

President's Message

by Mark Borserine

HOAFF teams need your help

While the HOAFF has been blessed with a lot of willing volunteers, it seems that the same few people volunteer again and again. This is SOP or "Standard Operating Procedure" in volunteer organizations; but, it shouldn't be! If you don't have a lot of spare time, and you can just volunteer to help out with one thing each year it will help the club immensely. We have some Teams such as Conservation, Auction and newsletter that could use some help!

We now have a Conservation Team and we need at least three more people to make this really work well. Conservation is a very important part of our club mission. If you have an interest in Conservation, especially a 'specialized' interest, this is the

"Team" for you. Tom James does an unbelievable job on our newsletter but he does it alone. If you have a "gift" for writing or photography, Tom needs your help. Jim Mattes has volunteered to chair our upcoming (October) Auction, but he needs lots of help. This is a one-time event each year and is perfect if you're the kind that can only find time to do one thing. Another area that can use help is education. Each year we are being asked to teach more and more; this is very flattering, but it takes time to organize and staff each event. We always need help with our educational projects.

Volunteering is a great way for new members to become "accepted" in a new organization. When I was new to the Club, I began getting active right away.

HOAFF Meeting

Monday, May 15 - 7:00pm

Darrell Bowman
Chief Trout Biologist
from Arkansas

We hear complaints that "the older members stay in their own little group", "no one talked to me at the meeting", etc. These criticisms are again, all too true of volunteer organizations. We have to always work at making our new members welcome; but, new members should remember that the relationship is always a "two-way street". A new member can make themselves welcome in any organization by becoming involved and helping out! Walk right into those little groups, talk to others even if you don't know them, activate the "process"!

One Fly Tournament at the HSP Strip Pits

by Mark Borserine



On Saturday, June 17th, the HOAFF will be the guests of Hunting Sports Plus. Our traditional One-Fly Outing will be held at the ultimate fishing hole in the Midwest: the incomparable Strip Pits near Amsterdam, MO. Although more than one member is allowed on this property at one time, you may never see anyone else. At 4,000 acres (three and one-half miles long and two miles wide) and containing 35 bodies of water, the Strip Pits are a resource that can't be adequately described. They have

to be experienced. Five-pound bass are commonplace; in fact, all bass longer than 14 inches must be returned to the water immediately. Several bass topping ten pounds have been caught and released on HSO properties.

Beginning at first light on the 17th, you may enter at the main gate at the Northwest corner of the property. You must register at the May member meeting or call Mark Borserine at 913-915-1002 before coming, when you do, you'll be given the combination to the lock on the

gate – relock the gate when you come in. We will gather at the dam area of Pit 1, lunch will be provided by the club at noon in the dam area of Pit 1 and HSP will make a presentation on Fishing memberships to us. This is a float-tuber and kick-boater's paradise so bring your "rigs". As long as you can handle them, these bodies of water are ideal for small jonboats, canoes and two-man bass boats; but some of the pits have pretty steep sides. For those who don't have a "watercraft" there will be some

continued on page 5

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Banner Creek Hens

We have had a request for assistance again at a "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" event.

Apparently Bill Lindley was such a hit with the ladies that the word got out! This event is being held at Banner Creek Reservoir (check the KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks) website near Holton, KS on Saturday afternoon July 15th. It will again consist of Fly Casting and Fly Tying. It should be a small group and we should only need four of us to go. The Reservoir looks great! Small enough for kickboats and such. Perhaps we could drive up on Saturday morning, stay over Saturday night and fish Saturday evening and Sunday morning before coming home. Call Mark Borserine to volunteer (913) 915-1002.

Give Iowa a Try

by Mark Borserine

As the song from the "Music Man" says; "You really should give Iowa a try". Bill Brant and I are researching an outing over the weekend of September 9th to the "Driftless" area of Northeast Iowa. This area is covered with small, beautiful trout streams featuring mostly Brown and native Brook Trout. If you like "technical" fishing demanding precise casting and using small flies, this is definitely for you! The "plan" is that we'll rent a 15-passenger van, drive up on a Friday evening, picking up our "guide" Jene Hughes from Des Moines on the way. We'll "lodge" in Decorah, IA and fish Saturday and Sunday, driving back on Sunday evening. We'll simply share expenses, also doing our own cooking as much as possible. Of course, the more we have going the lower each one's cost but this should be a very low cost trip! Bill Brant and I have fished the "Driftless" area of SE Minnesota which is like the Iowa area and it is wonderful! This has not been finalized yet but anyone interested, please

say something to me, give me a call or e-mail me or Bill – we'd like to know how much interest there is.



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Alaskan Steelhead

by Jim Ohnemus

I just got back from my spring steelhead fishing, this would be my first time catching steelhead (sea running rainbow trout ,after four years at sea, return to fresh water to spawn, much larger and stronger!). I was with two other fly fishers from our club, Mark Smith and Dave Howard. We averaged (11) steelhead each day. We had a great guide, he has been guiding the Situk River (pronounced Seetuk River) for (40) years. We were push off the river because of heavy rain for two days. The air temperature was 42 degrees, water temperature was 34 degrees! We have already made plans to come back next year. " What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger!"

We stayed in Yakutat, Alaska, it is the smallest town in the world to have service by a major air line!



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Watercress

by Norm Crisp, Stream Side Adventures

If you have ever spent any time on one of Missouri's Ozark trout streams you have noticed patches of bright green plants growing in the spring branches or along isolated gravel bars. That plant is Watercress, the same herb you can sometimes buy at the local grocery store.

Watercress is not native to North America. It is a hardy European perennial herb, *Nasturtium officinale*, that is now widely distributed in cool spring fed streams. Watercress is part of the mustard family and has a pungent peppery taste that makes a nice addition to a salad or as a garnish. For us trout fisherman it has another use.

On the stream, a patch of watercress is a sure sign that you need to stop and fish. Watercress needs cool clean water to develop

and grow. A watercress patch is a sign that there is ground water entering the river either as a small underwater spring or, more likely as ground water seepage over a wider area. In our Ozark streams that seepage is important all year round but in the late spring through early fall it is the life that keeps the water temperatures within the trout's safety range.

Don't forget the culinary aspect of watercress! Next time you find it on the stream pick some and bring it home to try in this spread that STREAM SIDE ADVENTURES often uses for lunch.

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Salmon, Goat Cheese, and Watercress Spread

Ingredients:

- 8 oz salmon fillet, skin removed and cut into 1 inch cubes – salt to taste
- two small shallots
- juice of quarter lemon
- 1Tbs. butter
- Sufficient white wine of your choice to poach salmon
- 4 oz goat cheese
- 1 cup chopped and loosely packed watercress.

Rinse watercress in several washes of clean water. Pick over carefully to remove any remaining sowbugs or scuds. Course chop.


Melt butter in pan and sauté finely chopped shallots. Add cubed salmon, lemon juice and wine. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from pan and let cool.

Flake the salmon and add the goat cheese and chopped watercress and mix gently to blend ingredients. Correct seasoning as needed.

Serve on bagel slices or on slices of crusty French Bread. Garnish with the saved sowbugs and scuds if desired.



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One Fly Tournament at the HSP Strip Pits

continued from p. 1

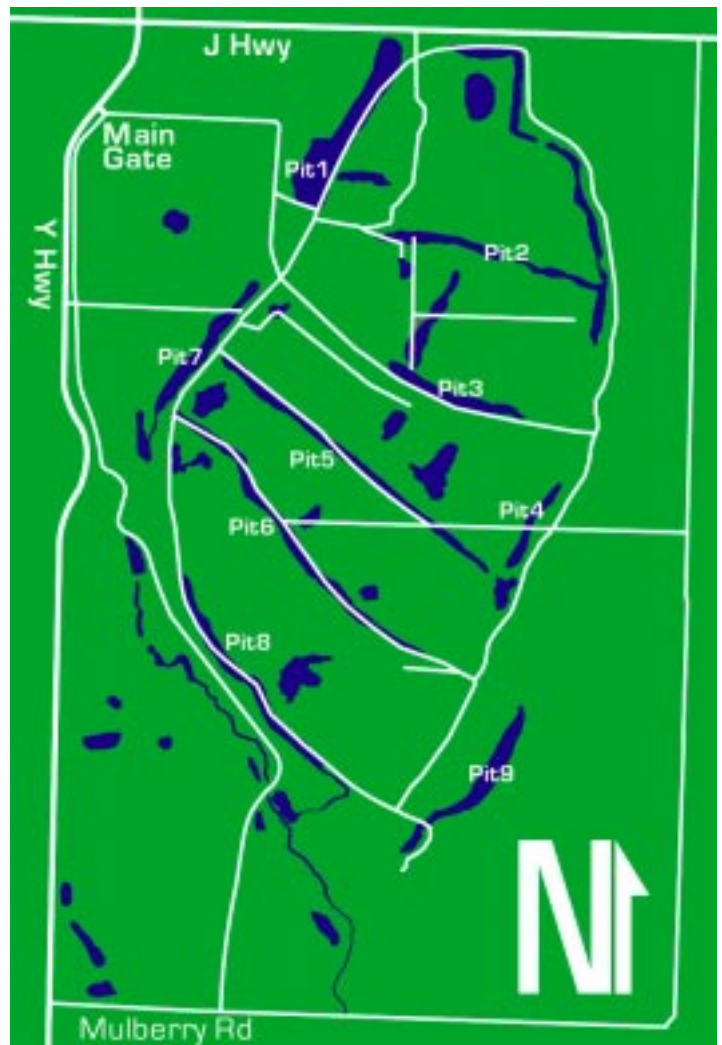
extras available, so come anyway.

For your own safety, please don't try to wade in these pits and ponds; some have soft bottoms and others have severe drop-offs, plunging to fifty and sixty feet!

The pits are approximately one-hour south of the Metro area. From the Kansas side, you will come South on 69 Hwy to 152 and go East on the South side of the LaCygne power plant to Amsterdam, MO. From Missouri, take 71 Hiway South to Butler-Passaic exit, then go West on F Hwy. 10 miles to J Hwy. North on J to the 4-way stop sign at Amsterdam, go South on Y Hwy to main gate on East Side of Hwy. There will be a prominent sign at the gate HOAFF is to use for access.

HSP is a private club, remember you need to pre-register with Mark Borsierine (HSP member) before coming to this outing: (913) 915-1002, e-mail:

MAJBORSER@aol.com. You will also be required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement – a standard requirement for all guests on HSP leases. For more information on Hunting Sports Plus visit their website www.huntingsportsplus.com.



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Salmonids Have Hearing Too!

Bass fishermen know only too well how effective using a fishes' lateral line can be! This is why the plethora of spinners and rattles in Bass lures. Salmonids (Trout & Salmon) are primarily known as sight feeders but as Gary Borger states so well in his book "Designing Trout Flies": "The trout's lateral line mechanism is a very sensitive sonar device that runs along its flank and forward around its mouth and eyes. So sensitive is it that the fish can hear (feel) a nymph swimming or a dry fly drop to the surface". Bass fishermen have learned that the more turbid the water is, the more important the lateral line becomes! The same applies to Salmonids as I have graphically seen on more than one occasion:

Once fishing early spring run-off in the Allegheny Mountains in Virginia, the water was high, cloudy and unbelievably cold (it stung my skin

through 5mm neoprene and fleece underpants!). The guide gave me a large, black conehead woolly bugger because he felt that the size would cause the trout to "hear" it. That wasn't enough; after



going fishless for quite a while I noticed that the conehead was loose and would slide back and forth a little bit. I started "jerking" it rapidly like plastic worm with a brass sinker and bead on the front to make it rattle and I started catching fish after fish. The "Rattle Bugger" was born, which is the bottom fly in the photo. I

tie this with a conehead and a brass bead behind it. There is no thread at the eye, I tie the head far enough behind the bead to allow the conehead and bead to rattle back and forth. A simple adaptation to the Woolly!

Another example occurred this last September on our Club "excursion" to Ninilchik, Alaska. On a whim, I had bought some "Pistol Pete" Salmon flies from Yager's because they were on sale (top fly in the photo). All these are standard Salmon/Steelhead patterns tied with a propeller in front. When we got to Alaska we found that the Rivers were "blown out" with high, dirty water due to heavy rains. The Pistol Petes saved the trip for many of us! My "collection" disappeared among my companions in a matter of minutes! Stripping this fly rapidly, making the propeller spin provided the right amount of vibration to use the Salmon

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& Steelheads' lateral lines to our advantage. This summer, when I go back, I'll be "armed" with some of these again. Pistol Petes are also available in Trout and Panfish sizes.

The second fly in the photo is called a "flapdoodle". I picked this idea up from a recent magazine article by Ed Engle. He was on a trip in Alaska with John Gierach and AK Best and they were adding small spinners to the back of leech patterns.

The swivel is held on the hook by plastic disks punched out of a popcan holder placed above and below – this is the way Bass and Walleye fisherman put on "Stinger" hooks. A small split ring connects the swivel and spinner. This particular fly is an adapted bunny leech, the spinner an Indiana #2 in fluorescent orange. Carry some of the spinners and swivels already connected and simply add them to flies as needed. You'll have

to make sure you trim off some of the tail so the spinner can work and make sure the spinner is not too large that it interferes with hooking!

The third and fourth flies are simple Woolly Worms with an in-line spinner in front. Some "purists" may feel that fishing flies with "hardware" is not "good form" but years ago, (in the 30s,

40s & 50s) one of the most popular Bass flies was a large wet fly or Woolly with an in-line spinner in front. This venerable fly is still just as effective as ever! The two in the photograph are trout/panfish-sized and were bought "over-the-counter".

Get out there and make some noise!



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Upcoming Events & Programs

- May 6, 2006 **Fly Tying 101** - Red Bridge Library - 2pm
- May 15, 2006 **Darrell Bowman** - Arkansas Trout Biologist
- June 17, 2006 **One Fly Outing** - HSP Strip Pits
- June 19, 2006 **Norm Crisp** - Fly Fishing Strategies
- Sept 18, 2006 **Annual Picnic** - Shawnee Mission Park



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