

Streamline

October 2020 Oklahoma Chapter 420 of Trout Unlimited & Tulsa Fly Fishers a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International

Event Calendar

October	8th	-	Jake Miller & Josh Johnston	-	"Arkansas River Striper Fishing"
October	24th	-	Upper Illinois River,	"Riverside Park in Tahlequah,"	Outing
October	31st	-	Adult	Fly-Fishing	Clinic
November	7th	-	Women's Only	Fly Fishing	Workshop

If you have a friend who is not a member who might be interested in this information please feel free to forward this issue to your friend. [Forward this message to a friend.](#)

A Message from Your President



Heath Tiefenauer

Hello:

Hello and welcome to the October edition of Streamline. For many of us Fall is a favorite season, and it's officially begun. Many things are different this fall than in past years. The mild summer has brought cooler weather more quickly than usual. The leaves on the trees at my home

October General Meeting Features Jake Miller & Josh Johnston *Jake Miller*

Josh Johnston

Josh Johnston is the regional supervisor for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and has spent many years doing the population and genetic testing on Oklahoma River Stripers. He'll be talking about different Striper/Hybrid populations within the Arkansas River system and origins of Arkansas River Stripers.

Jake Miller is an avid quarantine angler that has fished over 75 days on the Arkansas River this year alone. He'll be talking about flies, presentation, flows, and other significant factors to consider when pursuing large hybrid/striped bass.

Trout Unlimited Chapter 420 and FFI Chapter will NOT be meeting in the Hardesty Library at least until after 2020. We have scheduled the first two General Meetings to be held at the Hunter Park Pavilion. [Hunter Park](#) is located at: 5804 E 91st St, Tulsa, OK 74137.

are already beginning to drop. While that means plenty of yardwork, it also means better fishing conditions on our local waters. A trade-off I'm willing to embrace. This fall also continues the unique circumstances of the current health concerns we must all contend with. We hope you and your family are well and spending plenty of time outdoors.

Our September meeting was the first of the season and I want to thank all those who attended the outdoor event at Hunter Park for their support. While we can't conduct business as usual, we can still find ways to come together responsibly and share our passion for fly fishing. Scott Hood's presentation was amazing. I know I'm a little envious of his back-country fishing expedition. Our October meeting will also be held at Hunter Park. Come join us October 8th at 6:30PM. Jake Miller will be speaking about opportunities and methods for Striped Bass fishing in local waters. We also hope to have a representative from the Gathering Place to talk about fishing access and angler safety during the ongoing construction. Our Conversation champion Pat Daly has been working hard to make progress on this concern and we're hopeful for positive developments. To help us follow local guidelines and best practices please bring a folding chair and a face covering.

The Hard Luck Fishing tournament we held in September was quite a bit different from last year. The biggest difference was the quality of the fishing! Our winning team brought in 46 fish total and the largest fish was a whopping 30 inch Buffalo. Even after two wash cycles my waders still have that fishy carp smell from the bear hug needed to help net that fish. We had quite a few new faces and the support of many of our existing group members. We were happy to hand out nearly a full deck of cards for our Outings Poker Run. We couldn't do this without your support, and we thank everyone who helped make the event a success. In October we're going to visit the other half of our home water; the Upper Illinois River. Please join us October 24th at Riverside Park in Tahlequah, more details later in this newsletter.

Speaking of new faces, we have a few spots open in our Volunteer Leader Group. Several positions on the board are open and we are seeking a new Scribe/Secretary to help in support of our efforts. If you are interested please contact one of the board members, we'd love to discuss how you can get more involved. It truly is rewarding to serve our member base and we know you'll feel the same.



Door and raffle tickets will be available starting at 6:00 pm. Casting instructions will be available before the meeting for those interested in practicing their skills. General meeting starts at 6:30 pm. The Board of Directors highly recommends adherence to the City, TU and FFI mandates of wearing masks and social distancing at this event. Disposable paper masks will be available, no charge, at the event.

October Raffle Prize

The Raffle Prize for the October 8th meeting will be a TU collector's (Old TU logo) Wood Laminate Fishing Net.

This is the perfect net of any angler. It's easy to carry and features a lightweight, durable rubber mesh that look sharp, and most importantly, is easy on fish. Overall length is 24". with a 9" x 13" hoop and 9" handle which makes it easy for landing trout from 10" to 20".

The Net's original value was \$55, but since it has a Collector's logo, the net maybe considered by some too valuable to use. You don't want to miss your opportunity to own this quality prize!

Youth And Adult Education

Upcoming Classes

After much deliberation, the Jenks Community Education people have determined that we can go ahead with our Fall FLY FISH OKLAHOMA FLY

Tight Lines,

Heath Tiefenauer

President of Oklahoma Trout Unlimited & Tulsa Fly Fishers

Trout in the Classroom in the Year of Covid-19

I am delighted to report that Trout in The Classroom is in full swing this year despite Covid-19. We have successfully enrolled three new schools for this fall and winter program. One in Sand Springs, one in Coweta and one in Collinsville. We have had 4 schools that declined participation this year due to virtual learning. Without hands on, in the classroom participation, it did not make sense for those schools to participate and I agree. However, it is my full belief that all 4 of them will be back next year.

Over the next month, I will be host to ZOOM meetings at most of the schools as I work to introduce the "class of 2020-21" to our local program. For those interested in learning more about TIC and perhaps becoming more involved next year as a Tank leader (each tank we have has a TU420 tank leader that works to support the teacher in the program as I simply can't do it all.) please look up www.troutintheclassroom.org for details of what goes on in the class and in the tanks.

Thank you.
Scott Hood
Adult & Youth Education Coordinator

2020 Conservation Issues

Oklahoma Fisheries and Water Conservation is our passion

2020 Conservation Issues

Trout Unlimited and Tulsa Fly Fishers is a fly-fishing conservation organization dedicated to protecting, restoring, and enhancing our Oklahoma and national fisheries. Fishing is a \$2 billion business in Oklahoma, and we work to protect and enhance it.

Much of our state conservation work is focused

FISHING

CLINIC.

The clinic will be held 9am to 2pm on Saturday October 31st (no need to wear a custom). The class will be limited to only 15 this year to allow for social distancing and masks will be required while in the building, but that is reasonable and expected all things considered. The cost is only \$25, and all equipment is supplied. However, those folks with their own fly rods are encouraged to bring it to learn with.

If you know someone that wants to learn a ton about the sport before the best time to fly fish for trout in Oklahoma is on us, this is the place to be. Participants will learn more in these few hours than they can learn in a year on their own. Hands on casting being the number one take away for the day.

Remember, it is first come first serve and it will most likely sellout. Here is a direct link for those wishing to sign up. Please feel free to share it with someone you know that wants to learn about our sport.

https://www.jenkscommunityed.com/class-calendar&a=view&class_id=2623

Scott Hood
Adult and Youth Education Coordinator for OKTU420

2020 General Meeting Presentation Schedule*

Fall Meeting Schedule*

Thursday, October 8th Jake Miller & Josh Johnston - "Arkansas River Striper Fishing"

Thursday, November 12th - Skylar St. Yves – "Fishing For Trout in Oklahoma: Still Water vs Flowing Water"

Pat Daly

For information or to provide recommendations, please contact Pat Daly, pat@cimtel.net

Outings

on:

Gaining minimum water flow for our streams, reducing industrial and agricultural water pollution which degrades our fisheries, improving and expanding public fishing access, educating Oklahoma's legislature, and working with corporate leaders and industrial agriculture.

The forthcoming legislation session stacks up to be challenging with over 3,000 bills due to Covid carry-over. At least 200 bills will have negative outcomes, some dramatic, for our fly fishing. Many bills will not be read by legislators before votes and many votes will be in evening "zoom" session with little or no notice or chance for public input. We will need your active and immediate engagement to help save our fisheries and will do our best to keep up this juggernaut session. See full details at www.TU420.com

New Tulsa Zink dam poses opportunities. We have contacted the City of Tulsa, River Parks Authority, and our great Gathering place about a few important issues. The 1,000 cfs water flow required in the permit for Zink dam and to maintain the fisheries in Tulsa's section of the Arkansas river has not been approved or gained. It appears that there is insufficient or no designed fishing access for us, and decades old fishing spots have been eliminated. Another large point of concern is the urgent need for River Parks Authority to lower the 8-foot-high wall of gates to allow for fish and egg passage during the key March to mid-June spawning period. Zink dam will block 100% of all upstream fish passage to 18 miles of prime spawning waters, the largest left in the Arkansas system. Without this the fishery is doomed. We implore Mayor Bynum and River Parks Authority to work with the ODWC to protect and enhance our great in-town Tulsa fishery. It is big business for Tulsa merchants and our heritage. We also commend the Gathering Place for working with TU420 to open fishing access during and after construction. Please honor Gathering Place's No Trespassing/No Fishing signs; they are for your own protection during construction.

See Trout Unlimited's national conservation efforts, including Pebble mine, successful dam removal and more at <https://www.tu.org/>

Learn more at www.TU420.com

Pat
Conservation Chair

Daly

Date: October 24th
Location: Upper Illinois River, Riverside Park in Tahlequah. S 540 Rd, Tahlequah, OK
Time: Come and Go event, starting at 8:00AM.

Our group outing in October will feature a visit to the other half of our home water, the Upper Illinois River. This stretch of river holds a nice variety of species you don't always or simply won't find in the lower portion.

Please join us October 24th at Riverside Park in Tahlequah. There is nearly a mile of wadable water and it's a great place to put in watercraft if you have arranged transport of your own. This is a come and go event with no specific start or end time. Snacks and drinks will be available from 12:00PM to 12:30PM. Look for the TU Signs and a blue pop up canopy.

Outings Poker cards will be available from 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning and during the lunch break, 12:00-12:30. One card per person, please. Collect your card the morning or during the lunch break and good luck!

Contact:
Heath Tiefenauer at TU420outings@gmail.com

Kelly's Korner

Thoughts on the Fly - Okie Fly Box

Early mornings on the river filled with optimism, a plan and sometimes a bit of worry... I have an expectation about how things will turn out and likely a Plan B to share with my partner. On most days, playbooks C & D get some use. On rough days, stratagems E, F & G are applied. Really tough days, it's on to the next preparation.

Hard Luck Fishing Contest Winners

Being a neophyte in the art fly-fishing, I consider this event to be a highlight on the TU420 calendar. Participants are matched up in pairs from the least experienced (under one year) with the most experienced, and on down the line until every team has a veteran and with one or more years casting a fly.

The weather was an early fall that promised eighty-degree temperature, and the option to wear waders or wet wade. During the noon check in, I noticed a smile on every face. This translated to the fact that everyone caught fish. Since we had only one "hard luck" story, this further confirmed that really did have a good time.

As your new editor I let my exuberance for the day overcome my sense of duty and I failed to get the names and pictures of our winners. But don't fear, your responsible board members caught most of our winner's names and particulars.

The "Biggest Fish" went to Brett Wilmer with a 30-inch Buffalo Carp. He spent over thirty minutes wrestling to bring that beast into Heath's net. Since Brett picked his own fly, he also won the "Fly That Caught The Biggest Fish Award."

My team was fishing within eyeshot of the next winners, and I can tell you I felt a tinge of envy. Eddie Jones and his grandson Scott won the "Most Fish" award with 46 fish. Scott land 33 on one Prince Nymph fly. Every time I looked Scott's direction; his rod was bent with another fish.

Here is where my lack of follow through is exposed. We gave out an award for "Smallest Fish Caught," and I failed to get their name. I pray the recipient will forgive me. If he or she desires, I can post their name in the next issue. Please contact me.

Our final award for the day was "Best Hard Luck Story." It is easy for one to resist claiming this prize since it requires full disclosure, I know since I told my story last year. Fortunately, we were not kept waiting as Kim Kerr stepped forward. She wove a tale of woe on how she ended up with her waders full of water. An experience many of us have had but are reticent to admit.

I hope all you readers will put our September "Hard Luck Tournament" on your next year's schedule and plan to join us.



I share a bit of the same emotional journey each time I open a fly box and often as not, some mumbled cursing about what I can't find in my box. Having the right fly at hand is a significant boost in confidence. Losing the last fly of a pattern that is currently "hot" is a special kind of heartbreak reserved for Fly Fishers. Most days end up somewhere in between but thoroughly entertaining.

This past weekend's Hard Luck tournament offered a rare glimpse of what LIR fishers expect to work for them on the river. Judging from the catching, most folks were able to buy flies that did the trick when they found places where the trout were holding. The team of Ed Jones and his 11-year-old Grandson Scott landed a remarkable 46 with Scott pulling in 33 fish in under 3 hours with a Prince Nymph. I want Scott as my partner next year.

A good look at the Tournament Fly box provides insight to popular flies. Pheasant tail nymphs and white and yellow mega-worms are the most popular choices with Woolly Buggers predictably well represented. Marabou Jig-flies, San Juan Worms and Egg patterns were abundant, with a several midge patterns and squirrel tail nymph patters being donated. I thought Soft-hackle, Crackleback and March Brown nymph patterns were under-represented but admittedly I use those patterns more in the Spring than in the Fall. The patterns donated work well for trout anywhere in our 3-state region.

Women's Only Fly Fishing Workshop

November 7th at the Trout Ranch

Have you ever wanted to Fly Fish, but didn't know where to start? Would you be uncomfortable starting a new sport when there are very few women on our local trout streams? Are you wondering how to start or what gear, flies, knots, or other equipment to use? Join in with a class specialized just for women taught by one of the most knowledgeable fly fishers in our area. Carolyn Parker and Gina Leitle, from River Run Outfitters will lead the class. There will be plenty of opportunity to learn and share with your classmates. All levels of Fly-Fishing experience will be supported.

The workshop will include a morning of learning the basics of fly fishing and an afternoon of fishing on a private trout stream. The classroom portion of the day will start at 9 a.m. at [Chimney Rock Hollow Trout Fishery](#). You will need to bring your own lunch (Covid safety) and around noon we'll break for your streamside repast. A board member from the Local Trout Unlimited club will be present at lunch to collect your feedback about what it might take to get more Women interested in Fly Fishing, Conservation or participation in our local Trout Unlimited chapter. During the afternoon you will be able to practice the skills on the water over eager trout.

Participants will learn the basics of fly fishing, knot tying, rigging, entomology, how to read water, fly fishing etiquette and more. Participants will not need to bring a thing, all the equipment will be provided. Those who have a fly rod and want to bring it, can. Waders are not required.

Contact Kelly Brown for more information and to get your name on the list at: kellyfishes@msn.com

Bring a chair and your own personal refreshments. Ride sharing from Tulsa or from the Lake Shore Campground and RV Park on Hudson Lake. Equipment provided as needed. Contact Ed Jones or Kelly Brown for details.

Most Popular LIR patterns

Pheasant Tail Nymphs

White or Yellow Megaworms

Mop Flies

Olive or Black Woolly Buggers

San Juan Worms

Egg Flies

Midge patterns

Tying your own flies provides a bit of the same emotional footpath as fishing. This might be planning a new box, filling a box for the new year, or if you are me, frantically tying 6 each of the flies I want to use on the next day's fishing trip: (2) flies for me, (2) flies for my buddy, and (2) ugly ones just because that's the way I tie.

I know I am plenty serious about an upcoming trip when I find I need to clean out a box to make room or add another box to my jumbled fly collection. I may tie many of the same flies over again, but usually a little different depending on my fishing plan. Flies are heavier in the Spring than in the Fall as needed to follow the water conditions. A Mop Fly with rubber legs is a great Panfish fly but trout shun them with the extra wiggly added. In the Summer I tie a lot of minnow patterns or Clousers, mostly White and Green or White and Olive but they are bigger for bigger water trips. Egg patterns have worked for me for years, but the last two years has seen me tie them almost exclusively with tungsten beads or jig head hooks. By the way, if you haven't fished an egg tied with Eggstacy yarn you are missing out.

After asking around and with the power of Facebook I have assembled a list of most popular Oklahoma flies for Fly Tiers. A good selection of each you will be able to fish nearly anywhere in Oklahoma with fly confidence. Not surprisingly the list is biased toward trout flies and shares a lot in common with the LIR list.

Elections Scheduled for November 12 General Meeting

Nominations for officers and board members for the November 12th election will be announced at the October 8th meeting.

If you have anyone (including yourself), who you wish to nominate, please contact Heath Tiefenauer or other current board members.

A Few Words From Jake

Big Sky Fishing Part 1

I've never been a trout angler. My parents are both from Florida, so I grew up learning that largemouth bass staged under lilly pads on farm ponds and snook are most active at night under the lights of a private dock. I'm most comfortable throwing oversized streamers to aggressive predators. I like scrappy strip sets that connect me to fish that make me worry about my leader and tippet. Maybe when I'm 40 that will all change.

I'm on a flight to Bozeman, Montana. For the next several days I'll be standing in rivers and streams that have been the subject matter for most of the trout literature produced over the last century. Staggering trout numbers in the 4,000s per mile call these waters home, and if I can remember how to use a 4 wt, I just might get to see a few of them for myself.

I'm fishing with a guide who hails from Tulsa, Oklahoma. He's lived in Montana for the last 25 years and has earned a reputation as one fo the best guides out of Ennis. We ultimately settle on fishing the Jefferson River instead of the more popular Madison River. Larger trout and fewer people appeal to both of us, even if it means sacrificing some of the numbers. He's excited when I tell him that I'd prefer not to nymph and that I'm not a dry or die type (every guide in Montana is sick of clients asking for 26" trout on grasshoppers after the first day of the season). We rig up with a small crawfish guide pattern attached to a black leech. After casting, the idea is to mend substantially and immediately downstream, which sends your flies racing to the strike zone (the river bottom) and creates instant tension from the flies to the reel. Both flies drag just above the main

Popular Okie Flies (rated 1 – 10)

11	Wooly Buggers
10	Zebra Midges and Variants
10	Marabou Micro-Jigs
6	Mop Flies
6	Clousers
6	Pheasant Tail Nymphs
4	Eggs / Eggstacy Eggs
4	Mega-worms
3	Jig Minnows
3	Walt's Worms
2	San Juan Worms
2	Slumpbusters
2	Foam Body Poppers
2	Deceivers

Most of these flies are not difficult to tie and that certainly adds to their popularity. If you expand the list to Bass Flies, choices expand considerably but only a few of the simpler patterns are shared among tiers- Slumpbusters, Deceivers, EP fiber and Clouser Minnows.

Overall, the list of bass flies reminds me of the wall of crankbaits at Okiebug... very colorful and loud, but mostly variations of a large baitfish theme. Clearly bass bug tiers are more creative than a Largemouth appetite.

You may not know that our TU420 website is filled with Fly Tying links. I favor the Tightline Productions videos and the IFF Flies of the month because they are at a level I can easily follow. Find them here at <http://www.tu420.com/flytying.html>. I certainly don't use all those patterns, but still learn a lot that I apply to my own flybox.

If you see me on the water, don't hesitate to ask me what I am using, I may have some extras. If you are catching more fish than me, I would appreciate a sample or three!

Tight Lines,

Kelly Brown

Author Kelly Brown will be documenting his general thoughts this fall. If you see him at the next General Meeting, be sure to thank him for putting these projects togeth

snags in the river, and are twitched or stripped occasionally, but primarily are kept in a tension drift in the most productive part of the water column. Much like Czech nymphing, you might feel the fish strike, but a more reliable measure is to focus on the part of your fly line that directly connects to your leader. It takes some practice to identify an eat, but it will either slightly bounce or the pace will change from the standard drift. After the first couple of miles, I really started to understand the strategy. The Jefferson has several fast moving, highly oxygenated stretches that immediately transition into deeper troughs. Casting towards the end of the shallow run and timing your downstream mend to occur right at the depth change forces your flies to follow the natural transition of the river. If the pool was really deep, I would downstream mend aggressively a couple of times, bringing my flies almost parallel to me in the boat, but drifting 5-6 feet deep. When I would do this, I would always at least have an opportunity at a fish.

I took almost 30 Brown Trout to hand that day and none of them were under 16". Not only was the fishing great, the natural beauty of the canyon was overwhelming. After rounding a shoulder of the river, I looked a mature bull moose in the eye. A welcome reminder that the world is still full of mystery and grandiosity. Throughout the float, I couldn't help but ponder how in the hell Lewis and Clark did what they did. But those meanderings and meditations are best paired with Bison tenderloin and a can of Rainier at The Alley, a room full of fishing reports, rumors, and next day plans.

This is part 1 of a 3 part series from Jake's experiences. Parts two and three will be in subsequent issues of Streamline.