

President's Message

by Mark Borsierine

Auction Success

We had a very successful Auction, netting over \$ 4,000. Thanks for your generosity and attendance and thanks to my cousin Beverly and her husband, Marty Read, our auctioneer. Marty observed that this was a better auction than last year, the members were noticeably 'looser' with their change; he felt that in another ten years or so, he might have you all trained properly! Humor, of course. Marty enjoyed you all a lot! I will be Auction Chair next year and between the great stuff I'm going to get and Marty's skill we expect to really have you all whipped into shape! On the serious side, many thanks to Jim Mattes and the good job he's done these last two years. Jim is going to take a major officer position in Sertoma and doesn't feel that he can do too many things which is both understandable

and laudable. For myself, I said I would be Auction Chair if the Directors found me a replacement as President which I am happy to announce will be Darren Watson. Darren has the talent and energy that will make a great President for the club! And, I will keep my promise regarding the Auction; however, that means that every member of the Club is also a member of the Auction Committee - I'll have you all out combing for good stuff!

Our one remaining significant event for the year is our Annual Banquet, December 1st at Ollie's Bar-B-Que on 64 Hiway between Bennett Spring State Park and Lebanon, closer to the Park. Fishing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the traditional cookout at noon at the Spring Shelter and dinner on Saturday night. For Pete's Sake, let's hope

HOAFF Meeting

Monday, November 19 - 7:00pm

Jeff Williams

Trout Biologist for Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

No December Member Meeting

for good weather this year! We need a break! Dinner will be \$15 - I'm in charge of the Banquet, fulfilling the role of Past President before fully "passing"; sort of like "near death". You will not want to miss my Farewell Address (45 min. or less)! Promise me you'll drink plenty beforehand! You can let me know by e-mail: MAJBORSER@aol.com or sign up at the meeting next Monday night. You can also give me a call: (913) 915-1002. Paying at the door is OK but I do need a head count to make sure everyone has something to eat!

Bob Jacklin Spring Program

Saturday, February 23, 2008 • 8:00am - 4:00pm



Bob Jacklin has been a fly Fishing Guide and Outfitter in the Yellowstone region for over 36 years and has a full service Fly Fishing Shop in West Yellowstone. He is a world-class fly fisherman, fly tyer, and fly casting instructor.

Bob holds a Masters Certification as a fly casting instructor, and sits on the FFF's Board of Governors for fly casting instructions. He has been tying flies commercially since 1963 and is a past recipient of the FFF's Buz Buszek award for his contributions to the art of fly tying. There are few people in the country with as much in-depth knowledge of fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying as Bob Jacklin. He is a charter member of the Federation of Fly Fishers, on the pro-staff for St. Croix Rods, Ross Reels, and Cortland Lines. In 2004, at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, Bob Jacklin was inducted into the very prestigious "Fly Fishing Hall of Fame."

HOAFF & FFF members: \$40.00 • Nonmembers: \$50.00
Registration fee includes a catered lunch
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HOAFF Annual Banquet December 1 – 3, 2007

by Ron Carruthers

It hardly seems possible that 2007 is about over and the holiday season is upon us. It is already time to start looking through those catalogs so Santa will have some idea what to bring this year. I trust everyone made the most of their fishing season. But just in case anyone is a little short HOAFF has one more outing to help cool your fishing fever.

Yes, the Annual Banquet is just a few short weeks away. So clear your calendars and make those reservations today.

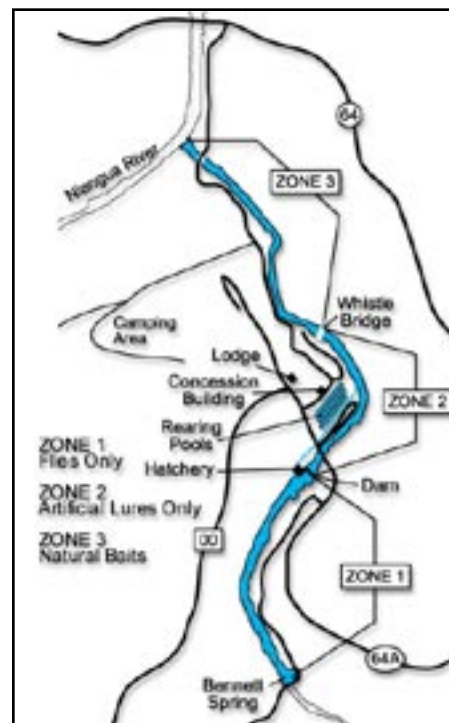
The club will provide a lunch for all members on Saturday December 1. Lunch will be served around noon at the picnic pavilion across from the spring. Wader and vest attire is acceptable or should we make it mandatory?

The banquet will be held Saturday evening a few short miles east on Highway 64 at Ollie's BBQ and Steakhouse. Don't drive too fast or you could miss it. It is only two miles up the road on the right, just look for all the cars in the parking lot. The food is great, the bar well stocked and there promises to be plenty of fish stories for everyone.

Speaking of fish stories, don't forget the fishing. The Bennett Spring catch and release program is now in full swing. Just ask Darren Watson how the fishing has been? If you missed the picture I am sure he will have a few extras to pass out at the banquet. The good news is the brown trout was caught on Sunday November 11 which means it was released and is still swimming in the spring. Plan to stay a few days and enjoy Bennett Spring at its absolute best.

Reservations are on your own. The park has several cabins for rent at this time of year and many of the motels around the park also stay open for the season. For a few hardy souls I am sure camping can be an adventure. Try to support those businesses that advertise in our newsletter whenever you can.

You will recall that last years banquet met with an icy demise not once but twice. I don't believe lightning or in this case ice will be allowed to strike twice so be sure to pack a pair of shorts for the summer like weather we will be having at this year's event.

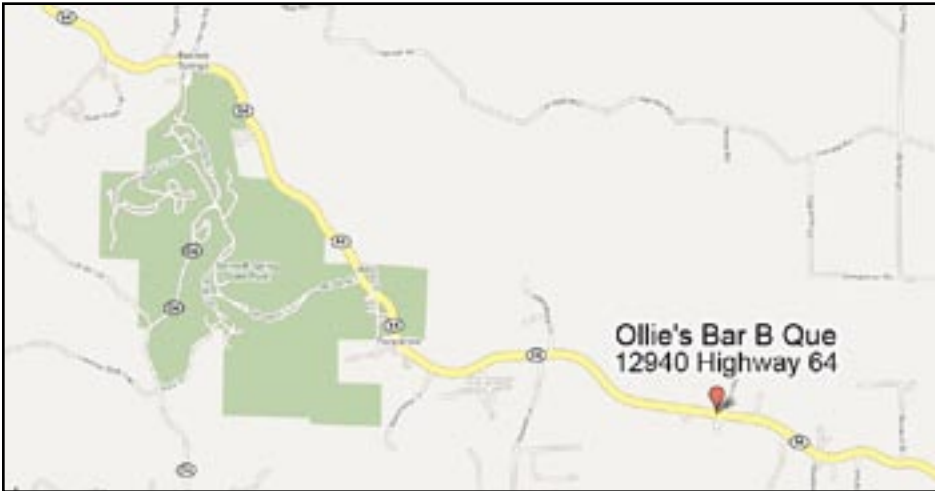


HOAFF Apparel is here

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.





Bennett Spring Monster



Sunday at Bennett Springs was a good day. About 1:00pm on a 7'6" SAGE 3wt, 7x tippet with a size 20 white/pink Scud. It took me about 20 minutes to land.

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Brown on Hopper

by John Berry, www.berrybrothersguides.com

The other day my wife, Lori, and I decided to fish grasshoppers at Rim Shoals. The hopper fishing had been absolutely spectacular this year probably the best I have seen since I began fly fishing three decades ago. Lori and I had fished a lot of clients during the hopper action this year but we had not gotten much of a chance to fish them our selves. We arrived at Rim about noon and there was about one and a half generators running. This is the absolute perfect level for hopper fishing. We launched my Shawnee and headed up stream to Jenkins Creek. I bought a new boat this year and it is surprisingly wide and comfortable, the perfect boat for this type of fishing.

We nosed into the shoals and turned off the motor. As we began drifting down stream we quickly picked up our rods and began casting. I was into a fish immediately. It was a nice fourteen inch rainbow that came to the boat fairly quickly. Lori's turn came next. She tagged a solid sixteen inch rainbow and struggled with it a bit before it finally came to the boat.

By this time we were drifting by some weed beds where I had a client take a twenty two inch brown the previous week on a zebra midge. I cast my fly so that it would drift along the edge of the

bed figuring somebody would notice. Sure enough, I got a strong strike. I set the hook and felt the weight of a good fish. Suddenly the leader snapped and flew back in my face as if it were spring loaded. The leader was now about four feet long and my fly was among the missing. I was heart broken. I had fished that hopper all summer and although it was severely beaten



up it was still catching trout. The legs were gone and the foam was chewed. I should have changed the leader when I began fishing but I was in a hurry to get started.

I looked out and saw the fly floating near the weed bed. I guess the trout had

spit it. I started the motor and went to retrieve it. It took three tries but Lori finally netted it and brought it to the boat. I set up the drift to allow Lori to continue fishing while I concentrated on repairing the leader, tying on a fresh 4X tippet and reattaching the fly. Of course, while I was doing this Lori landed a couple of trout.

By the time I had made my repairs we had drifted almost to the ramp. I stood and made my first cast. I had noticed a clump of aquatic weed near the bank. It was considerably further than I usually cast but it looked so fishy that I banged the line out a good sixty feet directly at it. The fly landed right beside the clump with a splash and drifted about six inches before I saw a big swirl. I instinctively set the hook and immediately felt the weight of a heavy fish.

It began an intense struggle with a short run. I quickly realized that I had 4X tippet, a size six hook and a five weight rod. This was substantially heavier tackle than I ordinarily fish with. I reasoned that I could put a lot of pressure on this trout. I had the rod bent nearly double and took line whenever I had the opportunity. It was like reeling in an anvil. The trout was dogging the bottom and was refusing

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Catching Bigger Fish

by Bill Brant

to come to the surface. It took a slow turn and headed to the other side of the boat. Lori reeled in her line, stowed her rod and grabbed the big Brodin boat net.

The trout finally broke the surface. It was a big beautiful female brown. It had perfectly shaped fins, bright red spots and a huge hopper firmly hooked in the corner of its mouth. I struggled to work it toward the boat. Lori patiently waited for the perfect moment and then scooped it. All of the time she spent netting big fish on Dry Run Creek the past few years really paid off. Lori kept the net in the water and I worked the boat over to the shore. I got out and carefully removed the fly while Lori took a few pictures. I took the tape measure that I always carry and carefully measured the trout. It was a righteous twenty five inches long. I then spent a few minutes reviving the brown and the lovingly released it. It was the biggest trout that I had ever caught on a dry fly. I looked at my watch. We had been on the water for fifteen minutes!

I should have gone home. All I could think about for the rest of the day was the big brown. Oh sure, Lori and I caught several more trout that afternoon but nothing like that.

A few weeks ago, Darren Watson agreed to be the new president of our club. A week later he caught an enormous brown trout at Bennett Springs. Coincidence? I think not. Good things happen to someone when they step up to help out with the club.

The club does a lot of things. We have monthly meeting, we have outings, we have a monthly newsletter, we have a web site, and so much more. All of these things are possible because of the large number of members who volunteer some of their time to get things done. They are the club officers.

Please consider joining us as a club officer. No fly fishing skill is required. If you are new to flyfishing or new to the club, that is not an issue. All that is required is a desire to help the club succeed. If you are new to the club, this is the absolute best way to get to know the other members. It's also a good way to learn more about flyfishing.

If you have an interest in a particular position, many of the existing officers are willing to consider shuffling positions to accommodate your preference. If you are interested, there are a few

specific positions that we would really like to fill.

Vice-president – This position is the same thing as a president-elect. The vice president is intended to assume the club presidency when the current president steps down.

Web Master – This person maintains the club website. The current webmaster, Vicky Newton, moved to the Pacific Northwest a year ago. If you are computer literate but not familiar with web design, the club would be willing to fund a modest amount of web master training.

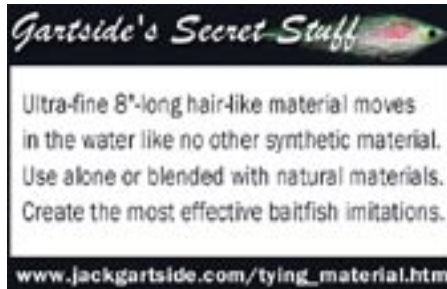
Newsletter Assistant – Tom James has been doing an excellent job with the newsletter for many years. He would like some help gathering articles.

If you want more information about a particular position, ask the person who currently holds that position. If you are willing to step up and become an officer, please contact Darren Watson or Bill Brant.

I'm not making any guarantees, but there does seem to be a trend – I've seen several club members catch their biggest fish after becoming officers.



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- Nov 2-4, 2007 Fall Outing - Lake Taneycomo, Branson, Mo
- Nov 19, 2007 Jeff Williams - Arkansas Trout
- Dec 1-3, 2007 Annual Banquet - Bennett Spring
- 2008 Upcoming Events
- Jan 21, 2007 Kevin Kurz - K & K Fly Fishers
- Mar 6-8, 2008 White River Lodge - Mountain Home, AR

