



Dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of fly fishing through education, conservation and sportsmanship.

### Monthly Meeting

We have changed our meeting dates. Meetings are now on the *third* Monday of each month at All Saints Episcopal Church 501 S Phoenix in Russellville at 7:00 PM.

### Fly Tying

The fly tiers meet every Monday except the Monday of the monthly meeting at All Saints Episcopal Church 501 S Phoenix in Russellville. We begin at 7:00 PM.

Come on down to tie, tell your latest fish story, or just be around other folks who also have this fly-fishing thing real bad.

### Good Fishing Links

CADDIS on the line

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

### Mountain River Fly shop

[www.mtriverflyshopstore.com](http://www.mtriverflyshopstore.com)

### Water levels and releases

Check 'em out before you leave:

[www.swpa.gov/generation.html](http://www.swpa.gov/generation.html)

### A Good Warmwater Site

Well presented with a lot of features and information. Check out their podcasts.

[www.flyfishohio.com](http://www.flyfishohio.com)

### A Warmwater Tying Site

Colorful with great graphics:

[www.warmwaterflytyer.com](http://www.warmwaterflytyer.com)

### CADDIS CALENDAR 2009

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Annual CADDIS banquet at Chambers Cafeteria on the Tech campus. 6 p.m. on a Sat.

March 26-27 Collegiate Wild Life Society Conclave

March 19-21 – annual Sow Bug Roundup weekend in Mt. Home

April 7<sup>th</sup> - CADDIS/AGFC Fly Fishing Clinic at the Hughes Center. 6 p.m. on a Tues

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



This is shaping up to be a big year for the CADDIS fly fishers. The last meeting had many items for CADDIS members. We have new blood in the officers and board members. Bryan Ayers will take over the treasurer's job and Lannie Prince is on the CADDIS board. And we made a change in the meeting from the Second Monday to the THIRD beginning April 20th, 2009. There we also some changing to the by-laws which can be seen at a regular meeting or requested from the secretary.

### 2009 CADDIS Officers

President: Jerry McKaughan  
Vice President: Grant Ehren  
Secretary: Ron Schwartz  
Treasurer: Bryan Ayers

### 2009 Board Members

- Bryan Ayers
- Lannie Prince
- Ron Schwartz
- Mark Smith
- David Snellings
- Grant Ehren

The Rotary Fly Tye-In was awesome; those who made it were all in awe. Mike showed many new techniques and Tony Spezio's extended body, what else can be said? Chad Johnson, also from Mountain Home, tied flies. We had a great meal provided by the members. A couple from Haskell came, they saw the event posted on the Arkansas Parks web site. We only had couple of folks from the park visitors and two kids from the cub scouts who I showed how to tie a wooly-worm that they took home. In all we had 14 show up, not bad for our first tie-in.

Don't forget the 2009 CADDIS Banquet, March 7th, 2009 at 6:00 PM Chambers Cafeteria. I will need to call Chambers on February 25th with a head count if you have tickets sold be sure to contact me.

Oh, I almost forgot the first two (2) fly was a success and Bill Sparks won.

*Fight Lines,*  
*Jerry*



**Caddis fly fisher's please remember:**

Let our local and national vendors know when you're buying or talking with them that we greatly appreciate their contributions.

**2009 Banquet Donors**

- Anglers Book Supply
- Angling Evolutions
- Bauer Fly Reels
- BT's Fly Fishing Products
- Cabela's
- Cascade Media Works
- Chota Outdoor Gear
- Cortland
- Dyna-King
- Fenwick Pure
- Fishpond, Inc.
- Flexcoat Company
- Flip-Focal
- Fly Fisherman
- Fly Rod & Reel
- Fly Logic, Inc.
- Gamma Technologies
- Gaston's
- Jim Tenny Inc.
- Montana Fly Co.
- No Nonsense Guides
- Oasis Fly Tying
- Orvis Fly Fishing
- Ott-Lite Technology
- R L Winston
- Renzetti, Inc.
- Ross Reels
- T-Bob's
- Tie-Fast Vest Tools
- Simms Fishing Products
- Stripee/Alpine
- Ted Juracsick
- Tight Lines
- Ty-Rite
- Wapsi Fly Inc.

And of course all the CADDIS Members.

Please let the editor know what you would like to see included or changed. The suggestion box is always open.

**Annual CADDIS Banquet Draws Very Near**

One of the most anticipated high points in the cycle of club events is always the banquet, auction, and general CADDIS uprising early each spring.

Six O'clock March 7<sup>th</sup> at Chambers Cafeteria is the official start. But be on hand early to enroll, scatter your raffle tickets and sign on for the many silent auction items on site.

Club displays, giveaways, old friends and new acquaintances, great food, Grants' smooth talking narratives, auctions, raffles ... the list of fly fishers' fixes for getting over this long winter is at hand.

Wives and family enjoy this one. Mine wax as enthusiastic about this flyfishing thing as at any time of the year and even encourage the acquisition of new tackle. This is a win/win event. See ya Saturday.

Dan

**Monthly Meeting Fly Box**

Beginning at the February meeting we have a new program, a fly box give away, it goes like this; you either bring 2 tied flies or \$2.00 if you want in the drawing, the flies go in a container and the money to the club. We draw at the end of the meeting and one of those participating takes home a box of club flies.

**IF I SEE ONE MORE NEW FLY ROD THIS YEAR, I'M GOING TO APPLY A LITTLE CATCH AND RELEASE TO OUR MARRIAGE.**





Fly Tiers Corner

Dan Terry



**The Fatal Attraction –**

A baby sunfish fly pattern that looks as if it aspires to be an Atlantic salmon fly.

Hook	Mustad 9674	Sizes 2 to 8
Thread	Uni-Thread - 6/0	Green
Tail	Flashabou	Gold
Underbody	Lead Wire	Diameter of Hook Shank
Body	Diamond Braid	Gold
Hackle	Hen Neck Feathers	Green and Orange
Underwing	Krystal Flash and Bucktail	Pearl, Pecoek, and Green
Overwing	Peacock Herl	



**Bass on a Fly**

Toney J. Sisk

THE USUAL REASONS for not flyfishing for largemouth bass go like this: *I don't know how. I don't have the gear. The gear is too specialized. Bass is that other species you read about in fly fishing magazines; people don't actually fly fish for them. I don't have a big boat with a motor the size of a dishwasher and tons of sponsors to support me. I feel comfortable tying nymphs, dries and chironomids and don't really want to tie flies the size of a small bird. I don't want to risk a rotator cuff injury casting something the size of my uncle's hair piece.*

I started chasing largemouth bass with a fly rod after many years of trout fishing. My first exposure, like that of most other Americans, came on Saturday mornings with Bob or Bill or Jim weighing his sack of fish during yet another Bass Masters tournament on a southern lake with a funny name. I remember the fish as always being monstrous, chainsaws with spiny rays, and the gear used unimaginably complex and varied, with lures diving down and up and sideways, hither and yon, flashing and sometimes squeaking, with fisherman poised seemingly right

on top of the fish, yanking them from pond water choked with branches and roots and weeds and slime foul enough to gag an alligator.

I also remember pictures in magazines, and one particularly fantastic photo of a largemouth bass pirouetting in the air with an almost equally fantastic man-made device dangling from its jaw. The impression was that these fish would fight on for a long time. A very long time indeed. Man against beast. Yet somehow those masters of the fish would yank them out of the water in just a few moments, raising them triumphantly by the lower jaw. Amazing.

I was intimidated by it all. But I learned too that, like lots of things, the myth is larger than the fish.

The point is that **the propensity of bass to lie in wait for their prey** causes me to do the same.

This way, I'm always anticipating something big about to happen on the water.

Soon I began to devour books on bass, most of which placed bass fly fishing in a more realistic context with my other fishing. They invited me to the sport, reminding me of the all the nonsense that mega sports can become. I don't have lots of strategies to download on you. There are too many books that can give you that. Read every book you can, especially those on the natural history of bass. There is a lot to learn, and it is fun learning, but it is not that difficult to catch bass. You might find yourself being more particular about the water you fish and more observant than when fishing for other species of fish,



something more akin to a hunting frame of reference.

Bass are the future of fly fishing. Well, maybe. Fly fishers are just beginning to see the tremendous advantages of fishing for bass.

### Why Bass?

Bass are a modern fish, genetically speaking. They are a durable species, capable of living in the warmest and filthiest of pond water. In a sense, then, they are more advanced than trout, though this may be subjective biology. Certainly they are better than trout at doing a few things, like stalking and ambushing their prey, which consists of everything from trout-like fare such as chironomids and mayflies (yes, they'll eat tiny stuff) to large frogs, popcorn and baby ducks. A baby duck would probably frighten a large trout to death.

Pound for pound they fight harder and longer than any trout shy of steelhead size. Their somewhat flattened body makes them that much harder to fight with a fly rod, something akin to dragging a frying pan through the water. And who can complain about a bass exploding onto a surface fly like a triton missile?

### Flyfishing Tactics for Bass

If you are going to catch a bass, act like a bass. This doesn't mean you have to eat frogs and harass cute little baby ducks. But you need to think like a bass. When I talk to bass fishers, I often get a similar reaction. Fishing for bass inclines you to stalk them like they stalk their prey. Trout are more refined, gentle fish. Trout in a lake, you wait for; you can troll, but most

lake trout fishing involves keying into the basic fact that the fish are on the move, cruising. They do some stalking, but they don't have the explosive body/muscle type that makes a bass attack like a linebacker through the weeds and into their prey.

Fishing for bass reminds me of fishing for trout in rivers. I enjoy anticipating where a trout lies, and then stalking them. Fishing for bass forces me to have a similar degree of awareness, observation and anticipation. I stalk them, I'm careful and quiet and patient, and I use all my senses just a little bit more than I am accustomed to.

Bass fishing has almost **everything other freshwater fishing has, only scaled up**: lots of impressive top water action; strong long fights; and big (very big) fish.

I try to anticipate any potential ambush point. A small rock pile. A stack of brush half-submerged in water. Logs diving into the water. And my favorite: yard-wide floating islands of tules and bulrushes. These little moving forests may not be ideal bass cover, but they fascinate me. Try picking one up out of the water, and you'll see what a perfectly messy little moving shield they offer for bass. I usually fish the shady side of these little islands.

The point is that the propensity of bass to lie in wait for their prey causes me to do the same. This way, I'm always anticipating something big about to happen on the water.

Bass fishing has almost everything other freshwater fishing has, only scaled up: lots of impressive top

water action; strong long fights; and big (very big) fish. The reason we fly fishers don't immediately consider pursuing bass is probably a matter of self-perception and maybe some uneasiness with fishing near others who are looking at you quizzically, wondering why you aren't slinging some powerbait hung behind the latest techno-plug. But we're fly fishers. We don't fish with other people. So find an isolated piece of water to practice your new sport. And when others see you haul in a 4-pounder on a fly, they might be back with a fly rod. (Or they'll throw beer cans at you.)

Typically, though, I find myself more alone on bass waters than on trout waters, especially fly-only trout waters. It is a great thing that lakes can become catch and release (and a shame more bass water doesn't), but once a lake becomes catch and release, it becomes marked. Which, again, is a good thing, but then all the fly fishers show up expecting great things. Days on bass waters tend to involve fewer people, with notable exceptions like opening day, pleasant warm summer weekends, and bass tournaments.

### Casting Those Big Flies

I guess no article on bass is complete without some thoughts on bass gear and casting techniques. Bear in mind that like any writer, I can only offer my personal recommendations, and there are a large number of more studied authors out there. But that's one of the nice things about fishing for largemouth: being "expert enough" means you can catch a lot of fish.



For bass rods, I go pretty light. I often use the same six-weight I use for trout. To get started in bass fishing, you don't need special gear. You don't really need anything different than your regular trout gear (except for the flies, maybe). Keep in mind the limitations of light rods, though: small rods make it harder to cast those way-cool bass bugs the size of robins. I'll fish a nine-weight rod (my steelhead rod) occasionally when I want to launch some bigger contraption I've devised, but normally I enjoy a lighter rod.

I use a double-taper line because I don't feel the need to cast long distances. Keep in mind though that any store clerk, when asked about bass fly fishing, will inform you that must have a bass tapered line or similar weight-forward line. It is a personal choice whether you choose to buy them, but the point is that you don't *have* to have them, especially if your flies are, like mine, scaled down.

The biggest fly I fish is a small thin Dahlberg Diver and numerous variations of my own that go by other names but are essentially still Dahlberg Divers. Some pop more on the water and dive less, as a result of slight tying deviations.

Deer hair is the an ideal material for bass bugs because of the size of the bugs you can create and the endless variety of ways to trim the fly to suit your casting and your impression of what the bass wants to kill. If you try to tie something with dry hackle, you'll end up wasting half a bird skin before you can get the thing to float well.

Bass will eat small flies as well. I've caught many on size 12 zug bugs. It is a fun challenge because this kind of fishing tends to be very targeted. But you don't want to randomly throw around small flies in a searching pattern, or you'll spend the entire afternoon shaking off bluegills.

The way to figure out how big a fly you can cast with a fairly light line is to tie a few bass bugs and take them on the water with a pair of fly tying scissors.

The way to figure out how big a fly you can cast with a fairly light line is to tie a few bass bugs and take them on the water with a pair of fly tying scissors. After making a few casts, you'll probably decide the bug is too big. Start trimming the bug until it begins to cast better for you, making sure to keep the general dimensions of the original shape. Or, don't keep the general dimensions. Many a fly pattern was invented by trimming on-site and watching the new effect on the water, turning the pond into your laboratory. Bass aren't too particular about a specific type of commotion on top of the water. If the thing moves, it will come. Some people spin on deer hair and don't trim it at all, figuring, I imagine, that the messier and more chaotic the fly, the bigger the commotion and the more psychotic the bass will become.

Smaller flies can create enough commotion on the water, but of course not as much as a buzz bait in the hands of caster with a 5:1 retrieve ratio on his reel. So there is probably no point in yanking the fly through the water until you feel a muscle strain.

Moving a fly is only one strategy. The better tournament bass fishers have learned the lesson of slowing down the retrieve to a creeping rate. This kind of presentation is the stuff fly fishing is made for. Typically, I don't move a fly at all once it hits the water. It just sits like something dead or confused until I grow a little impatient. Then I give it a single twitch. Then maybe another twitch or two. Then maybe a bigger yank after the opening strategies fail to lure a fish.

Another strategy that gets me around casting issues is designing flies that have the appearance of size with very little weight and air resistance. These usually sink very slowly and are made up of a closely trimmed marabou body with a single two-inch length of hen feather tied on as a tail — extremely simple flies, extremely thin and light weight, and very effective. Woolly buggers are similarly easy to cast, give the impression of a meat moving through the water, and are very effective against bass, or, as we all know, against almost anything else swimming.

Most bass, no matter the size, can be cast to from 20 to 50 feet as long as you are being very quiet on the water. Let the bug make all the noise, not you.

One of the best strategies to improve the casting of larger flies is simple: Practice your casting. A better casting stroke will cast a larger fly. But remember, you aren't casting little olive duns out there, so don't cast like you are. To cast a big fly, learn to be patient in your casting stroke. Learn to wait for the line to completely roll out behind



you before launching the fly. In time, you'll begin to feel the tug (sometimes a yank) of the fly behind you. The forward cast doesn't need to be shot like a cannon, either. A lobbing type of casting can work very well, as long as you aren't trying to cast 80 feet. If you want to cast a bass bug a long way, you should be fishing with your steelhead rod and probably over lining the rod a bit.

Most bass, no matter the size, can be cast to from 20 to 50 feet as long as you are being very quiet on the water. Let the bug make all the noise, not you.

So cast with confidence. In bass fishing, unlike trout fishing, thinking you're going to get a grab takes you 80 percent of the way to success.

**2009 CADDIS Slate**

The change in our club administration involves the treasurer position. Dave Snellings has served for many years. We so appreciate his care and vigilance over the ebb and flow of club finances. We may have kidded him once in a while about being tight. But you could not ask for a better planner able to simultaneously handle both details and the overall plan of any project. Thankfully Dave will continue to ramrod the annual CADDIS Trout Day program.

Dan

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HE ALWAYS HAS TO BE FIRST IN THE WATER!

