



## TALE WATERS

### THE VOICE OF THE NORTH ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS

September 08, 2020

NORTH ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS

Tale Waters

North Arkansas Fly Fishers meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Van Matre Senior Center located at 1101 Spring St Mountain Home, AR 72653. Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm. All members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NAFF Board of Directors' meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm 1st Security Bank on 9th St. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visit North Arkansas Fly Fishers  
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Tale Waters is published 2nd Tuesday of each month. Article deadline is 1st Tuesday of the month.

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### The Guides Speak - Dave Whitlock



#### MY EDUCATION AND TRANSITION TO ART, WRITING, AND FLY FISHING

My growth as an artist, author, and fly fisher goes back to the time when I was in high school. Those were the days when you talked to your folks about what kind of work you wanted to do. You always got their permission or their blessing. I told my parents I wanted to go to school and major in art and journalism. They said absolutely not, that this would be a total waste of money. During the depression, the first people to starve to death were artists, writers, and what have you. My parents told me to get an education in something that I

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### Tony Spezio 1930 - 2020



#### Tony's Legacy: Sowbug Roundup

We first met Tony Spezio in 1994 at the Federation of Flyfishers Conclave in Mountain Home. He had just moved there from New Jersey. Wow, was he excited to have found a home on the White River for his wife, Dot, and himself! He absolutely loved that place on the river. There he designed flies and perfected fishing techniques plus he was always ready to share his knowledge of both.

The next year Amy and I moved to the Ozark area across the state line in Missouri and began attending monthly meetings of

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the North Arkansas Fly Fishers. The club looked a little different then. The meetings usually had an attendance of about 15 members and as Amy remembers, "They sat in every other chair." There wasn't much excitement, but the members were friendly and eager to tell about their latest fishing experiences and share flies that worked well.

Tony was there too, and one evening in 1997 he said, "This group needs an activity to bring them together. We should have a fly-tying show." There wasn't much response to that suggestion. The attendees needed a little more prodding.

Tony had participated in big fly-tying shows in the East. He thought that something similar would be a great activity for the NAFF membership. He asked if Amy and I could help

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Dave and Tony

### September President's Message

It was a sad moment this last month when the Patriarch of the Sowbug Roundup, Tony Spezio passed away. Tony and Sowbug were two of the reasons I relocated to Mountain Home in preparation for retirement. At one of my first Sowbug Roundups, I was tying my wire woven nymphs when one of my friends from Texas said Tony wanted to meet me. "Tony who?"

I asked. Then got lectured on who Tony was. Then I was a bit intimidated about meeting him as I had only been tying a couple years.

He invited me to his house on Sunday after Sowbug; and when I got there, Steve Jensen, Larry Wegmann (both have passed this year) and I think Jerry Jester, were just leaving Tony's house. Tony and I then talked about weaving flies, bamboo rods and his airplane-making me feel comfortable. When I left, I was a "friend". I kept in contact with Tony over the

years through mail, email and visits when I would come to Sowbug and The Southern Conference Conclaves even after moving to Southern California.

Once I moved here, about two years ago, I started regular visits with him and what a treat. I got all kinds of stories on local fishing, especially Tucker Shoals for Browns, Crooked Creek carp and smallmouth, what to use and when. Also watched him work on his bamboo rods. He once asked if I were interested in making one for myself, he would teach me. I laughed and said I think I had ADD as I did not have the patience to do that meticulous type of work. Instead, I admired his working while listening to his stories. He was a marvelous woodworker and did some fabulous work. One such project was a custom canoe that he sold, but the buyer never picked up; and last I saw, was still sitting in his basement. He discussed his Tuholer, a self-designed/built two-seater airplane with foldable wings be-



Michael Schraeder

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### Weather Cancellation Policy

**NAFF Activities or Meeting will be cancelled or postponed when the Mountain Home Public Schools Cancel Classes.**

**Check KTLO radio website for school closing info.**

cause he did not want to pay for hangar space. Instead he could store it in his own garage.

Once his health started downhill last December, he just wanted to make 90 on March 22, and attend at least one more Sowbug. Unfortunately, with the Covid-19 situation, he and Dot, after her stroke, were in lockdown in the care facility in Flippin until a few weeks ago. During that time, he lost his other leg to diabetes. I was finally able to make an appointment to see him for the last time, about a week before he passed. I will surely miss him. I enjoyed being his friend, glad that he wanted to talk with me those many years ago. Rest in peace my "Friend".

Tight Lines,

Dave Boyer

## NAFF Votes in October!

The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented NAFF from meeting for the past several months. At this time, it is impossible to predict when we will be able to hold a "live" NAFF membership meeting. In the meantime, there are some "housekeeping" items that the club members should have an opportunity to vote on.

In June, the NAFF Board of Directors drafted a budget for the coming year. The membership must have an opportunity to review and approve/disapprove this budget. A summary of the proposed budget will be published in the October newsletter. Normally, in November, the membership would have the opportunity to vote on a slate of proposed board members. These are the board members for membership, conservation, education, and property / web site. A slate of individuals proposed for these positions will be published in the October newsletter.

In October NAFF will make available an online site to vote for the budget and the slate of proposed officers. The details of the process will be published in the October newsletter. Stay tuned!

## Membership Director Needed

Paul Ashton is retiring as our Membership Director; so we need someone to step up and replace him. This is a BOD officer position within the Club and helps direct activities throughout the year. It is a two-year elected position. If you have a desire to be on the Board and would like to influence the direction of the club, please contact me at dboyer@glodesigns.com and we can discuss. Elections will be held in November and we would like to have the full slate of candidates by October so we can present to the membership.

Thanks,

Dave Boyer, President, NAFF

## Web Master Needed

Kevin Boddy, who has done our web site and updates, is retiring so we need a new Web Master. For any of you who have an interest in keeping our web site up to date, or have ideas on improving/changing the look, please contact me at dboyer@glodesigns.com and we will let you have at it.

Thanks,

Dave Boyer, President, NAFF



## Fly of the Month Simplified Pale Morning Dun



**Thread:** 8-0 or 70 denier, light cahill

**Hook:** TMC 101, sz 18 to 24 (or equivalent; straight eye dry fly hook)

**Tail:** 3 light tan pheasant wing feather fibers, (or mallard flank fibers or pheasant rump fibers, or synthetic mayfly tails, or other straight fibers of the appropriate color and size)

**Wing:** White CDC Puff

**Hackle:** Cream dry fly midge saddle hackle, sized to hook

I find tying tiny mayfly patterns with traditional split wings frustratingly difficult. Getting the wings to the right length and position is a challenge. Then, wrapping the hackle will sometimes result in the wings being shifted out of position. The darn flies are also increasingly harder to see on the water. Is that because they

shrink when they get wet, or is it that I am actually getting older and can't see worth a darn?

To combat both problems I came up with a way to simplify the tiny but effective PMD and make it more visible on the water. I just replace the wing with a CDC puff, which is easier to tie on, more buoyant and more readily spotted on the water. This pattern can also be tied with gray materials to create a BWO. I have tied all my tiny mayflies in this fashion for years and find them just as effective as the traditional pattern. After all, fish are near-sighted, so have little time to scrutinize the wing of your fly as it drifts towards them. I believe size and general profile are more important than wing shape. And, if you believe in your fly, you catch fish.

To tie this fly, start the thread a couple of wraps behind the eye, lay down a thread base and tie in the tail. Next, tie in the CDC puff at the thorax position ( $\frac{1}{3}$  the length of the shaft from the eye) with the stem on the top of the hook and enough stem exposed at the base of the puff so once tied in, you can bend the remaining stem and puff upwards. The length of stem I leave exposed is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of my hackle. Bend the CDC up and make a couple figure 8 wraps around the stem. Lightly moisten the CDC to keep the fibers together. Then shape the abdomen of the fly with thread and take another figure 8 or two around the CDC stem to

be sure it stands up. The CDC should end up sticking straight up from the hook at the top of the thorax, where the wing would normally go. Trim the shaft of the midge hackle on both sides in preparation for tying in. Attach the hackle to the hook shaft by laying it on the near side of the hook, so it can be attached with a couple close wraps in front and one behind the CDC. Advance the thread to the eye. Palmer the hackle forward with one full wrap behind the CDC, cross in front of the CDC with a second wrap and put two to three wraps in front. Then tie off and trim the hackle. Whip finish and trim the CDC straight across to the desired height.

I dress this fly and fish as a single, a tandem or behind a larger dry fly such as an Adams during mayfly hatches with good success. I hope you will find this an easy way to tie these tiny mayflies which should be in everyone's fly box. What beats catching fish on tiny dry flies?!

**Susan Parsons**



## AGFC Report Shocking Results in Dry Run Creek!

Dry Run Creek is a world class, catch and release trout stream accessible to youth and mobility impaired anglers near Norfolk, AR. The creek runs adjacent to the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery (NFNH) and is well known for being full of trophy trout. On August 18th and 19th, 2020, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's (AGFC) Trout Management Program teamed up with the Trout Habitat Program, District 2 Fisheries, and volunteers from the NFNH to conduct an electrofishing sample on Dry Run Creek. A total of 1,572 trout were collected during sampling which included 1,284 Rainbow Trout, 212 Brown Trout, 42 Cutthroat Trout, 33 Brook Trout, and one Tiger Trout. In addition to recording lengths and weights of trout, 415 individual fish were implanted with Passive Integrated Transponder tags (PIT tags), which allow for the unique identification of individual fish every time they are recaptured for the remainder of its life. These tags allow AGFC to monitor the individual growth, survival, and movement of trout within Arkansas trout waters.

Of the 1,284 Rainbow Trout collected, 54% were under 12 inches and 22% were over 14 inches. Large Rainbow Trout were abundant during the sample, and included 34 individuals over 20 inches, of which 5 were longer

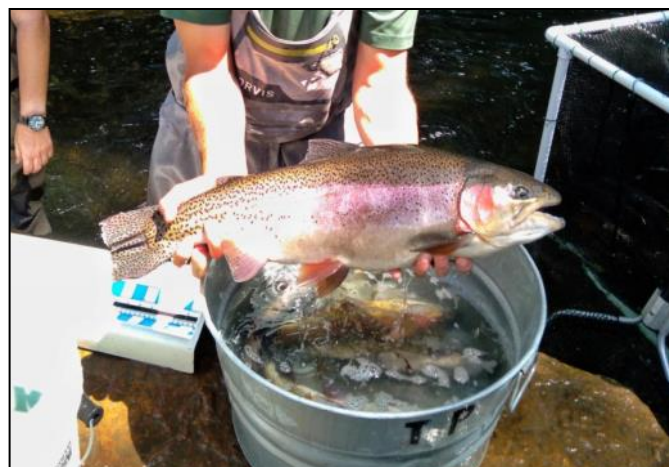


**14 LB. BROWN FROM DRY RUN CREEK**

than 24 inches, and 8 weighing over 5 pounds. The largest Rainbow Trout collected in the 2020 sample was a 27 inch monster weighing 11.4 pounds! Of the 212 Brown Trout collected, 50 were longer than 20 inches, of which 14 were greater than 24 inches, and 32 weighed more than 5 pounds. The largest Brown Trout collected in 2020 was 30.6 inches and weighed 14.1 pounds! A total of 42 Cutthroat Trout were collected, of which 38 were the Snake River Finespot subspecies and 4 were the Yellowstone subspecies. The largest Cutthroat Trout collected in 2020

was 19.1 inches and weighed 2.7 pounds. A total of 33 Brook Trout were collected and ranged from 8 to 11 inches. AGFC was also surprised to collect a Tiger Trout (Brook x Brown hybrid) in the upper end of Dry Run Creek. This unique hybrid was stocked directly below Bull Shoals Dam in May 2020, nearly 50 miles away from where it was collected. We cannot verify that this fish did in fact make the journey from below Bull Shoals Dam, but it was an interesting find nonetheless.

**Christy Graham—AGFC**



**11 LB. RAINBOW FROM DRY RUN**

## Tying with Davy "The Sedgehog"



**LIGHT DRESS WITH OLIVE BODY AND  
RED TAG**

Many of the fly patterns we use are of UK origin albeit there are now many variations of the original.

The Sedgehog is a fly pattern developed by a friend of mine in the UK; and is in my opinion, a better fly than the Goddard caddis. In the UK the term sedge is related to the caddis fly which is as here an important seasonal hatch.

That said in the case of our rivers we see very few mayfly hatches of significance by comparison to western waters. Often as not trout here will respond to what for them appears to be a worthwhile food source. That is the fly patterns may not in any way represent an available natural food source. But no matter, they catch fish.

As we know, we do see during the year (somewhat based on water generation levels) a given choice of fly. For example, early season streamers may be a good choice. If we see a shad kill, then shad type flies. Then we see the caddis, after which few hatches, which in turn draws the fish to look for food sources at the river bed. Summer-

time we may see some action fishing hoppers and nymphs rigs. Generally, at this time, Browns tend to become more nocturnal. As we move into fall and daylight hours become less, then many different methods may well work. As many of you would know for me, it is the time for wet fly fishing.

In most cases it is the Brown trout that determine what is best to use, but the other species will respond well to all methods at times. The main difference being that brown trout are not as easy to deceive compared to the stocked fish which by majority is what we catch.

Fishing hoppers can of course produce some nice fish particularly the larger browns in the 18 to 24 ins size mark. What you will tend to find is that brown trout by size have a different approach to the type of flies we use. Streamers will generally produce the larger fish exceeding 24 ins. Those fish are looking to eat a larger food source, bait fish, stocker trout and discarded fish matter. Not so much interested in the smaller fly patterns we use.

The deal is this, Brown trout are more difficult to deceive. How many miles of bank are you drifting to entice a brown to take your hopper? Further you are not the only person running banks and those fish will eventually wise up to seeing the general approach of the fly fisherman. They may have been hooked on a hopper and have learned a lesson and are re-

luctant to take again, very typical of brown trout.

So, we need to offer something different, not the large foam bodies leggy hopper type patterns, in the case of dry fly fishing.

Further I do not believe that our browns are tuned in to taking natural hoppers. Our banks are not conducive for hopper habitat. It's more in the case of the trout's instinctive reaction to respond to what they believe is a food source.

So why use a caddis type fly pattern when no caddis are evident? It's quite simple. It represents a food source. It is also a fly less obtrusive compared to a hopper and way easier to cast.

The advantage of the sedge hog is it floats high, stands up well to casting and hooked fish, can be tied in different sizes and body colors, can be used as a dry fly with a nymph suspended below, and twitched on the surface to promote a take.

## Tying the Sedgehog.>

It's not an easy fly to tie but neither is it that difficult. It can be tied on a regular 1x shank hook or for larger patterns 2x. My preference is for the Wapsi NW 3 size 10 or 12.

You will need only 3 materials, deer hair, dubbing and a soft hackle like hen or partridge but this is optional.

In the case of the deer hair to be used, you want hair that from its tying in point will not flare as you would need for a muddler head. So, it is more the finer tips of the hair to use. The deal is to keep the hair above the body of the fly.

It is a fly built in segments of hair and dubbing by at least 5 sections of deer hair separated by the dubbing each layer a little longer than the previous.

It may take you some practice to figure out the right amount of hair for each section. Each layer needs to extend a little more than the previous.

First wrap a layer of thread from the hook eye to the hook bend. At this point you will tie in your 1st bed of deer hair so as it extends past the hook bend. Make sure it is tight and will not move around the hook shank.

When done clip back the hair butts. You will need to visualize the segments for 4 more stacks of hair separated by dubbing.

Make now your bed of dubbing. Next is the 2nd stack of hair, same procedure as before, secure it cut off the butts and add a further bed of dubbing. Repeat the process 2 more times so as the last stack of hair is close to the hook eye.

If you choose to add a hackle, then that is now done before you whip finish.

Further options are to add at the tail end a FL tag before you tie in the 1st stack of deer hair. Or divide the dubbed body with differ-

ent colors of dubbing.

The body colors I prefer are, olive, orange, hair ear tan, black, green, red.

So there you have it. Go hogs Go.

Davy Wotton

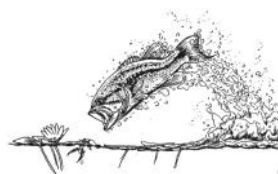


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## Spring River Report



Water levels are running at 400 cfs, 350 avg. Water clarity at the moment is poor from rain on Tuesday morning. Great thing about the Spring River is it clears quickly. Always check our blog page for latest river conditions. Over the last month river levels are lower. Wading the river is never easy. Be safe out there and a wading staff is highly recommended. The bottom of the river is very slick.

The trout have been hitting olive woolly buggers consistently. For the browns, a downstream cast with short fast strip back works well. Big nymphs and y2ks can work well other days when the bite is slower.

The smallmouth bass have been hitting well on Clouser style patterns. One of our favorites is an olive woolly tied with lead eyes.

Got to be a quick dropping fly. If you like brown trout, a cast downstream with a short quick strip back can be hot. A 5 or 6 wt. with floating line makes for a fun day and use light weight for a full day on the water. Poppers can be a lot of fun but have been inconsistent for us.

With some dry weather, the fall season is looking really good. Nice sized trout stocked weekly and the wintertime holdovers that start feeding when it gets cold out, are gonna make for some great adventures.

Tight lines and good luck,

**Mark Crawford**

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## Musings of a Fly Fishing Guide

### "Setting The Hook"

Most fly-fishing anglers have one thing in common: they set their hook too fast and too hard when fishing small flies. If you are one of the very few anglers who set a small hook the correct way, then my hat is off to you! For most people, it's a normal reaction to strike quick and hard to set a hook when you feel a take or see your indicator move. Perhaps some of this comes from past experiences fishing for bass or other game fish, when we were taught to "stick 'em hard." It's easy to see why we would instinctively set the hook quickly thinking that the fish will spit out our small fly. In reality that is not what happens.

Hard hook sets can lead to broken tippets, because fine 5x or 6x tippets are not designed to withstand the shock. Also, a hard hook set can lose fish because you jerk the fly right out of its mouth. Although it may be hard to believe, it's possible to jerk a hook out of a fish's mouth too quickly, even if the indicator has already disappeared beneath the surface. Overall, we have to acknowledge that it's very difficult for many fly fishers to go from a hard hook set to a soft hook set. Many fly fishers fish their whole lives never learning the proper way to set a small hook in a fish's mouth. That's why many anglers have a hard time



hooking a high percentage of their takes.

Many anglers believe trout will take in their artificial fly and quickly spit it out if they don't set the hook quick and hard. It could be that they have read too many books and magazine articles about how quick a trout can take in and spit out one of our artificial flies. I have no doubt that trout are capable of doing this, but I don't believe it happens as often as the authors of those fly-fishing books and magazine articles would have us believe. From my many years of experience, I believe that a trout will hold onto our flies longer than what we have been led to believe. If you have ever field dressed a trout and looked at the stomach contents, you will see food items and non-food items inside their stomachs. They will hold on to and eat anything they think is a food item. Contrary to some popular beliefs, trout are not capable of

higher levels of thinking; therefore, anything that moves within their size range just might be food. They don't want their food to get away from them any more than you do! Believe me, fish will hold onto our artificial flies longer than you think.

If you want to catch more fish on small hooks, you must change the way you set a hook. One of the best anglers to learn from is a master crappie fisherman. A good crappie fisherman will gently raise their cane pole just enough to allow the fish to hook themselves. You will see no hard hook sets, only a soft pickup. You should be using that same technique when fishing for trout with small flies.

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With a gentle lift of your fly rod, you should feel the hook set when hooking your fish. Of course, you must make sure that your hooks are sharp. If that's the case but you don't feel your hook set, then your set was probably too fast and too hard.

To get better at hook setting, you must practice out on the water while you are fishing. You don't have to wait on a take from a fish to practice a gentle pull upwards with your fly rod. Every now and then while you are fishing, practice a gentle pull upwards until you develop that sensitivity of touch and feel when setting a hook. When you do hook a fish, you will feel a little movement of your fly. Then you will feel that hook point penetrate the fish's mouth. With a gentle pull of your fly rod, the movements of your fly will be telegraphed back up through the fly rod into your hands. Your body will actually feel that fish being hooked, and relay that information to your brain. It's one of the greatest feelings in the world, when done correctly. If you have never experienced that feeling, then you are in for a treat! It's very exciting when it happens—an experience you won't soon forget.

Fishing large streamers and hooking powerful freshwater and saltwater game fish requires a much different hook set. In this article, I will not be discussing the "strip set" associated with setting a large

hook on bigger fish. In my opinion, setting a hook using large flies is much easier to learn than setting a hook using small flies. Small flies require a more delicate approach and more discipline on your part as you gently raise your fly rod to hook your fish. Practice those gentle movements until you get it right. You will bring more fish to the net. You don't need to be using a "Texas Jerk" when using small flies. If you can master the fine art of hooking fish on small flies, then you will enter a world seldom visited by most anglers.

### Danny Barker

Fly Fishing Guide

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NAFF President Dave Boyer presents a scholarship check to Alyssa Mostrom. Alyssa is a senior at Arkansas Tech majoring in Fisheries Wildlife Science.

## Fly Tying Tip RUBBER LEG TIE IN

John Berry has been tying up Gir-dle Bugs (my version, Photo#1) that has been one of the hot flies recently on the White River. John asked how I tie in my legs and keep them perpendicular to the hook shank. Years ago, I saw a video from Kelly Galloup tying in rubber legs that is quick and effective. The technique works well with any rubber leg or other material you want tied in 90 degrees to the hook shank (not barbell eyes though).

Once you have the rubber leg located where you want it (Photo#2), flatten your thread, and take a single figure eight wrap over the legs (Photo#3-Closeup of Photo#2), then two wraps in-front of the legs and tighten (Photo#4). That's it! If you need to adjust to get them horizontal, you have a bit of wiggle room and I have yet to have a leg pull out as the cross wrapped thread compresses the legs so they are hard to pull off the shank. You do not need multiple wraps of thread over the legs. That just increases the probability they will not remain perpendicular to the hook shank as you tie them in.

Dave Boyer

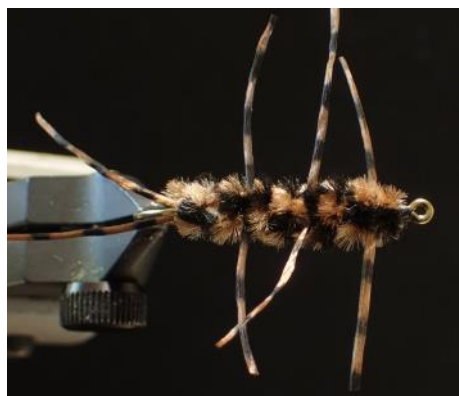


PHOTO 1

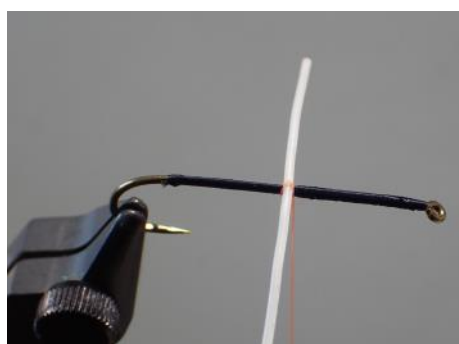


PHOTO 2

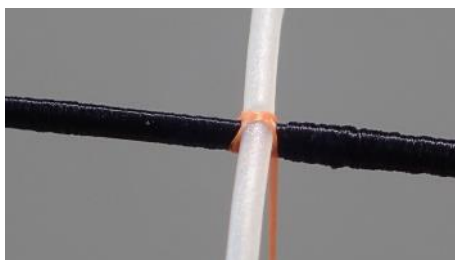


PHOTO 3

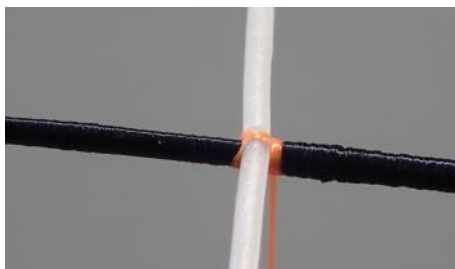


PHOTO 4




## Friday Fly Tying



For those who tie, we have fly tying every Friday afternoon at Dal-ly's Ozark Fly Fisher. Attendance has been sparse these last few months due to the Covid issues, but we have carried on. I would like to thank Jim Dugan and the shop for providing Pizza the last couple of months. As usual, Nima's pizza has been fantastic. Thanks to those who have brought cookies or other desserts to also fatten us up. We have had some visitors we do not normally see. Chad Johnson came in and gave us some advice on fishing high water. Davy Wotton showed us wet wings and other tying techniques, in addition to his stories. We had Bob and Sue Spangler from Texas show up in addition to other visitors. Glad to see the interest is still there and now we need Covid to go away to get more tiers.

Dave Boyer



Boyd Rod Company - Harry Boyd, Maker

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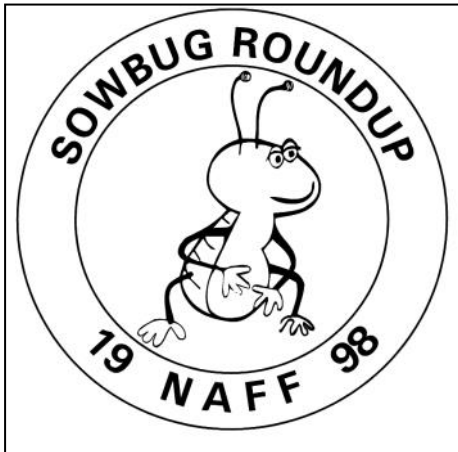
Harry Boyd, Maker

1211 Newman Street      (318) 435-5476  
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"In our family, there was no clear line between religion and flyfishing." Norman Maclean

## TONY SPEZIO - CONTINUED

with the logistics for such an event. We had some experience with annual fly fishing shows back in our home state of Nebraska. The Cornhusker Flyfishers had an annual one-day fly fishing event that also raised funds for club activities. For the rest of the summer, we met with Tony, Paul Craig and other club members on Tony's back porch by the river. After much wheel spinning, tail chasing and rehashing, we were still on square one. Tony wanted just a fly tying show like those that he had participated in in Pennsylvania. The group believed that a fly fishing show would be a better fit for our area. They also liked the idea of raising money for conservation and education. Then I got a call from Tony. He asked if Amy and I could take over the de-



tails of the show to help get it off the ground.

We agreed and approached the club in September of 1997 with the idea of a local fly fishing/fly

tying show which would be held in about six months. A special planning/organizational meeting was called and those interested in a show were encouraged to attend. The members were asked to sign up for different committees that would run the event. Many of the members were up in years and there was not a mad rush of excited fly fishers that wanted to help, but they said they were willing to give it a try. Eventually we had enough people to form groups that would handle topics like: location, speakers, fly tyers, vendors and donations. Most of our friends at the NAFF had never done anything like this. It was a real learning experience. Remember, there was no internet, no cell phones and no YouTube and things moved a little slower back almost 30 years ago.

At the next special meeting we all decided that the show needed a catchy name. Fred Bach suggested we name the show after the main trout food of the area - the Sowbug. Roundup was added because a roundup brings together fly fishers from around the area. Bob Brunsell, long time member, added "A Celebration of Fly Fishing". Thus the dream of Tony Spezio's club fly tying event became the Sowbug Roundup ... A Celebration of Fly Fishing. No matter what we called it, Tony knew what he wanted it to look like. The Sow Bug should have lots of fly

tyers, local guides, fly shops, a few vendors and have a friendly, home town atmosphere. From our simple beginnings at the Cotter Youth Center in March of 1998, the Sow Bug Roundup grew and prospered and attracted new members from around the country and the world. The one-day show, with 20 tyers and 150 attendees, became 2 and eventually 3 days with hundreds of fly tyers and thousands of guests over the years. This club activity grew to be an annual reunion of fly fishers and fly tyers. Tony meant a great deal to the show attendees and he was there every year to offer a warm greeting and to share his enthusiasm in spite of failing health.

Tony Spezio was right, The Sow Bug Roundup, A Celebration of Fly Fishing, brought the NAFF members together. Today there are more people at the Sowbug committee meeting than there were at the regular club meetings years ago. His legacy lives on each year. Tony's warm greeting at Sowbug will be missed but his idea goes on. The attendees all say "See you at the Sowbug" as they depart the show. So our farewell to Tony will be: "See you at the Sowbug" and God Speed old friend. Save us a place on the River.

**Dennis and Amy Galyardt**

## A Trip of a Lifetime!

We left mid-day Saturday August 22nd to head west with our Hyde Montana skiff from Cotter, Arkansas. My wife Jenny and I are fly fishing guides on the White River, Norfolk, and Kings River and we had been blessed with the opportunity to help a new lodge owner in Montana get their fly fishing program up to par for the 2021 season. We had 10 days to drive, float, fish, and work at the most beautiful lodge I have ever seen. Montana High Country Lodge is perfectly situated in between the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers in Southwest Montana. I had never rowed or fished these rivers, and I knew from looking at social media that we should be there during the peak hopper fishing; and we were not disappointed.

After the long 23 hour drive we stopped in at the local fly shop, Sunrise Fly Shop in Melrose, MT. and got the local bugs and set shuttle for the next day for Browne's Bridge to Glen on the Big Hole. After checking in at the lodge and meeting their wonderful staff, we set out to explore. The lodge borders the Beaverhead Deer Lodge National Forest; and in a short 5 minute drive, we were looking at the slow meandering Wise River. It cuts through scenic valleys and open plains with free range cattle and big elk herds as it winds into the Big Hole River just north of us in Wise River. We pulled over, got



the fly rods set up for small stream trout and hiked down. To our dismay, we missed two on a size 18 ant, and then it was dark. The next day, we would have our redemption.

We launched that next morning at Browne's Bridge and were greeted by a massive trico hatch. Brown Trout, Rainbows, and plenty of Whitefish made for a great morning, even though the water was low. I spent a lot of time getting out of the boat and walking down shoals as Jenny fished to her content. We got off at 2pm. With content and exhausted hearts we headed into Dillon to grab a bite and set shuttle for the Beaverhead with Frontier Anglers.

That alarm clock rang way too early at 4:30am, but there's no rest for the angler who wants to seize the day ... and the brown trout. One thing was on our mind, small hoppers, big browns, swift current, and the promise of 70

degree weather. We set out from the lodge and drove the 45 minutes north towards Clark canyon reservoir. We spent the first 45 minutes doubting the hopper; and looking at the depth and the speed, we tied on a dropper. That didn't matter 10 minutes later, as we watched our first big fish inhale the small black hopper jenny cast at the bank. The fight was intense, as we dodged hydrilla groves and kept this fish out of obstacles in the river. As the trout approached the boat, we could see that this was at least 24" of gold. He took one more run up river then jumped and landed on the other side of a grass bank, dug our flies into the bank, and was gone. We were devastated. Our hearts were broke, and our mood was salty as we thought to ourselves that could be the biggest fish of the day. It wasn't. Ten minutes later we were tight again. In short, we ended the 7 mile float with five browns over 20 inches and two



**DAVE WHITLOCK - CONTINUED**

could make a living at. So, that turned out to be chemistry, physics, and biology. And I did have intentions to become a physician, but a series of circumstances resulted in me doing petroleum production research in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I worked in chemistry, physics, and biology trying to develop information on how oil was formed, how it migrated, and how to harvest it. So, I worked in three or four different departments.

But all the time I was doing that, over about a 12-year period, I was developing my skills for writing, lecturing, fly tying, and art. So, when I was 35 years old, I was working in Bartlesville, Oklahoma for the U.S. Bureau of Mines. At that time, I was becoming well enough known through my writing and my speeches, and I made a decision to go full-time on it. The research work was good, but it was confining with a focus on things that were very technical rather than natural. It was very heavy academia. And I'm just not that type of person. I would go fishing on the weekends while the people I worked with stayed to work in the research lab. So, I resigned my position at the research center and became Dave Whitlock.

I worked for several years in Bartlesville as Dave Whitlock,

and then we moved to Arkansas in 1971. The reason we moved to Arkansas is because it was more conducive for what I was doing, to live in an area where there was good trout fishing. At that time, most of the money to be made in fly fishing was related to cold-water fisheries. At that time, fly fishing had not diversified to fishing for bass or salt water to a point where it was significant.

**MY INTRODUCTION TO THE WHITE RIVER**

I probably first fished the White River when I was about 20 years old. That was when it was a small-mouth bass river, before the dam was built. At that time, I had a car, and I was mobile enough and independent. I had a friend, Dick Storts, who I fished a lot with, and he and I started fishing Arkansas for the first time together.

I first heard about the good trout fishing in Arkansas through the newspapers. The weekly outdoor column would be talking about all these fish that were being caught in the Norfork River. The Norfork was the first of the two rivers to be stocked. It was built in the 1940s. Bull Shoals Dam was built in the 1950s. So, the early reports on trout fishing in this area were about the big fish that were being caught in the Norfork River. Lots and lots of big fish.

I was married to my first wife in 1956, and for our honeymoon, we went to Eureka Springs. We had really bad weather there, and so I suggested that we drive on over and see the White River. So on our honeymoon, we fished in the White River. The water was very high, and fly fishing was a near impossibility. We actually bait fished on that trip, worms and stuff, because that's what we were told to do. In fact, it was a really interesting thing. All the people we talked to there told us that these trout are different. They don't eat insects. They only eat things like sucker meat, worms, and cheese.

I found the White to be a big ol' river. At the beginning of fishing the White River for trout, with the high generator flow, I wasn't very impressed. I was actually very intimidated. All we had was a small canoe and a small outboard motor, and that was dangerous. Eventually, one weekend I went up when they had all the generators off, and I could wade fish. That's when I discovered that the trout were feeding on insects. We started catching them on flies. That's when I really started my love affair with the White River. At that time, in the White River, rainbow trout averaged 4 pounds. And I was so ill equipped with my tackle. I had an automatic fly reel and a fiberglass fly rod. Every time I

hooked one of the big fish, he would just break me off. So eventually, I heard about a single-action reel.

At that time we would keep our fish, you know, keep an icebox full like everybody did. Gradually, I caught more and more fish on flies and learned more about the river. We would go up to fish in the White River and not see another fly fisherman. This went on for years. There were no fly fisherman there except for us. So finally, we started a small group who were fly fisherman, mostly from Oklahoma and Texas, and we would go up to Cotter and have a meeting up there. There were seven people initially, and that ended up being the Southwest Council Conclave. Five hundred or 600 people attend the Conclave now. So, that group started bringing fly fishermen into this area, and there was added publicity about this area.

### **MY MOVE TO ARKANSAS IN 1971**

We lived on the river above Cotter. In 1971, my wife and I leased a house on the White River above Cotter. And then eventually I bought a house at the confluence of the Norfork and White River. It was interesting because at that time I was doing quite a bit of traveling, making presentations and trying to promote the river. And a lot of people wanted to know if they could come fish with us. So, we rented this big ol' house with

five bedrooms. But not that many people came and the five-bedroom house was too big. So, we rented a smaller house with two bedrooms, and about that time, every weekend, somebody would want to come and stay with us.

### **WHY I NEVER BECAME A PROFESSIONAL FISHING GUIDE**

I never have guided. I've always viewed myself as an instructor. I do a lot of guide things when I take people out on the river, but a guide's primary responsibility is to catch those fish. I never enjoyed that responsibility. I like to teach people how to catch fish better, but I never want to take somebody out needing to catch fish. The first thing they'll say is that they want to catch a lot of fish, and they want to catch a big fish. Sometimes they have no skill at all. And I just never did enjoy that. I enjoyed helping them learn how to catch fish.

### **MY FLY FISHING AND OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES**

I would not be here today without fly fishing. The reason is that no doctor said that I would live to be 30 years old. And right now, I'm 82. When I was a child, I had polio, rheumatic fever, and a really bad birth spinal injury. So, until I was five or six years old, I was in a crippled children's home for most of that time. I was so ill with those things that I couldn't participate

in the normal school activities or athletics at all. When I discovered fly fishing (my family all fished), I found something I could do without permission from the doctor or from my parents. This allowed me to participate in a meaningful activity in life. It began to create some individualism in me that I couldn't have otherwise. I couldn't participate in the normal activities like baseball or whatever. And so, over the years the sport has gradually given me a venue to live with. Since there is not competition in it, there's not a lot of stress in it. I think that every day you think about fly fishing or when you do fly fish, it is a stress reliever. It is like a wonderful form of meditation. It lets you escape from the ugliness in the world.

Fly fishing is important to me, but what I like to do most is what I'm doing now, and that's my artwork. I would rather do a piece of art like I'm working on right now than to go fishing or do anything else. Because that's the most satisfying to me, unbelievably low stress, and by my nature, I don't know if it's because of the problems I had as a child, I'm an introvert. I like to be alone. I don't mind that at all. I don't have to have an audience or company. My art allows me to be alone but also to be productive. And since Emily came into my life, she has helped me be a better person and a more productive person. We've been married 26 years, and with her

influence, I've become a lot healthier because I eat better, we both exercise a lot, and then we live at this wonderful place. The stress level here is almost zero.

The art is first for me, and fly tying is second. Fly tying is a sculpture form. It is an art form. And then, I guess working on the ecology would be my third most meaningful activity.

### **THE EARLY TROUT GUIDES ON THE WHITE AND NORFORK RIVERS**

Some of the first guides I knew about included Dave Lowry and Gary Flippin, who owned Rim Shoals Trout Dock. Another was Ray Brainard. The thing is that fly fishing guiding started gradually and slowly. For the most part, people who wanted to fly fish would just hire a bait guide to take them out on the river, and then they would get out and fly fish. Most of the guides in those early days would guide fly fisherman, but they weren't fly fishing guides.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR WADE FISHING THE WHITE RIVER**

The first suggestion is to know that the White River is an extremely hazardous river. I've written a number of articles advising people on what to do. The first thing you're going to need to do is go to a fly shop, tell the proprietor that I'm new here, I don't want to fish out of a boat, I want to wade

fish. What can I do? And he will offer you a guide to help you wade fish, or show you where you can go to wade fish safely. And that is very few places. No matter what you tell people about that river, some of them still walk out there naively, and when the river starts to come up they don't react to the rising water. And they get in trouble.

You can tell people that this river is going to come up today, and it may come up 12 feet. When it starts to come up, you need to get out or you need to be on the side of the river where you can get your car. Don't try to wade across it if it's coming up. Those are the basic cautions. But what happens is that they haven't seen it happen. So, even though you tell them, they don't have that perspective that all of a sudden, this water not only comes up, but it also gets a lot swifter as it comes up. So you might be standing in knee-deep water one moment, and it's flowing two and a half miles an hour, when five minutes later it might be flowing 5 miles an hour. Most people can't wade in 5 mile an hour water. It will knock their butts down if it gets up around their waist. So all of a sudden, they realize that the river is really coming up and they need to try to get to safety. But, a lot of times, it's way too late. And almost always, the big problem comes when they're on the other side of the river and

they try to wade across. They get swept away.

The White River has the potential to be very dangerous. Hundreds of people have drowned there. At the same time, the White River has the potential to be very safe. It will be very safe if you are with a guide, or if you are the type of person who truly listens to advice and follows that advice. I'm not trying to keep people away. That has nothing to do with it. I'm trying to protect fly fishermen. They are a part of our family. You don't want them to go down there and lose their tackle and almost drown, or drown.

### **HATCHES AND FISHING DRY FLIES ON THE WHITE RIVER**

When the river was first turned into a tailwater, most of the invertebrates that live there in a warm water stream were displaced. And so, there weren't very many aquatic insects to create what you might call hatches. Eventually, over the years, that has evolved, and a lot of cold water insects have either been introduced or introduced themselves by their natural movements. And so, right now, I would say it is an excellent dry fly fishing stream.

In the early spring, we have tremendous hatches of midges. And then, the next thing is we have four different species of caddis hatches from March through the

latter part of April, unbelievably good caddis hatches. And then, the PMDs (the pale morning duns) start a hatch. And they hatch until July. And then from July on, it's hoppers, and an assortment of midges, and what have you. Then at the beginning of fall, you have another caddis hatch.

The dry fly fishing is good. But that happens only when the water is low, when the conditions are good for it. When the water is high, the hatches are scattered. They will still hatch, but the water scatters them. So, the trout don't get up on the surface and feed on floating insects when the water is high like they do when the water is low. But we have fantastic hatches.

One of the things I'm elated about, especially now with this new minimum flow, the invertebrate population is probably now going to grow tenfold. Because if you think about it, before the minimum flow, the river would be so low, and every time the water would go to its lowest level, it would kill the invertebrates that were on those gravel bars. Those bugs need to have water on them. So, there was a constant killing every day. But now that they have that minimum flow, they are mostly protected.

Minimum flow is the level of water best for dry fly fishing because minimum flow keeps a current in

the whole river. It's a little harder to wade now because there's higher water in some places, but that's absolutely perfect for dry fly fishing. In fact, on minimum flow, almost every inch of the river is very good fishing because there is a nice current running through all of it. Before minimum flow, there were pools that were just dead still. But now, with minimum flow, the pools flow.

### **THE BEST FLIES FOR THE WHITE RIVER THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED**

The best fly to use in the White River is a nymph. It would be a simulator of sowbugs and small mayfly nymphs, and caddis. My Red Fox Squirrel Nymph is probably an almost perfect suggestive fly for all of those, usually in a size 10, 12, 14 maybe 16. That fly will catch fish on any day of the year on the White River. That is my favorite fly for the White River, you know, just to catch fish.

There are two other flies I have developed that take the bigger fish. Those are the Whitlock Sculpin and Near Nuff Crawfish. Those two flies are the big fish flies.

### **IF PEOPLE WANT TO CATCH MANY FISH AND DON'T CARE ABOUT SIZE**

Summer: Normally, if a person just wants to catch fish, using a San Juan Worm and an egg pattern, or a San Juan Worm and a

sowbug pattern as a dropper. This would be with a strike indicator. If the flies have weight on them, then the leader would not need to be weighted.

If you can avoid split shot on your leader, the indicator works a lot better because the shot is constantly hitting bottom, so you get a lot of false indications of strikes from that shot bouncing along the bottom. So, I prefer to lightly weight the flies and not put shot on the leader. That way you get a smoother drift.

Winter: Egg pattern and Sowbug, both weighted.

### **IF PEOPLE WANT TO CATCH BIG FISH AND DON'T CARE ABOUT NUMBERS**

Summer: For the really big fish, my sculpin pattern would work well, and my Near Nuff Crawfish. The best way on any given day to catch the big fish is to fish at night for browns. That can be dangerous, and that can be tricky. But the next best way to do it would be to pick the most rotten weather day you can find in the highest water. That's because these big fish don't get out and feed unless the conditions are such that they don't have to worry about people bothering them. It's just like a big buck deer. You're not going to see a buck deer walking around in the middle of the day during hunting season. He's more of an evening character, you know. Bad weather

lowers the light level. The lower the light level, the more comfortable bigger fish are to feed. And that's when they feed for the most part. The only exception to that is in the late winter when the shad come through the dam. Those big fish will feed all day long on the shad. But the rest of the year, they're pretty much low light feeders, and also higher water feeders.

Winter: In the winter, it would be shad patterns, and then the big articulated bucktail streamers. A lot of guides are using those to catch the big fish. If there is a shad kill, I would use a shad pattern, Chrome Dome, anything that imitates a thread fish, with an indicator. I don't condone fishing on spawning beds, but after February 1, something like a big sculpin would be good. Those would be weighted and stripped.

I have kind of a philosophy. I like to imitate the natural foods fish feed on, rather than using attractor flies, or flies that represent something the fish have never seen before. To me, the neatness of the sport is trying to imitate something that fish would actually feed on, fooling him with that imitation. Some of those big articulated streamer things are sort of gimmicky, hard to cast, and they don't really imitate anything that the fish are actually feeding on. I don't recommend those for most people who want to catch big fish. I kind

of like to use the more natural imitations, such as sculpins and crawfish.

### **IF I HAD ONLY ONE FLY TO USE IN THE SUMMER**

It would be a weighted Red Fox Squirrel Nymph with a strike indicator. On a day-to-day basis, that is the most productive fly.

### **IF I HAD ONLY ONE FLY TO USE IN THE WINTER**

A weighted Sowbug or Scud and a strike indicator.

### **MY FAVORITE KNOT**

Many people use a clinch knot to attach their tippet to their fly, but I never use a clinch knot. The clinch is not a really strong knot. If you don't tie it exactly right, you'll lose your fly. It requires very careful tying. What we usually recommend is a Duncan Loop. It's almost the only knot you need to be a fly fisherman. You can attach your backing to the fly reel with it, you can attach the backing to the fly line with it, you can attach the leader with it, you can attach the tippet with it, you can attach the fly with it. It's a knot that you don't have to look at to tie. This knot has 95% strength.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING ABOUT ENTOMOLOGY**

I guess the average person who doesn't have the benefit of ento-

mology teaching has no idea of what lives under the water. Some people don't have a clear understanding about how fish live in the water. But there's a whole different world under the water. Invertebrates have invaded almost every inch of the earth. When a person understands what's living in that stream, that stream becomes much more fascinating to them. Like I mentioned earlier, I get my most satisfaction when fly fishing by imitating a specific food, trying to get the fish to eat that. If you know what's living underwater, and you focus on trying to get the fish to feed on what they're used to feeding on, you're going to become a much better fisherman, as compared to just buying a fly that somebody tells you will work.

I have written two books to help fly fishers learn about entomology. The first is Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods, and the second is a much lighter version of my first book. It is a simpler version of that first book. The title is Trout and Their Food.

### **THE DIET OF WHITE RIVER TROUT**

The diet of trout in the White River varies by season and how much water they're running. In the summer, it is probably about 50-50 terrestrials and aquatics. A lot of bugs are falling into the water. Most of the crawfish would be eaten at this time because that's when

the crawfish are most active. And there are a few minor hatches on the White River in the summer, PMDs and the midges, for example.

In the fall, they switch pretty much to scuds and sowbugs. And the egg pattern works well, not because they're getting so many eggs to eat but because all the fish that live in the White River except the Bonneville cutthroats, are fall spawning fish, and so during that time, their hormones are more active and they become more aggressive toward bright colors. So, they will hit the egg pattern because of the color, not even knowing that they are hitting an egg pattern.

In the winter, the crustacea, like sowbugs and scuds, are real active. The sowbugs and scuds are moving around in adult form pretty much all year, and so they are an important food source. If there's not a threadfin emergence, I would say the trout in the White River feed on the small crustacea about 70% to 80% in the winter. They also eat midges. They eat midges all winter. But if there is a lot of water being run through the dam, the fish don't heavily feed on midges because the midges are scattered out so bad.

In the spring, the food is about 50% crustacea and 50% aquatics, like the PMDs, caddis, and midges.

## HOW TO GROW BIGGER RAINBOWS

It's possible to have bigger rainbows because the river hasn't changed that much from when we had big rainbows in the early days. One problem is that rainbows are easier to catch than browns, and they're mainly daytime feeders, whereas the browns are predominantly nighttime feeders. Probably about 10% of what a brownie eats he eats in the daytime. The rest of it is at night. For the rainbow, it is just the opposite. He feeds some at night, but most of the time he feeds in the daytime. And that's when the bait fisherman are out. So, they take a lot of those fish.

The second problem is that the rainbows that they stock are the lowest quality rainbows that you could possibly put into a river. They are from hundreds of generations of hatchery-bred trout. So, they're not wild-like fish. When they dump the fish in at 8 to 12 inches or so, it's like dumping a bunch of white chickens into a field that somebody's going to hunt. They don't have the ability to survive very long. They are not predator-savvy. They get pretty well caught out. I think the average is two weeks that they stay in there. And it should be 2 to 3 years. That's when you get the bigger fish. The harvest of rainbows in the White River is so incessant, especially with the bait fishers.

The solution to that would be one of two things. One approach would be a really restrictive slot limit fishery, or you could not keep a rainbow until it was 16 inches or more. The other approach would be to eliminate a lot of the bait fishing. The best way to eliminate the impact of bait fishing as it is today is to make it a law that you have to use a circle hook. Do you know what a circle hook is?

It's a hook that's actually in a circle. This is how a circle hook works. A fish cannot be hooked in the gills or the stomach with a circle hook. They can only be hooked in the side of the mouth. With the circle hook, the fish eats the bait and swallows it and then the fisherman reels in, and the bait and hook come out of the fish's stomach, and the hook hooks in the edge of the fish's mouth. Circle hooks have been around for about 50 years. But the outfitters on the river, and the Arkansas Fish and Game Department, don't want to go to the trouble of making a law to move away from treble hooks. But that would probably save 80% to 90% of the fish that are killed with bait. Usually, many of the bait fisherman are novices and don't know how to set the hook before a fish swallows the bait. And so, with the use of a circle hook, all a person has to do is let the fish swallow the bait and then start reeling. Then the

fish is hooked. But these circle hooks cost a little bit more, and most of the outfitters and most of the people in the Arkansas Fish and Game Department are not interested in making this change.

## MY DEVELOPMENT OF A STRIKE INDICATOR

I'm probably the person most responsible for strike indicators. One of the best indicators I have developed is a yarn indicator with a small post on it. You don't wait for the indicator to go under the water to detect a strike. You detect a strike when the fish touches the fly. That's when this post moves. Using this strike indicator, you sometimes get a full second benefit compared to other strike indicators. I developed this about 10 years ago. It is a product you can buy now.

In Europe, the traditional way of fly fishing was to set the hook by watching the fish take the sunken fly. So when I became fully involved in fly fishing on the professional level, I was trying to figure out how to catch more fish more often, and one of the things my role models would tell me was that the best thing to use as a fly is an aquatic nymph because that's what fish feed on most of the time every day. But at that time, fishing with the nymph in the U.S. was not popular because it was almost impossible to detect a strike. When a trout takes a nymph, he puts it in

his mouth and spits it out a long time before the fisherman feels the strike. You are half a second to three seconds behind the fish. So, I was told that the best way to detect a fish striking on a sunken nymph is to watch the tip of your fly line. If it moves, you set the hook. You're not going to feel the strike.

Eventually, I realized that being able to see something small that was closer to the nymph would be the best way to detect the strike. Rather than using the line tip, which is sometimes 12 feet away from the fly, I moved the indicator closer and closer to the fly. I placed the indicator onto the tippet, which is the shortest distance to the strike.

The White River was where I first used a strike indicator. I caught hell like you won't believe. There were so many people criticizing me. It was unbelievable. Ernie Schweibert said that he wasn't surprised that Dave Whitlock was using a bobber. He said anybody who comes from Oklahoma and expects to be a fly fisherman, what else could you expect of them? I took so much crap from so many people. But when I took people who were critical of me out to fish, I would outfish them.

Carl Richards and Doug Swisher, who have made tremendous contributions to fly fishing, teased me incessantly about using strike indi-

cators. They said, "Gosh, Dave, get off of that." When I took them fishing on the White River, we waded out at Rim Shoals, and I gave them a fly, saying, "This is the best fly you can use on this river," which was a number 14 Squirrel

Nymph. I said, "Now both of you guys fish this run with that fly." They went out and fished and caught four or five trout. And I said, "Okay, now just one of you give me that fly." So, I cut it off and with the fly that one of them was using, I tied it on my tippet, along with an indicator, and I started fishing. So, within 10 casts, I got a 7-pound rainbow. And I said to them, "That rainbow took your fly, but you didn't know it." Then I proceeded to take one big fish after another, so much bigger than anything they caught all day long. And they became 100% convinced. And I told them, "Those fish were taking your flies, but you weren't detecting it. " There's no way you can detect that subtle strike 40 feet away. That demonstration converted both of them!

If you want to purchase art from Dave Whitlock, you may contact him and Emily in their business, Dave and Emily Whitlock Fly Fishing, through their web site <davewhitlock.com>.

## A Notice From Your Sponsor

In July we treated you to a chapter of Keith Campbell's upcoming

book "Fly Fishing the White and Norfolk Rivers - The Guides Speak". This month we treat you to another chapter, the interview with Dave Whitlock. We hope these chapters will whet your appetite to encourage you buy a copy of the book! The book is to be published during the run-up to Sowbug 2021 (keep your fingers crossed!).

Keith has an ulterior motive for writing this book. He wants to raise money to support youth programs in Marion and Baxter Counties. The content of the book is the result of discussions that Keith had with Dale Fulton before Dale's passing. Steve Wright's book was often mentioned during the discussions. Last summer Keith presented his idea and an early sample of the book to the NAFF Board of Directors. Keith was looking for financial and moral support from NAFF. We estimate that printing 500 copies of the book will cost between \$2000 and \$3000. Keith has pledged \$500 of his own money to support the cost of printing. NAFF agreed to provide some support for the cost of printing and no particular amount was committed. We would wait to see how the book developed and review our commitment this year. The cancellation of Sowbug seriously dented our capability to provide financial support for much beyond our current commitments for scholarships. We,

Keith and NAFF, are looking for others willing to help sponsor the printing of the book. We would like to have the book printed and ready to put into people's hands by Sowbug 2021. We expect that the book will retail for \$20.00. All proceeds from the sale of the book (excluding setting back money for the second printing) will go towards youth programs in Marion and Baxter Counties, with a preference for programs that involve fly fishing. Neither Keith, the guides interviewed, nor NAFF will get any money from the sales. If you would like to make a pledge to sponsor the first printing of the book or pre-order a copy (\$20), contact Mike Tipton 870-404-8845 or [michaeltipton@centurytel.net](mailto:michaeltipton@centurytel.net)



## Events of Interest to NAFF Members

### Sowbug Roundup Stuff!

Sowbug 2020 is gone but not forgotten. Live Sowbug vicariously and virtually and get that Sowbug merchandise that you were too socially distant to purchase at the show (that wasn't)! We have 2020 Sowbug Roundup Pins, Sowbug insulated stainless steel adult beverage imbibers and Sowbug hats for sale.

Sowbug Roundup 2020 pin - \$5.00 + (1st Class postage \$1.00) - total \$6.00

Sowbug Roundup insulated adult beverage imbiber - \$10.00 + (Priority mail envelope \$9.00) - Total \$19.00

Sowbug Roundup Hat - \$15.00 + (Priority mail envelope \$9.00) Indicate ID number of hat desired. - Total \$24.00

Save some money and buy all three. They will fit in one priority mail envelope!

Soon we will have our web page up to purchase these items over the internet. In the meantime you can order from Patty Lueken at 271 Plane Tree Ln, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

(plueken@luekenlaw.com) If you live locally or will be in town, we can arrange to put the merchandise in your hands at a convenient socially distant location

