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 Online at www.northarkansasflyfisher.org

Birds of Arkansas

Zach Fisher, interpreter at Bull Shoals - White Water State Park, will speak at our November meeting. Zach will talk about the bird species commonly seen in Arkansas, how to identify birds, nighttime birds, how to select and properly use field guides and binoculars. He will discuss Eagle Awareness 2020 and future park events. This should be an interesting presentation. Most of us who spend a lot of time out of doors have an interest in the birds that we see or hear.

Zachary Fisher is an Interpreter at Bull Shoals-White River State Park and has been with Arkansas State Parks for 2 seasons. Originally from New York, he is slowly learning his way around the Ozark region’s trails and waterways, deepening his love of the outdoors.

Sowbug Update

We Need Your Stuff!

I will belabor what I think is the obvious. The Sowbug Roundup is a fund raiser. It is the sole fund raising activity of the North Arkansas Fly Fishers. (the raffle held at club meetings is more for fun than funds) Funds raised by Sowbug come from entry fees, vendor fees, club table sales, “Hooks and Books” table sales, live auction, silent auctions and bucket raffles. More than half of the Sowbug revenue is obtained from the sale of “Hooks and Books”, auction, and raffle items.

So, what is the source of these items? Some of the items come from donations by local merchants and national fly fishing related companies. Some of the items are purchased at great discount by people (Dennis Galyardt) who keep an eye out for good deals.
**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.

---

**Best Party in Town**

**November President’s Report**

The Christmas Party is only a few weeks away. Now is the time to sign up! The price is only $20/person and it is held at the Big Creek Golf and Country Club. I have heard it called the “best party in town”! There is an ad and a sign-up sheet in this newsletter. NAFF picks up roughly half of the cost of the party. This is part of the payback to club members for all of their help which makes Sowbug so successful.

Just this last weekend author, fly tyer, and guide, Pat Dorsey spoke and tied flies for two days at the Gaston’s Visitor Center. We had one of the biggest crowds ever for the November program. NAFF has been putting on this program for 10 years and has not charged a cent for it—one of the advantages of having a successful Sowbug Roundup! Incoming president Dave Boyer is trying to arrange for Lance Egan for next year. We will keep you posted.

Last Saturday, at Dry Run Creek, we wound up another fly fishing and fly tying class for the Home School organization. One boy, who is obviously brighter than average, asked if he could use his Tenkara Rod. “Yes!!” Without the organizing efforts of Ceil Gasiecki and our many volunteers this class would not have been possible.

We will have our election at the coming meeting: Dave Boyer – President, Susan Parsons – Vice President, Pat Smith – Treasurer, Patty Lueken – Secretary.

---

**Birds**

When he’s not paddling down the White River on a guided trip, leading an interpretive nature hike, capturing the park boat on lake cruises, or preparing a Dutch Oven dish, you can find him exploring new spots with his wife and 8-month old daughter.

**Sowbug**

And some of the items are donated by club members.

And we have closets (garages?) full of stuff that we have not seen but not touched, in years. It is time to dig out that closet (garage) and do some sorting. If you have sons or daughters with an interest, pass some of it on to them—so that you can still enjoy them enjoying it. Perhaps some of it you can sell on eBay. But a lot of the stuff you could contribute to the Sowbug Roundup. Get this stuff into circulation. Move it from your closet (garage) to someone else’s closet or garage. Make room for the new stuff that you will buy at Sowbug. Help provide inexpensive equipment to beginners who are just getting into fly fishing! Donate that fishing stuff to the Sowbug Roundup!

If you have stuff to donate contact Mike Tipton (870-404-8845) or (after the Jan 1) Dennis Galyardt (970) 237-2727
**Musings of a Fly Fishing Sun Glasses**

Through years of guiding, I have found that many people don’t wear or even bring a pair of sunglasses with them when they embark on guided fishing trips. In fact, many people I see out on the river aren’t wearing sunglasses either. I have a hard time understanding why this happens, but it does. When people drive their automobile, they usually have a pair of sunglasses handy for those sunny days; however, when you go fishing, you are exposed to more sunlight reflecting back off the water than you are when you are driving. If they do bring a pair of sunglasses, they are usually a very inexpensive pair—a pair they probably picked up at a local gas station for a few bucks. I have had several guide trips where I tried to show someone a trout near the river bottom and they couldn’t see the fish with their sunglasses. I would ask if their sunglasses were polarized, and they would reply, “Well, I don’t think so. I didn’t pay much for them.”

When I handed them my polarized sunglasses and asked if they could see the fish, they would say, “Yes I can!” They couldn’t believe the difference between their inexpensive pair of sunglasses and my Costa Del Mar sunglasses. My sunglasses opened up a beautiful underwater world to them.

I have learned through guiding to expect the unexpected. If people take fishing could not afford a good pair of sunglasses, that would be understandable. But most of these people have money. Many are decked out in clothing worn by fly fisherman, and, being a fly fisherman yourself, you know what that costs. Sometimes, they meet me at the boat landing driving their new Cadillac SUV or a new truck. They give me a nice tip at the end of the day. Still, they get in my boat with inexpensive sunglasses or no sunglasses at all. I have to keep asking myself why.

I am a firm believer in wearing a good pair of polarized sunglasses while fishing. Regardless of weather conditions—clouds, snow, sleet, rain, or time of day—if you see me out on the water, wading or fishing from a boat, you will see me with my sunglasses on my face. In my opinion, you need them for all weather and fishing conditions. Not only do they allow you to see below the surface of the water more clearly, they also offer eye protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you. Can you imagine being hit in the head or face with one of those large articulated streamers? Sunglasses offer great protection from those flies moving rapidly through the air. Those little flies hurt when they hit you.

One time I showed a lady fly fisher a fish with my sunglasses and she refused to give my sunglasses back to me, saying, “These are the best sunglasses I have ever looked through. I didn’t know they made sunglasses this good—I thought all sunglasses were made the same.” Finally, she said, “I will give yours back to you at the end of our fly fishing trip”. She handed me her sunglasses and said, “Here, you can wear these”.

I finally convinced her I needed my sunglasses back so I could watch out for those big rocks in the river. I didn’t want us (and I did reiterate “us”) hitting any rocks and turning the boat over and getting dumped in that cold water. She handed my sunglasses right back over to me. I now store an extra pair of Costa Del Mar polarized sunglasses in my boat, just in case some fly fisher client won’t give mine back to me!
exposure to sunlight. UV radiation can contribute to cataracts and muscular and macular degeneration. My own sunglasses have readers in the bottom for tying on flies and any other close up work that I need to do while out on the water. I know some fisherman who use magnifiers that can flip up or down from their hat. I would rather have them built into my sunglasses so that I don’t have to flip anything up or down. Keep it simple!

A good pair of polarized sunglasses will help you catch more fish. Some people don’t realize that, but it’s true. If you can see down through the water column, you can sight fish for an individual trout. You can see rocks and other obstructions for a better presentation of your flies during a drift. You can see the changes in water depth, from shallow to deeper pools. Knowing where those transition areas are along the bottom is important to know as you fish. Having sunglasses on when fishing large streamers is a must: you can see where your streamer is in relation to the river bottom and any other structure you are fishing around or over as you strip the streamer back to you. You can usually see the take when a big trout attacks your streamer—that will be a moment in time you will always remember!

I consider my Costa Del Mar sunglasses a critical component in my guide fishing business. They are just as important as my fly rod, leader setup, flies, presentation and other equipment. A lot of people just don’t realize how important sunglasses are in the world of fly fishing. I’m never without mine, and I hope you won’t be without yours. I would be lost out there on the water without my Costa Del Mar sunglasses. Invest in a good pair; you won’t regret it. This fishing guide knows how important they are. There are a number of good brands of polarized sunglasses on the market that are designed with the fisherman in mind. Costa Del Mar is well recognized and has a great track record as being one of the best. You can expect to spend anywhere from $100-$300 for a quality pair, or more if you need prescription lenses. Also, consider a cloth or leather band that attaches to the arms of the frames and loops around your neck. This will keep you from losing your glasses if they slip off your face when you look down to net that big trout.

Danny Barker
Fly Fishing Guide
As many of you are aware, about 18 months ago NAFF instituted a mentor program to help folks wanting to get started in fly fishing and tying. Applications for this service are listed on our website and it is open to both members and non-members.

We do have folks interested in this and Danny Barker is working with two ladies at this time. Right now we only have three mentors willing to work with people interested in our help and we could use a few more folks willing to help with this.

This is how the process works: Periodically I will receive an email notice that someone is interested. The application will tell us what kind of help is needed: fly tying, fly fishing and experience level. Some folks are beginners; some are hoping to hone specific skills. Their application is then forwarded to all mentors asking who would be willing to help out. Then you call the applicant and schedule sessions at your mutual convenience.

We really could use a few more folks to agree to be a part of this program. Anyone interested in lending a hand, please contact Ceil Gasiecki at ceciliagasiecki@yahoo.com.

Ceil Gasiecki

NAFF is again presenting a beginner’s fly tying class in January. Tom Emerick will lead the class and mentors will be available to help each student tie two of each fly that is taught.

You’ll learn about fly tying tools, materials, and patterns, practice tying your own flies, and receive written instructions for each fly you learn to tie. You’ll also receive lots of fly tying tips from the experts! All tools and materials are provided by North Arkansas Fly Fishers.

The $25 fee includes a one-year membership to NAFF.

You must register through ASU Mountain Home Community Education web page.

The class is limited to 10 students and meets for four weeks:

Mondays in January 2020: 6, 13, 20, and 27, 6-8 p.m. in the Ozark Regional Arts Council Conference Room on the second floor at The Sheid.
When finishing off a fly, most of us use a Whip Finish, whether by hand or with a tool. The question continually comes up do you do your whip finishing from hook back toward the eye or from the eye toward the back of the hook?

If you think about a whip finish as opposed to a half hitch, it is multiple layers of thread wrapped over the tag end so the multiple layers hold the tag from raveling out from under the wraps.

If you wrap from back to front and tighten, you get a clean finish (Photo #1). If you wrap front to back, you create an ungainly head with a long loop of thread exposed (the green portion) that can catch on a fish’s teeth (Photo #2). In the photos I am using cord to give you a better visual. Compare the two methods and note going front to back puts more of a bump on your finished head. Now this may not seem like much, but if you are doing small flies, your tie will come out cleaner and be more durable. On larger flies with thicker thread the exposed section is easier to pull on and break.

When you pull the thread to tighten, make sure you have taken the twist out of your thread by flattening it, otherwise the thread may furl on you and break as you try to tighten the whip finish. Finally, always pull your thread to tighten parallel, in line with the hook shank, otherwise if you pull the thread away from the shank, you are forcing slack into the wraps near the tag end giving it another reason to come unraveled. Done properly, head cement can be eliminated.

Dave Boyer
A wet October and early November have kept the lake levels up. Both rivers have been generating for most of the year. As I write this more rain has brought the lake levels up another foot and three quarters. I’m sure most of you reading this were hoping for some wadeable water. So more high water fishing from a boat is in our future; and if it turns out to be a wet winter, expect a high water spring as well. That begs the question. Should I get a boat?

The month has been unusually good for fishing except for a few days of low D.O. in the middle of the month. Some really good rainbows have been caught up to the 24 inch range. It has been a decade or more since I’ve seen rainbows this good being caught on a regular basis. It is a nice sight, and most seem to be going back into the river. I’d say all of the guides are doing a great job at getting their fisherman to release these good fish back into the river, on the White River that is. The Norfork is a different story for sure. The attitude over there still seems to be stuck in earlier decades.

So, rig up with long leaders 10 ft or so in 3 units or more with appropriate split shot to get it down to the fish and use an indicator that will float a 3/0 shot. I mostly use size B and BB and look for shallow water on big flows. Grassy and gravel areas along with areas that have velocity breaks that slow the water down. Drop offs and other terrains that hold fish, such as ledge rock that can be found in Wildcat Shoals, are good areas too! Behind islands are also good spots but slow your boat down so your flies can stay in the strike zone. Set the hook if your indicator even bounces a little. Also remember to mend! mend! and mend! Mending is the fishing and big downstream bellies in your fly lines will pull your flies off the bottom and over the fishes’ heads. Also use as few casts as possible to achieve your 30 or 40 foot cast. I teach two and at most 3 casts to get 40 feet of line away from the boat. Double taper lines are thinner in diameter at the head and therefore catch less of the current allowing for longer drifts without mending. Better yet if you can do a reach cast and have the line mended before it hits the water you will be better off and be more efficient. Keep all the slack out of your line so you can get a better hook set. This is really important if the strikes are subtle. I use 10 and 10 1/2 foot rods for fishing out of the boat as it provides more leverage in hook setting and takes the slack out a bit faster than a 9 footer does. But above all have a good time catching.

Jimmy T.

Wishes & Fishes Fly Shop
627 Central Blvd
PO Box 751 Mailing

Bull Shoals, Ar 72619-0751
Shop # 870-445-3848
Cell # 870-404-8906 Fishing

http://theflyfishingstore.com
http://flyfisharkansas.com

Save The Date
NAFF Christmas Party
Thursday, Dec 5
Country Club
Water levels are at 270 cfs and clarity is very clear. The low clear water conditions have the trout hiding in deeper pools. Euro nymphing has been working great with a small egg, nymph dropper. Caddis and blue wing olives have been hatching daily. Midges may not be the best choice due to the large population of shad and minnows in the river. Some days the trout will focus on the minnows and the Guppy and white lightning can be hot.

Stocking over the last month has the trout running small in the public areas. Low water does make for easier wading. Layer up, be safe and use a wading stick. The river bottom is very slick.

Tight lines and good luck,

Mark Crawford
springriverfliesandguides.com

First notices go out this month to over 400 invitees. Tiers are loving this event. I have already had a couple of tiers send me times they would like to tie and the formal invite is yet to go out! Remember, once notices are sent, be sure to return yours with your preferred times to tie. We are planning to honor Dave and Emily Whitlock this year with the theme of Warm Water Fishing and Flies. Consider tying any of his flies as he has developed a number of great ones over the years. If you would like to teach a tying class at Sowbug, please contact me with particulars and we will see what we can do.

Dave Boyer
In 2018 North Arkansas Fly Fishers board member Tom Emerick and volunteers with Arkansas Trout Unlimited White River Chapter 698, Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers, Friends of the Norfork National Fish Hatchery, US Fish and Wildlife Norfork National Fish Hatchery and Arkansas Game and Fish began planning for major maintenance projects on Dry Run Creek which included:

- Bank stabilization above where hatchery water enters the creek
- Stabilizing large steprocks on the upper creek path
- Brush clearing and tree cutting along the west bank of the creek and near highway 177
- Replacing rotten wood, power washing and painting the handicap walkway
- Placing Trex composite decking material on top rail, power washing and painting the railing next to the hatchery sidewalk above the creek

The bank stabilization will reduce the sediment runoff from heavy rains which have created turbidity and reduced dissolved oxygen in DRC and the Norfork tailwaters. Tim Burnley and Eli Powers with AGFC managed the project which stabilized about 80 feet of the bank where most of the erosion occurs using approximately 100 tons of rock.

Roger Cannady (R) volunteer with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Tom Emerick did significant carpentry work replacing rotten boards and installing Trex composite railing on the upper walkway railing. Power washing all of the deck and railings and painting was done with volunteers that included Tom Emerick, Mike Jirka, Gary Flippin, Danny Sabo, Mike Enger, Ron Hulstein and Steve Blumreich. A special thanks to Ron Hulstein for coordinating help from the Care Center Ministries men to complete a significant amount of the painting.

These improvements were funded by a total of $5,000 in donations from NAFF, Arkansas Trout Unlimited White River Chapter 698, Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers and Friends of the Norfork National Fish Hatchery and in-kind contributions by
AGFC for the bank stabilization and help from US Fish and Wildlife Hatchery employees and volunteers.

Please visit Dry Run Creek to see the wonderful work and thank the volunteers and organizations that contributed money, in-kind services and the physical work needed to complete the project.

Dry Run Creek is a world class fishery for youth and mobility impaired adults and we are all thankful and proud to have contributed to these improvements.

Steve Blumreich
NAFF Life Member
President Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers
Fly of the Month - Four Flys by Pat Dorsey
Tied by Pat Dorsey, Photographed by Mike Tipton

Mercury Blood Midge
Hook: Tiemco 200R #18 – 20 or Dai-Riki 270 #24
Bead: Clear, silver-lined glass bead (extra small)
Thread: Red 8/0 Uni-Thread
Abdomen: Red 8/0 Uni-Thread
Rib: Fine (#18-20) or extra fine
Churchill’s Sparkle Wing RS2
Hook: Tiemco 101 #18-24
Thread: Gray 8/0 Uni-Thread
Tail: Gray elk hair or hackle
Abdomen: Adams gray Superfine
Wing: Pearl Braid
Thorax: Adams gray Superfine

Hi-Vis Griffith’s Gnat
Hook: Tiemco 101 #14 – 26
Thread: Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
Abdomen: Peacock herl (eye)
Post: Fluorescent - Pink McFlylon
Hackle: Grizzly rooster

Puterbaugh Caddis
Hook: Tiemco 100 #14- 18
Thread: Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
Abdomen: 1.5 or 2 mm closed-cell foam
Wing: Natural elk

Detailed tying instructions can be found in “Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies” or on YouTube.
Dry Run Creek with the Home School Kids
NAFF Christmas Party

The NAFF Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Big Creek Golf & Country Club, Thursday, December 5th, from 6:00 pm-???.

The cost per person is $20.00. The dress code is - “Surprise”- let’s dress up this year. Let’s make this an event to remember!!

The evening will again feature a “Dirty Santa gift exchange”; one present per person if you choose or one per couple. The gift does not need to be fishing related, but please keep the cost under $15. Participation in the gift exchange is optional. In the interest of time each gift can only be “stolen” twice instead of the usual three time. As a way to keep the exchange from “dragging out”, please put your gift in a bag instead of wrapping.

All dinners include tax and tip, coffee, tea or soda, salad, roll and dessert. An open bar is available for you at your own expense. There will be a wine special: Chardonnay or Cabernet – $4 Per Glass. Big Creek Country Club is located at 452 Country Club Drive, Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Please PRINT the names of the persons attending below and check which meals you prefer with the quantity. Enclose $20 per person (cash or check made out to NAFF) and mail the form to:

Pat Smith, 23 River Run Drive, Gassville, AR 72635

You may bring your payment with you; however, advance reservation is required. E-mail your reservation with the required information to arredhead@yelcot.net.

**Reservations for the party must be in by November 28th.** It is important that you make a reservation so that sufficient food is available. Walk-ins are not acceptable. If for some reason you are not able to attend after you have sent in your registration, please advise as soon as possible. **No shows will be required to pay if a cancellation is not received prior to November 28. There will be no refunds after November 18th.** If you have any questions, please call Pat at (870) 404-0747.

---

# 12 oz. Prime Rib Au Jus – A large cut of slow roasted, flavorful Angus prime rib, served with au jus, creamy horseradish sauce, rice pilaf and baby carrots with dill.

# Chicken Piccata – 8 oz. Chicken breast grilled and topped with a lemon, caper, and wine sauce and served with Fettuccine.

# Lemon Almond Salmon – 8 oz. Filet of salmon with a light browned almond crust and lemon and honey drizzle. Also includes rice pilaf and baby carrots with dill.

Total Amount included: $

Name(s) please print: (for pre-printed name tags)
Events of Interest to NAFF Members

October
10/15/2019 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM NAFF Membership Meeting, Van Matre Senior Center

November
11/12/2019 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Sowbug Roundup Meeting, Baxter County Library
11/13/2019 9:00 AM— 3:00 PM Fishing Outing to Country Oaks B&B, Mountain View
11/19/2019 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM NAFF Membership Meeting, Van Matre Senior Center

December
12/03/2019 1:00 PM—2:00 PM NAFF Board Meeting, First Security Bank
12/05/2019 6:00 PM—9:00 PM NAFF Christmas Party, Big Creek Country Club
12/10/2019 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Sowbug Roundup Meeting, Baxter County Library

January 2020
01/06/2020 6:00 PM—8:00 PM First sessions of Beginners’ Fly Tying Class at ASU Mountain Home
01/07/2020 1:00 PM—2:00 PM NAFF Board Meeting, First Security Bank
01/14/2020 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Sowbug Roundup Meeting, Baxter County Library
11/19/2019 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM NAFF Membership Meeting, Van Matre Senior Center

March
03/26/2020—03/28/2020 Sowbug Roundup Baxter County Fairgrounds