

## *President's Message*

by Mark Borsierine

*HOAFF Members responds to "Emergency Calls"*

**B**y the time you get this newsletter, the Spring Seminar on March 11<sup>th</sup>, featuring AK Best will be accomplished. I'll have the opportunity to report on it in the next newsletter and at our upcoming Member Meeting on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> where our featured program will be Phil Lilley from Taneycomo. Phil is a well-known Taneycomo guide and a recognized authority on midge fishing – plan to attend!

I am continually overwhelmed by the generosity of our members in responding to "emergency calls". Our guest speaker, Darrell Bowman, for last month was unable to come at the last minute and Monet Drake responded by giving a presentation on his recent trip

to Chile with K&K Fly Fishers. Monet had spent the time to make sure he had this ready to go just in case of an emergency. His generosity and concern for the HOAFF paid off in a genuinely engaging presentation!

Last Monday, just before our Officers Meeting, I got a call from the National Wild Turkey Federation, that they were having a "Being an Outdoors Woman" event March 4<sup>th</sup> at Cabela's and found out at the last minute that the personnel from Cabela's were going to be unable to assist in teaching Fly Tying and Fly Casting classes. My heartfelt thanks to Bill Lindley, Gordon Gifford, Mike George, Jim Bebb, Tom James, Norm Crisp and Gervis Beiringer who generously

## *HOAFF Meeting*

*Monday, March 20 - 7:00pm*

**Phil Lilley  
Lilley's Landing on  
Lake Taneycomo**

volunteered to help and who patiently waited out the week as information "dribbled" in. They braved cold and wet to make the classes a genuinely enjoyable experience for all the women who attended. See the photo spread in this newsletter.

These sorts of things always make me aware of what is really enjoyable and important about this club and that is the people! The people who are so generous and joyful in sharing their love of the sport with others!

## *Sister Carol Anne Corley: Material Girl*



Sister Carol Anne Corley works with teenagers whose troubles are from broken homes, lousy attitudes and too much time on their hands.

In 1999 Terry Looper, who is an air conditioning contractor, approached her to work with kids and they started the U.S. Youth Flyfishing Association. They work with groups such as the Arkansas Baptist Boy's Ranch in Harrison, Arkansas and the Moffett Baptist Mission in Moffett, Oklahoma, as well as several churches,

schools and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

In a Catholic elementary school in Hot Springs she teaches fly casting for physical education, fly tying for art and even pitched in to assist the science teacher in a water ecology course.

To assist with her fly tying classes, she needs fly tying

## *Flytying material that is*

materials. We need to gather our extra materials, feathers, thread, dubbing, whatever we have that we can spare and bring them to the March member meeting. Mike George will collect the items to send to her.

"You thank God for the kids you get and you pray for the ones you don't."



## 2006 Officers

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## White River Outing

April 22 – Mountain Home, Arkansas

by Jim Jorgensen

The first club outing of the year will be held on the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is a variety of water to fish on the White and North Fork Rivers.

Accommodations will be at the White Sands Motel and Restaurant, Brass Door Motel and Restaurant, and the Rim Shoals Lodge. All locations have contact information in the newsletter. The club will meet for dinner on Saturday night at the Brass Door Restaurant in Gassville, Ark. around 7:00 pm.

For additional information contact Jim Jorgensen, 913/481-1129.



## Membership List

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 Borsierine or Cliff Newton, whose information is given in the Officer Section of the newsletter.

### 2006 Membership

As of our Officer/Director meeting of March 6<sup>th</sup> we have 55 paid members for 2006. There are 68 unpaid who were paid members in 2005. We ask that you update your membership for 2006 in the near future!

### Conservation Team

Encouraged by Ray Zook, the Officers and Directors established a Conservation Team. The purposes are:

- To keep abreast of significant activities related to conservation in areas of interest to the club.
- To make appropriate and timely reports to the club pertaining to these activities and make recommendations or proposals for actions to be taken by the club.
- To write grant applications to the Southern Council.

There will be four members covering the following areas:

General – Nationwide:

Missouri:

Arkansas: John Bell

Metro Kansas City:

### Assistant Newsletter Editor

Tom James needs help with the Newsletter. Would someone like to be a Reporting Assistant? Contact Tom. Also, any member who would like to submit articles (200 words or less preferred) and photos that would be of interest to our members is requested to do so.

### HOAFF Apparel is here

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# AK Best Spring Seminar

March 11, 2006



# Becoming an Outdoors Woman

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Little Red River

Wed Jan 18: Drove down to Heber Springs, Arkansas on the Little Red for an AG&FC meeting on the Trout Management Plan for the Little Red.

I stayed at Lindsey's Resort located right on the river about a mile below the dam. I paid \$60 a night for a room with kitchen and two queen beds. Lindsey's is a typical White River resort that offers rustic housekeeping cabins, trout dock with boat rental, and restaurant. It's a fairly large operation, and in the summer I bet it's rife with patrons, however in the middle of the week in mid-January I was the only guest there. That may explain the presence of the mice that kept scampering around my room, but after a couple of drinks, I found some amusement in it and we got along just fine. If you are a fisherman, I recommend Lindsey's; they are both friendly and knowledgeable about the water and area.

My plan was to fish all day Thursday hitting the most famous of the walk-in access

points, and then go the AG&FC meeting that evening. A good source of info on the Little Red River is the MidSouth Fly Fishers book Home Waters which has a very good write-up by famous Arkansas guide and artist Duane Hada. The Ozark Angler (with fly shops in Little Rock and Heber Springs) also has some excellent maps and information on its website. www.ozarkangler.com/river/ The Little Red begins at the base of Greer's Ferry Lake Dam. There is about 30 miles of trout water (with the upper 10 miles the most popular) and then another stretch of warm water fishing before it flows into the White River near Searcy, Arkansas.

Thursday: I'm up early and the weather is WARM. Not exactly what I expect even for Arkansas in January. I started fishing just below the dam at John F. Kennedy Park. The Park is very similar to other parks below White River dams, with campsites, picnic tables and all the other accoutrements common to Corp of Engineers facilities.


There is also a fish hatchery at the Park which is open to the public. The river just below the dam is in a narrow canyon with large boulders and slab rock that has broken, which provides good cover and depth for the fish. A hotspot is the out-flow from the hatchery where trout congregate. Caught a couple at the discharge pipe on small scuds before moving downstream. The weather is so warm, that upon my return to the car, I am in a full sweat. The wading is easy because they are not running any water. Greers Ferry Lake like all lakes on the White River system is experiencing major drought this winter. The lake is 15 feet below its customary level and the Corp has not run any water for several weeks. While this is good for the wading, it's not so good for the fishing in my opinion, as the low water concentrates the fish in the runs and causes them to be quite skittish. Sidebar: Dedicating JFK Park was the last official act of J.F.K. before he was assassinated.

Cow Shoals is probably the

most famous fly fishing stretch on the Little Red. It is a major spawning site for brown trout in the late fall and winter. There are nice riffles both upstream and downstream of the access point. Amazingly, I share the AG&FC parking lot with only one other vehicle/angler. By mid January the spawn is over and most of the browns have moved out, but I managed to land a couple on a size 18 red midge pattern. I first tried the scuds that had worked at the hatchery discharge but they would have none of it. The river here is still fairly small, about half the size of the Norfolk. It was a good thing that I shared the area with only one other angler as the river (in low water) could not take a lot of anglers at this location.

At Swinging Bridge we are several miles below the dam and the river has widened and deepened substantially. There is considerably more water than at either of the two previous access points. There are parking lots and boat ramps on both sides of the river here and quite a bit of

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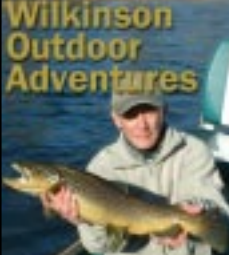


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interesting shoal/pocket water below the bridge on the left. This place looked very promising for streamer or pocket water nymph fishing. I didn't get a fish here but, I didn't fish long as I was running out of time to make the Trout Management meeting back in Heber Springs. But I would wet a line here anytime. The water looked very promising.

### White and Norfolk Rivers

Friday: I'm up early and on the road to Mt. Home where I will meet up with former HOAFF member David Games (now from Tulsa) and fish with him for two days. It is both a pleasant and scenic drive from Heber Springs up to Mt. Home, especially if you slow down. Highway 5 twists and turns through the Ozark mountains until it comes out along the lower White River below Norfolk. Talk about low fishing pressure. I didn't see one angler for miles, and there are trout down there. Our plan was to meet at the wheelchair access on the Norfolk. David beat me there and was in the riffle just upstream. Lucky for

us they had just stopped generating and the water was falling. As I was putting my waders on, I could see David in the river and he was getting strikes on every other cast. He caught and released about a half dozen before I could get my waders on and rod rigged. I quickly entered the river, bypassed David and hurried to the islands above. With the water still fairly high wading was tough but fish were everywhere. I fished double scud's in size 14 to 18 with a strike indicator. The smaller fly took the most fish. And, we caught a lot of fish that afternoon. When the fishing is good on the Norfolk, it's good. And it was good that afternoon. Conditions couldn't have been much better. For mid January it was 60+ degrees, no wind, and we had the river (almost) to ourselves all afternoon. We fished until dark and headed to Charlie's Rainbow Trout Resort on the Norfolk just below the dam. Charlie caters to fishermen and he is most favorably situated right on the river between the dam and

McClellan's. At Charlie's you don't have to call the Dam Information number to find out what the Norfolk is doing; you can just look out the window.

Saturday: We drove over to the White and fished at Wildcat Shoals all day. The fishing wasn't as good as the day before, but we had enough action to keep us in the water. The White is quite a bit larger than the Norfolk and it was fun to move around and fish more water. I took the scenic route back to Charlie's traveling on county roads and stopping at several walk-in points along the White to see how many folks were about. Not many. That may say something about mid January. No mice at Charlie's but that didn't stop me from having several scotches and a dose of ESPN and I was off to sleep.

Sunday: My plan was to rise early, fish the Norfolk and head home. Around 5 am I am awakened by the sound of rain hitting the roof. When the alarm went off at 6, it was still raining. At 7, when I got up, it was still raining, and not just a

drizzle, but a heavy rain. By 7:30 it was light enough to see the river and I could tell that they were running both generators full. So, I had a leisurely breakfast and ESPN Sports Center. At 9am it was still raining, so I completely rebuilt the leaders on both rods. Finally, at 10am after I had packed the car and checked out, the rain stopped. As I pulled out of Charlie's I took a last look at the river and low and behold, it looked like it was coming down. I beat a hasty exit to the C&R section below McClellan's. Again, I moved up the islands and had a pretty good morning fishing scuds and midges (WD 40's).

While I didn't run into the numbers of fish that we had on Friday afternoon, I did stick a couple of pigs that gave me quite a tussle. Of course, with tiny flies, 6x tippet, and a 3wt rod, you are well rigged for 10 to 14" trout, but woefully out-gunned by anything over 16 inches. So be it. I really didn't expect to land any of the big ones. It's just fun being attached to one of those monsters for a while!

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# It's not as bad as the Blue River

Our club's annual Blue River clean-up will be April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 AM (or later if you sleep in a little).

Our site this year will be located along Blue River Road, south of I-435, north of Red Bridge Road. To get there, take I-435 to Holmes (2 miles east of State Line), go south on Holmes 1 mile, turn left (east) on Red Bridge Road and go 1 mile, turn left (north) on Blue River Road. Go north ½ mile and park in the gravel lot at the Alex George Lake. Walk north along the side of the road to where we will be working.

There is a limited amount of parking at the location we are working. If you park at Alex George Lake, it will be safer and will allow for vehicles to shuttle supplies in, and shuttle trash out.

The lake is a popular fishing location. Trout are stocked for winter fishing. Bass, bluegill and catfish can be caught in warmer weather.

As in years past, we will coordinate

our clean-up with the Lakeside Nature Center. Their effort is run by Gervis's daughter, Vicki Richmond. Lakeside will provide a continental breakfast and lunch at the Nature Center in Swope



Park. We generally skip the breakfast, but many club members have attended the lunch. It's fun. The Nature Center will also provide supplies and haul away the trash we pick-up.

In a departure from tradition, our larger focus will be to cut down shrub honeysuckle. Honeysuckle is an invasive plant species imported from Asia. It is

taking over many of the natural areas in the metro area. Consider it as the plant equivalent of the zebra mussel or consider it as the plant equivalent of the bug that causes whirling disease in trout. Go to [www.kcwildlands.org](http://www.kcwildlands.org) for more local information. We will be using loppers and saws (graciously loaned to us by KCWildlands) to cut down the honeysuckle and then use a reasonably safe herbicide to kill the remaining honeysuckle stumps.

We will also pick up trash, primarily at 2 spots where you can access the river. The area selected is a location where Blue River Road is close to the Blue River. The honeysuckle in this area is blocking the view of the river from the road. Each year it grows a little taller and thicker, and blocks more of the view of the river. Opening up this area will give people the chance to see a natural stream, in a scenic woodland environment, as they drive along Blue

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By Bill Brant

River Road. Also, removing the trash in this area will improve the scenic value of this wonderful resource.

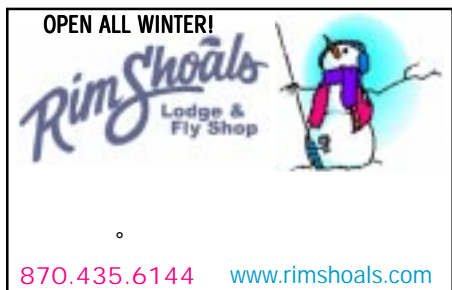
The reason for working in this particular spot, is the hope that our 2 improvements would affect many individuals outside of our club in a positive manner, and maybe make them more inclined to support the health of the bodies of water where we fish. They also might be more inclined to join our ranks as flyfishers.

At the recent officer's meeting we discussed washing our hands in the Blue River. Someone joking compared the honeysuckle herbicide to the stream by saying "It's not as bad as the Blue River". Maybe our work will change the false, but common perception, that all of the Blue River is horribly polluted.

RSVP's are welcome (816.941.9691), but not required. So far 14 people have signed-up. Mark your calendars (and set your alarm clock) for this event, April 1<sup>st</sup>.



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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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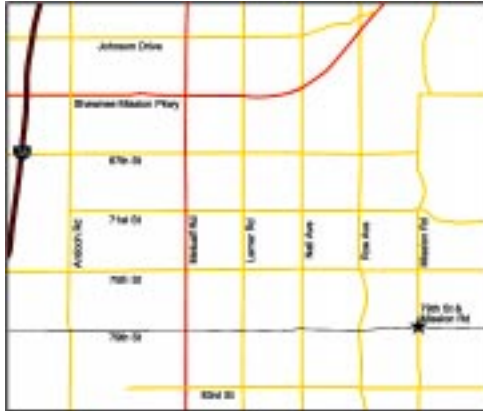


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### Upcoming Events & Programs

March 11, 2006	<b>A.K. Best Spring Seminar</b> - Discovery Center
March 20, 2006	<b>Phil Lilley</b> - Lake Taneycomo Midge Fishing
April 1, 2006	<b>Blue River Cleanup</b>
April 17, 2006	<b>Eric Pletz</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
June 17, 2006	<b>One Fly Outing</b>
June 19, 2006	<b>Norm Crisp</b> - Fly Fishing Strategies

Many thanks to Monet Drake for his excellent program on his fishing trip to Chile last month. My fondest recollection is of Monet's complaints about the 12 hour plane ride and the associated amount of leg room. Oh well, once there, I'm sure he forgot about it.

For our March program we will be hosting Phil Lilley. Phil is a Branson outfitter, guide and proprietor of Lilley's Landing on Lake Taneycomo. He will be talking about fly fishing Lake Taneycomo in general and more specifically about the tremendous midge fishing possibilities there. Hope to see you at the meeting. .jb