



# Across the Stream

A Publication of the Heart of America Fly Fishers

[www.hoaff.org](http://www.hoaff.org)

November 2011

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2011

I joined HOAFF in 2003. I joined to find new places to fish, learn new techniques, and hopefully to obtain some new fishing buddies. I was overwhelmingly successful in the last category. In no organization I have been involved in have I met so many great people. The December banquet will mark the end of my two years as President. I would like to thank all the Officers and Directors who have been so great in helping to make the organization what it is. It has been a great two years simply because it has been easy to be the President. Everyone has been great about contributing and doing their job. Everything got done in spite of me. I hope you will seek out the Officers and Directors and thank them for all they do to make the organization run smoothly.

About the time Darren Watson became president he caught a 24 inch trout at Bennett Springs. There were jokes floating around about how if you became president you would catch a big fish. I had not caught a really big trout so I decided maybe this would be the best way to catch one. It has been two years now and the large trout has eluded me.

In a great gesture of friendship Darren took me fishing at Rim Shoals in late October. We were down there with some friends of Darren's at a Lutheran men's retreat. It was a great group of guys to be with. They were very welcoming. This group of Lutheran men ascribe to one of the old Biblical concepts that the water is

bad and only alcohol is safe to drink. We had booked Clint Wilkerson for all day Monday and a half day Tuesday. Darren was very accommodating to my limitations. He backed my car down the boat ramp and I just had a few steps to go to get into the boat. Sitting in the boat was no problem. We had a good day, probably 20 fish each. Darren got four or five over 15 inches. Tuesday morning we drove to the dam but the water was so low we could not launch the boat. We drove back to Wild Cat shoals and launched there. Darren wanted to wade fish so Clint and I floated through the narrows. Again I caught about 20 fish. Darren did as well but landed a 19 or 20 inch rainbow. My trophy for the day was a nice 12 inch brook trout.

The annual banquet will be at Ollies BBQ on Saturday 12/3. We will have the usual hot dog and chili feed in the shelter house at noon. I hope everyone can attend. This is one of the most popular outings of the year. We will be raffling a 9 foot, 2 piece, 5 wt, Scott rod. It will make a nice addition to anyone's collection.

January marks the beginning of a new year. I hope some of you who have been in the club for a while will consider becoming an officer. I can attest to the fact that it is a great way to know people better and serve the club. We need help in Outings, the newsletter, and membership. There will be experienced people to lead the way so don't worry about being dumped on. Share your talents.

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## HOAFF MEETINGS

**November 21st** - Club Meeting  
Ken Richards, Just Fishin' Guides

**December 3rd** - Club Meeting  
Annual Banquet at Ollie's Lebanon, MO

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



## 2011 OFFICERS

### President

Jim Bebb  
913-721-3397 jbebb@communitynationalbank.net

### Vice-President

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

### Past President

Darren Waston  
816-805-8761 dwatson@lawingfinancial.com

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

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

### Newsletter

Mark Borserine  
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

Ron Carruthers  
816-741-7251 rcarruthers2@kc.rr.com  
Peet Crissey  
913-706-7299 pcrissey@gmail.com

### Membership

Ron Carruthers  
816-741-7251 rcarruthers2@kc.rr.com  
Frederick Clark  
913-831-0305 fclarks@planetkc.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 Borserine  
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

### Supernumerary

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

### Education/Library

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

### Library

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

Finally, thanks so much for allowing me to serve as your President for two years. I hope it was as enjoyable for you as it was for me. As my ALS progresses I may not be as active in the club as in the future. I hope all of you will stay in touch.

*Tight Lines,  
Jim*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING OUTINGS/EVENTS

### NOTE: ERROR IN SCHEDULE

I notice that last month I put Monday, November 15th as the date of our November Member meeting. I must correct my mistake; the date of our November Member meeting is Monday evening, the 21st of November.

### WINTER OUTING & ANNUAL BANQUET DEC. 2ND, 3RD & 4TH

Don't forget – make your reservations now! Our annual Winter Outing & Annual Banquet is coming up Friday, Dec 2nd, Saturday, Dec 3rd, and Sunday, Dec 4th. As usual, there will be a picnic at Shelter A above Bennett Spring itself at noontime on Saturday, the 3rd. The Annual Banquet will be held at Ollie's BBQ on Highway 64 beginning at 6pm with dinner at 7pm. Cost is just \$15 per head which includes all food and soft drinks. Ollie's has a full service bar for "adult" beverages which are the member's responsibility; in other words "Cash Bar". During the dinner there will be a raffle, the top prize being a lovely 9 foot 5 weight Scott Fly Rod! There will be a sign-up sheet passed around during the November 21st meeting or call or e-mail Ron Carruthers (816-351-0685), rcarruthers2@kc.rr.com or Peet Crissey ( 913-706-7299), pcrissey@gmail.com.

### OUTINGS ANNOUNCED

**Rockbridge, MO** – Rainbow Trout & Game Ranch January 27,28,29th  
Make your own reservations: (417) 679-3619, info@rockbridgemo.com, www.rockbridge.com Highway N. Road 142 PO Box 100 Rockbridge, MO. A good number of wives come along on this one – the fishing is great this time of year !

**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.

# NOVEMBER PROGRAM

KEN RICHARDS OF JUST FISHIN' GUIDES,  
NOV. 21ST

November 21st (note the corrected date), our Program features Ken Richards of Just Fishin' Guides. Ken is the owner of Just Fishin' Guides, guide service. They specialize in trips on the White River, North Fork and Little Red For trout. The smallmouth waters include: King's River, Crooked Creek and the Buffalo River. Please see his website for further information on all of Just Fishin' Guides services.

Visit [www.justfishingguides.com](http://www.justfishingguides.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.

## GREAT DAYS IN MISSOURI'S OZARKS

BY JIM OHNEMUS

Dave Howard and I spent (2) nice autumn days fly fishing for trout in the Ozarks. I fished one day at Taneycomo and one day at Dogwood Canyon.

Dave fished both days at Taneycomo. We both caught lot's of Rainbows. Dave caught only one Brown. The thing that made my second day so special

was that the rainbows were turned on so strong! At Dog Wood Canyon it has very high water falls and about ever 100 feet it has smaller water fall.

Can you see where I am coming from? those trout were "high" on oxygen!! They moved faster and jump out of the water about 3 feet even when caught on a wet fly.

Can you just imagine what happened when I started catching these trout on a dry fly? It turned out to be the best dry fishing of my fly fishing career!

I was like a kid in a candy store - got so



excited! My guide, Neal cautioned me to slow down and just lift up the rod when they took the dry fly: I was pulling back too

hard. The fly that turned the trout was a black foam with bright green crystal flash on the bottom side.

The fish when they "hit" the fly would



Jim Ohnemus and his trout  
(all photos)

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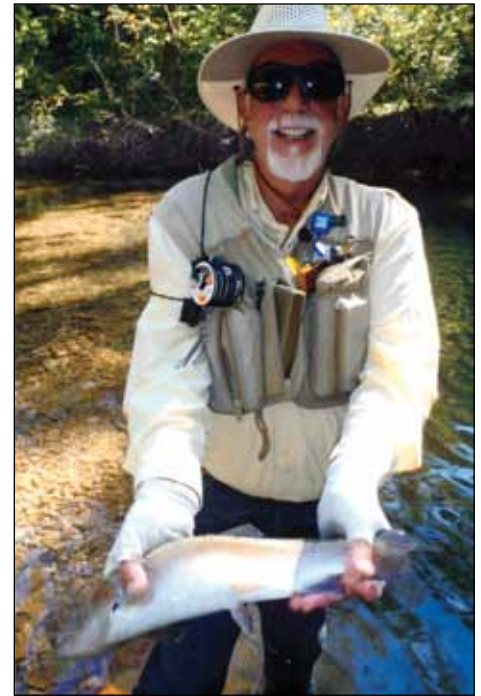




jump out of the water taking it from the top side, and when I tightened up the line, the trout would jump again!

This top water action lasted above an hour. I had the guide for a half day. We finished the day by visited the "Glory Hole". This hole is not for the public to fish, the last person to fish it was old man Bush, the hole has 15 pound Rainbows in it! I'm going back to Dogwood Canyon soon.

-Jim Ohnemus



## SOUTHERN COUNCIL CONCLAVE

Several members of HOAFF were caught by the camera at Conclave in October! Dave Whitlock is the handsome one in the photos, the others are our members!

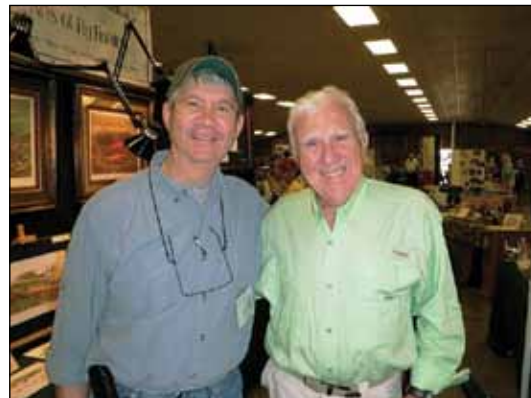


TOP LEFT: Carruthers Carril & Holman with Dave Whitlock

TOP RIGHT: Art Mazzier & Steve Hegstrom

BOTTOM LEFT: Chris Holman with Trout at Conclave

BOTTOM RIGHT: Steve Hegstrom & Dave Whitlock



# 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



Brian Sloss

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@ortrackm.org

Phone: 417 778 6497

*Mailing Address:*

Eleven Point Canoe Rental, Outfitter and  
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Rt. 2 Box 2522

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## GREAT SPORTING LITERATURE

BY MARK BORSERINE

According to most experts, the most written about Sport is Fly Fishing. I love to read the 'classics' such as "Trout Madness" by the Honorable John Voelker (pen name, Robert Traver):

" Successful Fly Fishing for Trout is an act of high deceit ; not only must the angler lure one of nature's subtlest and

wariest creatures , he must do so with something that is false and no good – an artificial fly. Thus fake and sham lie at the heart of the enterprise. The amount of Machiavellian subtlety, guile, and sly deception that ultimately becomes wrapped up in the person of an experienced trout

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fisherman is faintly horrifying to contemplate. Thus fiendishly qualified for a brilliant diplomatic career he instead has time only to fish. So lesser diplomats continue to grope and bumble and their countries continue to fall into war. The only hope for it all, I am afraid, is for the Lord to drive the trout fishermen into diplomacy or else drive the diplomats to trout fishing. My guess is that either way we'd be more apt to have more peace: the fishermen-turned-diplomats would hurriedly resolve their differences on the trout stream so that they might return to their fishing, while the diplomats-turned-fishermen would shortly become so absorbed in their new passion they'd never again find time for war."

From the Preface to "Trout Madness" by John Voelker

From Charles K. Fox,  
From "Hatch of Hatches"  
"In our trout world why do so many rave about dry-fly fishing? It is because everything about it is prolonged and much is visible. Things start before a fish is hooked and there are times when hooking requires considerable doing. One sees the hatch, then the rise forms,

then he attempts to watch the hatch, then he delivers his offering, then he watches it drift into the window of the fish. Anticipation is prolonged, expectation is prolonged, execution is prolonged. If things are right, that is if the fly and the float are right as far as the trout is concerned, the fly disappears in a ring and when the angler tightens the line there is a living, throbbing resistance. Electrifying impact is appropriate phraseology to describe the contact."

And, great advice from Dr Henshall:  
"It is better to cast a short line well, than a long one bunglingly. Should you cast your fly into a branch of a tree overhead, or into a bush behind you, or miss your fish when striking, or lose him when hooked, or crack off your tail-fly, or slip into a hole up to your armpits—Keep your temper; above all things don't swear, for he that swears will catch no fish. Remember, yours is the gentle art, and a fly-fisher should be a gentleman."  
From "Fly Fishing for Bass" by Dr. James A. Henshall

-Mark Borserine

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

*FLY ANGLERS IN THEIR ELEMENT & JUDGE'S CHOICE AWARD*



"Proper Handling of a Brook Trout," submitted by Steve Hegstrom of Mission, Kan.

# TOUGH CONDITIONS GOOD FISHING

BY JOHN BERRY

Like all of the other anglers around here, I have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of some wadable water on the White River. While we have been getting plenty of wadable water on the Norfolk, there has been precious little on the White. On Tuesday afternoon, around 4:30, I checked the predicted generation on the Southwestern Power Administration's website. There was no wadable water predicted for Wednesday. The next morning I went on the Corps of Engineer's website to check current generation and noted that the water on the White had been turned off around 9:00 PM on Tuesday and was not turned back on until 8:00 AM, an eleven hour window of no generation. I quickly planned to go fishing at Rim Shoals around 11:00 AM. I asked my wife, Lori, to join me but her parents were scheduled to visit on Friday and she was busy preparing our guest house for their arrival.

While the water conditions were favorable, the weather was something else. The temperature had radically dropped and the high for the day was predicted to be 45 degrees with overcast skies. To make things worse, the wind was blowing from 25 to 30 miles per hour (to include lake wind advisories), which created a wind chill that made the air feel much colder.

These conditions sent me scurrying about the house. I had been fishing in my tropical pants and shirt two days before (I did wear a pile vest for the first couple of hours, until the sun heated things up). The situation called for my cold weather gear. My windproof pile jacket and pile pants were pretty easy to locate. The exact location of my fingerless wool gloves and my winter hat (think Elmer Fudd) eluded me for several minutes.

I also had to consider my rod selection.

I generally fish my old reliable Sage nine foot four weight Light Line. I was concerned that it would be too light weight a line for these wind conditions, so I turned to one of the TFO nine foot five weight rods that I keep in my car for my clients to use. It is a bit heavier and is easy to cast.

I ate an early lunch at home and arrived at Rim Shoals a half an hour before noon. I was surprised to see no other anglers in the parking lot. The water was on the bottom and I had all of it to myself. I donned my waders, grabbed my rod and headed to the river. The water was a bit stained from a significant rain the day before. I carefully waded across the top riffle and headed to some of my favorite spots.

My rod was still rigged from my last guide trip. I had a seven and a half 4X leader, an eighteen inch 5X tippet with a hot pink San Juan worm, a copper John dropper, a AAA split shot and a strike indicator. I took a moment to remove the heavy split shot and replace it with a few wraps of lead tape (Larva Led) that I located just above the tippet knot. I cast into my favorite runs and began fishing. After several drifts, I had caught no fish and decided that it was time for a new fly. Since the water was heavily stained, I opted for a brightly colored fly, a Y2K, as my dropper. I began picking up a few fish on the Y2K.

The wind was horrendous. It was gusting well over thirty miles per hour and made casting difficult. I shortened my line and kept my cast low in an effort to escape the wind. The wind chill was getting to me. My fingers ached a bit and I decided that I had on one too few layers. I pulled down the earflaps on my hat, secured them under my chin and zipped

my jacket tightly. That helped a bit.

I moved downstream and tried a few more spots. The fishing was slow. It was time for a move back upstream to the top riffle. I decided to fish my way across to the parking lot and call it a day before the high water arrived. As luck would have it, I hit a good fish on the first cast. It was a fat, sassy and brightly colored fifteen inch rainbow. It quickly got my attention. I caught another on the next cast, then another and another. I had walked through the riffle in my hurry to fish my favorite spots and had passed a bunch of trout in the process. They were absolutely stacked in the top riffle.

I slowly worked my way across the riffle picking up one fish after another. The going was slow because the water was stained and I had a bit of trouble seeing where I was going. I was also slowed by the constant action. I noticed that the wind did not bother nearly as much and I was a bit warmer when I was catching fish. I finally called it quits around 2:30 PM. I had caught plenty of fish and I knew that the water was coming. It was a lot easier to wade in with the river on the bottom.

By regularly checking on water conditions, I had identified a nice window of low water and took advantage of it. The weather conspired to interfere with my fishing and I did not allow it to bother me. I was awarded with some really good action.

*-John Berry*

## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

**November 21st** - Club Meeting  
Ken Richards, Just Fishin' Guides

**December 2, 3, 4** - Outing:  
Winter Outing at Bennett Spring

**December 3rd** - Club Meeting:  
Annual Banquet at Ollie's Lebanon, MO

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**February 25th** - Spring Seminar  
Charlie Craven at Community of Christ Church

**April 13,14 & 15** – Outing  
Taneycomo – Trout Hollow Lodge

