



# Streamline



Oklahoma Chapter 420 of Trout Unlimited &  
Tulsa Fly Fishers a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International



## Event Calendar

March 10th - Clayton Eliassen, "Beaver Lake Tailwaters for Trout, Walleye, White Bass, & Smallies

March 26th - Outing at Spavinaw Creek

March 24th-26th - Sowbug Roundup (Not an Official TU420 Event)

If you have a friend who is not a member who might be interested in this information please feel free to

## A Message from Your President



*Heath Tiefenauer*

Hello {FIRST\_NAME|TU/TFFer's},

Welcome to the March Edition of Streamline. The month of March is almost always an unpredictable month in Oklahoma, much like this past month was! With a mix of Winter storms and mild sunny days we know the promise of Spring is just over the horizon. I'm sure many of us are looking forward to the change of seasons and some of the coming year's best fishing opportunities.

Despite the Winter storms this past month. We were fortunate to have one of the milder days for our February outing. I'd like to thank everyone who came out for the Mystery Fly Tournament and helped make this annual event a success again this year.

We've enjoyed the opportunity to gather in person for our general meetings and we'll be getting together again this month for our March meeting. We have some great speakers lined up for the rest of the Spring meeting season. Check out the article in this newsletter for more details and we hope you'll join us March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our outing this month will be to Spavinaw State Park on March 26<sup>th</sup>. This small State Park provides nice wading access below the spillway and along the river that flows through the park and the opportunity to catch several warm water species. We'll be serving lunch at 12:30, warming up our grill for the months to come. More details are in the Outings section.

We have several education events this month. Learn to Fly Fish Oklahoma, our Fly Fishing 101 (sold out event) is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>, watch for future classes if you are interested in helping someone you know begin the love of fly fishing.

## Beaver Tailwaters



*Clay Eliassen*

Our guest speaker for March's General Meeting will be Mr. Clayton Eliassen. This presentation will focus on the waters of NW Arkansas, including Beaver Lake tailwaters, and will include the pursuit of trout, smallmouth, and walleye on the fly.

Clayton is the owner/operator of Red's Guide Service. He has been a full-time guide in this area for the last 4 years and has guided part-time for many years before that. Clayton has spent his life on these waters and loves sharing what he's learned with clients and friends alike.

**Date: Thursday, March 10th**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Location: Hardesty Public Library**

**Trout Unlimited Chapter 420 and Tulsa Fly Fishers meet at Hardesty Public Library, 8316 E 93rd St Tulsa on the east side of Memorial Dr and one block north of the Creek Turnpike. Doors open at 6 pm (open discussion and questions) and admission is free. Raffle and door prizes are presented at the end of the meeting.**

## March Zoom Link

**First**, you must go to the Android, Apple, or Microsoft store and download the free Zoom App. Without the App, the link below will NOT work. **Then, click** on the link below after 6:15PM on meeting night.

[March Zoom Meeting Link](#)

There are also several Trout in the Classroom fish releases this month and volunteers are needed to help the area's youth fully embrace this experience, look for more on this in Scott Hood's article in this newsletter.

While fly fishing is a passion for many of us, conservation is also part of our mission at Tulsa Fly Fishers and TU Chapter 420. Spring brings change in this area also as the new legislative session begins. We hope you will continue to help us advocate for clean water, sportspeople, and the outdoors. We are grateful to all of our existing Trout Unlimited and FFI members. Thank you! Not a member? We'd love your support! Trout Unlimited and FFI are great organizations, and your membership contributes to our combined voice for positive influence. Join us today!

Tight Lines,

**Heath Tiefenauer**  
**President of Oklahoma Trout Unlimited & Tulsa Fly Fishers**

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## February's Raffle Winner!!



Above on the left, Steve Loveland winner of the Heirloom Fly-Tying Table. Presenting the prize is Cris Jackson of Lone Bison Fly Tables who made this beautiful and practical prize.

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## 2022 Meeting Schedule

**April 21st** - Peter Breeden from Beaver's Bend Fly Shop

**May 12th** - Alex Vaisval, Doctoral candidate in biology from OSU, with results from the Oklahoma striper survey

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## Trout in the Classroom

The 2021-22 TIC program is beginning to wind up. This time of year gets remarkably busy as we coordinate the release of hundreds and hundreds of

## 2022 Conservation Issues

### *Conservation is Our Passion*

**Arkansas River** - We're still waiting for the City Councilors to arrange a meeting between city engineers and the engineers who have consulted with us on the new Zink Dam project. The hope is that through this future meeting, we, and the biologists from ODWC, will be able to make the case that lowering the dam gates for a small window during the heaviest spawning months will not only protect fish populations, but is also essential for the ecology of the entire watershed. Josh Johnston (NE Regional Supervisor for ODWC) has made this case beautifully several times, but now we need the operators of the dam to incorporate this vision into the overall operations plan of the new dam.

**Legislative Session** - The legislative session is in full swing, and I'm tirelessly tracking and working through nearly 80 bills that pertain to wildlife and water. As of right now, this session seems to have fewer of the scary bills that the last two sessions were centered around, but a shell bill (a bill that serves as a place holder and only has a title with no language) could always get some last-minute language that we need to be ready to quickly respond to. There was one anti-public lands bill, but the writers have realized most of the problematic language and have amended it as requested or are in the process of doing so.

There are also two great bills that would grant the Glover River in McCurtain County heritage status, which would keep dams from being built on that river and its water from being sold.

Once I have a better idea of the intent of some of the other more complicated bills, I will publish a position on the bills that I think will be of interest to our membership. There is a good chance that will be before the publication of our next newsletter, so keep an eye out on our Facebook group page for a legislative update in March.

**Jake Miller**  
**Conservation Chair**

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## March Meeting Raffle Prize

fingerling trout into the Lower Illinois River. (Our designated official release river as approved by the ODWC)

Over the past 5 months, 12 schools in the area and the students in science and biology classes at those schools have been learning a lot about clean water and what it takes for a trout, “the canary in a coal mine” so to speak to survive. Without the cool, clean unpolluted water that the students care for everyday their trout won't make it to the river.

Coming releases in March are Jenks Freshman Academy March 1, Wilson Schools March 7<sup>th</sup>, Owasso HS March 22<sup>nd</sup> and Riverfield Country School March 29<sup>th</sup>. (With several more coming in April)

Members interested in attending and taking part in a release are welcome. We typically gather at the Watts WMU on the Lower Illinois River around 10am and meet up with the bus or buses. After a briefing about the area and the river we escort the kids to the river where we bid farewell to the fingerlings. It's often an emotional time because these little trout have been nurtured and cared for by the students for some time. From there we load the kids back onto the bus and travel up to the lower parking lot near Tenkiller Dam where some additional activities take place. We offer some fly casting lessons, dig around in the river for invertebrates and study them under a microscope and someone is usually there demonstrating some fly-tying skills.

This program is also an important part of your Oklahoma Trout Unlimited Chapters “reach” into the local community. Tanks initially cost about \$1,200 the first year and about \$250 a year after that to maintain.

You can donate to the program with a tax-deductible contribution, by mailing a check to: Oklahoma Chapter #420 PO Box 54108 Tulsa OK 74155 Subject line: Trout In the Classroom or you can log on our web site at TU420.com and find the donation page under “store” to contribute there.

**You can follow along as the year progresses at TULSA AREA TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM on Facebook.**

**Scott Hood**  
Education Coordinator for TU420

## Outings Poker

We've started the event again, if you missed the



*White River Chestpack*



*L.L. Bean Fishing Vest*

Winner's Choice this month. Inspect and try on for size at the March Meeting.

Must be present to win! Raffle tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

## The Trout Pond for Tulsa 2022



*Kelly Bostian filming trout stocking*

The final stocking of the Tulsa Trout Pond took place just before February 21<sup>st</sup> the final Kids Only Day for the pond this season.

October event you still have the rest of our 21-22 season to catch up and collect your cards.

What is Outings Poker?

Outings Poker is an event-oriented game that lasts the entire 2021-2022 season. No purchase is necessary, and everyone is welcome to play!

How to play:

- Receive 1 fly fishing themed playing card for each outing or special event you attend.
- Cards will be distributed at the start of events.
- Each card will be stamped with a letter. The location of the stamp for each event will be different.
- At the end of the season the player with the best traditional 5 card poker hand wins a prize!
- Your 5-card hand can only contain 1 card from each event. Any hands with duplicate markings will be disqualified.
- It is not necessary to fully spell TROUT as long as there are no duplicate markings.

Cards will be available at every monthly outing and certain special events.

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## Mystery Sol-Ved!

Okay, the mystery fly was a Zebra Midge, size 18, in olive and black. Many participants mastered the mystery fly. One caught 24, another caught 25 fish.

But the prize for the most fish caught went to Rohan De with 27 knots on his genuine official string!

The Big Fish was netted by Adam Chastain. He landed a 15 1/2" trout!



*Riverside Lunch*

Some may ask why I have included a picture of

Several members of your Board of Directors as well as Trek Tasker a representative from NatureWorks, our partners in this project were present to watch.

I was able to drop by on Kids Only Day and see several families, parents with children and grandparents with grandchildren on the pond and catching trout. Several catching "their first ever" trout.



Over the next several days and weeks I encourage all members of TU420 to take a trip to the pond located at The Gardens Park, corner of 51<sup>st</sup> and Hudson and cast a few times. Take the neighbor kid or your niece and nephew, your own kids or grandkids and spend some time together, you never know what might happen.

On a personal note, continuing this program is good for our local TU Oklahoma Chapter it gives us a "face" in the community and shows "good works" and I hope it continues. You can donate to the program with a tax-deductible contribution, by mailing a check to: Oklahoma Chapter #420, PO Box 54108, Tulsa OK 74155 Subject line: Trout Pond for Tulsa or you can log on our web site at TU420.com and find the donation page under "store" to contribute there.

Thank you.

**Scott Hood**  
Youth and Adult Education Coordinator

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## Tulsa Fly Fishers March Outing

We will be visiting Spavinaw State Park on March

some of our thirty plus anglers partaking Heath's epicurean chicken noodle lunch? Others may claim it's just sour grapes because the editor hadn't any luck fishing? Of course, like all great mysteries, we will never know for sure.

Please join us at our next outing, where you will catch some great food to go with fellowship and a spot of angling.

**Editor**

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## Fishing With Jake

It's windier today. Our flat-bottomed boat crests and tumbles over the morning whitecaps. Isaias is my guide and Lucco is in training. They navigate an angry Ascension Bay with familial ease.

We motor south for 10 miles. After we stop, we begin poling across a rocky flat. Within ten minutes, Isaias has spotted Permit. Their boomerang tail and unmistakable shadow betray them. We are too close to them. I back cast once before they begin darting for deeper water. As my fly lands all 8 of the 20 pound plus permit have deserted us.

Half an hour later, we spot another decent school of them. I cast and strip the fly back to me in short and quick motions. I hook a Snapper instead of the Permit. This happens for the next several casts. So many fish are mixed with this Permit school that it makes it nearly impossible to even offer the Permit the fly. I catch several Jacks and Snapper and even a couple of Bonefish. Eventually the Permit stop circling back, and we are poling again.

We eat burritos for lunch under a mangrove canopy. The mosquitoes drone and find every piece of uncovered skin. Afterwards we motor to a deep topaz flat. Our eyes mine the glossy bottom for shadows. The three of us are silent.



Isaias spots two Tarpon. The boat erupts in mayhem. We try to switch rods out and get situated, but the Tarpon spook at the boat.

We're all on high alert now. The migratory Tarpon have been minimal this year and everybody,

26<sup>th</sup> for our March outing.

This will be a come and go event, with a gathering for lunch. Lunch will be served at the day use area near tent site #2 at 12:30 PM. Come join us for a burger and a dog and a day of fishing for multiple warmwater species. Cards for our Outings Poker event will be available during the lunch event. Look for our signs inside the park.

### Spavinaw State Park

555 S Main Street  
Spavinaw, OK 74366

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - Lunch 12:30**

[Google Map Link](#)

**We hope to see you at event!**

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## LIR Safety Tips

Gore Police Department: 918-489-5963 or 911

Local Game Wardens – 918-431-2550 or 918-431-2544

(to report fishing/hunting violations)

Gore response time is approximately 5 minutes.

If cardiac, call for help, start hands only CPR, pushing downward 2 inches on center of chest to the beat of "Staying Alive" by the Bee Gee's. If possible, please note time when CPR is initiated. Landmarks to assist emergency response: The Dam, Lower parking lot, Watts, and MarVal's. Also, let them know which side of the river you're on. Accurate information will allow for quicker response time.

If it is a swift water rescue, call 911, or Gore Police Dept, and they will respond in addition to Sequoyah County team.

If a medical transfer is needed, they will LifeFlight from the baseball field in Gore to either Muskogee or Sallisaw hospital.

Always a good idea to carry baby aspirin and Benadryl in your fishing gear. Also, a first aid kit, provided by Trout Unlimited, is located on the back side of the restroom at Watts.

Let's help keep our fellow angler's safe.

Life saving instructions courtesy Nurse **Binnie Jones**, our TU420 Secretary.

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including the guides, like seeing Tarpon.

Isaias calls out Tarpon again. A chain of them are about 100 feet off of the bow. I cast early and let my fly land in their path. Once they're closer I begin stripping in large, rapid pulls. The lead Tarpon violently thrashes at the baitfish imitation. It misses several times as it lunges towards us. The Tarpon is now only a few feet from the boat. I'm now pulling leader through the eyes. I feel its mouth close on my fly. I strip as hard as I can, but my hook finds no traction in the aquarium sized mouth. She spits it.

The boat is silent. My hands are shaking. After a few minutes, Isaias says, "There's your monster tarpon."

**Jake Miller**  
**TU420 Board Member, Entrepreneur, and Master Fly-Fisher**

## Sowbug Fly Tying Contest

**25th Annual International Sowbug Roundup**  
**March 24, 25 & 26, 2022**  
**9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**  
Mountain Home, AR  
Baxter County Fairgrounds  
Admission \$10.00 for all three days  
Adults with kids 12 and under admitted free  
Guests of Honor  
**Dave & Emily Whitlock**  
More than 150 Fly Tyers  
Vast Variety of Vendors  
Great Auctions and Raffles  
Free Fly Fishing Seminars  
Free Fly Tying Classes  
Free Prizes for Kids  
www.sowbugroundup.org  
Sowbugroundup@sowbugroundup.org

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Occasionally, you may experience a broken link on one of our web pages. This usually happens as the source provider has done some maintenance requiring a change to that link or is no longer publishing that website.

In either case, if anyone runs into this situation, it would be helpful if you could contact me at:

[tu420web@gmail.com](mailto:tu420web@gmail.com)

## Etc...

### Don't Touch That Dial Department

Please think twice before deciding to **unsubscribe** to *Streamline*. Our email provider, Vertical Response, has placed many obstacles in the path of someone who unsubscribes and then later want to receive *Streamline* again. It usually takes up to six(count 'em) months to re-establish your subscription.

### Input Wanted!

You may not be Gadabout Gaddis, the flying fisherman, but you might be saying to yourself, I could talk for hours spinning tales about my fishing adventures.

We don't need an encyclopedia of anglers antics in the wild, but we are in search of a few tales or tips for our readers to enjoy.

Please don't hesitate to take a firm grasp of the keyboard and reveal to us your experiences or fishing tips (like how to tie a siamese silver beetle bug).

Forward your completed works in Word format and don't forget your pictures to: [Bruce Brewer](mailto:Bruce_Brewer_rbbrewer1@live.com), rbbrewer1@live.com

### Change of Address

Please copy and save the email address shown above. If your email address changes, please contact me right away with your new address. This will ensure non-stop delivery of *Streamline*.

## Kelly's Korner Continued

In efforts to improve on the native wildlife, the Wildlife Department stocked Tenkiller Lake with the Ohio River strain of smallmouth bass, which grow faster and bigger than Neosho's on a steady diet of Gizzard Shad and other fish which plentiful in the Lake. Neosho strain smallmouth pretty much avoid reservoirs and primarily forage on shiners and crawdads in the "trout water" of our rivers, preferring the places where there are eddies and current breaks near the fastest water in the river. The new bullies on the block eat fish dinners in slightly slower and deeper water, places where they compete with "Line sides," snuggling right in between the "Brownie" and the "Black bass" water. Translation, "Spotted Bass," "Smallmouth Bass," and "Largemouth Bass." Even the names of the fish change over time.

So that link can be corrected or removed from the webpage.

Thanks for your help.

**Frank Kohn**  
**Webmaster**

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## **Bonus Feature**

### **Kelly's Korner**

#### **The Fish Are Too Big!**

Did you say, is this a problem? I don't mind entirely, but yes, something is wrong with the Illinois River, or UIR in Face Bonk talk. The reasons why big fish are a problem are lost in fishing reports and social media, but are clearly visible when viewed across the years of perspective from someone deeply in love with the river. The first fish I remember catching was there in the quiet dark water between the big boulders in a dangerously deep hole. I was about 4 years old then, with my grandpa where he lived in the trailer park at Wilson's. The pretty blue and orange fish were Pumpkin Seeds, even though they are Longear today. I also remember my grandmother talking about fishing for Red Horses as big as bass on the river and Aunt Donna winning a beauty pageant there, not something you will see on an Illinois River gravel bar today.

That was long ago - not only has the river changed but the river names have too. The names I remember are the names I first learned. With the internet being what it is, I can look up what are the familiar names today so we can agree on the places. The big rocks are those on the West side of the river above Round Hollow State Park. If you walk up the river on the west bank, there will be footpaths to take you there. Some of you reading this should know exactly where I am talking about. Round Hollow was simply the "State Park." The other place was Peavine Hollow, Combs didn't exist, but that hole of water was the "Iron Bridge" and was seriously deep and a little scary. Stick around long enough and the roads and the names on the map change.

Back then Peyton's Place Bluff looked as steep and craggy as any Rocky Mountain picture, a couple of hundred feet tall and freshly blasted out of the bed rock. I used to strain to see if I could spot any mountain goats up there. I didn't know the rock was freshly blasted back then. Years later I asked one of Archie's grandkids where the bluff from my childhood went. Pine trees and scrub oaks

Did you say, is this a problem? Well actually it is. It turns out the Illinois River Neosho Smallmouth are in danger of extinction for many of the same reasons native cutthroat trout populations have been lost in the mountain west. Warm water fish are also susceptible to hybridization just like unique populations of Cutthroat Trout are susceptible of hybridization to extinction by Rainbow Trout. The scientific vagaries of fish sex and population dynamics are not the only problem.

Gravel bars are the defining feature of the Illinois river that give the river it's unique character. As naturally sharp and tire puncturing flint rock travels down the river, it gains a well-rounded shape, a feature I naturally identify with. The river sorts large rocks, small gravel, silt and mud in a series of riffles and pools, with water depth gained by the semi-porous dams that naturally form after the curves and pinch points in the river. Those semi-porous dams add depth to the river and importantly, provide a physical and biological filter that cleans the water flow.

The rocks traveling downstream are replenished by the rocks coming into the river from erosion and feeder creeks. The problem is that the loss of river tine vegetation and frequent floods is washing the gravel down the river faster than it's being replenished. What can be observed is the river is straighter, wider, and overall shallower than in year's past. Many of my favorite holes are "Blown Out," where the natural gravel dams have been washed away, and the bedrock features that would be in 4 – 8 feet deep are as often as not less than 3 feet deep today. When the water is low, a determined fisher can cover miles of water on foot without having to scramble through the blackberry, poison ivy and brambles on the banks. There are still lots of good spots in the river, and with increase in catch and release, great fish in those spots. However, the determined fisher needs to cover more water because the good spots are spread out more than previously.



have filled the voids over the decades and while the bluff is still impressive, it fits in as just another beautiful bluff in the Ozark region. What I learned was Archie was wily enough to buy freshly minted land, as the state dynamited the bluff to gain fill and build Highway 10 passage along the river. Archie used the land over the former river bottom to build the iconic Peyton's Place Bar and Restaurant, another permanent fixture in my personal landscape that has seen many changes over the years.

Archie's enormous smallmouth mounts were part of the amazing landscape to this young fisher, adult bragging rights I could understand. Those fish looked as long as blade of an Old Town paddle and were about that skinny. Those were 20" plus fish, maybe three and a half pounds and looked like WWII veteran river warriors, complete with brass plates commemorating dates weights and Archie's name. Truth is I don't remember all those details about the brass nameplates but those long and lean fish have haunted me for years. I caught hundreds of smallmouths as a kid and never seen smallmouth as long as Archie's. These trophies were likely 8 -10 years old and represented the oldest and biggest specimens of the native Neosho strain, the fish of my fondest dreams.

Do you recall this is a story about the fish being too big? If you want to brag about a "BIG" smallmouth in the river these days, it should be over five pounds, taken with a hand tied fly with a name I would not have understood as a kid. If you're serious, add the drone footage and at least 30 seconds of GoPro to document your heroness. For maximum virtual currency, don't forget the underwater release shot. It's not just technology, the smallmouth are bigger, and I am in no small amount of jealous when my sweetheart lands one that may could swallow what I thought was a good-un as a kid. These are fish that can haunt you too, but they are different from Archie's fish.



**Article continued in column to your right**

What can't easily be seen, as the gravel in the river is lost, the available water is largely flowing on the surface rather than being filtered in the fine gravel beds. Those gravel beds are homes to bacteria and algae that provide a large capacity to consume the human pollutants of nitrates and phosphates in the river system. The water becomes warmer and greener. Great if you are an algae farmer, but not at all good for our native fish. Next time you are on Oklahoma's premier green scenic river, take a close look at the first few inches of water being filtered through a fine gravel bed. This is what all the summertime water looked like when the Neosho Smallmouth was the clear King of the river, clear as the vodka in the college kid's water bottles.

The nitrates and phosphates still get consumed without the gravel bed providing a natural upper limit to the numbers the state argues over collecting in the first place. Now it's the green algae in the water, not down in the gravel beds that makes our first State Scenic River look like pea soup instead of a clear stream. The suspended algae blocks light penetration, further inhibiting the growth of moss beds and other riverine vegetation that are the nurseries for the insect life, crawdads and minnows that feed the Neosho smallmouth.

All of this comes together as an enormous squeeze on what I believe to be the premier native Oklahoma sportfish, challenged not by over-fishing, but by hybridization, habitat destruction and loss of the plentiful dinners they need to fuel themselves in the swift clear waters of the UIR. Catching the Big Boys that have swam up the river is certainly exciting but is also sad. I fear I may be telling my Grandkids someday about an incredible native fish on the Illinois River, much like my grandmother told me about fishing for and eating Red Horse minnows. If you have a chance, arrange your schedule to catch a few of these natives before they are hybridized, squeezed, overheated, or starved out of existence. Better yet, join in with the voices who are working to save one of Oklahoma's scenic gems.

Good Luck Catching!

**Kelly Brown**

**Former Tulsan, now living in Oregon**

*(where you can still fish, but you can't pump your own gas)*

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## **Tulsa Fly Fishers**

Trout Unlimited is an organization without parallel in the preservation of it's namesake. But many who are members of TU420 are also card-carrying

members of **Tulsa Fly Fishers(TFF)**. TFF's parent organization is Fly Fishing International(FFI).

While TU concentrates on Trout, FFI supports Fly Fishing in all it's forms. This universal approach helps you to be successful fly fishing in ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans.

All of our Officers and Board Members are required to be active members of both TU and FFI, but you can join today without pressure. Just go our website ([tu420](#)) and click on the link:

Join TFF/FYI

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### Mark Your Calendar For These Coming Events

April 14th - 2022 Fly Tour Film Screening at the Circle Cinema in Tulsa

April 21st - Peter Breeden from Beaver's Bend Fly Shop

May 12th - Alex Vaisval, OK Striper Survey Results

May21st - Spaulpa Park Day

"Streamline" is published on the first of the month about a week before the next general meeting.

If you have content ideas, comments, complaints or suggestions please contact the Editor: Bruce Brewer, [951.533.0026](tel:951.533.0026), [rbbrewer1@live.com](mailto:rbbrewer1@live.com)

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