

## President's Message

by Mark Borsierine

*Still time to register for A.K. Best Spring Seminar*

**A**t this point, registration for our upcoming Spring Seminar with A.K. Best on March 11, 2006 is very low. This is a unique opportunity to experience not only the nation's best-known fly tyer but one of the nation's best dry fly fishermen. A.K. is known mostly for his legendary skill as a tyer, but his friends John Gierach and Ed Engle both attest to his prowess as a fly fisher as well. A.K. will be advising on us his fishing expertise as well as tying. This is a seminar not to be missed! Get registered and bring your friends as well! Spread the Word!

The proposed Seminar at the Discovery Center had to be canceled because of lack of registration. Your Officers discussed this extensively and believe that there is simply a lack of interest in beginner-level fly fishing education; or, perhaps,

there is already enough of that being done. We heard some good suggestions and have decided to take a different direction in providing education. We think there may be more interest in more intermediate and advanced level opportunities. We have already begun work on offering an on-the-water opportunity at our upcoming Spring Outing on the White River April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We would like to hear what kind of classes you would like to see offered; see the article in this newsletter on Educational Opportunities for new members and contact myself or Jim Mattes with your ideas. Education is the primary purpose of the FFF, it is part of our mission as an FFF-affiliate club. Please give us your feedback and the opportunity to make your membership in HOAFF more fulfilling!

Speaking of outings, our first

### HOAFF Meeting

Monday, February 20 - 7:00pm

**Darrell Bowman,  
AGFC Trout Biologist  
White & Norfolk Rivers**

this year at the White River (Arkansas) planned for April 22<sup>nd</sup> will include an on-the-water educational opportunity (who, what TBA). I can assure you it will be a bargain, not to be missed! Our second outing, the traditional One-Fly, June 17<sup>th</sup> will be held at a 4,000 acre location covered with strip pits near Amsterdam, MO (an hour South) belonging to Hunting Sports Plus. These pits are the stuff of legend in the local area, I can promise you will have access that day to some of the best WarmWater Fly Fishing you will ever experience!



## A.K. Best Spring Seminar 2006

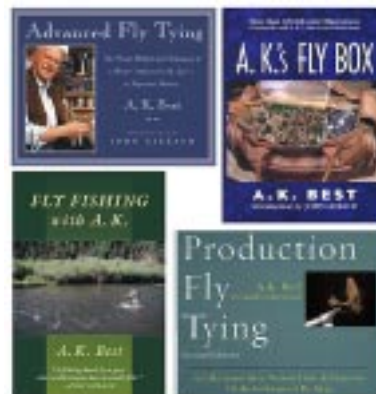
Saturday, March 11, 2006 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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. 114<sup>th</sup> Terr., Lenexa, KS 66208.

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## An Educational Opportunity for New Members

We realize that one of the main reasons for new members to join Heart of America Fly Fishers is to learn more about fly fishing. We want to offer classes at no cost to our new members; but we want to adjust those classes to your needs. If you will contact either our Club President, Mark Borserine or, our Education Chairman, Jim Mattes, we would like to hear what kind of classes you would like to have and an idea of what scheduling would fit into your needs. These classes will include books for you to add to your library. This offer extends as well to those who are not yet members: the \$30 membership will include access to these classes and materials.

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## Cabela's offers 5% Discount

Cabela's will give a 5% Discount to all HOAFF members on 3000-series SKU-numbered items: Fly Fishing items if you will send them your e-mail. Log onto yahoo.com, click on groups, search for the group "cabela", go through the registration process and you will receive special e-mails about discounts from Cabela's Fly Shop in Kansas City.

When you present your HOAFF membership card at the register, you'll receive a 5% discount on 3000-series SKU numbers. Participation is purely voluntary.

## Membership List

There have been a number of requests on the part of members for membership lists. We have held off for two reasons: we have not published one for some time; and, we wanted to take time to check any legal issues that might surround such action. The whole atmosphere surrounding issues of privacy have changed in the last couple of years.

We are going to publish a membership roster in hardcopy to be available at the April member meeting or mail by request. The roster will only contain name, address and phone number. To satisfy current legal requirements, anyone who wishes their name not to be included in the roster should notify us of their wishes before April or, at the time they take out their membership (for new members). Notice can be given to Mark Borserine or Cliff Newton, whose information is given in the Officer Section of the newsletter.

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# Doug's Crayfish

This lovely fly was taught to me by a true gentleman fly tyer; Doug Christian from Florissant, MO at the FFF-SOC Conclave three years ago. I understand Doug has since passed away so I dedicate this pattern to his memory and his generosity in sharing it.

Materials list in tying procedure to tan version (use orange materials for version in photo)

1. Jig Hook: 1/64 oz tube jig painted acrylic tan, Eagle Claw 570 or 575, #6
2. Thread Tan
3. Doubled Krystal Flash in black or rootbeer
4. Short tip section of natural deer body hair
5. 1/2 inch wide strip of ginger tan furry foam for overlay
6. Light ginger dubbing for head of crayfish
7. Two rabbit tufts (natural brown) tied behind and on each side of head for claws
8. Ginger Hackle (Chinese or Hen) tied in by the tip for 3 turns palmered over body
9. Fine Copper Wire for ribbing over body
10. Light Ginger Tan dubbing

## Tying Steps

A crayfish swims backwards. Tying on a jig hook insures the fly to go to the bottom and ride with the hook up. Proportions in thirds: 1/3 head of crayfish, 1/3 body with claws and legs, 1/3 tail section (jig head).

## Head of Crayfish:

1. Tie in a thread base from jig head to above barb. Double a single strand of Krystal flash and tie at end of fly, cut to the length of the hook (antennae).

2. Cut a small section of deer body hair (stack if needed) and cut butt end to extend from the 1/3 point on hook so that tips will extend 1/4 inch behind (hook end) fly. Bind the material on top of the hook without spinning and bind to above hook barb. This step accomplishes three important things: First, to ensure a butt section to help flair the claws, Second, to add bulk to the head away from the hook bend, and Third, to give the impression of mouth parts.

3. Cut a slight V in the furry foam and with the furry side up, catch the tip under the butt ends of the deer and with



by Mark Borsierine

slight pressure wind the thread back to the tail point.

4. Cover this head section with dubbing ending at the start of the middle (body) section.

## Middle Body Section:

1. Cut a section of rabbit fur (moisten) and cut so that it will fill the middle section and extend

to end of mouth parts (deer body hair). Secure one tuft on one side, then repeat with another tuft on the opposite side.

2. Tie in the tip of the hackle at the back end of middle part. Tie in the ribbing to end with the wire straight up at middle of section.

3. Fill in the middle section with dubbing.

4. Wrap hackle three turns, the first at the front, the second just behind the ribbing wire and the third at the end of the middle section (just behind the jig head). Secure with at least three turns and continue the wraps over the jig head to the eye of the hook.

## Tail Section:

1. Turn the fly over in the vise. Pull furry foam over the now top of the fly. Pull under tension and position so that hook eye will penetrate through the foam and secure with a minimum of one thread wrap on each side of hook eye. Cut remaining furry foam about 1/4 inch in front of jig head.

2. Take ribbing wire (now below) and rib over the middle body and the jig head. Secure with a whip finish just behind hook eye. Give a good coating of head cement on the jig side.

3. Using permanent markers, make two black eyes, darken middle with brown blotched, and make two narrow black bars. Mark hot orange at the end of the furry foam and the tips of the claws. Crayfish have orange markings at their tail and the ends of the claws.

## Doug's tips for Fishing his pattern:

- For Active Fish: In eddies and riffles, swing thru
- For Semi-Active Fish: In wood structure, drag thru, hopping in short distances
- For In-Active Fish: In deep pools – sanctuaries, fish under a float, deep enough to hit bottom
- Also, drop the crayfish under a Bass Popper!

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# Tips for Improving your Nymphing Success

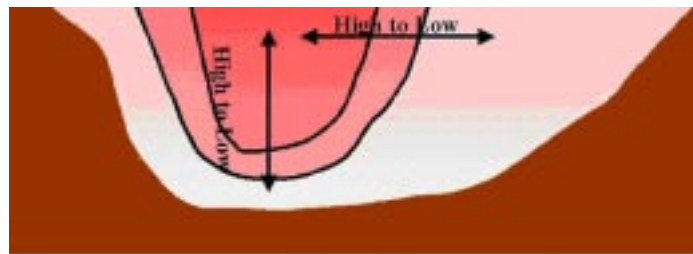
Trout don't move very far from their preferred location when feeding on drifting nymphs. This means that if you want to be successful, your nymph has to be "spot on" the feeding lane, both from side-to-side and right at the feeding depth. Nymph in the feeding lane, takes. Nymph out of the feeding lane, try again.

Getting the right lateral or side-to-side drift of your nymph through the feeding lane, while not always simple, is not terribly hard. For one thing you know where that feeding lane is. Just follow the foam line. And, you know where you want your nymph to be by watching the indicator.

If your indicator is not drifting the nymph where you want it, a few subtle mends should position the indicator in the feeding lane. Making sure your nymph is drifting at the right depth is another issue.

A basic understanding of how water flows in a stream

channel will help you understand what it takes to get your nymph down to the trout's level. The first thing you need to know and understand is that the speed the water is moving, called the velocity, is not the same throughout the stream. A generalized view shows that



the velocity is greatest in the middle and just below the surface. This variation is primarily due to the friction from the sides and bottom of the stream channel on the water molecules flowing by. This vertical velocity distribution is why a trout can live and grow in water that looks like it is moving too fast. At the location where the trout is holding, the velocity is near zero!

You also have to consider the sinking rate or settling velocity of your nymph relative to the water velocity. There are two important considerations in the sinking rate of your nymph. The first is the drag or resistance of the leader and the nymph. The second is the weight and

density of your nymph. With this understanding of stream flow and sinking characteristics you can take a few simple actions to improve our nymphing success.

get a smooth turn-over and delicate presentation. How far do you cast when you are nymph fishing? Not very far. And, generally it is with a weighted nymph. It is flipping or chucking, not artful casting. Since the most successful locations for nymphing are riffles, pockets and shoals, a delicate presentation isn't needed. You have to get your nymph all the way down to the trout's holding position near the stream bottom. While it may not seem to be important, the thickness of the upper portions of a tapered leader cause significant drag and resistance to the sinking of your nymph. Since you don't need the tapered leader for presentation, why use one at all?

density of your nymph. With this understanding of stream flow and sinking characteristics you can take a few simple actions to improve our nymphing success.


## 1. DON'T USE A TAPERED LEADER:

The first time most fly fishers here this suggestion they think it is heresy. You need that tapered leader to

get a smooth turn-over and delicate presentation. How far do you cast when you are nymph fishing? Not very far. And, generally it is with a weighted nymph. It is flipping or chucking, not artful casting. Since the most successful locations for nymphing are riffles, pockets and shoals, a delicate presentation isn't needed. You have to get your nymph all the way down to the trout's holding position near the stream bottom. While it may not seem to be important, the thickness of the upper portions of a tapered leader cause significant drag and resistance to the sinking of your nymph. Since you don't need the tapered leader for presentation, why use one at all?

Try just using 8 to 10 feet of whatever sized terminal tippet material you would use as your leader. Drag and resistance will be greatly reduced and your sink rate increased.

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**2. REDUCE THE SURFACE TENSION OF YOUR LEADER:**

One of the primary reasons that a leader floats is because of the water's surface tension. That is the force that keeps it from sinking. A major contributor to the surface tension is body oils from handling the leader. You can buy products designed to reduce surface tension and help your leader sink, or you can use the isopropyl alcohol pads they sell for cleaning your eyeglasses. Simply pull your leader through the pad and let it dry for a few seconds. If you don't have any alcohol pads, find a backwater area and grab a bit of fine silt and organic material. Run your leader through it. It's not as good as the pads but it does help.

**3. START WITH THE INDICATOR 1.5X THE WATER DEPTH:**

Unless you are fishing an extremely heavily weighted nymph in shallow water, it is

not very likely that you nymph will hang straight below your indicator. Almost always there will be a bow in the leader. The faster and deeper the water, the greater the bow will be. Placing your indicator on the leader at 1.5 X the water depth is a good place to start, but make adjustments to the distance between the indicator and the nymph until the fly is at the depth you need. It is better to have more distance than needed between the indicator and the nymph than not enough distance between the indicator and the nymph.

**4. CAST UPSTREAM OF WHERE THE TROUT WILL BE:**

Even with a heavily weighted nymph and a straight leader, it will take some time for the nymph to sink down to the trout's depth. Cast far enough upstream to make sure that your nymph has plenty of time to sink and gets down

to where the trout is holding. It is far better to have your nymph bouncing along the bottom upstream of the fish, than to have your nymph float by over his head!

**5. MAKE AN IMMEDIATE UPSTREAM MEND OF THE INDICATOR:**

This can't be stressed enough! Remember that the water velocity or speed is so much greater on the top than it is on the bottom. Without getting the indicator upstream of the nymph, the indicator, floating in that high velocity water at the surface, will pull the nymph along and not give it an opportunity to sink. As soon as the indicator hits the water

make a quick mend to move the indicator upstream of where the nymph landed in the water. This gives the nymph a few seconds to start to sink before being pulled along by the indicator. As the indicator starts to overtake the nymph, make a second upstream mend of the indicator. Make additional upstream mends as necessary.

You will find that just this basic understanding of how stream flow effects the movement and location of your nymph will have a significant impact on your nymph fishing success. The more trout that see your nymph in their feeding lane, the more trout you can catch.

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Norm Crisp is owner and head guide for STREAM SIDE ADVENTURES (www.StreamSideAdventures.com). STREAM SIDE ADVENTURES offers guided fly fishing trips in Missouri and Wyoming. STREAM SIDE ADVENTURES is permitted by the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the Medicine Bow National Forest and the Rawlins, Wyoming District of the Bureau of Land Management. STREAM SIDE ADVENTURES is an equal opportunity provider.



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# Destinations

## Troutdale Farm

Troutdale is immediately West of Gravois Mills, MO; it's been there for many, many years. Three years ago it was bought as a retirement dream by Dennis & Merritt Van Landuyt; who are making extensive renovations. I remember going to Troutdale as a small boy and it's very nice to see an Ozark tradition "resurrecting".

Dennis is a graduate of the University of Wyoming and Auburn with degrees in Chemistry. He points out, however that his experience is in Resins, not water, so his new "venture" is a new learning experience.

Troutdale is a Private Trout Farm. The Sunday afternoon that I visited, I literally "had the place to myself". Dennis & Merritt gave me an extensive tour of the facility, which was my first opportunity to see a Trout Hatchery in operation.

Troutdale is fed by Collins Spring,



60% of the water used by the facility comes directly from the spring. The Ozark Plateau is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year of low rainfall and the Spring is only producing 40% of its normal 23 million gallons per day. Nonetheless Troutdale is thriving. Dennis said that the Ozark Plateau needs at least a year of normal



to above average rainfall to "recharge". The "drought" is affecting everyone and every Spring in the Ozark Plateau.

The Hatchery or "Nursery" area (shown in photos) was fascinating. The Trout eggs are incubated for 3 weeks in 56 degree water. After hatching, the tiny fry are put in one

of the troughs where they lay on the bottom for 2 weeks and then all at once,

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they begin to "swim up" and feed on 52-54% protein mix of vegetable & fish meal.

As they grow they are moved to different troughs during their growth phases. The work of feeding and transferring is done by hand.

The fry have to be fed six times a day when very small and four times a day when larger. Owning a Trout Farm is indeed a "labor of love". Dennis is proud to have the only Brook Trout (from Minnesota) in the State of Missouri; they are not yet in the fishery.

Troutdale is, of course, a "put and take" fishery. Trout are cleaned and packaged at \$4.25 per pound (there is a \$10 registration fee which covers the first 2.3 lbs of Trout). Catch and Release is available for \$25 half-day, \$40 full day. Fishing is done in two ponds, wading is not allowed since the pond banks would prove too steep.

Dennis' dream is to create a stream below the dam of the lowest pond someday. Troutdale is a wonderful place to relax and while away some time if you're visiting Lake of the Ozarks area or, as a place to stop on your way back from some Catch and Release to take a few trout "for the pan". The fish are large and exceptional fighters! Dennis & Merritt are wonderful hosts, you can genuinely sense their love of their "farm"; relax, enjoy yourself and definitely experience Troutdale.

Call Troutdale at 573-372-1900 or check their website at: [www.troutdalefarm.com](http://www.troutdalefarm.com)



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### Upcoming Events & Programs

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| February 20, 2006 | <b>Darrell Bowman</b> - Arkansas Trout             |
| March 3, 2006     | <b>Phil Lilley</b> - Lake Taneycomo Midge Fishing  |
| March 11, 2006    | <b>A.K. Best Spring Seminar</b> - Discovery Center |
| April 1, 2006     | <b>Blue River Cleanup</b>                          |
| April 17, 2006    | <b>Eric Pietz</b> - Fly Fishing Utah and Colorado  |
| April 22, 2006    | <b>White River Outing</b>                          |
| May 6, 2006       | <b>Fly Tying 101</b> - Red Bridge Library - 2pm    |
| May 15, 2006      | <b>Craig Fuller</b> - Niangua River/Bennett Spring |
| June 17, 2006     | <b>One Fly Outing</b>                              |
| June 19, 2006     | <b>Norm Crisp</b> - Fly Fishing Strategies         |