



Across the Stream

www.hoaff.org

January/February 2016

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

Greetings to all, hope you have enjoyed the holiday season and that 2016 brings you plenty of opportunities for fly fishing, tying, casting, conservation, education, or whatever it might be that has brought you to HOAFF. I am just now beginning my term as the new President of the club - in fact, this newsletter is my first official act as President, so I thought I might as well start out by telling you a bit about myself, and how someone who spent most of his life in the San Francisco Bay Area, essentially ignorant of fly fishing, has found himself president of a Midwestern fly fishing club. In a sense, my rise to the Presidency was precipitated by my decision back in August to spend the day fly fishing on Wyoming's Miracle Mile (North Platte River) instead of attending the HOAFF officer's meeting. Seemed to me like a pretty reasonable excuse for missing a fishing club meeting. Imagine my surprise when I read the meeting minutes, and found that in my absence I had been unofficially elected to take over presidency of the club in 2016. In a sense, the presidency is the price I pay for having missed that August officer's meeting - nice job fellas (and no doubt Carol was in on it as well). But the truth is, I am quite honored and really looking forward to this opportunity to repay the club for all that it has done for me. The fact that I was elected on a day spent fly fishing the Miracle Mile is totally appropriate. I was in Wyoming visiting my sister in Casper at the time, but without HOAFF I would have had absolutely no idea how to go about fly fishing, and I would have missed out on one of the most enjoyable days of my life, catching browns and rainbows on a spectacularly beautiful stretch of river in the middle of Wyoming

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HOAFF MEETINGS

January 18 – Member Meeting
Community of Christ Church
Ron Knight, Member and IFFSOC President

February 15 – Member Meeting
Community of Christ Church
Fly Tying & Social Night (Traditional)




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2016 OFFICERS

President

Chris Holman
913-244-0610 holmancm@gmail.com

Past President

Steve Hegstrom
913-677-4806 shegstrom@att.net

Secretary

Jim Jorgensen
913-481-1129 jhflyfisher@everestkc.net

Treasurer

Ron Carruthers
816-741-7251 rcarruthers2@kc.rr.com

Newsletter

Mark Borsierine
913-381-0722 majborser@aol.com

Programs

John Bell
913-484-9762 j.bell@kcc.ks.gov
Cliff Cain
913-558-506 cliffcain@hotmail.com

Outings

Peet Crissey
913-706-7299 pcrissey@gmail.com

Membership

Ron Carruthers
816-741-7251 rcarruthers2@kc.rr.com

Conservation Chair

Kevin Carril
913-362-9379 rrac3@sbcglobal.net
Arkansas- John Bell

Web Master

Bill Brant
816-941-9691 billandkathy@kc.rr.com

Raffle/Auction

Mark Borsierine
913-381-0722 majborser@aol.com

Spring Programs

Dick Martin
816-781-9557 rlm@mllfpc.com
Don Grundy
816-781-9019 dgrundy@sbcglobal.net

Event Coordinator

Bill Brant
816-941-9691 billandkathy@kc.rr.com

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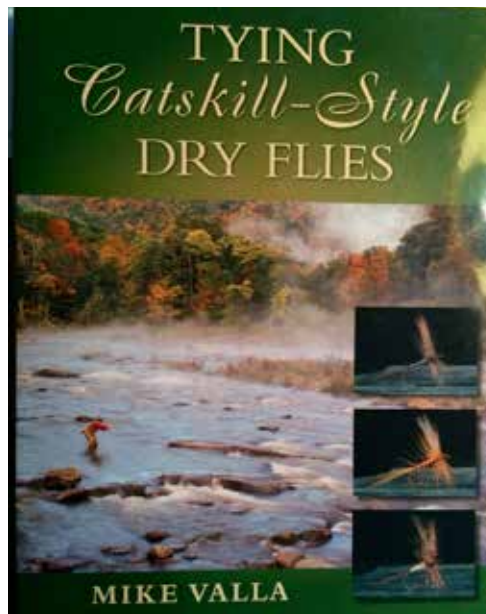
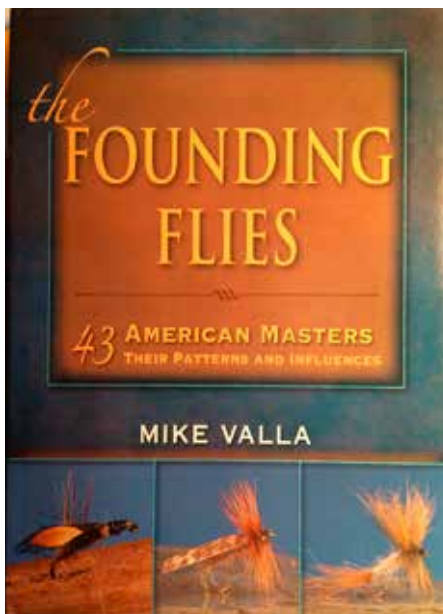
Carol Falkner
816-453-8946 C.S.Falkner@gmail.com

I first became involved with the club about six years ago, and at the time I owned a fly fishing rod and reel but did not know how to cast, and had never caught a fish on a fly. HOAFF really opened up the world of fly fishing to me – Mark Borsierine gave me my first casting lesson at one of the ponds on Tomahawk Creek, Ron Carruthers gave me an introductory fly fishing lesson at Rockbridge (what a place to get started), and Bill Brant taught me how to use the nuclear egg at Bennett Spring (after I told him at lunch that I had not caught a fish all morning - the nuclear egg soon remedied that). These are just a few examples of the generous acts by club members that have turned me into a passionate fly fisher - it is one of the great pleasures of my life. I still feel like a novice when it comes to fly fishing - there is just so much to know and to learn - but

I have come a huge way since I first found the club website (I think it was around 2009) and started attending meetings and going on club outings. Please let me know if you have any suggestions, I am looking forward to meeting many club members who I do not know very well yet. And I hope to see you at the Spring Program with Mike Valla on February 20, or at one of our upcoming outings - check the website and/or newsletter for more details.

Chris Holman

DON'T MISS THE SPRING PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 20TH



Mark your calendars and plan to join us at Cabela's on February 20th for an outstanding Spring Program. Mike Valla, author of five books on fly tying, will be HOAFF's featured speaker. Mike's books about fly fishing are must-haves for serious fly fishers everywhere.

His most recent book, *The Founding Flies: 43 American Masters, Their Patterns and Influences*, has established Mike as "one of the country's leading historians on the art and craft of the artificial fly."

Spring program attendees will enjoy the opportunity to:

- learn the history of fly fishing and hear about the top 43 fly fishing masters of all time;
- discover some of the best places to fly fish in New England; and
- experience the chance to tie dry flies with Mike while he shares tips and techniques.

Spring Program details:

- **Saturday, February 20th**
- **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**
- **Cabela's, 10300 Cabela Drive, Kansas City, KS 66111**
- **\$45.00 includes lunch**
- Call Peet at **913.706.7299** or Ron at **816.442.2845** to reserve your spot!

Mike has written for *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Tyer* and *The American Fly Fisher*, and he currently writes for *Eastern Fly Fishing* magazine. Don't miss the chance to hear Mike's stories about fly fishing in New England where the sport originated!

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ROCKBRIDGE OUTING



January 14,15,16th the HOAFF will have an outing at the incomparable Rainbow Trout and Game Ranch at Rockbridge, MO.

You need to make your own reservations. "Rockbridge" is famous for unbelievably good fishing either catch and release or katch and get cleaned, great accomodations, a wonderful restaurant and spectacular scenery. Contact Ron Carruthers for more information

Rainbow Trout and Game Ranch, Inc. PHONE: (417) 679-3619
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Rockbridge, MO 65741 info@rockbridgemo.com

HOAFF ANNUAL WINTER OUTING AND ANNUAL BANQUET

BY: MARK BORSERINE

There's nothing like Fair Weather to produce a good turnout! We had an exceptional turnout for the weekend! The Annual Banquet was exceptional with the members being very generous indeed at the raffle which netted the club \$550! A record! The only thing disappointing about the weekend was that the fishing seemed to be slow. I didn't hear anyone say they had the usual number of trout caught.

Despite the slow fishing, I can't remember an Annual Winter Outing better attended and more enjoyed by all!

2015 HOAFF TREASURER'S REPORT

BY: RON CARRUTHERS, TREASURER

The following is a condensed HOAFF 2015 Financial Statement. A complete Financial Statement of revenues and expenses by month is available to all members on request.

Bank Balance 12/31/2015 **\$14,130.24**

Revenue

Membership Dues	\$ 3,160.00
Auction	\$ 4,995.00
Spring Seminar	\$ 1,485.00
Interest	\$ 2.24
Fly of the Month	\$ 33.00
Annual Banquet	\$ 705.00
Raffles	\$ 785.00
Shirts / Hats	\$ 119.00
Fly Boxes	\$ 30.00
Total Revenue	\$ 11,314.24

Expenses

Newsletter	\$ 969.86
Postage	\$ 78.28
Monthly Meeting Programs	\$ 993.95
Outings	\$ 497.73
Liability Insurance	\$ 314.00
Meeting Facilities	\$ 350.00
Spring Seminar	\$ 2,087.87
PO Box Fee	\$ 92.00
Office Supplies	\$ 139.19
KS Sec. of State Fee	\$ 40.00
Donations	
Project Healing Waters	\$ 500.00
Lake of the Forest	\$ 300.00
Website	\$ 215.76
Auction/Raffle	\$ 1,019.60
Bank Fees	\$ 96.27
Annual Banquet	\$ 859.68
HOAFF Hats	\$ 880.48
HOAFF Shirts	\$ 118.78
Tying Vises	\$ 279.50
FFF Annual Dues (2016)	\$ 256.00
Library	\$ 8.00
Total Expenses	\$10,096.95

Net Income **\$ 1,217.29**



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HOAFF'S OWN MIKE GEORGE RECEIVES THE BUZ BUSZEK AWARD

The International Federation of Fly Fishers' Buz Buszek Fly Tying Award is the most prestigious award in the world of fly tying. The award was established as a memorial to Buz Buszek, a well-known fly tier and flyshop owner since 1943. His flyshop, simply called the Buz Buszek Fly Shop, was located at 400 North Johnson Street, Visalia, California. Mickey Powell, his son-in-law, who took over the shop, has written a fascinating personal view of the history of the Buz Buszek Fly Shop. Buz was a world-class angler, an excellent fly tyer and a dedicated teacher. He had a number of patterns to his name and his fly shop specialized in fly tying materials. Buz died suddenly in 1965. A Fresno club established an award in his name. Later, led in part by his wife, Virginia Buszek Perry, the Buz Buszek Memorial Award was established at the international level of the Federation. The award came with a one-inch gold feather recognition pin.

HOAFF's own Mike George is this year's recipient. Mike is considered to be at the pinnacle of those fly tiers who stack and trim deer hair.

One of the judging criteria is creativity or innovation: Every one of Mike's flies is his own design, some of which he's devoted years to perfect, pioneering numerous new tying techniques in the process.

Another Criteria for this Award is fly tying skills. Mike's achievements are significant:

- Mike was the first and second place winner in the Federations 2006 fly tying competition
- Mike has been named Southern Council Fly Tier of the year twice
- Mike has received eight Gold and two Silver Medals over the last 11 years in the MUSTAD Open Category International contest: no other tier has achieved this in the history of the competition.
- Mike entered a single pattern in the Mustad Dry Fly Category at the same competition and won a gold medal for that fly also.



Mike's generosity in sharing is without limits! He demonstrates at numerous shows as far away as Norway. Mike teaches many classes and workshops. He teaches regularly at K&K Fly Shop, Boy Scouts of America and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

Mike is a veteran of the Vietnam war and his Patriotic Flies in memory of the F-105 pilots, whose aircraft he loaded with ordnance have raised money for many good causes, bringing at times over \$500 apiece at auction. A short list of causes his donated flies have supported are the IFFF Clubs & Councils (HOAFF each year), Project Healing Waters, Reel Recovery, Trout Unlimited, Casting for Recovery, Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, and the Jose Wejbe Foundation.

Recently Mike produced his first instructional video "Deer Hair Sculptures" and has a second in development.

Needless to say, it is evident that Mike is eminently qualified for the Buz Buszek Award! It's something Mike always wanted but did not expect – congratulations Mike and we are very proud to have you as a member of HOAFF!

STEVE HEGSTROM WINS BRONZE AWARD

Steve Hegstrom was bestowed the Bronze Award by the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Al and Gretchen Beatty, who are well known in the fly tying world, commented on Steve's flies: "We just finished evaluating your selection of flies for the Bronze Award a few minutes ago. Wow! Your overall score was 93.5% for the Bronze flies and 100% for the Tier's Choice. Your flies were some of the best we've had the pleasure of evaluating. Good job!" Frank Johnson of Sheridan, Wyoming, who is an IFFF Fly Tying Group Committee member oversees the evaluators and also evaluated Steve's flies stating, "Steve, I received your flies from Al and Gretchen today. I've taken a look at them and the evaluation and can only say 'good job' to all. Your flies are among the best I've seen. Congratulations, I'm forwarding them to the IFFF office tomorrow with the approval for your Bronze Award." In closing Al Beatty stated in a letter, "Steve, your name will be on the IFFF website for the whole world to see that you have joined Gretchen and me (and a bunch of other people) on the Bronze Award list. It's kind of cool for the whole world to know your flies have been evaluated to be among the best of the best. Yes, many people tie great looking flies every day but not everyone compares them to a known bench mark like you have. Good Job!" Steve received a plaque and the Bronze Pin from the IFFF for his accomplishment.



NEVERSINK SKATER

BY: MARK BORSERINE

An article in the most recent issue of Fly Fusion Magazine caught my attention, recommending taking a look at some classic flies called "Skaters" again. Skaters were popularized by Edward Ringwood Hewitt started fishing skaters on the Neversink River in the Catskills in the 1920s after watching large trout taking butterflies. His famous pattern is called the Neversink Skater. The article "rang my bell" because I recently watched a large spider fall into the water at Bennett Spring and drift downstream about 25 feet when no fish were visibly rising and a trout took it so aggressively that it came fully out of the water jumping a full two feet in the air! Hewitt recommended the skater as especially effective when no fish are rising and few bugs on the water; sounds like Bennett Spring to me!

The Neversink Skater is tied on a Dry Fly Hook, sizes 16-8, 1X or 2X short shank. There is no body or tail, just two to four oversize high-quality dry-fly hackles. Spade hackles were preferred, but they can be hard to find today so large, stiff saddle hackles are more commonly used. It's good to have a variety of colors from dark to light: brown to black hackle, brown to grizzly and light cream to light dun are recommended.

The key to a successful Neversink Skater is to achieve the correct narrow profile and large diameter.

Cover the shank with thread from the eye to the hook bend. Select two to four hackles with two to four times the length of the hook gape! Tie in the first hackle(s) with their shiny sides to the rear of the hook and wrap them to the middle of the shank, this will cause them to curve toward the front of the hook. In much the same way you compact deer hair, use your thumb



and forefinger to push the hackles back on themselves. Tie in another hackle or two toward the eye of the hook with the shiny side toward the eye of the hook which will cause them to curve toward the rear; push this hackle or hackles back toward the one(s) you've already tied in. Their tips should touch, forming the narrow profile you see in the photo.

Recommendations for fishing the Skater call for a long (9-9.5 ft rod) 4-5 weight with a fairly heavy tippet: 3X or 4X because the fly is wind resistant and you'll need a heavier tippet to turn it over properly. Twitch and hop Skaters across the surface; so, it's important to grease the leader with floatant and fish them on as short a line as possible. These are not for dead-drifting! They can drive fish nuts! -especially when nothing else is happening. I'm determined to try these at Bennett Spring and I'd like you to do so also and compare notes!

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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