly is at its best when the sun is bright; when it became overcast, Jim switched us to a red or dark olive beadhead midge nymph.



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4th Annual HOAFF Banquet 2005

by John Richards

Nearly 50 members and guests enjoyed the 4th Annual Banquet for the Heart of America Fly Fishers held December 3, 2005 at the Lebanon Country Club at Bennett Spring.

By all accounts, Bill Brant caught the biggest fish with a large rainbow taken on Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to all who attended the dinner and participated in the activities of fun and fellowship.

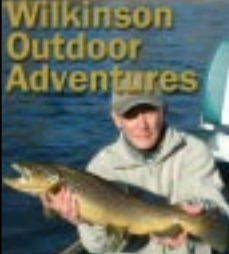
Circle December 2, 2006 on your calendar for the 5th Annual Heart of America Fly Fishers Banquet.



The awards ceremony recognized the following members of their achievements this past year.

- Golden Strike Indicator Award** - Tom James
- Conservation Award** - John Bell
- President's Award** - Dan Zimmerman
- Best Newsletter Article** - Paul Bennetts
- Longest Trip Awards** - Norm Crisp
- Tall-Tale-Tell Award** - Jim Ohnemus & Mike Reuck
- Multi-Fly Award** - Tom James





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Streamer Fishing

By Lane Hoffman – Taken from Clackamas Flyfishers Newsletter

The thought of a large trout boiling and slashing while attacking my streamer fly has filled my dreams on more than one occasion. Those of you who have fished with me know that fishing streamers is a passion of mine, and a tactic I employ whenever the conditions are right. While I fish streamers all year long, it's in the fall that this strategy really pays its largest dividends. The larger fish are on the prowl for a large meal full of protein to help carry them over the winter months. Bait fish are the best and easiest way to provide these much needed nutrients. Fishing streamers in both lakes and rivers can be productive. You can bet I'll probably catch my largest trout of the year in the fall, and that fish will be caught on a streamer.

Tackle - While you can fish streamers with almost any gear there are a few refinements that will help you in your success.

Rods - Streamers are usually larger than most of the flies you are used to casting, so a heavier rod is an asset. I personally use a 6wt most of the time but sometimes go to a 7wt or even an 8wt to help toss weighted flies, sinking lines, battle the wind and hopefully handle the larger fish that streamer

fishing can provide. Graphite rods 8 to 10 feet in length with a medium to fast action will fit the bill.

Reels - Reels should match the rod and have a smooth drag with at least 50 yards of backing. Remember, you're chasing the biggest and meanest fish in the water, so be prepared.

Lines - I believe this is the most important part of your equipment for successful streamer fishing. There are uses for a variety of lines from floating to full sinking but I really like the sink tips at this time. Floating lines can be used when fishing shallow water with weighed fiftes. Full sinking lines can be used in both rivers and lakes but are a must for lakes. I use either an Intermediate or Type II sinker the most.

Sink tips are the most versatile for fishing rivers. I personally like to fish a sink tip line with interchangeable tips. I carry up to 8 different hybrid tips that I have made with different lengths and sink rates. (We will teach you how to make these at a club meeting this winter.) This allows me to change my rigging to best meet the conditions I encounter. I can use a long heavy tip to fish a fast deep run and then change to a short medium tip to swing through a shallow tail-out.

Leaders can be as long as 10 feet or more when fishing a floating line in shallow water, or as short as 2 feet when fishing a short fast sink tip in pocket water. The only hard and fast rule is to make sure you use a heavy tippet. As a rule, fish chasing streamers are usually not leader shy. I rarely go below 2X (8#) and often use OX (12# test) or heavier.

Streamer flies come in many different sizes and styles. They are tied to imitate a variety of bait fish and crawfish. Some are attractor patterns like the Royal Coachman Bucktail. Some imitate a specific minnow like a sculpin pattern; e.g., the Muddler Minnow.

Some flies imitate movement and are suggestive like the Woolly Buggie. All have their place but I find myself leaning toward patterns that specifically imitate a specific food source. When fishing the Central Oregon High lakes (Davis, East, etc.) I usually fish a Tui Chub pattern imitating these trash fish that have infested those waters. When fishing rivers, I tend to use sculpin patterns imitating those little bottom dwellers that big trout are so fond of.

One exception to this is that in the fall, brown trout really have an affection for a streamer with yellow in it. One pattern I won't be without is the Yellow Marabou Muddler.

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James "J.P." Rozine
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Five Tips For Staying Warm On The River

By Kevin Howell, Davidson River Outfitters – www.davidsonflyfishing.com

Well, winter has finally arrived. The fishing can still be good, but you can get into real trouble if you are not dressed properly. Here are a few hints to help you stay warm and dry:

1. Dress in layers. this way you can take layers off as the day gets Warmer.
2. Wear fleece or wool; that way if you get wet, you will retain your warmth.
3. Always carry matches or a device to start a fire. I typically carry a railroad flare; it can start a fire even when wet. If you fall in the winter, you have roughly half as long as the water temperature before hypothermia sets in. So if you or your fishing partner falls in, get out on the bank, start a fire to stay warm and dry your clothes.
4. Keep your head and hands warm. Most of the body's heat is lost through the head, so wear a hat or cap. Use fleece or wool gloves with only the fingers that you use, cut out. Most people leave the stream because their hands are cold; a little preventative measure will enable you to fish that much longer.
5. Keep your feet warm, wear heavy wool or fleece socks under neoprene boots, but be sure that they wick moisture away from your feet. If not, the moisture will make your feet cold. Also, be sure to wear loose fitting boots; boots that are too tight will cut off the circulation to your feet.

Some fine weather fly fishers won't even attempt to fish in the winter due to the temperatures. If you dress correctly, then you can stay warm, maybe even get hot, and be able to fish a much less crowded river.

Applications being accepted for the FFF Conservation Grants

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is proud to offer conservation grants to clubs, agencies, organizations and individuals who are working to preserve and restore the waters we cherish. If you know of a resource project that is working to assure healthy aquatic habitats, visit the Conservation Grants webpage www.fedflyfishers.org/conConsGrants.php or contact the FFF Conservation Coordinator at (406) 222-9369 ext 101 or operations@fedflyfishers.org.

FFF Conservation Grants for resource projects have normally been limited to \$2,000.00 per year for any individual project. Please use this as a guideline in making your annual requests for funding.

We're happy to provide these funds to support the valuable work of FFF clubs throughout North America. Please contact the FFF office if you have any questions about the program.



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Why Fish?

By Ron Silverman – Taken from the Palmetto Flyrodders Newsletter

Back in cave man times, when the first fisherman fashioned a gorge out of bone, baited it, tied it to a line, and tossed it into the water, he knew why he was fishing . . . to eat. But, in modern times, we likely have much more complex answers as to why we fish.

As some of you may know, several years ago, I wrote a book, "Not a Great Fisherman, Just a Lucky One" and donated all the proceeds to a charity, Canine Companions for Independence. According to the book cover, it contains "Sixteen Entertaining Adventures" . . . actual fishing experiences that I had over 50 years of fishing (now 60 plus years of fishing!). The back cover of the book says: "I have fished virtually all my life. Fishing has influenced where I lived, who my friends have been, and whom I married. I did not land every fish that I hooked, but I sure had some exciting, interesting, harrowing, and often humorous fishing experiences over the

last half a century. I learned a lot about the people that I fished with and about myself, and found a personal answer to the age-old question of why people fish."

Why people fish is on the minds of others, as well. In a conversation that I had with Bob Rich at a recent IGFA tournament in Islamorada, he told me that why people fish will be the topic of his new book that will be out shortly. Bob's last book, "Fish Fights - A Hall of Fame Quest", tells the story of how he set out to catch in one year the ten species offish, each with tough minimum weight requirements and on specific light conventional or fly tackle, that would make him the first angler inducted into the twenty-five-year-old Metropolitan South Florida Fishing

Tournament Hall of Fame. Bob donated all the proceeds from this book to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Per Rich, for his new book, he

interviewed many, many, fisherman at all socioeconomic levels, and all kinds of fisherman, from sports-fisherman to cane-pole. Then, he selected a dozen or more for his book that had the most interesting stories to tell. My conversation with Bob was brief. However, it was long enough for us to exchange my personal answer as to why I fish and, for him to tell me the core answer to this question that will be the theme of his new book (at least, as I understand it). What he found from all his interviews was that a common denominator among fisherman was HOPE, e.g. "I hope that I will catch some fish." "I hope that the weather will be OK." "I hope that my kids will have a good time." "I hope that I will have a relaxing time on the water today." Hope may not be the reason that fisherman fish per se, but is a common attribute among them; and what they are hoping for may explain in part, why they fish.

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Upcoming Events & Programs

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| February 20, 2006 | Darrell Bowman - Arkansas Trout |
| March 3, 2006 | Phil Lilley - Lake Taneycomo |
| April 2006 | Blue River Cleanup |



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