



# Across the Stream

A Publication of the Heart of America Fly Fishers

www.hoaff.org

January 2012

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE JANUARY 2012

This month I have the pleasure of stepping into my new role as president of our fine organization. I am honored to serve you and recognize that I have big shoes to fill. Thanks so much to Jim Bebb for his leadership these past two years. He did an outstanding job as president and we have much to thank him for.

2011 was a great year, filled with many successful weekend outings and one-day events. In fact, we had an excellent turn out at our picnic in September, and nearly 40 people attended our annual banquet in December. With this kind of momentum, I can assure you we are looking at another outstanding year in 2012.

Things to look forward to in the coming year include: the introduction of our new

website, our annual election of directors, an exceptional Spring program featuring a published expert in fly tying, and an outing to Lake Taneycomo, one of many weekend trips.

Don't forget that your membership renewal is due now...you can fill out the membership form that's available on the website and either mail it in or bring it to the next meeting.

As you plan to attend the meeting on January 16th, why not bring a guest along? Whether it's another avid fly fisherman or someone eager to explore our sport, we'll give them a warm welcome and – who knows? – they may end up becoming a new member!

I look forward to your participation in the year ahead.

-Peet Crissey

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING OUTINGS/EVENTS

### OUTINGS ANNOUNCED

**Rockbridge, MO** – Rockbridge Rainbow Trout Lodge Jan. 27-29. Reservations have to be made by the individual. HOAFF members can stay in the "motel" section for \$50 per night (2 person room).

**Phone:** 417-679-3619

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Catch and release = \$80 per day / \$40 per 1/2 day or catch and keep and pay by the pound.

## HOAFF MEETINGS

**January 16, 2012** – Club Meeting  
Brian Sloss, Eleven Point River Outfitters

**February 20, 2012** – Club Meeting  
Fly Tying and Social Night

**March 19, 2012** – Club Meeting  
Video - TBA



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## 2011 OFFICERS

### President

Peet Crissey  
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### Past President

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### Web Master

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### Raffle/Auction

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816-741-8314 davidgandrews@kc.rr.com

### Education/Library

Steve Hegstrom  
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### Library

Carol Falkner  
816-453-8946 C.S.Falkner@gmail.com

With weather like we have had in December January promises to feel like spring. Bring a lot of 4x and be ready to hang on.

*Taneycomo* – Trout Hollow Lodge April 13,14,15 The club has four rooms reserved as last year. Total capacity 16 – get your name into Ron Carruthers (816-351-0685), rcarruthers2@kc.rr.com or Peet Crissey ( 913-706-7299), pcrissey@gmail.com.

CHARLIE CRAVEN, SPRING SEMINAR SPEAKER  
FEB. 25, 2012

Our Spring Seminar on February 25, 2012 presenter will be the renowned Charlie Craven from Arvada, CO. Charlie will be staying over on Sunday the 26th to teach a fly tying class to 10 Members (only) at Jim Hill's house in Liberty, like Craig Mathews did last year. The cost will be \$50 each again: the first 10 to send their checks to HOAFF, PO Box 731, Mission, KS 66201, Attn: Charlie Craven Fly Tying will get in on this great opportunity.

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

**Remember to get your annual dues of \$30 in between now and March 31st!** March 31st we cut off sending the newsletter to those who have not paid for 2012!

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

A special meeting of voting members will be held at the club meeting February 20, 2012. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on club directors and to conduct any other club business that is of interest to the members.

The organization of the club is governed by bylaws that were adopted in 2005, and then amended at later dates. The bylaws define the rights and responsibilities of those involved in the club. Following are some of the highlights:

All Directors shall hold office until their successors are elected. Directors are elected for Three Year Terms. Members will be voting for two Directors at this year's meeting.

The Directors elect the Club Officers and watch over the affairs of the club. The Officers run the day-to-day affairs of the club, the Officers include the positions you would recognize, such as the President, the Treasurer, and the numerous chairs.

*The current Directors are:*

**John Bell, Mark Borserine, Cliff Cain, Jim Jorgensen and Darren Watson.**

Following nominations, the members will then have the opportunity to vote. The Membership of the Club votes for the Board of Directors and the Directors then approve the Officers of the Club. If you want to provide input on running the club, feel free to contact any Director before the February meeting or attend the meeting and speak your mind.

Remember also that Monthly Officer & Director Business meetings are held on the First Monday of each month at the Community of Christ Church, 79th & Mission Rd beginning at 6:30pm and are always open to the General Membership.

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**OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE JANUARY 16TH MEMBER MEETING, BRIAN SLOSS**



Brian Sloss is co-owner of the Eleven Point Canoe Rental and has been guiding exclusively on the Eleven Point River since 2004.

Brian has been fly fishing for well over 20 years and can handle fishing people from first time fishermen to the most advanced anglers.

Brian Guides out of a hand-made wooden Mackenzie drift boat. There is no one else who has logged more hours guiding fly anglers on the Eleven Point than Brian. He prides himself on working as hard as possible to make your day on the water as productive and fun as possible. His hope at the end of the day is that you have learned something new and in particular, that

you have learned a lot about fishing the Eleven Point.

For new fly fishers, Brian strives very hard to make your first experience positive and successful so that you will want to continue with the sport.

Brian also has a passion for the Eleven Point River that becomes evident during the course of the day fishing with him. Conservation of this resource will probably come up a few times during the day.

Catch and release is the order of the day on Brian's trips, especially since a large number of his trips are in the blue ribbon trout area. That being said, he does take trips into the white ribbon area as well, particularly when the fishing is hot there.

Please contact us:

**Ryan Griffin or Brian Sloss - Owners and Operators**

*Web:* [canoe@otrackm.org](mailto:canoe@otrackm.org)

*Phone:* 417 778 6497

*Mailing Address:*

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ABOVE TOP: Bennet Trout

TOP LEFT: Jim Bebb at Ollies

ABOVE: Peet Cooking at Bennett

LEFT: Ron Renoe at Bennett Picnic



ABOVE: Ron Carruthers & Chris Holman at Bennett

ABOVE LEFT: Peet & Ron

LEFT BOTTOM: Jim Bebb at Bennett Spring Outing



JUST A SELECTION FROM  
OUR EXCELLENT OUTING TO  
BENNETT SPRINGS!

# MIDGES, OH MY!

BY STEVE JENKINS

The fishing success on the Frying Pan River that year was predictable, as always. Doug and his wife round-out their summer tour of the West with what has become known as our “annual meeting”. It is late August as they are headed back to Phoenix. We fish the waning days of the Western Green Drake hatch that is so prominent on the ‘Pan. By that time of the year, the drakes are showing only in the upper reaches of the river where they are reliable maybe to five miles below the dam. And, typically the PMD’s (pale morning duns, a mayfly) have faded, too. On cloudy days, or late on some afternoons, there may be some BWO’s, (blue-winged olives, a small, dark mayfly) but if they come, they are quite small. There are some fishermen who come to the Frying Pan in late August and early September just to fish the BWO’s.

Fishing little flies is not our game. We come with meaty flies in our boxes and hunt carefully for fish eating the drakes. The duns start to emerge generally around 11 AM and will continue to somewhere around 4 PM. And the action can be furious. 20 to 30-fish days are expected. After all, each of us has fished this stream for nearly two decades, and most of those years we’ve done it together.

We know the spots well. Doug has his favorite stretch (I call it his “private water”). I have a couple of areas I’d call home, too. We fish each other’s water and other spots, too. Toward the end of the week, and on weekends, the ‘Pan can get a tad busy, so we’ve learned to be flexible. Then, there is the water level, too. In late August of most years, they crank up the flow from Ruedi Reservoir to provide water downstream in the Colorado River to assist in spawning of an endangered “trash” fish. That can change the venues, too. But, all-in-all, we continue to work our drake imitations

almost to the exclusion of all others. I often wonder why I take all these fly boxes on the stream – one should do just fine. But, each year it seems the same – the vest is full of boxes, stuffed with many, many types and sizes of flies.

There was one year when the water was running over 450 cfs. Being “flexible” we were able to find fish in water normally quite shallow. Doug cleaned up in an area just beyond an island where we had probably never fished before. At the same time, I was downstream, below a long, fast run which was far too fast and deep to fish in a normal manner. I had to learn a new casting stroke. It wasn’t a bit pretty because if you cast across the fast water, the landed fly would be whisked away in a fierce drag almost immediately. How to get some slack in the line before drag? So, here came the “distance puddle cast” and in spite of how ugly it was I got a bunch of fish out of that run on the drake patterns.

A couple of miles downstream from this spot is another favorite. By crashing through some timber you emerge into the stream just below a long riffle and rock shelf. The water is deep in the run. Late afternoons and evenings have been memorable here. Sometimes we run into caddis flies, either emerging or returning to lay eggs. Rather than fishing a typical caddis pattern, like an elk-hair dry, we just drop down to a size 14 in one of the drake patterns -- memorable, indeed. But, sometimes the drakes are still active here, or at least the trout are looking for these big duns. The action can be fierce, and with the fast water, the bigger fish have a constant ally.

Invariably at this spot, there are some fish rising below the shelf, where the water spreads out and calms down. There are back-eddies on each side of this run.

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However, these eddy areas provide a great casting position for the heavier water just near the ledge and into the faster water above. We tend to ignore these fish rising all around us, concentrating on the heavier, deeper water. But, if the fish aren't taking the big flies, and the rises continue within touching distance, you can't help throwing a fly their way. And, then the frustration sets in – you can see all these fish rising, but none taking your fly! What are they taking?

A couple of years before, I was finally successful with a smaller soft-hackle. But, the water wasn't the best for these flies – in most spots, it was too fast or there were conflicted currents with the eddies and the run. Still, the soft-hackle had worked selectively if you could stick to spots where the water cooperated.

This trip, Doug was more curious and did the thing many of us should do in confusing situations. He was able to capture some small flies in the film of the stream. Closely inspecting, he yelled, "Midges", across the stream. So, I began to relax my mind-fix on the larger flies and took a look myself. Sure enough, there they were, tiny, black and emergers with their wings caught in the film. And, the fish were feasting on these tiny flies. Some of these fish were big. I rummaged around in the vest with all the fly boxes and couldn't come up with anything close. Doug did the same, but we were skunked! And, then it was time to head to town to join the gals for supper.

Over the next year, we each searched the literature for likely looking midge patterns and shared our findings. This year, we came prepared with several copies of several patterns in size 20, 22 and 24. Doug even had a pattern with a parachute tied about ½ inch above the body of the emerger. But, our schedules didn't totally click and we didn't get to that spot to try our creations before our "annual meeting" was over -- they had to head on home. After Doug had gone, I had two more days and on the last evening, found the midge-spot open. As

I had a larger fly mounted, I tried it in the fast water above and caught several nice fish on the Ausable Wulff. But, shortly, the action stopped, except for the fish taking midges in the eddy.

I rerigged and tied on a small black parachute, with a white wing – a visibility plus. On the first cast, a nice fish grabbed the fly, but soon it was off. I was encouraged. In subsequent casts, I took six fish: two rainbows, one at 16 inches, and four browns. Then, I lost the fly in a fish. Unfortunately, I couldn't find a duplicate. So, I selected another pattern from the midge box and after several casts had another rainbow. Then, the fly went dead – not another strike. As it was getting close to quitting time, I switched to another pattern, with a similar result – caught one fish and then no further action. The fakes I used were small and dark. Only the one was a parachute and the others were of a typical "Catskill" pattern. Still, it was success and I could report to Doug how these midge patterns worked.

On the way home, Kay likes to survey the outlets in Silverthorne – she gives me time to fish the Blue River there, but with a specific time to leave. I've not had much success in this stretch, but I've seen others doing reasonably well. I had a size 20 Renegade in the midge box and decided that should be the first fly. The better water was occupied, so I began just upstream where there was a shelf along the far bank and some moderate current in about three to four feet of water. The little Renegade did its job and right away I was into a husky fish. With the 6X leader and the 4 wt. rod, horsing this fish was not in the picture. But when landed, it was a real dandy rainbow of about 18 inches! And, on that small fly! And, in about 20 minutes, the Renegade fooled another rainbow, but this one was a "tiny" 12 inch. This was looking promising, but, then things changed.

The water below was now vacant, and the action in my beat had stopped.

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Downstream, maybe thirty yards, the river spreads out before dropping over a line of rocks added to create a nice pool with some shade from willows on the far bank. In this area, I could see the "midge rises" from the education on the Frying Pan the day before. But, I had lost the midge parachute on the 'Pan. The Renegade just didn't work. Then, in the corner of a box I had used for years in the East, there was a small, brown dry fly in size 20. It fooled another big rainbow, almost a copy of the earlier. It was a fit to land this fish because of the rock dam, the water depth and concern over the knots and all those other ghosts that jump into your mind when a good fish is on the other end.

Midges are a pain to fish. Some call them a cursed hatch. Nymphs, emergers, or adults – what are they eating? While it is great fun to see a good fish take a dry-fly on the surface, midge success is a real rush!

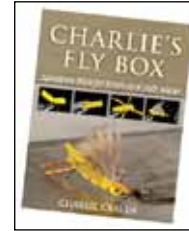
*-Steve Jenkins*

## HEART OF AMERICA FLY FISHERS SPRING SEMINAR 2012

CHARLIE CRAVEN – ARVADA, CO  
AUTHOR AND FLY TYER

**Saturday, February 25th, 2012 at the  
Community of Christ Church 79th &  
Mission Road**

**Doors open at 8:30 AM,  
Presentation begins at 9 AM until 4  
PM, catered lunch included!**



I'm Charlie Craven, the guy on the sign. I got started in this business as a commercial tyer when I was twelve years old. I have tied flies for most of the shops in the Metro area during that time. I guided on the South Platte and other area waters for about twelve years or so, then moved on to help open and run a fly shop in Boulder. Well, eventually, it was time to move on and finally do what you see here: Open my own shop. I love this business and can't imagine not being a part of it. I am truly lucky to have realized my lifetime dream, and I thank my lucky stars everyday. I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know people from all walks of life, with the common thread being fly fishing and tying. These are my kind of people! I have always loved trout fishing and go out every chance I get. My favorite rivers vary from season to season, but include the South Platte, the Colorado and the Eagle among

others. My partner, Ross, and I have done a fair amount of salt-water fishing and I find it truly challenging and addictive. We've been to Belize, Mexico and the Florida Keys several times and plan on continuing this tradition as time allows. I have three great kids, Charlie (17), Julie (14), and Jack (11). They spend a fair amount of time with me here in the shop, so they're no strangers to the fly shop life! We live right here in Arvada and are all native Coloradoans.

**Cost is \$20 per individual (including lunch)**

You can pay at the door or,  
Send checks to **HOAFF, PO Box 731,  
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But, Please let us know you're coming so  
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*For more information and to reserve your spot:*

Don Grundy  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

**January 16, 2012** – Club Meeting

Brian Sloss, Eleven Point River Outfitters

**January 27,28 & 29th** – Outing

Rockbridge, MO – Rainbow Trout & Game Ranch

**February 20, 2012** – Club Meeting

Fly Tying and Social Night

**February 25th** - Spring Seminar

Charlie Craven at Community of Christ Church

**March 19, 2012** – Club Meeting

Video - TBA

**April 13,14 & 15** – Outing

Taneycomo – Trout Hollow Lodge

